



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

December 27, 2015

VOL. 80

NO. 52

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

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

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sermon & Text: "A Lamb to Take Your Place" *Exodus 13:1-3a, 1-15*

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 367 ~ 381 ~ 383 ~ 550 ~ 386

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.*



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✦ Sharon Damman, Organist ✦ Bailey Johnson & Colin Johnson, Acolytes ✦
- ✦ Scott & Kim VanValkenburg, Greeters ✦
- ✦ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, Visitation ✦
- ✦ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, Ushers ✦
- ✦ Karan Niebergall, Ronda & Kaylee Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, Altar Guild ✦



CHRISTMAS THANKS – We give thanks to God for everyone who helped to make our celebration of Christmas this year such a joy. We thank the musicians, choirs and directors, those who decorated the sanctuary, the SJLS and Sunday School students who made such a fine presentation of the Christmas gospel at their service, the parents who included their children in this Christmas tradition, the staff for all their

planning and leadership, those who served in worship as ushers, greeters, altar guild members, acolytes, etc., those who keep God's house tidy and ready for us, those who provided poinsettias to beautify God's house, those who provided goodies for and supported the "Sweets-n-Treats," the LYF for sacking candy and stamping "Sweets-n-Treat" boxes, and anyone else who helped in any way. Your service to Christ and His people does not go unnoticed! Thank you for helping to make this Christmas a blessed celebration of God's gift to us of the Savior!

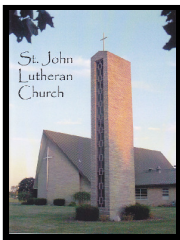
In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Tue.	9:00 AM	Exercise Class
Fri.		Last day of Christmas Break (<i>School resumes Mon., Jan. 4th</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 11:30AM	Communion Service w/Installation of Church Officers Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Servant Sunday Potluck Luncheon
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. David Goehmann, St. Luke Lutheran, Wauseon</i>

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, Kyle Elling, Emily Schroeder, and Connor Gerken*
- ❖ *Delores Badenhop*, recuperating at The Lutheran Home following her surgery
- ❖ *Simon Robeson*, still in critical condition after the car accident that took the life of his fiancée
- ❖ *David Niebergall*, now in hospice care for his failing health due to cancer

MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS –There will be no class on Wednesday, Dec. 29, and we will resume the regular schedule on Wednesday, January 6th.

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 *Kathy Badenhop, Tom & Sandy VonDeylen, Neil & Anita Badenhop, the Larry Gerken Family, and the Dave Johnson Family* for decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



CHURCH DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE: The church directories are available for pick up today, for those who had their picture taken or submitted a picture for this directory. They are arranged in alphabetical order with your name label on the back side. Anyone wishing to have a directory who did not have their picture taken or submit a picture, may purchase a copy of the directory for \$3.00. These "for purchase copies" are also available today. Please put your \$3 in the "honesty" collection envelope with the box. Thank you!

2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES – There are still several who have not picked up their 2016 offering envelopes. If you did not receive a box of envelopes but would like one, please contact *Kathy Behnfeldt* (419-598-8682) until Jan. 1st. After Jan. 1st, please contact *Sara Myles* (419-966-1335).

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.

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

NEW GREETER (yellow) SCHEDULES: The 2016 Greeter schedules are available today and can be picked up on the narthex table. Usher and Altar schedules are in the making and will be available soon. Thanks again to all who are willing to be of service to the Lord through St. John. You are a blessing to us all!

SERVANT SUNDAY

STARTING A NEW TRADITION

- Installation of the 2016 officers
- Potluck Appreciation Dinner

NEXT SUNDAY, January 3rd, the Stewardship Board is planning our very first *Servant Sunday*.

On that day in worship we will install the newly elected and appointed officers, and offer prayers of

thanks for the service of those who are vacating their offices. Then at **11:30 a.m.** after the Sunday School hour, we will gather for a **congregational potluck dinner**, followed by a brief and less formal time to say our thanks to all who serve us. Mark your calendar for this day!



**As each has received a gift,
use it to serve one another.**

1 Peter 4:10

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 3rd.**

Officers to be installed are: **President** – *Bob Norden*; **Vice President** – *Tom VonDeylen*; **Treasurer** – *Cathy Gerken*; **Financial Trustee** – *Kathy Gruenhagen*; **Elder** – *David Damman, Jerry Short*; **Stewardship Board** – *Cheryl Sausser, Nate Bickel*; **Board of Education** (installed to take office in July 2016) – *Derek Damman, Jenelle Hesterman*; **Secretary** – *Lori Bickel*; **Church Deacon** – *David Badenhop*; **Trustees** – *Scott Speiser, Dennis Showman*; **Sunday School Supt.** – *Sarah Rosebrock*; **Asst. Sunday School Supt.** – *vacant*; **Cemetery Board** – *Logan Kossow, Clay Badenhop, Joe Hesterman*; **Cemetery Sexton** – *Ben Kruse*.

COMMUNITY CHOIR CONCERT: For those interested, there is now a link on the main page of the church website to a TV26 YouTube video of the 2015 Ridgeville Community Choir Concert held at St. John on Dec. 6th.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 12/20/15	\$9,561.00	\$649.00	\$1,106.00

ATTENDANCE: 12/20/15 Service: 297

A NEW YEAR, A NEW WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

Starting in January, Pastor and Vicar will offer a new Bible study titled, “**Triune God.**” We are offering a choice of two different times: **Monday evenings, 7-8:15pm**, or **Tuesday mornings, 10-11:15am**. The first sessions will be on January 4th and 5th. There will be three sessions each month.

Have you ever wondered what the bible actually says about the Trinity? Do Christians worship three 'Gods,' as *Jehovah's Witnesses* sometimes accuse? Why do we have the creeds? Can't I just believe the Bible? Is there a good way to symbolize the Trinity? Is the Trinity revealed in the Old Testament? How does our understanding of the Trinity help us understand our own salvation? Join us for our study of our Triune God.



This study is from the *LifeLight* series published by CPH. It is excellent material, and you will “know your stuff” when you’re done. This study invites you to read your Bible at home in preparation for each session. Each student guide costs about \$10 (or less if we order 10 or more), so we need people to sign up to participate. Also, as you are able, we would ask each participant to help cover the cost of these materials. Details of how you can do that will be discussed at the first session.

Sign up today in the narthex, and let us together “grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 3:18)

SERVING THEIR COUNTRY: With Christmas just around the corner, and Christmas cards being sent to family and friends, why not take a few extra minutes to remember our St. John servicemen and women with a card too. Here are the current addresses we have for them:

<i>JUSTIN ATKINSON</i> 17 Sugar Cane Drive Savannah, GA 31419	<i>JASON ROHRS</i> 11601 Gun Powder Drive Fort Washington, MD 20744	<i>CONNOR GERKEN</i> 3656 Kershaw Avenue Toledo, OH 43613
<i>EMILY SCHROEDER</i> 9401 Wilson Blvd., Lot 38 Columbia, SC 29203	<i>KYLE ELLING</i> 1556 Ripple Court Gulf Breeze, FL 32563	

THE FLOWER CALENDAR for 2016 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 to let her know if you are getting your own flowers or if you want the Women of Freedom to take care of them. The price for the flowers through the Women of Freedom is \$20.00. Please remember that it is your responsibility to contact *Mabel Bischoff*. 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.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM – The Program Booklets for 2016 are in a box on the table in the back of the church. They are in alphabetical order. Be sure to pick yours up today. Also included in the envelope are the updated By-Laws. Some of you have already received one at the last (November) meeting. The main update is that next year our meetings will be on the 3RD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH instead of the 4th Tuesday. Also be sure to check to see what month you are on for serving. If that time does not work out for you, you can switch with someone.

MITE-Y-SOCKS: Anyone that filled a Mite-Y Sock for Missions this year, should turn them in this month. A box is placed on the narthex table labeled Mite-y-Socks with a picture of a sock on it.

CHURCH LIBRARY UPDATE: Over 50 new books have been added to our church library, bringing the total number of books available to well over 300. Many of the recent additions are children's books which can give young parents an opportunity to nurture their little ones on these cold winter days with truths from God's Word. Other books range from autobiographies, to church history, to Christian fiction for young adults, to in depth studies into Lutheran theology and Bible commentary. The library, located in the hallway just west of the sanctuary, is self-serve, or you can ask Pastor, Vicar, or Darrel Behrmann for assistance in locating a book or CD on a specific subject. The library inventory is also available at wp.sjl.org/church-library

CHOICE DOLLARS RECAP: Thanks to everyone who continue to designate their Choice Dollars deposits through Thrivent Financial. Because of your initiative the church, school, and preschool have benefited in 2015. Here are the individual year-to-date deposits for 2015: St. John Church - \$11,103.00; St. John School - \$2,067.00; St. John Preschool - \$697.00. A well-deserved “thank you” to Thrivent for providing these funds throughout the year.

ST. JOHN SCRIP is wrapped up for this calendar year. You may begin ordering again after school resumes after Christmas Break on Jan. 4th. Please turn those 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.**

RECYCLING PROGRAM – A note received from Zach's Recycling on Filmore Street in Napoleon is available on the narthex table. **Please make note of this recycling change effective Jan. 1, 2016.** Looks like they are only going to pay the school for limited items. You may still continue to bring your other recycling to them, but they just won't pay St. John for those items. In the best interest of the environment, please continue to recycle! “Think green!”

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

His presence is our best present!

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel” - which means ‘God with us’” (Matt. 1:23)

