



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

November 29, 2015

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NO. 48

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Mr. Aaron Yaeger, Vicar
Miss Mary K. Rettig, Interim Principal

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FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sermon & Text: "The Coming of the King" *Luke 19:28-40*

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

Hymns: 343 ~ 332 ~ 936 ~ 357

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

- ✘ Bethann Gerken, *Pianist* ✘ Aden Foor & Colin Johnson, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Todd & Chris Hesterman, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Jim & Linda Meyer, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman, *Altar Guild* ✘

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed in gratefulness to God for the 46th Wedding Anniversary of *Darrel & Barb Bockelman*, which is today, Nov. 29th. May God continue to bless their marriage with many more years of health and happiness. Congratulations to Darrel & Barb!

FLOWERS ON THE PIANO are placed in celebration of the 90th birthday of *Pauline Dishop* by Jan Dishop and Pauline's grandchildren, Jaclyn, Madelyn, and Jared Dishop too. Pauline will celebrate her birthday on Wed., Dec. 2nd and Jan and the grandchildren would appreciate if you would remember Pauline with a card shower. Her address at the Lutheran Home is 1036 S. Perry St., Room #112, Napoleon, OH 43545. God's blessing on Pauline at this milestone birthday!

In God's House This WeekOnline church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 11:10AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"; Adult Instruction Class in the Conference Room Sunday School Staff Meeting
Mon.	12:00PM	Blood Drive at Ridgeville American Legion (<i>until 6:00 PM</i>)
Tue.	9:00 AM 10:00AM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Tuesday Bible Study B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:30 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs. BG Christian School Board & Stewardship Board Meetings Ridgeville Community Choir practice
Wed.	10:20AM 5:45 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 AM	Late Start-Up (<i>Teacher In-Service 9:15 AM</i>) Junior Confirmation Class (<i>until 6:45 PM</i>) Adult Bell Choir practice Advent Service 1 Offering: <i>2016 LYF Youth Gathering in New Orleans</i> Acolytes: <i>Lydia Babcock & Bailey Johnson</i> Greeters: <i>Elmer & Pat Maassel</i> Ushers: <i>Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers</i> Altar Guild: <i>Lois Rosebrock, Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow</i> Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM	Men's Bible Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant Exercise class
Sat.	10:00AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:00 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys @ Edgerton
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; "Time To Spare"; Adult Instruction Class Children's Christmas Program practice (<i>Gr. PS – 8 until 11:15 AM</i>)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Donald Luhring</i> , St. John Lutheran – Defiance

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Marian Fitzenreiter, Norma Damman, and Don Dickmann*
- ❖ *Pauline Dishop, Marie Damman, and Delora Winkelman*, at The Lutheran Home, Napoleon
- ❖ *Magdalena Volkman*, residing at Heartland Nursing Home, Wauseon
- ❖ *Anna Brodman and Marian Buchhop* residing at Country View Haven
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Orchards of Northcrest - Napoleon
- ❖ *Helen Norden*, residing at Greenbriar Assisted Living in Birmingham, AL
- ❖ Servicemen and women *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, and Connor Gerken*
- ❖ *Delores Badenhop*, recuperating at The Lutheran Home following her surgery
- ❖ *RoseMary Hoeffel* (Christa Bickel's mother), at home awaiting a liver transplant
- ❖ *Kyle Elling*, now deployed overseas, that God would guard him and his comrades against all harm and danger

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF will meet this morning after Sunday School in the fellowship hall. We want to evaluate how the new Sunday School program has been going, and make plans for the coming month and quarter.

THANK YOU! We are very thankful for those who took time out this past week to help decorate the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas season. Thank you for your willing service to Christ and to His people!

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

ATTENTION ALL MEN – Rise and shine this Thursday and join your brothers in Christ for a good

Bible Study



breakfast and coffee, and some great discussion around the Word of God. **It's the Men's Bible Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant this Thursday morning at 6:30 a.m.** There is no better way to start your day. Breakfast is \$6.50 (including tax & tip); God's Word is free to all (*including grace upon grace, as we take a sneak preview of the Scripture readings for the coming Sunday*).

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Cross; We Suffer with Jesus (*Sundays after worship*)

Our daily crosses—a battle against sin, a disease, a lack of success at work, or a shrinking congregation—make it difficult to believe in a gracious God. We wish God would reveal Himself clearly and deliver us. But God chooses to remain hidden. How can this be good news for us? Come and find out as we continue our study: **Cross, We Suffer with Jesus.**

A Man Named Martin (*Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m.*)

Pastor is leading this video study from *Lutheran Hour Ministries* titled “**A Man Named Martin – Part 4, The Man.**” The influence and impact of Luther's life is the stuff of serious study. As a forlorn sinner feeling lost before a stern and exacting Judge, Luther desponded of all hope for eternity. But as one who came to cling to the Spirit-delivered truths of justification by faith and the liberty believers experience by God's grace, he rebounded to become a triumphant ambassador for the Gospel. Join us for this fresh and explorative look at an individual who, down through the centuries, has increased in importance and vitality to the Christian church.

SR. LYF FUNDRAISER: Every 3rd Sunday, the Sr. High LYF will be selling sticky buns, (*or cinnamon rolls to some of you*), to help raise money for their trip to the National Youth Gathering this July. You can purchase them at our table in the south side hallway after the worship service until 11:15 AM. Thank you for supporting the upcoming youth trip to New Orleans!

EAGLE NEWS NOVEMBER: The Eagle News publication is now available online via FastDirect Communication. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnsfreedom/>, click on “Links” at the top of the page, then click on “Eagle News - November” in the “Everybody” column. There are some printed copies available on the narthex table for those parishioners without computer access.

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT: *Advent By Candlelight* is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 10th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. *Advent By Candlelight* is a candlelit potluck dinner and advent program for women designed to help us prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christ’s birth.

At this time we’d like to identify hostesses to each decorate and host one dinner table at this event. The hostess sign-up sheet and hostess information packets are located on the Christmas table in the narthex. You may contact *Bonnie Niermann* (598-8181) if you have any questions.

All women of the congregation are invited to this special evening. Your should have received your personal invitation or you can simply RSVP on the sheet in the narthex today!

THE DECMEBER VOTERS’ MEETING is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 13 during the Sunday School hour. Some documents and agenda items for your consideration will be made available for you next Sunday.

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES begin this Wednesday

Stir it up! It’s a common Advent theme, expressed especially in the collects of Advent that begin with the words, “Stir up, O Lord...” We ask that God would stir up in our hearts all that is necessary for a blessed life here and eternity of life hereafter.

Join God’s people each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. as we do the only preparations for Christmas that truly count, and get out hearts ready to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Weekly themes are:



DATE	THEME	OFFERING
Dec. 2	Stir Up the Power of Hope, <i>Rom 15:12-13</i>	2016 LYF Youth Gathering
Dec. 9	Stir Up the Power of Preparation, <i>Matt 3:1-12</i>	Ministry Vocation Students
Dec. 16	Stir Up the Power of Love, <i>1 John 4:15-21</i>	LCMS fund for Persecuted

ADVENT DEVOTION BOOKLETS are available on the narthex table. They have been provided to us by L.A.M.P., Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots. Pick up a copy today!

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICES:

TODAY (Nov. 29th) NO PRACTICE

Sunday, Dec. 6 Grades PS-8 (10:20-11:15 AM)

Sunday, Dec. 13 Grades PS-8 (10:20-11:15 AM)

Friday, Dec. 18 Full practice – Gr. PS-8 (9:30 AM or TBD). We would like all students, including those attending public school, to attend this practice, if at all possible.

Sunday, Dec. 20 Grades PS – 8 (10:20-11:15 AM)

Sunday, Dec. 20 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*)



<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 11/15/15	\$7,752.00	\$242.00	\$808.00

ATTENDANCE: 11/15/15 Service: 231

2016 OFFERING BOXES: Offering envelope boxes will be available in early December. The financial commitments you make as well as how you contribute are between you and God. The church provides offering envelopes to our members in order to promote faithful and joyful giving as well as to serve as a means to record member contributions throughout the year for charitable tax purposes. Due to the costs of these envelope boxes, members who elect to not use their envelopes over the course of two years (*for whatever reason*) will no longer be issued a box of envelopes. If at any time such a member would like to resume using envelopes, please contact Joyce Wiechers or Sara Myles, Finance Trustee, and a box will be issued to you.

BULLETIN STUFFER VOLUNTEERS: Want to get involved? Why not try volunteering to help with stuffing the bulletins for worship services. It's not too difficult and can be done either at church or in the comfort of your own home. The bulletins are pre-folded. If anyone is willing to donate a little time toward stuffing bulletins, we are looking for about 11-12 couples/families to sign up for this task. If you feel you would like to give this a try, there is a signup sheet on the narthex table. You can even pick the month(s) that work best for you. We can accommodate your busy schedules.

***NOTE:** If you have stuffed bulletins in the past year, thank you for your service. We ask that you please sign up again and choose your month. You can also call Lori Langenhop at 419-598-8151 or email her at lahop@bright.net.*

GREETER, USHER, AND ALTAR GUILD SIGN-UP – If you are interested in serving God's people here at St. John in a way that is much needed and appreciated, would you consider joining a greeter, usher, or altar guild team? The demand on your time in either area of service is minimal, but the blessing of rendering service to the body of Christ in its worship is tremendous. We are preparing the 2016 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 Sunday, Dec. 13th. *You do not need to sign up again if you are currently serving as a greeter, usher or are on an altar guild team.*

CHRISTMAS CHEER PROGRAM – Henry County Christmas Cheer has begun its annual campaign for the collection of food for low income and needy persons in Henry County. From now through **Mon., December 7th** a barrel is placed in the narthex and cafeteria/fellowship hall for the collection of canned goods, dry goods and paper products. No Microwave items! Suggestions are: *Canned Vegetables, Fruit, Soup; Macaroni & Cheese Mixes, Spaghetti's, Spaghetti Sauce, Broths, Noodles, Rice, Spaghetti; Cake Mixes; Cereals, Syrups, Crackers, Peanut Butter, Pudding, Jell-o, Frostings, Fruit Juices, Coffee, Tissues, Toilet Tissue, Paper Towels; Soap, Toothpaste, and Shampoo.*

ST. JOHN SCRIP: SCRIP order forms and program information are posted on FastDirect under 'Links,' titled SCRIP Order Forms and SCRIP Program Information. There are also hard copies in the "School Info" rack outside the office and on the table in the narthex. 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. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

CHRISTMAS SWEETS & TREATS! Just like last year the Stewardship Board is organizing a Christmas fundraiser for the Right Hand of Fellowship capital campaign. Put it on your calendar for Sun., Dec. 20th following the worship service that day. The variety last year was amazing --- and delicious! Please put some thought into what you might be able to provide for this event.

Here is how it will work. You can make a freewill donation and receive a small or large gift box, after which you will go to tables, set up in the hallway and pick out any of the baked goods to fill your box with Christmas goodies. All money raised will be given toward the RHF campaign.

Stop by on Dec. 20th and let us brighten your Christmas season with a handpicked box of sweets and treats! Any questions about this fundraiser should be directed to *Karen Norden* (419-267-3477) or *Kim VanValkenburg* (419-579-0437). More information will be forthcoming requesting donations of your favorite holiday cookies, candies, bars, etc. for this fundraising event. Stay tuned!

CHRISTMAS SWEETS & TREATS DONATIONS – Get your mixers going and heat your ovens up!!! Start making plans to whip up your favorite Christmas cookies, candies, or other holiday recipes to donate to the Sweets and Treats Shop on Sunday, Dec. 20th. We would ask that you bring your items in Ziploc bags, cellophane, or disposable tins with a minimum of 2 dozen pieces per package. Someone will be at the church on Sat., Dec. 19th from 6:00 – 8:00 PM if you would like to drop your items off early. Otherwise, please have them to the church by 8:30 AM on Sunday, Dec. 20.

Vacation Bible School 2016 – Believe it or not, it's time to think about VBS.

This year the theme of the CPH curriculum is one that we know a thing or two about in these parts – “Barnyard Roundup – Jesus Gathers His People Together.” At this time we would like to identify a VBS director (or maybe co-directors) to work with Pastor in making some of the initial plans. Please speak with *Pastor Niermann* if you are interested in serving the children in this way.



CAMPBELL'S LABELS, BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION, AND ALUMINUM TABS : Our school collects Campbell's labels, *Box tops For Education*, and aluminum tabs all year long. The 7th & 8th Grade classroom has volunteered to clip, count, and bundle the various Campbell labels for mailing. We will be submitting our labels sometime in May, so keep them coming! 10-Point, 5-Point, and 1-Point Collection Sheets to collect bonus points are also available in the school office.

Box Tops For Education is an ongoing PTL fundraiser earning 10¢ per box top for the school. They have expanded their sponsors, so be sure to check over your grocery items carefully so you don't miss any box tops. Box tops should be cut and put 50 per plastic bag or envelope and submitted with your child's name and grade level on them. *Renee Bostelman* and *Zoe Foor* are the coordinators for this fundraiser.

Tabs are collected for the Ronald McDonald House in Toledo. They can be collected from soup cans, tuna fish cans, cat food cans, pop cans, etc. The money received from recycling the tabs provides the yearly food budget for the over 500 families that the Ronald McDonald House serves in NW Ohio. There are collection boxes in the school office for each of these.

SPORTS NOTE: Basketball schedules/calendars are being posted on FastDirect. Please continue to check James Wagner's Calendar in Fast Direct frequently as this is where he will post any changes to the schedules.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP: Membership is now being taken for the Athletic Booster Club. **Sign up deadline is Mon., Dec. 14th.** 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: **Jody Meller, Lisa Bockelman, Krista Gerken, and Becky Michaelis.** Join today!

IF YOU'RE EVER IN A PINCH and could use a little help, the **Good Neighbor Fund** is there to assist you too! Please don't be bashful – everything is strictly confidential. See Pastor Niermann.

◆ ◆ **AREA EVENTS** ◆ ◆

- **RIDGEVILLE COMMUNITY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT** – The Ridgeville Community Choir along with the Junior Choral Society will be presenting a Christmas concert on Sun., Dec. 6 right here at St. John Lutheran Church. **The final rehearsal is Tues., Dec. 1 at 7:00 PM at St. John – Freedom.**
- **BLOODMOBILE AT RIDGEVILLE LEGION:** On Monday, November 30th, there will be a blood drive at the Ridgeville Legion Hall from 12:00 – 6:00 PM. In this season of giving, please consider giving blood for a very good cause. Walk-ins welcome!
- **CHRISTMAS VILLAGE CRAFT SHOW** will be held at the Ridgeville Legion Hall, County Rd. 19, Napoleon, on Sunday, Dec. 6 from 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Lunch will be served by the Legion Auxiliary. Come and browse through the shops at the craft village!
- **COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT:** On Monday, Dec. 7 at 7:00 PM the Community Band will celebrate the 30th anniversary of our gift of live concert band music to the community. The concert will be held at the Emanuel Lutheran Church in Napoleon located at 810 Scott Street. Come and enjoy the Napoleon Community Band as they play some of their favorite Christmas songs.
- **HENRY COUNTY CHORALE CHRISTMAS CONCERT** will be presenting a Christmas Concert Sun., Dec. 13 at 2:30 PM at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1075 Glenwood Avenue, Napoleon.
- **THE TOLEDO SYMPHONY** will perform a Christmas Concert **at St. Paul Lutheran Church – Napoleon Township, on Wed., Dec. 16th beginning at 7:30 PM.** Tickets on sale thru their church office at 419-758-3522. See flyer!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

The season of Advent and Christmas is a time for home-sickness.

*“For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven.”
(2 Corinthians 5:2)*