



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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

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ALL SAINTS' DAY

Sermon & Text: "The Hope of the Children of God" 1 John 3:1-3

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 670 ~ 671 ~ 677 ~ [Communion: 725, 575] ~ 672

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

You are invited to worship with us in the quiet of prayer, in the joy of song, and in the desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we gather at the Lord's table today, we also unite with all the saints to celebrate God's feast of victory. Here He nourishes us with the food and drink of the full assurance of our salvation in Him. If you are a visitor, please fill out the 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 today.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘
- ✘ Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Tom Von Deylen, Joe Badenhop, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Mabel Bischoff, Linda Riefers, Ruth Mahnke, Marian Damman, *Altar Guild* ✘

ALL SAINTS DAY - Once again this year, we commemorate **ALL SAINTS DAY** as we give thanks to God for the lives and for the salvation of seven of our fellow members who passed away since the last commemoration of All Saints. They are: **Wilfred Gerken, Reldon (Shorty) Bischoff, Delora Winkelman, Eldor Gruenhagen, Dorothy Gerken, Linda (Kay) Gerken, and Troy Barton.** A white flower will be placed near the baptismal font symbolic of the righteousness of Christ in which all the saints are clothed for the eternal feast of heaven.

After the service, a family member may come forward to take one of the white roses and some greens home in memory of their loved one.

In God's House This Week		Online church calendar: https://74058984.view-events.com
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	All Saints Sunday & Communion Service Adult Bible Study
Tues.	8:35 AM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	School Chapel School Board Meeting Stewardship Board 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 11:30AM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Study Drive-thru BBQ Chicken Dinner (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. James Fundum</i> – Immanuel Lutheran – Hamler

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
- ❖ *Rev. Robert Nemoyer*, who is in physical rehab at Evergreen Manor – Montpelier to regain strength after recent falls.
- ❖ *Leona Durham*, recovering from recent cancer surgery
- ❖ *Annetta Rosebrock*, for health concerns and now recuperating at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Rosie Leonard*, for seizure activity that has begun again due to medication changes

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.

FUNERAL HELP: If you would be 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!

BIBLE STUDY TODAY POLITICS IS DRIVING ME CRAZY!

With every election cycle, the rhetoric becomes overpowering. We hear it in the national news. We read it on social media. Sometimes the discussions are balanced and informative. Sometimes they are mean-spirited and inaccurate. Sometimes they instill hope. Sometimes they incite fear or anger. Sometimes they promote an agenda that is very obviously contrary to God's Word and will.

What can a Christian do? How does a Christian view politics? How does a Christian 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 in the north end fellowship hall.



SOAR WITH THE EAGLES FUNDRAISER: In lieu of the Soar with the Eagles event this year, the School Board is hosting a drive-thru BBQ Chicken Dinner on Sun., Nov. 8th from 11:30am – 2pm at the school. Payment is made when picking up your order. Payment by check payable to St. John Lutheran School.

THE PARABLES IN MATTHEW 13... The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily, 15-minute, verse-by-verse, Bible study podcast. It's hosted by *LCMS Pastor Will Weedon* and produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. Pastor Weedon will be leading a study this week on The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast; The Parable of the Weeds; The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl; and The Parable of the Net. You can listen on-demand at thewordendures.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

POINSETTIA SALE BEGINS! The poinsettia sale for Christmas is now underway, and yellow order forms are inserted in today's bulletin. **The deadline for ordering is Sun., Nov. 15th.** 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.



BULLETIN STUFFER VOLUNTEERS: Want to get involved? Why not try volunteering to help with stuffing the bulletins for worship services. It's not too difficult and can be done either at church or in the comfort of your own home. The bulletins are pre-folded. If anyone is willing to donate a little time toward stuffing bulletins, we are looking for about 11-12 couples/families to sign up for this task. If you feel you would like to give this a try, there is a signup sheet on the narthex table. You can even pick the month(s) that work best for you. We can accommodate your busy schedules. **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.*

IF YOU'RE EVER IN A PINCH and could use a little help, the *Good Neighbor Fund* is there to assist you too! Please don't be bashful about asking – everything is strictly confidential. Just give Pastor Niemann a call, and we'll see what we can do!

CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S SERVICES 2020 – Covid has interrupted many events and traditions, and the same will unfortunately be true this Christmas at St. John. To assure proper social distancing in the sanctuary, the traditional *Christmas Children's Service* and the *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service* will each have to be split into two services. The schedule for Christmas will be as follows:

Sun. Dec. 20	6:00 pm	Younger Children's Service: Preschool thru Grade 2
	7:30 pm	Old Children's' Service: Grades 3 thru 8
Thur. Dec. 24	6:00 pm	Early Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
	8:00 pm	Later Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Fri. Dec 25	9:30 am	Christmas Day Festival Service

Plans for the children's services are now underway. Parents, please respond promptly when we reach out to determine which children will be participating in the *Children's Christmas Services*. We of course encourage every child to take part in these services as a wonderful way for them to hear and learn again of God's greatest gift to mankind, His only-begotten Son!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 10/25/20	\$6,258.29	\$155.00	\$915.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 37; Sunday – 85

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.

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).



DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS: The School Board would like to ask for volunteers to help decorate the sanctuary this year. They will be putting up decorations on Tues., Dec. 1st prior to School Board meeting that night. Please consider giving an hour or two of your time to help with this project. Hoping to have good participation this year!

REDEDICATION AND NAMING THE “NEW” OLD SCHOOL – At its last meeting the Church Council decided two things related to our “new” facility across the road;

1. **The building should be rededicated** to reflect its new ministry function. The Council chose to rededicate on **Sunday, Dec. 6** (*the Sunday following the 102nd anniversary of the building’s dedication as a school on Sunday, December 1, 1918*).
2. **The building should have a name** instead of “the old school.” There are good reasons to name a building. A name gives a building personality and identity, making it easier to reference in publicity and scheduling (*i.e. can we even imagine the Empire State Building without its name*). A name can identify a building’s purpose (*i.e. “One Government Center” in Toledo*). Building names can also honor individuals (*i.e. St. John Lutheran Church*). Some building names are easily reduced to acronym nicknames (*the ‘Mariott Activities Center,’ known as ‘the MAC.’*)

The council would like to solicit possible names from the congregation. If you have an idea for naming our new facility, please write your suggestion on a piece of paper and place it in the appropriate box on the narthex table.

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.

God willing, these plan will be in place for this year only, and we can return to our normal schedule the following year.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Check out the table in the hallway by the cry room! The Women of Freedom have put out their boxed Christmas, sympathy, birthday, and all occasion cards for sale. The dish cloths are also available and be sure to check out the display board to see if you are interested in purchasing any cutlery items such as: Paring Knives, Stubby Butcher Knives, Pie Servers, Vegetable Peelers, Slicer Knives, Granny Forks, Carving Forks, Pizza Cutters, Tomato Slicer, and Small Spatula. Contact *Mabel Bischoff, Lois Rosebrock, or Karan Niebergall* if you would like to see or purchase any of these items.

BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALL SEASON: The 20/21 basketball season is fast approaching with practices scheduled to begin Nov. 2nd. The 4-6 grade teams (*both boys and girls*) will consist of any active church member's children that are currently in grades 4 to 6 and are interested in participating this year. **Practices begin tomorrow, Mon., Nov. 2nd with Girls practice 3:30PM to 5:00PM and then Boys practice 5:00PM to 6:30PM.** 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.

SPORTS SCHEDULE NOTE: With *Brad Rosebrook* as our Athletic Director, please go to the “Calendar” icon in Fast Direct frequently as this is where he will post the sports schedules and any changes to the sports schedules. Keep in mind that in order to view the games for the basketball season, you can go to either FastDirect directly (*thru the school*) or you can enter the church’s website (www.sjl.org), click on “School” at the top of page, click on “FastDirect School Info. System” on the left side of page, click on “BulletinBoard/Calendar” on the left side of page, and then scroll down to Brad Rosebrook, Athletic Director and click on **his** “Calendar”.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP: Membership is now being taken for the Athletic Booster Club. Prices are \$20.00 for a couple and \$10.00 for an individual. Make checks payable to St. John Boosters and send to school. Our programs here at St. John give our students a sense of sportsmanship, discipline, structure and self-confidence needed to go out into the world.

IT’S CHRISTMAS CHEER TIME AGAIN! – Henry County Christmas Cheer is beginning its annual campaign for monetary donations ONLY for the purchase of food for low income and needy persons in Henry County. Due to the Covid pandemic, the Christmas Cheer program will be different this year. We will NOT be collecting any items from schools, churches or individuals. **Only monetary donations will be accepted.** These donations will be used for the purchase of **only** food products this year. The campaign runs from now through December 10th. Make checks payable to: *Henry County Christmas Cheer*, and send it to Henry County Christmas Cheer, c/o LeRoy Helberg, Q610 County Road 19, Napoleon, OH 43545. The Christmas Cheer Board of Trustees would like to thank you for your donation in 2020.

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. Order deadline is Nov. 15, 2020.

SWISS STEAK DINNER: The Ridgeville American Legion is hosting a Swiss Steak Dinner on Sun., Nov. 8th serving from 11am – 1pm. See flyer on bulletin board.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future. *Oscar Wilde*

“Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal.”

(Philippians 3:13-14)