

The Baptism of Our Lord

January 6-7, 2024



Epiphany is surely the season of the Christian apologist! Whereas at Christmastide we celebrate the fact that God truly became flesh, Epiphany is the time that we emphasize that the man Jesus truly is God. The recorded history of Christ's Baptism is included among stories of turning water to wine, miraculous healing, casting out demons, and omniscience. These historical events performed before eyewitnesses (like Jesus' death and resurrection to follow) prove that Jesus is not just a person claiming to be God. They instead point to an utterly unique Messiah who stands alone as the Savior of the world. Epiphany is indeed our time to proclaim Jesus' credentials as we head toward Lent and the most important weekend in the history of the world. This revealing began with a star announcing God's birth. But it becomes even clearer—and even more dramatic—at Jesus' Baptism. The Introit previews the event in the Jordan: "Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights. I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'". The Word of God. Admittedly, there was no one there to hear when the voice of the Lord first spoke in Scripture, but it certainly made a sound—and a universe: "Let there be light." And there was water too: "The Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters". Word, water, and Spirit. Word, water, Spirit—and Father and Son. The Gospel: Jesus baptized by John, the voice from heaven, the appearance like a dove. "We were buried therefore with [Christ] by [our] baptism into [his] death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life". "To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord"; notice how in the stanzas Luther interweaves Jesus' Baptism with ours (LSB 406, 407). So we pray, "Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life".

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 One* – LSB pg. 151

Dale Scheiderer – Organist

“The Reality of Christ” - Romans 6:1-11

A new season in the Church Year begins today. Following Advent hope and Christmas joy in the Savior born for us, we enter Epiphany, which can be summed up with words such as revealing, shining forth, and manifestation. The Word we hear today is fitting as epiphanies are things the Lord has done since the beginning of time. The first creation was light shining forth on the first day. From that day of creation to the fall into sin to the first promise of the Savior, God has shone His light and enabled His people to see and know what is needed. As the time was right for Jesus to begin His earthly ministry, it began with His Baptism. With John the Baptist in the Jordan River, the Lord reveals and shines forth the manifestation of the Word made flesh for us when He says: “You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased”.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

RINGING OF THE BELL

HYMN OF INVOCATION **“Baptized into Your Name Most Holy”**

LSB 590

INVOCATION

AFFIRMATION OF OUR BAPTISM

Romans 6:4, 36; Acts 2:38; Titus 3:5–6; 1 Corinthians 6:1; Mark 1:11

- P** We remember our Baptism with the trinitarian invocation, recalling and confessing before heaven, earth, and hell all that God has given us in our Baptism: victory over death and the devil, forgiveness of sin, God's grace, the entire Christ, and the Holy Spirit with His gifts. How do we rightly use our Baptism?
- C** **We rightly use our Baptism when we live in repentance and faith in the triune God, who has made us His beloved children.** (*Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* [2017] Question 324).
- P** When Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan River, the Father declared Jesus as His Son with whom He is well pleased. In our Baptism, Paul wrote, we were joined to our Lord's death and resurrection, enabling us to walk in newness of life. We also learn in the Small Catechism, all centered on God's Word, the lasting gifts received in Baptism including the forgiveness of sins, rescue from death and the devil, and eternal life to all who believe this. Let us reaffirm our faith in what God has done for us through Holy Baptism.
- P** Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?
- C** **I do renounce them.**
- P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?
- C** **Yes, I believe.**
- P** Do you believe 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?

C Yes, I believe.

P Do you 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?

C Yes, I believe.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION – LSB pg. 151

SERVICE OF THE WORD – LSB pg. 152

INTROIT

Psalm 2:7–11, 12c; antiphon: Isaiah 42:1a

Behold my servant, whom | I uphold,*
my chosen, in whom my | soul delights.

I will tell of | the decree:*

The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have be- | gotten you.

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your | heritage,*
and the ends of the earth your pos- | session.

You shall break them with a | rod of iron*

and dash them in pieces like a potter’s | vessel.”

Now therefore, O | kings, be wise;*

be warned, O rulers | of the earth.

Serve the | LORD with fear,*

and rejoice with | trembling,

for his wrath is quickly | kindled.*

Blessèd are all who take ref- | uge in him.

KYRIE

LSB 152

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

LSB 154

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

LSB 156

[Today’s Bible readings are found on pages 11–12 of this worship program]

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Genesis 1:1–5*

EPISTLE READING: *Romans 6:1–11*

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 156

HOLY GOSPEL: *Mark 1:4–11*

SERMON: “The Reality of Christ” – *Romans 6:1–11*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.”

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT – LSB pg. 160

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION [as found on page 12 of this worship program]

PREFACE

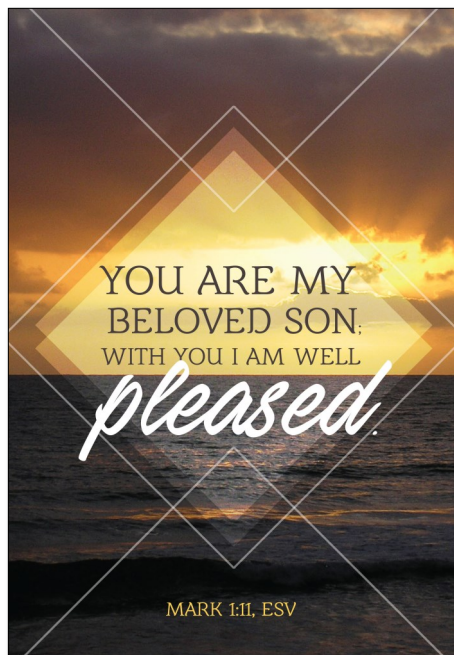
LSB 160

SANCTUS

LSB 161

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING	LSB 161
THE WORDS OF OUR LORD	LSB 162
PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST	LSB 162
LORD'S PRAYER	LSB 162
<p>☐ 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.</p>	
PAX DOMINI	LSB 163
AGNUS DEI	LSB 163
DISTRIBUTION	LSB 164
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS	
"All Christians Who Have Been Baptized"	LSB 596
"To Jordan's River Came Our Lord"	LSB 405
NUNC DIMITTIS	LSB 165
POST-COMMUNION COLLECT	LSB 166
BENEDICTION	LSB 166
CLOSING HYMN	
"All Who Believe and Are Baptized"	LSB 601

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Sunday 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service

Jon Lutz, Rich Rausch & Charles Renner – Accompanists

“The Reality of Christ” - Romans 6:1-11

A new season in the Church Year begins today. Following Advent hope and Christmas joy in the Savior born for us, we enter Epiphany, which can be summed up with words such as revealing, shining forth, and manifestation. The Word we hear today is fitting as epiphanies are things the Lord has done since the beginning of time. The first creation was light shining forth on the first day. From that day of creation to the fall into sin to the first promise of the Savior, God has shone His light and enabled His people to see and know what is needed. As the time was right for Jesus to begin His earthly ministry, it began with His Baptism. With John the Baptist in the Jordan River, the Lord reveals and shines forth the manifestation of the Word made flesh for us when He says: “You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased”.

Pre-Service Music

Welcome and Time of Greeting

Time of Praise and Worship: “Here I Am to Worship”

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore You, hope of a life spent with You.
Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that You’re my God.
You’re altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted, glorious in Heaven above.
Humbly You came to the earth You created all for love’s sake became poor.
Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that You’re my God.
Your altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.

I’ll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.
I’ll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.
I’ll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.
I’ll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.

Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that You’re my God.
You’re altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.
Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that You’re my God.
You’re altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.
Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that You’re my God.
You’re altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.

Here I am to worship, here I am to worship.

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Invocation

Pastor: As we reflect on the Lord’s baptism and the presence of the Holy Spirit on Jesus, we humbly ask the Holy Spirit for the same anointing in our lives.

People: Pour out Your Spirit upon us. Fill us with divine wisdom, understanding, and boldness to live our faith out loud.

Opening Prayer

Time of Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: We spend every waking hour doing something. We work, play, eat, sleep, and so forth. How much time do we spend with the Lord? How much time do we strive to get to know our Savior better? There's an aching in our souls to be with the Lord, but we often push those feelings aside and fill them with unnecessary things. Let us confess to the Lord our sins. Hear us, o God.

People: Hear us, o God. Turn Your ear to our cries. We are sorry. We confess that we don't always give You the honor and glory You deserve. We have allowed other things to take priority in our lives. We have neglected You, our Savior and Creator. Forgive us, we ask.

Pastor: Forgive us our shortcomings and restore us to a right relationship with You. According to Your unfailing love, wash away our transgressions and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

People: Thank You for Your merciful forgiveness and grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

† We Hear God's Word †

(Today's Bible readings are found on pages 11-12 of this worship program)

Old Testament Reading: *Genesis 1:1-5*

Epistle Reading: *Romans 6:1-11*

Holy Gospel: *Mark 1:4-11*

Response Song: "Shout to the Lord"

My Jesus my Savior, Lord there is none like You!
All of my days I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love!
My comfort my Shelter, tower of refuge and strength!
Let every breath all that I am never cease to worship You!

Shout to the Lord all the earth let us sing!
Power and majesty, praise to the King!
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands.
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You!

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Message: "The Reality of Christ" - Romans 6:1-11

† We Respond to God's Word †

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. 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.

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 Celebrate the Lord's Supper †

Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.

We Prepare (as found on page 12 of this worship program)

Words of Institution

Music During Communion: "Jesus King of Angels" *sung by Steve Bumgarner*

† We Depart in Peace †

Benediction

Closing Song:

"Rock of My Salvation"

You are the Rock of my salvation - You are the strength of my life
You are my hope and my inspiration - Lord unto You will I cry

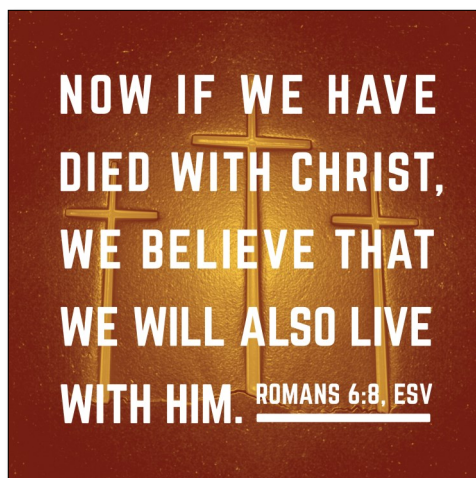
Chorus

I believe in You believe in You - For Your faithful love to me
You have been my help in time of need - Lord unto You will I cleave

Ending

You are the Rock of my salvation - You are the strength of my life

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NOTES AND NEWS



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

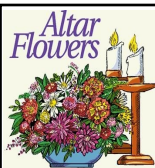
Save the Date... Please contact Jeff or Carol (514-560-5085) or Annie Scheiderer at (937-707-0424) to put your name on the list.

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!



The Vandre family would like to thank all of you who prayed for us due to the passing of both of our mothers. Your prayers, cards and condolences were very uplifting during this difficult time. May God bless you all with a Happy New Year!

Dear St. John's: I wish to thank my church family for all the birthday cards sent to me. Also Pastor Jack, thank you for the prayer. And thank you Sunday School class for the hand made cards. Sincerely, **Myron Rausch**



2024 FLOWER CALENDAR DATES

The Flower Calendar is ready for 2024 reservations. Specific dates can be reserved for altar or chancel flowers by contacting Charlotte Blumenschein at (937) 644-4111. Most dates are still available for the year 2024. Dates available for the first several months are the following:

January 21	February 18	March 10	April 21
February 4	February 25	March 17	April 28
February 11	March 3	April 14	

ATTENTION: "Want To Be" Pastry Chefs

The Ladies Aid will present a pie baking class, **TODAY, Sunday, January 7, 3:00 PM,** at the Heritage House.

Each attendee will be instructed on how to make a double crust apple pie, ready to bake at home.

Those that wish to participate, should bring the following:

Ingredients:

- 1) 1 stick butter
- 2) 1 stick Crisco
- 3) 1 egg
- 4) 2 c. flour
- 5) 6 apples peeled, sliced (tossed in lemon juice or Sprite)
- 6) 1 c. sugar
- 7) cinnamon (other spices, if desired)

Equipment:

- 1) pastry blender
- 2) fork
- 3) bowl
- 4) tablespoons
- 5) rolling pin
- 6) 9" pie plate

Please contact Brande Vollrath at 937-243-5289, or brandevollrath@yahoo.com to reserve your spot to make a delicious pie!



Why choose to be a living kidney donor? Patients with end stage renal disease have three options for treatment: dialysis, kidney transplant from a deceased donor, or kidney transplant from a living donor. **THE BEST OPTION FOR A PATIENT WAITING FOR A KIDNEY IS TO RECEIVE ONE FROM A LIVING DONOR.** Please consider being a living kidney donor. If anyone is interested in learning more, contact Kristine Rausch for paperwork at 614-205-9226, or you can type the link below into your computer browser and it will take you directly into The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center Living Donor Program, where you can complete the online health history questionnaire. If you are a candidate they will contact you. Link: www.osuwexmedlivingdonor.org

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: Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for all His blessings in 2023; by Drew, Tiffany, Ellie and Molly Huber.

THE LORD'S WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S JANUARY 7-14, 2024

TODAY 01/07/24	9:00 am Sanctuary Worship Service (Live-Streamed): Communion
	10:00 am Adult & Young Adult Bible Study/ Youth & Children Sunday School
	10:00 am 2023-24 Youth Catechism Class
	11:00 am Contemporary Worship Service: Communion/ Gym
	3:00 pm Ladies Aid "Old School Skill" Pie Making/ Heritage House
MONDAY	5:30 pm SJ Girls/Boys BBall at Home vs. Torah
	8:00 pm Adult Open Gym Volleyball
TUESDAY	11:30 am Ladies Aid Quilting
	7:00 pm Board of Administration Mtg./Heritage House
WEDNESDAY	1:30 pm ACES/Youth House
	5:30 pm SJ Boys BBall at Home vs. Liberty Christian
THURSDAY	12:00 pm Ladies Aid Quilting
	5:30 pm SJ Boys BBall at Home vs. Oakstone
	8:00 pm Dartball/Gym
FRIDAY	1:00 pm Ladies Aid Quilting
SATURDAY	7:30 am Ladies Morning Bible Study/Heritage House
	4:00 pm Sanctuary Worship Service
SUNDAY 01/14/24	9:00 am Sanctuary Worship Service (Live-Streamed)
	10:00 am Adult & Young Adult Bible Study/ Youth & Children Sunday School
	10:00 am 2023-24 Youth Catechism Class
	11:00 am Contemporary Worship Service/Gym

ALL AGES SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:00 - 11:00 am

(Fall-Winter-Early Spring Schedule)

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

12/30 & 12/31: 239

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:

January 13-14, 2024

Old Testament Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-20

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Holy Gospel Reading: John 1:43-51

Congregational Tithe—3rd Qtr. Mission Opportunities of Fiscal Year 2023-24

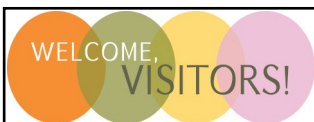
LCMS Ohio District - 50%;

Youth Mission Outreach - 10%;

Armed Forces Ministry - 40%



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.

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

Worship Transportation Ministry: We are in need of drivers to pick up and drop off members for worship. If you are interested in helping serve in this capacity, please contact Regina Bullerman, Church Secretary, for more information. Call 937-240-3004 or email rbullerman@sjsmarysville.org.

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

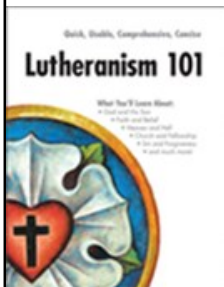
If so, please join us for our Lutheranism 101 two-day weekend workshop.

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>



Charitable Giving Opportunity to St. John's Lutheran School

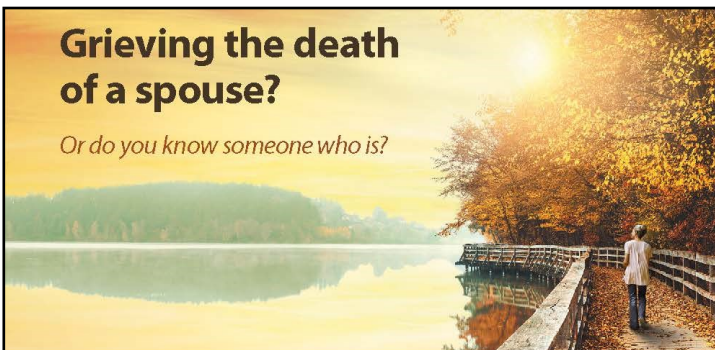
St. John's is part of the Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization of Ohio. This is a charitable organization that allows for a donation that actually gives you a State Tax CREDIT of up to \$1,500 for married joint filers or up to \$750 for single filers. Keep in mind the credit is worth much more 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.



Grieving the death of a spouse?

Or do you know someone who is?



Your life has changed forever. The daily emotions and challenges can seem too hard to bear.

Find help at a Loss of a Spouse seminar.

You'll hear:

- Practical advice from others who've been there.
- What to expect in your grief.
- How to cope with life without your spouse.
- Why it won't always hurt this much.

LOSS OF A SPOUSE

Please join us for this encouraging seminar.



Sunday, February 18, 2024 from 2-4 pm
St. Paul Lutheran Church, 7960 State
Route 38, Milford Center, OH 43045
Text Janet at 614-561-7411 to register

TODAY'S BIBLE READINGS

Old Testament Reading: *Genesis 1:1-5*

The very first book of the Bible features Creator God who spoke and there was light. He is the Alpha- the Beginning and also the Omega- the End. Praise the Lord!

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading: *Romans 6:1-11*

Just because we have been extended grace doesn't mean that we should continue in sin. Instead, grace should fuel us into a life free from sin and evil as we have been baptized into new life through Jesus.

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

(Sat. 4 p.m. & Sun. 9 a.m.) **Alleluia and Verse**

LSB 156

Holy Gospel: *Mark 1:4-11*

The preacher from the wilderness, John the Baptist, baptized many with water proclaiming that the Messiah would come baptizing with the Holy Spirit. When Jesus approached John to baptize Him in the Jordan River, John immersed Him in water and witnessed the Spirit descending on Him like a dove. A voice from heaven declared that Jesus was the Son of God. While baptism washes us, it's the Holy Spirit that transforms us.

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

G Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." ⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee

and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1 Corinthians 11:27-29

The following is a summary of what we believe and teach as Missouri Synod Lutheran Christians. Because we care for you, we ask that you carefully review the following statements:

1. I have been baptized into the name of the one true God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:16-20*
2. I have been instructed concerning the meaning of Holy Communion, understand the importance of self-examination prior to coming to the Lord's Supper and have made my confirmation of faith. *1 Corinthians 11:27-29*
3. I confess that I am a sinner in need of forgiveness. I am sorry for my sins. *1 John 1:8-9*
4. I believe that Jesus Christ, God's Son, is my Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil. *Romans 3:21-24*
5. I believe that the body and blood of Jesus Christ are really present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, and I desire to receive Christ's body and blood, given and shed for my forgiveness. *1 Corinthians 11:23-26*
6. If possible, so far as it depends on me, I seek to live peaceably with all. *Romans 12:17-19*
7. By the power of the Holy Spirit, I desire and intend to lead a more Godly and Christ-like life, trusting in God's promises and obeying His commands. *Galatians 5:22-24*

If you unreservedly agree with the seven points above, you are invited to come to the Lord's Supper. If you do not agree with one or more of the seven points, please refrain from participating in Holy Communion lest you sin against the body and blood of the Lord. If you agree with the seven points above but are not a member of St. John's, we welcome you to the Lord's Table and invite you to give prayerful consideration to joining our partnership in the Gospel. You are encouraged to speak with a pastor or elder prior to communing regarding any point(s) of disagreement and/or regarding the process of joining St. John's.

Gluten-Free Communion Wafers: A gluten-free communion wafer option is now available for those who are allergic. They are located in the brass cup in the middle of the communion plate.

Communion Wine: For those who have health related, or other issues with drinking alcohol, please take the purple individual communion cup. It contains all water with one drop of wine.

