



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Advent is a season of repentance and preparation for the Coming of Christ. We warmly welcome all who have come to worship our God with us today! Each day we live is a priceless gift from God. If you are a visitor, 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 today.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠
- ✠ Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, Dave Von Deylen, Dennis Showman, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Kathy Behnfeldt, Deb Durham, *Altar Guild* ✠

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY are in celebration of the 90th birthday of Irma Rohrs. They are placed by her children, Karen (Dave) Mohler and David Rohrs. Irma will be celebrating her birthday on Dec. 17th. We thank God for the many healthy years he has given to Irma. Happy Birthday Irma!

ADULT SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY has been canceled until further notice. We will reevaluate in January to see if it's feasible for us to begin meeting again.

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.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES – The 2021 offering envelopes are available. Please pick yours up, and may God prosper the work of our hands and the giving of His people! If you did not receive a box of envelopes but would like one, please contact *Mary Kossow* (419-599-0011) until Jan. 1st. After Jan. 1st, please contact *Jerry Langenhop* (419-598-8151).

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM	Worship Service w/Communion following
Wed.	6:15 PM	Junior High Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>)
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Advent 3 and Thursday Evening Worship Service Offering: <i>National Youth Gathering</i> Ushers: <i>Doug Dietrich, Joe Badenhop, Neil Badenhop, Tom Von Deylen</i> Altar Guild: <i>Diane Von Deylen, Lou Ann Rosebrock</i>
Sun.	9:00 AM	Children's Christmas Service (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Dale Kern, Retired, St. John Lutheran – Stryker</i>

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 Annetta Rosebrock*
- ❖ *Melba Elling and Lorna Von Deylen*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs and Ruth Mahnke*, 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, Bev Nelson, and Peter Gerken*, for issues related to cancer
- ❖ *Marian Dickmann*, recuperating at her son and daughter-in-law's, Steve & Dawn Dickmann
- ❖ *Crew and Elliot Gerken*, born prematurely and in the NICU at Riverside Hospital, Columbus
- ❖ *Lester Rabe*, now in hospice care in Defiance
- ❖ *Sharon Badenhop*, hospitalized at St. V's for chemotherapy treatments
- ❖ *Arlene Wallace*, recuperating at home now from her recent fall
- ❖ *The Family of Elmer Badenhop*, as they mourn his passing on Thurs., Dec. 10th. Arrangements are pending

ADVENT DOOR OFFERINGS – This week's offering: **NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING**

During the season of Advent, we will receive a door offering at each service in lieu of the special offerings we would normally receive at the special Wednesday Advent services. **It has long been our custom at St. John to use the special offerings of Advent and Lent to support various missions and benevolences**, and we didn't want that tradition to become another casualty of Covid-19. These special offerings may be deposited into the special box located in the narthex, wrapped in poinsettia paper and with a sign. (*Regular offerings will be received in the offering plates at the narthex table.*)

PORTALS OF PRAYER booklets for January, February, and March are on the desk in the back of the church. Pick up your copy today!

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

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 12/06/20	\$13,016.00	\$435.00	\$825.00
	Rec'd 12/03/20: \$418.00 – Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Center		
ATTENDANCE:	Thursday – 24;	Sunday – 111	

Christmas 2020 at St. John

Only when Christ is the focus of the Christmas season do all the colorful lights, carols, special meals and traditions help create a festive and joyous atmosphere. If Christ is not the very center of our Christmas celebration, the lights go out and everything becomes fake and illusory. Without Jesus, there is no Christmas. It's some other celebration, but it isn't Christmas. Therefore, join us in our worship of the Savior, "now in flesh appearing!"



Date:	Event:
Sun Dec 20	Children's Christmas Service, "Did You Know?" The children will tell the story of Christmas via video snippets
Thr Dec 24	Christmas Eve Service of Carols & Candles Two services at 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
Fri Dec 25	Christmas Day Festival Service, with Holy Communion Service is at 9:30 a.m.
Sun Dec. 27	First Sunday After Christmas – the celebration continues! Service at the normal time, 9:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S SERVICES 2020 – Next Sunday

The Children's Christmas Service will be next **Sunday morning, Dec. 20**. During this service the congregation's children will tell us the wondrous Christmas story via prerecorded video snippets. The congregation will round out the service with the singing of the hymns and carols of Christmas. **It's a different kind of service in a very different kind of year, but it promises to be a wonderful retelling of the birth of our Lord and Savior.**

A few children were not able to record Friday or Saturday, so we will set up for recording them after the worship service today.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE – HELP WITH SANCTUARY TECHNOLOGY

- **Have you got a 'knack' for technology? Have you ever considered that 'knack' to be a gift of God that can be used in service to Him and His people?** We could use some help in worship with the sound board and with video recordings and uploading.
- And while we're at it, **we could also use some volunteers to help as "slide clickers" to advance worship slides during services.** This task does not require any technical skills, just the ability to press a button on a remote control.

Please think and pray about it, and get the word out, and we'll begin signing up people soon, and will then provide training. These are wonderful ways to serve!

INSTALLATION OF 2021 CHURCH OFFICERS (JAN. 3RD) – We give thanks to God for everyone who submitted their names for nomination to our various church offices. Your servant hearts and willing spirits provide an example for us all! Those who were elected or appointed to offices for 2021 will be **installed into those offices during worship on Sun., Jan. 3rd**.

Officers to be installed are: **President** – *Neil Badenhop*; **Vice President** – *Jerry Short*; **Treasurer** – *Cathy Gerken*; **Financial Trustee** – *Pat Mahnke*; **Elders** – *Dave Von Deylen, Mike Maassel*; **Stewardship Board** – *Char Weber, Kelly (Dietrich) Sonnenberg*; **Alt. Delegate Synod** – *Peter Gerken**; **Board of Education** (installed to take office in July 2021) – *Eric Riefers, Kara (Sausser) Cowell*; **Secretary** – *Deb Durham*; **Church Deacon** – *Denny Von Deylen*; **Trustees** – *Brad Rosebrock (Sarah), David Badenhop*; **Sunday School Supt.** – *Todd Wachtman*; **Asst. Sunday School Supt.** – *Tracy Weber*; **Cemetery Board** – *Lucas Damman, Joe Hesterman, vacant*; **Cemetery Sexton** – *Ben Kruse*.

NEW FACILITY USAGE – The interior of the east room of the renovated old school building is ready to use, for events of up to 50 people. The TV is not yet in place, although it should be soon. Also, the church council is working on supplying the room with everything needed, including brooms and mops, waste baskets, a vacuum cleaner, etc. If you would like to use this room, please call Joyce to get your event on the calendar, and she will refer you to someone to arrange for a key fob and anything else you may need.

The council is also working on a policies page for usage of the facility. Until these are ready, we ask that you please use common sense in taking good care of the building, cleaning up, and considering a donation to the church to cover utilities, etc.

GREETER, USHER, AND ALTAR GUILD SIGN-UP – **The sign-up deadline is today.** 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? *You do not need to sign up again if you are currently serving as a greeter, usher or are on an altar guild team.*

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!

ADVENT DEVOTIONS FROM L.H.M. – Lutheran Hour Ministries has made available their 2020 Advent Devotions, on the theme, "God with Us." To access these devotions, go to **www.lhm.org/advent**. A handful of print copies are also available on the narthex table today. Light an Advent Wreath at home and make these devotions part of your daily household routine!

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!

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:

- **During Advent, Thursday evening Communion services** following the 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



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

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.*

THE LUTHERAN HOUR – The Lutheran Hour Ministries can be heard on a few radio stations in our area. They cover many topics relevant to today’s issues. Broadcasts can be heard Sundays on: Archbold’s WMTR 96.1 at 7:30 AM; Napoleon’s WNDH 103.1 at 9:00 AM.

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA – Looking for a Christmas gift idea? The Women of Freedom have beautiful Rada Cutlery available (*knives, servers, pizza cutters, vegetable peelers, etc*). These items are not on display for safety reasons. Contact any of the following: *Mabel Bischoff, Nancy Hogrefe, or Karan Niebergall* if you would like to see or purchase any of these items.

LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT – *How You Can Help?* If you have used **prescription or nonprescription** glasses or sunglasses in your drawers, desks, or closets, you can donate them now! Children's glasses are especially needed. Both plastic and metal frames are accepted. There is a box on the table in the narthex for the collection of these used glasses.

COUNCIL MINUTES – This is just a reminder that council meeting minutes are not published until they are approved a month later. If you would like to read about the most recent council meeting, an unofficial and unapproved copy of the minutes is available for viewing in the church office, usually within a week after the meeting.

LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN’S ACTIVITY BULLETINS are available on the table in the narthex. The Children’s Bulletins are coordinated with the Bible texts for each Sunday, and provide activities that tie in with the weekly themes. Pick one up today for your child.

PTL COOKBOOKS: Don’t forget a cookbook for someone on your Christmas list! This cookbook would make a great gift for that “hard to buy” family member. At a cost of only \$10, stop in at the church office and pick up and pay for your copy today.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP: **Sign up deadline is Mon., Dec. 16th**. Prices are \$20.00 for a couple and \$10.00 for an individual. Make checks payable to St. John Boosters.

SCRIP: After a few years and now with Covid-19, the SCRIP order form has been revised. Updated forms (green) are available on the narthex table. So start your Christmas shopping! 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.**

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Mother and child are doing well. Visitors welcome!

*Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King! (LSB 368)*