

May 5, 2024

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

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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon & Text: "No Partiality" *Acts 10:34-48*
Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Three (LSB pg 184)
Hymns: 852 ~ 845 ~ (Communion: 634, 770) ~ 844

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome guests to this place of praise and prayers as we gather together as part of the family of our Heavenly Father. We invite you to join us now and return again to celebrate the salvation we have in Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord. If you are a visitor, please fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop in the baskets at the doors as you leave today.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Nolan Bickel, Maxton Howard, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Mike Maassel, Scott Van Valkenburg, Ian Rosebrook, Carey Damman, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Anita Badenhop, Pat Maassel, Kathy Behnfeldt, *Altar Guild* ✠

FLOWERS TODAY:

- ❖ Altar flowers are placed today in recognition of the 60th Wedding Anniversary of *Larry & Pat Mahnke*, which was on Thurs., May 2nd. Their family is here today to celebrate this occasion with them. We wish Larry and Pat many more years of happiness together, and fun times with family and friends. Congratulations to the Mahnkes!
- ❖ Piano flowers are placed today in loving memory of our son, brother, and uncle, *Ryan Rosebrook*. May 3rd is always a difficult day for us. But knowing this was God's plan for Ryan brings us the comfort needed to get through this time of year. We still miss his smile and humor so much every single day. Signed, *Randy. Lou Ann. Michael. Sam. Axel. Peyton. Ben. Michelle. Ryan. Lucy. Kate, and Henry*

BULLETIN NOTES: With Thursday night services starting, bulletin announcements will need to be turned in to the office by Wednesday of each week in order to be included in the Thursday and Sunday bulletin. Please make a note of this. Thank you!

In God's House This Week

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM	Communion Service
	10:20AM	Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
	1:30 PM	Gerald Busy Fingers & Cloverbuds 4-H Meetings
Tues.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
	3:00 PM	Henry County Health Dept. car seat check (<i>see note</i>)
	6:00 PM	<i>GriefShare</i> Ministry Support Group (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>)
Wed.	10:30AM	Henry County Health Dept. car seat check (<i>see note</i>)
	6:15 PM	Confirmation Preparation (6:15 – 7:30 PM)
	7:00 PM	Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Circuit Ascension Day Divine Service (w/Communion); 8:15PM <i>Java Joy</i>
Sun.	9:00 AM	Worship Service w/Communion following
	10:20AM	<i>Java Joy</i> ; 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*, dealing with health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *Bev Elling*, recovering at home now following recent hip surgery
- ❖ *Marlene Showman*, hospitalized this past week at Fulton County Health Center



SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY – THE INCARNATION OF OUR LORD

"The Word became flesh" (John 1:14) The words could not be simpler, but the miracle could not be more profound. God became 'incarnate' (or 'embodied') in human flesh. As we say in the Nicene Creed, He *"was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man."* For centuries Christians have pondered the mystery of how the fullness of the godhead God can dwell in Christ bodily, as

St. Paul said to the Colossians (2:9-10). Perhaps even greater is the mystery of the love that would prompt God to be incarnate at all! It's the miracle that kicked God's plan of salvation into high gear.

We hope you can join us this morning for our study, *Miracles of Jesus*, as we consider the *Incarnation of our Lord*. The coffee is on!

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 04/21/24	\$8,384.82	\$405.00	\$345.00

ATTENDANCE: 176

ADD'L MEMORIAL for *Arlene Gerken*: \$90 – St. John Endowment Fund (*School Acct*);
 CHP Hospice - \$1,650; Lutheran Hour Ministries - \$20; Filling Home - \$20;

CIRCUIT ASCENSION DAY CELEBRATION: Worship and Ice Cream – two of life's best things on one glorious evening! Join your fellow Christians from congregations of our circuit to celebrate the *Ascension of Our Lord* on **Ascension Day, this Thursday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. right here at St. John Lutheran.**

Participating congregations are St. John, Stryker; St. Luke, Wauseon; Emmaus, Wauseon; St. Paul; Liberty Center; and St. John, Freedom Twp. Pastor Aaron Bueltmann of St. John, Stryker will be our preacher. The Sacrament of the Altar will be celebrated. After the service you are invited to linger and enjoy fellowship and ice cream. *We haven't had a combined Ascension Day service since COVID, so we hope you will come and worship with us as we revive this circuit tradition.*



THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES HAVE RESUMED – Here's what you need to know:

- Thursday evening services begin at 7:00 p.m.
- These services will be held in the sanctuary until school is out, after which they will move to the north end of the fellowship hall.
- Each Thursday service will be a preview of the coming Sunday service.
- Communion will be celebrated on the Thursdays prior to normal Communion Sundays.

Special notes:

- 1) *Thursday, May 30, the Sunday prior to Pastor Niermann's retirement day, there will be no Thursday evening service.*
- 2) *Beyond May, during the pastoral interim, the status of these services is uncertain. Please stay tuned for further announcements.*



Mother's Day

JAVA JOY

MOTHER'S DAY JAVA JOY – Next Sunday the Stewardship Board is planning to host a Mother's Day *Java Joy* after the worship service. We'll have some special coffees and treats for all of our moms and for all of us who love our moms and are grateful to God for the blessing of godly mothers.

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 Sun., 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 at 10:00 a.m. A retirement dinner will follow at the Ridgeville Legion Hall at 12:00 noon.

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 today. 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.



GRIEF SHARE is a class offered at St. John for those grieving the loss of a loved one, meets 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, Wauseon. You are invited to pray each week for the comfort of participants and the wisdom of the leaders.

THIS WEEK'S TOPIC is *Stuck in Grief*. How could someone get Stuck in Grief? Am I stuck? How to move toward healing?

SAFETY FEATURES ADDED: You may notice a few safety upgrades recently at St. John. One is that the main school doors, which are locked during school hours, are now locked before school hours as well. All visitors will need to buzz in and be let in by the office. Reminder that all visitors should report to the office upon entering the building to sign in.

Another safety precaution you will notice is that there are barriers in place on both sides of the playground area to prevent cars from driving into the playground area during the school day. This change is an added way to keep children safe while on the playground during the school week. We appreciate your patience and support as we work to do everything possible to keep the students safe during the school day.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – Mornings, June 3-7

To sign up for our VBS Staff, please use the blue 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)*



FULL-TIME SCHOOL SECRETARIAL POSITION: We are now accepting résumés 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.

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.

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.

COUNCIL MINUTES – This is just a reminder that council meeting minutes are not published until they are approved a month later. If you would like to read about the most recent council meeting, an unofficial and unapproved copy of the minutes is available for viewing in the church office, usually within a week after the meeting.

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. 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.*

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN FOR GRADES K-7 is Fri., **May 24th** with early dismissal at 2:00 PM. Closing Day festivities include: Chapel at 12:45 PM; Presidential academic awards; and attendance and AR awards. Classroom awards will be handed out in the classrooms earlier in the day. All parents are welcome and encouraged to come.

CAR SEAT CHECK: On May 7 and May 8 the Henry County Health Department will be offering car seat checks to anyone interested. Their goal is to make sure that all kiddos are riding safely. On Tuesday, May 7 they will be in the parking lot before the 3PM dismissal to check car seats for anyone interested. On Wednesday, May 8, they will be available prior to preschool pickup from 10:30-11:30. What a great resource to have that car seat/booster seat double checked.

PRESCHOOL GRADUATION: This year our 4-yr preschool graduation will be held on Wed., May 22nd at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary, with a reception to follow. Everyone is invited to this big day for the 4-year olds. The next day on Thursday, May 23, the 4-year old preschool class will have their last day of school. School for them will dismiss at 11:30 following an end of the year celebration.

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.**

WHY NOT CONSIDER ST. JOHN? Saint John Lutheran School offers preschool to 8th grade Lutheran education. Students are taught the Word of God through weekly chapel, daily religion classes, and a Christ-centered learning environment. Students also have the opportunity to participate in a variety of athletics. Bus transportation is available to students in local school districts. If you have any questions about enrollment or would like a tour of the school please call the office for an appointment.

SILENT MOVIE NIGHT – St. Martin’s Lutheran Church, Archbold, Ohio, presents *Silent Movie Night* featuring Cleveland organist, David Blazer today at 4:30 PM at the church. Mr. Blazer will accompany the 1931 Charlie Chaplin Film, “City Lights”. Join us for *Silent Movie Night*, complete with popcorn! For more information visit: <https://the-welcome-place.org/about/worship-and-music/st-martins-2023-2024-concert-series/>

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Food For Thought...

Jesus didn’t say “I am finished.” He said, “It is finished.” He was just getting started.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)