



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

November 17, 2024

VOL. 90

NO. 46

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-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon & Text: "Surviving the End Times - Part I" *Mark 13:1-13*

Order of Service: Divine Service Setting One - LSB pg. 151

Hymns: 508 ~ 795 (v. 1, 5) ~ 621 ~ 511 ~ 640 ~ 919 (v. 1, 2, 5, 6)

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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Brynneleigh Kehnast, Piper Speiser, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Nick Sonnenberg, Joe Badenhop, Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Kathy Behnfeldt, *Altar Guild* ✠

ALTAR FLOWERS this Sunday are placed in honor of Jack and Nancy Glaser's 20th wedding anniversary. They were married on November 19th, 2004. We wish them many more years of memories together. Congratulations, Jack and Nancy!

ADULT BAPTISM – We rejoice today as we celebrate the baptism of Alison Lee Burch. Alison is completing new member classes with her fiancé, Mitchell Hogrefe. Her baptismal sponsors are Jim and Nancy Hogrefe (Mitchell's grandparents). *May the good work which God begins today in Alison be brought to completion on the day of Jesus Christ!*



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.

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: <https://74058984.view-events.com>

Date	Time	Activities
Today	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)
Tues.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
	6:30 PM	Women of Freedom Advent/Christmas Kickoff
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>)
	7:00 PM	Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Study Breakfast
	6:00 PM	<i>GriefShare</i> Support Ministry - Surviving the Holidays
Sun.	9:00 AM	Worship Service
	10:20 AM	Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; LYF
	1:30 PM	New Member Class

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

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/10/24	\$7,982.00	\$1,062.00	\$328.00

LAST SUNDAY ATTENDANCE: 152

THANK YOU FROM THE WOMEN OF FREEDOM! – The Women of Freedom/LWML would like to thank all who brought their mites last Sunday. They totaled \$853.78! May the Lord bless these mites as they go to do His work in the harvest field locally and nationally.

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!

PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR – In today’s Scripture readings we hear that *The Crucified and Risen Body of Christ Jesus is the True Temple of God*

Despite its “wonderful stones” and “great buildings,” the Jerusalem temple would be torn down, with not one stone left upon another, just as this present world and its kingdoms will come to an end (Mark 13:1–8). But that temple pointed beyond itself to Christ, to His sacrifice upon the cross and to the resurrection of His body as the true Temple of God. In the midst of sin and death, by the proclamation of the Gospel, He now gathers disciples into His body, wherein “the one who endures to the end will be saved” (Mark 13:10–13). For He is “a great priest over the house of God,” who “will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” By the pure water of His Baptism, they “draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith,” and by His flesh and blood, they enter the Holy of Holies (Heb. 10:17–22). Thus are His people delivered, “everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.” For by the wisdom of His Gospel, He turns “many to righteousness,” so that “many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake” to everlasting life (Dan. 12:1–3). *“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 **this evening 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!

LADIES’ CHRISTMAS KICKOFF - this coming **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 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.

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.

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.

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!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE - YOU CAN STILL SIGN UP! The Children's Christmas service will be held on Sun., Dec. 22 at 7:00 PM. 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.

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 is included in today's bulletin. Thank you and happy shopping! Please turn those orders in on Wednesdays, with payment to *St. John School PTL Scrip Program*. 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 is holding a penny drive for Hurricane Helene and Milton victims now through the month of November. Each class will bring in coins and put them in their classroom's penny jar. 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.

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

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.

SCHOOL 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.

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!

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.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/OH0229P or via the QR code on the sponsorship form. **Order deadline is Sun., Dec. 1.**

AREA EVENTS

- ◆ **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 are on sale thru their church office at 419-758-3522. See flyer!

VENMO IS HERE! Exciting News...St. John now accepts donations via Venmo! If you need internet access, you may use our guest wifi **SJL Open** 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...

Jesus Christ is the only door into Heaven.