



# 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

## FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sermon & Text: "Paul's One Sentence Christmas" *Galatians 4:4-5*

Order of Service: See printed folder

Hymns: 373 ♦ 383 ♦ 546 ♦ 376 ♦ 389

Adult Bell Choir: "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

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**WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS** *The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. Please help us get to know who you are by filling 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.*

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### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘ Alex Knepley & Mitchell Kruse, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Jerry & Nancy Short, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Jim & Linda Meyer, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman, *Altar Guild* ✘

**WEDDING CONGRATS:** Today we congratulate *Kurtis Staup* and *Kylee VonDeylen*, who will be married on Tues., Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Defiance. May God bless this couple with many years of health and happiness as they begin their lives together as husband and wife.

**CHRISTMAS THANKS – Thank you to everyone who helped make our celebration of Christmas such a joyous time.** Thank you to the musicians, choirs, soloists and instrumentalists who brought us the music of Christmas. Thank you to all who helped to decorate the church and prepare it for each Advent and Christmas service. Thank you to everyone involved with the wonderful children's program, including parents for having your children here for rehearsals. Thank you to the youth who assisted in worship as acolytes, crucifers, etc. And thank you to all God's people who love the appearing of Christ and support the ministry of His Church. *Merry Christmas to you all!*



<b>In God's House This Week</b>		<i>Online church calendar: <a href="http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl">www.DynaCal.com/sjl</a></i>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	9:00 AM 10:15AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM	Men's Bible Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant Exercise Class in gym
Fri.		Last day of Christmas Break ( <i>School resumes Mon., Jan. 6<sup>th</sup></i> )
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15AM	Communion Service w/Installation of church officers Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Mon.- Sat.	7:20 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Dale Kern</i> , Retired from St. John Lutheran, Stryker

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

- Our Homebound Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Marian Fitzenreiter, and Donald & Sue Landry* dealing with various 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
- Servicemen and women*, Justin Atkinson, Kyle Elling, Jason Rohrs, and Emily Niermann
- Arnold Bischoff*, recovering at home now from his recent bout of pneumonia
- Don Dickmann*, recovering from pneumonia at Golden Living Center – Northcrest, Napoleon

**POINSETTIA PLANTS** – Don't forget to take your poinsettia plant home after the worship service today. There are plastic sleeves to protect them in the side Conference room.

**THANK YOU** from the School Board to Mahnke Orchards (*Richard & Elaine*) for donating all the apples that were put in the Christmas Sacks; to the LYF for their help in filling the sacks with candy, fruit, and peanuts; and to *Glenn & Kathy Badenhop, Tom & Sandy VonDeylen, and Neil & Anita Badenhop*, for decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** – There are still several who have not picked up their 2014 offering envelopes. If you've not already done so, please pick yours up today. Thank you!

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** booklets for January, February, and March are on the desk in the back of the church. Pick up a copy today!

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAM & CHOIR CONCERT:** To anyone interested – an audio of the Children's Christmas Program on Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> is now posted on the church's website. Also, a video of the Ridgeville Community Choir Concert held here on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> was posted on YouTube by TV Channel 26. You can get to both of these, via our website, under the "Featured Now" tab. The Children's Program is also posted permanently on the "For Kids" page of our website.

**NEW GREETER (yellow) SCHEDULES:** The 2014 Greeter schedule is available today and can be picked up on the narthex table. Thanks again to all who have volunteered to extend a welcome to members and visitors alike. You are a blessing to us at St. John!

**LADIES AID:** The next Ladies Aid meeting is Thurs., Jan. 9 at 7:00 PM. Please plan to attend! All ladies of the congregation are welcome!

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	<b><u>Home Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Synod &amp; Missions</u></b>	<b><u>Building Fund</u></b>
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 12/22/13	\$26,980.00	\$459.50	\$705.50

**ATTENDANCE:** 12/22/13 – 332

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (12/22/13):** Church Vocation Student - \$1,204.00  
Attendance – 506

**CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS & CANDLES:** Home Fund - \$4,618.00 Attendance: 326

**CHRISTMAS DAY FESTIVAL SERVICE:** Home Fund - \$33,665.00 Attendance: 172

**ANNUAL SCHOOL CLEANING INFORMATION:** Due to the fellowship hall renovations this past summer, the annual school cleaning was postponed in August. The school board would like to perform this annual cleaning over the upcoming Christmas Break. **This involves Gr. K-8 school families and the dates and times are set for Thurs., Jan. 2 and Fri., Jan. 3, both nights at 6:00 PM.** And on Sat., Jan. 4 (if needed) with starting time to be determined. All parents are asked to help so we can get this cleaning done in as short a time as possible. Please bring a bucket and rags. Thank you all for helping out with this task!

**INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS** – We give thanks to God for everyone who submitted their names for nomination to our various church offices. Your servant hearts and willing spirits provide an example for us all! **Those who were elected or appointed to offices for the coming year will be installed into those offices on the first Sunday of the New Year, January 5<sup>th</sup>.**

Officers to be installed are: **ELECTED:** **President** – *Craig Drewes*; **Vice President** – *Dennis Bockelman*; **Treasurer** – *Krista Gerken*; **Financial Trustee** – *Sara Myles*; **Elder** – *Delbert Damman, Jim Hogrefe*; **Stewardship Board** – *Tim Johnston, Rob Scheffert*; **Board of Education** (installed to take office in July 2014) – *Jamie Rosebrock, Sunday Griffith*; **Alternate Delegate Synod** – *Mark Elling*. **APPOINTED:** **Secretary** – *Rhonda Bockelman*; **Church Deacon** – *Carey Damman*; **Trustees** – *Randy Damman, Elmer Maassel*; **Sunday School Supt.** – *Brenda Kruse*; **Cemetery Board** – *Bobby Cowell, Roger Lulfs, Blake Miller*; **Cemetery Sexton** – *Ben Kruse*.

**2013 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT** – It's time to start getting your reports ready for the 2013 Church Annual. The officers of the different organizations are asked to write up a summary of the year's activities along with a financial report if there is one. If you need your offering contribution information prior to the distribution of the Annual Report, please call Financial Trustee, *Karen Rosebrock*, at 419-592-1150. **Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers by Tues., Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

**THE FLOWER CALENDAR** for 2014 is posted inside the sliding door showcase in the narthex. If you wish to sign up for a certain Sunday to place flowers on the altar or the piano, sign your name on that Sunday and then about two weeks before that date, call *Mabel Bischoff* at 419-598-8757. You may order your own flowers or go through the Ladies Aid. The price for the flowers through the Ladies Aid is \$20.00. Please remember that it is your responsibility to contact *Mabel Bischoff* to let her know if you are getting your own flowers or if you want the Ladies Aid to take care of them. Also, please contact the church office with the information for the bulletin before Wednesday of the week you are placing the flowers in church. This will insure that you are not forgotten or overlooked.

**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](http://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](http://www.yankeecandlefundraising.com)** and enter group #990058626. The website should say "Right Hand of Fellowship Gift Matching Campaign".

**LWML MEETING:** Our next LWML Meeting will be on Tues., January 28<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:00 PM. Pick up a copy of the Quarterly and Odes from the table in the narthex. Bring your mite box. All ladies of the congregation are invited to come.

**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!

**2014 LUTHERAN ANNUAL** – We are now taking orders for the 2014 Lutheran Annual. It will give you the current addresses, phone numbers, emails, and websites of churches, pastors, teachers, etc. Cost is \$24.00 each. Call the church office to order your copy. Deadline is Fri., Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>.

**ST. JOHN SCRIP:** Beginning January 2014, SCRIP orders will be placed once a month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. The next "turn in date" for SCRIP orders is Wed., Jan 8<sup>th</sup>. These cards will be available the first part of that next week. Contact *Karen Gerken* at 567-454-0087 with any questions about Scrip.

**SPECIAL CHRISTMAS STORY:** The Filling Home of Napoleon will tell the Christmas story in a very special Christmas program. Won't you be their guest on Mon., Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:00PM in the Filling Home Chapel for this event? It promises to be an unforgettable and very beautiful Christmas program that allows everyone to participate...their bell choir, their residents, and others from the community will sing, as well as the story of our Savior's birth will be retold in a way you've never seen before.