

April 14, 2024

VOL. 89 NO. 15

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon & Text: “Raised Up to Walk in Newness of Life” *Acts 3:11–21*

Order of Service: Matins (*LSB page 219, in front of hymnal*)

Responsive Reading: Psalm 4 (*in front section of hymnal*)

Hymns: 603 ~ 421 ~ 941 (*Te Deum hymn*) ~ 483

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Jesus said, “I am the Bread of Life.” Our Savior invites us to His table, a table of love that has been prepared for us. Jesus, our Savior, lived, died and lives again for each one of us. Let us worship our God today and praise Him for His love. If you are a visitor today, please fill out a blue pew card from the rack in front of you and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave today.



SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Anika Rosebrock, Anna Sausser, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Denny Behnfeldt, Ted Ripke, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ LouAnn Rosebrock, Diane Von Deylen, *Altar Guild* ✠

BAPTISM TODAY – This morning we are privileged to see a “wonder in the making,” the baptismal

rebirth of **Wyatt Nicholas McCarthy**, infant son of Nick & Jenelle (Hesterman) McCarthy. Wyatt’s big sister is Maelyn. Wyatt was born the day after Christmas, December 26, 2023, in Toledo. His baptismal sponsors are Joseph Hesterman and Rev. Justin Hesterman (Jenelle’s brothers), and Zack McCarthy (Nick’s brother). His grandparents are Todd & Chris Hesterman and Tim & Karen McCarthy. His living great-grandparents are Janet McCarthy, Rod & Margaret McCarthy, and Ron & Elaine Hesterman. We rejoice together with this family as little Wyatt is born anew in this Easter shower of baptismal water, to

become God’s own child. May the work that God begins in Wyatt today be brought to its conclusion on the great day of Jesus Christ!

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.



| In God's House This Week | | Online church calendar: https://74058984.view-events.com |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Date | Time | Activities |
| Today | 9:00 AM 10:20AM | Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" |
| Mon. | 7:00 PM | PTL Meeting |
| Tues. | 8:35 AM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM | School Chapel <i>GriefShare</i> Ministry Support Group (until 7:30 PM) Women of Freedom Meeting |
| Wed. | 6:15 PM | Midweek Confirmation Class (until 7:30 PM) |
| Thurs. | 6:30 AM | Men's Bible Study Breakfast |
| Sun. | 9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:30 PM 4:00 PM | Communion Service – Good Shepherd Sunday Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" 4-H Meetings – Gerald Busy Fingers and Cloverbuds Jr High LYF Meeting; 5:00 PM – High Schoolers meet |

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

- ❖ *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* and *Arlene Gruenhagen*, recovering from recent surgeries
- ❖ *Bev Elling*, recovering at the rehab center at the Lakes of Monclova facility
- ❖ *Elaine Hesterman*, moved to Genacross – Napoleon for rehab following a stroke

FLOWERS TODAY:

- ♥ **Altar flowers** are placed in celebration of the 25th Wedding Anniversary of *Dave & Diane Johnson*. Dave and Diane were married on April 17, 1999. May God continue to bless their marriage with many more happy, healthy years together. Congrats to the Johnsons!
- ♥ **Piano flowers** are placed in honor of the baptism of *Wyatt Nicholas McCarthy* by his grandparents.

MANY THANKS: I want to thank everyone who helped with the accreditation visit in any way. You were all a vital part of the process and your time and efforts are, and were, greatly appreciated. We received many compliments and look forward to continuing to improve the school environment in preparation for the next accreditation in five years. Signed, *Miss Germann*

THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICES are slated to begin on Thursday, May 2. As in years past, our Thursday services will begin at 7:00 PM, and will preview the coming Sunday service. Thursday Communion services will be on the Thursdays prior to Communion Sundays.

After Pastor's retirement we are not certain what the status of these services will be, but for the first four Thursdays of May they will be held in the sanctuary. On Thursday, May 30, the Sunday prior to Pastor Niermann's retirement day, there will be no Thursday evening service.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM MEETING – This Tuesday, April 16, The Women of Freedom will be meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Pastor Niermann will be our guest and will offer a Bible and hymn study based on the hymn, “Jesus Lives, the Victory’s Won.” Meetings are open to any women of the congregation. Please come and join us an enjoyable le evening!

LYF MEETING: The next LYF meeting is coming up on Sunday, April 21st at the Youth and Family Center. Jr High and High School will meet at 4 PM and 5 PM, respectively. This is the last meeting of this school year.

INTERIM PASTOR HOUSING – Presently the call committee is making contacts with a number of *Transitional Interim Ministry (TIM)* pastors who could potentially serve St. John as our interim pastor. TIM pastors are specially trained to guide congregations through an interim period until such time as a new settled pastor is called and installed. Please keep our call committee in your prayers as they speak with these TIM pastoral candidates, that God would bring us a shepherd for this transitional time in the life of our congregation.

One of the more pressing matters is to identify housing for this pastor and possibly his wife. If you know of a place that might be suitable – an apartment, a rental house, or even a mother-in-law suite – please contact the church office, or Elder Mike Maassel, chairman of the call committee.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR--Pastor's Retirement – Sunday, June 2

Plans are underway to commemorate Pastor Niermann's retirement from full-time ministry and from the pastoral office at St. John Lutheran. On Sunday, June 2nd, his final Sunday, Pastor will preach his farewell sermon and administer the sacrament for us one last time. A retirement dinner will follow. More details will be forthcoming.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE TODAY! These are available today (after the service) on the narthex table and the desk. There are 50 copies and more will be printed as needed each Sunday. Thank you to those of you who contributed information for the completion of this report. It is greatly appreciated every year!



MEN'S BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY!

The men's Breakfast Bible Study will meet this Thursday morning, April 18, at 6:30 a.m. We hope you can make it as we enjoy a wonderful breakfast menu, and grow together in fellowship, in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord!



GRIEF SHARE is a class offered here at St. John for those grieving the loss of a loved one. We meet on Tuesday evenings, 6 - 7:30 p.m., from now until May 21. It is led by the team of Nancy Nemoyer, a member of St. John and Rev. Robert Bartz, interim pastor of Emmaus Lutheran, Wauseon. Learn more or register to attend at www.griefshare.org/groups/177431. Pray for the comfort of the participants and the wisdom of the leaders.

THIS WEEK'S TOPIC is *Grief and Your Household* - how do we face the empty chair at the table, the phone call that can't be completed? What do we do with our loved one's possessions? How do we help children affected by this loss, while we too are grieving?

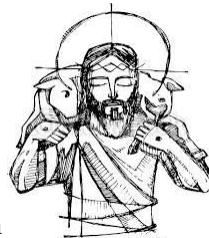
CHANGES IN WORSHIP SLIDES – You will notice this morning, as we use the service of Matins, that we are using a slimmed down version of the worship slides that no longer include the liturgy or the Scripture readings. It has become necessary, in view of Pastor Niermann’s pending retirement, to trim these back as we transition to a volunteer who will be preparing the slides. This means that we will need to make more extensive use of our hymnals to follow the liturgies, and the back side of the bulletin to read along with the Scriptures. To help in this process, worship information will be provided in the bulletin, as well as on a slide at the beginning of service. Use this information to get your hymnal ready with the ribbon markers so that you can navigate the service more easily.

| FINANCIAL FACTS: | Home Fund | Synod & Missions | Building Fund |
|-------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------|
| Weekly Need | \$9,792.78 | \$500.00 | \$961.54 |
| Rec’d 04/07/24 | \$8,728.00 | \$202.00 | \$228.00 |

ATTENDANCE: 144

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY is next Sunday, April 21.

The fourth Sunday of Easter is always special, as we reflect on Jesus, our Good Shepherd, who laid down His life for the sheep, and took it up again in the resurrection. As His redeemed, we are *the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand (Psa 95:7)*. Next Sunday we will recite the words of the beloved 23rd Psalm and sing the great Good Shepherd hymns. One day we *shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever*, but until that day our Shepherd has given us one day each week to come to His house in worship. Here He leads His little flock to the green pastures and still waters of His Word, feeds us at the table He has prepared before us in the presence of our enemies, and anoints our heads with the oil of His Spirit. Join us next Sunday and every Sunday!



FULL-TIME SCHOOL SECRETARIAL POSITION: We are now accepting résumé from anyone interested in applying for the full-time position of School Secretary. This is a fulltime position, working year-round. Requirements are a high school diploma, an accounting background, a good familiarity with Word, Excel, and Google Drive, 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. Resumes should be emailed to tgermann@sjl.org, or dropped off at the school office. Deadline for submissions is May 15, 2024.

PART-TIME CHURCH SECRETARY POSITION – 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 know someone interested, please call the church office at 419-598-8961.

AMAZING ARTWORK: The students of St. John School have been busy in art class this school year. They have created some amazing drawings and 3D images. Please take a few extra minutes to stroll down the back hallway to enjoy some of the fun projects they have completed.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – STAFF RECRUITMENT

A director for our 2024 VBS has come forward, so now we are in the process of recruiting our VBS staff. Our tentative VBS dates are June 10-14 (Monday – Friday, 9:00-11:30 am). To sign up for our VBS, please use the form that is available on the narthex table, and deposit completed form in the marked box. We are seeking adult volunteers to coordinate each of the five site rotations (Bible Story, Bible challenge, crafts, games, snacks), as well as additional helping staff. Please consider ministering to the children as a volunteer with our VBS. It is a wonderful way to bring the children to Jesus, as He bids us to do, *“Let the children come unto me.” (Matthew 19:14)*

LUTHERAN WITNESS RENEWAL – It’s time to renew your subscription to the Lutheran Witness for this year. To subscribe or renew your subscription, **simply place \$20.75 in an envelope**, along with your name and address, and place it in the Sunday collection plate or bring it to the church office. **Deadline for subscriptions is May 26th.**

PTL MEETING: The next **PTL meeting is Mon., April 15th at 7:00 PM.** The success of the PTL depends on parental involvement. We are still in need of PTL officers. It’s never too late to volunteer. Please plan to attend the meeting, bring your ideas, and support the school.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 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.

ST. JOHN SCRIP: SCRIP order forms are available at the tract rack in the narthex. Please turn those orders in to the office on Wednesdays, with payment to *St. John School PTL Scrip*. Payment must accompany orders. The gift cards will be sent home the following week on Tuesday. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

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.

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 around the stamp. The stamp may not be damaged and the perforations around the stamp must be perfect. You need not trim the stamp. 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. Collecting stamps is an easy way to participate in a mission project sponsored by the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League.

HOLY COMMUNION will be offered this morning following the Worship service. Those who wish to attend should fill out a Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and give it to the usher during the collection of the offering this morning. Return immediately to the front pews in the sanctuary following the service.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIPS: Here is another opportunity to encourage and help young people prepare for service to the church as pastors, teachers, lay workers, deaconesses, etc. \$500 per year Women of Freedom Scholarships are available to any young person attending one of our synodical schools. Simply contact any Women of Freedom member for more details about this.

IF YOU'RE EVER IN A PINCH and could use a little help, the *Good Neighbor Fund* is there to assist you too! Please don't be bashful about asking – everything is strictly confidential. Just give Pastor Niermann a call, and we'll see what we can do!

CHURCH HISTORY BOOKS – If at any time during the year you need a gift for a current or former member of St. John, why not consider one of our Church History Books. This book is full of interesting facts about St. John's and is available in the church office at a cost of \$12.00.

LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT – If you have used **prescription or nonprescription** glasses or sunglasses in your drawers, desks, or closets, you can donate them now! Children's glasses are especially needed. Both plastic and metal frames are accepted. There is a box under the table in the narthex for the collection of these used glasses.

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.

AREA EVENTS:

- Today at 4:00 PM **The Kantorei of Concordia Theological Seminary** will perform Bach Cantata 67, "Hold in Remembrance Jesus Christ." See flyer!
- On Tues., April 16 the CPC Women's Health Resource of Northwest Ohio is hosting their 38th Annual Spring Benefit & Silent Auction at the Archbold Evangelical Church. Registration and event information can be found on the flyer on the bulletin board in the narthex.

✘ ✘ ✘

Food For Thought...

"Easter opened up a crack in a universe winding down toward entropy and decay, sealing the promise that someday God will enlarge the miracle of Easter to cosmic scale." - Philip Yancey!

"For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ." (1 Cor 15:23)