



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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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

Last Sunday of the Church Year

Sermon & Text: “Surviving the End Times - Part II” *Mark 13:24-37*

Order of Service: Matins - LSB pg. 219

Hymns: 578 ~ 663 ~ *Choir Anthem- Beautiful Savior* ~ 700

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 and 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

- ✘ Elaine Buenger, *Organist* ✘ Maxton Howard, Brayden Damman *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ 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.



WEDNESDAY SERVICES: We will begin worshipping on Wednesday evenings again starting this week as we celebrate **Thanksgiving Eve** together on **November 27th at 7 p.m.** As always, we encourage you to consider two offerings that evening – the regular monetary offering for Christmas Cheer, and the offering of food items for our **Bread From Heaven Food Pantry**. Then, beginning the following Wednesday, December 4th, we kick off our mid-week Advent series with the theme of “Preparing for CHRISTmas.”

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	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" New Member Class
Mon.	5:30 PM	NO SCHOOL— Teacher's Connections Conf., Fort Wayne (Mon/Tues) Bread from Heaven Food Pantry Distribution
Wed.	5:45 PM 7:00 PM	NO SCHOOL— Thanksgiving Break (Wed/Thurs/Fri) Midweek Confirmation Class Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20 AM 10:20 AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; "The Lamp" Children's Christmas Service Practice

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

THANK YOU FROM CHERYL YAW – Cheryl wants to extend a big THANK YOU for all of the cards and prayers that she has been receiving. She shared, "I deeply appreciate them. Right now I have 3 more chemo appointments, and I might have an answer. Most of all, I thank the Lord our Savior. Because with God all things are possible. Everyone have a blessed Thanksgiving."

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/17/24	\$11,713.78	\$150.00	\$370.00

LAST SUNDAY ATTENDANCE: 145

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 ***In Repentance We Are Alert to the Coming of Christ.***

The signs of the end are all around us, constant reminders that “heaven and earth will pass away.” But all of these signs are centered in the cross of Christ, whereby He has conquered sin and death, that we might be raised with Him in righteousness through His Word of the Gospel, which “will not pass away” (Mark 13:31). He is “the firstborn of the dead,” who in His great love “has freed us from our sins by his blood” (Rev. 1:5). His salvation is certain because “his dominion is an everlasting dominion” and His Kingdom “shall not be destroyed” (Dan. 7:14). For this purpose, He came into the world, to reign in love through His voice of the Gospel, which is the truth (John 18:37). So is the righteousness of Christ “a light to the peoples,” which “will never be dismayed” because it is the justice of His cross and resurrection (Is. 51:4–6). As He “is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory,” so wait upon “the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life” (Jude 20–24). ***“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.

2025 OFFERING BOXES – Offering envelope boxes are available to pick up in the back of the church starting today. 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 ([419-966-3473](tel:419-966-3473)).

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 for 2025. Those interested can sign up for the month that works best for them on the sheet at the narthex table. ***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.*

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SERVICE – The Children’s Christmas service will be held on Sun., Dec. 22nd at 7:00 PM. This is a combined church/school event, with practices being held on Sundays after church during the Sunday School hour beginning on December 1st and continuing each of the following Sundays Dec. 8th, 15th, and 22nd.

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!

ADVENT DEVOTION BOOKLETS are available starting today on the narthex table. They are titled *Come, Let us Adore Him* and are provided to us through Lutheran Hour Ministries. You may also access the Advent devotionals online by visiting lhm.org/advent.

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

PENNY DRIVE – The fifth grade student council is holding a penny drive for Hurricane Helene and Milton victims through November 30th. 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 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.

SCRIP FOR CHRISTMAS – Do 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! Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.

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

- ◆ **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...

Look for Christ's return; live for Christ's glory.