



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

December 27, 2020

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

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181  
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339  
Church Website: [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)

### FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sermon Title and Text: "No Longer Slaves" *Galatians 4:4-7*

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 367 ~ 546 ~ 387 ~ 517 ~ 389 ~ 390

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### A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*Welcome to our worship service here at St. John. If we can be of service to you in any way, please speak to our Pastor. If you are looking for a church to call home, please consider joining this church where we seek to help each other grow in faith, in love and in service. Simply 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.*

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### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠

✠ Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, Dave Von Deylen, Dennis Showman, *Ushers* ✠

✠ Diane Von Deylen, Lou Ann Rosebrock, *Altar Guild* ✠



**POINSETTIA PLANTS** – Thank you to everyone for purchasing the poinsettias that adorned the sanctuary this Christmas. Please see the insert in today's bulletin for a listing of those who purchased these poinsettias. If you haven't already done so, don't forget to take your poinsettia home after today's worship service. There are plastic sleeves on the table in the narthex to protect them.

**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.

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

| <b>Date</b>   | <b>Time</b>    | <b>Activities</b>  |
|---------------|----------------|--|
| Today         | <b>9:00 AM</b> | <b>Worship Service</b>   |
| Mon.          | 5:30 PM        | <i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution  |
| Thurs.        | 5:00 PM        | Wedding Ceremony – <i>Skyler Maassel / Morgan Bland</i>  |
| Fri.          |                | Wedding Rehearsal – <i>McCann / Myles</i>  |
| Sat.          | 3:00 PM        | Wedding Ceremony – <i>Kipp McCann / McKenzie Myles</i>   |
| Sun.          | <b>9:00 AM</b> | <b>Communion Service w/Installation of Officers</b>  |
| Mon.-<br>Sat. | 7:30 AM        | Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM<br>Speaker: <i>Rev. James Strawn</i> , St. James Lutheran – Burlington |

**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, Peter Gerken, and Sharon Badenhop*, for issues related to cancer
- ❖ *Marian Dickmann and Arlene Wallace*, recuperating at their homes after recent falls taken
- ❖ *Crew and Elliot Gerken*, born prematurely and in the NICU at Riverside Hospital, Columbus
- ❖ *Don & Karan Niebergall*, after recently testing positive for Covid-19
- ❖ *Jennifer (Dean) Maassel and her family*; Jennifer's mother, Nancy Crew, passed away on Dec. 17 from complication of Covid. May God console them by His presence and promises.

**FAMILIES WHO MOURN:**

- **ELMER BADENHOP:** On Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, *Elmer Badenhop*, 88, fell asleep in Jesus. Elmer's funeral took place at St. John Lutheran Church on Mon., Dec. 14, 2020, at 11:00 AM. His committal service was at St. John's Cemetery following the service. Please remember, in prayer, Elmer's children, *Neil (Anita), Glenn, Tim (Christine), and Gary (Donna)*, and their extended families.
- **LESTER RABE:** Also, on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, *Lester Rabe*, 75, went to be with his Lord. Lester's funeral took place at St. John Lutheran Church on Wed., Dec. 16, 2020, at 11:00 AM. His committal service was at St. John's Cemetery following the service. Please keep Lester's wife, Janice, in your daily prayers during the remaining Christmas season. Also, his son, Mark (*Abigail*) and family; and daughter, Anne (*Martin*) Irving and family, as they too mourn their father and grandfather's passing.

# Christmas Thank You

It's been a very different kind of Christmas this year, but we wanted to thank everyone who has helped us celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas. Thank you to **Renee** and **Sharon** for blessing us with musical accompaniment; to **Dan Wachtman** for his tireless work livestreaming and recording our services and getting them uploaded; to our **Church Deacons** for assisting with everything that needs to be done to prepare God's House for worship; to the **school and Sunday School staff** for their efforts in preparing a children's service, even though we had to abort our plans; to the **altar guild members** who so faithfully prepare the altar and chancel for worship; and to **everyone on the school board and church council** who helped decorate the sanctuary so beautifully.



Thank you for being such a blessing to us all!

**2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES** – There are still several 2021 offering envelopes available to be picked up. Please pick yours up soon, 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. 1<sup>st</sup>. After Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, please contact *Jerry Langenhop* (419-598-8151).

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** booklets for January, February, and March are available on the desk. **MY DEVOTIONS** for December, January, and February are also on the desk in the back of the church. Pick up your copies today!

| <b>FINANCIAL FACTS:</b> | Home Fund  | Synod & Missions | Building Fund |
|-------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------|
| Weekly Need             | \$9,792.78 | \$500.00         | \$961.54      |
| Rec'd 12/13/20          | \$5,806.00 | \$71.00          | \$385.00      |

**ATTENDANCE 12/13/20:** Sunday – 97

|                |            |          |          |
|----------------|------------|----------|----------|
| Rec'd 12/20/20 | \$9,901.00 | \$321.00 | \$765.00 |
|----------------|------------|----------|----------|

*(NOTE: A special anonymous gift of \$130,000 was given to the Home Fund to pay back the Building Fund to benefit the future parking lot project.)*

**ATTENDANCE 12/20/20:** Sunday – 98

Rec'd 12/10/20 (Advent 2): \$389.00 – Church Vocation Students; Attendance: 28

Rec'd 12/17/20 (Advent 3): \$745.00 – National Youth Gathering; Attendance: 28

## **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. 3<sup>RD</sup>)** – 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. 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

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*.

**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



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

**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.

- **TECHNOLOGY** – Very soon now both of the main rooms in the renovated old school will be equipped with 75-inch TV's and sound bars, mounted to the walls. These will be simple to use, with remote controls such as you probably have at home. Those who use these facilities are most welcome to use this equipment.

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**Maybe Christmas doesn't come from a store;  
maybe Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.** *Dr. Seuss*

*"God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those under the Law,  
that we might receive adoption as sons!" (Gal 4:4-5)*