



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

November 30, 2025

VOL. 91

NO. 48

Pastoral Vacancy

Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church Office: 419-598-8961

School Office: 419-598-8702

Church Website: www.sjl.org

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sermon: Guest *Seminarian Nash Ringquist*

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Three, *LSB pg. 184*

Hymns: **350 ~ 332 ~ 331**

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 and 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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Elaine Buenger, *Organist* ✘ Brynnleigh Kehnast, Emma Damman *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Joe Badenhop, Nick Sonnenberg *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Deb Wachtman, Nancy Short, Kathy Gruenhagen *Altar Guild* ✘

A NEW ARRIVAL! *Jordan & Leah Saylor* would like to announce the safe arrival of their son, *Cody Robert*, on Tuesday, Nov. 25th. All are doing well and they are so, so thankful for God's blessing on their family. Big sister, Ivy, will be very helpful with her little brother too. And congratulations to the proud grandparents, who will be giving lots of hugs to little Cody!

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES BEGIN THIS WEEK! Advent begins today, which means we will be gathering for midweek Advent services **starting this Wednesday, December 3rd**. These services will be held at 7:00 p.m. Our midweek Advent theme this year is "Stir Up the Power of **Hope**." Join us each Wednesday for these special evening worship services as we prepare our hearts and minds for a fitting celebration of Christ's birth!

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship Service Sunday School; "The Lamp;" Adult Bible Study Confirmation class after church until 11:15
Mon.	Noon 5:15 PM 6:00 PM	Blood Drive at the Ridgeville Legion until 6:00 PM. Walk-ins welcome! School Board Meeting Decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Tues.	8:35 AM 5:00 PM	School Chapel B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys @ St. Pat's - Bryan
Wed.	7:00 PM	Advent Worship Service ; Offering: <i>Orphan Grain Train</i> Guest Pastor: <i>Rev. Matthew Montgomery</i> Acolytes: <i>Jovi Sonnenberg</i> Ushers: <i>Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Joe Badenhop, Nick Sonnenberg</i> Altar Guild: <i>Kathy Behnfeldt, Anita Badenhop, Pat Maassel</i>
Thurs.	6:30 AM 5:00 AM	Men's Bible Study B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys @ Monclova
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Communion Service Children's Christmas practice; "The Lamp;" Adult Bible Study Confirmation class after church until 11:15

PASTORAL EMERGENCIES – Please contact **Pastor Kramer** at 567-277-1339 with any emergency pastoral care requests.

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

- ❖ *Melba Elling* and *Norma Damman* at Genacross
- ❖ *Rozella Gruenhagen* and *Bob Nemoyer* at Vancrest
- ❖ *Lawrence Behrmann* at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Irene Joost, Leona Durham, and Marlene Showman*
- ❖ *Brenda Elling, Anne Rausch, and Julie (Kern) Patterson* for health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *Stan Gerken* and *Rev. Ken Schroeder* for health concerns
- ❖ Military: *Eric Maassel, Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Jordan Lange, Joshua, and Kyle*

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/23/2025	\$8,127.00	\$675.00	\$290.00

ATTENDANCE: 146

ADVENT DEVOTION BOOKLETS are available on the narthex table. They are titled *Born to you... a Savior* and are provided to us through Lutheran Hour Ministries. You may also access the Advent devotionals online by visiting lhm.org/advent.

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!

LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS DECORATING – A day for decorating the sanctuary for Christmas has been set for Monday, December 1st (the Monday after Thanksgiving). We plan to begin around 6:00 p.m., and decorating usually can take one and a half hours. Everyone is welcome to come and join the fun!

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SERVICE – The Children’s Christmas service will be held on Sun., Dec. 21 at 7:00 p.m. This is a combined church/school event, with practices being held on Sundays after church during the Sunday School hour. **The first practice is today**, and they will continue each of the following Sundays, December 7, 14, and 21.

AFTER-CHURCH OPPORTUNITIES – **Adult Bible Study** will meet in the cry room. Thank you to *Rev. Montgomery* for leading this! **Sunday School** will open in the Fellowship Hall then disperse to classrooms. **The LAMP** (high school age) will meet at the Youth and Family Center. **Confirmation Class** will meet in the North End of the Fellowship Hall.

CHURCH OFFICE NOMINATIONS - The Stewardship Board would like to announce that the ballot is complete and ready to present at the December Voters’ Meeting. However, names can still be added. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer for an office, please contact a Stewardship Board member. **We are so thankful to God for all those who choose to serve!**

CHURCH SECRETARY MATERNITY LEAVE – *Joyce Wiechers* has agreed to step back into the Church Secretary role while Leah is out on maternity leave. Joyce's regular hours will be **Wednesday & Thursday from 8:30am - 2:30pm**. Joyce will have access to Leah's e-mail, so please continue to use churchsecretary@sjl.org and the church office line (419-598-8961) for any communications. **NOTE:** Bulletin notes will still need to be submitted by **Wednesday at 9 a.m.**

WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT EGG CARTONS for the organization “Together We Can Make a Difference.” There is a collection box in the Narthex for clean, 12-count only egg cartons. Thank you!

COLD WEATHER IS HERE! – Will you help keep our neighbors warm? The Women of Freedom invite the congregation to share with those in need. We continue to collect **new winter hats, scarves, and gloves/mittens for all ages** for *Together We Can Make a Difference* Initiatives. You can now hang your donations on the “giving tree” in the Narthex.

ENDOWMENT FUND CONTACTS – *Krista Gerken* (419-966-2596 or lkgerken@henry-net.com) and *Dave VonDeylen* (419-438-1844 or davevd21@gmail.com.) are happy to provide more information to anyone who has questions about the endowment fund or interest in making a donation.

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. If you would like to make a donation, please mail your donation to Henry County Christmas Cheer PO Box 193 Liberty Center, OH 43532.

CHRISTMAS CARDS & CUTLERY – Check out the table in the hallway! The Women of Freedom have put out boxes of Christmas Cards for sale. Additionally, if you are interested in purchasing any Rada cutlery items such as: Paring Knives, Stubby Butcher Knives, Pie Servers, Vegetable Peelers, Slicer Knives, Granny Forks, Carving Forks, Pizza Cutters, Tomato Slicer, or Small Spatula, please contact *Linda Meyer* or *Deb Wachtman* to purchase these.

ALTAR FLOWERS – Anyone who wishes 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 the flowers or if you are going to take care of ordering the flowers yourself. Please also contact the church office with any “in memory/honor of” notes to be put in the bulletin. This will alleviate any confusion.

SAVE YOUR CARDBOARD WRAPPING PAPER TUBES – As you prepare Christmas gifts, please save the cardboard wrapping paper tubes for an upcoming school project. There will be a collection box by the school entrance. Thank you!

BASKETBALL SCHEDULES - The 2025-2026 St. John Eagle basketball schedules are posted on the church website and can be viewed on the church calendar. **GO EAGLES!**

VENMO IS HERE! Exciting News...St. John now accepts donations via Venmo!
If you need internet access, use our guest Wi-Fi **SJL Open** with the password **sjleagles##** Then scan the QR code to visit our donation page.

AREA EVENTS

- ◆ **THE CHRISTMAS VILLAGE CRAFT SHOW** will be held at the Ridgeville Legion Hall, Sun., Dec. 7th from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Come and browse the shops!
- ◆ **SIBERIAN SOLSTICE CONCERT – Sunday, Dec. 7th at 7 p.m. @ St. Caspar Catholic Church 1205 N. Shoop Ave. Wauseon, OH.** There is a flyer on the bulletin board with more information about this free-will donation concert.
- ◆ **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY – Sat., Dec. 13th at 10 a.m. @ Bethlehem Lutheran Cemetery, Okolona.** Ridgeville Son of Legion will be helping Bethlehem Lutheran Cemetery to Remember and Honor our veterans by laying Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes.
- ◆ **TOLEDO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT – Wed., Dec. 17th at 7 p.m. @ St. Paul's Lutheran Church 16976 CR-Q1 Napoleon, OH.** Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased Mon.-Fri. 10a.m.-2p.m. in their church office (419-758-3522). \$30 for adults, \$20 for school-age, and free for 4 & under. A flyer with more information is on the bulletin board.

✘ ✘ ✘

Thought for the Week...

You can't stay in neutral and travel with God.