

St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

November 3, 2024

VOL. 89

NO. 44

Rev. Gary Bender, TIM Pastor
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Cell: 989-770-0005; Church: 419-598-8961
School: 419-598-8702
Church Website: www.sjl.org

ALL SAINTS' DAY (observed)

Sermon & Text: "Blessed Ones" *Matthew 5:1-12*

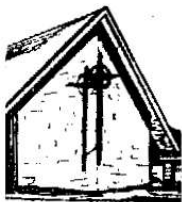
Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 677 ~ 659 ~ [Communion: 676, 411, 813] ~ 632

Adult Choir: "Find Us Faithful"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

You are invited to worship with us in the quiet of prayer, in the joy of song, and in the desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we gather at the Lord's Table today, we also unite with all the saints to celebrate God's feast of victory. Here He nourishes us with the food and drink of the full assurance of our salvation in Him. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and place it in the basket at the door as you leave today.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Anna Sausser, Anika Rosebrock ✠
- ✠ Nick Sonnenberg, Joe Badenhop, Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Kathy Behnfeldt, *Altar Guild* ✠

ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE – This morning we remember with thanksgiving our brother and sister saints who died in Christ since the last celebration of All Saints a year ago. Through faith in Christ they conquered over sin and death to reign with Christ forever. We eagerly anticipate the day when we are reunited with them in glory. They are:

Renee Petzoldt – † January 3, 2024

Arlene Gerken – † March 18, 2024

Alan Gruenhagen – † June 4, 2024

Steve Norden – † June 13, 2024

Elaine Hesterman – † August 7, 2024



A white rose will be placed near the baptismal font in remembrance of our sisters and brothers in faith. Following the service, a family member may take a rose as a remembrance of their departed loved one.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20 AM 1:30 PM	All Saints & Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" New Member Class
Mon.		Scholastic Book Fair (<i>Monday thru Friday</i>)
Tues.	8:35 AM 5:15 PM	School Chapel School Board Meeting
Wed.	10:00AM 6:15 PM 7:00 PM	3-yr old Preschool Grandparents' Day (<i>until 11:20 AM</i>) Midweek Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>) Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:30 AM NOON 2:30 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast 4-yr old Preschool, K-garten, Gr. 1-5 Grandparents' Day (<i>until noon</i>) Early Dismissal Parent / Teacher Conferences (<i>until 8:00 PM</i>)
Fri.		NO SCHOOL – Parent / Teacher Conferences (<i>as needed</i>)
Sat.	8:30 AM	Napoleon Zone LWML Christian Life Workshop (<i>see note</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20 AM 1:30 PM	LWML Sunday Worship Service with Communion following Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" New Member Class

PASTORAL EMERGENCIES – In the event you require emergency pastoral care, please call Pastor Gary at 989-770-0005.

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

- ❖ *Melba Elling, Norma Damman, and Rozella Gruenhagen* at Genacross
- ❖ *Lawrence Behrmann*, at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Irene Joost, Leona Durham, and Elaine Mahnke*
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Carmon, Jordan Lange, and Cody Hoffman*
- ❖ *Lowell Petzoldt and Cheryl Yaw*, for health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *Marietta Damman and Willie Joost*, dealing with health related concerns

PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR – In today's Scripture readings we hear that *Saints Are Blessed in the Eternal Presence of Christ*.

"A great multitude ... from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages," cry out, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne" (Rev. 7:9–17). Faith-filled saints from every place and time, with unified voices, eternally magnify the Lamb of God. As His beloved children, we, too, "shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:1–3). Joined with the throng of angels and myriad saints, we shall "serve him day and night in his temple" (Rev. 7:9–17). In our earthly tension vacillating between saint and sinner, faith and doubt, sacred and profane, we earnestly seek Jesus to calm our fears, comfort our spirits and forgive our sins. The Holy Spirit through faith in Christ propels us forward, fortifying us in Word and Sacrament, to our eternal home. In the midst of our constant struggle as believers, we need to be blessed. And so we are. The poor in spirit, the meek, the hungry, the thirsty, the merciful, the pure and the persecuted are all blessed, and we will most certainly inherit the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 5:1–12) **"He who has ears to hear, let him hear" (Matt. 11:15).**

ADULT BIBLE CLASS - This morning we will take “A Longer Look at the Lessons.” These week-by-week studies take a more in-depth look at the Scripture readings that are read in worship that morning. Each Sunday is a study unto itself, so that if you have to miss one Sunday, you can easily pick up again the following Sunday.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES have begun and continue for the next four Sundays. These will be held in the Fellowship Hall – North End from 1:30 – 3:30 PM. If you know of anyone else interested, please have them come to this session. These will continue thru Sun., Nov. 24th.

Bible Study



MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY – Join us bright and early this Thursday morning at 6:30 AM for Men's Bible Breakfast. It's a great way to start your day! Good food, good friends, and a good Word from God! It's the best part of waking up!

LWML FALL CHRISTIAN LIFE WORKSHOP - The Women of Freedom are invited to the Fall Workshop for LWML to be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church Youth Center, 1075 Glenwood Ave., Napoleon, on Saturday, Nov. 9th with registration at 8:30 AM and the program from 9-11:30 AM. The Bible study by Rev. Jacob Stuenkel will be “Comfort and Hope...to share.” Flyer on bulletin board.

JR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL LYF - Both groups will be meeting Sunday, **November 17th, at 5:00 PM** at the Youth Center. We will be having a Thanksgiving feast and signing Christmas cards for the shut-ins. Bring a friend!

POINSETTIA SALE – The poinsettia sale for Christmas is now underway, and green order forms are inserted in today's bulletin and also available on the narthex table. **If you want to place your order and can't pay today, please fill out an order form at the narthex table or call the church office 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. 13th.**

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.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE: It is time to start thinking about the Children's Christmas Service. We need to know how many children are planning on being part of the Christmas service on Sun., Dec. 22 at 7:00 PM. **The deadline to sign up is Fri., Nov. 15th.** This is a combined church/school event, with practices being held on Sundays after church during the Sunday School hour. A blue sign-up sheet is on the narthex table for parents to sign up your children who will be participating. You can also call the church office to get signed up. The first rehearsal will take place on Sunday, December 1st and continue each of the following Sundays, December 8, 15, and 22.

SAVE THE DATE: **Tuesday, Nov. 19th at 6:30 PM** the Women of Freedom will be having an early Advent and Christmas kickoff party for **ALL LADIES** of St John in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for a potluck of Christmas snacks, fun games, skits, singing and fellowship! See you there!

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS: The holidays are challenging when you're grieving a loss. No matter how long it's been since your loved one died, grief can make the holidays a painful time. But there's hope. Join us for a one evening seminar with encouragement, support and valuable tools to help you navigate the season.



Thursday, November 21st, 2024 at 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., followed by a keepsake craft 8:00 to 8:30 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church, in the Youth & Family Center. For more information, or to register, please go to griefshare.org/holidays or contact Nancy Nemoyer, nemoyer@gmail.com, phone 717-421-5741.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 10/27/24	\$12,718.55	\$140.00	\$520.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday (10/24/24) – 29; Sunday (10/27/24) – 133

LWML MITES: LWML Sunday will be celebrated on November 10th. The Lutheran Women Missionary League joyfully proclaims Christ, supports missions and equips women to honor God by serving others. Our mites and prayers bring the love and hope of Jesus to those in need in our own state and all over the world. There will be a congregational mite collection, so please begin to set aside your mites to be given on LWML Sunday. So for now, please start collecting your mites. Thank you!

THE NOMINATIONS PROCESS BEGINS – The Stewardship Board would like to announce that they will soon be sending letters out to members of our congregation asking if they would be willing to serve in one of the offices of our congregation. Please keep this process in your prayers, and if asked, please give it prayerful consideration. **We are so thankful to God for all those who choose to serve!** Your service in the Lord's name is never in vain, and it is deeply appreciated!



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 5th. If you would like to make a donation, please mail your donation to Henry County Christmas Cheer, c/o LeRoy Helberg, Q610 County Road 19, Napoleon, OH 43545. **Make checks payable to Henry County Christmas Cheer.**

SCRIP: Plan to start your Christmas shopping! The SCRIP Order Form can be found in the tract rack in the narthex. Thank you and happy shopping! Please turn those orders in on Wednesdays, with payment to *St. John School PTL Scrip Program*. The gift cards will be sent home the following week on Tuesday. Payment must accompany orders. Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.

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

ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP: Membership is now being taken for the Athletic Booster Club. Prices are \$20.00 for a couple and \$10.00 for an individual. **Make checks payable to St. John Boosters** and send to school with your child. Forms are available on the narthex table or contact any of the Booster officers. Join today and help out the children's athletic program.

PENNY DRIVE: The fifth grade student council will be holding a penny drive for Hurricane Helene and Milton victims starting November 4th through the month of November. Each class will bring in coins and put it in their classroom's penny jar. The winning class will receive a pizza party. Congregation members are welcomed and encouraged to donate to any class every Sunday in the back of the church. The fifth grade students are also accepting donations such as, individually wrapped toothbrush/ toothpaste, band aids (common household bandages), and travel sized shampoo and conditioner to donate to the survivors of Hurricane Helene and Milton.

PTL MEETING: The next PTL meeting will be held Mon., Nov. 11th 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, particularly a treasurer. With Joyce's retirement in December, there will no longer be a check signer on the PTL checking account. A new treasurer will need to be in place prior to Joyce's retirement. Please contact Miss. Germann if interested. Please plan to attend the meeting, bring your ideas, and support the school.

GRANDPARENTS' DAY: On Thursday, November 7, we will celebrate our grandparents. Grandparents of the 4-year-old preschool class, as well as grandparents of students in grades K-5 are invited to come to school from 9:30-12. From 9:30-11:30 there will be a variety of activities available as well as time to visit the book fair. From 11:30-12 we will head to the church for some songs and prayers. Students will be dismissed early that day. If your child's grandparents will be taking them home at noon after Grandparents' Day, please make sure to inform your child's teacher. There will be no bussing or Freedom Flock After Care on Nov. 7th due to the early dismissal. Grandparents' Day for the PS3-yr-old class will be held the day before on Wed., Nov. 6 from 10-11:20.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR: St. John School book fair will be held Nov. 3-8. The book fair will be open during the Fall Festival, following church on Sunday and during grandparents' day. The book fair will also be open throughout the week for classes to visit. Thank you for your support of our book fair. We are able to increase the amount of books available for students to read in our library from funds raised during the school book fair. A lot of volunteer help will be needed, please call the office if you are interested in helping with the book fair.

BASKETBALL PRACTICES – BOYS / GIRLS: The 2024-2025 basketball season is fast approaching with practices scheduled on Mon/Wed/Fri from 4-5:30 PM for the girls. The boy's practices will begin on Mon., Nov. 4th from 6:00 – 7:30 PM. The 4-6 grade teams (both boys and girls) will consist of any active church member's children that are currently in grades 3 to 6 and are interested in participating.

BASKETBALL SCHEDULES: The 2024-2025 St. John Eagle basketball schedules are printed and available on the narthex table for anyone interested. GO EAGLES!

IS THERE A VOLUNTEER? The school would like to know if there are two volunteers to come and install a few sheets of “whiteboard” over a chalkboard in the 3rd & 4th grade classroom. Please call the school office if this is of interest to you.

LOST AND FOUND: There are many lost and found items on the table down by the gym. Please have check to see if anything belongs to you. These items will be donated to the Orphan Grain Train if they are not claimed by Fri., Nov. 22nd.

POSITION OPENING :

- **Music Teacher:** If you know of anyone interested in taking on the role as music teacher, please let Miss Germann know. This will be an open position as of November 1st. This is a one day a week position responsible for teaching children in grades K-5 music according to the state standards. If you know of anyone for this position, please contact Miss Germann at tgermann@sjl.org.

ST. JOHN WEBSITE: Did you know you can listen to *Pastor Gary's* sermons on the internet? Just click on “St. John YouTube Channel” or “Worship Service Resources” on the Home Page.

LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN’S ACTIVITY BULLETINS are available today on the table in the narthex. The Children’s Bulletins are coordinated with the Bible texts for each Sunday, and provide activities that tie in with the weekly themes. Pick one up today for your child.

ALTAR FLOWERS: For anyone wishing to place flowers on the altar for Sunday worship, please contact *Nancy Glaser* at 419-906-0963. **The price for flowers through the Women of Freedom is now \$30.00.** Please make checks payable to Women of Freedom. Remember that it is your responsibility to call Nancy either way; if you would like the Women of Freedom to order flowers or if you are going to take care of ordering them yourself. This will alleviate any confusion.

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 the church office a call, and we’ll see what we can do!

CHURCH HISTORY BOOKS – If at any time during the year you need a gift for a current or former member of St. John, why not consider one of our Church History Books. This book is full of interesting facts about St. John’s and is available in the church office at a cost of \$12.00.

VENMO IS HERE! Exciting News...St. John now accepts donations via Venmo! To get started, simply log in to **SJL Open** internet and use password **sjleagles##** . Then scan the QR code beside this announcement to go directly to our donation page.



✘ ✘ ✘

Thought for the Week...

God wants your obedience more than your performance.