

March 17, 2024

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Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: “Priests in the Order of Jesus” *Hebrews 1:9-10*

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Three *LSB page 184*

Hymns: 564 ~ 529 ~ (Communion: 620, 423) ~ 950

Adult Choir: “A Communion Meditation”

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome in the name of the Lord. We pray that through this time of stillness and song, prayer and proclamation, you may experience the Spirit of God at work in your life. May God richly bless your worship today! If you do not have a local church home, we extend a warm invitation to you to become a part of our church family. 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.



SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Elaine Buenger, *Organist* ✘ Nolan Bickel, Maxton Howard, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, David Badenhop, Dan Wiechers, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Elaine Buenger, Teresa Weller, Deb Von Deylen, *Altar Guild* ✘

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY – RESURRECTION OF LAZARUS



Just in time for Good Friday and Easter, we will take a look this morning at the miracle the *Resurrection of Lazarus*. This miracle accelerated the chain of events that would eventually lead to the crucifixion of Jesus. What was so different about this miracle is that while Jesus’ opponents could write off His other miracles as magic or satanic art, there was no denying the miraculous nature of a dead man coming back

to life. After the resurrection of Lazarus, the only way the Jewish leaders could think to stop Jesus was to kill Him. “So from that day on they made plans to put Him to death.” (*John 11:53*) We hope you can join us this morning for our study, *Miracles of Jesus*, as we consider the *Resurrection of Lazarus*. Come on down - the coffee is on!

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

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:00 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; Youth Gathering & Parent Meeting LYF Meetings – Jr. Hi @ 4pm; High School @ 5pm (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.	1:00 PM	NLSA Visiting Team begins the accreditation of the school
Tues.	8:00 AM 8:35 AM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	NLSA Visiting Team continues accreditation process School Chapel Grief Support Ministry at the Youth & Family Center (<i>ends at 7:30</i>) Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	8:00 AM 10:00AM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	NLSA Visiting Team continues accreditation process Women's Lenten Bible Study (<i>see note</i>) Midweek Confirmation Class (<i>until 6:45 PM</i>) Lenten Worship Service; Offering: Mission Endowment Fund Acolyte: Zeek Kramer Ushers: Elmer Maassel, Denny Behnfeldt, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke 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>)
Fri.	6:00 PM	Family Movie Night (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:30 PM	Palm Sunday Procession and Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" 4-H Meetings – Gerald Busy Fingers & Cloverbuds

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

- ❖ *Arlene Gerken, Rozella Gruenhagen, Melba Elling, and Norma Damman, at Genacross*
- ❖ *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*
- ❖ *Alan Gruenhagen, Lowell Petzoldt, Sue Hurst, Dave Crandall, dealing with health concerns related to cancer*
- ❖ *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 the rehab center at the Lakes of Monclova facility*



CHURCH CHOIR – This morning we are blessed to have the adult choir back in action in the balcony, offering anthems of praise to God. The choir will also be singing on Good Friday and in both services on Easter Sunday. We thank Jon Buenger for his direction of the choir, and each choir member for blessing us with their music.

PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS for the next quarter, *April, May, June*, are on the desk in the narthex. There are also large print booklets available for anybody to pick up.

MANY THANKS! We would like to "THANK" each and every one of you, in cleaning Group #1, that took the time out of your busy schedules to come and help clean the narthex and sanctuary. Many hands make light work and that is what it's all about...Thank You Again!! Signed, *Greg & Jenna Kehmast and Doug & Mary Kossow*

LYF MEETINGS: The Jr High and High School LYF members will be having their meeting today at the Youth & Family Center. The Jr High (Grades 6-8) will meet at 4:00 PM followed by the High School (Grades 9-12) at 5:00 PM. Keep reading...

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING MEETING will be held after church today at the Youth and Family Center. This meeting is for youth participants (*ages 14-19 at the time of event*) and their parents. The meeting is also for those interested in being a Young Adult Volunteer (*19-25 years old*). The LCMS Youth Gathering is July 19-23, 2025 in New Orleans.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM MEETING: The next Women of Freedom meeting will be held on Tues., March 19th at 7:00 PM. This will be a mite collection meeting. As always, we invite any women of the congregation to join us for fellowship, Christian growth and service to missions. Feel free to bring a friend...Hope to see some of you there!

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

SPECIAL 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:



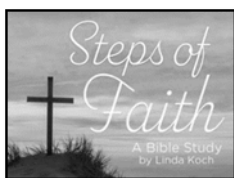
<u>Midweek</u>	<u>The Passion According to John</u>	<u>Offering</u>
March 20	Jesus Finishes the Battle for Your Salvation	Mission Acct, SJLC Endowment Fund

<u>Holy Week</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Special Notes</u>
March 24	Palm Sunday – “Glorious Death”	Children’s procession of palms
March 28	Maundy Thursday – “It’s About Jesus”	Holy Communion
March 29	Good Friday – “Real Life after Good Friday”	Tenebrae, service of darkness; adult choir

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!

For one last Thursday morning this week the men will gather for breakfast and Bible study at 6:30 a.m. This Lenten season we have been studying various articles of the Christian faith as these are spelled out in the Augsburg Confession, a foundational document for our church. This week's topic, *The Gospel and Sacraments*, is very timely as the congregation prepares to

receive a new pastor in the future. Many do not fully understand a pastor's job, but this article of our faith spells it out clearly. His chief role is to administer the *Means of Grace*, including the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments. We hope you can come, as we enjoy a wonderful breakfast menu, and grow together in fellowship, in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord!



PALM SUNDAY CHILDREN'S PROCESSION – Parents, please note that next Sunday, March 24, is Palm Sunday, and that the children will process into the sanctuary at the beginning of the service with palm branches in hand. There will also be a children's message while the children are up front. Children should arrive ten or fifteen minutes before the service and head to the fellowship hall for their palm branches and instructions.

ARCHIVES DISPLAY: The Archives Display has been finished and is showcasing the 2023-2024 St. John School students, teachers, and staff; field trips; St. John high school sports students; and pictures of the Ladies Aid Mother-Daughter Banquets of the past and more. Stop by and enjoy the variety of pictures. Thank you to the Archives Committee for this nice feature!

NEW BOOKS! The St. John Church Library is located in the hallway west of the sanctuary. Many new books have been recently added to its shelves including: "Objections Overruled III, Answering Arguments Against Christianity", "Reading Isaiah With Luther", "The Work Of His Hands, A View of God's Creation From Space", and "Luther, The Graphic Novel". Just take any book you wish at any time and return it in the basket provided when finished.

EASTER BREAKFAST SIGN-UP is underway. We are looking for people to sign up to supply food items for this annual event. The sign-up tablet is at the table in the narthex. This year's Easter Breakfast will be served between the two services on Easter morning (8:00-9:15 AM). The menu is: *Scrambled eggs, sausage, tater tots, grapes, doughnuts, cinnamon rolls, cookies, coffee and juice.* **Please have the eggs, tater tots, and milk to the church by 8:00 AM on Sat., March 30th.** The juices, fruit, and baked goods will need to be at the church prior to 8:00 AM on Sun., March 31st. Anyone wanting to help with preparation and serving are welcome to do so. Thank you for helping in this way as we celebrate the joy of Easter together!

EASTER AT ST. JOHN – This morning we are two weeks away from the celebration of Easter. Throughout that morning the Stewardship Board will have Easter treat bags available for the children. The two Easter services are entirely different, so plan to make a morning of it, celebrating the greatest miracle of God for our salvation. The schedule for Easter morning is as follows:

- **7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service** Sermon: "*I is the Biggest Number*"
- **8:00 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast**
- **9:30 a.m. Easter Festival Service, Holy Communion** Sermon: "*A Jarring New Reality*"

CHILDREN'S EASTER 'BAG-SKETS' – The Stewardship Board is planning something special for Easter morning for the children of the congregation and any friends they may like to invite. Much as we hand out treat bags at Christmas, we will have *Easter Bag-skets* to give to the children on Easter morning! Join us Easter morning for worship, breakfast, and a little something special for the young ones!



NEWS ON THE ALTAR CRUCIFIX – Presently we are awaiting shipment of our beautiful new altar crucifix that will permanently adorn our sanctuary. Tracking info indicates that we should receive this shipment this week, so that we are ready to dedicate the crucifix at our Good Friday worship service. This crucifix was carved for us by a master Holzschneiderei (German for wood carver) from Oberammergau, Germany, named Robert Eder. The pictures we have seen look fabulous. Plan to join us at our Good Friday Tenebrae service for the unveiling and dedication. A booklet full of information about our crucifix and about the use of crucifixes in general will be available at this service as well.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 03/10/24	\$4,475.00	\$132.00	\$188.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 112

LENTEN SERVICE (3/06/24): *Worship Anew* - \$910.00; Attendance: 69



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!

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT: Coming this Friday, March 22, beginning at 6:00 PM (with snacks) followed by the movie at 6:30, we will be having a Family Movie Night. **All church and school families are invited to attend.** The Athletic Boosters are generously providing all snacks and drinks. The movie will be *Migration*. We look forward to seeing you there.

CHOICE DOLLARS: Keep up the good work! Your designations are making a difference here at St. John. You have until March 31, 2024 to designate your 2023 Choice Dollars. Some of you may still have Choice Dollars to designate, so give Mary Kossow (at the Ridgeville Thrivent Office) a call to check on your Choice Dollars. If you have an online account with Thrivent, please log on and check to see if you have Choice Dollars to designate. The phone number is 419-267-0113. Thank You!

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!



KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY: For students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2024, our Kindergarten clinic will be held on Thursday, April 4th with the time TBD. There WILL BE Kindergarten class as usual on the 4th. **St. John Lutheran School’s eligibility date for entering Kindergarten is that a child must be five years old on or before September 30th to enroll in Kindergarten.** Items needed for our St. John clinic are: An original and/or certified copy of their birth certificate; a physical dated after August 2023 (*if available*); immunization records; Social Security number; child custody documents if applicable; and the baptism date or dedication date. If applying for the EdChoice Expansion Scholarship, please bring a current utility bill to confirm your permanent residence. *NOTE: If your child is enrolled in our Preschool program, we already have the items listed above and you will not need to bring them the day of the clinic.*

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 the receivers. At the end of the service, unplug the ear bud to take with you until the next time.

KANTOREI LENTEN TOUR: Today at 4:00 PM, the Kantorei of Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne will be leading a Lenten Evening Prayer service. This will be held in Kramer Chapel on the Fort Wayne campus. For more info, go to www.ctsfw.edu/ctsfw-events

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Food For Thought...

Keep your words sweet. You may have to eat them.

“Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.” (Proverbs 16:24)