

March 3, 2024

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Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
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Church Website: www.sjl.org

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: “Disrupting Jesus” *John 2:13–22*
Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting One *LSB pg. 151*
Hymns: 907 ~ 427 ~ (Communion: 619, 729) ~ 707

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 are visiting today, please 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. Please come back again!



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Evelyn Szabo, Erin Damman, *Acolytes* ✠
✠ Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, David Badenhop, Dan Wiechers, *Ushers* ✠
✠ Elaine Buenger, Teresa Weller, Deb Von Deylen, *Altar Guild* ✠



SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY – Many of us enjoy recreation in the great outdoors, but it doesn't take long to learn that we are not in control of nature. We imagine that we can handle any situation, but a change of weather can catch us off guard. Suddenly we can find ourselves overwhelmed, facing danger – if not by literal storms, then certainly by life storms that we must all face. **It's good to know the One who commands the elements, and even walks on water, is with us and for us.** This

morning, in our current study, *Miracles of Jesus*, we will consider the miracle of Jesus walking on water. The coffee is on, and we hope you can join us for fellowship and growth in God's Word.

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS: Please get your orders in soon! Next Sunday, March 10th is the deadline. We cannot take any late orders. Yellow order forms are 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.

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: <https://74058984.view-events.com>

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:30 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Gerald Busy Fingers and Cloverbuds 4-H Meetings
Tues.	8:35 AM 5:00 PM 6:00 PM	School Chapel School Board Meeting 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>Worship Anew</i> Acolyte: Nolan Bickel Ushers: Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, David Badenhop, Dan Wiechers Altar Guild: Elaine Buenger, Teresa Weller, Deb Von Deylen Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM	Men's Lenten Bible Breakfast (<i>see note</i>)
Sat.	9:00 AM 10:00AM	GROUP #1 – Annual Cleaning (<i>see note</i>) GROUP #3 – Annual Cleaning (<i>see note</i>)
Sun.	2:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:20AM 11:15AM	Daylight Saving Time begins Worship Service with Communion following <i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Confirmation Class Planning Meeting (<i>see note</i>)

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

- ❖ *Arlene Gerken, 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, Sue Hurst, Dave Crandall, dealing with health concerns related to cancer*
- ❖ *Rozella Gruenhagen, transferred to Genacross for continued care*
- ❖ *Alan Gruenhagen, who is recovering at home after surgery to remove a tumor on his neck*
- ❖ *Aimee Naveau, recovering at home from injuries sustained in a serious car accident*
- ❖ *Bob Norden, who is recovering from recent hip replacement surgery*
- ❖ *Bev Elling, recovering at home and receiving P.T. to get her back on her feet*

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS NEXT WEEKEND! Jesus once said, "*concerning that day and hour no one knows*" (*Matt 24:36*). Something like that could be said of the confusion sometimes surrounding the change to Daylight Saving Time. But no need to be confused! **Be sure to spring your clocks forward one hour this Saturday before going to bed.** If you forget, your alarm will go off an hour late, and you may have to come to worship in your robe and slippers. Of course we'd be glad to see you in whatever condition, but maybe it would be best just to set your clocks forward an hour next Saturday evening!

CHURCH CLEANING GROUP #1: This group will be cleaning the church, balcony, narthex, etc., on Sat., March 9th beginning at 9:00 AM. Please bring a bucket and rags. Hope to see many of you then! Co-chairs, *Doug & Mary Kossow* and *Greg & Jenna Kehnast*

CHURCH CLEANING GROUP #3: This group will be cleaning the fellowship hall, storage room, kitchen, etc., also on Sat., March 9th beginning at 10:00 AM (*note the time*). Please bring a bucket and rags. Thanks for taking the time to come and help with this annual project. Co-chairs, *Bob & Karen Riefers* and *Eric & Kayleigh Riefers*

EASTER BREAKFAST SIGN-UP – This morning we begin the process of organizing our Easter Fellowship Breakfast. We are looking for people to sign up to supply food items for this annual event. The sign-up sheets are in the narthex now. Thank you for helping in this way!



2024 CONFIRMATION CLASS PLANNING MEETING – Next Sunday

The confirmation class of 2024 and their parents will have an information and planning meeting next Sunday, March 10, after the Sunday School hour, at 11:15 a.m., in the church lounge. We will be discussing the upcoming schedule of confirmation related events, and laying out all that needs to be accomplished before that day. Confirmation Sunday is May 19, which this year is also The Festival of Pentecost.

SPECIAL LENT SERVICES – During Lent we gather for many special worship services as we give homage to our suffering Savior and consider His atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world. Midweek Lenten services each begin with a hymn sing, an opportunity for you to choose a beloved hymn to sing with the congregation. All weekday Lenten and Holy Week services begin at 7:00 p.m. The remaining midweek Lenten schedule is as follows:



Midweek **The Passion According to John**

March 6 **Whom Do We Follow?**

March 13 Wisdom Has a Friend on the Cross

March 20 Jesus Finishes the Battle for Your Salvation

Offering

Worship Anew broadcast

Lutheran Hour broadcast

Mission Acct, SJLC Endowment Fund

Holy Week **Theme**

March 24 Palm Sunday – “Glorious Death”

March 28 Maundy Thursday – “It’s About Jesus”

March 29 Good Friday – “Real Life after Good Friday”

Special Notes

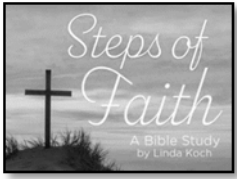
Children’s procession of palms

Holy Communion

Tenebrae, service of darkness; adult choir

- **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.

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.**



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.



MEN'S LENTEN BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY!

During Lent the men 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 continue our discussion from last Thursday about Article IV of the Augsburg Confession and how we are

justified before God. We had such good discussion that we needed to dedicate more time to this chief article of our Christian 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 our Lord!

GRIEF SHARE is underway.

Are you grieving a loss? Find help, hope, and healing through the *GriefShare* classes being held Tuesdays from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the *Youth & Family Center*. It's never too late to join! The class is being led by the team of 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. To learn more, and to sign up, please visit our *GriefShare* webpage at www.griefshare.org/groups/177431. **But wait! There's more! Keep reading...**

"COMFORT COOKIES?" - For those of you wanting to help out with the GriefShare ministry, how do "comfort cookies" sound? You can be a part of our St John grief ministry by providing one dozen "comfort cookies" on any Tuesday between now and May 21st. Try out a new recipe or bring an old favorite? Either way, a dozen "comfort cookies" will go a long way in creating a welcoming environment for the Tuesday night GriefShare group. A sign-up sheet is located on the narthex table. Pick a Tuesday, bring the cookies on Sunday and Nancy will be sure the Tuesday night group enjoys them. Remember...just a dozen! Help be God's instrument in bringing comfort to those dealing with grief or loss in their lives. Thank you!

LWML QUARTERLIES & ODES – Please pick up the LWML Quarterly magazine and Ode publication for Spring 2024 in the tract rack in the narthex today. These are available to all women of the church and always have very interesting articles.

MY DEVOTION BOOKLETS for of March, April, and May are available on the desk in the narthex.

JAVA JOY – Next Sunday! Java Joy will be held and is being hosted by the School Board. It's a great opportunity to take time with one another to greet, chat, and encourage, and to enjoy the fellowship God has given us as His church.

Thank you to those who have signed up to host. **If you, a group of you, or perhaps your church organization, would like to host, please sign up in the narthex!** Hosting Guidelines are available. Hosting Java Joy need not cost you anything – money from the kitty is available to cover expenses. The donation box will be on the table each time to replenish the kitty.



<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 02/25/24	\$6,844.00	\$185.00	\$315.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 185

LENTEN SERVICE (2/21/24): *Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch - \$937.00; Attendance: 74*

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – IT'S TIME TO PLAN

It's time to begin thinking about plans for Vacation Bible School this summer, which we typically schedule for mid-June. First on the VBS to-do list is to identify a director to work with the pastor to coordinate plans this year. If you might be interested in serving the children in this way, please speak with Pastor Niermann ASAP, and we'll get the ball rolling. Thank you!



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!

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.** 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.

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.

HEARING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE: If hearing in worship has been a problem for you, pick up one of the receiver units for our hearing assistance system. An usher will assist you and you’ll hear much more clearly. *(Also, please let us know how the system is working for you.)*

For those who use the hearing assistance system regularly and for the sake of hygiene, we ask that you claim one of the ear buds as your own and keep it with you in your purse, pocket, etc. Bring it with you when you come to church, and simply plug it into one of the receivers. At the end of the service, unplug the ear bud to take with you until the next time.

PANCAKE-SAUSAGE BREAKFAST TODAY! The Ridgeville Township Fire & Rescue are hosting this breakfast today until 1PM at the Ridgeville American Legion Hall. Carryout or Dine in. Free will donation! See flyer!

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Food For Thought...

There are hidden blessings in every struggle.

“We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.” (Romans 5:3-4)

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.

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*.

CHOICE DOLLARS TO DESIGNATE: It's that time of year again to direct your 2022 "Choice Dollars." You have until March 31, 2023 to designate your 2022 Choice Dollars. There appears to be a sizable amount that has not been designated by Thrivent members of our congregation. You may be getting a phone call from Mary Kossow with the Thrivent Office in Ridgeville Corners to help direct your Choice Dollars before the end of March. Thrivent associates are now able to process your dollars online, so no signed form is needed. If you have not received a call from Mary and think you may have 2022 Choice Dollars, simply call the Ridgeville Thrivent Office at 419-267-0113 and they will be glad to check for you! Thank You!

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.**

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.