



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

December 18, 2022

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

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FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sermon & Text: "God With Us" *Isaiah 7:10-17*
Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Four *LSB pg. 203*
Hymns: **338** ~ "In This Advent" ~ (Communion: **357, 361**) ~ **362**

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

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Addison Naveau, Peyton Naveau, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dean Badenhop, Richard Elling, Dennis Showman, Dave Von Deylen, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Lou Ann Rosebrock, Diane Von Deylen, *Altar Guild* ✠

AT REST: *Marvin Gruenhagen*, 89, passed away on Wed., Dec. 7, 2022, at the Fulton County Health Center, Wauseon. Marvin's funeral was held here at St. John on Tues., Dec. 13th at 11:00 AM, with burial following the service in St. John Lutheran Cemetery. Please continue to pray for Arlene, Alan (Lori) Gruenhagen and Family, Teresa (Eric) Weller and Family, and Karen (Tim) Johnston as they transition into the holidays without their husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. May God be with each one of you!

VOTERS' MEETING TODAY – Following today's service, the regular December voters' meeting will be held in the fellowship hall. On the agenda: 1) Elections and Appointments of congregational offices; 2) adoption of a budget for 2023.

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY is cancelled today so that Pastor can be with the children to rehearse for this evening. The following two Sundays are Christmas Day and New Year's Day, so we will resume the Sunday study, "Christians in a Woke World," on Sunday, January 8.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:20AM 7:00 PM	Communion Service Voters' Meeting; Children's Christmas Program practice -- Full run through (<i>Gr. PS – 8 until 11:30 AM or until done</i>) School Board & High School LYF sacking Christmas candy bags Children's Christmas Service (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.	6:00 PM	B-Ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 7:00 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs. St. Pats – Bryan (H)
Tue.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
Wed.	5:45 PM 7:00 PM	NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break begins; Classes resume on Jan. 4, 2023 Junior Confirmation Class (<i>until 6:45 PM</i>) Advent Service 4 ; Offering: <i>SJL Church Vocation Scholarship Fund</i> Ushers: <i>Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, Dennis Showman, Dave Von Deylen</i> Altar Guild: <i>Lou Ann Rosebrock, Diane Von Deylen</i>
Sat.	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service of Carols & Candles ; Offering: <i>Home Fund</i> Acolytes: <i>Alex Wachtman</i> Ushers: <i>Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel</i> Altar Guild: <i>Lou Ann Rosebrock, Diane Von Deylen</i>
Sun.	9:30 AM	Christmas Day Festival Service w/Communion ; Offering: <i>Home Fund</i> Acolytes: <i>Garrison Kruse, Cayden Ruffer</i> Ushers: <i>Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, Dennis Showman, Dave Von Deylen</i> Altar Guild: <i>Lou Ann Rosebrock, Diane Von Deylen</i>
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

LIST OF 2023 CHURCH OFFICE NOMINATIONS: (as of the printing of this bulletin)

ELECTED: Vice Pres. – *Vacant*

Treasurer – *Cathy Gerken*; Financial Trustee – *Jim Hogrefe*

Elder – *Larry Gerken*, *Vacant*

Stewardship Board – *Jenelle McCarthy, Rhonda Bockelman*

Board of Education – *Ben Pescara*, *Vacant*

Alt. Delegate Syn – *Vacant*

APPOINTED: Secretary – *Nicole Stier* Church Deacon – *Greg Kehnast*

Trustee – *Scott Van Valkenburg, Eric Weller*; Cemetery Sexton – *Ben Kruse*

Cemetery Board – *Todd Kruse (Kathy), Nick Sonnenberg, Doug Kossow*

Asst. Sunday School Supt. – *Stephanie Damman*

NOTE: The installation of our newly elected and appointed officers for the year 2023 will be conducted in the regular Sunday service on January 1st.



STILL, STILL, STILL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The children are all set to go, and are hoping that you will attend their special Christmas service this evening as they share the good tidings of great joy, of a Savior born to us, who is Christ the Lord!

Starting with the old Austrian Christmas carol, "Still, Still, Still," the children will invite us to be quiet and still for the evening, so that we may hear from Joseph, Mary, Gabriel and the Shepherds of the events surrounding the birth of the Christ, and of its meaning for all of us.

Please join the children and congregation this evening at 7:00 p.m. for the annual Children's Christmas Service, for, 'From the lips of children and infants

you, Lord, have called forth your praise.' (*Matt 21:16*)

The children's final rehearsal for this service is this morning after worship during the extended Sunday School hour from 10:20 to 11:30 AM.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE INFO :

TONIGHT at 7:00 PM Christmas Service – Grades K thru 8 students should arrive at 6:30 PM.

The Preschoolers should come at 6:45 PM (*Everyone meet in the Fellowship Hall*)

DRESS CODE for tonight 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 and tie (optional). No jeans, please!

SO MUCH THANKS! We received the following note from Lydia Schroeder: "Congregation of St. John Lutheran...I cannot thank each and every one of you enough for your constant love and support throughout my four years of college at Concordia University Ann Arbor. It has been such a blessing to have been a part of this St. John community all of my life, and I am forever grateful for all of it. It has been through this church and school that has helped guide me to hear, and follow God's calling for me to be a Lutheran school teacher. Again, I am truly blessed beyond all measure for this community of St. John Lutheran Church and School. Thank you!" ~ God's Blessings, *Cydia Schroeder*

ADVENT FELLOWSHIP DINNER THANKS – The meal, fellowship, and carols that we shared together last Sunday evening were a delight and a blessing. The ham was heavenly, and sides were succulent, and the desserts were to die for! Thank you to everyone involved in planning and implementing this event for us, especially the committee of women for their leadership and hard work, the Stewardship Board for its help, the kitchen and serving help, Mike Nicol for the music and the students of SJLS for the colorful candy cane contributions. It was a lovely evening!



POINSETTIA PLANTS – The poinsettias are adorning the sanctuary this morning and will be used for the various Christmas Services. Please see the back page of 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 next Sunday. There will be plastic sleeves to protect them in the side Conference room. Thank you to those who purchased poinsettias to decorate the church during Christmas.

Commemorating the Birth of Jesus

Join us in worship as we rejoice together and celebrate God's gift of salvation, His own Son born in human flesh to be our Savior.

- TODAY Children's Christmas Service – 7:00 PM
- Saturday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 7:00 PM
- Sunday, Dec. 25 Festival Service with Holy Communion – 9:30 AM



WEDNESDAY CONFIRMATION CLASS – REVSIED TIME

The Wednesday evening confirmation class will meet yet this week, on Dec. 21, from 5:45 to 6:45 as normal. The following week on Dec. 28, during the Christmas break, the class WILL NOT meet. We will resume classes in the New Year on Wed., Jan. 4, at 6:15 PM, back on the regular schedule.

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES are 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***

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 12/11/22	\$7,751.09	\$125.00	\$553.00

ATTENDANCE: 170

ADVENT SERVICE #2 (12-07-22): \$775.00 – Lutheran Bible Translators; Attendance: 50

MEMORIALS for *Walter Rosebrock*: St. John Endowment Fund – School Acct. - \$92; St. John Lutheran School - \$10; St. John Cemetery Fund - \$25; St. John Lutheran Church - \$2,501

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Please note that there is no offering envelope in your boxes for the Children's Christmas Service tonight at 7:00 PM. If you wish for your offering at that service 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 assume it should go to the Home Fund as designated.



2023 OFFERING BOXES AVAILABLE: 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).

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

WOMEN OF FREEDOM – The 2023 Women of Freedom program booklets are available 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. **Please note correction – Anita Badenhop will remain as secretary.**

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.

CHOICE DOLLARS RECAP: Thanks to everyone who continue to designate their Choice Dollars deposits through Thrivent Financial. Because of your initiative the church, school, and preschool have benefited in 2022. Here are the individual year-to-date deposits for 2022: St. John Church - \$12,830.00; St. John School - \$3,070.00; St. John Preschool - \$95.00. A well-deserved “thank you” to Thrivent for providing these funds throughout the year.

IF YOU’RE EVER IN A PINCH and could use a little help, the *Good Neighbor Fund* is there to assist you! Please don’t be bashful about asking – everything is strictly confidential. Just give Pastor Niermann a call, and we will see what we can do for you!

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.*

FELLOWSHIP HALL LIGHTS: If you use the fellowship hall or are in the fellowship hall and walk out, please leave the light switches set in the “ON” position. Both ends of the fellowship hall light switches are motion activated, so when you walk in they will automatically come on, and when you walk out they will automatically turn off after 8 minutes. This will take some getting used to, but please do not set the switches to the “off” position. Thank you!

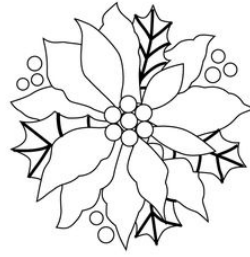
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Food For Thought...

It was Mary who wrapped up the first and best Christmas gift ever!

“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger.” Luke 2:7

Poinsettia Plants



NAME	DESIGNATION
Carey & Sharon Damman	In memory of Vernon Damman, Irene Bickel, and Pastor Adolf Bickel
Carey & Sharon Damman	In honor of Marietta Damman
Randy & Lou Ann Rosebrock	In memory of our son, Ryan Rosebrock
Doug & Mary Kossow	In memory of our daughter, Stephanie Kossow; and parents, Walter & Lucia Delventhal, and Ervin Kossow
Doug & Mary Kossow	In honor of our grandson, Kohen Kossow; and mother, LaDonna Kossow
Darrel Behrmann	In memory of my mother, Hildegard Behrmann
Larry & Pat Mahnke	In memory of our sister-in-law, Ruth Mahnke
Joyce Maassel and Family	In memory of Loren Maassel
Don & Karan Niebergall	In honor of our family
Mark & Brenda Elling	In memory of Norman & Helen Castor
Mark & Brenda Elling	In memory of Earl Elling
Marian Dickmann	In memory of Donald Dickmann
Linda Riefers	In honor of family and friends
Denny & Rhonda Bockelman	In memory of Lowell Flory, Bruce Flory, Lyle Wallace, Elmer & Olga Bockelman
Denny & Rhonda Bockelman	In honor of Arlene Wallace, and grandchildren
Rev. Stephen & Bonnie Niermann	In memory of Rev. Lloyd Nicol and Patty Nicol
Bethann Gerken	In memory of my parents, Henry & Dorothy Gerken
Denny & Diane Von Deylen	In memory of James & Phyllis Silveus, and Edmund Von Deylen
Denny & Diane Von Deylen	In honor of Lorna Von Deylen, our children and grandchildren
Dan & Joyce Wiechers	In memory of our parents