



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

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TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Peace and Security" *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting One (LSB pg. 151)

Hymns: 633 ~ 587 ~ [Communion: 629, 508] ~ 920

Children's Bell Choir: "We Gather Together"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We 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. May we be showered with those blessings as we together profess His Name today. 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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Bryce Bostelman & Kaleb Woods, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Lois Arps & Linda Riefers, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Badenhop, Sandy VonDeylen, Mary Rettig, *Altar Guild* ✘

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR today are placed in recognition of the 60th Wedding Anniversary of Walter & Lois Rosebrock which they will celebrate on Friday, Nov. 24th. May God continue to bless you with many more years together. Congratulations Walter & Lois!

MANY THANKS! We want to thank all of you for the cards received for our 50th wedding anniversary. Also, for the cards, visits, well wishes, and phone calls received while going thru treatments this past year which will finally finish on December 28. God Bless you. *Roger & Shirley Sonnenberg*

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES will begin on Wed., Dec. 6th at 7:00 PM. Services will be held on subsequent Wednesdays, Dec. 13th, and Dec. 20th also at 7:00 PM.

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; "The Lamp" Sr. High LYF Meeting
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Gr. 5&6; Offering: Henry County Christmas Cheer Exercise Class Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	5:45 PM 7:00 PM	NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING BREAK Junior Confirmation Class (<i>until 6:45 PM</i>) Thanksgiving Eve Service Adult Choir: " <i>For the Fruit of All Creation</i> " and " <i>Praise to the Lord</i> " Acolytes: <i>Ashton Niese</i> Greeters: <i>Marietta Damman & Arlene Wallace</i> Ushers: <i>Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers</i> Altar Guild: <i>Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow</i>
Thurs.		NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING BREAK Exercise Class
Fri.		NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING BREAK
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. James Strawn</i> , St. James Lutheran – Archbold

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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, and Anna Brodman*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Lucia Delventhal*, at Fulton Manor, Wauseon
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs, Delores Badenhop, and Melba Elling*, in Assisted Living at The Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Armed Services: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Shirley Sonnenberg, Ezekiel Damman, Elmer Maassel, and Pat Kramer*, dealing with health issues at this time
- ❖ *Todd Wachtman*, recuperating at home following lung surgery at Toledo Hospital

ADULT BIBLE STUDY - A Man Named Luther – Part 3:

The Movement. Most people don't have a full appreciation of how Martin Luther and the Reformation he sparked has impacted not just the church but, indeed, all of civilization. In its

December 1999 issue, *Time Magazine* listed Martin Luther as the second most influential person of the past millennium. His influence reaches far beyond the church to impact education, family life, and even the formation of governments, our own included. Join Pastor Niermann this morning in the fellowship hall for the study of God's Word and to gain a deeper appreciation of the Reformation and how it has impacted our world.



THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

This Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

“Come, ye thankful people, come!” The real secret to a thankful heart is not a hyper-abundance of earthly blessings, as if external things are the best of what God has to offer. The real secret of thankfulness is contentedness, which comes from

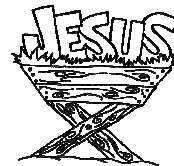
something far better than any material blessings. Join us this Wednesday, Nov. 22nd at 7:00 p.m. as we join our thankful hearts to sing the praises of our faithful and beneficent God!

- **FOR ALL THE THANKFUL CHILDREN** – Pastor will have a message for the children in worship and a little something to give them as a reminder of true contentment! Parents, teach your children where all thanks are due by coming to the Lord’s House this Wednesday evening!

Happy Thanksgiving!

WOMEN OF FREEDOM – The November meeting of our Women of Freedom is Tuesday the 21st at 7:00 p.m. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend! We will have election of officers and also pack goodie boxes for the shut-ins.

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 17th 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.



GIVING BACK AT ST. JOHN!

Last Sunday a form with lists of the many ways you can serve here at your church was in the bulletin.

- Some of these are the elective and appointed offices of the congregation. These are the most pressing for us at this time of year.
- Others are volunteer positions for the many things that need to be accomplished for our church to continue in ministry.
- There is also a section for your own ideas. If there’s a way you’d like to serve that’s not listed, please write in the idea.

Deposit your completed form in the box in the narthex labeled, “Serving Christ in Freedom.” These forms will be distributed to the appropriate people so that contact can be made and you can begin serving. It is our prayer that everyone will find at least one way they can serve or perhaps more. God has given gifts to each and every one of us to be used in His service. What a privilege!

THANK YOU...is not enough! The committee for the “SOAR WITH THE EAGLES” school fundraiser this past Friday is still in shock. The support both in attendance and financially was “over the top.” We had approximately 270 in attendance and the event raised \$41,419.16 to date. **THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU** for showing your overwhelming support for St. John Lutheran School. The fellowship, awesome food, and fun (*thank you, Ted and Margo*), made the evening very enjoyable. We hope to see everyone back again in 2018!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to some special people! The Operation Christmas Child campaign netted 35 shoe boxes filled with goodies to be shipped along with many other filled shoe boxes to roughly 10.4 million boys and girls in 118 countries in the Name of Jesus. The St. John Lutheran School and Women of Freedom coordinated this effort and if you were one of the generous people to fill a shoe box, “thank you” very much. God bless each one of you!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/12/17	\$6,801.00	\$153.00	\$200.00

ATTENDANCE: 222

VOTERS' MEETING will be Sunday, December 17 after the Communion service in the Fellowship Hall. On the agenda will be: 1) *Election of Officers*; 2) *Distribution of "Soaring with the Eagles" funds*; 3) *Approval of 2018 Budget*; 4) *Second reading and potential vote on Constitution change to Article IV Communicant Membership wording*; 5) *Second reading and potential vote on Constitution change to Article VIII Synodical Membership wording*; 6) *Discussion and potential vote on new policy concerning Religious Employment Criteria*; 7) *Discussion and potential vote on proposed revision to the Facilities Use Policy*; 8) *Discussion and potential vote on positions approved by the Voters Assembly for hiring by the School Board*.

CALENDARS & MORE CALENDARS – We received beautiful 2018 calendars from 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.

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT: WOMEN AND MEN – mark your calendars for Advent By Candlelight for Sunday, December 3 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. 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 an Advent program.

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 *Kathy Behnfeldt* (598-8682) if you have any questions.

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

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. Contact *Nancy Glaser, Marian Damman, Mabel Bischoff, Lois Rosebrock, or Karan Niebergall*.

BULLETIN STUFFER VOLUNTEERS: Want to get involved? Why not 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. If anyone is willing to donate a little time toward stuffing bulletins, 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 2018 greeter, usher, and altar guild schedules so this is the time to sign-up at the table in the narthex. 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 team? A few people have dropped out over the past year and so we ask you to consider signing up for one of these teams. The sign-up deadline is Sunday, Dec. 10th. *You do not need to sign up again if you are currently serving as a greeter, usher or are on an altar guild team.*

MITTEN TREE – December 3-13

During the first few weeks of this Advent season, we will have a “Mitten Tree” in the narthex where you can make donations of mittens, gloves, hats and scarves, or even new or lightly used coats, for needy people of all ages in our area. Bring your items to church on the first two Sundays and Wednesdays of December. You can hang them or place them underneath the Mitten Tree. After the second midweek Advent service on Dec. 13th the items will be gathered up and sent to *The Salvation Army* for distribution to the needy in our area, in time for Christmas. *Let us heed the words of our Lord, “I was naked and you clothed me.” (Matt. 25:36)*



2018 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 Alan Damman, Finance Trustee, and a box will be issued to you.

SCRIP: Plan to get a jump start on your Christmas shopping this year. The SCRIP Order Form is available on the table in the narthex. Thank you and happy shopping!

IT’S TIME TO FORM A 150th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE! In about a year and a half, we will turn the calendar to the year 2019 – the year our congregation will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its founding in 1869. It’s an anniversary we will want to celebrate in many ways with joy and thanksgiving. If you would like to be part of the anniversary committee, please speak with Pastor Niermann, and we will have our first meeting this fall.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP: Sign up deadline is **Mon., Dec. 11th**. Prices are \$20.00 for a couple and \$10.00 for an individual. Make checks payable to St. John Boosters and send to school with your child. Forms are available in the “School Info” rack outside the school office or contact any of the Booster officers: *Amy Rosebrook, Jody Meller, Krista Gerken, and Becky Michaelis*. Join today!

SPORTS SCHEDULE NOTE: With *Brad Rosebrook* as our Athletic Director, please go to his “Calendar” in Fast Direct frequently as this is where he will post the sports schedules and any changes to the sports schedules. Keep in mind that in order to view the games for the basketball season, you can go to either FastDirect directly (*thru the school*) or you can enter the church’s website (*www.sjl.org*), click on “School” at the top of page, click on “FastDirect School Info. System” on the left side of page, click on “BulletinBoard/Calendar” on the left side of page, and then scroll down to Brad Rosebrook, Athletic Director and click on **his** “Calendar”.

TURN YOUR OLD USED CELL PHONE INTO A GIFT FOR THE POOR AND FOR YOUR CHURCH! Informed sources tell us that the average American household has 5 to 6 old unused cell phones lying around. Now you can put those phones to good use AND keep them out of the landfills. Bring them to church and deposit them in the large white box in the narthex. They will be forwarded to a company that sorts them and prepares them to be given to poor families for emergency use, and sends us a check. Old cell phones range in value from \$1 up to \$50.

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 4th** 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.*

SYMPHONY OF TREES will be presenting the *JINGLE BELL JAM & SUNDAY BRUNCH* on Sun., Nov. 19th with serving until 1:00 PM at The Armory Arts & Event Center, 127 E. Clinton St., Napoleon. The cost is \$8.00 (prepaid) adults, \$5.00 for children 4-10 yrs old, and free for 3 and under.

AREA EVENTS

- ◆ **COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER!** The churches and service groups of Henry County are hosting a community Thanksgiving Meal at St. Paul Lutheran, 1075 Glenwood Ave., Napoleon on Thurs., Nov. 23rd from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM.
- ◆ **CHRISTMAS VILLAGE CRAFT SHOW** will be held at the Ridgeville Legion Hall, Sun., Dec. 3rd from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Lunch will be served. Come and browse the shops!
- ◆ **THE TOLEDO SYMPHONY** will perform a Christmas Concert at **St. Paul Lutheran Church – Napoleon Township, on Wed., Dec. 13th beginning at 7:30 PM.** Tickets on sale thru their church office at 419-758-3522. See flyer!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Will you be THANK-ful, or just plain full?

“I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart.” (Psalm 9:1)