



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

November 14, 2021

VOL. 86 NO. 46
Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339
Church Website: www.sjl.org

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon Title & Text: "Birth Pains" *Mark 3:1-13*
Service: Morning Prayer (LSB pg. 235)
Hymns: (Thr.) 508 ~ 530 ~ 968 ~ 757
(Sun.) 508: 1-4 ~ [Baptism: "Borning Cry" / 588] ~ 530 ~ 968 ~ 757

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS *All are welcome in our worship services! After all, this is our Father's house where we meet together. He himself invites us to listen to him, to cast our sins, our sorrows, our anxiety on him; He sets us free, and enables us to live as his children. O magnify the name of the Lord, for he is greatly to be praised! If you have no church of your own, we invite you to make this your home church. But above all, we invite you to come to worship with us at any time. Please fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave.*



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Olivia Foor, Brice Baumert, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Neil Badenhop, Doug Dietrich, Joe Badenhop, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Kathy Behnfeldt, Deb Von Deylen, *Altar Guild* ✠

BAPTISM THIS MORNING – Harlow June Myles

This morning we welcome to God's family little **Harlow June Myles**, infant daughter of **Jake & Marlea Myles**. Harlow was born on Sept. 23 at the Fulton County Health Center in Wauseon. Her sponsors in baptism are **Kipp & McKenzie McCann** (*McKenzie is Jake's sister*). Her grandparents are **Dave & Sara Myles**, and **Daniel & Daryce Rolander**. We rejoice with this family at the gift of this child given to them in God's grace. May they be faithful to raise *Harlow* in the love of the Lord, that she may inherit with us one day the eternal kingdom of God!



In God's House This Week*Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl*

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 10:20AM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Children's Christmas Participation slips due today
Tues.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>)
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship (<i>last one for this year</i>)
Sat.	10:00AM	B-Ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls @ Woodburn, IN Lutheran Tournament
Sun.	9:00AM 10:20AM 10:30AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Special Voters' Meeting
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Daniel Broaddus</i> , Zion Lutheran – Edgerton

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:

- ❖ *Melba Elling, Lorna Von Deylen, Norma Damman, Evelyn Rohrs*, at Genacross – Napoleon
- ❖ *Ruth Mahnke*, at Assisted Living – Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ **Military:** *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Jared Dishop, Jordan Lange*
- ❖ *Esther Layton, Florence Jones, Sue Hurst, Eileen Fitzenreiter, and Don Lawrence*, for health concerns relating to cancer
- ❖ *Jamie Damman*, recovering from injuries sustained in a serious car accident
- ❖ *Hildegard Behrmann*, who was hospitalized again this week at Parkview – Fort Wayne, IN

DANCING IN HEAVEN! We mourn the passing of *Clara M. Meyer*, 96, on Sat., Nov. 6th at her home. Clara's funeral was held at St. John on Sat., Nov. 13th at 11:00 AM. Her committal service was held following the funeral, at St. John Cemetery. Clara always had a friendly smile and could converse with anyone about anything. She never met a stranger! We continue to pray for her daughters, Diane Meyer, Nancy (Jack) Glaser, and Betty Ashbaugh, along with her extended family.

SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING NEXT SUNDAY, NOV. 21

At its November meeting the Church Council called for a special Voters' Meeting to handle a couple of pressing matters. The brief agenda for this meeting is as follows:

- Issue a teacher call to Mrs. Michelle Weddelman. Mrs. Weddelman has completed her colloquy and is now eligible to receive a call.
- Inform the congregation of an option we have to purchase the home of *Harold Behrmann*, so that we can make an informed decision at the regular December Voters' Meeting.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY THIS MORNING
Provoking Proverbs ♦ Sixth Commandment



“You shall not commit adultery.” God would have us “lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do.” (Small Catechism) The culture, however, totally disregards this will of God and would have us express ourselves sexually in whatever way we wish or feels best. When it comes to sexual ethics, we are reliving days of Israel’s judges in which “*everyone did what was right in their own eyes.*” (Judges 21:25)

In our Sunday Adult Study, we are looking at the biblical Proverbs categorized according to the Ten Commandments. Join us this morning as the *Proverbs provoke us* to sexual purity in what we say and do, contrary to the culture and as witnesses to God. **Each session is a study unto itself, so don’t feel like you shouldn’t come if you weren’t there for previous sessions.** Bible Study is a wonderful time of growth in God’s Word and of Christian fellowship. **Oh, and we have coffee too!**

LAST THURSDAY EVENING SERVICE THIS YEAR - At its October meeting the church council decided that Thursday services should continue through Nov. 18, the week before Thanksgiving. **The final regular Thursday Service this year will be THIS THURSDAY, Nov. 18th.** The following week there will be a Wednesday evening Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:00 p.m. Then the week after that we begin regular Advent midweek services on Wednesday evenings, Dec. 1, 8, and 15.



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. 24 at 7:00. p.m. 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.

NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENT PROCESS IS UNDERWAY – The Stewardship Board continues the process of identifying individuals to fill the various offices of our congregation for service to Christ and His people. We ask that everyone please keep this process in your prayers, praying that God would incline the hearts of those nominated or appointed to accept. If you receive a letter or oral request to take an office, please give the matter prayerful consideration. The Stewardship Board has prayed for you, that God might use you and the gifts He has given you, for His service.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 11/07/21	\$9,945.00	\$230.00	\$300.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 39; Sunday – 195

ADD’L MEMORIALS for *Harold Behrmann*: St. John Lutheran Memorial Fund - \$45

MOVING TOWARD NORMALCY – The elders discussed how we might begin to return to some normalcy as the threat of the Covid virus diminishes. Please share your thoughts with the pastor or an Elder, (*Denny Behnfeldt, Todd Hesterman, Steve Gruenhagen, Jeremy Honeman, Dave Von Deylen, Mike Maassel*).

HOLY COMMUNION: The elders discussed returning to our normal Communion practices, and would like to solicit your thoughts and input. There are two matters specifically:

- What are your thoughts about returning to the Communion rail for the Lord's Supper? What if we had only five people at each 'table' so that we aren't kneeling shoulder-to-shoulder?
- What are your thoughts about returning to the Common Cup, with the option, of course, of the individual cup for those who prefer?

BULLETINS: It was decided that we would begin handing out the bulletins, since research indicates that it is highly unlikely that the Covid virus can be transmitted on surfaces. If you still prefer to pick up your own bulletin, a stack will be available on the narthex table.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE 2021 – After last year's cancellation of the Christmas Children's Service, it will be good to see the children once again this Christmas, telling that old, old story of Jesus coming to this earth to save us, and singing His praises! **The Children's Christmas Service is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 19 at 7:00 p.m.**

TODAY IS THE DEADLINE for parents to inform us of their children's participation in this service. Parts will be assigned to the children this week, and rehearsals will begin soon

in Sunday School and at school. Information and a response form were mailed out – we hope everyone received it. Use the response form and return it to Sunday School or school, or simply call Joyce at the church office by Monday.

POINSETTIA SALE! The poinsettia sale for Christmas is now underway, and pink order forms are on the narthex table. **The deadline for ordering is Thurs., Nov. 18th.** The cost is \$8.00 per plant. You may put your order form and check payable to *St. John Lutheran School* in the box on the narthex table. Be sure to fill in the line, "*In Loving Memory of*" or "*In Honor of*". This information will be published in the church bulletin as an insert the Sunday the poinsettias are placed in the sanctuary.



CHRISTMAS CARDS: Check out the table in the hallway by the cry room! The Women of Freedom have put out their boxed Christmas, sympathy, birthday, and all occasion cards for sale. The dish cloths are no longer available. Be sure to check out the display board to see if you are interested in purchasing any cutlery items such as: Paring Knives, Stubby Butcher Knives, Pie Servers, Vegetable Peelers, Slicer Knives, Granny Forks, Carving Forks, Pizza Cutters, Tomato Slicer, and Small Spatula. Contact *Mabel Bischoff* or *Karan Niebergall* if you would like to see or purchase any of these items.

PATHS TO LUTHERANISM SERIES... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen to stories of guests who have come to Lutheranism from Islam, Mormonism, Atheism, Agnosticism, Roman Catholicism, Pentecostalism and more. Go to issuesetc.org/pathstolutheranism.

THREE WAYS TO GIVE YOUR REGULAR 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:

- **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.

SCRIP ORDER FORM: Why not start your Christmas shopping early! There are so many vendors on the Scrip order form, that you can't go wrong. Order forms are inserted in today's bulletin. Check it out and submit your order on Wednesdays. Orders are placed on Fridays and then delivered on the following Tuesday. The order form is also posted on FastDirect under 'Links,' titled SCRIP Order Forms and SCRIP Program Info. There are also hard copy order forms in the tract rack in the narthex. 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 *Joe Badenhop* 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 Joe Badenhop, 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.

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!

OHIO ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN: The Ohio Division OGT is located in the north end of the Culligan Water Conditioning building on Independence Drive in Napoleon. Someone is usually there to receive items on the first Tuesday of the month from 9:00-11:00 AM. If you need to drop off items at another time, please contact *Nancy Helmke* (419-758-3539), *Diann Meyer-Grieser* (419-267-3485), or *Vicki Grieser* (419-445-2986) and they will be happy to meet you and open the facility for you.

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.**

LUTHERAN LIFE MAGAZINE: We have about 40 Lutheran Life magazines for congregation members to pick up with their Portals of Prayer or My Devotion booklets at the desk in the narthex. These were sent with our Concordia Publishing House book orders this summer and have a lot of good stories that celebrate the joys, trials, vocations, and differences of many God-given families. Enjoy!

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. These donations will be used for the purchase of **only** food products this year. The campaign runs from now through December 3rd. 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 says thank you.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER! The churches and service groups of Henry County are hosting a community Thanksgiving Meal at St. Paul Lutheran, 1075 Glenwood Ave., Napoleon on Thurs., Nov. 25th from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM (Drive-thru only). See flyer!

IF YOU FEEL LIKE getting involved with the Community Thanksgiving Dinner, the Committee is looking for pie bakers. They need about 50 pumpkin pies for this year’s dinner. That’s a lot of pies! If you would like to donate a pumpkin pie(s) you can do so by dropping them off in St. Paul’s church narthex the Wednesday (11-24) before Thanksgiving Day. Their narthex will be open and there will be tables set up for your donation of pies. Monetary donations can also be accepted.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: **Order deadline is TOMORROW.** The Ridgeville Sons of the American Legion are asking you to join them in their mission to place “wreaths across America” in 2021. National Wreaths Across America Day is Dec. 18, 2021. Sponsored wreaths are placed on grave markers at state and national veterans’ cemeteries, as well as at local, community cemeteries each December. Wreath Sponsorship Forms and more information is available on the narthex table. Wreaths may also be sponsored online at www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

“When asked if my cup is half-full or half-empty, my only response is that I am thankful I have a cup.” — Sam Lefkowitz

“The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup.” (Psa 16:5)