



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

January 5, 2020

VOL. 83

NO. 1

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](http://www.sjl.org)

### SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sermon Title and Text: "Just Like You" *Luke 2:40-52*  
Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Five (LSB pg. 213)  
Hymns 984 ~ 410 ~ 953 ~ (Communion: 375, 370) ~ 376  
Adult Choir: "Beside Thy Manger" and "Songs of Thankfulness Praise"

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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**

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘ Cal Bickel & Devin Dietrich, *Acolyte* ✘
- ✘ Marilyn Meyer & Arlene Wallace, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Dean Badenhop, Dave Von Deylen, Dennis Showman, Richard Elling *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Lou Ann Rosebrock, Diane Von Deylen, *Altar Guild* ✘

**NEW ALTAR GUILD (pink) AND GREETER (yellow) SCHEDULES:** The 2020 Altar Guild and Greeter schedules are available today and can be picked up at 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!

### **THANK YOU:**

- I would like to thank *Sarah Bartok, Brynnleigh Kehnast, Emersyn Gerken, Lydia Schroeder,* and *Tyson Damman* for blessing our Advent/Christmas season with their gift of music. Your music was enjoyed by all! Signed, *Sharon Damman*

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** will resume today, following the service, in the fellowship hall.

<b>In God's House This Week</b>		<i>Online church calendar: <a href="http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl">www.DynaCal.com/sjl</a></i>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	<b>10:00AM</b> 10:30AM	<b>Communion Service w/Installation of Officers</b> Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.	8:20 AM	Classes resume
Tue.	<b>8:35 AM</b> 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	<b>School Chapel</b> B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:30 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs St. Pats – Bryan School Board and Stewardship Board Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:15 PM	<i>Last day to submit your own picture for the Church Picture Directory</i> Midweek Confirmation Class Adult Bell Choir practice Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	5:00 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; Gr. 4-6 Boys vs Holy Cross – Defiance
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 vs Trinity Lutheran – Toledo
Sun.	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM 4:30 PM	<b>Worship Service w/Communion following</b> Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Jr High LYF
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Stephen Niermann</i> , St. John Lutheran – Freedom

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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, Willie Gerken and Lester Rabe*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Dorothy Gerken, Melba Elling, Eldor Gruenhagen, and Lorna Von Deylen*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs*, in Assisted Living at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Armed Services: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Rose Leonard* (daughter of *Brad & Kailee Leonard*), dealing with significant health issues
- ❖ *Florence Jones, Judy Okuly, Ruth Mahnke, and Harvey Russell*, with various health issues

**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.

**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 reconvene in the New Year on Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at the regular time, 6:15 – 7:30 p.m.

**2020 ENVELOPES** – There are still a few 2020 offering envelope boxes to be picked up. If you did not receive a box of envelopes but would like one, please contact *Mary Kossow* (419-599-0011).

**INSTALLATION OF 2020 OFFICERS TODAY** – With gratitude to God for all those who have served in the past in the various offices of our congregation, and for those who stood for election for this year, we greatly thank you. The incoming 2020 congregational officers will be installed during today’s service. They are:

Officers to be installed are: **President** – *Richard Elling*; **Vice President** – *Neil Badenhop*; **Treasurer** – *Cathy Gerken*; **Financial Trustee** – *Jim Hogrefe*; **Elders** – *Steve Gruenhagen, Jeremy Honemann*; **Stewardship Board** – *Hannah Montana, Mary Kay Rettig*; **Alt. Delegate Synod** – *Peter Gerken*; **Board of Education** (installed to take office in July 2020) – *Ashley Crall, Marlea Myles*; **Secretary** – *Deb Durham*; **Church Deacon** – *Carey Damman*; **Trustees** – *Mike Dietrich, Greg Kehnast*; **Sunday School Supt.** – *Stephanie Damman*; **Asst. Sunday School Supt.** – *Todd Wachtman*; **Cemetery Board** – *Jake Myles, Joe Badenhop, Brady Gerken*; **Cemetery Sexton** – *Ben Kruse*.

**PICTORIAL DIRECTORY PHOTO SUBMISSION** – Recently we completed photography sessions for our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary pictorial directory. **If you did not have your picture taken and you would still like to have your photo in the directory, as well as receive a copy of the directory, please submit a photograph to Joyce along with \$10.00** (make checks payable to St. John Lutheran Church; write ‘Photo Submission’ on memo line). **The deadline for submitting your own photographs is Wed., Jan. 8, 2020.** Just to reemphasize, those who submit their own photographs (and \$10.00) will also receive a copy of the directory when it is published.



**OUR CHURCH FAMILY  
DIRECTORY**

**OLD SCHOOL RENOVATION BROCHURES** – Recently the *Old School Renovation Finance Committee* sent out a mailing to St. John Lutheran Church members and to SJLS Alumni with an informational brochure about the Old School renovation into a Youth Center, and the opportunity to participate in this project through monetary gifts. If you would expect to have received this mailing but for some reason did not, please accept our apology, and pick up one of these brochures in the narthex. **Thank you to everyone for your gifts and donations that are moving this project forward!**

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 12/29/19	\$5,908.00	\$455.00	\$152.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Sunday – 12/29/19 – 174

**THE FLOWER CALENDAR** for 2020 is posted on the bulletin board 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.

**WOMEN OF FREEDOM PROGRAM BOOKLETS** – The Program Booklets for 2020 are on the narthex table. 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. The Quarterlies and Odes are available in the rack above the narthex table.

**SOUP & PIE DINNER** – The annual PTL Soup & Pie Dinner will be held on Sun., Jan. 26, 2020, 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 26<sup>th</sup>!

**WHY LUTHERAN SCHOOLS? Strengthening Congregations:** Lutheran schools equip children to become Christian leaders in the congregation. The school also involves young parents in congregation activities more than in congregations without schools. These young parents frequently become new leaders of the congregation. Students are encouraged to become future pastors and teachers, ensuring an ongoing supply of church workers.

**TEACHING POSITION:** St. John Lutheran School is seeking applications for a dynamic third and fourth grade teacher for the 2020-21 school year. Requirements are a Bachelor degree in education, a background check, 3 references, and subscribing to the St. John Lutheran Church and School religious beliefs. If you have questions please call the school office at 419-598-8702. Applicants can mail a resume' to St. John Lutheran School, 16035 County Road U, Napoleon, OH 43545.

**ST. JOHN REGISTRATION OPEN HOUSE** – An **Open House** is planned for grade levels (PS-8) at St. John School for Wednesday evening, **February 5<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM**, for families who would like to come and look at our school and discuss the possibility of sending their child/children here for their education. There will also be refreshments. If anyone in the congregation might know of a prospective student for Grades PS-8, please be sure to pass this information to them.

**CHOICE DOLLARS RECAP:** Thanks to everyone who continues to designate their Choice Dollars through Thrivent Financial. Because of your initiative the church and school have benefited in 2019. Here are the individual year-to-date deposits for 2019: St. John Church - \$15,935.00; St. John School - \$4,921.00; St. John Preschool \$0-. A well-deserved thank you to Thrivent for providing these funds.

✂ ✂ ✂

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**God wants full custody, not just weekend visits.**

*“You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.” (Jer. 29:13)*