



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

December 4, 2022

VOL. 87

NO. 49

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

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

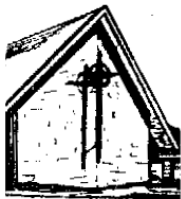
Sermon & Text: "Christmas is Going to be Different This Year" *Matthew 3:1-2*

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Three *LSB pg. 184*

Hymns: 345 ~ 344 ~ (Communion: 620, 357) ~ 338

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 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* ✠ Maddox Oyer, Zeb Kramer, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dean Badenhop, Richard Elling, Dennis Showman, Dave Von Deylen, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Lou Ann Rosebrock, Diane Von Deylen, *Altar Guild* ✠

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE STUDY is cancelled this morning, out of an abundance of caution, as Pastor Niermann will be keeping his distance yet this morning to prevent any possible spreading of the Covid virus. Join us again next Sunday!

STILL, STILL, STILL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The children's Christmas service this year is scheduled for two weeks from today on Sunday, December 18, at 7:00 PM. The children are now rehearsing on Sundays during an extended Sunday School hour from 10:20 to 11:30 AM. We ask that everyone please stay clear of the narthex during these rehearsals, so that the din of conversation does not distract. May God bless the children as they rehearse and prepare to tell us the story of our Savior's coming!

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:20AM 4:00 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; "The Lamp" Children's Christmas Program practice (<i>Gr. PS – 8 until 11:30 AM</i>) Virtual Christmas Caroling in the sanctuary
Tue.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
Wed.	5:45 PM 7:00 PM	Junior Confirmation Class (<i>until 6:45 PM</i>) Advent Service 2 Acolyte: Alex Wachtman Ushers: <i>Neil Badenhop, Doug Dietrich, Joe Badenhop, Nick Sonnenberg</i> Altar Guild: <i>Lou Ann Rosebrock, Diane Von Deylen</i>
Sat.	10:00AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls ONLY @ Fort Wayne; 11:45AM Girls only 2 nd Game
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:20AM 4:00 PM 5:00 PM 5:00 PM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Class; "The Lamp" Children's Christmas Program practice (<i>Gr. PS – 8 until 11:30 AM</i>) Jr High LYF Meeting High School LYF Meeting Advent Fellowship Dinner
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*

SANCTUARY DECORATING THANK YOU – This morning we offer a great big THANK YOU to the members of the school board and others who helped last Monday to decorate the sanctuary for the season. Well done, good and faithful servants! It is good to see the sanctuary of our God adorned so beautifully, as a reflection of the beauty of our Savior and of His love.

CAROLING AND PIZZA – Join us **THIS AFTERNOON** for Virtual Christmas Caroling. We will gather at 4:00 PM in the sanctuary to sing a few of the carols of Christmas, interspersed with readings and such. In this way we will livestream the sounds of Christmas joy to anyone who may be tuned in over the internet. **Afterwards there will be pizza for all. Join us and spread the cheer!**

LYF DECEMBER GET-TOGETHER – The Junior High and High School *Lutheran Youth Fellowship* groups will be gathering **next Sunday, Dec. 11 at 4:00 and 5:00 PM respectively**. We will gather at the *Youth & Family Center*, and would encourage you to invite anyone to come along with you to enjoy our fellowship.

SACKING CANDY: The School Board and High School LYF members will be assembling the Christmas sacks on Sun., Dec. 18th during the Sunday School hour.

POINSETTIAS –With the change in the poinsettia supplier this year and the quick turnaround to get our orders sent in, we cushioned the order by adding 6 extra pots. So if you were not able to get your order in last Sunday and would still like to buy one “in memory of” or “in honor of” someone, please call or email Joyce in the church office by December 15th. **The cost is \$9.00 per plant.**

2023 OFFERING BOXES AVAILABLE TODAY: With gratitude to God for the generous support of our members to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this place, the 2023 offering envelopes are available today. Please pick yours up, and may God prosper the work of our hands and the giving of His people! If you did not receive a box of envelopes but would like one, please contact *Jerry Langenhop* (419-966-3473).

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES will be held each Wednesday during Advent at 7:00 p.m. The worship series is based on Paul’s first letter to the Thessalonians, focusing us on the hope we have as we await the second coming of the Christ child. The schedule for Advent messages is:

- Nov. 30 “Our Two-Minute Drill” *1 Thess 1:1-10*
- **Dec 7 “Praying Like Paul,” *1 Thess 3:10-13***
- Dec. 14 “You’ve Got a Ticket to Ride!” *1 Thess 4:13-18*
- Dec. 21 “Faithful Watching and Waiting,” *1 Thess 5:1-11*



ADVENT FELLOWSHIP DINNER – Next Sunday



Dinner plans for next Sunday are all set. Just bring a side dish, salad or dessert, and join us in the fellowship hall at 5:00 PM for an ***Advent Fellowship Dinner***. The main meat will be provided. We will enjoy one another’s fellowship and company, sing some of the carols of Christmas, and share a devotional moment reflecting upon the lesson of the candy cane and God’s gift of His beloved Son, our Savior. **Please join us, and if you are so inclined, we’d love to receive any dinner guests you may invite!**

ADVENT DEVOTION BOOKLETS are available today on the narthex table. They are titled *A Son is Given* and are provided to us through Lutheran Hour Ministries. There is also a second devotion booklet from Concordia Publishing House that is designated for the Advent season.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM – The 2023 Women of Freedom program booklets are available today at the narthex table. Please pick up your copy today. If for some reason the meeting you’re scheduled to serve does not work for you, please switch with someone. If you spot any errors, such as incorrect phone numbers or emails, please contact the church office.

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!

VOTERS' MEETING IN TWO WEEKS – Please mark your calendar for the regular December voters' meeting on Sunday, December 18 in the fellowship hall after worship. On the agenda: 1) Elections and Appointments of congregational offices; 2) adoption of a budget for 2023.

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/27/22	\$4,669.00	\$370.00	\$195.00

ATTENDANCE: 143

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE: Henry Co Christmas Cheer - \$1,147.00 Attendance: 84

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.*

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.

MY DEVOTIONS BOOKLETS are available today on the desk in the narthex for December, January, and February. Pick up your copy today! If you know of someone who would enjoy these, take one for them too.

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.

AREA EVENTS

- ◆ **RIDGEVILLE AMERICAN LEGION BLOOD DRIVE** will be held on **Mon., Dec. 5th** from noon – 6:00 PM at the Legion. Walk-ins welcome!
- ◆ **CHRISTMAS VILLAGE CRAFT SHOW** will be held at the Ridgeville Legion Hall, Sun., **Dec. 4th** from 11:00 AM – 4:00 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** at 7:30 PM. Tickets on sale thru their church office at 419-758-3522. See flyer!

✂ ✂ ✂

Food For Thought...

Jesus said, "I shall return," long before General MacArthur said it!

"I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." John 14:3