

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 23-24, 2023



As we now draw very near to the Christmas celebration, we move from the ministry of John the Baptist to Mary in Nazareth, and the Advent readings for this Sunday emphasize the prophetic coming of Christ's birth and His incarnation. Chronologically, we have moved back in time, but theologically, we are right on track, because previously we had John the Baptist—summarizing the Old Testament prophecies and announcing the coming of Christ—and now, in the annunciation, the lectionary reminds us that by the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary will conceive a child and Christ will enter the world through a woman. The Psalm is one of the great messianic psalms of the Psalter. According to Luther, Psalm 89 is a prophecy of Christ and His kingdom (Psalms, with Introductions by Martin Luther [St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1993], 116). There is a close connection between the Psalm and the Old Testament Reading. The Lord promised that He would establish the house and throne of David forever through his offspring, a promise that would actually pass beyond David's son Solomon to find its ultimate fulfillment in David's greater Son, Jesus Christ. This is an important aspect of the Gospel, which Luke intentionally highlights when he says that Joseph, to whom Mary was betrothed, was of the house of David. The Epistle is a beautiful doxology to God, indeed a proper response to God's salvific plan, which was prophesied in the Old Testament and now is disclosed—totally revealed in the incarnation of His Son and made known to all nations by the proclamation of the Gospel.

St. John's Lutheran Church and School

12809 State Route 736 Marysville, OH 43040

Office Phone: 937-644-5540

Church Website: www.stjohnsmarysville.org

School Website: www.sjsmarysville.org

Email: stjohns@stjohnsmarysville.org

Rev. Jack D. Heino, Sr. Pastor 937-240-3002

Mr. Rich Rausch, Principal 937-240-3003

Equipping the family of God to joyfully and boldly make disciples of Christ as we

KNOW Jesus and one another, **GROW** to be more like Him and

SOW His love in Word and deed.



Saturday 4 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. Traditional Worship Services

Divine Service *Setting Three* – LSB pg. 184

Saturday at 4 p.m.: Rev. Dr. Kevin Wilson – Guest Pastor

Kevin Vollrath – Organist

“Stir Up Mystery” - Romans 16:25-27

In 7 days, many people will be excited about doing an everyday, ordinary thing. We will tear a page off the calendar. Then it will be the year of our Lord 2024. Well, not really. Most scholars agree that our Lord was born no later than the year 4 B.C. Man measures time with a crooked stick and makes a fuss over a mere 1,000 years. Our God has a different economy of time. In our text, we see that the good Lord has a much longer perspective. A mystery first presented to Adam and Eve was not fully revealed until Jesus was born. The good news of God's plan for salvation is powerful enough to span not only all the millennia of time, but also all of eternity. The Lord has been wise enough to stretch the gradual revelation of this good news to embrace all people of all time.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

RINGING OF THE BELL

HYMN OF INVOCATION

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

LSB 352

INVOCATION

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION – LSB pg. 184

(Sat. 4 p.m.) **BAPTISMAL HYMN**

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

LSB 725

(Sat. 4 p.m.) **HOLY BAPTISM** of *Adalyn Marie Leeds*

SERVICE OF THE WORD – LSB pg. 186

(Sun. 9 a.m.) **INTROIT**

Psalm 19:1, 4c, 5–6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a, b

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;*

let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his | handiwork.*

In them he has set a tent | for the sun,

which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his | chamber,*

and, like a strong man, runs its | course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the | end of them,*

and there is nothing hidden | from its heat.

☩ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

KYRIE

LSB 186

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

LSB 189

[Today's Bible readings are found on pages 15-16 of this worship program]

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16*

EPISTLE READING: *Romans 16:25-27*

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 190

HOLY GOSPEL: *Luke 1:26-38*

(Sun. 9 a.m.) **APOSTLES CREED**

LSB 192

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

LSB 357 sts. 1-4

(Sat. 4 p.m.) **SERMON:** **“Mysteries and the Faith”** - *Romans 16:25-27*

by Rev. Dr. Kevin Wilson, President of the Ohio District LCMS

(Sun. 9 a.m.) **SERMON:** **“Stir Up Mystery”** - *Romans 16:25-27*

OFFERTORY

LSB 192

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Romans 5:1–2; Philippians 4:7; John 14:27; Luke 2:14

LORD’S PRAYER

LSB 196

OFFERINGS OF OUR TIME, TALENTS & TREASURES

“Lord, we are yours. This represents our heart, our attitude, our spirit, and our willingness to recognize and submit to you as our Lord.”

BENEDICTION

LSB 202

CLOSING HYMN

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

LSB 338

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Sunday 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service

Jon Lutz, Rich Rausch, Charles Renner & Megan Vollrath – Accompanists

“Stir Up Mystery” - Romans 16:25-27

In 7 days, many people will be excited about doing an everyday, ordinary thing. We will tear a page off the calendar. Then it will be the year of our Lord 2024. Well, not really. Most scholars agree that our Lord was born no later than the year 4 B.C. Man measures time with a crooked stick and makes a fuss over a mere 1,000 years. Our God has a different economy of time. In our text, we see that the good Lord has a much longer perspective. A mystery first presented to Adam and Eve was not fully revealed until Jesus was born. The good news of God’s plan for salvation is powerful enough to span not only all the millennia of time, but also all of eternity. The Lord has been wise enough to stretch the gradual revelation of this good news to embrace all people of all time.

Pre-Service Music: “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day” by Casting Crowns

I heard the bells on Christmas day, their old familiar carols play
And mild and sweet their songs repeat of peace on Earth, good will to men

And the bells are ringing (peace on Earth)
Like a choir they're singing (peace on Earth)
In my heart I hear them (peace on Earth)
Peace on Earth, good will to men

And in despair I bowed my head, "There is no peace on Earth, " I said
For hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on Earth, good will to men

But the bells are ringing (peace on Earth)
Like a choir singing (peace on Earth)
Does anybody hear them? (peace on Earth)
Peace on Earth, good will to men

Then rang the bells more loud and deep, God is not dead, nor doth He sleep!
(Peace on Earth)

(Peace on Earth)

The wrong shall fail, the right prevail with peace on Earth, good will to men

Then ringing, singing on its way, the world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime of peace on Earth, good will to men

And the bells, they're ringing (peace on Earth)
Like a choir they're singing (peace on Earth)
And with our hearts, we'll hear them (peace on Earth)
Peace on Earth, good will to men

Do you hear the bells, they're ringing? (peace on Earth)
The light, the angels singing (peace on Earth)
Open up your heart and hear them (peace on Earth)
Peace on Earth, good will to men

Peace on Earth

Peace on Earth

Peace on Earth, good will to men

Source: Musixmatch Songwriters: Bernie Herms / John Mark Hall / Dale Oliver I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day lyrics © Boosey And Hawkes Music Publishing Ltd., Banahama Tunes, St. Nicholas Music Inc., My Refuge Music, Travelin' Zoo Music, Calougie Music, Shustmusic Llc, Be Essential Songs, Word Music, Llc

Welcome & Time of Greeting

Time of Praise and Worship

“Born That We May Have Life” by Chris Tomlin

No reputation, no stately bearing, no place bed for royalty.

But a star in the heavens, a sign full of wonder

Announcing the coming of the King of kings.

Rejoice! O world, your Savior has come through the love of a virgin’s womb.

Son of God, Son of man, born that we may have life.

You were born that we may have life.

A throne in a manger, a cross in a cradle. The hidden revealing this glorious plan

Of the Child who would suffer, the Child who would conquer

The sin of everywoman, the sin of everyman.

Rejoice! O world, your Savior has come through the love of a virgin’s womb.

Son of God, Son of man born that we may have life.

You were born that we may have life.

Rejoice! O world, your Savior has come through the love of a virgin’s womb.

Son of God, Son of man born that we may have life.

You were born that we may have life.

Rejoice! O world, your Savior has come through the love of a virgin’s womb.

Son of God, Son of man born that we may have life.

You were born that we may have life.

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Invocation

Pastor: We will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever.

People: Our souls magnify the Lord.

Pastor: With our mouths we proclaim God’s faithfulness to all generations.

People: Our spirits rejoice in God our savior.

Pastor: We declare that Your steadfast love is established forever.

People: His mercy is to those who fear Him from generation to generation.

Pastor: Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

People: You are our God and the Rock of our salvation. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Time of Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Lord, we confess.

People: We acknowledge and confess that we have put ourselves first when considering Christmas day.

Pastor: We confess that we have neglected You, our Savior, and focused more on presents and dinners and problems and earthly desires. We confess that at times even, we will be happy when the day is over.

People: We confess that our anticipation has not been to celebrate first, the coming of the Savior into the world, the coming of the One who would eventually die for our very souls, the coming of Immanuel, God with us.

Pastor: We repent of this Lord. And we humbly ask of Your forgiveness.

People: Forgive us Lord for our sins. Amen

Song of Response:

"Is He Worthy" by Andrew Peterson

Do you feel the world is broken - We do
Do you feel the shadows deepen - We do
But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through - We do
Do you wish that you could see it all made new - We do

Is all creation groaning - It is
Is a new creation coming - It is
Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst - It is
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this - It is

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave!
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
Of all blessing and honor and glory?
Is He worthy of this? He is!

Does the Father truly love us - He does
Does the Spirit move among us - He does
And does Jesus our Messiah hold forever those He loves - He does
Does our God intend to dwell again with us - He does

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave!
He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave!
From ev'ry people and tribe every nation and tongue!
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God to reign with the Son!

Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
Of all blessing and honor and glory?
Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
Is He worthy of this?
He is!

Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
Is He worthy of this?
He is! HE IS!

CCLI Song # 7108951 Andrew Peterson | Ben Shive © 2018 Capitol CMG Genesis; Junkbox Music; Vamos Publishing; Jakedog Music For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 692716

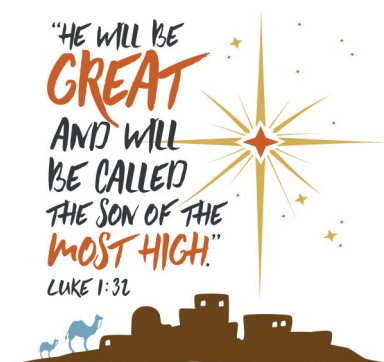
† We Hear God's Word †

(Today's Bible readings are found on pages 15-16 of this worship program)

Old Testament Reading: *2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16*

Epistle Reading: *Romans 16:25-27*

Holy Gospel: *Luke 1:26-38*



Response Song:

“The First Noel”

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep
Noel Noel Noel Noel Born is the King of Israel

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light and so it continued both day and night
Noel Noel Noel Noel Born is the King of Israel

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far
To seek for a king was their intent and to follow the star wherever it went
Noel Noel Noel Noel Born is the King of Israel

This star drew nigh to the northwest o'er Bethlehem it took its rest
And there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay
Noel Noel Noel Noel Born is the King of Israel

Then entered in those wise men three full rev'rently upon the knee
And offered there in His presence their gold and myrrh and frankincense
Noel Noel Noel Noel Born is the King of Israel

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Message: “Stir Up Mystery” - Romans 16:25-27

† We Respond to God’s Word †

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

† We Pray †

Prayer of the Church

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Song of Response:

“Silent Night” by Stevie Nicks

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace - Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, Well, it was a Holy night (holy night)
Silent night (silent night), holy night (holy night)
Shepherds quake (Shepherds quake) at the sight
Glories stream from Heaven afar

Heavenly hosts sing hallelujah
 Sleep in heavenly peace (sleep)
 Sleep in heavenly peace

 Silent night, holy night
 Son of God (son of God)
 Love's pure light (love's pure light)
 Radiant beams from Thy holy face
 With the dawn of redeeming grace
 Sleep in heavenly peace (sleep in peace)
 Sleep in heavenly peace

 Silent night, Well, it was a Holy night (holy)
 Well, it was a Silent night (silent night)
 Ooh, holy night
 Well, it was a (silent)
 Silent night (silent night)
 Well, it was a Holy night (holy night)
 Well, it was a (silent night)
 Silent night (silent night, silent night)
 Holy night Well, it was a Holy night
 Yes, it was a Holy (holy) night
 Silent (Well, it was a)
 Silent night

Source: LyricFind Songwriters: Chuck Howard / Franz Gruber / John Berry / Joseph Mohr Silent Night lyrics © Anthem Entertainment, BMG Rights Management, Capitol CMG Publishing, Cixqo, Downtown Music Publishing, Integrity Music, Kobalt Music Publishing Ltd., Rossio Music Publishing, Songtrust Ave, Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, Spirit Music Group, Warner Chappell Music, Inc

Offerings of Our Time, Talents & Treasures

“Lord, we are yours. This represents our heart, our attitude, our spirit, and our willingness to recognize and submit to you as our Lord.”

† We Depart in Peace †

Benediction

Closing Song:

“Joy to the World”

Joy to the world the Lord is come, let earth receive her King
 Let every heart prepare Him room and heaven and nature sing!
 And heaven and nature sing and heaven and heaven and nature sing!

Joy to the world the Savior reigns, let all their songs employ
 While fields and floods rocks hills and plains repeat the sounding joy!
 Repeat the sounding joy! Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
 the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love and wonders of His love!
 And wonders, wonders of His love!

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NOTES AND NEWS



Christmas Eve Luminaries at the Cemetery

Lighting of the Luminaria

Please join families of St. John's observing the foreign custom of placing luminaries on graves of loved ones on Christmas Eve. This reminds us and our community that:

"Jesus came to us at Christmas as the
Light of the world and so we have the comfort
and peace of knowing that our loved ones are
with the
Light in everlasting joy and happiness."

Point of Interest for January 2024 Portals of Prayer

Portals of Prayer 2024 January devotions were written by
Rev. Warren Messmann (former member of St. John's).

Saturday Worship Service Time Change

Through much prayerful consideration and discussion with a large portion of the congregational members who attend the Saturday evening service, it has been decided to move the start time from **6:00 pm to 4:00 pm**. ***This change became effective December 16, 2023 and will end on March 16, 2024.*** It is felt that moving the time will make winter time driving safer for our congregational members who attend this service.

Direct any questions or concerns to any of the Elders, or
Mike Priday at 937-243-2436.

SANCTUARY SUPPLIES REPLENISHMENT HELP NEEDED!

Attention! Attention!

Community Service hours available!

Does your student need an hour of community service? We have just the job for them! Replenishing the envelopes, blue cards, and pencils in the St. John's Sanctuary. An adult must be present for this project, but all family members are welcome to help. This can also be a volunteer service opportunity for a group or family. All supplies are in the sanctuary. An email will be sent the week before your selected date with all the instructions you will need. If you have any questions or concerns, please mail Christy Fisher at clfpagg@aol.com. You are welcome to sign up through the following Sign-Up Genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0545A8A723A57-46168994-sanctuary#/>

St. John's Lutheran Church 2023-24 Holiday Worship Service Schedule

Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24

Family Service at 7:00 pm

Candlelight Service at 11:00 pm (Communion)

Christmas Day Service

Monday, December 25

Sanctuary Worship Service at 10:00 am (Communion)

New Year's Eve Service

(We will hold our regular 9 & 11 am Worship Services)

Sunday, December 31 at 7:00 pm

(Communion)

New Year's Day Service

Monday, January 1, 2024 at 10:00 am

(Communion)

Please Join Us — All Are Welcome!

Estate Planning Workshop

Approximately 70% of Americans do not have a will or estate plan. Typical goals in estate planning include:

- Guardianship for minor children,
- Provide for spouse and children,
- Selecting an executor,
- Finalizing a power of attorney for health care and finances,
- Managing your assets if you become ill.

Prince of Peace will host a free estate planning workshop called Ask the Expert. The panel of "Experts" include, Jim Hardgrove, an estate attorney, Jeff and Adam Ritter, financial professionals, and Pastor Chris Eldridge. You can ask the expert general questions regarding estate planning.

Are you one of the 70% in society that haven't put a plan together? Have you established guardianship for your child/children?

Do you have a will, however it has been 10 years, 20 years, or longer since you reviewed your estate plan. Attendees will receive a free will guide and many other resources will be available.



This workshop is for you, your spouse, other family members, and your community friends and neighbors.

Pre-registration is required.

Date: Saturday, January 13th

Time: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
530 McNaughten Road
Columbus, OH 43213

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

Welcome to St. John's! Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. We pray that you will encounter Christ, the Living Word, and in a new way experience His mercy and grace today. We ask if you are a visitor, or a worship scholarship participant (SJ School), to please fill out the **blue card** located in the pew rack in front of you. Then drop the card in the offering box as you leave worship. If you would like to know more about our ministry, please call the church office at 937-644-5540.

The Lutheran Hour is on the radio Sunday mornings at **7:00am on WLW (700 AM)**. Log on to www.lhm.org for more information and channels. Jim Vandre, LHM Ambassador.

St. John's Radio Program airs Sunday mornings at **8:00am** on local channel **WQTT (1270 AM & 98.7 FM)**.

Valet Parking: Available at the 9:00 am service. Contact Charlie Fisher at 614-370-5495 or clfpagg@aol.com if interested in helping valet park, or have questions.

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are beautiful poinsettias given to the **Glory of God and in honor or memory of loved ones, and are displayed for our Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Worship Services.** See list on pages 13 & 14.

THE LORD'S WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S DECEMBER 24-31, 2023

TODAY	9:00 am	Sanctuary Worship Service (Live-Streamed)
12/24/23	10:00 am	CANCELLED: Adult & Young Adult Bible Study/ Youth & Children Sunday School
Christmas Eve	10:00 am	CANCELLED: 2023-24 Youth Catechism Class
	11:00 am	Contemporary Worship Service/Gym
	7:00 pm	**Christmas Eve: Family Worship Service**
	11:00 pm	**Christmas Eve: Candlelight Worship Service with Communion**
MONDAY	10:00 am	**Christmas Day Worship Service with Communion**
TUESDAY	11:30 am	Ladies Aid Quilting
	6:30 pm	Endowment Committee Mtg./Heritage House
WEDNESDAY	1:30 pm	ACES/Youth House
THURSDAY	12:00 pm	Ladies Aid Quilting
	8:00 pm	Dartball/Gym
FRIDAY	1:00 pm	Ladies Aid Quilting
SATURDAY	4:00 pm	Sanctuary Worship Service NOTE: New Start Time
SUNDAY	9:00 am	Sanctuary Worship Service (Live-Streamed)
12/31/23	10:00 am	Adult & Young Adult Bible Study/ Youth & Children Sunday School
New Year's Eve	10:00 am	CANCELLED: 2023-24 Youth Catechism Class
	11:00 am	Contemporary Worship Service/Gym
	7:00 pm	**New Year's Eve Worship Service with Communion**

School Closed: Christmas Break - Starting noon on 12/20 - 1/3/2024

ALL AGES SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:00 - 11:00 am

(Fall-Winter-Early Spring Schedule)

ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES CANCELLED FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH.

3 Years-Kindergarten—Church Basement

1st-5th Grades—Meet together in the gym with Teacher Mark Moran, and then move to school classrooms.

6th Grade—Mrs. Ashley Monroe's Classroom

7th & 8th Grade Youth Catechism Class—Mrs. Susie Miller & Mrs. Jayme Allen's Modular Classroom

High School Youth "Cornerstone Discipleship"—Youth House

Women's Bible Study—Classroom (below the school loft):
Topic - "Where Love Abides." Bible study based on John 15:1-17, written by Donna Snow.

Adult Bible Study—School Cafeteria: Topic - "Romans 12" led by Rich & Kristine Rausch.

If you have questions, please contact the
Sunday School Superintendent,

Lisa Arnold at 937-205-1802 or arnoldlisa50@yahoo.com

Weekly Church Attendance

4:00 pm Saturday and Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 am

12/16-17: 294

Weekly Worship Bible Readings

We have provided next weekends Bible readings for those of you who would like to read and study the Word ahead of next weekends worship services:

December 30-31, 2023

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Epistle Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Holy Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40

Congregational Tithe—2nd Qtr. Mission Opportunities of Fiscal Year 2023-24

LCMS Ohio District - 50%;

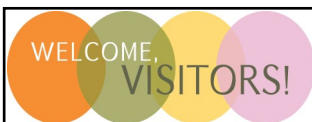
Lutheran Hour - 20%;

LWML - 20%;

Member Mission Outreach - 10%



NOTES & NEWS ITEMS



Those who are visiting with us today, please feel free to take a blue visitor "welcome" bag located in the back of church or on the tables in the gym at 11:00 am worship service.



ACES: Please join us for Euchre & fellowship this Wednesday at the Youth House at 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$1.00 including prizes, drinks, and cookies.

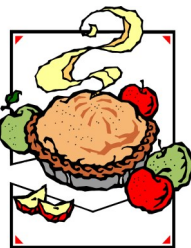
Weekly Notes & News Deadline

Please submit articles by no later than Tuesday at noon to Regina Bullerman, Church Secretary. Call 937-240-3004, mail to the church office, or email to rbullerman@sjsmarysville.org

Ladies Aid Save the Date

Sunday, January 7, 2024, the Ladies Aid will hold a Pie Making Class at the Heritage House at 3:00 PM.

Mark your calendars, and hope to see you there!



Charitable Giving Opportunity to St. John's Lutheran School

St. John's is part of the Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization of Ohio. This is a charitable organization that allows for a donation that actually gives you a State Tax CREDIT of up to \$1,500 for married joint filers or up to \$750 for single filers. Keep in mind the credit is worth much more than a deduction. The credit reduces your tax liability dollar-for-dollar. A deduction simply reduces your taxable income. The funds come directly back to St. John's to be used as financial aid.

To find out more about this program please contact Mr. Rausch in the school office or you may visit online at sgoohio.org. Donations can be made online or by mail. Envelopes to donate by mail can be found in the Marie Pfarr room along with a frequently asked questions sheet.



Thinking about joining St. John's, or interested in learning more about the Lutheran faith?

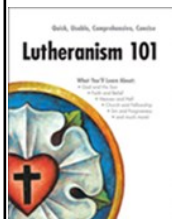
If so, please join us for our Lutheranism 101 **two-day** weekend workshop.

Friday, January 19, 2024 from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

AND

Saturday, January 20, 2024 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Location: Heritage House



Please join us for our Lutheranism 101 weekend workshop if you are considering joining St. John's, are a current member, or a guest who would like to learn more. Lutheranism 101 examines the Lutheran beliefs and heritage. If you are a life-long Lutheran searching for more information, or new to Lutheranism looking to understand what we believe, then please join us!

We ask that you please register by Monday, January 15, 2024.

Contact Regina Bullerman in the church office.

(email: rbullerman@sjsmarysville.org or direct number: 937-240-3004), or use the

Sign-Up Genius Link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040845A8AA22A2FB6-lutheranism>



ACES will be having a **Christmas potluck on January 3**. Plates, napkins, cups, silverware, and drinks will be furnished. We will eat at 12 o'clock at the Youth House. Join us for a time of good eats, fellowship, and cards.



Thank you to Pastor Jack, Ladies Aid and the Bereavement Ministry for the cards and prayers at the passing of my cousin, William "Bill" Gruenbaum. All were appreciated.

Douglas Gruenbaum & the Gruenbaum Family

Soar on Wings God has Made for You

Golden Eagles

CLIFTON MILLS CHRISTMAS PARTY!

The Golden Eagles enjoyed being **"On the Road Again..."** last Tuesday, gathering together for our Christmas celebration! Our first stop was Lincoln and Main in Urbana for lunch and an entertaining White Elephant gift exchange; then it was on to Young's Dairy for dessert and a photo op. We didn't all quite fit in Santa's Sleigh, but had fun trying! Our most favorite bus driver, Kevin, delivered us right to the gate of Clifton Mill, just in time to take in an awe-inspiring musical light show! Some enjoyed the Christmas museum and gift shop, while others cozied up in the snack shack with some hot chocolate. Christmas cookies and caroling kept us busy on the way home, and ended the evening with "Stille Nacht", wrapping up our final excursion of the year! 2023 holds some very special memories for this group of long-time friends! Merry Christmas!

WREATHS OF HONOR

Once again the Golden Eagles remember and honor our military women and men who eternally rest in our church cemeteries with **Wreaths of Honor** representing each branch of service. During worship services on December 16th and 17th, Pastor Heino shared a blessing for our deceased veterans, and a prayer for Peace at Christmas and always. Branch of service wreaths have been placed on the St. John's Cemetery gates, at the Decker Family flag pole at the Heritage House, the cemetery flag pole and at the flagpole at Old Trinity Cemetery. St. Paul will display their Honor Wreaths at both the church and at the church cemetery. The Golden Eagles are grateful for your generous giving, helping to fill the steel pot, which funds our annual mission to honor our military. **May God Bless America!**

THE TEXAS TENORS ARE COMING BACK TO TROY - APRIL 6, 2024!

Save the Date... and let Jeff, Carol, or Annie know if you wish to be placed on the list! This will be a **SELL-OUT** performance, so we need to know soon. We have reserved 50 seats, which will be held until the end of January. We are asking for a \$10 deposit with your signup. Final cost will be available after we make arrangements for our dinner accommodations before the concert. This group has become the Golden Eagles' (and Lucy's!) most beloved entertainment group! Watch for more details soon!



Poinsettia Honors/Memorials

CHRISTMAS 2023

In honor of:

Our granddaughter, Leah Arnold, who shares the same December 23rd birthday as her great-grandfather and my father, Maurice Blue, *by Mary & Nathan Rausch*
St. John's Lutheran Youth (LYF), *by R.J., Laura, & Benny Zeiler*
Our children, Ethan and Olivia, and our parents, Ron & Eileen Vollrath and George & Bonnie Spurling, who continue to inspire and love us daily, *by Kevin & Melissa Vollrath*
My son, Gage C. Garlinghouse, *by Pamela Garlinghouse*
Staff Sergeant Caleb Rausch and his family, *by Fred & Mary Stierhoff*
Chloe Collins Watson's baptism, *by Brian, Summer, Brice, Reid, & Cooper*
All the St. John's Prayer Warriors, Pastor Jack, church & school leaders, & Sunday school teachers—
God bless you all, *by Beth Brown*
Great-granddaughters, Lennon Carmean and Teagan Fernandes, *by Jimmy & June Carmean*
Our children & granddaughter, *by Ron & Cheryl Leeds*

In memory of:

Don & Joyce Burns, and Marvin & Ruth Gamble, *by the Burns family*
My father, Maurice Blue, who shares the same December 23rd birthday as his great-granddaughter, Leah Arnold, *by Mary & Nathan Rausch*
Our parents, Arthur & Katherine Blumenschein, and Wilbert H. & Ida Ruesler, *by Dudley & Charlotte Blumenschein*
Edgar & Marjorie Scheiderer, *by Carl & Dawn Scheiderer & family*
Richard H. Rausch, *by Doris M. Rausch*
Our parents, Herman & Frieda Nicol, and Harry & Lydia Vollrath, *by Ron & Eileen Vollrath*
Mike Hitzeman, Norbert & Rosine Nicol, and Gary L. Nicol, *by Dennis & Tammy Nicol*
Edgar & Marjorie Scheiderer, *by their family*
Those who have gone before us, Roger Johnson, and grandparents, who instilled God's love and promises, *by Kevin & Melissa Vollrath*
My daughter, Rikki M. Gulledge, *by Pamela Garlinghouse*
Bob & Bernie Eickemeyer, *by their Family*
Larry Bunsold, *by Peggy Bunsold*
Dorothy McCarty, and Steve McCarty, *by the McCarty family*
George Harbold, and Elmer, Frances, & Russell Scheiderer, *by Lola Harbold & family*
Roger Phelps, Ivan Phelps, and Mary Ann Johnson, *by Jason, Cindy, Jackson, Brody Vollrath, & family*
Tom Eubanks and Tony Eubanks, *by Jason, Cindy, Jackson, Brody Vollrath, and family*
Elena Dawn Junkans, *by John & Dee Junkans*
Robert & Caroline Rausch, *by John & Dee Junkans*
Ervin Junkans, *by John & Dee Junkans*
Mark Vollrath, *by the Vollrath family*
Greg Waggoner, *by the Vollrath family*
Our parents, George W. & Nina Nicol, and Rick & Janice Priday, *by Mike & Connie Priday*
Erwin & Marie Rausch, *by Monica, Chris, Megan, James, & Kate Bowsher*
Dalton Carmean, *by Marla, Adam, Wilson, & Lydia Smith*

Helen and Karen, *by Eugene Scheiderer*
Cheryl Walter, *by the Newsome family*
The Korb family, *by the Newsome family*
Angie LeMasters, *by the Newsome family*
Helen Scheiderer (*Gary's mother*), Omer & Marie Pope (*Carol's parents*), and Elaine Pope (*Carol's sister*),
by Gary & Carol Scheiderer
My mom, Susan M. Blumenschein, *by Skylynn Roberts*
Marilyn & Joe Grabmeier, *by the Eley family*
Harry & Martha Gase, *by Jeff, Lisa, & Adam*
June & Herman Fladt, *by Jeff, Lisa, & Adam*
Pat & Mary Kirchner, *by Jeff, Lisa, & Adam*
Ruth Stalder, my mother, *by Kenneth Stalder*
Eugene Stalder, my father, *by Kenneth Stalder*
Loved ones, *by Betty Stillings*

*To the Glory of God, the church is decorated with **56** poinsettias for Christmas.
The flowers are in honor or in memory of loved ones.*

The Flower Committee thanks everyone for their continued support.

***Please pick up your RED poinsettias after the services.
The white poinsettia is not part of the flowers ordered by the congregation.***



TODAY'S BIBLE READINGS

Old Testament Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

David has replaced Saul as King over Israel. He has been at war, conquering Jerusalem and defeating the Philistines. He has brought the ark to Jerusalem and has now settled into his palace. David wants to build a house for the Lord, but the Lord sends David a message. The Lord will make David great and provide for the people of Israel a place to dwell. The Lord will establish a house, a kingdom and a throne that will endure forever.

¹Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent."

³And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you." ⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?' ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'" ⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . . ¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

[L] This is the Word of the Lord.

[C] Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Paul, in the final greetings of his letter to the Romans states that the message he proclaims about Jesus Christ, the message that had been hidden, is now known, as revealed through the prophets. The faith of the Gentiles has been commanded by the eternal God, who is to be glorified forever through His Son, Jesus Christ.

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

[L] This is the Word of the Lord.

[C] Thanks be to God.

(Sun. 9 a.m.) **Alleluia and Verse**

LSB 190

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Angels figure prominently in the birth of Jesus Christ. In the Gospel of Luke, Luke records two accounts of angel appearances prior to Jesus' birth. Once to Zechariah to foretell the birth of John the Baptist. And this one, where the angel Gabriel by name, sent to Mary, a virgin betrothed to Joseph, delivers a stunning message. Mary will conceive and give birth to a son. He states that the Holy Spirit will come upon her and her son will be called the Son of God. Mary's response? "I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled."

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

