



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

November 27, 2016

VOL. 81

NO. 48

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

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
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School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339
Church Website: www.sjl.org

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sermon & Text: "Your King is Coming" *Matthew 21:1-11*
Order of Service: *Service of Prayer and Preaching (LSB 260)*
Hymns: 341 ~ 348 ~ 332

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 Gerkan, *Pianist* ✘ Hannah Wachtman & Hope Buchhop, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Dave & Sara Myles, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Karan Niebergall, Kaylee & Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, *Altar Guild* ✘

HOME IN HEAVEN: Pauline E. Dishop, 90, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 20, 2016 at the Lutheran Home – Napoleon. Pauline's funeral was held here at St. John Lutheran Church on Wed., Nov. 23rd at 12:00 PM. Pauline was buried in St. John Lutheran Cemetery. May God console the Dishop family in their grief.

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!

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

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 5:30 PM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Open Volleyball for anyone
Mon.	Noon 4:30 PM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	Blood Drive at Ridgeville American Legion (<i>until 6:00 PM</i>) B-Ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. Delta (<i>played at St. Paul – Napoleon</i>) <i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Vicar Keller Exercise Class <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study Shepherd Committee followed by Board of Elders at 7:30 PM
Wed.	5:45 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Junior Confirmation Class (<i>until 6:45 PM</i>) Adult Bell Choir practice Advent Service 1 Acolytes: <i>Zak Schroeder & Aden Foor</i> Greeters: <i>Don & Karan Niebergall</i> Ushers: <i>Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers</i> Altar Guild: <i>Karan Niebergall, Kaylee & Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs</i> Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 4:30 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant Exercise class B-Ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls @ Wauseon
Sat.	10:00AM	B-ball: 10:00 AM Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:15 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys; 12:30 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls; 1:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys @ Trinity – Toledo
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 5:30 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; "Time To Spare" Children's Christmas Program practice (<i>Gr. PS – 8 until 11:15 AM</i>) Open Volleyball for anyone
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Matthew Schiemann</i> , St. John Lutheran – Defiance

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Lucia Delventhal, Renetta Homan, and Stan Moll*
- ❖ *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, Connor Gerken*, and *Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Casen Lawrence*, for control of increased seizure activity he has been experiencing
- ❖ *Florence Fitzenreiter*, recovering at home from a recent hospitalization

WELL WISHES FOR MR. MYERS: Based on the Special Voters' Meeting held on Sun., Nov. 13th and as requested by Mr. Michael Myers in a letter, a peaceful release from his call to St. John Lutheran Church was granted to him as Teacher of Grades 1&2. At this time we would like to give members a chance to wish him well in his future endeavors and/or thank him for his many years of dedicated service to St. John Lutheran Church & School. There is a box on the narthex table for anyone wanting to give a card or parting gift to Mr. Myers to show your appreciation to him. **This box will be available thru Tues., Nov. 29th.** His current address is: Mike Myers, 2315 County Road 451, Rogers City, MI 49779, for anyone wishing to send him a card or gift directly.

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. RSVP today!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/20/16	\$5,997.00	\$120.00	\$360.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday (11/20/16) Service: 226

LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER: The first and second grades at St. John now have a long term substitute teacher. His name is *Mr. Ben Majewski*, and he attended St. Augustine School, Napoleon High School, and Ashland College. He graduated from Ashland last spring. Mr. Majewski has been part-time teaching in local schools. Mr. Majewski will be with us through the end of the 2016-17 school year.

We want to thank *Tami Sunderman, Amy Kramer, Jan Schlade, Sue Aschemeier, Deb Hoops, Marcia Kern, and Linda Schroeder* for filling in as sub teachers in that room. They were valuable in keeping the progression of the learning for our students in first and second grades.

Bible Study



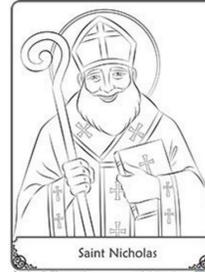
MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY – Join us bright and early this Thursday morning at 6:30 AM at *Hill's Family Restaurant* in Napoleon. Breakfast is \$7.00, which includes the tip. It's a great way to start your day! Good food, good friends, and a good Word from God!

ANNUAL DECEMBER VOTERS' MEETING – The annual December Voters' Assembly will be held in the fellowship hall on **Sunday, December 11th** after the morning service. Agenda items include: 1) adopting a 2017 budget; 2) discussion about parking lot improvements; 3) possible bylaw changes (pick up a copy in the narthex); 4) nomination and election of 2017 officers.

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!

The Real St. Nick (Today)

- What do you teach your children or grand-children about Santa Claus?
- Do you know about St. Nicholas, the man behind the legend?
- Want to consider a new holiday tradition for your family that remembers St. Nicholas for who he really was?



This Sunday, just in time for St. Nicholas Day on Dec. 6th, Pastor Niermann will lead a single-session video Bible study titled, “**The Real St. Nick: Leader, Legend, or Lie?**” Those with children and grand-children will not want to miss this fascinating look at the Saint behind the Santa. Join us in the north fellowship hall.

2017 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.

LifeLight BIBLE STUDY – “Heaven and Hell”

LifeLight meets this week on Monday evening (7pm) or Tuesday morning (10am). Please join us! Many people have questions about heaven and hell, and God’s Word has much to say on the subject. This week our session is titled, “**For the Healing of the Nations.**” In this study we will get a “sneak peek” of life in the world to come.

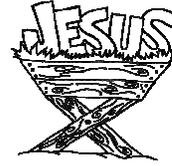
This study is part of the **LifeLight** series that offers in-depth studies on many Bible books and topics. Through advance preparation and reflection, as well as group discussion, **LifeLight** studies will always challenge you and give you growth in faith.



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 have been distributed 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: 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.**

CHRISTMAS SWEETS & TREATS! The Stewardship Board is organizing a Christmas fundraiser for the Right Hand of Fellowship capital campaign. Put it on your calendar for Sun., Dec. 11th 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 Good Neighbor Fund.

Stop by on Dec. 11th and let us brighten your Christmas season with a handpicked box of sweets and treats! Any questions should be directed to *Sarah VerMeulen, Kristyn Honemann, Cheryl Sausser, or Nate Bickel.*

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. 11th. 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. 10th 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. 11.

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**



BULLETIN STUFFER VOLUNTEERS: Want to 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. 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 – 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.*

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

AREA EVENTS

- ◆ **RIDGEVILLE AMERICAN LEGION BLOOD DRIVE** will be held on **Mon., Nov. 28th** from noon – 6:00 PM at the Legion. Walk-ins welcome!
- ◆ **CHRISTMAS VILLAGE CRAFT SHOW** will be held at the Ridgeville Legion Hall, Sun., **Dec. 4th** from 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Lunch will be served. Come and browse the shops!
- ◆ **COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT:** On **Monday, Dec. 5 at 7:00 PM** the Napoleon Community Band will perform a concert for the community. The concert will be held at the Emanuel Lutheran Church in Napoleon located at 810 Scott Street. Come and enjoy the band as they play some of their favorite Christmas songs. See flyer!
- ◆ **THE TOLEDO SYMPHONY** will perform a Christmas Concert at St. Paul Lutheran Church – Napoleon Township, on **Wed., Dec. 14th** at 7:30 PM. Tickets on sale thru their church office at 419-758-3522. See flyer!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Google – it can't satisfy every search.

"I love those who love me, and those who search for me diligently find me." (Prov 8:17)