



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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NO. 2

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

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY (*The Baptism of Our Lord*)

Sermon Title: "Free From the Paradox of Progress" *Luke 3:15-22*

Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: **405 ~ 603 ~ 404 ~ 817 ~ 594**

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!

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Paul Sausser, Maddox Oyer, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, Dennis Showman, Dave Von Deylen, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Diane Von Deylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, *Altar Guild* ✠



BAPTISM THIS MORNING – This morning, in a family ceremony after Sunday School, Logan & Emma Badenhop will present their son, **Tripp Morgan Badenhop**, for Holy Baptism. Tripp was born on January 31, 2021 at the Henry County Hospital. His grandparents are Tim & Chris Badenhop, Greg & Josie Kuhlman, and Amy Grooms. Witnessing the baptism will be Lydia Badenhop (Logan's sister) and Lexi Henricks (Emma's step-sister). We rejoice with this family on the day of Tripp's baptism, and pray that what God begins today in these sacred waters He may bring to completion on the Day of Jesus Christ!



THANK YOU TO THE SCHOOL BOARD for taking down the Christmas decorations and getting everything put away. Your labor among us is so much appreciated, and we thank God for all you do in our midst as servant leaders!

In God's House This Week Online church calendar: <https://74058984.view-events.com>

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 10:20AM	Worship Service w/Communion following and... Installation of Mrs. Michelle Weddelman during Worship Service Adult Bible Study; "The Lamp" Youth Bible Study
Mon.	5:30 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls (BLUE) only vs St. Mary's – Edgerton (H)
Tues.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr High Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>)
Thurs.	5:30 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls (WHITE); 6:30 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs St.Mary's – Edgerton (H)
Fri.		End of 2 nd Qtr Grading Period
Sat.	11:30AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys only @ St. John – Defiance
Sun.	9:00AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Sunday School; Adult Bible Study; "The Lamp" Youth Bible Study
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Carl Rockrohr</i> , Zion Lutheran – Ridgeville Corners

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
- ❖ *Steve & Sue Hurst*, both recovering from Covid

SINCERE THANKS – Ruth Moll would like to thank everyone for the nice cards she received over the Christmas season. She so appreciated them and enjoyed every one of them from her sunny disposition as she is wintering in Florida (*close to her son*). She is doing well and wishes everyone in Ohio a safe and healthy 2022.

THANK YOU: I would like to thank Pastor Niermann and everyone for all the prayers, visits, and cards over the past few months. Everything is much appreciated. Signed, *Florence Jones*



COMMISSIONING AND INSTALLATION OF MRS. MICHELLE WEDDELMAN

We rejoice this day to welcome and receive Mrs. Michelle (Rosebrock) Weddelman as a called teacher to our school. While Mrs. Weddelman has been teaching at St. John for a few years now, her status recently changed when she completed her theological training (called a ‘colloquy’) and became eligible for a congregational call.

Two things will happen in the service today. First, having confessed fidelity to the Scriptures and Lutheran Confession, Mrs. Weddelman will be ‘commissioned’ as a ‘Commissioned Minister – Teacher’ of the *Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*. Her commissioning places her on the official roster of Lutheran school teachers who are eligible to receive calls from any LC-MS congregation and school. Second, Mrs. Weddelman will be installed into her calling as a teacher and minister of religion in our school.

We congratulate Mrs. Weddelman, and pray that her labor among us may be a blessing to all, for the growth of her students in Christian faith and life, for the extension of Christ’s kingdom, and for her own joy in service. After worship this morning you are invited to a Java Joy Reception for Mrs. Weddelman in the front hallway of the school.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY TODAY – Provoking Proverbs ♦ Sixth Commandment

“You shall no commit adultery.” God would have us “lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do.” (Small Catechism) The culture, however, totally disregards this will of God and would have us express ourselves sexually in whatever way we wish or feels best. When it comes to sexual ethics, we are reliving days of Israel’s judges in which “everyone did what was right in their own eyes.” (*Judges 21:25*)



In our Sunday Adult Study, we are looking at the biblical Proverbs categorized according to the Ten Commandments. Join us this morning as the *Proverbs provoke us* to sexual purity in what we say and do, contrary to the culture and as witnesses to God. **Each session is a study unto itself, so don’t feel like you shouldn’t come if you weren’t there for previous sessions.** Bible Study is a wonderful time of growth in God’s Word and of Christian fellowship. **Oh, and we have coffee too!**

OHIO DISTRICT NEWS: The Lutheran Church – Ohio District wants to share some news with you. A Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) has been established in the Ohio District. Later this year, donations of up to \$750 will be able to be made into the SGO. That money will then go to the Lutheran School of the donor’s choice. That money will be used as scholarship money at the school designated by the donor. The donor will then be able to receive a tax credit for the full amount they donated (up to \$750), directly on their Ohio State Tax return. This is exciting news! As more information becomes available, in the months ahead, we will share it with all of you.

THANK YOU from the School Board to Mahnke Orchards (*Richard & Elaine*) for donating all the apples that were put in the Christmas Sacks; to the LYF for their help in filling the sacks with candy, fruit, and peanuts; to Chief Supermarket for donating the paper sacks used for the candy and peanuts, and to the Church Decorating Volunteer Crew for decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

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).

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 1/02/22	\$6,091.00	\$331.00	\$215.00
ATTENDANCE:	Sunday – 115		

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.

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!

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.

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!

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.

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

LYF NEWS:

- **SENIOR HIGH LYF NOTE:** We will be having a final/mandatory NYG meeting on **Sun., Jan. 23rd** 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 16th!
- **LYF MEETING** – The LYF (Grades 6-12) will be getting together on **Sun., Jan. 23rd** from 3:00-5:00 PM at the Youth Center. We will come together for a short Bible study, games, and fellowship. There will also be yummy treats! We will also be discussing the Super Bowl Sub Sale for this year and the timeline for the set up and distributing. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Miss Bartok.
- **LYF SUPER BOWL SUB SALE!** It's that time of year again! Super Bowl Sunday is quickly approaching and it's time to get ready for the big game. Why not help out our LYF as well? On **Sun., Feb. 13th**, we will be selling Super Bowl subs to help raise money for our youth group. Each sub will cost \$3.00 (*or 4 for \$10.00*) and will *contain salami, bologna, ham, white cheese, and yellow cheese* on a 6-inch sub bun. **To place your order, please fill out a pre-order form and place it in the basket at the back of the church or bring it to the church office by Mon., Feb. 7th.** Orders can also be placed from the link on the St. John Church Facebook page. Subs will be available for pick up after church on Feb. 13th until 11 AM through a drive-thru pick up similar to what was done last year. Payment is due at the time of pick up. Checks can be made out to St. John LYF. Thank you for supporting our LYF youth!

USE OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL – If you would like to use the Fellowship Hall for any occasion, on a certain date this year, **please contact the church/school office at 419-598-8961 or 419-598-8702.** In addition to calling the office, you may want to check the online master calendar at <https://74058984.view-events.com> (*you can also link to it from www.sjl.org*).

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.

COUNCIL MINUTES – This is just a reminder that council meeting minutes are not published until they are approved a month later. If you would like to read about the most recent council meeting, an unofficial and unapproved copy of the minutes is available for viewing in the church office, usually within a week after the meeting.

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

ST. JOHN REGISTRATION OPEN HOUSE – An **Open House** is planned for grade levels (PS-8) at St. John School on **Wed., February 2nd, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM** for families who would like to come and look at our school and discuss the possibility of sending their children here for their education. If anyone knows of prospective students for Grades PS-8, be sure to pass this information to them.

PRESCHOOL:

- **ENROLLMENT APPLICATIONS:** The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2022-23 school year. Anyone interested in enrolling your child in our preschool program should contact the school office at 419-598-8702 to request an enrollment packet. We will be opening the registration up to the public as of Feb. 2, 2022, so be sure to register soon. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration paperwork.
- **TUITION** – School Board approved rates for the 2022-2023 school year at their Jan. 4th meeting. The cost for PS4/5-yr class will be \$250/month; and for the PS3-yr class \$100/month.

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

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.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Give Satan an inch, he will be your ruler.

“Do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.” Eph 4:26-27