

# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

January 2, 2022

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NO. 1

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor  
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181  
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339  
Church Website: [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)

### **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

Sermon Title: "I Must Be In My Father's House" *Luke 2:40-52*

Service: *Divine Service, Setting Five (LSB pg. 213)*

Hymns: **384 ~ 410** ~ (Communion: **375, 392, 390**) ~ **383**

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### **A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS**

*The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest this morning, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to our pastor and by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the baskets in the narthex as you leave. Thank you!*

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

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Alex Wachtman, Raegan Dietrich *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, Dennis Showman, Dave Von Deylen, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Diane Von Deylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, *Altar Guild* ✠



**PICK UP YOUR POINSETTIAS THIS MORNING** – If you provided poinsettia plants for our sanctuary and haven't yet picked yours up, please feel free to do so after worship this morning! 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!



**TAKING DOWN THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS** – This Tuesday (1/4) at 6:15 PM members of the School Board and their families, as well as any other interested parties, will be taking down the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary. Thank you for all your help as we transition from Christmas into the Epiphany season.

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** booklets for January, February, and March are available on the desk.

**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> 10:20AM	<b>Communion Service with Installation of Church Officers</b> Adult Bible Study; "The Lamp"
Mon.	8:20 AM	School classes resume
Tues.	<b>8:35 AM</b> 5:00 PM 6:15 PM 7:00 PM	<b>School Chapel</b> School Board Meeting Take down Christmas decorations in the sanctuary Stewardship Board Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr High Confirmation Class ( <i>until 7:30 PM</i> )
Thurs.	6:30 AM 6:00 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast in Fellowship Hall B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 7:00 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs St. Pats – Bryan (H)
Sun.	<b>9:00AM</b> 10:20AM	<b>Worship Service</b> w/Communion following and... Installation of Mrs. Michelle Weddelman during Worship Service Adult Bible Study; "The Lamp" Youth Bible Study
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. James Strawn</i> , St. James Lutheran – Burlington

**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
- ❖ *John Damman*, who is currently dealing with significant health issues. *Steve & Sue Hurst*, both recovering from Covid
- ❖ *The family of Curt Fauver*; Curt passed away a week ago Thursday. He was President of Emmaus Lutheran Church, Wauseon. May God comfort his family and church family.

**MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS** will resume its regular schedule this Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> – we will meet from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. During Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will be back to the alternate schedule, as during Advent.

**2022 ALTAR GUILD and USHER SCHEDULES:** The 2022 Altar Guild and Usher schedules are in the making and will be available over the next few weeks. Thanks again to all who are willing to be of service to the Lord through St. John. You are a blessing!

**INSTALLATION OF 2022 CHURCH OFFICERS** – We give thanks to God for everyone who submitted their names for nomination to our various church offices. Your servant hearts and willing spirits provide an example for us all! Those who were elected or appointed to offices for 2022 will be installed into those offices during worship today.

**President** – *Jerry Short*; **Vice President** – *Dan Wachtman*; **Treasurer** – *Cathy Gerken\**;  
**Financial Trustee** – *Jerry Langenhop\**; **Elder** – *Todd Hesterman\**; **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*

## 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 Weddelman, 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!**

### **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.

**SENIOR HIGH LYF NOTE:** We will be having a final/mandatory NYG meeting on Sun., Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> after church at the Youth Center. If any Senior High youth are interested, they and a parent need to be at this meeting. We need to talk about what it looks like at the moment and come to a final decision on what route we are going to take. See you on the 16<sup>th</sup>!

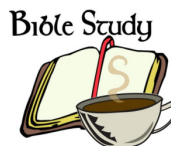
**WOMEN OF FREEDOM PROGRAM BOOKLETS** – The Program Booklets for 2022 are on the narthex table. Pick yours up today! Be sure to check to see what month you are on for serving. If that does not work out for you, please switch with someone.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** The year of our Lord 2021 was rough for us in general and even rougher for some of us individually. Nevertheless we confess that 2021 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. History is HIS STORY! 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 is good, or that we will never grieve or hurt, but that everything will serve God's good purpose for our lives. So also, the New Year 2022 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!

Happy  
New Year

**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 *Jim Hogrefe* (419-267-3806).

**ATTENTION ALL MEN** – Rise and shine this Thursday and join your brothers in Christ for a good breakfast and coffee, and some great discussion around the Word of God. **It's the Men's Bible Breakfast in the fellowship hall this Thursday morning at 6:30 a.m.** There is no better way to start your day.



<b>FINANCIAL FACTS:</b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 12/26/21	\$6,752.00	\$71.00	\$355.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 82

**CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS & CANDLES:** *Home Fund* - \$7,492.00; Attendance: 227  
*Tornado Relief* - \$500.00

**CHRISTMAS DAY FESTIVAL SERVICE:** *Home Fund* - \$18,055.00; Attendance: 107

**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 the flowers or if you want the Women of Freedom to take care of getting them. The price for the flowers through the Women of Freedom is \$21.00. Please remember that it is your responsibility to contact *Mabel*. Also, please contact the church office before Wednesday of the week you are placing flowers, with the information you would like printed in the bulletin.

**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!

**BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS** need to be turned in to the office by Wednesday of each week in order to be included in the Thursday and Sunday bulletin. Please note this. Thank you!

**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.

**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.

**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”.

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#### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**The goal of parenting isn't to raise perfect kids.**

**The goal is to point our imperfect kids to their perfect Savior!**

*“You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus..” 2 Tim 3:15*