



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

November 13, 2016

VOL. 81

NO. 46

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Mr. M. Brent Keller, Vicar
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

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TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "The Signs of Your Redemption" *Luke 21:5-28*

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

Hymns: 355 ~ 508 ~ 355

Chime Choir: *Gr. 5&6 play "My Lord What a Morning"*

Solo: *Peter Gerken sings "Here I Am, Lord"*

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome! We are here at the Savior's invitation; therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, receiving mercy and finding grace to help in every time of need. If you have no church of your own, we invite you to make this your home church. But above all, we invite you to come to worship with us at any time.

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* ✘ Hannah Wachtman & Madison Bostelman, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Elmer & Pat Maassel, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow, *Altar Guild* ✘

A HARVEST IN HEAVEN! Loren Maassel, 73, passed away on Monday, Nov. 7th at Defiance In-Patient Hospice. Loren's funeral will be held here at St. John today at 2:00 PM. He will be buried in our St. John Cemetery. Loren will always be remembered for his good conversations and quick wit. Continued prayers for Joyce, Dean & Jennifer and family, Mike & Tana and family, and Krista as they mourn the passing of their husband, father, and grandfather.

SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING THIS MORNING – A special meeting of the voters has been scheduled for this morning after the worship service. We will convene in the fellowship hall to consider two items: 1) a letter from a staff member requesting a peaceful release from the congregation's call; 2) a brief report from the treasurer to follow-up on recent printed reports on the financial status of the congregation.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 2:00 PM 5:00 PM	Worship Service w/Communion following <i>Java Joy</i> ; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Funeral Service for Loren Maassel Jr. High LYF Meeting (5:00 – 6:30 PM) <i>NOTE TIME CHANGE</i>
Mon.	7:00 PM	PTL Meeting
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by <i>Pastor Niermann</i> Exercise Class Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:45 PM 7:30 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class Adult Bell Choir Adult Choir
Thurs.	9:00 AM	Exercise Class
Sat.	TBD	Gr. 4-6 Boys & Girls Basketball Tournament – Woodburn, IN
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Sr. High LYF Meeting
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Theodore Rellstab</i> , St. John Lutheran – Holgate

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Lucia Delventhal, Renetta Homan, and Stan Moll*
- ❖ *Pauline Dishop, Marie Damman, and Delora Winkelman*, at The Lutheran Home, Napoleon
- ❖ *Anna Brodman and Marian Buchhop* residing at Country View Haven
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Servicemen, *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Kyle Elling, Emily Schroeder, and Connor Gerken*
- ❖ *Jerry Lange*, recuperating following skin grafting to his leg due to severe burns
- ❖ *Casen Lawrence*, for control of increased seizure activity he has been experiencing
- ❖ *Florence Fitzenreiter*, hospitalized this past week for internal hemorrhaging
- ❖ *Kylie Speiser*, for outpatient surgery at St. V's this past Friday
- ❖ *Marian Dickmann and Ruth Moll*, for eye surgeries at Defiance Mercy Hospital this past week

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDIES are cancelled today because of the voters' meeting. Be sure to join us next week as we grow together in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus!

LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY will **NOT** meet this week as originally scheduled. Instead, we will meet next week on Monday evening and Tuesday morning, Nov. 21 and 22.

POINSETTIA SALE FINALE – If you haven't done so yet, you have until tomorrow (Nov. 14th) to turn in your order. The order will be called in Tues., Nov. 15th. **The cost is \$8.00 per plant.** You may bring your form and **check payable to St. John Lutheran School** to the office or drop it in the box in the narthex.





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 *Karen Riefers, Marilyn Meyer, and Pat Mahnke* for hosting Java Joy for November. Feel like hosting a **Java Joy** on the second Sunday of the month? 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.

JR. HIGH LYF will be meeting today (Sun., Nov. 13th) from 5:00 – 6:30 PM. All youth currently in grades 6th-8th are welcome to join us on a Bible scavenger hunt throughout the school and church. Come join us for fellowship, Bible study, and snacks. Can't wait to see you later today!

SR. HIGH LYF will be meeting next Sunday, Nov. 20th, from 4:30-6:00 PM at Miss Bartok's house. We will be having a small thanksgiving get together. Contact Miss Bartok for more information!

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT: WOMEN AND MEN – mark your calendars for Advent By Candlelight for Sunday, December 4 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Yes, you heard right! This year all women **and men** of the congregation are invited to attend this special evening designed to help us prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christ's birth. We will enjoy a candlelit potluck dinner and Advent program including a musical performance by the Napoleon Jazz Choir.

At this time we'd like to identify hostesses to each decorate 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.

Watch your mail for a personal invitation or simply RSVP on the sheet in the narthex today!

PTL MEETING will be held on Mon., Nov. 14th beginning at 7:00 PM. Please plan to attend.

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/06/16	\$11,493.00	\$283.00	\$719.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday (11/06/16) Service: 239

FELLOWSHIP HALL SET-UP CREW NEEDS YOU! The Church Council is looking for a few good people to serve on a crew that can be available as needed to set up the fellowship hall for church related events such as funeral luncheons, potlucks, special events, etc (not private events). Set up would typically take place on evenings, although there may be exceptions. If you can help, please sign up in the narthex and include your cell number (if you have one) so that we can use texting for easy communication. We would also like to identify a crew chief to take the reins and to be the primary contact person. Thank you for your help and for all you do!

**Fellowship Hall
Set-up
Crew**



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – The Women of Freedom and any women of the congregation can participate in this mission project again this year. Shoeboxes and brochures are available at the desk in the narthex. **Today is the deadline to fill the boxes.** You should place your filled shoe box on the counter in the north end of the Fellowship Hall or you can place it on the table in the back of the church. Any questions, call *Karan Niebergall*.

THANKSGIVING EVE

“Come, ye thankful people, come,” and join in the worship of God as we give thanks to Him for every good thing we enjoy. Our offering for Thanksgiving will be directed to

congregational mission of mercy to be scheduled for next year – perhaps to help out in the areas that were flooded recently. In addition, bring an offering of a non-perishable grocery items that we can stock into our food pantry, so that we can be a blessing to others.

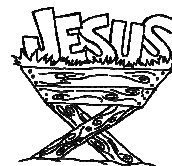
Worship is on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, Nov. 23rd at 7:00 p.m.



ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES will begin on Wednesday, November 30th. Services will be held each Wednesday in Advent at 7:00 p.m. The schedule for Advent messages is:

- Nov. 30 How Shall I Greet You?, *Matthew 21:1–11*
- Dec 7 Advent’s Fiery Preacher, *Matthew 3:1–12*
- Dec. 14 Not Another Advent!, *Matthew 11:2–15*
- Dec. 21 We Still Need Him, Our Immanuel, *Matthew 1:18–25*

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCRIPTS will be going home soon from both the Sunday School and school. **The Children’s Christmas Service is on Sunday evening, December 18th at 7:00 PM.** Every child is being assigned a part, but if for some reason your child will not be participating, please be sure to call the church office and let us know ASAP.



SCRIP OVER THE HOLIDAYS: Anyone wanting Scrip orders for Thanksgiving, will need to get their order in by Tues., Nov. 15. These cards should be delivered on or before Nov. 22. Orders will be accepted on Nov. 22, but not placed until Nov. 28. The last SCRIP orders accepted for Christmas will be on Mon., Dec. 12. SCRIP orders will resume when school is back in session on Tues., Jan.

3. Order forms and program information are posted on FastDirect under ‘Links,’ titled SCRIP Order Forms and SCRIP Program Info. There are also hard copies in the ‘School Info’ rack outside the office and on the table in the narthex. Please feel free to share with family and friends. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to the SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

DECORATING COMMITTEE UPDATE: We have had a few individuals step forward as volunteers to decorate the church and surroundings for Christmas. We could still use a few more helping hands, so if this is something you’ve been pondering, why not jump on board and be a helper. Please give it some thought, and contact the church office if you would like to volunteer. Thank you!

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 2017 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. 11th. *You do not need to sign up again if you are currently serving as a greeter, usher or are on an altar guild team.*

CALENDARS & MORE CALENDARS FOR 2017 – We now have 2017 calendars from Thrivent Financial and Snyder-Wesche-Hoening Funeral Home in Napoleon available for anyone to take. These calendars will be available on the narthex table and desk on a first come, first serve basis.

SUNDAY NIGHT VOLLEYBALL & FELLOWSHIP: Beginning tonight (Nov. 13) and continuing every Sunday night until the end of March 2017, there will be open volleyball in the gym for anyone wishing to come and get a little exercise and enjoy some fellowship with one another. The time will be 5:30 – 8:00 PM and you can come anytime and any week that fits your schedule. Some weeks the time will fluctuate due to previously scheduled events, so if you contact Amy Dietrich at 419-966-7345 she will put you into a group text and let you know of the time each Sunday. This is nothing organized, just “pick up” teams based on whoever shows up. Hope to see you in the gym!

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Check out the table in the hallway by the cry room! The Women of Freedom have put out new boxes of Christmas Cards for sale. The dish cloths are also available and be sure to check out the display board to see if you are interested in purchasing any cutlery items such as: Paring Knives, Stubby Butcher Knives, Pie Servers, Vegetable Peelers, Slicer Knives, Granny Forks, Carving Forks, Pizza Cutters, Tomato Slicer, and Small Spatula. Contact officers *Nancy Hogrefe, Marian Damman, Mabel Bischoff, Lois Rosebrock, or Karan Niebergall* to purchase these.

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:

JUSTIN ATKINSON
17 Sugar Cane Drive
Savannah, GA 31419

JASON ROHRS
11601 Gun Powder Drive
Fort Washington, MD 20744

KYLE ELLING
1556 Ripple Court
Gulf Breeze, FL 32563

EMILY SCHROEDER
1680 Rabon Farm Lane
Columbia, SC 29223

CONNOR GERKEN
379 ECS/SCOIM
Unit 61208
APO, AE 09309-1208

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.

STEWARDSHIP & THANKSGIVING: In this season of thanksgiving, a sincere ‘thank you’ is in order to everyone who supports our congregation throughout the year with their attendance, service, and regular financial contributions. For those interested, the church offers electronic giving options for making donations on a scheduled, automated basis. It’s convenient for you and provides much-needed financial consistency for the church. Pick up an authorization form in the office to get started!

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 5th** a box is placed in the narthex and a barrel in the cafeteria/fellowship hall for the collection of canned goods, dry goods and paper products. No Microwave items! Suggestions are: *Canned Vegetables, Fruit, Soup, Stews, Meats; Macaroni & Cheese Mixes, Spaghetti’s, Spaghetti Sauce, Tomato Juice, Broths, Noodles, Rice, Spaghetti; Instant Potato, Stuffing, Cake Mixes; Cereals, Syrups, Crackers, Peanut Butter, Pudding, Jell-o, Frostings, Fruit Juices, Coffee, Kool-aid, Chocolate Drink Mixes; Tissues, Toilet Tissue, Paper Towels; Bar Soap, Toothpaste, etc.*

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.

DID YOU KNOW? The free Pepperidge Farm bread, cookies, and crackers available on Sundays down by the gym lobby have the “Labels For Education” UPC codes on the wrappers. Be sure to clip them off and bring them to the school/church office at your convenience.

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!

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS need to be turned in to the office by Wednesday of each week in order to be included in the Sunday bulletin. Please note this. Thank you!

SYMPHONY OF TREES will be presenting the *JINGLE BELL JAM & SUNDAY BRUNCH* on Sun., Nov. 20th with serving until 1:00 PM at The Armory Arts & Event Center, 127 E. Clinton St., Napoleon. The cost is \$8.00 (prepaid) for adults, \$5.00 for children 4-10 years old, and free for those 3 and under. Proceeds to benefit child abuse programming for the Center for Child and Family Advocacy, Henry Co. CASA Program, and the Henry County Hospital.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

T.G.I.F. – Thank God I’m Free

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. (Galatians 5:1)”