



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

January 11, 2015

VOL. 80

NO. 2

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor  
Mr. Reed Shoaff, Vicar  
Miss Mary K. Rettig, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181  
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Church Website: [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)

### THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Sermon & Text: "Why Was Jesus Baptized?" *Mark 1: 9-13a*

Order of Service: *Morning Prayer – LSB pg. 235*

Hymns: **596**, sts.1-3 ~ **406**, sts.1-4, sts.5-7 ~ **596**, sts.4-6

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### A WARM 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 this morning, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to our pastor and by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you. Simply pass it to the center aisle during the offering this morning. Thank you!*

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

Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✕ **1<sup>st</sup> Service:** Caleb Bockelman & Landon Willeman, *Acolytes*

✕ **2<sup>nd</sup> Service:** Brooks Behnfeldt, *Acolytes* ✕

✕ Elmer & Pat Maassel, *Greeters* ✕

✕ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✕

✕ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✕

✕ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham, *Altar Guild* ✕



**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 front hallway. Your gifts to the "kitty" help keep **Java Joy** alive and going. We thank *Dave & Jane VonDeylen and Family* for hosting Java Joy for January. (*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.

**In God's House This Week**Online church calendar: [www.DynaCal.com/sjl](http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM	Early Worship Service with Communion following <i>Java Joy</i> ; Sunday School; “ <i>Time To Spare</i> ”; Adult Bible Study Late Worship Service
Mon.	5:30 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:45 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs. St. Pats-Bryan (A)
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Niermann; Offering – <i>Filling Home - Napoleon</i> Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. BG Christian (H) Church Council Meeting
Wed.	9:00 AM 6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM	Hearing Re-checks for Gr. PS / K / 1 / 3 / 5 Jr. High Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM) Adult Hand Bell Practice Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class; Hearing Re-checks for PS B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. FCCS (H) Bible Study w/ <i>Vicar Shoaff</i>
Fri.		End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter Grading Period
Sat.	10:00AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:15 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys; 12:15 PM Gr. 4 Girls vs. St. Mary’s Catholic (A)
Sun.	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM  1:00 PM	Early Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; “ <i>Time To Spare</i> ” PTL Soup & Pie Dinner ( <i>servicing until 1:00 PM</i> ) Late Communion Service 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 (H)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Lee Genter</i> , Lutheran Home Society - Napoleon

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Marian Fitzenreiter, Donald Landry, and Norma Damman*
- ❖ *Pauline Dishop and Marie Damman*, residing at The Lutheran Home, Napoleon
- ❖ *Magdalena Volkman*, residing at Heartland Nursing Home, Wauseon
- ❖ *Anna Brodman and Marian Buchhop* residing at Country View Haven
- ❖ *Edwin Rosebrock*, residing at The Orchards of Northcrest, Napoleon
- ❖ *Helen Norden*, residing at Greenbriar Assisted Living, Birmingham, AL
- ❖ Servicemen and women, *Justin Atkinson, Kyle Elling, Jason Rohrs, Emily Niermann*, and *Connor Gerken*
- ❖ *Casen Lawrence*, as he has had on-going seizures resulting in hospitalization
- ❖ *Yvonne Volkman and Marvin Gruenhagen* dealing with health issues
- ❖ *Joel Stier*, diagnosed with Hodgkin’s lymphoma and currently undergoing chemotherapy
- ❖ *Rosemary Hoeffel* (Christa Bickel’s mother), currently on the liver transplant list at University of Michigan Hospital – Ann Arbor

**HOLY COMMUNION** will be offered this morning following the Early 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.

## **SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES!**

**While the young ones are in Sunday School, you can be growing in faith too!**

- **“THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS”** – This book is a fascinating look by C.S. Lewis into the devil’s cunning and deception, and it just gets better and better. In **Letter #21** Screwtape advises his apprentice demon to get his patient to use the pronoun “my” often and in the full possessive sense of ownership (as in “my time,” “my wife,” “my life,” “my God.”) Nothing is more destructive to the human soul! Join Pastor Niermann in the north end of the fellowship hall for this intriguing study, and you will gain an advantage as you fight the good fight of faith. Don’t worry if you’ve not attended before – each letter is a Bible study unto itself.
- **“MARRIAGE BY GOD’S DESIGN”** – “The commitment to love and be faithful to one’s spouse-for better, for worse, in sickness and in health- is not a pledge to keep the same feelings. It is a pledge to do certain things, to voluntary conduct.” Today we will considering the question, “What is true love?” Is it just a feeling?...or is there more to it? Join Vicar Shoaff in the fellowship hall as we look to God’s Word and the example of Christ to understand what “true love” really is.

*L.Y.F.*

**Get out the word!** We’re meeting on **Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>** for some fellowship and fun, and to discuss a full agenda of ideas and future plans. We’ll meet at 4:30 p.m., so be sure to spread the word!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER OPENINGS** – There are openings for Sunday School teachers in Grades 1 & 2 (two needed) and Preschool (one needed) at this time. The ability to teach is a gift that many possess, although it may come more readily for some. Most of us, given the opportunity, can excel if we are dedicated to the Christian belief. There are usually two teachers per classroom and they teach every other month. Sunday School runs September thru May, from approximately 9:30 – 10:15 AM. What better way to put your talents to good use here at St. John. Give it some thought and contact Sunday School Supt. *Brenda Kruse* Sunday mornings to let her know your intent. Thank you!

**NEW GREETER (yellow), ALTAR GUILD (pink), AND USHER (blue) SCHEDULES:** The 2015 Greeter, Altar Guild, and Usher schedules are available and can be picked up on the narthex table. Thanks again to all who are willing to be of service to the Lord through St. John. You are a blessing to us all! If you are still interested in serving God’s people here at St. John in a way that is much needed and appreciated, please contact the church office.

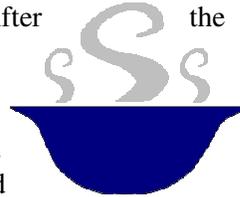
**ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULES** – *As of Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> Altar Guild Schedules had to be reprinted due to an error.* The corrected pink copies are available on the narthex table. If you had already picked up your copy prior to Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>, please dispose of it and get a current one today. Thank you!

**2014 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT** – It’s time to start getting your reports ready for the 2014 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, *Jerry Langenhop*, at 419-598-8151. **Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers by Tues., Jan. 20.**

**CHURCH NEWSLETTER** – We are now collecting articles and information for the next church newsletter. Submissions are encouraged from all groups at St. John, including Archives, Women of Freedom, Boosters, PTL, etc. **Submission deadline is Sunday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>!**

**LOST & FOUND:** After the December Voters’ Meeting a brown clutch purse was found. No identification inside, but a small amount of cash and a floral printed woman’s hankie. If you are missing this purse, call the office to claim it.

**SOUP & PIE DINNER** – The annual PTL Soup & Pie Dinner will be held on Sun., Jan. 18, 2015, with serving from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM, in the fellowship hall. On the menu will be Chili Soup, Noodle Soup, Hot Dogs, Sloppy Joes, a Salad and Dessert Bar, and Beverages. After the Dinner you can stay and enjoy watching some basketball games as all four of our school teams will be playing St. Paul Lutheran –Napoleon.



**DONATIONS FOR SOUP & PIE DINNER** – The PTL Soup & Pie Committee are asking for donations for the Salad and Dessert Bars. A sign-up sheet is placed on the table in the narthex. Thanks to everyone for taking time to support the PTL through your donations of salads, desserts, or cupcakes. We look forward to another successful Soup & Pie Dinner on January 18<sup>th</sup>!

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 1/04/15	\$9,856.00	\$117.00	\$498.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 1/04/15 – 8:15 Service: 138; 10:30 Service: 123

**COMMUNED** in December: 473 members; 7 guests

**RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP GIFTS IN 2014** – Thanks to the creativity of the Stewardship Board and the generosity of God’s people, we made significant progress last year in matching the \$75,000 gift that was given to our congregation for the fellowship hall project. A total of **\$59,375.50** was raised and matched and applied to the fellowship hall renovation debt. Additional funds raised in December that are not yet matched put the total just over **\$60,000**, leaving \$15,000 to be matched. Our thanks to everyone who has supported and participated in this capital campaign. Stay tuned for more opportunities to put this debt behind us. Additional offering envelopes for ***Right Hand of Fellowship*** are available in the narthex (*ignore the 2014 year printed on them*), or you can always add a gift with your regular envelope and mark it for ***Right Hand of Fellowship***.



**THE FLOWER CALENDAR** for 2015 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.

### **145<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY PICTORIAL DIRECTORY**

**Say cheese, and get on board for a new congregational pictorial directory.**

Photography dates are **January 21-24** (Wednesday thru Saturday). Every household that participates will receive a free 8x10 as well as a copy of the directory. To schedule your photography appointment, please stop at the table in the narthex and sign up for a time that works for you. Things to note:



- **Online Scheduling** – If you prefer to sign up online, you may do so Monday through Friday over the next few weeks (but not weekends). An instruction sheet is available at the table in the narthex. There is also a link on our website, [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org).
- **Photography Hosts** – We also need volunteers to host on the photography dates to receive and register people. There are three shifts per day: 2-4:00 p.m. / 4-6:00 p.m. / 6-8:30 p.m. Please sign up to host at the table in the narthex.

**MITES & WOMEN OF FREEDOM** – The first meeting of the newly formed St. John Women of Freedom will be held Tues., Jan. 27, 2015 at 7:00 PM. **The Program Booklets for 2015 are now ready and can be picked up on the table in the narthex at your leisure.** Extra copies are also available for anyone interested in joining or if you just want to learn more about the Women of Freedom. Hope to see some new faces at the January meeting!

**The Quarterlies and Odes can also be picked up at the narthex table.**

Also to be noted is that the Women of Freedom will be continuing the Mite-y Socks program in 2015. These are tiny little baby socks, with instructions attached, that you can fill with coins 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. Pick up your sock today!

**2015 LUTHERAN ANNUAL** – We are now taking orders for the 2015 Lutheran Annual. It will give you the current addresses, phone numbers, emails, and websites of churches, pastors, teachers, etc. Call the church office to order your copy. Deadline is Fri., Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**ST. JOHN CHURCH LIBRARY** – Stop in and check out the growing number of books available in the church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary. The books in this library have been screened to assure that they are true to the Word of God and can be trusted to be theologically sound. To borrow a book, just take it with you, then return it to the basket when you've finished reading. A complete list of the books in the church's library can be found by clicking on the "Book Inventory" link on the library page of our church's website. <http://www.sjl.org/library.html>

**A WARM WELCOME:** St. John School welcomes *Mrs. Kelly (Dietrich) Sonnenberg*, who will be filling in as the substitute teacher in Grades 5&6 until February 20<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Sonnenberg is a St. John Eagle alumnus and has recently moved back to Napoleon from the Columbus area. She has been teaching for 8 years. We look forward to having Mrs. Sonnenberg here at St. John over the next several weeks.

**STAFF CHANGES:** As of 12-31-2014 *Mr. Jeff Gillen* is no longer the school janitor. His replacement is our current school cook, *Mrs. Liza Gerken*, who will assume the janitor duties in addition to her school cook duties. We thank Mr. Gillen for his time as school janitor, and welcome Mrs. Gerken as the current school janitor. Please make every effort to help Mrs. Gerken transition into her additional position. Good luck to Jeff and Liza!

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE** is planned for grade levels PS-8 on Wed., February 4<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM, for families who would like to come and look at our school and discuss the possibility of sending their child(ren) here for their education. If anyone in the congregation might know of prospective students for Grades PS-8, please be sure to pass this information on to them. There will also be refreshments.

**LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BULLETINS** are available today on the table in the narthex. The Children's Bulletins are coordinated with the Bible texts for each Sunday, and provide activities that tie in with the weekly themes. Pick one up today for your child.

**PROJECT CONNECT** – There are many free booklets in the rack in the narthex. Be sure to check for some good reading. Some titles are: “*Why Do Bad Things Happen To Me,*” “*Has God Abandoned Me,*” “*Dealing with Depression,*” “*Coping with Cancer,*” “*Who Is Jesus,*” “*Just Stress?*”, “*Overcoming A Painful Childhood,*” “*Where's God in All of This?*”, “*Why Should I go to Church?*” and many more. These booklets are furnished through the Lutheran Hour Ministries.

**THE LUTHERAN HOUR** – The Lutheran Hour Ministries can be heard on several radio stations in our area. They cover many interesting topics relevant to today's issues. Broadcasts can be heard Sundays on: Holland's WPOS 102.3 at 7:00 AM; Archbold's WMTR 96.1 at 7:30 AM; Defiance's WONW (AM)1280 at 10:30 AM; Napoleon's WNDH 103.1 at 12:00 PM.

**“WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS”:** “Worship for Shut-Ins” has joined the WLMB-TV40 line up. If you have a relative or friend who is homebound, hospitalized, or recovering from a recent surgery, you may suggest this 30-minute LCMS worship service to them. So tune in to WLMB-TV40 on Sundays at 6:30 AM and get your Sunday started off right!

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**A parent's life is a child's guidebook.**

*“[Uzziah] did right in the sight of the Lord according to all that his father Amaziah had done.”  
(2 Chronicles 26:4)*