

January 21, 2024

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

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THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "My Nineveh" *Jonah 3:1-5, 10*

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting One *LSB pg. 151*

Hymns: 396 ~ 'In the Fish for Three Days Buried' ~ [Communion: 637, 735, 688] ~ 839

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to St. John Church! "I sought the Lord and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears" (Ps. 34:4). Let us seek the Lord together this day. Let us offer up our fears and doubts, that we may go forth strengthened and empowered for another week. If you are visiting us today, know that we are honored by your presence. Simply fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave.

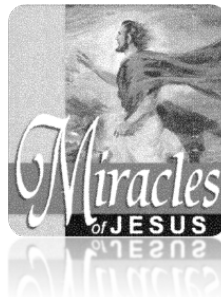
SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✦ Bethann Gerken, *Pianist* ✦ Brayden Damman, Cayden Ruffer *Acolytes* ✦
- ✦ Dean Badenhop, Dennis Showman, Richard Elling, Dave Von Deylen, *Ushers* ✦
- ✦ Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow, Karen Germann, *Altar Guild* ✦

NEW SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY BEGINS TODAY --- Miracles of Jesus

"It's a miracle!" These words mean many things to different people. Some use them to describe any surprising or unexpected event. Some limit these words to events that seem humanly impossible. Many don't know what miracles really are or question whether they exist. Miracles are an important part of Jesus' ministry, but what are they exactly? And what's their purpose?

We hope you can join us for this new Bible study, *Miracles of Jesus*. Each session of this 12-session study takes a look at one of the miracles of our Lord, including *Water Turned to Wine*, *The Healing of the Paralyzed Man*, *Jesus Walking on Water*, *The Blind Man Receiving Sight*, as well as the *Incarnation* and *Resurrection of Jesus*. Each session is a self-contained study, so you cannot "fall behind" if you miss a day. **Please join us today!**



| Date | Time | Activities |
|--------|-------------------------------|--|
| Today | 9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:00 PM | ◆ ◆ National Lutheran Schools Week ◆ ◆ Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School Jr. High LYF; 5:00 PM High School LYF |
| Mon. | 5:30 PM | <i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution |
| Tues. | 8:35 AM 6:00 PM | School Chapel Combined Church Council and Elders Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>) |
| Wed. | 9:30 AM 6:15 PM 7:00 PM | Field Trip to St. Paul – Napoleon (<i>Jennie Williamson Concert</i>) Midweek Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>) Adult Choir Practice |
| Thurs. | 5:00 PM | B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:00 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys @ BG Christian |
| Sun. | 9:00 AM 10:20AM | Worship Service 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*
- ❖ *Lowell Petzoldt, Alan Gruenhagen, Sue Hurst, Dave Crandall, Eddie Harris, Delia Blake*, dealing with health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *Marian Damman*, recuperating and healing at home from a broken hip
- ❖ *Arlene Gerken*, who is receiving care at the In-patient Hospice Center in Defiance
- ❖ *Lowell Petzoldt*, who is now receiving treatments for lung cancer at the James Cancer Hospital in Columbus. May God heal him in both heart and body.
- ❖ *Elaine Hesterman*, who will undergo hip replacement on Mon., Jan. 22 at FCHC

2024 ALTAR GUILD (pink) SCHEDULE: The 2024 Altar Guild schedule is available today and can be picked up on the narthex table. Thanks again to all who are willing to be of service to the Lord through St. John. You are a blessing!

COMBINED COUNCIL-ELDERS MEETING – This Tuesday evening at 6:00 p.m. the church council and elders will meet together to discuss the terms of our congregation’s agreement with FIVE-TWO for the consultation process approved by the voters at our last meeting.

LYF NEWS: The LYF are meeting today at the Youth and Family Center, with *Jr. High (Grades 6-8) meeting at 4 PM and *High School (Grades 9-12) meeting at 5 PM.

National Youth Gathering: 1) **Participants** - The LCMS Youth Gathering is July 19-23, 2025 in New Orleans. The Gathering is for youth participants between the ages of 14 – 19 at the time of the Gathering. Stay tuned for more details. 2) **Volunteers** - Those who are 19-25 years old may choose to serve as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV). Feel free to contact Youth Directors, Todd or Tina Wachtman with any questions.

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK – January 21 – 27, 2024

As a congregation that supports a Lutheran School, we will be joining sister schools and congregations across the nation to celebrate *National Lutheran Schools Week*, January 21-27. “Connected” is the theme for the 2024 National Lutheran Schools Week celebration. The associated scripture verse is found in John 15:5, which says, “I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me and I in him shall bring forth good fruit; for apart from me ye can do nothing.” In celebration of National Lutheran Schools Week, St. John will be holding various activities at school that include live broadcasts on WNDH 103.1; dress up days; and the following daily activities:

- Monday:* “Connected to Christ” – Gospel Adventures – Online mission trip to Australia.
- Tuesday:* “Connected to the Father and His Creation” – Faith Family Creation Art Project.
- Wednesday:* “Connected to the Spirit and His Fruitful Gifts” – Jennie Williamson Concert at St. Paul Lutheran – Napoleon.
- Thursday:* “Connected to the Church” – A visit from Trinity – Toledo’s Comfort Dog
- Friday:* “Connected to His Commission” – Care packages assembled for shut-ins.

Lutheran Schools are driven by a commitment to the Gospel. They meet or exceed state and national academic standards, and have educators who model visionary, servant, and spiritual leadership. The LCMS has 1,800 preschools, elementary schools, and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God’s work among us in Lutheran schools. We thank God for the opportunity to share Jesus’ amazing love with children and their families. NLSW gives us the chance to proclaim these blessings out in the community. Lutheran schools are an amazing incubator for faithful witnessing of God’s love for us through Christ by teachers and students alike.

JENNIE WILLIAMSON CONCERT: Next week, our students will join other students from northwest Ohio Lutheran schools at St. Paul in Napoleon for a concert by Christian recording artist, Jennie Williamson. That same evening, a concert will be presented for families of students as well as community members. Come enjoy an evening of Christian entertainment. Check out [this flier](#) for more information.

| <u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u> | Home Fund | Synod & Missions | Building Fund |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------|
| Weekly Need | \$9,792.78 | \$500.00 | \$961.54 |
| Rec’d 01/14/24 | \$4,975.00 | \$50.00 | \$120.00 |

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 74

LYF SUPER BOWL SUB SALE – It’s that time of year again! Super Bowl Sunday is quickly approaching and it’s time to get ready for the big game. Why not help out our church’s LYF as well? On Sun., Feb. 11th, they will be distributing “pre-order only” Super Bowl subs to help raise money for the youth group. To place your order, please fill out the pre-order form located on the narthex table or bring it to the church office before February 4th. Subs will be available for pick up after church on the 11th. Payment will be due at that time. **Checks can be made payable to St. John LYF.** Thank you for supporting our LYF youth!



ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE: The Adult Choir is reorganizing again and practices are underway. Our next practice will be Wed., Jan. 24th at 7:00 PM in the balcony. Even if you couldn't make the first practice, please join us on this Wednesday. And if you didn't sign up and still have that urge to join, please do so. The director is *Jon Buenger*.

2023 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – It's time to start getting your reports ready for the 2023 Church Annual. The secretaries of the different organizations are asked to write up a summary of the year's activities and treasurers should submit their financial report for their organization. If you need your offering contribution information prior to the distribution of the Annual Report, please call Financial Trustee, *Jerry Langenhop*, at 419-966-3473. **Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers by Wed., Feb. 14.**

IN CONSIDERATION OF PASTOR'S JUNE RETIREMENT, there are a few things that we will need to consider. This list is not exhaustive, but it's a beginning.

- **Desk for Pastor's Study** – The desk in our Pastor's study belongs to Pastor Niermann, so we need to find a desk to replace it. Council determined that it should be a wood executive size office desk of good craftsmanship, not of the self-assembled type. If you are aware of a desk that might be available, please speak with congregational president, Kirk Sausser, or V.P. Dean Badenhop.
- **Thursday evening services** may or may not be available this summer, depending on how things shape up for the interim and pastoral call process. We will keep you informed.
- **Vacation Bible School** – We definitely want to move forward with VBS '24, even though the date will be after Pastor's retirement. If you would like to direct our VBS this year, please speak with Pastor Niermann – it's not too soon to begin thinking about this.

PART-TIME CHURCH SECRETARY POSITION – With the announcement of Joyce's retirement at the end of this year, church council has decided to break out this position into two positions, a part-time church secretary and a full-time school secretary. **We are currently seeking applicants for a part-time church secretary.** This job would involve working two days per week (probably later in the week). Required are a high school diploma, an accounting background, a good familiarity with word processing, data base and computer use, and the ability to maintain a strict confidence. An Associate Degree in the secretarial field is a bonus. Applicants must be willing to submit a résumé, obtain a background check, supply three references, and must adhere to the religious beliefs of St. John Lutheran Church. If you are interested, or you know someone who may be interested, please call the church office at 419-598-8961.

ST. JOHN OPEN HOUSE – An **Open House** is planned for grade levels (PS-8) at St. John School for Wednesday evening, **February 7th, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM (note time change)**, for families who would like to come and look at our school and discuss the possibility of sending their child/children here for their education and to grow their faith. If anyone in the school or congregation might know of prospective students for Grades PS-8, be sure to pass this information on to them.

IF YOU'RE EVER IN A PINCH and could use a little help, the ***Good Neighbor Fund*** is there to assist you too! Please don't be bashful about asking – everything is strictly confidential. Just give Pastor Niermann a call, and we'll see what we can do!

GRIEFSHARE: St. John is again preparing for *GriefShare*, a 13-week class for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, a spouse, baby or child, a parent, best friend, or sibling. Whether your loss is recent or more distant, the learning, insights, opportunity to talk and listen, video presentation and study guide have proven valuable in the grieving process. Meeting this spring, Feb. 20 - May 21, on Tuesday evenings from 6-7:30 PM in the Youth & Family Center. Learn more and register at <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/177431>.

Additionally, volunteers are invited to assist in co-facilitating, hospitality, publicity, and in prayer that the Holy Spirit would continue to guide this program of hope and healing. Contact Nancy Nemoyer, for more complete information about these opportunities to serve and support this work.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT – St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for the 2024-25 school year. Anyone interested in enrolling your child in our preschool program should contact the school office at 419-598-8702 to request an enrollment packet and/or turn in their registration form. We will be opening the registration up to the public as of Feb. 2, 2024, so be sure to register soon. **Current preschool students must complete new registration forms if they will be returning next school year.** **NOTE:** The child must be 3 or 4 years old by September 30 of the year applying for preschool. The child must be completely toilet trained. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration paperwork. Refer a family to our preschool and your \$30 registration fee will be refunded.

ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES: You may begin ordering SCRIP again. Please turn those orders in on Wednesdays, with payment to *St. John School PTL Scrip*. The gift cards will be sent home the following week on Tuesday. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207.**

COLLECTING STAMPS: The LWML is collecting stamps “For Missions.” A box is on the table in the narthex. Here is what you do: Cut the stamps from the envelopes allowing ¼ inch margin or more around the stamp. The stamp may not be damaged and the perforations around the stamp must be perfect. You need not trim the stamp; we have someone who trims and sorts the stamps. Do not remove stamps from envelopes, albums, and older postcards. An “old” postcard is usually from 1930 or before. The most valuable stamps are commemorative, foreign, and stamp denominations larger than 46 cents. When purchasing stamps, ask the post office staff for commemorative stamps. Colorful and large stamps are desirable. Collecting stamps is an easy way to participate in a mission project sponsored by the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League.

WORSHIP ANEW: Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. produces a weekly, 30-minute Lutheran broadcast worship service called *Worship Anew* (*formerly Worship For Shut-Ins*). Each service includes music, scripture readings, prayers, and a pastor delivering a message that is designed to feel one-on-one to the viewer. For over 50+ years, the ministry’s dedicated staff and supporters have touched the lives of countless viewers around the world. They look forward to the continuation and expansion of this ministry in the years to come. Lutheran Ministries Media would like to thank you for your prayers and support of God’s work through *Worship Anew*. Broadcasts can be viewed every Sunday on: *Toledo’s WTVG (CW) Channel 13.2 at 10:30 AM.*

USE OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL OR YOUTH CENTER – If you would like to use the Fellowship Hall or Youth Center for any occasion on a certain date this year, **please contact the church/school office at 419-598-8961 or 419-598-8702**. In addition to calling the office, you may want to check the online church calendar at www.sjl.org and click on “Calendar.”

TIME TO UPDATE OUR DIRECTORY: There are many addresses and phone numbers in the Annual Report directory that need updated. If you (and/or your adult children) have address changes; or **if you have eliminated your land line telephone and only have cell phone numbers**, please call the church office at 419-598-8961 or email jwiechers@sjl.org with updated information. Thank you!

PROJECT CONNECT – There are many free booklets in the rack in the narthex. Be sure to check for some informative reading. Some titles are: “*Alzheimer’s: Facing the Loss of a Lifetime*,” “*Talking with God*,” “*Forgiveness is a Choice*,” “*Talking Openly with Kids*,” “*Setting Priorities*,” “*Your Place in God’s Plan*,” “*Stressed but Connected*,” “*Beyond Divorce*,” “*For Better, For Worse*,” “*What Is Faith in Jesus?*” and many more. These booklets are furnished through the Lutheran Hour Ministries.

‘BREAD FROM HEAVEN’ – A note to St. John members needing food assistance – If you could use food assistance from our food pantry, please speak with *Pastor Niermann*. We are required by the *Northwestern Ohio Food Bank* to keep a record with your name, but pastor will keep your record separate and absolutely confidential.

Food contributions can be made at any time by dropping them in the box by the Food Pantry door. Monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your offering envelope). Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated. Thank you so much!

LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN’S ACTIVITY BULLETINS are available today on the table in the narthex. The Children’s Bulletins are coordinated with the Bible texts for each Sunday, and provide activities that tie in with the weekly themes. Pick one up today for your child.

TURN YOUR OLD USED CELL PHONE INTO A GIFT FOR THE POOR AND FOR YOUR CHURCH!

Informed sources tell us that the average American household has 5 to 6 old unused cell phones lying around. Now you can put those phones to good use AND keep them out of the landfills. Bring them to church and deposit them in the large white box in the narthex. They will be forwarded to a company that sorts them and prepares them to be given to poor families for emergency use, and sends us a check. Old cell phones range in value from \$1 up to \$50.



THE LUTHERAN HOUR – Locally you can listen to the Lutheran Hour Ministries broadcast on WMTR 96.1 FM, Archbold at 7:30 AM or on WNDH 103.1 FM, Napoleon at approximately 9:00 AM every Sunday. They cover many interesting topics relevant to today’s issues.

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Food For Thought...

Fight truth decay. Brush up on the Bible.

“What is truth?” “Your word (O God] is truth.” (John 18:38 and 17:17)