



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

January 10, 2021

VOL. 86 NO. 2  
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Church Website: [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)

### THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Sermon Title and Text: "What Baptism Reveals" *Mark 1:4-11*

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 404 ~ 596 ~ 590 ~ 594

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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**

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘
- ✘ Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, Dave Von Deylen, Dennis Showman, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Diane Von Deylen, Lou Ann Rosebrock, *Altar Guild* ✘

**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.

**NEW ALTAR GUILD (pink) & USHER (blue) SCHEDULES:** The 2021 Altar Guild and Usher Schedules are available today and can be picked up at the narthex table. Thanks again to all who are willing to be of service to the Lord through St. John. You are a blessing!

**MORE COPIES OF MY DEVOTIONS** for December, January, and February are available on the desk in the back of the church. Pick up your copies today!

**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> 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.	8:20 AM 5:00 PM	In-School Classes resume B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:00 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys @ St. Pats – Bryan
Tue.	<b>8:35 AM</b> 7:00 PM	<b>School Chapel</b> Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class
Thurs.	4:30 PM <b>7:00 PM</b>	B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls @ Tinora <b>Thursday Evening Worship</b>
Fri.	5:00 PM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter Grading Period ends B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls @ Trinity
Sun.	<b>9:00 AM</b> 1:00 PM	<b>Communion Service</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 vs St. Paul - Napoleon
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Carl Rockrohr</i> , Zion Lutheran – Ridgeville Corners

**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, Peter Gerken, and Sharon Badenhop*, for issues related to cancer
- ❖ *Marian Dickmann and Arlene Wallace*, recuperating at their homes after recent falls taken
- ❖ *Crew Gerken*, born prematurely and in the NICU at Riverside Hospital, Columbus
- ❖ *Rev. Robert Nemoyer*, at Indian Meadows – Wauseon (*formerly Heartland*) for rehab

**OFFERING BOXES** – Be sure to only use your 2021 envelopes. Please discard your 2020 envelopes to save confusion for the Finance Trustees. If you did not receive a 2021 box of envelopes but would like one, please contact *Jerry Langenhop* (419-598-8151).

## **SCRIPTURES THIS DAY – First Sunday after Epiphany, Baptism of Our Lord**

The Baptism of Our Lord is always celebrated on the first Sunday of the Epiphany season, the season of revealing. While Matthew and Luke begin their Gospels with Jesus' birth narratives, St. Mark begins with His baptism. The Father's voice reveals, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased" (Mk 1:11).

The *Old Testament Reading* reveals the amazing news that in the beginning, God created the world out of nothing by the power of his Word alone. We note the parallel with Gen 1:1 in the first verse of Mark's *Gospel*: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (Mk 1:1). The world that God made had fallen into sin and rebellion, and now God's promise to restore all things is coming to fruition with the appearing of John the Baptizer and the revealing of Jesus, God's Son, in his Baptism. This is very good news! The first words of Jesus that Mark records are "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel" (Mk 1:15).

The *Epistle* speaks of our connection with Christ in our Baptism (Rom 6:4–5). God's Word reveals that he has united us with Christ in our Baptism so that we might die to sin and live in the victory of the resurrection.

## **MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS HAS RESUMED IN THE RENOVATED OLD**

**SCHOOL.** Class is conducted each Wednesday evening from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. across the road in the east room at the old school. Parents can drop off their students at the east side of the building.

**CABINETS FOR OLD SCHOOL RENOVATION** - Are you or anyone you know doing a kitchen remodel and want to make a donation to the old school renovation? For the east room we need 7-1/2 to 8 total feet of kitchen base cabinets in good condition to form a serving/storage area in the south-east corner of the room. We could use various kinds of cabinets - drawer stacks, basic door cabinets, even a sink cabinet (although we will not be using a sink). No corner units; just a straight row of cabinets. If you think you might have something or know of something that could work, please speak with Pastor Niermann, and we'll get the right people to look at it.

**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.

**LYF SUPER BOWL SUB SALE!** It's that time of year again! Super Bowl Sunday is quickly approaching and it's time to get ready for the big game. Why not help out our church's LYF as well? On Sunday, February 7th, we will be selling Super Bowl subs to help raise money for our youth group. Each sub will cost \$3.00 (or 4 for \$10.00) and will contain salami, bologna, ham, white cheese, and yellow cheese on a 6 inch sub bun. To place your order, please fill out a pre-order form and place it in the basket at the back of the church (beginning January 17th) or bring it to the church office by Monday, February 1st. Orders can also be taken from the link on the St. John Church Facebook page. Subs will be available for pick up after church on February 7th until 11 AM via a drive-thru pick up similar to what was done for the Ice Cream Social. Payment will be due at the time of pick up. Checks can be made out to St. John LYF. Thank you for supporting our LYF youth!

**LYF MEETING:** The LYF will be getting together on Sunday, January 17th at 4:00 PM. As of right now, the plan is to meet in the new Youth Center. We will be talking/brainstorming about more ideas for our area as well as have a small Bible Study. We will also be discussing the Super Bowl Sub Sale for this year. This meeting is for both Jr. High (6th-8th grade) and Sr. High (9th-college) youth. Please keep in mind that if Henry County is still considered a “Level 3” (red county) according to the Health Department, we will not be meeting in person but will meet on Zoom instead. This information will be communicated in the Remind app a few days prior to the scheduled meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Miss Bartok.

**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.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>		Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78		\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 01/03/21	\$12,189.00		\$187.00	\$455.00
ATTENDANCE 01/03/21:		Sunday – 93		

**MEMORIALS** for *Elmer Badenhop*: St. John Building Fund - \$1,690;  
St. John Endowment Fund – School Acct. - \$88

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

**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.

**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!

**USE OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL** – If you would like to use the Fellowship Hall for any occasion, on a certain date this year, **please contact the church/school office at 419-598-8961 or 419-598-8702.** In addition to calling the office, you may want to check the online master calendar at <http://www.dynacal.com/sjl/> (*you can also link to it from [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)*).

**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...**

**Wise Men still seek Him. Scripture will be your G.P.S.**

*“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.” (Isa 55:6)*



**JESUS' BAPTISM**