

February 11, 2024

VOL. 89 NO. 6

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

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THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

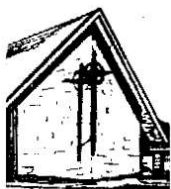
Sermon & Text: "The Greater Transfiguration" *Mark 9:2-9*

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 414 ~ [(Baptism: 594, 588)] ~ 413 ~ 415, sts 1,4 ~ 956 ~ 537, sts. 1-4 ~ 417

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to every member, friend, and visitor. You have entered this church, not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. May you who enter here find rest, forgiveness, and strength. May your worship here enable you to see your Savior more clearly, love Him more dearly, follow Him more nearly, and serve Him more sincerely. If you have no church home of your own, we invite you to join the St. John family. Simply fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it into the baskets at the doors as you leave today.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Bethann Gerken, *Pianist* ✠ Cayden Ruffer, Zeek Kramer *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dave Myles, Denny Bockelman, Derek Damman, Tim Badenhop, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kaylee Buchhop, Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, Karan Niebergall, *Altar Guild* ✠

BAPTISM TODAY – This morning we rejoice to witness the baptism of **Henry Walter Niermann**, infant son of Kyle & Rachel Niermann. Henry was born on December 23rd at the Blanchard Valley Hospital in Findlay, Ohio. His baptismal sponsors are *Christopher Niermann* (Kyle's brother) and *Beth Wilds* (Rachel's sister). Standing up as their proxies today will be Rev. Jakob & Rachel Andrzejewski. Henry's grandparents are *Pastor & Bonnie Niermann*, and *Ron & Cheryl Snyder* of Akron, NY (near Buffalo). We rejoice this day as Henry is born anew by water and the Spirit (*John 3:5*). We pray that what God has begun He will bring to completion on the day of Jesus Christ, qualifying Henry to be a partaker of the inheritance of the saints in the light. (*Colossians 1:12*)



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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:20AM	Worship Service with Communion following <i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Study; Sunday School LYF Pre-sale Subs distributed following the service
Tues.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Church Council Meeting
Wed.	10:00AM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM	Women's Lenten Bible Study (<i>see note</i>) Midweek Confirmation Class (<i>until 6:45 PM</i>) Ash Wednesday Service ; Offering: <i>Church Vocation Student Scholarship</i> Acolyte: Brayden Damman Ushers: Dave Myles, Denny Bockelman, Derek Damman, Tim Badenhop Altar Guild: Kaylee Buchhop, Karan Niebergall, Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs
Thurs.	6:30 AM	Men's Lenten Bible Breakfast (<i>see note</i>)
Fri.		NO SCHOOL – Teacher Professional Development Day
Sat.	9:00 AM	NWOLL Basketball Tournament at St. John – Freedom (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Sunday School; "The Lamp"; Adult Bible Class

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

- ❖ *Melba Elling, Norma Damman, and Arlene Gerken*, 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 at home from a broken hip
- ❖ *Elaine Hesterman*, recuperating at home following hip replacement surgery
- ❖ *Pamala Reeves* (our Preschool Teacher), recovering from abdominal surgery
- ❖ *Bev Elling*, recovering from surgery after her new hip was displaced for the second time
- ❖ *Brenda Damman*, who is receiving care for kidney issues

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY IS CANCELLED TODAY so that Pastor Niermann can join his family for photography and fellowship on this day of his grandson's baptism. Our Sunday study of the *Miracles of Jesus* will continue next Sunday when we consider the miracle of the *Feeding of the Five Thousand*. We hope you can join us then!

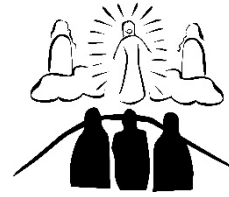
JAVA JOY TODAY – It's the second Sunday of February, and you know what that means. It's JAVA JOY day! We thank our hosts today, *Janice Rabe, and Elmer & Pat Maassel*, for providing us this time for fellowship and refreshment. Please stop out in the front hallway after worship and enjoy each other's fellowship and the goodies our hosts have prepared for us! *Java Joy hosts are still needed for June to December.*

Please sign up in the narthex. Guidelines are available as well. Hosting does not need to cost you anything. You can reimburse yourself from the Java Joy kitty if you wish.



TODAY IS TRANSFIGURATION – In our worship this morning 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. **‘Tis good, Lord, to be here!** (LSB 414)

SUPER BOWL SUB SALE – If you pre-ordered Super Bowl subs, **TODAY** is the pickup day. Stop down at the kitchen following the service today and take your subs home with you. Payment is due when you pick up your subs with **checks made payable to St. John LYF**. Thank you for supporting the LYF!



LENTEN DEVOTIONS are available today on the narthex table. In this year’s booklet titled “Lamb of God,” we see Jesus as both human and divine. He is concerned about people’s everyday lives and their eternal welfare. But meeting our need goes further than our daily concerns. As God’s Son, He bore the weight of our sins, each and every one, so you and I in faith can carry His mission to the world. These devotions are furnished through Lutheran Hour Ministries. Pick up a copy today!

LENT BEGINS THIS WEDNESDAY – This Wednesday, February 14, is much more than just Valentine’s Day. It’s ***Ash Wednesday***, the first day of the Lenten season during which we consider a gift of love that no valentine can ever match. During Lent we will gather for special midweek services each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. In readings, hymns and sermons we will use these moments of worship to meditate on ***The Passion According to John***. The schedule is as follows:



<u>Date</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Feb. 14	Ash Wednesday; The Powerless ‘I AM’	Church Vocation Students
Feb. 21	Two Interrogations	Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch, Minot, ND
Feb. 28	What Kind of King Is This?	Youth Conferences for SJLC Youth
March 6	Whom Do We Follow?	Worship Anew broadcast
March 13	Wisdom Has a Friend on the Cross	Lutheran Hour broadcast
March 20	Jesus Finishes the Battle for Your Salvation	Mission Account, SJLC Endowment Fund

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.

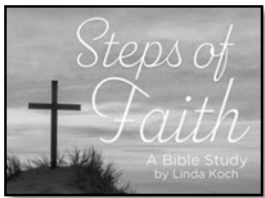
UPDATE ON MR. PETZOLDT'S HEALTH: I have completed 10 rounds of radiation in Maumee. The positive effects from the radiation will continue for a few weeks. I am on my second week of pills for my cancer. I do have minor side effects from the pill. I still have fluid on my right lung but it is getting less. This is probably because of the pills taking effect. A special thanks to all who have helped me in transportation to and from appointments. Your thoughts and prayers are really helping me in this trial time to stay positive. Thank you St John Family and all of my friends. *Lowell Petzoldt*



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 this 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!



WOMEN'S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY – "Steps of Faith"

In this six-week study, we will consider how we respond as Christians to life's many challenges. By looking at the Scripture accounts of Abraham, Miriam, Mary, the Samaritan woman and others, we will also look at the journey of faith we are all traveling and be encouraged for the path ahead.

This Bible study, produced by the *Lutheran Women's Missionary League*, will be led by Nancy Nemoyer. They will be meeting on

Wednesdays beginning Feb. 14th at 10:00 a.m. in the Church Lounge. No need to sign up. Just show up, and join us.

SERVICE DAY! On Monday, February 19th the Women of Freedom will be tying blankets beginning 9:30 a.m. Any and all are invited to share fellowship and enjoy a pizza lunch while helping in this mission project. No Sewing skill required! Bring a sharp, large eye needle and scissors (if you have them). Call Linda Riefers 419-267-3366 or e-mail rie307w@bright.net if you have any questions.

VOTERS' MEETING – Sunday, February 25

Two weeks from today, on Sunday, February 25, the voters' assembly will meet in the fellowship hall after worship. 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.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 02/04/24	\$9,263.00	\$432.00	\$448.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 169

Add'l MEMORIALS for Renee Petzoldt: St. John Lutheran Church Memorial Fund - \$200.00

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.



GRIEF SHARE begins two weeks from this Tuesday.

Are you grieving a loss? Find help, hope, and healing through the *GriefShare* class beginning Tues, February 20, 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the *Youth & Family Center*. This 13-week series is being team-taught by Nancy Nemoyer and Rev. Robert Bartz, interim pastor of Emmaus, Wauseon.

Whether your loss is recent or more distant, the learning, insights, opportunity to talk and listen, video presentations and study guide have proven valuable in the grieving process. More information in brochures on the back table. You can register at www.griefshare.org/groups/177431.

- Volunteers appreciated to provide cookies or dessert, to pray for the leaders and participants, and to share brochures in the community. Contact our GriefShare leader, Nancy Nemoyer.

SGO 2023 DONATION WINDOW STILL OPEN: At the recent Principal's Conference, we were informed that congregation members and school families are still able to donate to the Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization (LSGO) for the 2023 tax year in the first quarter of 2024. The deadline to make a donation is the last week of March (25-29). So if time got away from you in December, please take time now to make your donation which will benefit St. John School.

- The LSGO's purpose is to raise scholarship dollars for students to attend Lutheran schools throughout Ohio, with priority given to students from low-income households.
- Contributors to the LSGO of Ohio qualify for a non-refundable tax credit for their donations; the tax credit will be able to be applied to their Ohio state income tax liability, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$750. Couples filing jointly may donate a total of \$1,500, where each person separately donates \$750.
- When you specify St. John School on your form, your entire donation will be used to benefit our students in Preschool thru Grade 8.

For more information about LSGO, please go to <https://www.lsgoohio.org/>. Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization (LSGO), is recognized as a charitable organization by the IRS.

2023 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – Deadline is this Wednesday, Feb. 14th to get your reports turned in. 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. **Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers.**

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!

COOK POSITION NEEDED: We continue to search for a **School Cook**. If you know of anyone interested, please have them contact Miss Germann by calling the school office at 419-598-8702 or by emailing tgermann@sjl.org. We thank all the school families for their patience in continuing to pack lunches for their children. Milk will always be available for purchase with a packed lunch.

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.

NWOLL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT: On Saturday, Feb. 17th, St. John will be hosting the Northwest Ohio Lutheran League Tournament. This will be a one-day tournament with games beginning at 9 AM. It takes a lot of volunteer help to make this tournament successful. We are asking anyone interested in volunteering to help with admissions, concessions, scoreboard, or hall monitors, to contact Athletic Director, Joe Badenhop at 419-438-5435. GO EAGLES!!!

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.

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...

We don’t change the message. The message changes us.

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” (Rom. 12:2)