



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

December 5, 2021

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SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sermon Title & Text: "Glad, Thrilling Repentance" *Luke 3:1-14*
Service: *Divine Service, Setting Three (LSB pg. 184)*
Hymns: **344 ~ 345 ~ (Communion: 354, 622) ~ 349**

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* ✘ Dakota Szabo, Zeb Kramer, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, Dennis Showman, Dave Von Deylen, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Nancy Short, Kathy Gruenhagen, Deb Wachtman, *Altar Guild* ✘

ADULT BIBLE STUDY THIS MORNING - A Longer Look at the Lessons

Presently we are detouring from our study of the "Provoking Proverbs" to take a longer, deeper look at the Scripture lessons for the season of Advent. **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!**

VOTERS' MEETING will be held on Sunday, Dec. 19th following the worship service. On the agenda as of this printing is: 1) *Election of Officers*; 2) *Approval of 2022 Budget*; 3) *Discussion and decision on the Harold Behrmann property.*

"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!

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 10:20AM 10:30AM	Communion Service Children's Christmas practice (<i>until 11:30 AM</i>); Adult Bible Class Student Bell Choir practice
Tues.	10:20AM 10:35AM 7:00 PM	2-Hour delayed start-up (scheduled) School Chapel Stewardship Board Meeting
Wed.	8:00 AM 10:00AM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM	Last SCRIP orders due before Christmas Secret Santa set-up (lots of help needed) Secret Santa shopping from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Junior Confirmation Class (<i>until 6:45 PM</i>) Advent Worship Service Offering: <i>Worship Anew</i> Acolytes: <i>Addison Naveau, Peyton Naveau</i> Ushers: <i>Doug Dietrich, Joe Badenhop, Neil Badenhop</i> Altar Guild: <i>Deb Wachtman, Kathy Gruenhagen, Nancy Short</i>
Thurs.	6:00 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 7:00 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys @ St. Pats – Bryan
Sat.	10:00AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:00 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs Solomon–Woodville (H)
Sun.	9:00AM 10:20AM	Worship Service w/Communion following Children's Christmas practice (<i>until 11:30 AM</i>); Adult Bible Class
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

Drive-thru Communion after worship under carport

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
- ❖ *Hildegard Behrmann*, at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ *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
- ❖ *Pat Kramer*, who is recovering from a medical emergency she experienced prior to surgery at Cleveland Clinic last week

HEARTFELT THANKS: Thank you for your many expressions of sympathy and your support as we adjust and celebrate the blessing of our mom/grandma. *The Clara Meyer Family*

CHURCH DECORATING THANKS – Thank you to the School Board and to other assisting individuals for decorating the sanctuary for this holy season. 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!



A NOTE OF THANKS: I wish to thank Pastor Niermann and the members of St. John for their prayers to God for my recovery. I am currently at home recuperating from my medical emergency, and feeling better each day. Signed, *Pat Kramer*

MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE – During the month of December, the midweek confirmation class is meeting from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., dismissing in time for everyone to get to the midweek Advent service at 7:00 p.m. We will resume our regular schedule in the new year on Wednesday, January 5th.



Ageless Advent
Questions

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.**

ADVENT DEVOTIONS FROM L.H.M. – Lutheran Hour Ministries has made available their 2021 Advent Devotions, on the theme, “Child of Promise.” To access these devotions, go to www.lhm.org/advent. A handful of print copies are also available on the narthex table today. Light an Advent Wreath at home and make these devotions part of your daily household routine!

BULLETIN STUFFER VOLUNTEERS: Want to get involved? Why not try volunteering to help with stuffing the bulletins for the 2022 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: **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

Full Rehearsals Begin Today during Sunday School, from approximately 10:15 to 11:30 in the sanctuary. For the smooth running of rehearsals it is important that each student be present for these Sunday rehearsals. Thank you, moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas, for getting them here!

Just a reminder – we ask that everyone please clear out of the narthex after worship, since the buzz of conversation in the narthex makes it very difficult to conduct rehearsals. If you wish to visit together, please do so in the front hallway of the school. Thank you!

COVID MEASURES – Recently we've been soliciting people's input about taking small steps toward normalcy, especially with respect to worship. We thank everyone who offered us their thoughts and opinions. The overwhelming majority of people we heard from are of the opinion that we are not out of the woods yet with respect to Covid, and that we should continue for the time being giving our offerings and receiving Holy Communion as we have been doing it now for some time. Thanks again to everyone who shared your thoughts!

LIST OF 2022 CHURCH OFFICE NOMINATIONS: (as of the printing of this bulletin)

ELECTED: Vice Pres. – *vacant*; Treasurer – *Cathy Gerken**

Financial Trustee – *Jerry Langenhop*; Elder – *vacant, vacant*

Stewardship Board – *Cheryl Sausser, Randy Rosebrock*

Board of Education – *Abbie Badenhop, Yajaira Kruse*

Alt. Delegate Synod – *Peter Gerken**

APPOINTED: Secretary – *vacant*; Church Deacon – *vacant*

Trustee – *Roger Lulfs, Dan Wiechers*; Cemetery Sexton – *Ben Kruse**

Cemetery Board – *Lowell Petzoldt, Glenn Badenhop, Todd Kruse (Brenda)*

Asst. Sunday School Supt. – *Jenna Kehnast*

NOTE: *The * indicates current office holder. As you can see, there are still ballot spots that need filled, so please consider serving and contact Pastor Niermann or the church office. Installation of newly elected or appointed officers for 2022 will be conducted in the Jan. 2nd Sunday Service.*

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES – With gratitude to God for the generous support of our members of the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this place, the 2022 offering envelopes are available today. Please pick yours up, and may God prosper the work of your hands and the giving of His people! If you did not receive a box of envelopes but would like one, please contact *Jerry Langenhop* (419-598-8151) until Jan. 1st. After Jan. 1st, please contact *Jim Hogrefe* (419-267-3806).

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.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/28/21	\$18,232.62	\$90.00	\$110.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – N/A; Sunday – 181

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE: \$1,352.00–Henry Co Christmas Cheer; Attendance: 93

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.*

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, Karan Niebergall* if you would like to see or purchase any of these items.

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 FOR THE HOLIDAYS: **The last SCRIP orders for Christmas are due on Wed., Dec. 8th.** SCRIP orders will resume when school is back in session on Mon., Jan. 3. Think ahead...if you give out gift cards for Christmas consider purchasing them from PTL. There are many vendors on the Scrip order form, that you can't go wrong. Order forms and program information are posted on FastDirect under 'Links,' titled SCRIP Order Forms and SCRIP Program Info. There are also order forms in the 'School Info' rack outside the office and on the table in the narthex. Please feel free to share with family and friends. 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.

LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT – How You Can Help? If you have used **prescription or nonprescription** glasses or sunglasses in your drawers, desks, or closets, you can donate them now! Children's glasses are especially needed. Both plastic and metal frames are accepted. There is a box on the table in the narthex for the collection of these used glasses.

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.

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!

AREA EVENTS:

- **Christmas Village Craft Show** – Sun., Dec. 5th from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM at the Ridgeville American Legion. See flyer!
- **Ridgeville Legion Blood Drive** will be held tomorrow, Dec. 6th from 12–6:00 PM at the Legion Hall. Walk-ins are welcome! Give “the gift” during the Christmas season!
- **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.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Who would have ever thought a manger could be a King-sized bed?

*Instead of soft and silken stuff You have but hay and straw so rough
On which as King, so rich and great, To be enthroned in royal state.*

LSB 358: 11