



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

November 10, 2024

VOL. 89

NO. 45

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

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon & Text: "A Proper Offering to God" *Mark 12:38-44*

Order of Service: Service of Prayer and Preaching LSB pg. 260

Hymns: 786 ~ 783 ~ *LWML Song* (see insert) ~ 857

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

- ✘ Elaine Buenger, *Organist* ✘ Kenlee Coressel, Erin Damman✘
- ✘ Nick Sonnenberg, Joe Badenhop, Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Kathy Behnfeldt, *Altar Guild* ✘

CHURCH SECRETARY DAYS: Please note that going forward, Leah Saylor will be in the church office on Wednesdays and Thursdays. She can be reached by e-mail at: churchsecretary@sjl.org. Bulletin submissions will now need to be turned in to the office by end-of-day *Tuesday* of each week in order to be included in the Sunday bulletin. Thank you for your patience as we make this transition.

POINSETTIA SALE – The poinsettia sale for Christmas is now underway, forms are 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.



In God's House This Week		Online church calendar: https://74058984.view-events.com
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM	LWML Sunday Worship Service with Communion following
	10:20 AM	Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
	1:30 PM	New Member Class
Mon.	7:00 PM	PTL Meeting
Tues.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
	7:00 PM	Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>)
	7:00 PM	Adult Choir Practice
Sun.	9:00 AM	Communion Service
	10:20 AM	Adult Bible Study; Sunday School only
	1:30 PM	New Member Class
	5:00 PM	LYF Meeting (see bulletin note)

PASTORAL EMERGENCIES – In the event you require emergency pastoral care, please call **Pastor Gary at 989-770-0005**. **NOTE ABOUT HOSPITALIZATION:** If you are planning to spend time in a hospital (more than just out-patient) for surgery or other issues, please notify the Church Office or Pastor Gary so he can arrange to visit you while you are there. He will need to know the dates involved and which hospital you will be staying at (preferably in writing). Thank you for your help and cooperation in this matter.

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 ***The Lord Freely Feeds and Provides for Us with Everything He Has.***

Those who contribute "large sums" from "out of their abundance" have done very little. They cannot purchase God's favor with their money. But the "poor widow" with her two small coins, who "out of her poverty has put in everything she had," entrusts herself and her life to the mercy of God (Mark 12:41-44). Such faith is not disappointed, for the Lord is faithful, and He provides for His people by His grace. Thus was the poor widow of Zarephath able to feed the prophet Elijah "for many days," as well as herself and her household, "according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah" (1 Kings 17:15-16). He feeds us, too, by His Word, not only with daily bread for this body and life, but unto the life everlasting in Christ Jesus. "By the sacrifice of himself," by the giving of His body and life and all that He had, He has entered "into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf" (Heb. 9:24-26). He is our great High Priest and the Temple of God, as well as the priestly food with which He feeds us. ***"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.

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!

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!

LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS DECORATING – A day for decorating the sanctuary for Christmas has been set for Monday, December 2nd (the Monday 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!

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, nnemoyer@gmail.com, phone 717-421-5741.

NOTE: Two volunteers are needed at the registration table from 5:30 - 6 p.m. and a couple of bakers to provide a snack for the participants - 1 or 2 loaves of quick bread or some cookies would be appreciated. Contact Nancy.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/3/24	\$32,104.99	\$1,010.00	\$815.00

LAST SUNDAY ATTENDANCE: 235

THE NOMINATIONS PROCESS BEGINS – The Stewardship Board would like to announce that letters have been sent 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.

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.

CHIPOTLE NIGHT! Thank you to everyone that took the time to order online or pack up and drive to Chipotle in Defiance to support this school fundraiser. We've heard from Chipotle via email with the results of the fundraiser. St. John School will be receiving a check from Chipotle for \$92.00 in the near future. Thank you all for joining in!

BASKETBALL PRACTICES – BOYS / GIRLS: The 2024-2025 basketball season is fast approaching with practices scheduled on Tues/Wed/Fri from 4-5:30 PM for the girls. The boy's practices began 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.
- **Janitor:** We are in need of a custodian immediately. If you know of anyone interested, please reach out to Miss Germann at tgermann@sjl.org. This is a 3-hour daily position in charge of keeping the school clean.

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. **NOTE: 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!

WORSHIP ANEW: Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. produces a weekly, 30-minute Lutheran broadcast worship service called *Worship Anew* (formerly *Worship For Shut-Ins*). Each service includes music, scripture readings, prayers, and a pastor delivering a message that is designed to feel one-on-one to the viewer. They look forward to the continuation and expansion of this ministry in the years to come. Lutheran Ministries Media would like to thank you for your prayers and support of God's work through *Worship Anew*. Broadcasts can be viewed every Sunday on: *Toledo's WTVG (CW) Channel 13.2 at 10:30 AM.*

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.

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.

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 2024. National Wreaths Across American Day is Sat., Dec. 14, 2024. 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 or via the QR code on the sponsorship form. **Order deadline is Sun., Dec. 1.**

AREA EVENTS

- ◆ **SYMPHONY OF TREES** will be held Nov. 14 – 17 at the Armory Arts & Event Center, 127 E. Clinton St., Napoleon. All festivities can be found at www.symphonyoftrees.com
- ◆ **CHRISTMAS VILLAGE CRAFT SHOW** will be held at the Ridgeville Legion Hall, Sun., **Dec. 8th from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM.** Come and browse the shops!
- ◆ **THE TOLEDO SYMPHONY** will perform a Christmas Concert at St. Paul Lutheran Church – Napoleon Township, on **Wed., Dec. 18th at 7:00 PM.** Tickets go on sale on Friday, Nov. 15th thru their church office at 419-758-3522. See flyer!

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.



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Thought for the Week...

Make a living by what you get. Make a life by what you give.