



# 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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### **TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Sermon & Text: "What Encouraging Words!" *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*

Order of Service: Service of Prayer & Preaching (LSB pg. 260)

Hymns: **516 ~ 336 ~ 968 ~ 348**

Child Sermon "Family Reunion"

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### **WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS**

*Welcome! We are here at the Savior's invitation; therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, receiving mercy and finding grace to help in every time of need. 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.*

*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.*



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### **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* ✠

### **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!**



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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 11:30AM	<b>Worship Service w/Communion following</b> Adult Bible Study Drive-thru BBQ Chicken Dinner ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Mon.	7:00 PM	PTL Meeting
Tues.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	<b>School Chapel</b> Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class ( <i>until 7:30 PM</i> )
Thurs.	3:00 PM 7:00 PM	Parent Teacher Conferences ( <i>until 8:45 PM</i> ) <b>Thursday Evening Worship</b>
Fri.		NO SCHOOL – Parent Teacher Conferences (9-9:45 AM)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	<b>Communion Service</b> Adult Bible Study
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Willie Stottlemyer</i> – St. Stephen Lutheran – Defiance

**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****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 Nemoier*, 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
- ❖ *Abby Weller and Steve Doctor*, welcome the birth of their daughter, *Beretta Ann Doctor*, on Thurs., Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> at Defiance Promedica Hospital.

**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 – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

It's that time of the Church Year again, as our Christian, liturgical journey comes to an end with these final Sundays after Pentecost, and directs our attention to the end of time and the return of Christ. We pray, "Thy kingdom come." We sing, "Make haste, O God, to deliver me! O Lord, make haste to help me!" (*Psalm*; Ps 70:1). Thus our liturgy not only directs our attention to the end times but also reveals what is in store for Christians. The *Gradual*, from the book of Revelation, also gives us a glimpse of what is to come: "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

In the *Old Testament Reading* today, the prophet Amos speaks of the coming "day of the Lord," which finds its ultimate fulfillment in the second coming of Christ and the end. To be prepared for that Day is to have a living faith. Thus Jesus warns us in today's *Gospel* that many who are invited to share in the eternal joy of His kingdom will miss out by failing to have a living faith at the end. In the meantime, St. Paul, in the *Epistle* reading, informs us what will happen on that great day to those who died prior to Jesus's return – that Jesus "will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep."

**BBQ CHICKEN DINNER TODAY:** In lieu of the Soar with the Eagles event this year, the School Board is hosting a drive-thru BBQ Chicken Dinner today from 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM. This was "PRE-ORDERS" only, so be sure to stop by to pick up your dinners. Dinners are \$8 each and payment can be made when picking up orders. Checks can be payable to St. John Lutheran School.

**EXPERT GUESTS, EXPANSIVE TOPICS, EXTOLLING CHRIST**... 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 teachings include: The TV Series "The Mandalorian;" 1 Peter; Prayers of Thanksgiving and Praise; The Doctrine and Practice of Closed Communion; and more. You can listen at your convenience at [issuesetc.org](http://issuesetc.org), the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

**WOMEN OF FREEDOM:** Our next meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. We will have election of officers. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend.

**POINSETTIA SALE BEGINS!** The poinsettia sale for Christmas is now underway, and yellow order forms are available on the narthex table. **The deadline for ordering is Sun., Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>.** 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? The slate is almost full. Two more spots to be filled. Why not try volunteering to help with stuffing the bulletins for worship services. The bulletins are pre-folded. You can pick the month(s) that work best for you. **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](mailto:lahop@bright.net).*

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/01/20	\$10,320.00	\$190.00	\$275.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Thursday – 42; Sunday – 134

### **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.

**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!

**REDEDICATION AND NAMING THE “NEW” OLD SCHOOL** – At its last meeting the Church Council decided...

1. **to rededicate the building** to reflect its new ministry function. The Council chose to rededicate on **Sunday, Dec. 6** (the Sunday following the 102<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the building's dedication as a school on Sunday, December 1, 1918).
2. **to rename the building** so that we don't always have to refer to it as “the old school.” A name gives a building personality and identify, making it easier to reference in publicity and scheduling (i.e. can we even imagine the Empire State Building without its names). 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 is currently soliciting possible names from the congregation.** If you have an idea for naming our new facility, please write your suggestion on the supplied form and place it in the clear box on the narthex table.

**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: <b>Preschool thru Grade 2</b>
	7:30 pm	Old Children's' Service: <b>Grades 3 thru 8</b>
Thur. Dec. 24	6:00 pm	Early <b>Christmas Eve</b> Candlelight Service
	8:00 pm	Later <b>Christmas Eve</b> Candlelight Service
Fri. Dec 25	9:30 am	<b>Christmas Day</b> 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!

**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 inserted in today's bulletin. 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](mailto:honemann@embarqmail.com).**

**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.

**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).



**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* to see or purchase any of these items.

**PTL MEETING:** The next PTL Meeting will be held on Mon., Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall. This will be a business meeting to get organized for the school year. Please plan to attend!

**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](mailto: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](http://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.

**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](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org). Order deadline is Nov. 15, 2020.

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**The love of heaven makes one heavenly.**

*"Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body."*

*(Philippians 3:21)*