

April 21 2024

VOL. 89 NO. 16

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Good Shepherd Sunday)

Sermon & Text: "Listen to the One Who Cares" *John 10:11-18*

Order of Service: Printed Order of Service

Hymns: 709 ~ 740 ~ (Communion: 710, 809, "Savior, I Follow On") ~ 537

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest this morning, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to our pastor and by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack and dropping it in the baskets by the doors as you leave today.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Erin Damman, Evelyn Szabo, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Denny Behnfeltd, Ted Ripke, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ LouAnn Rosebrock, Diane Von Deylen, *Altar Guild* ✠

SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING: There will be a Special Voters' Meeting held next Sun., April 28th following the worship service to present the recommendation for a TIM (Transitional Interim Minister) candidate to fulfill the pastoral duties at St. John following Pastor Niermann's retirement. More details will be conveyed at the meeting.

BAPTISMS NEXT SUNDAY – We rejoice with a couple of families who are looking forward to baptisms of their little ones next Sunday.

- **Calvin Michael Buchhop**, the infant son of *Nathan & Kaylee Buchhop* born on February 28, will be baptized during the morning service.
- **Liam Elliot Miller**, infant son of *Blake & Brittini Miller* born on April 4, will be baptized in a family ceremony after the service.



The Psalmist said, "*Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord*" (*Psalm 127:3*). We rejoice with these families as they welcome and receive these gifts of God into their families.

In God's House This Week

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM	Communion Service – Good Shepherd Sunday
	10:20AM	Adult Bible Study; Sunday School
	1:30 PM	4-H Meetings – Gerald Busy Fingers and Cloverbuds
	4:00 PM	Combined Jr High and High School LYF Meeting
Mon.	7:00 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tues.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
	6:00 PM	<i>GriefShare</i> Ministry Support Group (until 7:30 PM)
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class (until 7:30 PM)
	7:00 PM	Adult Choir Practice
Sat.	9:30 AM	Confirmation Class Mini-Retreat (see bulletin note)
Sun.	9:00 AM	Worship Service
	10:20AM	Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; “The Lamp”

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

- ❖ *Melba Elling, Norma Damman, and Elaine Hesterman (rehabbing)*, 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
- ❖ *Bev Elling*, recovering at home now following recent hip surgery



TODAY IS GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

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)*. On this day we 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 then our Shepherd gathers His flock into the church where

He greets us at the green pastures and still waters of His Word, feeds us at the table He has prepared before us, and anoints our heads with the oil of His Spirit. Let's celebrate our Good Shepherd!

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY – HEALING OF THE CENTURION'S SERVANT

“*Lord, I do not deserve to have You come under my roof.*” So said the Centurion who begged Jesus to heal his servant, but at the same time recognized he was not worthy to have Jesus enter his home, much less perform a miracle for him. How is it that this Centurion dared to ask for something knowing that at the same time he is unworthy? What did this man see in Jesus that emboldened him to ask anyway?



We hope you can join us this morning for our study, *Miracles of Jesus*, as we consider the *Healing of the Centurion's Servant*. Come on down - the coffee is on!

LYF MEETING: The next meeting is today at the Youth and Family Center. This is a combined meeting for Jr High and High School students at 4 PM. This is the last meeting of this school year.

CONFIRMATION CLASS MINI-RETREAT – This Saturday, April 27, our 2024 catechumens and confirmation class will gather for a mini-retreat to review the Small Catechism on the Sacrament of the Altar as final preparation for their first Communion on Confirmation Sunday, May 19 (Pentecost Sunday). We will meet in the east room of the Youth & Family Center from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Please keep the catechumens in your prayers as they prepare to make the good confession of Christ and to receive His Holy Supper just a few weeks from now.

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.

Special Notes: (1) *Thursday, May 9 will be a combined circuit Ascension Day Service – see the announcement in this bulletin;* (2) *Thursday, May 30, the Sunday prior to Pastor Niermann's retirement day, there will be no Thursday evening service.*

INTERIM PASTOR HOUSING – The pastoral call committee has had contact with a number of ***Transitional Interim Ministry (TIM)*** pastors who could potentially serve St. John as our interim pastor, and next Sunday will have a specific recommendation for the voters. 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 this matter in your prayers.

One of the more pressing matters is to identify housing for this pastor and possibly also 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, call committee chairman.



LOOKING AHEAD *Pastor's Retirement – Sunday, June 2*

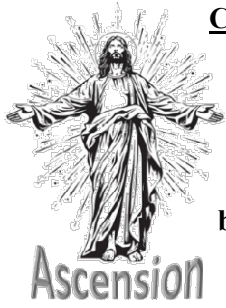
Plans are underway to commemorate Pastor Niermann's retirement from full-time ministry and from the pastoral office at St. John Lutheran. On Sunday, June 2nd, his final Sunday, Pastor will preach his farewell sermon and administer the sacrament for us one last time. Worship that morning will be an hour later than normal, at 10:00 a.m. A retirement dinner will follow at the Ridgeville Legion Hall at 12:00 noon.



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 Friendships*, in which we gain insights when it seems like no one understands, or someone suggests that the time for grieving is over. Cherishing the help of other people. How to talk to people who are uncomfortable with grief.



CIRCUIT ASCENSION DAY DIVINE SERVICE – Thursday, May 9

This year we are reviving a tradition that was sidelined by COVID, and holding a combined Ascension Day Divine Service for the congregations of our circuit. We will be hosting this service **at St. John on Thursday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m.** More details will be forthcoming, but **for now we are seeking an organization or group of people to organize a JAVA JOY after this service so that our brothers and sisters from around the circuit can have a few moments to linger in fellowship.** Please speak with Pastor Niermann if you would be interested in organizing this for us. Expenses will be reimbursed.

FINANCIAL FACTS:

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 04/14/24	\$8,79.8.33	\$670.00	\$970.00

ATTENDANCE: 188

MEMORIALS for Arlene Gerken: \$1,580.00 – St. John Lutheran Church Memorial Fund

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.



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)

2023 ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE! These are available today (after the service) on the narthex table and the desk. Thank you to those of you who contributed information for the completion of this report. It is greatly appreciated every year!

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.**

INTERESTED IN A CHURCH PROFESSION? WE'D LIKE TO HELP! Over the years a number of young people from St. John have pursued educational goals to prepare them for full-time service as teachers and pastors. If you are interested in a church profession (*as a pastor, deaconess, teacher, lay minister, or a Director of Christian Education, Christian Outreach, Parish Music, or Family Life Ministry*), our congregation would like to support you by offering a tuition gift. An application for this gift is available online --- type **www.sjl.org/student_gift_app.pdf** into your browser (*there is no link*) and fill out the application. Deadline for fall enrollment is June 1st.

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.

PIERSTORF COLLEGE FUND: The Pierstorf College Fund is a one-of-a-kind pan Lutheran financial aid program that provides interest-free loans to all Lutherans pursuing a higher education who live in the State of Ohio. These loans are specific to students who are or will be enrolled full time in a four-year undergraduate program at any accredited college or university. For information, visit www.Pierstorf.org to complete the online 2024-2025 application. Application deadline is June 30, 2024. Questions can be emailed to Pierstorf@messiahfp.org.

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.

OHIO ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN: The Ohio Division OGT is located in the north end of the Culligan Water Conditioning building on Independence Drive in Napoleon. Someone is usually there to receive items on the first Tuesday of the month from 9:30-11:30 AM. If you need to drop off items at another time, please contact *Nancy Helmke* (419-758-3539), *Diann Meyer-Grieser* (419-267-3485), or *Vicki Grieser* (419-445-2986) and they will be happy to meet you and open the facility to receive your donations! PLEASE do not drop off items at the warehouse when it is closed. Thank you!

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.

LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT – If you have used **prescription or nonprescription** glasses or sunglasses lying around at home, you can donate them now! Children's glasses are especially needed. There is a box under the table in the narthex for the collection of these used glasses.

ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE SCHOOLS ELECTRONICS RECYCLING: On Sat., Apr. 27 from 8:00 AM – noon the battle is on again as Henry County Solid Waste Mgmt. are hosting the Electronics Recycling Roundup. The four Henry County Schools compete to collect the most pounds of recyclable electronics on this date. The winning school is given a cash reward. Our collection location is at Napoleon High School. Start gathering your unused electronics and be ready to take them to N.H.S. on April 27th! Reduce / Reuse / **Recycle!**

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.**

CHICKEN BBQ – St. Paul Lutheran – Liberty Center is hosting a Drive-thru Chicken BBQ at their church located at 8074 County Road T, Liberty Center on Sun., April 28 from 11:00 am – 1:30 pm (or until gone). The menu is: ½ Chicken, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Roll, and Cookie. The cost is \$12.

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Food For Thought...

Easter is the soul’s first taste of the eternal spring.

“Because I live, you also will live.” (John 14:19)