



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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NO. 1

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

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School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339
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FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "Star of Wonder, Star of Night" *Matthew 2:1-12*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: **396**, stz.1-3 ~ **396**, stz.4-5 ~ **397** ~ [Communion: **400, 872, 398**] ~ **411**

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* ✠ Clay Behnfeldt & Kaleb Woods, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Lois Arps & Linda Riefers, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Harold Behrmann & Rich Elling, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karan Niebergall, Ronda and Kaylee Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, *Altar Guild* ✠

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed by the family of *Elmer Riefers* in memory of his passing one year ago tomorrow, Jan. 8, 2017. Time passes so quickly, but we still hold memories of our loved ones near and dear to our hearts. Please keep Linda and the Riefers Family in your thoughts and prayers at this time of remembrance for them.

GARY NYE MEMORIAL SERVICE – This coming **Saturday, January 13th at 11:30 a.m.**, Susan Nye and her family invite you to attend a memorial service for Gary Nye, 73, who was tragically taken from us in an accident at home on Fri., Dec. 29th. Immediately following the memorial service, there will be a fellowship luncheon in the church fellowship hall where you can greet Susan and share a time of food and conversation. Please join the family that day and continue to keep Susan in your daily prayers, not only as she grieves, but for her recovery as well.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service w/Installation of Church Officers Sunday School; "The Lamp"; Adult Bible Study
Mon.	4:30 PM 4:30 PM	B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls @ Swanton B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys vs Swanton (@ St. Paul)
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Kramer Exercise Class Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class Adult Bell Choir practice Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 5:00 PM	Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls; 6:15 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys @ St. Pat's – Bryan
Fri.	5:00 PM	End of 2 nd Quarter Grading Period B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:15 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls @ Monclova Christian
Sat.	11:30AM	Funeral Service for Gary Nye with a luncheon following the service
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:00 PM	Worship Service with Communion following Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 2:15 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys; 3:30 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls; 4:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys @ St. Paul – Napoleon
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:

- ❖ 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*
- ❖ *Ezekiel Damman, Pat Kramer, Marietta Damman, and Dorothy Gerken*, dealing with health issues at this time
- ❖ *Henry Gerken*, hospitalized this past week for kidney and heart related issues
- ❖ *Alicia Maassel*, recovering at home after a recent hospitalization
- ❖ *Shirley Sonnenberg*, giving thanks as she has now completed her cancer treatments

THANK YOU: I would like to thank everyone at St. John for your prayers during my recent hospitalization and recovery. A special thanks to Pastor Niermann for his visitations and encouraging words. To all of those who offered support in so many wonderful ways to Tina and our kids, I cannot tell you how much your kindness touched our hearts. It has truly been a blessing to us to have such a caring church family. God bless, *Todd Wachtman*

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY this morning will continue the third part of our extended 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.

• **UP NEXT FOR BIBLE STUDY – The Letter to the Romans**

The year is 1515. Luther, as a young monk, sits in a room at the top of a monastery tower studying late into the night when he was about to stumble upon a verse in Paul's letter to the Romans (1:16-17) that would not only change his life, but the entire world. Later, Luther wrote of this 'tower experience': "All at once I felt that I had been born again and entered into paradise itself through open gates. Immediately I saw the whole of Scripture in a different light. This phrase of Paul ("the justice of God") was for me the very gate of paradise."

Because this Bible book had such a profound impact on Martin Luther, it is only fitting in this 500th Reformation Anniversary year that we should take up the study of Romans in our midst and consider God's Word to us through this amazing letter of St. Paul. Join us, that the light of God's Word may shine upon you!

INSTALLTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2018 – The installation of newly elected and appointed officers of the congregation will take place today during the worship service. As these servants of God and His people are installed, we also give thanks for those whose terms of office have ended and who have served us so faithfully. Well done, good and faithful servants! Those being installed today are:

President – *Dan Wiechers*; **Vice President** – *Brad Rosebrook*; **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*

Rosebrook, Dave Rosebrook; **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*.

JR HIGH LYF MEETING CHANGED: Due to basketball games with St. Paul, Napoleon, on Jan. 14th, the Jr. High LYF meeting is changed to Sat., Jan. 20th at 4:30 PM. Please make a note!

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!

BREAD FROM HEAVEN UPDATE: First of all, we would like to thank the congregation for all of their support of the food pantry. We recently received a large donation of soup from the Campbell's Soup Co. So to compliment the soup, we are looking for donations of crackers. There is also a need for spaghetti and spaghetti sauce. The next food pantry distribution will be on Mon., Jan. 22nd from 5:30 – 6:30 PM. Thanks again from the *Bread From Heaven* Committee.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 12/31/17	\$7,127.00	\$188.00	\$205.00

ATTENDANCE: 170

LIFE SUNDAY – January 21st

Every January the tragic anniversary rolls around of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision (on January 22, 1973) that legalized abortion on demand in our country. Since then, over 60 million American babies have been aborted. The economic and demographic impact of these people missing from society is incalculable, but perhaps worst is the spiritual impact that happens to a nation when its citizens treat God's gift of life as a disposable commodity. On Sunday, January 21st we will pray to God for our nation and consider what God's Word has to say about this burning issue. Join us then, and together let's take a stand for life!



2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES – There are still a few who have not picked up their 2018 offering envelopes. If you did not receive a box of envelopes but would like one, please contact *Kathy Gruenhagen* (419-335-9173).

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.

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.



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, pies, or cupcakes. We look forward to another successful Soup & Pie Dinner on January 28th!

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!

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.

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. 4th, we will be selling Super Bowl subs to help raise money for our youth group. Each sub will cost \$4.00 (or a 3 for \$10 deal) and will contain salami, bologna, ham, white cheese, and yellow cheese. **To place an order, please fill out a pre-order form on the narthex table and place it in the basket on the table or bring it to the church office by January 28th.** Subs will be available for pick up after church on February 4th. 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. 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. 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.**

2018 NATIONAL LUTHERAN ANNUAL – We are now taking orders for the 2018 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., Feb. 3rd.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2018-19 school year. Anyone interested in enrolling your child in our preschool program should contact the school office at 419-598-8702 to request an enrollment packet and/or turn in their registration form. We will be opening the registration up to the public as of February 1st. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration form.

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!

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.

PRAYER CALENDAR NOTE: Please be aware that if you would like your wedding anniversaries printed on the prayer calendars, you will have to post them each year. Just list them on the blank calendars posted on the bulletin board in the narthex throughout the year.

ST. JOHN CHURCH LIBRARY – Stop in and check out the growing number of books available in the church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary. The books in this library have been screened to assure that they are true to the Word of God and can be trusted to be theologically sound. To borrow a book, just take it with you, and then return it to the basket when you've finished reading. A complete list of the books in the church's library can be found by clicking on the "Book Inventory" link on the library page of our church's website. <http://www.sjl.org/library.html>

ST. JOHN WEBSITE: Did you know you can listen to *Pastor Niermann's* sermons on the internet? Just click on the "Media" tab on our website, www.sjl.org.

EXERCISE CLASS: Need to work off a few pounds or just want to exercise your heart? St. John hosts an exercise class in the gym. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-10 AM and the cost is \$7 per class (*pay as you come*), or \$6 if prepaying for sessions. This is a light aerobics and strengthening program. (*If you have your own weights, bring them with you.*) Please contact *Nancy Glaser* (419-598-8432) with any questions.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

"If your life a fixer upper, Jesus is a master re-modeler."

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come!" (2 Cor. 5:17)*