



# 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

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

### FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sermon & Text: "The Second-Oldest Christmas Carol"

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: 352 ~ 929 ~ 389 ~ 897 ~ 392 ~ 388

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### A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*Welcome to our worship service here at St. John. If we can be of service to you in any way, please speak to our Pastor. If you are looking for a church to call home, please consider joining this church where we seek to help each other grow in faith, in love and in service. Simply 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.*

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### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Kaelyn Gerken & Taylor Dietrich, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dan & Joyce Wiechers, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Linda Meyer, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Richard Elling, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✠

**POINSETTIA PLANTS** – Don't forget to take your poinsettia plant home after the worship service today. There are plastic sleeves to protect them in the side Conference room.

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** booklets for January, February, and March are on the desk in the back of the church. Pick up your copy today!

**MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS** will resume its regular schedule this week. We will meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.

**2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES** – There are still several who have not picked up their 2018 offering envelopes. If you did not receive a box of envelopes but would like one, please contact *Al Damman* (419-598-8425) until Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>. After Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, please contact *Kathy Gruenhagen* (419-335-9173).

**In God's House This Week**Online church calendar: [www.DynaCal.com/sjl](http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	<b>Worship Service</b> Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Tue.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Stewardship Board and School Board Meetings
Wed.	8:20 AM 6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM	School resumes Midweek Confirmation Class Adult Bell Choir practice Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 4:15 PM	Men's Bible Study Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls @ Napoleon
Sat.	10:00AM	B-ball: 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	Communion Service w/Installation of Church Officers Sunday School; "The Lamp"; Adult Bible Study
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Jeff Corder</i> – St. John Lutheran, Stryker

**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, Pat Kramer, Lawrence Langenhop, and Marietta Damman*, dealing with health issues at this time
- ❖ *Dorothy Gerken*, returned home for rehab this past week
- ❖ *Brad & Sarah Rosebrock*, mourning the loss of Sarah's mother this past week

**INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS** – Those who were elected or appointed to offices for the coming year will be installed into those offices next Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.

Officers to be installed are: **President** – *Dan Wiechers*; **Vice President** – *Brad Rosebrock*; **Treasurer** – *Cathy Gerken*; **Financial Trustee** – *Mary Kossow*; **Elders** – *Brian Bickel, Larry Sausser*; **Stewardship Board** – *Kurtis Kramer, Dave VonDeylen*; **Board of Education** (installed to take office in July 2018) – *Bob Riefers, Tara Sausser*; **Secretary** – *Sandy VonDeylen*; **Church Deacon** – *Doug Dietrich*; **Trustees** – *Rodney Rosebrock, Dave Rosebrock*; **Sunday School Supt.** – *Zoe Foor, Lisa Brown*; **Asst. Sunday School Supt.** – *Kelly Sonnenberg*; **Cemetery Board** – *Tyler Kossow, Jordan Myles, Roger Lulfs*; **Cemetery Sexton** – *Ben Kruse*.

**THANK YOU** from the School Board to Mahnke Orchards (*Richard & Elaine*) for donating all the apples that were put in the Christmas Sacks; and to the LYF for their help in filling the sacks with candy, fruit, and peanuts. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

**CHRISTMAS THANK YOU** To everyone who put so much effort and time into this year's Christmas celebration we say a great big THANK YOU! Thank you to the musicians and choirs for helping us make a joyful noise to the Lord with song! Thanks especially to Renee, Sharon and Bethann for all your extra work for the Christmas services. Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the sanctuary for Christmas, including those who provided the poinsettias. Thanks also to the youth who served in worship as acolytes. It has been a blessed celebration of the Lord's birth. May God bless our worship of Christ as we follow His footsteps through Epiphany, Lent and Easter!



**NEW ALTAR GUILD (pink) & GREETER (yellow) SCHEDULES:** The 2018 Altar Guild and Greeter schedules are available today and can be picked up on the narthex table. The Usher schedule is 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!

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 12/24/17	\$54,865.00	\$52.00	\$197.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 198

**CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE (12/24/17):** Home Fund - \$3,226.00 Attendance: 223

**CHRISTMAS DAY FESTIVAL SERVICE:** Home Fund - \$2,985.00; Attendance: 109

**BE A JAVA JOY HOST!** Start the New Year off by signing up for Java Joy! Every second Sunday of the month after the service, we aim to have a time of fellowship with coffee, juice and snacks called **Java Joy**. If you would like to host one of these, please sign up in the narthex. Don't let finances stop you – you are welcome to reimburse your expenses from the kitty if you wish.

**MITES & WOMEN OF FREEDOM** – The next meeting of the St. John Women of FREEDOM will be held Tues., Jan. 16, 2018 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. **NOTE:** The Program Booklets for 2018 are in a box on the narthex table. Be sure to pick yours up today. Be sure to check to see what month you are on for serving. If that does not work out for you, you can switch with someone.

Be sure to pick up a copy of the Quarterly 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 2018. 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 2018 sock today!

**ATTENTION ALL MEN** – Rise and shine this Thursday and join your brothers in Christ for a good

## Bible Study



breakfast and coffee, and some great discussion around the Word of God. **It's the Men's Bible Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant this Thursday morning at 6:30 a.m.** There is no better way to start your day. Breakfast is \$7.00 (including tax & tip); God's Word is free to all (including grace upon grace, as we take a sneak preview of the Scripture readings for the coming Sunday).

**THE FLOWER CALENDAR** for 2018 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. 28, 2018, 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.



**EXTENSION FUND** – As God gave us the gift of His only Son, so too do we give gifts to others during the Christmas season. As nice as our gifts to each other are, seldom do they impact anyone beyond those that receive them. However, by investing in Church Extension, you can make a significant impact on the local Lutheran community. Individual investments are pooled to provide low-cost loans to Ohio District congregations and missions for building, expansion and renovation projects. To learn more about investment opportunities call 1-800-901-2297 for current rates of interest and application forms.

**LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BULLETINS** are available 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.

**“WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS”:** “Worship for Shut-Ins” has joined the WLMB-TV40 line up. If you have a relative or friend who is homebound, hospitalized, or recovering from a recent surgery, you may suggest this 30-minute LCMS worship service to them. So tune in to WLMB-TV40 on Sundays at 6:30 AM and get your Sunday started off right!

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### FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

**“God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.”** ~Augustine

*“For UNTO YOU is born this night...a savior, who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:11)*