



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

November 20, 2022

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Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 419-270-8863
Church Website: www.sjl.org

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

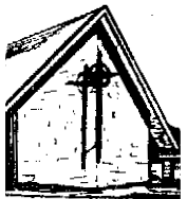
Sermon & Text: "Who You Are in Christ" *Colossians 1:13-20*

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 761 ~ 534 ~ 781 ~ (Communion: 680, 732) ~ 516

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We 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. May we be showered with those blessings as we together profess His Name today. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave today.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘ Peyton Naveau, Addison Naveau, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Neil Badenhop, Doug Dietrich, Joe Badenhop, Nick Sonnenberg, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Lou Ann Rosebrock, Diane Von Deylen, *Altar Guild* ✘

GOING HOME: On Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022, Esther Layton, 88, went home to be with her Lord. Her funeral was held here at St. John on Mon., Nov. 14th at 11:00 AM. Burial took place in our St. John Cemetery following the service. Please keep Esther's children, Linda, Randy, and Tom in your prayers at this time of grief.

AND SUDDENLY GONE! Walter Rosebrock, 92, passed away suddenly on Veteran's Day, Friday, November 11, 2022. Himself a veteran, Walter's funeral service was held at St. John on Thurs., Nov. 17th at 11:00 AM. Following the service, Walter's burial took place in St. John Cemetery. Walter will always be remembered for his friendly smile and calming demeanor. Walter's family, *Lois, Teresa, Donna (Louis), Alan*, and his grandchildren appreciate your prayers at this time of mourning the loss of their husband, father, and grandfather.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:00 PM 5:00 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Jr High LYF High School LYF
Tue.	8:35 AM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Shepherd Committee Board of Elders
Wed.	5:45 PM 7:00 PM	NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING BREAK Junior Confirmation Class (<i>until 6:45 PM</i>) Thanksgiving Eve Service ; Offering: <i>Henry County Christmas Cheer</i> Acolyte: <i>Zeb Kramer</i> Ushers: <i>Neil Badenhop, Doug Dietrich, Joe Badenhop, Nick Sonnenberg</i> Altar Guild: <i>Lou Ann Rosebrock, Diane Von Deylen</i>
Thurs.		NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING BREAK
Fri.		NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING BREAK
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Mon.-Sat	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM

MATTERS FOR PRAYER – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- ❖ *Melba Elling, Lorna Von Deylen, Norma Damman*, at Genacross – Napoleon
- ❖ *Lawrence Behrmann*, at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Niermann, Jared Dishop, Jordan Lange*
- ❖ *Sue Hurst and Dave Crandall*, health concerns related to cancer

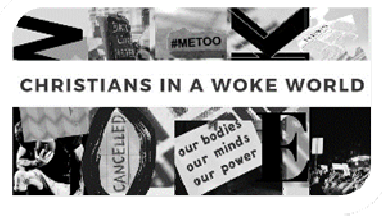
ST. JOHN FAMILY – A heartfelt and sincere thank you to everyone for the prayerful support and kind expressions of sympathy after our sister, *Patty Nicol*, passed from this life to her eternal home in heaven. We grieve, but not as those who have no hope. We are comforted by God’s promise of salvation. “Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.” (*John 6:47*) Thanks be to God!
Signed, *Rev. Robert & Nancy Nemoyer, Michael Nicol, Rev. Stephen & Bonnie Niermann*

POINSETTIA SALE –The poinsettia sale for Christmas starts today and orchid order forms are available at the narthex table. **The deadline for ordering is Sun., Nov. 27th.** **The cost has gone up to \$9.00 per plant.** Our previous supplier has closed their business, so we have had to “scramble” to find a replacement...similar to our hunt for a new Easter flower supplier. You may put your form and check payable to *St. John Lutheran School* in the box on the narthex table. Be sure to fill in the line, “*In Loving Memory of*” or “*In Honor of*”. This information will be published in the church bulletin as an insert the Sunday the poinsettias are placed in the sanctuary.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE STUDY

We have been discussing a phenomenon in our Western civilization called “Cultural Marxism.” Like its classic version, Cultural Marxism divides people into groups and pits them against each other as “oppressors” and “oppressed.” The language is a little different, however. Instead of “oppressor” and “oppressed” we hear of “privilege,” and “victimhood.” Instead of a seeking “revolution” we hear a lot about “equity” and “social justice” as the noble goal of this movement. Language, and its manipulation, is very important to this agenda, and Christians need to understand this vocabulary and how to respond to it with love and the truth of God’s Word. Join us for our Sunday study...



Christians in a Woke World - A Call to Courage, Confession and LOVE

We are analyzing this new Marxism from a Biblical perspective, and seeking courage to confess the truth to this ‘Woke’ world that our true identity is in Christ. We are not defined by any humanly devised identity group, but by the cross at which ALL of us were redeemed to be the children of God.

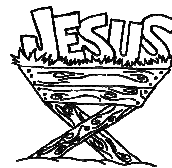
JR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL LYF will be meeting today at 4:00 and 5:00 PM, respectively, at the Youth Center. We will be having a Thanksgiving feast and signing Christmas cards for the shut-ins. There will also be game night competition!

WEDNESDAY CONFIRMATION CLASS – REVSIED TIME

Starting this week on Thanksgiving Eve, and through the month of December, the Wednesday evening confirmation class will meet from 5:45 to 6:45 PM, dismissing in time for worship at 7:00 PM.

ADVENT FELLOWSHIP DINNER: WOMEN AND MEN – mark your calendars for the Advent Fellowship Dinner being hosted by the Women of Freedom and Stewardship Board on Sun., Dec. 11th from 5 – 7 PM. This is a special evening designed to help us prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christ’s birth. We will enjoy a potluck dinner and short Advent program including familiar Christmas carols. NOTE: The meat for this dinner will be furnished. Please bring a side dish to share.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCRIPTS will be going home soon from both the Sunday School and school. **The Children’s Christmas Service is on Sunday evening, December 18th at 7:00 PM.** Every child is being assigned a part, but if for some reason your child will not be participating, please be sure to call the church office and let us know ASAP.



VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING – Join us on Sunday, December 11 in the sanctuary for Virtual Christmas Caroling. We’ll sing some of the carols of Christmas, and livestream the sounds of Christmas joy to anyone who may be tuned in over the internet. We will gather at 4:00 PM and sing a few Christmas carols, interspersed perhaps with readings and such, about a half an hour total.

Afterwards there will be pizza for all. ***Join us and spread the cheer!***

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP --- “*Come, ye thankful people, come!*” Join us for worship Thanksgiving Eve, on Wednesday, Nov. 23, at 7:00 p.m. That evening, as we traditionally do, we will receive two thank offerings with the goal of benefitting our neighbor.

*Thanksgiving
Eve*

- An offering of non-perishable food items for our ***Bread from Heaven Food Pantry***. You can take your items to the front of the sanctuary as you arrive, or bring them forward during the offering.
- A monetary offering to support ***Henry County Christmas Cheer***, which will be received with the passing of the offering plates.

NOMINATION PROCESS – **Letters have been mailed** as the Stewardship Board begins the process of nominating individuals for the various offices of our congregation. Please keep this process in prayer, as it is often difficult to identify willing candidates. And please, if you are asked about accepting a nomination, give it prayerful thought, and consider how God may want to use you in service to His people, for the blessing of us all!

SCRIP: Plan to get a jump start on your Christmas shopping this year. The SCRIP Order Forms are available on the narthex table and in the “School Info” rack outside the school office is you should need more. Thank you and happy shopping!

LOOKING FORWARD TO SUNDAY MORNING... Issues, Etc. is a radio-talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen to weekly studies of the Biblical texts, prayers and hymns of the day. Pastor Sean Daenzer of LCMS Worship will lead us through the three-year lectionary. Pastor Peter Bender of the Concordia Catechetical Academy will lead us through the one-year lectionary. 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 11/13/22	\$9,589.85	\$430.00	\$380.00

ATTENDANCE: 178

2023 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, and a box will be issued to you.

ANNUAL DECEMBER VOTERS' MEETING – The annual December Voters' Assembly will be held in the fellowship hall on **Sunday, December 18th** after the morning service. Agenda items (to date) include: 1) adopting a 2023 budget; 2) nomination and election of 2023 officers

USHER AND ALTAR GUILD SIGN-UP – 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 an usher or altar guild team? The demand on your time in either area is minimal, but the blessing of rendering service to the LORD is tremendous. We are preparing the 2023 usher and altar guild schedules so this is the time to sign-up at the table in the narthex. The sign-up deadline is Sunday, Dec. 11th. *You do not need to sign up again if you are currently serving as an usher or are on an altar guild team.*

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 in 2023. If you feel you would like to give this a try, please sign up on the sheet at the narthex table. You can even pick the month that works 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 419-966-3472 or email her at lahop@bright.net.*

LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS DECORATING – A day for decorating the sanctuary for Christmas has been tentatively set for Monday, Nov. 28 (the Monday after Thanksgiving). We plan to gather in the late afternoon or early evening. Everyone is welcome to come and join the fun!

CHRISTMAS CARDS & CUTLERY: Check out the table in the hallway by the cry room! The Women of Freedom have put out boxes of Christmas Cards for sale. 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, please contact *Nancy Glaser, Deb Wachtman, Pat Maassel, or Marian Dickmann* to purchase these.

PTL FALL PENNY DRIVE – The Fall Penny Drive has begun and runs thru Nov. 30th. Gather up your pennies and bring them to the school office. You can specify which classroom you would like them to be given to or they can be divided between all the classrooms. The winning classroom will be treated to a pizza party. Jump on board and support the PTL! Thank you!

STATUS ON GRADE 5&6 TEACHER: I wanted to let the congregation know that Mr. Stephen Benson decided to leave his teaching position at St. John Lutheran School, effective at the end of the school day Thurs., Oct. 27th. He has decided to move on. We thank him for his service to our school and pray for God's guidance as we move forward. In the interim, we will continue to have a substitute until we find a full time replacement. Please contact the school office (419-598-8702) or my email at tgermann@sjl.org if you know of anyone interested in filling this position. Thanks to everyone for your prayers and support. Signed, *Miss Germann*

ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP: St. John Athletic Booster membership drive is still underway. Fees remain the same as in the past with \$20 for husband/wife; \$10 for a single membership. Make checks payable to *St. John Boosters*. Forms available at the narthex table.

SPORTS SCHEDULE: To view the most recent sports schedule, please go to AD Joe Badenhop's "Calendar" in Fast Direct, as this is where he will post the sports schedules and any changes. Simply 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, then click on "BulletinBoard/Calendar" on the left side of page, and scroll down to Joe Badenhop, Athletic Director and click on **his** "Calendar".

WORSHIP ANEW: Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. produces a weekly, 30-minute Lutheran broadcast worship service called Worship Anew (*formerly Worship For Shut-Ins*). Each service includes music, scripture readings, prayers, and a pastor delivering a message that is designed to feel one-on-one to the viewer. For over 50+ 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 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.*

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. The campaign runs from now through December 3rd. If you would like to make a donation, please drop it in the container marked "Christmas Cheer" on the narthex table. **Make checks payable to Henry County Christmas Cheer.** If you or someone you know living in Henry County needing help during the holidays, please pick up an application for them on the narthex table. The Christmas Cheer Board of Trustees thanks you for your support!

AREA EVENTS

- ◆ **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA!** Hosted by the Ridgeville Sons of the American Legion is Sat. Dec. 17. Wreath Sponsorship forms and more information is available on the narthex table. Wreaths may also be sponsored online at www.wreathscrossamerica.org/OH0229P or via the QR code on the sponsorship form. **Order deadline is Wed., Nov. 23rd.**
- ◆ **THE LUTHERAN CHORALAIRES ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT** – Sat., Dec. 3, 2022 at 4:00 PM at St. John Lutheran Church, Rochester, MI and Sat., Dec. 10, 2022 at 4:00 PM at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, Detroit, MI. See flyer for pricing!
- ◆ **CHRISTMAS VILLAGE CRAFT SHOW** will be held at the Ridgeville Legion Hall, Sun., Dec. 4th from 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Lunch will be served. Come and browse the shops!
- ◆ **THE TOLEDO SYMPHONY** will perform a Christmas Concert at **St. Paul Lutheran Church – Napoleon Township, on Wed., Dec. 14th beginning at 7:30 PM.** Tickets on sale thru their church office at 419-758-3522. See flyer!

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Food For Thought...

"Some things are worth the wait!"

"Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." Rev. 19:9