



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

November 28, 2021

VOL. 86 NO. 48
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

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sermon Title & Text: "Days More Important Than Others" *Jeremiah 33:14-16*

Service: Service of Prayer & Preaching (LSB pg. 260)

Hymns: 332 ~ (Baptism: "Borning Cry", 601) ~ 339 ~ 554

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, loaded with possibilities to learn something new, to gain fresh insights into his great truths. If you are a visitor, please fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card in front of you and drop it in the baskets as you leave.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Cooper Speiser & Brice Baumert, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Neil Badenhop, Doug Dietrich, Joe Badenhop, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Kathy Behnfeldt, Deb Von Deylen, *Altar Guild* ✠

BAPTISM THIS MORNING – Leo David McCann

This morning we welcome to God's family little **Leo David McCann**, infant son of **Kipp & McKenzie (Myles) McCann**. *Leo* was born on Sept. 8 at St. Luke's Hospital in Maumee. His sponsors in baptism are **Jake Myles** and **Kendra Vittorio**. His grandparents are **Dave & Sara Myles**, and **Jim & Carol McCann**. We rejoice with this family at the gift of this child given to them in God's grace. May they be faithful to raise *Leo* in the love of the Lord, that he may inherit with us one day the eternal kingdom of God!



CHURCH DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS – Join the School Board this Tuesday, Nov. 30 at 5:30 as we decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. There are trees to be put up and decorated, wreaths and garland to hang, nativity sets to be placed around, etc. Making God's house beautiful is one of the ways we express our love and gratitude to God for His immeasurable gift of grace in giving us His only Son to be our Savior!

In God's House This WeekOnline church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 10:20AM 10:30AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School Student Bell Choir practice
Mon.	8:20 AM	Classes resume
Tues.	5:30 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Decorating sanctuary for Christmas (<i>see bulletin note</i>) School Board Meeting Shepherd Committee Board of Elders
Wed.	5:45 PM 7:00 PM	Junior Confirmation Class (<i>until 6:45 PM</i>) Advent Worship Service Offering: <i>Lutheran Bible Translators</i> Acolytes: <i>Maddox Oyer & Raegan Dietrich</i> Ushers: <i>Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop, Denny Bockelman</i> Altar Guild: <i>Deb Wachtman, Kathy Gruenhagen, Nancy Short</i>
Thurs.	6:30 AM 4:30 PM	Men's Bible Study Breakfast B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 5:30 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys @ St. Paul – Napoleon
Sat.	9:00 AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls (BLUE); 10:00 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys; 11:00 AM Gr. 4-6 Girls (WHITE) @ St. Mary's – Edgerton
Sun.	9:00AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM

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
- ❖ *Hildegard Behrmann*, who is at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab recovering from a recent hospitalization
- ❖ *Pat Kramer*, who is recovering from surgery this past week at Cleveland Clinic to prepare her for a prosthetic leg

MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE – Starting this Wednesday, the midweek confirmation class will meet from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., dismissing in time for the worship services at 7:00 p.m. We will resume our regular schedule in the new year on Wednesday, January 5th.

“**THE LAMP**” is being cancelled until the first Sunday in January (Jan. 2), so that the youth can assist with the Children’s Christmas Service rehearsals. Youth, please come on Sundays and help out!

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!**



ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES – The theme this year for our midweek Advent services is, “**Ageless Advent Questions.**” The questions Advent poses for us and all humanity are suggested by in texts of Advent by John the Baptist, Mary, and the shepherds. They are ageless questions that we all need to ponder.

The midweek Advent schedule is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Dec. 1	“Are You the One?” <i>Matthew 11:2-11</i>	Lutheran Bible Translators
Dec. 8	“How Will This Be?” <i>Luke 1:5-38</i>	Worship Anew
Dec. 15	“For Me?” <i>Luke 2:8-16</i>	National Youth Gathering

**Please join us for our Advent evening praise, each Wednesday of December.
Worship begins at 7:00 p.m.**

BULLETIN STUFFER VOLUNTEERS: Want to get involved? Why not try volunteering to help with stuffing the bulletins for worship services. It’s not too difficult and can be done either at church or in the comfort of your own home. The bulletins are pre-folded. If anyone is willing to donate a little time toward stuffing bulletins, we are looking for about 11-12 couples/families to sign up for this task. If you feel you would like to give this a try, there is a signup sheet on the narthex table. You can even pick the month(s) that work best for you. We can accommodate your busy schedules. **NOTE:** *If you have stuffed bulletins in the past year, thank you for your service. We ask that you please sign up again and choose your month. You can also call Lori Langenhop at 419-598-8151 or email her at lahop@bright.net.*

STUDENT BELL CHOIR: The student bell choir will be playing for the Children's Christmas Service this year. In order for this to be accomplished, a number of high school students were asked to help. If (as a high schooler) you are interested in playing there will be scheduled practices after church on the following Sundays: **Nov. 28**, Dec. 5, and Dec. 19. It will involve 6 students. I am sorry that this conflicts with the youth Bible Class. Karan Niebergall, is directing and can be reached at 419-966-2084, or by email at dkniebs@embarqmail.com.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE 2021 is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 19 at 7:00 p.m. The children have been assigned parts. Printed copies were handed out in school this past week, and will continue to be handed out in Sunday School. Our SJLS students will be rehearsing on Mondays and Tuesdays, and all participating children **will have full rehearsals in the sanctuary on the Sundays of December, 10:15–11:30 a.m. Another full rehearsal will take place on Friday,**

Dec. 17th. It is vital that the children be present for these rehearsals.

- **A reminder: To make rehearsal run as smoothly as possible, we ask that parents not congregate in the narthex during rehearsals.**

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/21/21	\$5,569.00	\$290.00	\$2,259.05
ATTENDANCE:	Thursday – 38;	Sunday – 133	

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.

USHER, AND ALTAR GUILD SIGN-UP – We are preparing the 2022 Usher, and Altar Guild schedules so this is the time to sign-up at the table in the narthex. 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? The sign-up deadline is Sunday, Dec. 12th. *If you are currently serving as an usher or are on an altar guild team, you will remain on that team for 2022, unless you notify the office otherwise.*

2022 OFFERING BOXES: Offering envelope boxes will be available in early December. The financial commitments you make as well as how you contribute are between you and God. The church provides offering envelopes to our members in order to promote faithful and joyful giving as well as to serve as a means to record member contributions throughout the year for charitable tax purposes. Due to the costs of these envelope boxes, members who elect to not use their envelopes over the course of two years (*for whatever reason*) will no longer be issued a box of envelopes. If at any time such a member would like to resume using envelopes, please contact *Jerry Langenhop*, Finance Trustee.

MY DEVOTIONS for December, January, and February are available on the desk in the narthex. Pick up your copy today! If you know of someone who would enjoy these, please take one for them.

NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENT STILL 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. If you receive a letter or oral request to take an office, please give the matter prayerful consideration. The Board has prayed for you, that God might use you and the gifts He has given you.

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 Honemann, 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.

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.

WORSHIP ANEW – Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. produces a weekly, 30-minute Lutheran broadcast worship service called Worship Anew. Each service includes music, scripture readings, prayers, and a pastor delivering a message that is designed to feel one-on-one to the viewer. Each program is closed-captioned for the hearing impaired. For over 50 plus years, the ministry's dedicated staff and supporters have touched the lives of countless viewers around the world. They look forward to the continuation and expansion of this ministry in the years to come. Lutheran Ministries Media would like to thank you for your prayers and your support of God's work through Worship Anew. Broadcasts can be viewed every Sunday on: *Toledo's WTVG(CW) Channel 13.2 at 10:30 AM.*

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.**

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.

PTL SOAP SALE FUNDRAISER: The PTL would like to thank **EVERYONE** for purchasing and supporting their recent fundraiser. The net proceeds were phenomenal. The profit to the PTL was \$3,493. Thank you to Nicole Stier for coordinating this fundraiser for the PTL.

ASKING FOR DONATIONS: With the addition of our STEM classes this year, we are asking if anyone would have any of the following items lying around the house (or tucked away in a cupboard) that you would consider donating to the STEM Lab: 1) Salad Spinner; 2) Large size square see-thru plastic containers; 3) Tempera Paints; 4) Balloons; 5) Rubber Bands; 6) Popsicle sticks or tongue depressors. And for our Music Department, any used drumsticks for the Music classes. Thank you!

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. 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".

AREA EVENTS:

- **Holiday Home Tour on Sat., Dec. 4th** from 4:30 – 8:30 PM in downtown Ridgeville Corners, OH. See flyer on the bulletin board for a lot more festivities that day also.
- **Christmas Village Craft Show – Sun., Dec. 5th** from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM at the Ridgeville American Legion. See flyer!
- **A Christmas Concert** by The Toledo Symphony String Orchestra – **Wed., Dec. 15th** at 7:30 PM at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon Twp. See "red" flyer for all the ticket information and details.

✂ ✂ ✂

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Church sign: We are not Dairy Queen, but we have great Sundays!

"I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" (Psa 122:1)