



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

January 8, 2017

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NO. 2

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Mr. M. Brent Keller, Vicar
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

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Church Website: www.sjl.org

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "The Real Contender" *Isaiah 42:1-9*

Order of Service: *Matins (LSB pg. 219)*

Hymns: **398** ~ Psalm 129 ~ **404** ~ **405**

Children's Choir: *Gr. 5&6 Chime Choir play "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"*

A WARM 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 this morning, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to our pastor and by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you. Simply pass it to the center aisle during the offering this morning. Thank you!



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Zak Schroeder & Hannah Wachtman, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Richard & Bev Elling, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karan Niebergall, Ronda and Kaylee Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, *Altar Guild* ✠

HOLY COMMUNION will be offered this morning following the Worship service. Those who wish to attend should fill out a card from the pew rack in front of you and pass it to the center aisle during the offering. Return immediately to the front pews in the sanctuary.

HELP WITH SERVICE SLIDES – In the New Year we'd like to recruit some people to help with worship slides by taking charge of the "presentation clicker" and advancing the slides during worship services. Once we've identified some people, we will set up a training session to teach everyone how to perform this task. If you are interested in serving in this way, please speak with Dan Wachtman or Pastor Niermann.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 6:00 PM	Worship Service with Communion following Sunday School; "Time To Spare"; Adult Bible Class Open Volleyball
Mon.	4:30 PM	B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. Swanton (played at St. Paul-Napoleon)
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Niermann; <i>Offering: Filling Home – Napoleon</i> Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. Napoleon (played at St. Paul-Napoleon) Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:45 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM) Adult Bell Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys @ St. Pats – Bryan
Fri.		End 2 nd Quarter Grading Period
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM 6:00 PM	Communion Service Sunday School; "Time To Spare"; Adult Bible Study Jr. High LYF Open Volleyball
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Lee Genter</i> , Christ Our Savior Lutheran – Defiance

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Lucia Delventhal, Renetta Homan, Stan Moll, Florence Fitzenreiter, and Delores Badenhop*
- ❖ *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 seizure activity he has been experiencing
- ❖ *Shirley Sonnenberg*, for a recent medical procedure
- ❖ *Vernon Kruse*, for radiation treatments and a recent hospitalization
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs*, recuperating at Northcrest Nursing Home following a recent fall
- ❖ *Rodney Rosebrock*, for rotator cuff repair recently

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 ALTAR GUILD (pink), GREETER (yellow), & USHER (blue) SCHEDULES: The 2017 Altar Guild, Greeter, and Usher schedules are available today and can be picked up on the narthex table. Thanks again to all who are willing to be of service to the Lord through St. John.

NEW **LifeLight** BIBLE STUDY - Sign up today and help us choose our topic!

The new study will begin February 6 & 7 (Monday evening and Tuesday morning). *LifeLight* offers in-depth Bible studies designed to give an increase and growth in faith for all who participate. When you sign up, be sure to express your preference between the following two studies:

- **"Wilderness Wandering"** examines Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy and Israel's wilderness wanderings. In this study, we would examine how they got where they were, how they made offerings, the priestly ministry, cleanliness, atonement, holiness, the festivals, numbers, and the plan to settle the Promised Land. --or--
- **"Parables"** will look at why Jesus spoke in parables (*think Matthew 13:34-35*). From there the study looks at several well-known parables, such as the Lost Sheep and the Vine and the Branches, as well as perhaps some less known parables, such as the wineskins and wise servant.

You can sign up for either the Monday or Tuesday study groups. We'll meet the first, second and fourth weeks of February, March, and April (Mondays 7-8:15pm, Tuesdays 10-11:15am).

Life's Big Questions, God Big Answers – New Bible Study

Beginning this morning in the fellowship hall, Pastor's Sunday morning adult Bible study will be looking into some of life's big questions and exploring God's Word for God's big answers. Does evolution explain the world? What are humans? What is a canon? (This one has to do with how Scripture came to exist.) Was Noah's flood really a worldwide event? What is post-modernism and the new tolerance? This study covers 13 questions in all, and we'll try to tackle two of them each Sunday during the course of this study. Please join us as we grow in grace and in the knowledge of God's Holy Word.

CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR THE CONFSSIONAL LUTHERAN...Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: The Epiphany Season, The Alt-Left, Christianity & Climate Change, Biblical Archeology, Contemporary American Culture & Gnosticism, Jesus Heals Many and more. You can listen to what you want when you want at www.issuesetc.org and on the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

ASSISTANT SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPT. – With the recent elections and appointments, we are still searching for a volunteer for Assistant SS Superintendent. We will need someone beginning in January 2017. Thank you to whoever chooses to help out with this appointed position.

2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES – There are still several who have not picked up their 2017 offering envelopes. If you did not receive a box of envelopes but would like one, please contact Finance Deacon, *Al Damman* (419-598-8425).

SCHOOL MEMORIES: There are several copies of old St. John School yearbooks found in the office that are being offered, to anyone interested, on a "first come, first serve" basis. These are from the 2000-2001 school year (14 copies) and the 2002-2003 school year (23 copies). If you were a student or the parent of a student at that time, you may want to pick up a keepsake copy; or anyone can just pick up a copy to enjoy. They are available on the desk in the narthex.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 01/01/17	\$9,178.00	\$105.00	\$510.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday (01/01/17) Service: 130

COMMUNED in December: 388 members; 8 guests

WOMEN OF FREEDOM – The Program Booklets for 2017 are in a box on the table in the narthex. They are in alphabetical order. Be sure to pick yours up today. 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.

MITES & WOMEN OF FREEDOM – The next meeting of the St. John Women of FREEDOM will be held Tues., Jan. 17, 2017 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 October. February is our Quilt and Blanket Knotting Party and in 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 narthex.

Also to be noted is that the Women of Freedom will be continuing the Mite-y Socks program in 2017. 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 2017 sock today!

THE FLOWER CALENDAR for 2017 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 \$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.

SOUP & PIE DINNER – The annual PTL Soup & Pie Dinner will be held on Sun., Jan. 29, 2017, 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.



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 29th!

LYF SUPER BOWL SUB SALE – It's that time of year again! Super Bowl Sunday is quickly approaching and it's time to get ready for the big game. Why not help out our church's LYF as well? On Sun., Feb. 5th, we will be selling Super Bowl subs to help raise money for our youth group. Each sub will cost \$3.00 and will contain salami, bologna, ham, white cheese, and yellow cheese. To place an order, please fill out a pre-order form and place it in the basket at the back of the church or bring it to the church office by February 1st. Subs will be available for pick up after church on February 5th. Payment will be due at the time of pick up. **Checks can be made payable to St. John LYF.** Thank you for supporting our LYF youth!

ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES: You may begin ordering again! Scrip orders will be received on Wednesdays, ordered on Fridays and delivered on the following Tuesday. Here is a new twist...the 5/6 graders will be going to Outdoor Education in April 2017. Any Scrip purchased from now until March by those students' families could apply 1/2 of their Scrip proceeds toward defraying the cost of their child's share to attend OE. They can use all of their proceeds if they choose, but if they wanted to split it 50/50 that half could be used for OE and the rest could be applied toward their school payment for 2017-2018 school year. Order forms 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.**

FELLOWSHIP HALL SET-UP CREW: 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**



2017 LUTHERAN ANNUAL – We are now taking orders for the 2017 Lutheran Annual. It has the current addresses, phone numbers, emails, and websites of LCMS churches, pastors, teachers, etc. all over the United States. Call the church office to order your copy. Deadline is Fri., Jan. 27th.

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!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

God's toll free number 1-800-Jer33:3

"Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known." (Jeremiah 33:3)

