

February 18, 2024

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

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FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "Thrown Under the Bus for Us" *Mark 9:2-9*
Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Four *LSB pg. 203*
Hymns: 424 ~ 657 ~ (Communion: 774, 746, 425) ~ 707

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We invite you to celebrate God's love as we pray to a Heavenly Father who cares for us, and as we hear His powerful Word to us. If you do not have a local church home, we extend a warm invitation to you to become a part of our church 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

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Nolan Bickel, Maxton Howard *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dave Myles, Denny Bockelman, Derek Damman, Tim Badenhop, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kaylee Buchhop, Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, Karan Niebergall, *Altar Guild* ✠

ALTAR FLOWERS today are in celebration of the 90th birthday of Janet Von Deylen. Janet's birthday is on Tues., February 20th, and she will be sure to celebrate in style. Her family and friends wish her a Happy Birthday and many, more to come. Happy 90th Janet!



SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY --- Miracles of Jesus

One of the surest ways to get yourself elected to a political office is to promise people all kinds of goodies and handouts. Even in Jesus' day, people sought out these kinds of leaders. When Jesus used nothing more than a boy's lunch to feed 5,000 men, besides women and children, the people thought they had found the ultimate political leader, a man who could give handouts without the economic constraints that hinder other politicians. They wanted to make Jesus their king. But Jesus, of course, had a very different reason for performing this miracle.

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	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.	9:30 AM	NO SCHOOL – President's Day observed Ladies Blanket Knotting & Pizza Luncheon
Tues.	8:35 AM 6:00 PM	School Chapel Grief Support Ministry at the Youth & Family Center (<i>ends at 7:30</i>)
Wed.	10:00AM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Women's Lenten Bible Study (<i>see note</i>) Midweek Confirmation Class (<i>until 6:45 PM</i>) Lenten Worship Service ; Offering: <i>Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch</i> Acolyte: Erin Damman Ushers: Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel, Ian Rosebrook Altar Guild: Kaylee Buchhop, Karan Niebergall, Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM	Men's Lenten Bible Breakfast (<i>see note</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Voters' Meeting; Sunday School; "The Lamp"

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*, dealing with health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *Pamala Reeves* (our Preschool Teacher), recovering from abdominal surgery
- ❖ *Bev Elling, Marian Damman, Brenda Damman, and Elaine Hesterman*, recovering or dealing with health related issues
- ❖ *Rozella Gruenhagen*, hospitalized in Toledo and transferred to Genacross for continued care

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS: It's time again to order your Easter flowers. We are now taking orders for the various flowers to purchase "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone special in your life. Yellow order forms are inserted in today's bulletin and are also available on the narthex table. Drop your order form and payment (to **St. John Lutheran Church**) into the container on the narthex table or return it to the church office. **Order deadline is Sun., March 10th**. No later orders!

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING – The list of the people for this year's annual church cleaning are listed in today's bulletin (back page) and also available on the narthex table. If you feel you are not physically able to help with the cleaning for whatever reason, let your co-chair know and we'll make a note of that. Thank you to everyone who volunteers and/or shows up to do this each year!

PASTOR'S RETIREMENT LETTER – A number of individuals have requested a copy of pastor's retirement letter that was read for the congregation in December. This morning, copies of this letter are available on the table in the narthex, if you care to pick one up.

LENTEN DEVOTIONS are available 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 MIDWEEK SERVICES – During Lent we 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 remaining midweek Lenten schedule is as follows:



<u>Date</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Offering</u>
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

- **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**. During Lent we gather each Thursday morning at 6:30 a.m. for breakfast and Bible study. **Currently we are discussing key parts of our faith as outlined in *The Augsburg Confession***, a principal confessional document of our church.

This Thursday we will consider the person of Jesus – how He is commonly thought of in the world, and who He is revealed to be in Holy Scripture. 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 our Lord!



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

In this Bible study we are considering 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. We meet on the Wednesdays of Lent at 10:00 a.m. in the Church Lounge. Each week is a little study unto itself. No need to sign up. Just show up, and join us.

LADIES 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 – Next 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.



GRIEF SHARE begins 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.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 02/11/24	\$5,694.48	\$150.00	\$175.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 172

“YUMMY” FUNDRAISER: The Stoller “Yummy” Fundraiser is underway!! St. John School is having this fundraiser which 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! Ordering instructions are available on the narthex table. Pick yours up today!

2023 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – Please be sure 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. **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!

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.

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.

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.

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.

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...

"O Lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones. Let me find You again. Amen."

Prayer by Henri Nouwen

"Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity." (Hosea 14:12)

2024 ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING LIST

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING will be broken out into three groups. The top two names in each group will be the co-chairmen. If you would like your name removed from the annual cleaning list, please let your chairmen know as soon as possible. Thanks to all of you for giving your time and effort.

GROUP 1: *Co-chair Greg & Jenna Kehnast, *Co-chair Doug & Mary Kossow, Logan Kossow, Kurtis & Amy Kramer, Ben Kruse, Eldon & Sherrie Kruse, Nick & Yajaira Kruse, Todd & Brenda Kruse, Todd & Kathy Kruse, Diana Kruse, Madelyn Kuhlman, Jessica Lamb, Jerry & Lori Langenhop, Roger & Karen Lulfs, Dean & Jennifer Maassel, Elmer & Pat Maassel, Jeff & Derrick Maassel, Jon Maassel, Krista Maassel, Joyce Maassel, Alicia Maassel, Mike & Tana Maassel, Eric Maassel 36

GROUP 2: *Co-chair David & Sara Myles, *Co-chair Jake & Marlea Myles, Larry & Pat Mahnke, McKenzie McCann, Jenelle McCarthy, Marilyn Meyer, Linda Meyer, Wayne & Becky Michaelis, Kendra Michaelis, Sierra Michaelis, Blake & Brittni Miller, Steve & Linda Miller, Ty Moll, Jordan Myles, Andrew & Aimee Naveau, Bob & Nancy Nemoyer, Joel Nemoyer, Nathan Nemoyer, Don & Karan Niebergall, Pastor & Bonnie Niermann, Adam & Cori Niese, Bob & Diane Norden 34

GROUP 3: *Co-chair Eric & Kayleigh Riefers, *Co-chair Bob & Karen Riefers, Terry & Karen Norden, Kyle Norden, Grace Norden, Jason Okuly, Judy Okuly, Haley O'Neil, Andrea Oyer, Janice Rabe, Mary Rettig, Linda Riefers, Ted & Jackie Ripke, Dave Rohrs, Rod & Lisa Rohrs, Tom & Genny Rohrs, John Rohrs, Brad & Sarah Rosebrock, Dave & Karen Rosebrock, Jim & Danette Rosebrock, Randy & Lou Ann Rosebrock, Rodney & Jackie Rosebrock 34

GROUP 1: Narthex, Storage Room under Balcony, Balcony (including upper storage rooms), Church itself, Room in front of sanctuary on east side, Entrance area floors

GROUP 2: Cry Room, Pastor's Office, Conference room by church, Furnace room, Restrooms, (Includes Pastor's restroom), hallways (up to metal double doors),
(Storage Room by Cry Room will be cleaned by Food Pantry Coordinators)

GROUP 3: Fellowship Hall, Storage Room off of Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Storage room off of the Kitchen.