

December 24, 2023

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Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor  
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181  
School: 419-598-8702  
Church Website: [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sermon & Text: “Unlikely” *Luke 1:26-38*

Order of Service: Morning Prayer (LSB pg 235)

Hymns: 357 (with readings) ~ Psalm 89:1-5 ~ 356 ~ *Benedictus* ~ 332

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### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*Advent is a season of repentance and preparation for the Coming of Christ. We warmly welcome all who have come to worship our God with us today! Each day we live is a priceless gift from God, loaded with possibilities to learn something new, to gain fresh insights into his great truths. If you are a visitor, please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave today.*

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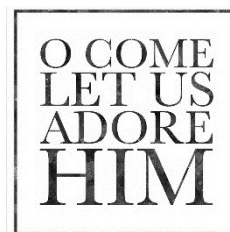
### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✠ Bethann Gerken, *Pianist* ✠
- ✠ Dean Badenhop, Dennis Showman, Richard Elling, Dave Von Deylen, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Diane Von Deylen, Lou Ann Rosebrock, *Altar Guild* ✠

FLOWERS ON CHRISTMAS EVE SUNDAY have been provided by *Brad & Sarah Rosebrock* and family. Thank you to the Rosebrocks!

### CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR

- **THIS EVENING ♦ Christmas Eve**  
Christmas Eve Service of Carols & Candlelight – 7:00 p.m.
- **TOMORROW, Monday Dec. 25 ♦ Christmas Day**  
Christmas Day Divine Service  
and Holy Communion, the “Christ Mass” – 9:30 a.m.



SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS is cancelled this morning, and will resume next Sunday on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 7:00 PM	<b>Worship Service</b> Sunday School <b>Christmas Eve Carols &amp; Candlelight Service</b> Offering: <i>St. John Home Fund</i> Acolytes: <i>Anika Rosebrock &amp; Anna Sausser</i> Ushers: <i>Carey Damman, Mike Maassel, Scott Van Valkenburg</i> Altar Guild: <i>Lou Ann Rosebrock, Diane Von Deylen</i>
Mon.	9:30 AM	<b>Christmas Day Festival Service with Communion</b> Offering: <i>St. John Home Fund</i> Acolytes: <i>Nolan Bickel &amp; Erin Damman</i> Ushers: <i>Dave Von Deylen, Dean Badenhop, Dennis Showman, Richard Elling</i> Altar Guild: <i>Lou Ann Rosebrock, Diane Von Deylen</i>
Tues.	10:00AM	<i>GriefShare</i> Support Group
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	<b>Communion Service &amp; Installation of Church Officers</b> Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp"

**MATTERS FOR PRAYER** – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- ❖ *Melba Elling* and *Norma Damman*, at Genacross – Napoleon
- ❖ *Lawrence Behrmann*, at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Irene Joost, Leona Durham, and Elaine Mahnke*
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Carmon, Jared Dishop, Jordan Lange*
- ❖ *Alan Gruenhagen, Sue Hurst, Dave Crandall, Eddie Harris, Delia Blake*, health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *Marian Damman*, recuperating and healing at home from a broken hip
- ❖ *Lowell & Renee Petzoldt*, both of whom are dealing with serious health issues and cancer. Renee remains in critical condition at the Toledo Hospital
- ❖ *Arlene Gerken*, who has moved to the In-patient Hospice Center in Defiance
- ❖ *Madeline Bear*, (Tana Maassel's grandmother), who is in failing health at Defiance Mercy Hospital



**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE THANKS** – Thank you to everyone who helped the children this year with our children's Christmas service. Thank you especially to Andrea Oyer for stepping up to direct the service, to Bethann Gerken and Sharon Damman for sharing their musical gifts, and to everyone who helped – Megan Bostelman, Char Weber, Haley O'Neil, Tracy Germann, and everyone else who helped with song practice, set-up, "crowd control," sound and slides, etc. If God takes note of those who give a child a cup of water (Matt. 10:42), how pleasing to Him it is when we share with the children the Savior, the *Living Water*. Thank you all!

**THANK YOU** from the School Board to the LYF for their help in filling the sacks with candy, fruit, and peanuts. Your help was greatly appreciated!

**WEDNESDAY CONFIRMATION CLASS** will not meet this week. We will resume classes in the New Year on Wed., Jan. 3, at 6:15 PM, on the regular schedule.

**“THE LAMP”** – Will not be meeting today. We will resume again after the New Year.

**HELP FOR THE PETZOLDTS** – Our dear friends in Christ, Lowell & Renee Petzoldt, have come upon hard times as they both deal with serious health issues, and a prolonged stay in ICU for Renee. Through our ***Good Neighbor Fund*** we have already extended help to this family for all the expenses they are incurring, including gas, food, etc. In addition, at both of our Christmas services (this evening and tomorrow morning) we will receive a door offering after the services to extend them even more help. *If you cannot be at these services for some reason, there is a basket on the table in the narthex this morning where you can leave a gift.* Above all, keep Renee, Lowell, Blake, Courtney and Robin in your prayers. Thank you.

**THE FLOWER CALENDAR** for 2024 is posted in the narthex. If you wish to sign up for a certain Sunday to place flowers on the altar or the piano, sign your name on that Sunday and then about two weeks before that date, call *Nancy Glaser* at 419-906-0963 to let her know if you are getting your own flowers or if you want the Women of Freedom to take care of them. **The price for the flowers through the Women of Freedom is \$30.00.** Remember that it is your responsibility to contact *Nancy Glaser*. Also, please contact the church office with the information for the bulletin before the week you are placing the flowers in church. This will insure that you are not forgotten or overlooked.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 12/17/23	\$13,729.04	\$150.00	\$390.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Sunday – 181

**ADVENT SERVICE #2 (12-13-23):** \$645.00 – Cherry Street Mission; Attendance: 45

**CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (12/17/23):** \$1,072.00 – Orphan Grain Train, c/o Maui; Attendance: 276



**GRIEF SHARE** will meet for the final session this Tuesday, Dec. 26, at the *Youth & Family Center*. We will wrap up our discussions for a period of about 30 minutes, then take some time for a little pizza party and fellowship. These past weeks have been a wonderful time of growth

together in understanding the grief process and in learning to cope – a true blessing to all who participated. ***Another round of GriefShare sessions will begin on Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024, and run through May 21. These will be evening sessions from 6-7:30 p.m. Watch for more details in the coming weeks! For more information, visit our GriefShare webpage at [www.griefshare.org/group/177431](http://www.griefshare.org/group/177431)***

**2024 OFFERING BOXES AVAILABLE:** There are still several boxes that need to be picked up by members. Please pick yours up, and may God prosper the work of our hands and the giving of His people! If you did not receive a box but would like one, contact *Jerry Langenhop* (419-966-3473).

**POINSETTIA PLANTS** – If you ordered a poinsettia plant, it can be taken home after the Christmas Festival Service tomorrow. There will be plastic sleeves to protect them in the side Conference room. Thank you to those who purchased poinsettias to decorate the church during Christmas. Enjoy them!

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** booklets for January, February, and March are on the desk in the back of the church. Pick up a copy today!

**INSTALLATION OF 2024 CHURCH OFFICERS** – We give thanks to God for everyone who submitted their names for nomination to our various church offices. Your servant hearts and willing spirits provide an example for us all! **Those who were elected or appointed to offices for the coming year will be installed into those offices on the first Sunday of the New Year, January 7<sup>th</sup>.**

Officers to be installed are: **President** – *Kirk Sausser*; **Vice President** – *Dean Badenhop*; **Treasurer** – *Cathy Gerken*; **Financial Trustee** – *Ryan Bostelman*; **Elders** – *N/A, N/A*; **Stewardship Board** – *Lisa Bockelman, Karen Lulfs*; **Board of Education** (installed to take office in July 2024) – *Linda Miller, Amy Rosebrook*; **Alt. Delegate Syn** – *vacant*; **Secretary** – *Nicole Stier*; **Church Deacon** – *Dave Johnson*; **Trustees** – *Dennis Showman, Kurtis Kramer*; **Sunday School Supt.** – *Stephanie Damman*; **Asst. Sunday School Supt.** – *vacant*; **Cemetery Board** – *Michael Cohrs, Gavin Gerken, Jake Myles*; **Cemetery Sexton** – *Ben Kruse*.

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### Food For Thought...

#### The Fourth Advent Candle – BETHLEHEM

*“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.” (Micah 5:2)*

#### RESOUNDING PSALM FOR ADVENT - PSALM 89:1-5



<sup>1</sup>I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, for- | ever;\*  
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness  
to all gener- | ations.

<sup>2</sup>**For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up for- | ever;\*  
in the heavens you will establish your | faithfulness.”**

<sup>3</sup>You have said, “I have made a covenant with my | chosen one;\*  
I have sworn to David my | servant:

<sup>4</sup>**I will establish your offspring for- | ever,\*  
and build your throne for all gener- | ations.”**

<sup>5</sup>Let the heavens praise your wonders, | O LORD,\*  
your faithfulness in the assembly of the | holy ones!