

# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sermon & Text: "John – Witness, Not Impersonator" *John 1:19-23*

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 345 ~ 953 ~ 344 ~ [Communion: 637, 349, 515] ~ 617 ~ 331

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### **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.*

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

- ✘ Bethann Gerken, *Pianist* ✘ Cayden Ruffer & Brayden Damman, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Dean Badenhop, Dennis Showman, Richard Elling, Dave Von Deylen, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Diane Von Deylen, Lou Ann Rosebrock, *Altar Guild* ✘

### **SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS --- Joseph – Carpenter of Steel**

As we approach the Christmas season, we will take some time in Sunday Bible study to consider God's servant, Joseph, step-father of our Lord. Joseph is a man appointed by God to do extraordinary things. Take a little time to study this "average Joe," and you will gain an immense amount of respect and admiration for his role in God's saving plan.

This four-part study from *Lutheran Hour Ministries* will include videos and discussion in which we hope you will engage with us, for a deeper appreciation of the Christmas story. Please join us in the fellowship hall after worship. The coffee is on!

### **TONIGHT'S CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE INFO:**

**TODAY** at 5:00 PM Children's Christmas Service – Grades K thru 8 students should arrive at 4:30 PM. The Preschoolers should come at 4:45 PM (*Everyone meet in the Fellowship Hall*)

**DRESS CODE** for today 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!

**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 10:20AM 5:00 PM	<b>Communion Service</b> Children's Christmas Practice – Full run through; Adult Bible Study School Board & High School LYF sacking Christmas candy bags Children's Christmas Service ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Tues.	8:35 AM 10:00AM	<b>School Chapel</b> <i>GriefShare</i> Support Group
Wed.	5:45 PM 7:00 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class ( <i>until 6:45 PM</i> ) <b>Advent Service 3</b> Offering: <i>St. John Youth Scholarship Fund</i> Ushers: <i>Dean Badenhop, Dennis Showman, Richard Elling, Dave Von Deylen</i> Altar Guild: <i>Lou Ann Rosebrock, Diane Von Deylen</i>
Thurs.		NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break (classes resume Jan. 4, 2024)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 7:00 PM	<b>Worship Service</b> Adult Bible Study; Sunday School Christmas Eve Carols & Candlelight Service Offering: <i>St. John Home Fund</i> Ushers: <i>Carey Damman, Mike Maassel, Scott Van Valkenburg</i> Altar Guild: <i>Lou Ann Rosebrock, Diane Von Deylen</i>

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

- ❖ *Melba Elling* 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, Delia Blake*, health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *Marian Damman*, recuperating and healing at home from a broken hip
- ❖ *Lowell & Renee Petzoldt*, both of whom are dealing with serious health issues. Renee continues to be hospitalized at the Toledo Hospital
- ❖ *Norma Damman*, admitted to Henry County Hospital this past week
- ❖ *Arlene Gerken*, who has moved to the In-patient Hospice Center in Defiance this week

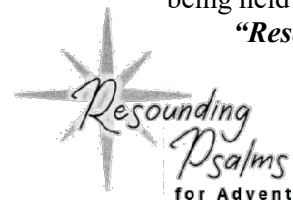
**“THE LAMP”** – We will not be having “The Lamp” today. Youth are encouraged to help the School Board with sacking the Christmas Treat bags for the Children's Service tonight. Your help is greatly appreciated. “The Lamp” resumes after the New Year (Jan. 7).

**HELP FOR THE PETZOLDTS** – Our dear friends in Christ, Lowell & Renee Petzoldt, have come upon hard times as they both deal with serious health issues, and a prolonged stay in ICU for Renee. Through our ***Good Neighbor Fund*** we have already extended help to this family for all the expenses they are incurring, including gas, food, etc. In addition, next Sunday and Monday (Christmas Eve and Day), we will receive a door offering after the services to extend them even more help. Above all, keep Renee, Lowell, Blake, Courtney and Robin (*Renee's sister*) in prayer. Thank you.

**POINSETTIA PLANTS** – The poinsettias are adorning the sanctuary this morning and will be used for the various upcoming Christmas Services. Please see the insert in 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. 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.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE DURING ADVENT** – During the Advent season the Wednesday confirmation class is meeting from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., dismissing in time for the midweek Advent services at 7:00 p.m. This Wednesday we will meet for one last time this year, and then will resume class in the new year on Wednesday, January 3 at the regular time, 6:15 p.m.

**MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES** – During the season of Advent, special midweek services are being held on Wednesday evenings 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 this Wednesday for the final Advent service of the season to prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of the Christ’s birth!

**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 2024 offering envelopes are available today in the narthex. If you give electronically, you will still need to pick up your offering box for the “special” services during the year, and newly confirmed members will have boxes labeled for them also. 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).

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 12/10/23	\$9,328.62	\$335.00	\$245.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Sunday – 191

**ADVENT SERVICE #1 (12-06-23):** \$1,170.00 – Good Shepherd for the Deaf; Attendance: 50

**OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

Please note that there is no offering envelope in your boxes for the Children’s Christmas Service tonight. 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 otherwise on the envelope, your offering will go to the *Orphan Grain Train – Care of Maui*.



**USHER AND ALTAR GUILD SIGN-UP** – **The sign-up deadline is today.** 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.

**WOMEN OF FREEDOM** – The 2024 Women of Freedom program booklets are available at the narthex table. Please pick up your copy today.

**LWML QUARTERLIES & ODE's**: Pick up the Winter issue of the LWML Quarterly and ODE in the tract rack in the narthex. All women of the congregation are welcome to take one for your reading enjoyment during the winter months.

**INSTALLATION OF 2024 CHURCH OFFICERS** – We give thanks to God for everyone who submitted their names for nomination to our various church offices. Your servant hearts and willing spirits provide an example for us all! **Those who were elected or appointed to offices for the coming year will be installed into those offices on the first Sunday of the New Year, January 7<sup>th</sup>.**

Officers to be installed are: **President** – *Kirk Sausser*; **Vice President** – *Dean Badenhop*; **Treasurer** – *Cathy Gerken*; **Financial Trustee** – *Ryan Bostelman*; **Elders** – *N/A, N/A*; **Stewardship Board** – *Lisa Bockelman, Karen Lulfs*; **Board of Education** (installed to take office in July 2024) – *Linda Miller, Amy Rosebrook*; **Alt. Delegate Syn** – *vacant*; **Secretary** – *Nicole Stier*; **Church Deacon** – *Dave Johnson*; **Trustees** – *Dennis Showman, Kurtis Kramer*; **Sunday School Supt.** – *Stephanie Damman*; **Asst. Sunday School Supt.** – *vacant*; **Cemetery Board** – *Michael Cohrs, Gavin Gerken, Jake Myles*; **Cemetery Sexton** – *Ben Kruse*.

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

**DECEMBER HAPPENINGS** – Please make note of these important events and happenings at St. John this month.

**Sunday Dec. 17 ♦ 10:15 a.m. CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE REHEARSAL**

Final rehearsal (full run through). This may last longer than the normal Sunday School hour.

• **Wednesday Dec. 20 ♦ 7:00 p.m. MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES**

Our midweek Advent theme this year is “Resounding Psalms.” Join us this Wednesdays for the final Advent Service, as we continue preparing our hearts for the birth of our Savior.

• **Sunday Dec. 17 ♦ 5:00 p.m. CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

Under the theme, “The Christmas Gift,” the children will present us a very special worship opportunity and a gift, and directing our hearts and minds to Christ, the new-born Savior!

• **Sunday Dec. 24 ♦ CHRISTMAS EVE**

Regular Sunday Morning Service at 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Service of Carols & Candlelight – 7:00 p.m.

• **Monday Dec. 25 ♦ CHRISTMAS DAY**

Christmas Day Divine Service and Holy Communion, the “Christ Mass” – 9:30 a.m.

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**Food For Thought...**

**The Third Advent Candle – SHEPHERDS**

*“And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.” (Luke 2:20)*