



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

December 26, 2021

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Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339  
Church Website: www.sjl.org

### **FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

Sermon Title: "Prepared for Heaven" *Luke 2:22-40*  
Service: *See printed Service Folder*  
Hymns: **389 ~ 358 ~ 386 ~ 376 ~ 381**

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### **CHRISTMAS SEASON NOTES**

*Peace to all who enter God's House for worship today! We pray that the Child of Bethlehem will find a welcome in your heart and in your life, that you may know the wonder of being loved unconditionally, cherished unceasingly, and saved everlastingly. If you are visiting with us this morning, please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the basket at the doors as you leave today.*  
***Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!***

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### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Alex Wachtman, *Acolyte* ✠
- ✠ Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, Dennis Showman, Dave Von Deylen, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Nancy Short, Kathy Gruenhagen, Deb Wachtman, *Altar Guild* ✠

**PICK UP YOUR POINSETTIAS THIS MORNING** – If you provided poinsettia plants for our sanctuary, please be sure to pick yours up this morning after worship to take home and enjoy. There are plastic sleeves on the table in the conference room to protect them. Thank you for your kind generosity in providing such a beautiful adornment to our worship. The poinsettias this year are so beautiful, and have added so much color and beauty to the chancel!



**DVD COPIES OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICE** – If you called in to order a DVD copy of the children's service and haven't already picked it up, it should be available this morning in the narthex on the table. There may be a few extra copies as well for those who didn't call in.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY CANCELLED THIS MORNING** We will resume our study on Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> after the new year.

**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>	<b>Worship Service</b>
Mon.	5:30 PM	NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break (thru Sun., Jan. 2, 2022) <i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Sun.	<b>9:00AM</b> 10:20AM	<b>Communion Service and Installation of 2022 Church Officers</b> Adult Bible Study; “The Lamp” Youth Bible Study
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Stephen Niermann</i> , St. John Lutheran – Napoleon

**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
- ❖ *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
- ❖ *John Damman*, who is currently dealing with significant health issues. May God strengthen him in spirit and in body.
- ❖ *Rozella Gruenhagen*, for a good report following a recent heart cath. God be praised!

**MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS** will not meet this Wednesday. We will resume our regular schedule on Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> and meet from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.

**2022 CHURCH OFFICERS INSTALLATION NEXT SUNDAY** - With gratitude to God both for those who are completing their terms of office and those who are beginning theirs, we will install the 2022 officers and appointees next Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, in the morning service.

Officers to be installed are: **President** – *Jerry Short*; **Vice President** – *Dan Wachtman*; **Treasurer** – *Cathy Gerken\**; **Financial Trustee** – *Jerry Langenhop\**; **Elder** – *Todd Hesterman\**, *candidate needed*; **Stewardship Board** – *Cheryl Sausser, Randy Rosebrock*; **Board of Education** (installed to take office in July 2022) – *Abbie Badenhop, Yajaira Kruse*; **Secretary** – *Todd Wachtman*; **Church Deacon** – *Dale Damman*; **Alt. Delegate Synod** – *Peter Gerken\**; **Trustee** – *Roger Lulfs, Dan Wiechers*; **Cemetery Sexton** – *Ben Kruse\**; **Cemetery Board** – *Lowell Petzoldt, Glenn Badenhop, Todd Kruse (Brenda)*; **Asst. Sunday School Supt.** – *Jenna Kehnast*

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** booklets for January, February, and March are available on the desk, along with the **MY DEVOTION** booklets for December, January, and February. Pick up your copies today!

# Christmas Thank-You's

We extend a great big 'THANK YOU' to so many people who helped to make our celebration of Christmas so beautiful this year. At the risk of leaving anyone out, we offer thanks to:

- \* The School Board members who helped decorate the sanctuary and bagged up goodies for the children
- \* Other congregation members who assisted in decorating the sanctuary
- \* Those who provided poinsettias for the chancel
- \* The musicians who helped us in our songs and devotion to the new-born Savior: especially *Sharon Damman, Renee Petzoldt, Bethann Gerken*
- \* Those who helped with the children's service: Teachers *Haley O'Neil, Michelle Weddeman, Char Weber, Karan Niebergall, Todd Wachtman*; SJLS Staff; and, of course, the children themselves
- \* *Joyce Wiechers* in the office for all the extra coordination, editing, printing, mailing, phone calls, and who knows what else!
- \* *Dan Wachtman* and *Nathan Nemoyer* for all their help with the sound and technology for streaming and recording the services
- \* Our ushers, altar guild members, acolytes, church deacons



We thank God for all those who put in so much extra time and effort so that we can all enjoy this beautiful season of celebration and joy in the Lord! **God bless you for your service to Christ and His people, and thank you again!**

**2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES** – There are still several 2022 offering envelopes available to be picked up on the narthex table. Please pick yours up soon! If you did not receive a box of envelopes but would like one, please contact *Jerry Langenhop* (419-598-8151) until Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>. After Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, please contact *Jim Hogrefe* (419-267-3806).

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 12/19/21	\$9,011.00	\$700.00	\$687.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – N/A; Sunday – 197

**3<sup>RD</sup> ADVENT SERVICE:** \$700.00 – National Youth Gathering; Attendance: 62

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE:** \$557.00 – Good Neighbor Fund;  
\$1,100.00 – Home Fund; \$40.00 – Building Fund; Attendance: 286

**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 well-deserved thank you to Thrivent for providing these funds.

**THE FLOWER CALENDAR** for 2022 is posted 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 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 ordering 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 you would like in the bulletin before Wednesday of the week you are placing the flowers on the altar/piano. This will insure that you are not forgotten or overlooked.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** The year of our Lord 2021 was kind of a rough year for us in general, and even rougher for some of us individually. Nevertheless we confess that it was the YEAR OF OUR LORD. Since ascending to heaven, Jesus is enthroned with all power and authority, and still resides as the Lord of history. His purposes will not be thwarted, so that for those who love Him, all things work together for good (*Rom 8:28*). Not that everything that happens to be good, and not that we will never grieve or hurt, but that everything will serve God's good purpose for our lives. So also, the New Year will be the YEAR OF OUR LORD. The hands that hold our future are the same hands that were pierced for our salvation! He will never leave or forsake us! That is the one thing we can count on in the new year and always!

A decorative graphic with the words "Happy New Year" written in a large, elegant, black cursive script.

**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.**

**POSITION OPENINGS:** St. John Lutheran School is asking for your help as we are seeking names for consideration for the Principal position and the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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!

**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. 29<sup>th</sup>.** 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.

**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.

**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.

**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...**

**The years may change, but God remains the same!**

*“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Hebrews 13:8*