



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP 16035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

November 12, 2023

VOL. 88 NO. 46

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](http://www.sjl.org)

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Sermon & Text: "How Soon is Soon?" *Matthew 25:6-10*

Order of Service: Matins *LSB pg. 219*

Hymns: 515 ~ *Psalm 70* ~ 514 ~ 941 (*Te Deum*) ~ 516

\*\*\*\*\*

**WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS**

*Welcome! We are here at the Savior's invitation; therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, receiving mercy and finding grace to help in every time of need. If you have no church of your own, we invite you to make this your home church. But above all, we invite you to come to worship with us at any time.*

*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 basket by the door as you leave this morning.*

\*\*\*\*\*



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

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Anna Sausser & Anika Rosebrock ✠
- ✠ Joe Badenhop, Nick Sonnenberg, Neil Badenhop, Doug Dietrich, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Elaine Buenger, Deb Von Deylen, Teresa Weller, *Altar Guild* ✠

**CONGRATULATIONS PASTOR NIERMANN!**

Today we congratulate and thank Pastor Niermann for his unrivaled dedication shown to the members of St. John Lutheran Church over the past 25 years. We have been truly blessed to have him among us! His devotion shown to the ministry of God's word is very evident from the pulpit each Sunday. Please join us at 4pm later today for a potluck meal, and to extend your congratulations and well-wishes to Pastor. It's always a good time of fellowship amongst each other (and lots of good food too).

**NOTE: The meat, drinks, and table service will be furnished for this meal.**

**ARCHIVES COMMITTEE**

The Archives Committee has put up a new display. With the celebration of Pastor Niermann's 25th anniversary at St. John, we have found a few pictures and articles from his time and history at our church and his ministry. If you have a chance, stop by and check it out.

**VETERAN APPRECIATION:**

The St. John Girls Basketball team made and donated free homemade patriotic ribbons to display on your apparel to show your thankfulness for our veterans. These are available on the narthex table and desk. God bless our veterans!

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:00 PM	<b>Worship Service with Communion following</b> <i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Celebration for Pastor Niermann's 25 years at St. John
Mon.	7:00 PM	PTL Meeting
Tues.	8:35 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM	<b>School Chapel</b> <i>GriefShare</i> Support Group Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Poinsettia Sale ends today ( <i>call Joyce with your order and pay later</i> ) Midweek Confirmation Class ( <i>until 7:30 PM</i> )
Thurs.	6:30 AM 6:00 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast "Surviving the Holidays" Support Ministry (see bulletin note)
Sat.	10:30AM	B-ball: Girls play in Wyneken Tournament at 10:30 & 12:00
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 5:00 PM	<b>Communion Service</b> Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" LYF Meeting (both groups together)

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

- ❖ *Melba Elling* and *Norma Damman*, at Genacross – Napoleon
- ❖ *Lawrence Behrmann*, at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Irene Joost*, *Leona Durham*, and *Elaine Mahnke*
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson*, *Jason Rohrs*, *Emily Carmon*, *Jared Dishop*, *Jordan Lange*
- ❖ *Alan Gruenhagen*, *Sue Hurst*, *Dave Crandall*, *Eddie Harris*, health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *Marian Damman*, who broke a hip from a fall and is recovering at Fulton Manor – Wauseon

**POINSETTIA SALE** – If you want to place your order and can't pay today, please fill out an order form at the narthex table or call Joyce at church and put your order in. You can pay later...no problem! The cost is \$9.00 per plant. The deadline for ordering is **Wed., Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>**. Or...you may put your form and check payable to *St. John Lutheran School* in the poinsettia box. Be sure to fill in the line, "*In Loving Memory of*" or "*In Honor of*". This information will be published in the bulletin the Sunday the poinsettias are placed in the sanctuary.



**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!

**JR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL LYF** - Both groups will be meeting next Sunday, **Nov. 19th, at 5:00 PM** 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! Bring a friend! Also, please note a date change for the December meeting. The meeting will be on December 10th instead of December 17th.

**Java Joy TODAY!** Be sure to stop out in the front hallway this morning for some refreshments and fellowship. Our hosts today are **Todd & Tina Wachtman and family**, and we thank them for this service of love to us all!

- **WOULD YOU CONSIDER HOSTING JAVA JOY?** *Hosting does not have to be expensive – you are welcome to reimburse some or all of your expenses, if you wish, from the ‘kitty’ – so please don’t let that hold you back. We are still in search of someone to host Java Joy for December. Don’t be bashful! Sign up today! Thank you!*



**THANKSGIVING WORSHIP** – Mark your calendar for **Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, Nov. 22**, for our Thanksgiving Worship Service at 7:00 p.m. As always, we encourage you to consider two offerings that evening – the regular monetary offering for Christmas Cheer, and the offering of food items for our **Bread From Heaven Food Pantry**. Nothing says thanks to God like helping your neighbor!



## Opportunities for Growth in Faith this week...

### **SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS --- *A Longer Look at the Lessons***

“*Blessed are you,*” says Jesus in His well-known Beatitudes. Many preachers preach the Beatitudes as if they were more laws prescribed for us to fulfill, so that we can be blessed of God. But this misses the point entirely. It is hardly a blessed thing to have more requirements heaped upon you when you can’t even fulfill the old requirements.

We hope you can join us for Bible study this morning as we take a look more deeply at today’s readings. Please join us for ***A Longer Look at the Lessons***. The coffee is on!

**THE LAMP (Youth Bible Study)** is changing things up a bit this year. The Lamp will not be in session on the Sundays that the LYF meetings are being held. The devotion and topic will be done at the meeting. We want to welcome all youth and young adults to join us at the Youth Center across the road for Bible Study, snacks, games, discussions and fellowship!! Staying in God’s Word is so important in this crucial time in life! Come join us!



**GRIEF SHARE** is a grief and loss support ministry to help those dealing with grief by giving them valuable, Christian-based guidance and tips leading to healing, comfort, and peace of mind. The group is led by our member, *Nancy Nemoyer*, a commissioned Deaconess of the LCMS. It’s never too late to join us.

**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. We are looking for about 11-12 couples/families to sign up for this task in 2024. 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](mailto:lahop@bright.net).*

## MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE THIS THURSDAY

With Thanksgiving Day on the horizon, we'll use our Bible Breakfast to consider what Martin

### Bible Study

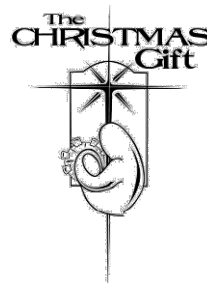


Luther had to say about thanksgiving in a special letter he once wrote to his barber, a man named Peter Beskendorf. Peter was a master barber, but was having a hard time mastering prayer. So Luther wrote to him about a simple way to pray that includes the all-important element of thanksgiving. Not only could Peter be a master barber, but a master pray-er as well – *and so can you!*

Join us for a single-session breakfast study about the life and martyrdom of Jan Hus, from the LCMS study series, *"Faces of the Reformation."* **Men's Bible Breakfast is set for this Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 a.m. We hope you can join us!**

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE PLANS** – The children's service comes early this year, on **Sunday, Dec. 17** (one week before Christmas Eve). We have scheduled the service a little earlier as well at 5:00 p.m. since there is school the following day. The script is ready, and its time to begin identifying the children who will be participating, so that parts can be assigned. Here are a few things to note:

- **Parents, please sign up your children.** There is a form in the narthex to let us know your children will be participating. Alternatively, SJLS parents can sign up their children by simply responding to the email from Principal Germann.
- Music rehearsing will begin right away at SJLS, and soon in Sunday School.
- The first rehearsal and read-through will take place on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, Nov. 26. Rehearsals take place during Sunday School on the Sundays of December (3, 10 and 17).



We are looking for a person or team of people who can lead and direct rehearsals. Please speak with Pastor Niermann to review the script if interested.

## **SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS** – **This Thursday, November 16**

The holidays present unique challenges for people who are grieving.

- "What will the holidays be like without my loved one here?"
- "Should I keep things the same at the Thanksgiving table now that he's not here, or do something different?"
- "She always decorated the tree. Should I even put one up this year?"

To help you cope, we are offering **"Surviving the Holidays,"** and single two-hour event by **GriefShare** to support and equip you with coping tools for the holiday season. You'll see a video with folks sharing their struggles, you'll meet people with whom you can discuss your experiences (or just listen), and you'll receive a holiday survival guide with practical tips for facing the holidays after loss.

**This session will be held this Thursday, November 16, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the lounge near the sanctuary,** and will be led by our **GriefShare** leader, Nancy Nemoyer. An optional half hour craft will follow in acknowledgement of your grief and in memory of your loved one. Registration is not required, but is recommended. Use the link on our church webpage, [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org), or go to [www.griefshare.org/holidays/events/50154](http://www.griefshare.org/holidays/events/50154). Feel free to invite anyone you think may benefit.



<b>FINANCIAL FACTS:</b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/05/23	\$15,054.14	\$437.00	\$588.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Sunday – 210

**LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS DECORATING** – A day for decorating the sanctuary for Christmas has been set for Tuesday, Nov. 28 (the Tuesday after Thanksgiving). We plan to begin around 5:30 PM and decorating usually can take one and a half hours. Everyone is welcome to come and join the fun!

**LADIES OF ST. JOHN:** The 2024 Booklet for the *Women of Freedom (LWML)* is being edited. All women of the Lutheran Church are considered members of the LWML. If you would like to be listed as an *active* member, please contact *Linda Riefers*. Call 419-267-3366 or e-mail [rie307w@bright.net](mailto:rie307w@bright.net). Current members please note any change of address or phone contact; and also, if you would like to have your e-mail added. *Women of Freedom* meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of the month with no meetings in January, February, June, August and December. Special optional activities are planned in February, June, and December. We serve funerals on request and volunteer our services as needed in the church. A warm welcome to any and all!

**CHIPOTLE NIGHT FUNDRAISER:** Come out and support this fundraiser for our school on Tues., Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> from 4-8PM. A flyer is inserted in today's bulletin. Similar to the Hawk's Community Day fundraiser, you can order online or go to Chipotle in Defiance (only) and place your order. You will have to mention the "promo code **KQBXG2W**" along with our name, St. John Lutheran School. St. John will receive 33% of the event sales, so please try your best to support this event. Pass this information on to your family members, relatives, neighbors, etc. Thank you in advance!

**PTL MEETING:** The next PTL meeting will be held Mon., Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The success of the PTL depends on parental involvement. We are still in need of PTL officers for this school year. Please plan to attend the meeting, bring your ideas, and support the school.

**ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP:** St. John Athletic Booster membership drive is 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 on 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](http://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".

**SCRIP:** Plan to get a jump start on your Christmas shopping this year. The SCRIP Order Form has been inserted in today's bulletin. Additional 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!

**LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT – How You Can Help?** If you have used prescription or nonprescription glasses or sunglasses in your drawers, desk, or closet, you can donate them now! Children’s glasses are especially needed. Both plastic and metal frames are accepted. There is a box under the narthex table for the collection of these used glasses.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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.**

**COLLECTING STAMPS:** The LWML is collecting stamps “For Missions.” A box is on the table in the narthex. Here is what you do: Cut the stamps from the envelopes allowing ¼ inch margin or more around the stamp. The stamp may not be damaged and the perforations around the stamp must be perfect. You need not trim the stamp; we have someone who trims and sorts the stamps. Do not remove stamps from envelopes, albums, and older postcards. An “old” postcard is usually from 1930 or before. The most valuable stamps are commemorative, foreign, and stamp denominations larger than \$.46. Collecting stamps is an easy way to participate in mission projects thru the LWML.

**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA:** The Ridgeville Sons of the American Legion are asking you to join them in their mission to place “wreaths across America” in 2023. National Wreaths Across American Day is Sat., Dec. 16, 2023. Sponsored wreaths are placed on grave markers at state and national veterans’ cemeteries, as well as at local, community cemeteries each December. Wreath Sponsorship forms and more information is available on the narthex table. Wreaths may also be sponsored online at [www.wreathscrossamerica.org/OH0229P](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/OH0229P) or via the QR code on the sponsorship form. **Order deadline is Wed., Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>.**

#### **AREA EVENTS**

- ◆ **SYMPHONY OF TREES** will be held on Nov. 16 – 19 at the Armory Arts & Event Center, 127 E. Clinton St., Napoleon. All festivities can be found at [www.symphonyoftrees.com](http://www.symphonyoftrees.com)
- ◆ **CHRISTMAS VILLAGE CRAFT SHOW** will be held at the Ridgeville Legion Hall, Sun., Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. Tickets go on sale tomorrow (11-13) thru their church office at 419-758-3522. See flyer!
- ◆ **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA CEREMONY** will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon Twp., 16976 Co Rd Q1 on Sat., Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at noon. See flyer by the order forms on the narthex table.

✘ ✘ ✘

#### **Food For Thought...**

**I always thought air was free – until I bought a bag of chips!**

*“Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work come from a man’s envy of his neighbor.  
This also is vanity and a striving after wind.” (Eccl 4:4)*