



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

December 1, 2013

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Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Miss Mary K. Rettig, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
School: 419-598-8702 Home: 419-966-6160
Church Website: www.sjl.org

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sermon & Text: "Morning People" *Romans 13:11-14*

Order of Service: *Follow directions on the screens*

Hymns: (Baptism: "Borning Cry", 805) ~ 968 ~ (Communion: 516, 618, 349) ~ 348

Adult Choir: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" and "Will We Know Him"

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, to 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 pass it to the center aisle during the offering this morning.

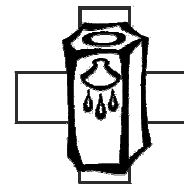


SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘ Lexi Woods & Cally Bialorucki, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Ron & Elaine Hesterman, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Harold Behrmann & Rich Elling, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Elaine Hesterman, Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, *Altar Guild* ✘

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed in celebration of the 40th Wedding Anniversary of Roger & Ruth Mahnke which was on Sat., Nov. 30th. We wish them many more years of health and happiness! Congratulations to the Mahnke's!

BAPTISM TODAY: This morning we rejoice to witness the baptism of *Lyla Jene Wilson*, infant daughter of *Curtis & Sarah* (nee Damman) *Wilson*. Lyla was born on October 26 at the Rush Copley Medical Center in Aurora, Illinois. Her sponsors are *Kayla Damman* (Sarah's sister) and *Monica & Matt Smith* (Curt's sister and brother-in-law). Her grandparents are *Dave & Teresa Damman* and *Craig & Mary Wilson*. We congratulate the family on this day of celebration, and pray that the new life begun in Lyla will be nurtured and brought to completion on the day of Jesus Christ!



In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:15AM	Communion Service Christmas Program Practice for Grades 5-8 only(<i>until 11:30 AM</i>); Sunday School (<i>All others</i>); <i>"Time To Spare"</i>
Mon.	5:00 PM 6:45 PM 7:00 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys; 6:15 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. St. Pats-Bryan (A) Singing at Lutheran Home Christmas Tree Lighting Community Choir Practice
Tue.	9:00 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:15 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs. St. John - Defiance (H) School Board and Stewardship Board Meetings
Wed.	10:20AM 5:45 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Late Start-Up (<i>Teacher In-Service 9:00 AM</i>) Junior High Confirmation Class(5:45 – 6:45 PM) Adult Hand Bell Practice 1st Midweek Advent Service Offering: <i>Local Lutheran Hour Ministries</i> Adult Hand Bells: <i>"Lo, How a Rose"</i> w/violin accompaniment Acolytes: <i>Cally Bialorucki & Katelyn Drewes</i> Greeters: <i>Todd & Chris Hesterman</i> Ushers: <i>Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling</i> Altar Guild: <i>Elaine Hesterman, Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop</i> Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 5:00 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Bible Breaaakfast at Hill's Restaurant Exercise class in gym B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls; 6:15 PM Gr. 4-6 Girls vs. St. Pats-Bryan (A) "Advent By Candlelight" program Community Choir Practice
Fri.	7:00 PM	Boar's Head Festival at Concordia University – Ann Arbor, MI
Sat.	10:00AM	B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. Liberty Center (A)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15AM 2:00 PM	Worship Service w/Communion following service Christmas Program Practice for Grades K-4 only(<i>until 11:30 AM</i>); Sunday School (<i>All others</i>); <i>"Time To Spare"</i> ; Voters' Meeting; <i>Java Joy</i> Ridgeville Community Choir Christmas Concert
Mon.- Sat.	7:20 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Donald Luhring</i> , St. John Lutheran, Defiance

VOTERS' MEETING NEXT SUN., DEC. 8 AT 10:15 AM – On the agenda are: 1)Election or Appointment of offices for 2014; 2)Adoption of 2014 budget; 3)Hand railing in front of church.

MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS TIME CHANGE –Throughout the month of December, the Wednesday evening confirmation class will meet from 5:45 - 6:45 PM to accommodate the evening worship services.

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

- Our Homebound Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll*, and *Marian Fitzenreiter* dealing with health issues
- Pauline Dishop*, *Marie Damman*, and *Joann Miller*, residing at The Lutheran Home
- Magdalena Volkman*, residing at Heartland Nursing Home, Wauseon
- Lucy Rosebrock*, residing at GlennPark of Defiance
- Marian Buchhop* and *Annalou Brodman* residing at Country View Haven
- Helen Norden*, residing at Greenbriar Assisted Living, Birmingham, AL
- Don & Sue Landry*, at home now dealing with various health issues
- Servicemen and women*, Justin Atkinson, Kyle Elling, Jason Rohrs, and Emily Niermann
- Arnold Bischoff*, following heart surgery at UTMC this past week

Engage Bible Study/Movie Series --- Begins today!

Jesus told teaching stories, or parables, about regular people and everyday things that His disciples would be familiar with. But He did so to reveal deep, spiritual insights about them and their world in order to lead them into great truth about Him.



Likewise, the real stories you'll encounter in the **Engage** Bible study will challenge the way you think and may even question the way you feel, but with a profound purpose. Through short movies, Bible study and discussion, you'll learn more about yourself, those around you, and the profound love God has for you through His Son.

Please join us this morning for a cup of coffee and our first movie, titled 'DESK.' We all have those things about ourselves we'd just as soon keep hidden from others, but isn't it great to know that God loves us despite those secrets.

ADVENT AT THE MOVIES - 2013 Midweek Advent Series

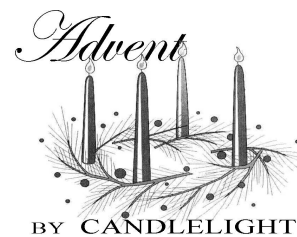
You'd be amazed at the lessons you can draw out of movies when you look at them through the lens of Christian theology. That's the premise behind our midweek Advent series this year, "Advent at the Movies." Movie clips from three seasonal favorites will serve to illustrate God's Word for us.



- Dec. 4, 7 p.m.** **"It's a Wonderful Life"** (*Ephesians 2*)
What if he had never been born?
- Dec. 11, 7 p.m.** **"How the Grinch Stole Christmas"** (*Matthew 2*)
What is it about Christ that makes hearts hostile?
- Dec. 18, 7 p.m.** **"The Santa Clause"** (*Ephesians 4*)
What happens when we put on his suit?

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT – There is still time to sign up to attend this year's Advent Dinner and Program for all women of the congregation. You won't want to miss the delicious food, fellowship with friends, and fantastic entertainment! This wonderful evening is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 5th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

- 🕯️ You may RSVP in one of the following ways:
 - Sign up on the sheet in the narthex
 - Call *Melba Elling* at 419-598-1200



<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	<u>Home Fund</u>	<u>Synod & Missions</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/24/13	\$7,878.00	\$159.50	\$790.50

ATTENDANCE: 11/24/13 – 297

GREETER, USHER, AND ALTAR GUILD SIGN-UP – We are preparing the 2014 greeter, usher, and altar guild schedules so this is the time to sign-up at the table in the narthex. **The sign-up deadline is today.** *You do not need to sign up again if you are currently serving as a greeter, usher or are on an altar guild team.*

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICES:

TODAY Grades 5-8 only (10:15-11:30 AM) All others in regular SS classrooms
 Sunday, Dec. 8 Grades K-4 only (10:15-11:30 AM) All others in regular SS classrooms
 Sunday, Dec. 15 Grades PS-8 (10:15-11:30 AM)
 Friday, Dec. 20 Full practice – Gr. PS-8 (8:30 AM or TBD)
 Sunday, Dec. 22 Grades PS – 8 (10:15-11:30 AM)
 7:00 PM Christmas Program – 8th Grade ushers should arrive at 6:00 PM.
 All other children should arrive at 6:30 PM (*Meet in the Fellowship Hall*)

LUTHERAN HOME CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING – Pastor is seeking singers to join him in singing Christmas carols at the *Lutheran Home Christmas Tree Lighting* ceremony tomorrow – Monday, December 2nd at 7:00 pm. This ceremony is an annual tradition during which people may honor the living or memorial the deceased by having a ribbon placed on the tree in their name. We will sing approximately 15 minutes worth of carols, some accompanied by Pastor on guitar. If you would like to join Pastor in the ministry mercy, please join him and the other singers after Sunday School this morning (about 11:15 a.m.) in the sanctuary, and we'll prepare a few carols.



WOULD YOU HOST A JAVA JOY? Every second Sunday of the month, we seek hosts for **Java Joy**, a time of refreshment and fellowship after worship. Hosting **Java Joy** does not have to be expensive – you are welcome to reimburse some or all of your expenses, if you wish, from the 'kitty' – so please don't let that hold you back. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex for all the second Sundays of 2013. Please sign up, and pick up the sheet of guidelines from the table. Thank you!



LUTHERAN MESSAGE: There are several copies of *The Lutheran Message* available on the narthex table and desk in the back of church. This is a free booklet filled with inspirational and uplifting articles and poems.

THRIVENT CALENDARS: We have a few complimentary 2014 calendars left from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. They are available on a “first come, first serve” basis on the desk.

MINI EAGLES will have their first practice on **Wed., Dec. 4th from 5 – 6:00 PM.** Please have your Emergency Medical Forms turned in before that practice, in order to participate on the team. The Mini Eagles Basketball Team is open to boys and girls in grades 1-3 who are congregation members or attend St. John School. It's all about the basics – dribbling, shooting, offense, defense, game play, etc. and all about fun!! If your child is just learning to play or is already playing, we'll be a great team. Practice would be held once a week and hopefully a game aligning with the older St John Freedom teams. If you would like to have your child play on the Mini Eagles Team, please send a FastDirect message to Jason Foor, Athletic Director, as soon as possible.

COMMUNITY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT – The Ridgeville Community Choir along with the Junior Chorale Society (*an area youth treble choir*) will be presenting their Christmas concert on Sun., Dec. 8 at 2:00 PM right here at St. John Lutheran Church.

HENRY COUNTY CHRISTMAS CHEER –**Dec. 10th is the deadline!** A barrel has been placed in the hallway by the fellowship hall for the collection of canned and dry goods and paper products. No Microwave items!

ST. JOHN SCRIP: The *SCRIP* campaign is in full swing. The deadline of Wed., Dec. 11th is fast approaching, so get busy and make those Christmas purchases. Order forms and program information are posted on FastDirect under 'Links,' titled *SCRIP Order Forms* and *SCRIP Program Information*. There are also hard copies on the narthex table and in the "School Info" rack outside the office. Please turn your 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. *SCRIP* orders can be turned in on Wed., Dec. 4th, and Dec. 11th. This will wrap up the *SCRIP* program for the school year. Contact *Karen Gerken* at 567-454-0087 or email at *kgerken564@gmail.com* with any questions.

As of today I have available for immediate purchase the following: ♦ 2-American Eagle each for \$25; ♦ 1-Outback or Carrabba's for \$25; ♦ 1-iTunes for \$25; ♦ 3-itunes for \$15

ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP: Membership is now being taken for the Athletic Booster Club. **Sign up deadline is Mon., Dec. 10th.** 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 in the "School Info" rack outside the school office or contact any of the Booster officers: *Kim Woods, Lisa Bockelman, Krista Gerken, and Becky Michaelis*. Join today and help out the children's athletic program.

BLOODMOBILE AT RIDGEVILLE LEGION: On Monday, Dec. 2nd there will be a blood drive at the Ridgeville Legion Hall from 1:00 – 6:00 PM. Please consider a blood donation during this Christmas season. Walk-ins always welcome! Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE to schedule an appointment.

THE NAPOLEON COMMUNITY BAND will present a Christmas concert featuring the Toledo Symphony Woodwind Quintet. This concert is Mon., December 2nd at 7:00 PM at Emanuel Lutheran Church located at 810 Scott Street in Napoleon.