

November 26, 2023

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### LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

Sermon & Text: "End-Time Life – The Orthodox Life" *Matthew 25:31–46*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: 905 ~ 845 ~ 795 ~ 508

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### 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.*

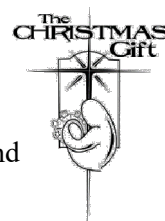
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### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✠ Anika Rosebrock & Brayden Damman ✠
- ✠ Joe Badenhop, Nick Sonnenberg, Neil Badenhop, Doug Dietrich, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Elaine Buenger, Deb Von Deylen, Teresa Weller, *Altar Guild* ✠

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE PLANS** – Parts have been assigned, and this morning the children will begin rehearsing with their first read through of the service script. **After today, full rehearsals will take place each Sunday in December during the Sunday School hour.** Parents, thank you for making the extra effort to have your children at these rehearsals. It helps them to build confidence as they prepare to stand before the congregation on December 17 to share the good news of Christ's birth for us!



**CONFIRMATION CLASS SHCHEDULE DURING ADVENT** – This week yet, the confirmation class will meet at the regular time, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. In December, class will meet earlier, from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., dismissing in time for the midweek Advent services at 7:00 p.m. Then in the new year, we will be back to our regular schedule once again.

**ADVENT DEVOTION BOOKLETS** are available today on the narthex table. They are titled *What Child is This* and are provided to us through Lutheran Hour Ministries. Pick up a copy today!

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	<b>Worship Service</b> Children's Christmas Practice following the service; Adult Bible Study; "The Lamp"
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tues.	8:35 AM 10:00AM 5:00 PM 5:30 PM	<b>School Chapel</b> <i>GriefShare</i> Support Group School Board Meeting Decorate sanctuary for Christmas ( <i>help needed</i> )
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class (until 7:30 PM)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 5:00 PM	<b>Communion Service</b> Children's Christmas Practice following the service; Adult Bible Study; "The Lamp" Caroling ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )

**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
- ❖ *Elaine Hesterman*, experiencing further vision problems because of shingles
- ❖ *Robert Nemoyer*, recovering from a back procedure this past Thursday
- ❖ *Delia Blake*, for her recent diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. She was the exercise instructor here for several years and made lasting friendships with several of our members.

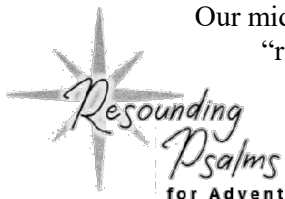
**DECK THE HALLS! IT'S TIME TO DECORATE THE SANCTUARY** – This

**Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.** the School Board will be decorating the sanctuary for Christmas, and they would very much appreciate your help! Many hands do indeed make light work! We expect decorating to take approximately an hour (no more than 1½ hours), after which we will sit down together for some pizza and fellowship.



**MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES BEGIN WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6<sup>th</sup>** – There is no Advent service this week! Because of the way the calendar falls this year, there has been some confusion about when Advent and our midweek services begin. **Advent begins on Sunday, Dec. 3**, which puts the first midweek Advent service on the following Wednesday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>. Midweek services will be at 7:00 p.m.

Our midweek Advent theme this year is **“Resounding Psalms.”** “Resounding” means “reverberating,” and the Psalms definitely reverberate with good news that God comes to **RESTORE** His people (Psalm 80), **REVIVE** them (Psalm 85), and **RETURN** them to the life He always intended for them. Join us each Wednesday during Advent for these special evening services, as we prepare our hearts and minds for a fitting celebration of the Christ’s birth!



**ADULT CHOIR:** There has been interest shown in starting up the Adult Choir again. If you've been pondering becoming a choir member, now is your chance. Practices will not be weekly, and the choir will only be singing at some of the special services during the church year. There is a sign-up sheet on the narthex table. If you were previously in choir and intend to come back, please sign-up also. You can also call the office (419-598-8961) to sign up.

**POINSETTIAS** – If you meant to order poinsettias but weren't able to, there were a few extras ordered. So if you are still interested in one, please call Joyce at church and she can take care of you. These acknowledgements will be published the Sunday the poinsettias are placed in the sanctuary.

**MY DEVOTION BOOKLETS** for the next quarter, *December, January, and February*, are available on the desk in the narthex. These are nice kid-friendly family devotions. Pick up a copy today!

<b>FINANCIAL FACTS:</b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/19/23	\$5,302.00	\$30.00	\$250.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Sunday – 162

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

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

The great judgment scene that we read about in today's Gospel reading is frightening to many, but it need not be. These words of Jesus are packed with comfort, if we just take a little closer look – which is exactly what we will be doing in Bible study this morning!

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.

**2024 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 a member would like to resume using envelopes, please contact Jerry Langenhop, Finance Trustee.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS & CUTLERY:** Check out the table in the hallway! The Women of Freedom have put out boxes of Christmas Cards for sale. If you are interested in purchasing any Rada 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 *Linda Meyer, Deb Wachtman, or Marian Dickmann* to purchase these. **The deadline to order the Rada Cutlery is Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.** This will allow the shipment to arrive before Christmas.

**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).*

**"HERE WE COME A-CAROLING"** – NEXT SUNDAY we will go a-caroling the old fashioned way, and make our way around to our shut-ins at home and in nursing care facilities to bless them with companionship and the carols of Christmas. Join us next Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We'll warm up our voices and then get on the way!



**Also, bring a treat or snack item to share** when we arrive back at the church. Please mark your calendar and join us for the fun. Touching the lives of our shut-ins in this simple way means the world to them! **Come a-caroling with us, and be a blessing!**

**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 2024 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. 17<sup>th</sup>. *You do not need to sign up again if you are currently serving as an usher or are on an altar guild team.*

**SCRIP FOR CHRISTMAS:** Christmas shopping the easy way this year. Pick up a form at the narthex table and shop in the comfort of your home. Additional SCRIP order forms are available in the "School Info" rack outside the school office. Thank you and happy shopping!

**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".

**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.

**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 to help you out!

**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.

**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.

#### **AREA EVENTS**

- ✦ **THE LUTHERAN CHORALAIRES ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT** – Sat., Dec. 2, 2023 at 4:00 PM at St. John Lutheran Church, Rochester, MI and Sat., Dec. 9, 2023 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. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Lunch will be served. Come and browse the shops!
- ✦ **RIDGEVILLE LEGION BLOOD DRIVE** will be held at the Ridgeville Legion Hall, Mon., Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> from Noon – 6:00 PM. Walk-ins welcome!
- ✦ **THE TOLEDO SYMPHONY** will perform a Christmas Concert at St. Paul Lutheran – 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.

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

**Read the last page of the Bible. It's all going to turn out alright!**

*“No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.” (Revelation 22:3)*

**KEEP THIS PAGE HANDY SO YOU DON'T MISS OUT  
ON CHURCH EVENTS IN DECEMBER!**

*(This will be updated if/when things are added)*

**LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER** – Please mark your calendars for some important events and happenings coming up at St. John next month.

- **Sunday Dec. 3, 10, 17 ♦ 10:15 a.m. CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE REHEARSALS**  
Rehearsals may last a little longer than the normal Sunday School hour, perhaps till 11:30 a.m.
- **Sunday Dec. 3 ♦ 5:00 p.m. TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING**  
We'll hop in our cars and visit our shut-ins, both at home and in nursing care facilities, with the carols of Christmas. Bring a snack that you can share when we gather back at the church!
- **Wednesday Dec. 6, 13, 20 ♦ 7:00 p.m. MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES**  
Our midweek Advent theme this year is "Resounding Psalms." Join us for the first three Wednesdays in December for these special evening services, as we prepare our hearts for birth of our Savior.
- **Sunday Dec. 10 ♦ 10:15 a.m. VOTERS' MEETING**  
After worship, while the children are rehearsing, the voters will gather in the fellowship hall to discuss: 1) 2024 budget; 2) Nomination/Election of 2024 officers; and 3) The matter of seeking outside consultation for the purpose of creating a vision for ministry here at St. John.
- **Sunday Dec. 10 ♦ 2 – 5 p.m. LADIES CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
Please plan to attend if you are able. The theme is "Party with a Purpose." There will be snacks and treats provided. See the flyer in today's bulletin. Additional flyers available at the narthex table. This is open to any women in the congregation. Bring a friend! We hope to see you there!
- **Sunday Dec. 17 ♦ 5:00 p.m. CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE**  
The children will be ready to present you with a very special gift and blessing, as they lead us in the worship of our new-born Savior!
- **Sunday Dec. 24 ♦ CHRISTMAS EVE**  
Regular Sunday Morning Service at 9:00 a.m.  
Christmas Eve Divine Service of Candlelight & Communion – 7:00 p.m.
- **Monday Dec. 25 ♦ CHRISTMAS DAY**  
Christmas Day Divine Service and Holy Communion, the "Christ Mass" – 9:30 a.m.