



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

November 15, 2020

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NO. 45

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

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TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Loving the Giver, Treasuring His Gifts" *Matthew 25:14-30*

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting One (LSB pg. 151)

Hymns: **660 ~ 508 ~** (Communion: **634, 809**) ~ **411**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS *All are welcome in our worship services! After all, this is our Father's house where we meet together. He himself invites us to listen to him, to cast our sins, our sorrows, our anxiety on him; He sets us free, and enables us to live as his children. O magnify the name of the Lord, for he is greatly to be praised! If you have no church of your own, we invite you to make this your home church. But above all, we invite you to come to worship with us at any time. Please fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the basket at the table in the narthex as you leave.*



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠

✠ Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Tom Von Deylen, Joe Badenhop, *Ushers* ✠

✠ Mabel Bischoff, Linda Riefers, Ruth Mahnke, Marian Damman, *Altar Guild* ✠

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR today are in memory of *Carl Rohrs*, who would have turned 30 on Nov. 14th. Carl was taken from us suddenly 8 years ago on November 28th. Please keep his mother, Cathy (Mark) DeMichiei, his father, David Rohrs; his sisters, Jenna, Katelyn, and their families in your prayers at this time of remembrance of Carl.

BBQ CHICKEN DINNER THANKS: The School Board would like to say a huge "THANK YOU" for your support of the BBQ Chicken Dinner Drive Thru. It was a big success! We couldn't have done this without the help and support of our amazing congregation. We would like to extend a thank you to Brookview Farms for the delicious chicken and our local Napoleon Chief Supermarket for the wonderful cookies. We look forward to doing this again in the future. Signed, *St. John School Board*

In God's House This WeekOnline church calendar: <https://74058984.view-events.com>

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study
Tues.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel led by Grades 3&4 Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class <i>(until 7:30 PM)</i>
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Jacob Stuenkel</i> – St. Peter Lutheran – Florida

FOR THOSE LISTENING FROM THE PARKING LOT**Pick up your bulletin and service by driving through the carport before worship****You can give your offering to the deacon at the same time****Tune your FM radio to 87.7****Drive-thru Communion after worship under carport****MATTERS FOR PRAYER** – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, and Lester Rabe*
- ❖ *Melba Elling, Lorna Von Deylen, and Ruth Mahnke*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs*, at Assisted Living – Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Harold Behrmann*, at Fulton Manor, Wauseon
- ❖ *Donald Badenhop*, at Vancrest Nursing Care Facility, Holgate
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Armed Services: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, Seth Handy, Jared Dishop*
- ❖ *Sue Hurst, Rev. Logan Scheiwe, and Bev Nelson*, for health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *Annetta Rosebrock*, recuperating at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Rosie Leonard*, for seizure activity that has begun again
- ❖ *Marian Dickmann*, at Henry County Hospital after she took a fall last week, suffered a broken hip, and has had reparative surgery
- ❖ *Dean & Jennifer Maassel's grandsons, Crew and Elliot Gerken*, born prematurely and in the NICU at Riverside Hospital, Columbus
- ❖ *Peter Gerken*, who will be undergoing treatment soon for prostate cancer

COVID-19 MEASURES – The two most important things we can do to prevent the spread of viruses are 1) social distancing, and 2) wearing a mask when entering and exiting the building, and when singing or speaking. Masks can be removed during longer periods of listening, such as Scripture readings, sermon, prayers, etc.

THE SCRIPTURES THIS DAY – 24th Sunday After Pentecost

The texts appointed for the end of the Church Year focus on the return of Jesus and his judgment of the living and dead. This theme continues today with the parable of the talents (the *Gospel*) and concludes next week with Jesus' teaching about the sheep and goats. Focus on Jesus' return leads to several distinct (and opposite) attitudes among Christians. On the one hand, we long for his return and the full realization of his reign over the new heavens and earth. So, we pray that Jesus would come quickly. On the other hand, the reality that so many people in our families and communities are living apart from Jesus creates in us a desire for Jesus graciously to delay his return until they have heard and believed the good news. So, we pray fervently for God to work through the Church to bring more into his fold.

The *Old Testament Reading* and the *Psalms* for this Sunday both match up with the latter. Zephaniah speaks of the urgency of repentance before the judgment of Yahweh against disobedient people (Zeph 1:7–16), and the Psalm points out the brevity of human life (Ps 90:3–12). In the *Epistle*, Paul also highlights the approaching end (1 Thess 5:1–8). But he emphasizes the good news of salvation for all who live in Christ (5:9–11).

BIBLE STUDY TODAY POLITICS IS DRIVING ME CRAZY!

Whew, what a week it has been! Did your candidate win? Or lose? How are you feeling about the outcome of the elections? And how do we, as Christians and as the church, deal with whatever new political realities we may be facing as a consequence of the elections?

How should a Christian view politics? How do we respond to the present political climate? How can a Christian find hope even when he or she is overwhelmed with the thought, **“Politics is driving me crazy!”**?

This Bible study offers a note of hope as it reminds us that God has absolute rule over all things. Join us TODAY after worship for a cup of ‘Joe,’ for fellowship, and the study of God’s Word!



THANK YOU! *Leona Durham* would like to thank everyone for their cards and prayers given during her recent surgery and recuperation. She is feeling better each day. A special thanks to Pastor Niermann for his words of encouragement and visit. She hopes to be back among us again once the pandemic settles down.

POINSETTIA SALE DEADLINE IS TODAY! The order must be called in early this week. Yellow order forms are available on the narthex table. The cost is \$8.00 per plant. You may put your order form and check payable to *St. John Lutheran School* in the box on the narthex table. Be sure to fill in the line, *“In Loving Memory of”* or *“In Honor of”*. This information will be published in the church bulletin as an insert the Sunday the poinsettias are placed in the sanctuary.



WOMEN OF FREEDOM MEETING & FUNERAL HELP: The next WOF meeting is Tues., Nov. 17th at 7:00 PM. We will have election of officers. Also, if anyone is interested and willing to donate food (*salads/desserts*) or to help serve at funeral luncheons, please sign the sheet on the narthex table. Thank you in advance!

CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S SERVICE 2020 – UPDATE!!! At its meeting this week, **the Church Council voted to dispense with the traditional Christmas Children's Service** and instead to pursue other options using technology. The staff is currently working on an alternative plan, so please stay tuned for details. More information should be available by next Sunday.



THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

“Come, ye thankful people, come!” Join us for our celebration of Thanksgiving. We will gather for worship next week on Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 7:00pm for our **Thanksgiving Eve Service**. That evening we will receive a double offering:

- **MONETARY OFFERING** – The offerings we give in the offering plate will support Henry County Christmas Cheer and its work of assisting low income families in our area;
- **FOOD OFFERING** – As always, everyone is encouraged to bring non-perishable food items for our food pantry, and to present those items at a table in front of the sanctuary, either before the service or during the offering.

BULLETIN STUFFER VOLUNTEERS: One more slot to fill as of today. Want to get involved? Why not try volunteering to help with stuffing the bulletins for worship services. The bulletins are pre-folded. **NOTE:** *If you have stuffed bulletins in the past year, thank you for your service. We ask that you please sign up again and choose your month. You can also call Lori Langenhop at 419-598-8151 or email her at lahop@bright.net.*

USHER, AND ALTAR GUILD SIGN-UP – We are preparing the 2021 usher, and altar guild schedules so this is the time to sign-up at the table in the narthex. If you are interested in serving God's people here at St. John in a way that is much needed and appreciated, would you consider joining a team? A few people have dropped out over the past year and so we ask you to consider signing up for one of these teams. The sign-up deadline is Sunday, Dec. 13th. *You do not need to sign up again if you are currently serving as an usher or are on an altar guild team.*

Due to Covid, we will be suspending the Greeter sign-up for 2021. Thank you all for your service as a greeter in the past.

2021 OFFERING BOXES: Offering envelope boxes will be available in early December. The financial commitments you make as well as how you contribute are between you and God. The church provides offering envelopes to our members in order to promote faithful and joyful giving as well as to serve as a means to record member contributions throughout the year for charitable tax purposes. Due to the costs of these envelope boxes, members who elect to not use their envelopes over the course of two years (*for whatever reason*) will no longer be issued a box of envelopes. If at any time such a member would like to resume using envelopes, please contact *Mary Kossow*, Finance Trustee.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/08/20	\$5,733.00	\$101.00	\$421.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 31; Sunday – 84

THEOLOGY FOR WHITE COLLAR, BLUE COLLAR & CLERICAL COLLAR... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: Church Paraments & Vestments; Original Sin; The Passover; The Lord's Supper and more. You can listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Check out the table in the hallway by the cry room! The Women of Freedom have put out boxes of Christmas Cards for sale. The dish cloths are also available. Contact *Mabel Bischoff, Lois Rosebrock, or Karan Niebergall.*

REDEDICATION OF THE "NEW" OLD SCHOOL DELAYED: The Church Council voted to delay the rededication of our new ministry facility in the old school building to allow more time for the congregation to have input on the naming of the building. Our plans are to continue receiving suggested names through December. The Council will narrow the list and then present the options at the January Voters' Meeting for a vote.

So please turn in your suggestions for the naming of this wonderful new facility!

THREE WAYS TO GIVE AN OFFERING

- Deposit your offering in the narthex when you come to worship, or if you're listening to the FM broadcast, give your offering to the usher or deacon when they hand you your bulletin.
- Use the '**Give Now**' online giving page – a link (the blue button) is on our website.
- Mail your offering to the church.

OPTIONS FOR HOLY COMMUNION DURING COVID - During this time of pandemic, we are making Holy Communion available in the following ways:

- **Thursday evening Communion services** prior to first and third Sundays
- **First and Third Sundays each month** – in the Sanctuary, and drive-thru after the service
- **Second Sundays** – after the service in the sanctuary



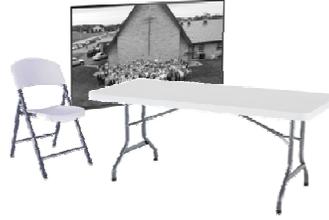
Please note – Drive-thru Communion is on the first and third Sundays for those who have participated in the Divine Service from the parking lot.

PLANS FOR ADVENT AND LENT DURING COVID – The Elders, Church Council and pastor have put together a plan for Advent and Lent during this time of pandemic. Instead of eliminating the Thursday service and having to split the Sunday service (for the sake of appropriate distancing), it has been decided instead...

- **to maintain the Thursday evening services** through the school year, which will continue to be the same service as the following Sunday;
- **to eliminate the traditional Advent and Lent Wednesday evening services;**
- **to receive door offerings at Thursday and Sunday services during Advent and Lent** as a substitute for the traditional mission and benevolence offerings we usually receive at our midweek services. The Stewardship Board will prepare the list of missions and benevolences offerings.

FURNISHINGS FOR OLD SCHOOL RENOVATION EAST ROOM – Thank you to everyone who has given gifts for furnishing the new facility in the old school. So far we have enough funds to purchase the tables and chairs for the east room. All of the tables and some of the chairs are now in place, and we are ready to begin using the east room on a limited basis. Once all the chairs have arrived, we can begin using that room for events up to approximately 50 people.

- We are still receiving gifts for the purchase of two large TV's to be mounted on the walls in each of the two main rooms. Gifts may be included with your regular offering (make a notation on your envelope), or deposited into the clear box marked "Old School Furnishings" located on the narthex table (special envelopes for your gift are available).



UPDATED SCRIP ORDER FORM: After a few years and now with Covid-19, the SCRIP order form had to be revised. Updated forms (green) are available on the narthex table. So start your Christmas shopping early! There are many vendors on the Scrip order form, that you can't go wrong. Scrip orders are received on Wednesdays, ordered on Fridays and delivered on the following Tuesday. The updated order form is posted on FastDirect under 'Links,' titled SCRIP Order Forms and SCRIP Program Info, There are also hard copy order forms on the narthex table so please feel free to share with family and friends. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to the SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALL PRACTICE: The 20/21 basketball season practices have begun. The 4-6 grade teams will consist of any active church member's children that are currently in grades 4 to 6 and interested in participating this year. **Practices begin today with Girls at 3:30PM to 5:00PM and then Boys at 5:00PM to 6:30PM.** Coaching the girl's team will be Shawna Schroeder; the boy's coaches are Micah Behnfeldt and Joe Badenhop; cheerleading advisor is Christa Bickel (with Amy & Ella Rosebrook assisting). Please contact the Athletic Director - Brad Rosebrook (419) 966-3099 or brosebrook@sjl.org if your child is interested. Mini-Eagles basketball will begin a little later this season for boys and girls grades K-3rd.

DEADLINE TODAY FOR WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: The Ridgeville Sons of the American Legion are asking you to join them in their mission to place "wreaths across America" in 2020. National Wreaths Across America Day is Dec. 19, 2020. Sponsored wreaths are placed on grave markers at state and national veterans' cemeteries, as well as at local, community cemeteries each December. Wreath Sponsorship Forms and more information available on the narthex table. Wreaths may also be sponsored online at www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Heaven is a bargain, however great the cost.

"Our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." (Rom 8:18)