



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

January 17, 2016

VOL. 81

NO. 3

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

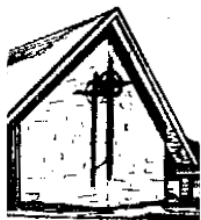
Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
Cell: 989-607-4566
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 419-966-6160
Church Website: www.sjl.org

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "Wine Sign" *John 2:1-11*
Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Three (LSB pg. 184)
Hymns: 910 ~ 408 ~ (Communion: 859, 636, 399) ~ 808
Adult Bell Choir: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" and "Joy to the World"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to St. John Church. We thank God for this time together! We pray that the grace of God will heal your hurts; that the strength of God will give you courage to face the work before you; that the power of God will prepare your way; and that the peace of God will keep you secure and steady in Christ Jesus. 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* ✘ Landon Willeman & Emily Bostelman, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Richard & Bev Elling, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Richard Elling, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman, *Altar Guild* ✘

VOTERS' MEETING – The first voters' meeting of the new year will be held two weeks from today on January 24th in the Sanctuary after the worship service (*to accommodate the Soup & Pie Dinner taking place that day in the fellowship hall*). Items are on the agenda to date are: 1) Annual school report; 2) Audit Committee report; 3) Endowment Fund distributions approval.

L.Y.F.

Get out the word! We're meeting **today, January 17th** for some fellowship and fun, and to discuss ideas and future plans. We'll meet from 4:30 – 6:30 PM, so be sure to spread the word!

In God's House This Week *Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl*

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Sr. LYF Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.	5:30 PM 7:00 PM	NO SCHOOL – <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i> B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:30 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. St. Pats-Bryan Freedom Township Trustee's & Zoning Board Meeting
Tue.	9:00 AM 10:00AM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Tuesday Bible Study B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:30 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs. Edgerton Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 7:00 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class (<i>6:15 – 7:30 PM</i>) Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM	Exercise Class
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:30AM 1:00 PM	♦ ♦ National Lutheran Schools Week ♦ ♦
		Worship Service Voters' Meeting; Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" PTL Soup & Pie Dinner (<i>servicing until 12:30 PM</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 Lutheran – Napoleon
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Charles Kramer, Retired, St. Paul Lutheran – Napoleon</i>

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Norma Damman, Don Dickmann, and Lucia Delventhal*
- ❖ *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*, showing some improvement; moved to OSU for extensive physical rehab
- ❖ *David Niebergall*, now in hospice care for his failing health due to cancer
- ❖ *Hannah Dietrich*, as she is travelling to Spain for college studies, and is leaving Jan. 19
- ❖ *Dick Mahnke*, recuperating at home from knee replacement this past week at FCHC

SINCERE THANKS: The Family of *Roger Mahnke* would like to thank everyone for their kind words and prayers. Also, to Pastor Niermann for his kind support, prayers, and his nice sermon. It was all very much appreciated. God Bless You All!

NEW SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: MARRIAGE AND FAMILY - What is marriage? Is it merely a civil agreement between two (or more) adults? Is it simply about people who love each other? What is a Christian to say in the midst of a culture so tolerant of a diversity of views? As Lutherans interact with other Christians, we often struggle to explain our beliefs and practices. We've memorized the Catechism—though that was probably a long time ago for many of us. When confronted with other teachings, we may find it difficult to clearly state our faith. Based on God's Word, as faithfully reflected in the Lutheran Confessions, this study will help you to state clearly what God says about marriage and family. God instituted marriage and family, and the Scriptures are full of implications for us today.

Come join our study of Marriage and Family with Vicar Yaeger on Sunday mornings beginning Feb 7.

2015 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – It's time to start getting your reports ready for the 2015 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, *Kathy Behnfeldt*, at 419-598-8682. **Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers by Fri., Jan. 29.**

INSTALLATION OF NEW PRINCIPAL – Two weeks from today, on Sunday, January 31st, we will install into office our new principal/teacher, *Rev. Charles Kramer*. He and his wife, *Pat*, are transferring here from St. Paul in Napoleon. Following the installation service, there will be a reception in the fellowship hall (during the Sunday School hour) where we will welcome the Kramers and get to know them in a more informal atmosphere. We are excited to bring Rev. Kramer on board, and pray God's richest blessings upon his leadership in our school.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 1/10/16	\$4,830.00	\$53.00	\$178.00

ATTENDANCE: 1/10/16 Service: 158

COMMUNED in December: 497 members; 3 guests

MITES & WOMEN OF FREEDOM – The next meeting of the St. John Women of FREEDOM will be held Tues., Jan. 19, 2016 at 7:00 PM. This will be a Missions Meeting so everyone should bring their Mite Box if you have one. Our Mission Meetings are for the months of January, April, July, and September. February is our Quilt and Blanket Knotting Party and August there is no meeting. All ladies of St. John are invited to come to our meetings.

Be sure to pick up a copy of the Quarterly and Odes (*they are put together*) from the table in the back of the church.

Also to be noted is that the Women of Freedom will be continuing the Mite-y Socks program in 2016. 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. Pick up your 2016 sock today!

Leviticus – Life in the Blood

Leviticus has been a hot topic of discussion these days. Christians point to it as evidence of God's attitude about homosexuality, but the LGBT community accuses us of cherry-picking laws to suit our agenda while ignoring other laws like the one that forbids the trimming of a man's beard. On the other hand, many who reject what *Leviticus* says about homosexuality quickly appeal to this same book to bolster their position on immigration.

What is this book really about? Can an ancient Hebrew worship manual have any bearing upon our modern lives? Or is there more to this book that first meets the eye? Join us in the fellowship hall starting this morning as we delve into *Leviticus* and discover together the treasures of God's Word!



LifeLight Bible Study – The Holy Trinity

We've had a tough time getting this study started – postponed the first week for lack of materials, and cancelled last week due to weather. **This study group was not scheduled to meet this week, so we will begin the following week on Monday evening and Tuesday morning (Jan. 25-26).**

In the meantime, study participants can pick up the leaflet for lesson #1 in the narthex this morning as well as the enrichment magazine. The idea of *LifeLight* is that participants read and prepare answers ahead, and come prepared for discussion. May God bless your study of His Word as we grow together in grace and in the knowledge of Christ!



SR. LYF STICKY BUNS FUNDRAISER: SELLING TODAY!!! This fundraiser is to help our Sr. High LYF raise money for their trip to the National Youth Gathering this July. If you forgot to fill out a pre-order sheet for today, that's okay! We will have extras available as well. Thank you for supporting St. John's LYF!

GREETER (yellow) AND ALTAR GUILD (pink) SCHEDULES: The 2016 Greeter and Altar Guild schedules are available and can be picked up on the narthex table. Usher 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!

ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES: You may begin ordering SCRIP again. 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.**

2016 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. 29th.

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK: NLSW is scheduled for Jan. 24 – Jan. 30, 2016. There will be various extra activities going at school that week.

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 24th!



SOUP & PIE DINNER – The annual PTL Soup & Pie Dinner will be held on Sun., Jan. 24, 2016, with serving from 10:30 AM to 12:30 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.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE is planned for grade levels PS-8 on Wed., February 3rd, 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.

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 about asking – everything is strictly confidential. Just give Pastor Niermann a call, and we'll see what we can do!

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.



USE OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL – If you would like to use the Fellowship Hall for any occasion or would like to borrow tables or chairs, on a certain date this year, **please contact the church/school office at 419-598-8961 or 419-598-8702**. In addition to calling the office, you may want to check the online church calendar at <http://www.dynacal.com/sjl/>.

OHIO ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN: The Ohio Division OGT is located in the north end of the Culligan Water Conditioning building on Independence Drive in Napoleon. They can receive items on the first Tuesday of the month from 9:00-11:00 AM. If you need to drop off items at another time, please contact *Nancy Helmke* (419-758-3539), *Diann Meyer-Grieser* (419-267-3485), *Vicki Grieser* (419-445-2986), or *Harold Behrmann* (419-598-8311) and they will be happy to meet you and open the facility to receive your donations! PLEASE do not drop off items when it is closed. Thank you!

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.

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.

NOTE: The price for the flowers through the Women of Freedom increased to \$21.00. 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.

COLLECTING STAMPS: The LWML is collecting stamps "For Missions." A box is on the table in the narthex. Here is what you do: Cut the stamps from the envelopes allowing ¼ inch margin or more around the stamp. The stamp may not be damaged and the perforations around the stamp must be perfect. You need not trim the stamp; we have someone who trims and sorts the stamps. Do not remove stamps from envelopes, albums, and older postcards. An "old" postcard is usually from 1930 or before. The most valuable stamps are commemorative, foreign, and stamp denominations larger than 46 cents. It only makes sense that you purchase and use commemorative stamps for your personal mailing. Collecting stamps is an easy way to participate in a mission project sponsored by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT – How You Can Help? If you have used **prescription or nonprescription** glasses or sunglasses in your drawers, desks, or closets, you can donate them now! Children's glasses are especially needed. Both plastic and metal frames are accepted. There is a box on the table in the narthex for the collection of these used glasses.

ST. MARTIN'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT SERIES presents...*Adrian Chamber Brass* on Sunday, Jan. 31st at 3:30 PM at St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 203 S. Defiance Street, Archbold, OH. This seven piece brass ensemble was founded in 1972 and performs throughout Northwest Ohio and Southern Michigan. They perform a wide range of repertoire from classical to show tunes. Steve Basselman, organist at St. Martin's, will join them for a couple selections for brass and organ. The concert is free and made possible through the generous donations of the members of St. Martin's in celebration of the congregation's 150th anniversary.

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EPIPHANY FACTS...

Hundreds of years ago, roast lamb was traditionally served at Epiphany
in honor of Christ and the three Kings' visit.

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29)