



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. Charles Kramer, Principal

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LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

Sermon & Text: "The Backwards Court of Judge Jesus" *Matthew 25:31-46*

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: **510** ~ "Day of Judgement! Day of Wonders! ~ **509** ~
"O'er the Distant Mountains Breaking"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We welcome all who have come to worship our God with us today! Each day we live is a priceless gift from God, loaded with possibilities to learn something new, to gain fresh insights into His great truths. May we be showered with those blessings as we together profess His Name today. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and pass it to the center aisle during the offering.



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 are in celebration of the 40th Wedding Anniversary of *Jerry & Lori Langenhop*, which was yesterday, Nov. 21st. God has given them many happy, healthy...and we can't forget, "blissful" years of marriage. May he continue to grant them many more years together. Congratulations Jerry & Lori!

VOTERS' MEETING will be Sunday, December 6 after the Worship Service, and will be held in the Fellowship Hall. On the agenda as of today is: *1) Election of Officers; 3) Approval of 2021 Budget.*

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tues.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	School Chapel (Rescheduled) Women of Freedom Meeting Board of Elders
Wed.	5:45 PM 7:00 PM	NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING BREAK (<i>thru Friday</i>) Junior Confirmation Class (<i>until 6:45 PM</i>) Thanksgiving Eve Service Offering: <i>Henry County Christmas Cheer</i> Ushers: <i>Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop, Denny Bockelman</i> Altar Guild: <i>Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff, Linda Riefers</i>
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM

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
- ❖ *Annetta Rosebrock*, recuperating at home now after a brief stay at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ *Rosie Leonard*, for seizure activity that has begun again
- ❖ *Marian Dickmann*, at Henry County Hospital recuperating after hip 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
- ❖ *Cheryl Yaw's son, Pastor Larry Yaw and Family*, all have tested positive for Covid this past week. May God protect them thru these trying times.
- ❖ *A church member*, who has been hospitalized recently due to Covid

THE SCRIPTURES THIS DAY – Last Sunday of the Church Year

It is the last Sunday of the Church Year. The last day of any period of time is a glimpse of the Last Day. But this particular Sunday is especially designed to direct our attention toward the end of the world, reminding us that time will not roll on indefinitely. To borrow from Psalm 90 last week, this time in the Church Year teaches us “to number our days” (*Ps 90:12*)—not only by acknowledging our personal end at death, but also to recognize that God has set a time when time will end for all.

The account of the sheep and goats in this Gospel fits well with Ezekiel’s description in the *Old Testament Reading* of God as the one who seeks out his sheep. God does the saving in both texts. The Psalm praises Yahweh for his greatness and mercy and describes the people of God as sheep (*Ps 95:7a*). The *Epistle* from 1 Corinthians 15 focuses on the resurrection of Jesus. That is not explicitly mentioned in the Gospel for this week, but the entire Christian faith stands or falls with the resurrection. That means the reliability of Jesus’ words in this text depend on his rising from the dead. Further, Paul speaks of the subjection of all things under Christ (*1 Cor 15:27–28*). The *Gospel* reading from Matthew demonstrates what this will look like on the Last Day.

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.

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!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 11/15/20	\$6,210.00	\$170.00	\$575.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 26; Sunday – 84

MORE TOPICS, MORE GUESTS, MORE JESUS... 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: Thanksgiving in the Bible; The Lord’s Prayer Petition “Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread;” God Condoning War & Killing in the Old Testament; The Book of 2 Peter and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S SERVICES 2020 – UPDATE!!!

THE PLAN --- This year, due to Covid, we are planning a very special and very different kind of children's Christmas service.

- **Speaking parts will be assigned this week.**
 - ~ Families of public school students should have been contacted by phone to confirm their children's participation. Call us Monday if you haven't been contacted yet.
 - ~ SJLS students will be asked this week to confirm their participation in this service
- **Scripts will be distributed.**
 - ~ Public school students will receive their script pages via email
 - ~ SJLS students will receive their script pages in school
- **We will video record all the children's spoken parts.**
 - ~ Public School Student will record on Saturday morning, Dec. 12 at 10:00 a.m.
 - ~ SJLS students will record during a school day

THE SERVICE --- The Children's Christmas Service will be on **Sunday morning, Dec. 20**. During this service the congregation's children will tell us the wondrous Christmas story via their video snippets. The congregation will round out the service with the singing of the hymns and carols of Christmas.



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.

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.

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.*

God in the Manger - Advent 2020

This year's advent theme, for both the Thursday and Sunday services, is: **"God in the Manger."** It is the greatest mystery of our faith that the infinite God would come down and occupy the finite space of a baby's body, laid in a manger. The wonder of it!

Please note that because of changes due to the Covid pandemic, we will not have the traditional Wednesday evening Advent services this year. Instead, we will continue with the Sunday and Thursday schedule. Here is our schedule for the year...

Date:	Theme:	Offering:
Nov 29 & Dec 3	"Waiting for God in the Manger"	Shepherd's Canyon Retreat
Dec 6 & 10	"The Mystery of God in the Manger"	Church Vocation Students
Dec 13 & 17	"The Redemption of God in the Manger"	National Youth Gathering



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.

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.

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 at 5:30 PM, prior to their School Board meeting. Please consider giving an hour or two of your time to help.

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 Niermann a call, and we'll see what we can do!

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.

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.

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! Scrip orders are received on Wednesdays, ordered on Fridays and delivered on the following Tuesday. 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.**

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.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

The truest end of life is to know that life never ends.

“For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the LORD.” (Prov 8:35)