

February 4, 2024

VOL. 89 NO. 5

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

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

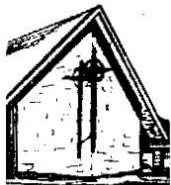
Sermon & Text: “The Jesus Club” *1 Corinthians 9:18*

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Three *LSB pg. 184*

Hymns: “O Holy Love, That God Would Give” ~ 473 ~ (Communion: 620, 612, 849) ~ 923

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

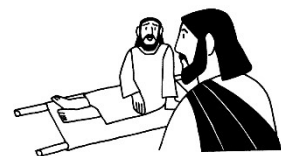
The Psalmist wrote: “*I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the House of the Lord.’*” We are happy to have you with us, whether someone invited you or you came by yourself. We are glad to share this House of the Lord with you. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to our pastor and by filling out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you. Simply drop it into the baskets at the doors as you leave today.



SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Evelyn Szabo, Erin Damman *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dave Myles, Denny Bockelman, Derek Damman, Tim Badenhop, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kaylee Buchhop, Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, Karan Niebergall, *Altar Guild* ✠

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY --- Miracles of Jesus



“**It’s a miracle!**” You look at your best friend. You can tell that something is terribly wrong. Her face reveals pain and anxiety. She’s just returned from the doctor. The diagnosis was bad—she has a deadly disease. You listen to her, try your best to console her, and promise to do everything you can to help. As she leaves, you can’t help wondering if there’s anything

you can do that will help her.

In Luke 5 some friends of a paralytic man faced similar questions. What could they do to help their friend? What they ended up doing resulted in a miracle for that man. ***Will you join us this morning for our study of this miracle? The coffee is on!*** Each session of this study is self-contained, so you cannot “fall behind” if you miss a day.

In God's House This WeekOnline church calendar: <https://74058984.view-events.com>

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:00 PM	Communion Service Sunday School; "The Lamp"; Adult Bible Class LYF Super Bowl "Pre Order" sub sale deadline 4-H Meetings – Gerald Busy Fingers & Cloverbuds
Mon.	5:30 PM	PTL Meeting
Tues.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
Wed.	6:00 PM 6:15 PM 7:00 PM	St. John Open House & Registration (<i>see bulletin note</i>) Midweek Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>) Adult Choir Practice
Sat.	TBD	B-ball: Grade 4-6 Girls Basketball @ Ann Arbor, MI Tourney
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:20AM	Worship Service with Communion following Adult Bible Study; Sunday School LYF Pre-sale Subs distributed following the service

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

- ❖ *Melba Elling and Norma Damman*, at Genacross – Napoleon
- ❖ *Lawrence Behrmann*, at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ *Arlene Gerken*, at CHP Inpatient Hospice Center – Defiance
- ❖ 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 at home from a broken hip
- ❖ *Elaine Hesterman*, recuperating at home following hip replacement surgery
- ❖ *Edwin Otte* (Darrel Behrmann's uncle), hospitalized in Columbus with a cancer diagnosis
- ❖ *Pamala Reeves* (our Preschool Teacher), who is undergoing abdominal surgery tomorrow at the Cleveland Clinic and anticipates a lengthy road to recovery.
- ❖ *Bev Elling*, recovering from surgery after her new hip was displaced for the second time



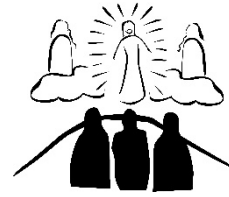
NEW PEW CUSHIONS – This morning, for the first time, we can enjoy pew cushions in our worship service. These cushions are covered with a very durable upholstery, and are also reversible and interchangeable, meaning they will last a very long time. These cushions were purchased with monies approved by the voters from our St. John

Memorial Fund. This fund is a pool of money from gifts given in memory of many of our members, with which the congregation may pay for certain projects such as this that are not covered in our budget. We thank God for these cushions which these many gifts have made possible. May God bless their use for many years to come! ***Please see the enclosed insert in today's bulletin for a brief history of the church pew, and for the rite of dedication.***

2024 USHER (blue) & ALTAR GUILD (pink) SCHEDULES: The 2024 Usher and Altar Guild schedules are both 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!

NEXT SUNDAY IS TRANSFIGURATION – In our worship next Sunday we will make the transition from Epiphany to the season of Lent, also bidding farewell to our use of the ‘Alleluia.’ In Martin Luther’s notes on the Gospels, he writes...

“[In the transfiguration] the resurrection of the dead and the future glory and brightness of our bodies are shown. For this was something very remarkable, that Christ was transfigured while yet in the mortal body, which was subject to suffering. What then shall it be, when mortality shall have been swallowed up, and nothing shall remain but immortality and glory?”



To consider Christ’s glorious Transfiguration on its own is eye-popping; to hear how Luther describes this glory as yours nearly bursts the eyes from their sockets, bringing hope to the Christian heart. We look forward to seeing you in worship next Sunday for the commemoration of Christ’s transfiguration!

REPORT FROM COMBINED COUNCIL-ELDERS MEETING – This morning a report from a recent meeting of the church council and elders is available in the narthex regarding our congregation’s engagement with FIVE-TWO for their consultation services. Please pick up a copy and read!

LYF SUPER BOWL SUB SALE – **TODAY is the deadline for these “pre-order only” subs, so stop at the table in the narthex and place your order!**

Next Sun., Feb. 11th, the subs will be available for pick up after the church service. Payment is due when you pick up your subs on Feb. 11th. **Checks can be made payable to St. John LYF.** Super Bowl sub sales help raise money for the youth group’s expenses to go to the National Youth Gathering in 2025. Thank you for supporting the LYF!



LYF NEWS: 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.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 01/21/24	\$7,330.00	\$85.00	\$255.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 159

MEMORIALS for Renee Petzoldt: St. John Lutheran Church Memorial Fund - \$6,846.00; St. John Lutheran School - \$210.00; St. John Endowment Fund (School Acct) - \$167.00; Child Abuse Prevention of Henry County (JFS) - \$290.00; CHP Inpatient Hospice Center - \$90.00; Filling Home of Mercy - \$25.00; Napoleon Public Library - \$50.00; Perrysburg School Foundation - \$15

2023 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – The 2023 individual offering totals (green sheets) are available on the narthex table. These will also be printed in the Church Annual Report. We hope this helps those members in need of this information for tax purposes. If you have any questions on your yearly contribution information, please call Financial Trustee, *Jerry Langenhop* at 419-966-3473.

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.**

TIME TO UPDATE OUR DIRECTORY: With the Annual Report being updated for the year, now is the time to update your address or phone number for either yourself or your adult children. There are many addresses and phone numbers in the Annual Report directory that need updated. If you have eliminated your land line telephone and only have cell phone numbers, **please call or email** the church office at 419-598-8961 or email jwiechers@sjl.org with updated information. It will be very helpful to have current information on file. Thank you!

VOTERS' MEETING – Sunday, February 25

Please note, the date has changed from a previous announcement. The new date for our first voters' meeting is February 25 after worship in the fellowship hall. A primary piece of business will be to receive the report of the endowment fund committee and vote on the disbursement of this year's endowment earnings. In addition, the annual school report will be given; and the Audit Committee will report their findings.

LENT BEGINS TWO WEEKS FROM THIS WEDNESDAY – Lent and Easter come earlier this year. Ash Wednesday, the first day of the Lenten season, is February 14. Each Wednesday during Lent we will have an evening service at 7:00 p.m. In readings, hymns and sermons we will use these worship moments to meditate on *The Passion According to John*.

A few things to note:

- Ash Wednesday will include Holy Communion.
- The remaining five midweek services will each begin with a hymn sing.
- Confirmation class during Lent will be held from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., dismissing in time for students and families to attend the evening service.



MLB isn't just baseball anymore!

Join us each Thursday during Lent for some **MLB** --- not **Major League Baseball**, but even better, **Men's Lenten Breakfast and Bible Study**. Starting Thursday, February 15 (*the day after Ash Wednesday*), we will gather each Thursday during Lent at 6:30 a.m. for breakfast and Bible study. Each week we will take a look at a different article of faith from the *Augsburg*

Confession and its Apology and study its roots in Scripture and its importance as our confession of faith. We hope you can make it your Lenten commitment to wake up and come each Thursday as we enjoy food and fellowship, and grow together in fellowship, in grace, and in the knowledge of Christ!

PTL MEETING: The next **PTL meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 5th at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall**. It's never too late to become an officer of PTL for this school year. Please plan to attend the meeting, bring your ideas, and support the school.

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.



GRIEF SHARE begins two weeks from this Tuesday.

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. **Meetings will be held this spring, February 20 - May 21 on Tuesday evenings, 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Youth & Family Center.** Learn more and register at 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. Registration is now open to the public. 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.

“YUMMY” FUNDRAISER: The Stoller “Yummy” Fundraiser is back!! St. John School is having this fundraiser which begins on Thursday, Feb. 15th and runs through Feb. 29th. We did very well last year selling the Butter Braid pastries, Amish pretzels, Mrs. Fields cookies, Puff Crust Pizza, and Joyful Traditions cake rolls! Brochures and order forms will be available soon.

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.**

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.”

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.*

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.

CHICKEN PIE DINNER – The Ridgeville American Legion Post #454 will host their annual Chicken Pie Dinner on Sun., Feb. 18 with serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

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Food For Thought...

You can’t go back and change the beginning, but God can certainly change the ending.

“In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.” (1 Peter 1:3-4)