

# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

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NO. 1

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Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

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### SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sermon Title and Text: "What's Most Important" *1 Kings 3:4-15*

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Four (LSB pg. 203)

Hymns: 385 ~ 389 ~ (Communion: 387, 388) ~ 381

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### A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest this morning, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to our pastor and by filling 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. Thank you!*

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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* ✠



**THE FLOWERS ON THE PIANO** are placed in celebration of *Todd & Chris Hesterman's 35<sup>th</sup>* Wedding Anniversary which is tomorrow, Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to Todd and Chris and may they have many more happy years together!

**NEW ALTAR GUILD (pink) SCHEDULE:** The 2021 Altar Guild schedule is available today and can be picked up at the narthex table. The Usher schedule is in the making and will be available soon. Thanks again to all who are willing to be of service to the Lord through St. John. You are a blessing!

**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: [www.DynaCal.com/sjl](http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	<b>9:00AM</b>	<b>Communion Service w/Installation of Officers</b>
Mon.	8:20 AM	Virtual Classes resume thru Fri., Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup>
Tue.	5:00 PM 7:00 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:00 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs St. Pats – Bryan School Board and Stewardship Board Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class
Thurs.	6:30 AM 5:00 PM <b>7:00 PM</b>	Men's Bible Breakfast in Fellowship Hall B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls; 6:00 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs NWO Cougars <b>Thursday Evening Worship</b>
Sat.	10:00AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:00 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys; 12:00 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls; 1:00 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys @ St. John Emmanuel Lutheran
Sun.	<b>9:00 AM</b> 1:00 PM	<b>Worship Service w/Communion following</b> B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 2:00 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys; 3:00 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls; 4:00 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys @ St. Paul - Napoleon
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Paul Dancy</i> , St. Paul Lutheran – Liberty Center

**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 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, Peter Gerken, and Sharon Badenhop*, for cancer related issues
- ❖ *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
- ❖ Those dealing with Covid sickness: *Doug Kossow, Logan Kossow, Denny Behnfeldt*
- ❖ *Skyler Maassel & Morgan Bland* ~ and ~ *McKenzie Myles & Kipp McCann*. These couples were married at St. John on Thursday and Saturday respectively. May God bless them with many years of life and love together! Congratulations to these couples!
- ❖ *The Family of Bev Nelson*, as Bev passed away on Thurs., Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. May God bring comfort to her family at this difficult time

**THANK YOU:** *Marian Dickmann* would like to thank everyone for their cards, well-wishes, and prayers on her behalf during her recent hospitalization and recuperation from her broken hip as a result of a fall she took. She is now back in her home and doing much better.

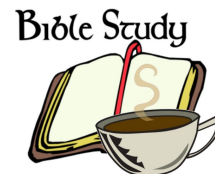
**MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS RESUME IN THE RENOVATED OLD SCHOOL** this Wednesday, January 6, at 6:15 p.m. For the first time **we will gather in the renovated old school in the east room.** Parents can drop off their students at the east door on the side of the building.

**TAKING DOWN THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS** – This Wednesday (1/6) at 6:30 PM members of the School Board and Church Council and their families, as well as any other interested parties, will be taking down the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary. Thank you for all your help as we transition from Christmas into the Epiphany season.

**INSTALLATION OF 2021 CHURCH OFFICERS** – 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 today.

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*.

**ATTENTION ALL MEN** – Rise and shine this Thursday and join your brothers in Christ for a good breakfast and coffee, and some great discussion around the Word of God. **It's the Men's Bible Breakfast in the fellowship hall this Thursday morning at 6:30 a.m.** There is no better way to start your day.



**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.

**2021 ENVELOPES** – There are still a few 2021 offering envelope boxes to be picked up. If you did not receive a box of envelopes but would like one, please contact *Jerry Langenhop* (419-598-8151).

**POINSETTIA PLANTS** – Don't forget to take your poinsettia plant home after the worship service today. There are plastic sleeves to protect them in the side Conference room.

**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 12/27/20	\$10,549.71	\$522.00	\$815.00

ATTENDANCE 12/27/20: Sunday – 85

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (12/20/20):** *Cancelled*

**CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS & CANDLES:** *Home Fund - \$3,541.00*

Attendance: Early – 116; Late – 42

**CHRISTMAS DAY FESTIVAL SERVICE:** *Home Fund - \$12,235.00; Attendance: 72*

**WOMEN OF FREEDOM PROGRAM BOOKLETS** – The Program Booklets for 2021 are on the narthex table. Pick yours up today! Be sure to check to see what month you are on for serving. If that does not work out for you, you can switch with someone. The Quarterlies and Odes are available in the rack above the narthex table.

## *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!**

**ST. JOHN CHURCH LIBRARY:** Books have recently been added to the church library located in the hallway west of the sanctuary. New children's books include "How Can I Help" and "Funtastic Family Nights". Other additions to the library include "Broken", "The Reformation", "Without this Ring, Surviving Divorce" and "Religion on Trial, Cross-Examining Religious Truth Claims". A list of material available from the library can be found at: <http://www.sjl.org/librarylist.pdf>. The library is self-serve. Simply take a book or DVD and return it in the basket provided when finished.

**THE FLOWER CALENDAR** for 2021 is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you wish to sign up for a certain Sunday to place flowers on the altar or the piano, sign your name on that Sunday and then about two weeks before that date, call *Mabel Bischoff* at 419-598-8757 to let her know if you are getting your own flowers or if you want the Women of Freedom to take care of them. **The price for the flowers through the Women of Freedom is \$21.00.** Please remember that it is your responsibility to contact *Mabel Bischoff*. Also, please contact the church office with the information for the bulletin before Wednesday of the week you are placing the flowers in church. This will insure that you are not forgotten or overlooked.

## **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!

**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.

**ROAST BEEF DINNER:** The Ridgeville American Legion is hosting a Drive-thru Roast Beef Dinner on Sun., Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> serving from 11:00 AM until sold out. The cost is \$10 per dinner. Stop by on the 10<sup>th</sup> and grab a dinner to enjoy!

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### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**Since our opportunities are brief, we dare no delay.**

*“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.” (Eph 5:15-16)*

**CHOICE DOLLARS RECAP:** Thanks to everyone who continues to designate their Choice Dollars through Thrivent Financial. Because of your initiative the church and school have benefited in 2020. Here are the individual year-to-date deposits for 2020: St. John Church - \$11,057.00; St. John School - \$3,031.00; St. John Preschool \$0-. A well-deserved thank you to Thrivent for providing these funds.

**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!

