



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

December 19, 2021

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FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sermon Title & Text: "He Shall Be Their Peace" *Micah 5:2-5a*
Service: *Divine Service, Setting Five (LSB pg. 213)*
Hymns: **342 ~ 361** ~ (Communion: **357, 353**) ~ **373**

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* ✠

VOTERS' MEETING – Today, while the children are rehearsing after worship for their special service, the voters will gather in the fellowship hall for the final meeting of 2021. On the agenda is:
1) Election of 2022 Officers; 2) Approval of 2022 Budget; 3) Decision on the purchase of the Harold Behrmann property; 4) Endowment distribution change; 5) Board of Ed Scholarship possibilities; 6) First reading of a proposed bylaw amendment

POINSETTIA PLANTS – The poinsettias are adorning the sanctuary this morning and will be used for the various Christmas Services. Please see the insert in today's bulletin for a listing of those who purchased these poinsettias. If you ordered a poinsettia plant, it can be taken home after the Christmas Day Festival Service on Saturday. There will be plastic sleeves to protect them in the side Conference room. Thank you to those who purchased poinsettias this Christmas Season.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY CANCELLED THIS MORNING for the voters' meeting. We will resume our study on Sunday, January 2nd after the new year.



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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 10:20AM 10:30AM 11:30AM 7:00 PM	Communion Service Final Children's Christmas Service Practice for Gr. PS – 8 (<i>until done</i>) Voters' Meeting in Fellowship Hall School Board & LYF sacking candy after Voters' Meeting Children's Christmas Service (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.		NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break (<i>thru Sun., Jan. 2, 2022</i>)
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr High Confirmation Class (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Fri.	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service of Carols & Candles ; Offering: <i>Home Fund</i> Acolytes: <i>Mitch Rosebrock</i> Ushers: <i>Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel</i> Altar Guild: <i>Deb Wachtman, Kathy Gruenhagen, Nancy Short</i>
Sat.	9:30 AM	Christmas Day Festival Service w/Communion ; Offering: <i>Home Fund</i> Acolyte: <i>Garrison Kruse</i> Ushers: <i>Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, Dennis Showman, Dave Von Deylen</i> Altar Guild: <i>Deb Wachtman, Kathy Gruenhagen, Nancy Short</i>
Sun.	9:00AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Sunday School
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Dale Kern, Retired, St. John Lutheran – Stryker</i>

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, Robin Showman, Sue Hurst, Eileen Fitzenreiter*, and *Don Lawrence*, for health concerns relating to cancer
- ❖ *Pat Kramer*, who continues to recover from a recent medical emergency
- ❖ *Curt Fauver*, hospitalized with Covid and was now transferred to Cleveland Clinic

MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS is back to its regular schedule. We will meet this Wednesday, Dec. 22 from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. Students should come to class with their completed tests for unit 2. *Class will **not meet** the last Wednesday of December, and will resume in the new year on January 5th at 6:15 p.m.*

SACKING CANDY: The School Board and Sr. High LYF members will be filling the Christmas candy sacks in the gym today following Christmas Practice and the Voters' Meeting.

STUDENT BELL CHOIR: The student bell choir will be playing for the Children's Christmas Service tonight. The final scheduled practice is after church today.

ALTAR FLOWERS CHRISTMAS EVE: The altar flowers on Christmas Eve are in memory of *Mark & Mary Seibert*, and are provided by *Brad, Sarah, Mitch* and *Anika Rosebrock*, as they remember their parents and grandparents at this time of year.

LIST OF 2022 CHURCH OFFICE NOMINATIONS:

ELECTED: Vice Pres. – *Dan Wachtman*; Treasurer – *Cathy Gerken**
Financial Trustee – *Jerry Langenhop**; Elder – *Todd Hesterman**, *vacant*
Stewardship Board – *Cheryl Sausser, Randy Rosebrock*
Board of Education – *Abbie Badenhop, Yajaira Kruse*
Alt. Delegate Synod – *Peter Gerken**
APPOINTED: Secretary – *Todd Wachtman*; Church Deacon – *Dale Damman*
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. Installation of newly elected or appointed officers for 2022 will be conducted in the Jan. 2nd Sunday Service.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE TONIGHT

The children have been working hard to present to you the good news of Christmas in songs, recitations, and readings.

**Their special Christmas Service, "Light a Candle,"
is this evening at 7:00 p.m.**

After suspending last years' service because of Covid, it will be wonderful to hear from the students and children once again about the wondrous news of our Savior's birth. Please join us!

DRESS CODE for the Children's Christmas Service is as follows: Girls should wear either a dress or dress pants and a blouse or sweater. Boys should wear dress pants or khakis (*no cargo pants*) and a sweater or dress shirt (*any color*) and tie (*optional*). No jeans, please.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Please note that there are no offering envelopes in your boxes for the Children's Christmas Service tonight. If you wish for your offering to be recorded, use any spare Sunday envelope in your set. Regardless of which envelope you use, unless you specify something in writing on the envelope, we will apply your contribution to the Home Fund as designated.

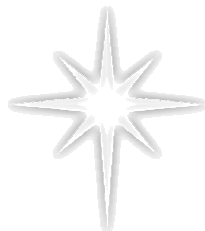


Christmas at St. John

Friday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve Service of Carols & Candles

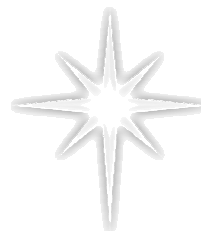
7:00 p.m.



Saturday, Dec. 25

Christmas Day Festival Service

9:30 a.m. – with Communion, the “Christ Mass”



Sunday, Dec. 26

First Sunday after Christmas

9:00 a.m.

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).

EXPERT GUESTS, EXPANSIVE TOPICS, EXTOLLING CHRIST... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week’s subjects include: The Christmas Hymn “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming,” The Movie “Spider-Man: No Way Home,” What Can We Learn from “The Benedict Option”?, Jesus Seeking the Lost in Luke 15 and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 12/12/21	\$21,883.00	\$1,625.00	\$795.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – N/A; Sunday – 152

2ND ADVENT SERVICE: \$792.00 – Worship Anew; Attendance: 81

MEMORIALS for *Clara Meyer*: St. John Lutheran Church Memorial Fund - \$1,205.00

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.

POSITION OPENINGS: St. John Lutheran School is asking for your help as we are seeking names for consideration for the Principal position and the 7th & 8th Grade Teacher position for the 2022-2023 school year. Pastor Kramer (Principal) and Pat Kramer (Grade 7&8 Teacher) will both be leaving us at the end of the current 2021-2022 school year. Requirements for the jobs are: Must have a Bachelor degree in education, obtain a background check, supply three references, and adhere to the St. John Lutheran Church and School religious beliefs. If you have names please call the school office at 419-598-8702. Interested persons can also mail a resume' to St. John Lutheran School, 16035 County Road U, Napoleon, OH 43545.

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 2021. Here are the individual year-to-date deposits for 2021: **St. John Church - \$10,374.00; St. John School - \$2,516.00; St. John Preschool \$-0-**. A "thank you" to Thrivent for providing these funds.

PORTALS OF PRAYER booklets for January, February, and March are on the desk in the back of the church. Pick up your copy today!

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!

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.

GOT SOME TIME? Why not be an adult volunteer at St. John School. You could listen to children read, talk about your time in the military, work with flash cards, or tell children about a hobby or craft you enjoy doing. The possibilities are endless and your time with them will be priceless!

If you would be interested in volunteering in the school, please call the school office at 419-598-8702 and give us your name and a contact number. The school will contact you. Thank you in advance for thinking about volunteering at our school.

HELP US KEEP UPDATED RECORDS – With the advent of cell phones, keeping current contact information is an issue for every organization these days, including the church. When people move or get a new phone number, they often don't think to update that information with us, often leaving us with no way to contact them for ministry related matters. So please, if you move or get a new phone number, contact the church office or make a note of it on the *Rite of Fellowship Card* and help us keep our records as up-to-date as possible.

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. **We will wind up our membership drive on Wed., Dec. 29th.** Be sure to turn your form and payment in by then. Prices are \$20.00 for a couple and \$10.00 for an individual. Make checks payable to St. John Boosters.

LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN’S ACTIVITY BULLETINS are available on the table in the narthex. The Children’s Bulletins are coordinated with the Bible texts for each Sunday, and provide activities that tie in with the weekly themes. Pick one up today for your child.

PROJECT CONNECT – There are many free booklets in the rack in the narthex. Be sure to check for some good reading. Some titles are: “*Why Do Bad Things Happen To Me,*” “*Has God Abandoned Me,*” “*Dealing with Depression,*” “*Coping with Cancer,*” “*Who Is Jesus,*” “*Just Stress?*”, “*Overcoming A Painful Childhood,*” “*Where’s God in All of This?*”, “*Why Should I go to Church?*” and many more. These booklets are furnished through the Lutheran Hour Ministries.

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 to receive your donations! PLEASE do not drop off items at the warehouse when it is closed. Thank you!

STAMP COLLECTING: The LWML is collecting “Stamps For Missions.” Here is what you do: Cut the stamps from the envelopes allowing ¼ inch margin or more around the stamp. The stamp may not be damaged and the perforations around the stamp must be perfect. Regular stamps are no longer accepted. You need not trim the stamp; we have someone who trims and sorts the stamps. Do not remove stamps from envelopes, albums, and older postcards. An “old” postcard is usually from 1930 or before. The most valuable stamps are commemorative and foreign. Collecting stamps is an easy way to participate in a mission project sponsored by the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League. A yellow box is on the table in the narthex.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

All we want for Christmas is your presence!

“Blessed are those who dwell in Your house, ever singing Your praise!” Psa 84:4