



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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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

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sermon & Text: "Let Us Have It, John" *Matthew 3:1-12*

Order of Service: *Morning Prayer (LSB pg. 235)*

Hymns: (Baptism: *Bornng Cry, 593, stz. 1, 4*) ~ 344 ~ 333 ~ 345

Children's Bell Choir: *Gr. 7&8 Hand Bell Choir rings "'Twas the Moon of Wintertime"*

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

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Aaron Bostelman & Jacob Gillen, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Elmer & Pat Maassel, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Elaine Hesterman, Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, *Altar Guild* ✠

THE FLOWERS BY THE ALTAR are placed today to the Glory of God by *Rob & Valerie Scheffert* in honor of *Lydia Babcock's* 12th birthday, which was on Thursday, Dec. 5th. Happy Birthday to you, Lydia!



BAPTISM TODAY – This morning we give thanks for the life of ***Graceyn Ann Howard*** as she is joined to Christ in her baptism. ***Graceyn*** was born on October 29th at the Fulton County Health Center to ***Joe & Krista (nee Damman) Howard***. Her sponsors are ***Jessica Damman and Lucas Damman***, (Krista's sister and brother). Graceyn's grandparents are ***Dave & Teresa Damman*** and ***Ted & Denise Howard***. We rejoice with them, and Graceyn's big brother, ***Maxton***, as they celebrate the new life in Christ of this child and gift of God! Congratulations to them all!

In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:15AM 10:30AM 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> "; <i>Java Joy</i> Voters' Meeting Ridgeville Community Choir Christmas Concert
Mon.	5:00 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:15 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. Monclova (H)
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Niermann; Offering: <i>Lutheran Bible Translators</i> Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys; 6:15 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. Monclova (H) Church Council Meeting
Wed.	5:45 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Junior High Confirmation Class(5:45 – 6:45 PM) Adult Hand Bell Practice 2nd Midweek Advent Service Offering: <i>Concordia University – Ann Arbor, MI</i> Chime Choir: Gr. 5&6 ring " <i>The King Shall Come</i> " Acolytes: <i>Cameron Dickmann & David Maassel</i> Greeters: <i>Steve & Linda Miller</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.		CANCELLED – <i>Exercise Class</i>
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15AM 1:00 PM	Communion Service Christmas Program Practice for Grades PS – 8 (<i>until 11:30 AM</i>); Adult Bible Study; " <i>Time To Spare</i> " B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 2:15 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys; 3:30 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls; 4:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. St. Paul – Napoleon (A)
Mon.- Sat.	7:20 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Keith Witte</i> , St. Paul Lutheran, Liberty Center

HOLY COMMUNION will be offered this morning following the worship service. Those who wish to attend should fill out a card from the pew rack in front of you and give it to the usher as you leave your pew this morning. Return immediately to the front pews in the sanctuary.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY is cancelled today for the Voters' Meeting. Join us after worship next Sunday as we continue the *Engage* series.

LYF & SCHOOL BOARD will be sacking candy on Sunday, Dec. 22nd at 10:15 AM in the gym.

RIDGEVILLE COMMUNITY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT – TODAY!

Please come on back this afternoon at 2:00 p.m. for a Christmas treat - the *Ridgeville Community Choir Christmas Concert*. This year the Community Choir will be joined by the Junior Choral Society to present a concert of beautiful Christmas music that will delight the senses and fill the spirit!

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*, recovering from heart surgery
- Don Dickmann*, recovering from pneumonia at Golden Living Center – Northcrest, Napoleon
- Dean Maassel* and *Jennifer Gerken*, on their marriage this past Fri., Dec. 6th

VOTERS' MEETING TODAY AT 10:30 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.

LIST OF 2014 NOMINATIONS:

ELECTED: **Vice President** – *Dennis Bockelman*; **Treasurer** – *Krista Gerken*

Financial Trustee – *Sara Myles*, *Diane Norden*

Elder – *Delbert Damman*, *Dan Wachtman*, *Jim Hogrefe*

Stewardship Board – *Tim Johnston*, *Robert Scheffert*, *Karen Lulfs*

Board of Education – *Jamie Rosebrock*, *Sunday Griffith*; **Alternate Delegate Synod** – *Mark Elling*

APPOINTED: **Secretary** – *Rhonda Bockelman*; **Church Deacon** – *Carey Damman*

Trustee – *Randy Damman*, *Elmer Maassel*; **Cemetery Sexton** – *Ben Kruse*

Cemetery Board – *Bobby Cowell*, *Roger Lulfs*, *Blake Miller*; **Sunday School Supt.** – *Brenda Kruse*

NOTE: The installation of our newly elected and appointed officers for the year 2014 will be conducted in the regular Sunday service on January 5th.

LUTHERAN HOME CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING – **THANK YOU** to those who joined *Pastor Niermann* in singing and helping the folks at Lutheran Home light their Christmas tree this year. It's always a blessing to be a blessing to others, and your service in the name of Christ was appreciated and well-received! Please keep your eyes out for another opportunity in this holy season to share Christ with others through the carols of Christmas.

JAVA JOY TODAY! It's the second Sunday of the month, and that means **Java Joy** after worship.



Take a little time to enjoy a bite to eat and some fellowship. A table is set up in the south hallway. Your gifts to the “kitty” help keep **Java Joy** alive and going. We thank *Jeff & Sara Buchhop* and *Bonnie Niermann* for hosting Java Joy for December. (*NOTE: In order for everyone to enjoy the food items, we ask that you only take 2 items when going through the line.*) Thank you!

Be a **Java Joy** host. Every second Sunday of the month we aim to have this time of fellowship. If you would like to host one of these, please sign up on the table in the narthex. Don't let finances stop you – you are welcome to reimburse your expenses from the kitty if you wish.



MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP – “Advent at the Movies”

Last Wednesday we watched a scene from the old Christmas classic movie, “It’s A Wonderful Life.” It’s amazing what you can see in a movie when you look at it in a fresh way through the lens of our Christian Christmas faith.

This coming Wednesday at “Advent at the Movies” we will take a new look at another Christmas favorite, “**How the Grinch Stole Christmas**” (*the original animated version*). This movie raises the question, “What is it about the Christ of Christmas that makes hearts ‘Grinchy’ and hostile?” And what can we do to melt those hearts and win them over? Won’t you join us? Prepare your heart for the celebration of His coming this Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m.



<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 12/01/13	\$7,778.00	\$357.00	\$728.00

ATTENDANCE: 12/01/13 – 248

1ST ADVENT SERVICE: *Local Lutheran Hour* - \$736.00; Attendance – 105

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICES:

- TODAY** 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*)

DRESS CODE FOR CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Girls should wear either a dress or dress pants and a blouse or sweater. Boys should wear dress pants or khakis (*no cargo pants*) and a sweater or dress shirt (*any color*) and tie (*optional*). **No jeans or athletic shoes.**

LYF CHRISTMAS PARTY: The LYF will be having their Christmas party on Sun., Dec. 15th beginning at 6:00 PM at *Carey & Sharon Damman’s* house. Please bring a \$5-7.00 gift to exchange. Also, bring a munchie or dessert item to share. Hope to see a lot of you there!

FUN(d) RAISING CONTINUES:

- ✓ Fun Pasta orders can still be placed thru the end of the year. Just go to **www.funpastafundraising.com/shop/st-john-lutheran-church** to place your order. If you prefer free shipping, contact Karen Norden at 419-267-3477 and she can combine several orders to get the free shipping for you.
- ✓ Yankee Candle orders also can be placed thru the end of the year. For ordering, go to **www.yankeecandlefundraising.com** and enter group #990058626. The website should say “Right Hand of Fellowship Gift Matching Campaign”.

MITES: The LWML *Mite-y Socks* will be back in 2014. These are tiny little baby socks, with instructions attached, that you can fill with coins (*dimes*) throughout the year. \$7.80 is the goal or more, if you wish. These *Mite-y Socks* are a means for all of us to help out the LWML Mite program in a big way with very little effort. Jump on board and look for the *Mite-y socks* in January!

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!

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.

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.

TIME TO UPDATE OUR DIRECTORY: There are many addresses and phone numbers in the Annual Report directory that need updated. If you (*and/or your adult children*) have address changes; or if you have eliminated your land line telephone and only have cell phone numbers, **please call or email** the church office at 419-598-8961 or email jwiechers@sjl.org with updated information. It will be very helpful to have current addresses on file when we do our mailings. Thank you!

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS need to be turned in to the office by Wednesday of each week in order to be included in the Sunday bulletin. Please make a note of this. Thank you!

THE GIFT OF GENEROSITY: This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported St. John Lutheran Church this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead. If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings or if you plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to look into our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP: 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 by the office or contact any of the Booster officers: *Kim Woods, Lisa Bockelman, Krista Gerken, and Becky Michaelis.*

HELP NEEDED: The sports program is in need of volunteers to work the clock and/or scoreboard for the home basketball games. If there are several volunteers, we can work around your busy schedules and make it work for all of us. Please contact *Jason Foor* at 419-906-5074 or by email at jyfoor@gmail.com.

PTL COOKBOOKS: Don't forget a cookbook for someone on your Christmas list! This cookbook would make a great gift for that "hard to buy" family member. At a cost of only \$10, check out the display in the side hallway and pick up and pay for your copy today.

ST. JOHN SCRIP: The *SCRIP* campaign will wrap up on Wed., Dec. 18th. So get busy and make those final 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 Wednesday, with payment to *St. John School PTL Scrip Program*. The gift cards will be sent home the following week on Tuesday. As this wraps up the *SCRIP* program for the school year, the PTL thanks everyone who supported this fundraiser over the past several weeks. Contact *Karen Gerken* at 567-454-0087 or email at *kgerken564@gmail.com* with any questions.

Cards available for immediate purchase are: ♦ 2-Applebees each for \$50; ♦ 4-Ace Hardware each for \$25; ♦ 1-Outback/Carrabba's for \$25; ♦ 5-Bob Evans each for \$10; ♦ 4-itunes for \$15; ♦ 3-Meijer cards for \$25; ♦ 4-Panera Bread each for \$10; ♦ 5-Walgreens each for \$25; ♦ 4-WalMart/Sam's Club each for \$25. These are on a first come, first serve basis.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Check out the table in the hallway by the cry room! The Ladies Aid have put out their boxed Christmas Cards for sale. The dish cloths are also available and be sure to check out the display board to see if you are interested in purchasing any cutlery items such as: Paring Knives, Stubby Butcher Knives, Pie Servers, Vegetable Peelers, Slicer Knives, Granny Forks, Carving Forks, Pizza Cutters, Tomato Slicer, and Small Spatula. Contact officers *Nancy Hogrefe*, *Nancy Glaser*, *Mabel Bischoff*, or *Pat Maassel* if you would like to see or purchase any of these items.

HEARING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE: If hearing in worship has been a problem for you, pick up one of the receiver units for our hearing assistance system. An usher will assist you and you'll hear much more clearly. (*Also, please let us know how the system is working for you.*)

For those who use the hearing assistance system regularly and for the sake of hygiene, we ask that you claim one of the ear buds as your own and keep it with you in your purse, pocket, etc. Bring it with you when you come to church, and simply plug it into one of the receivers. At the end of the service, unplug the ear bud to take with you until the next time.

PRAYER CALENDAR NOTE: Please be aware that if you would like your wedding anniversaries printed on the prayer calendars, you will have to post them each year. Just list them on the blank calendars posted on the bulletin board in the narthex throughout the year. Thank you!

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THANKSGIVING FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

***For the Christ-child who comes is the Master of all;
no palace too great, no cottage too small.*** ~ Phillip Brooks

"Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, through whom the sinful world is blest! (LSB 358, 8)