



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom
Worship • Stewardship • Mission

December 15, 2013

VOL. 78

NO. 50

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Miss Mary K. Rettig, Principal

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School: 419-598-8702 Home: 419-966-6160
Church Website: www.sjl.org

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

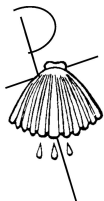
Sermon & Text: "Lord, Give Me Patience" *James 5:7-11*
Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting Five (LSB pg. 213)*
Hymns: (Baptism: **593, 592;4,5**) ~ **349** ~ (Communion: **334, 620, 345**) ~ **338**
Adult Bell Choir: "He Comes To Us"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS *Advent is a season of repentance and preparation for the Coming of Christ. We warmly welcome all who have come to worship our God with us today! Each day we live is a priceless gift from God. If you are a visitor, 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* ✠ Lexi Woods & Lydia Schroeder, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Clara Meyer and Phyllis Silveus, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Elaine Hesterman, Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, *Altar Guild* ✠



BAPTISM TODAY – This morning we give thanks for the life of **Braelyn KayAnn Kehnast** as she is joined to Christ in her baptism. **Braelyn** was born on October 29th at the Fulton County Health Center to **Greg & Jenna (nee Damman) Kehnast**. Her sponsors are **Derek Damman** (Jenna's brother) and **Kelly Boulton** (a friend). Braelyn's grandparents are **Denny & Deb Damman** and **Jim & Sue Kehnast**. We rejoice with the family as they celebrate the new life in Christ of this child and gift of God! Congratulations to them all!

SUDDEN LOSS: Last Sunday morning, Dec. 8th, God called **Norma Dietrich**, 72, to His home in heaven. Norma's funeral was held here at St. John on Wed., Dec. 11th at 1:30 PM. She was buried in the St. John Lutheran Cemetery. We lift up prayers of strength for her husband, **Ron**; and children, **Doug & Sandy Dietrich, Tim & Roxanne Dietrich, Tom & Shelly Dietrich, Marcia & Brad Miller,** and **Mark & Cary Dietrich** as they grieve her sudden passing. May God's peace be with all of you!

In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:15AM 1:00 PM	Communion Service Christmas Program Practice for Grades PS – 8 (<i>until 11:30 AM</i>); Adult Bible Study; “ <i>Time To Spare</i> ” 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 vs. St. Paul – Napoleon (A)
Mon.	5:00 PM	B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. Archbold (A)
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Napoleon Public Library (Gr. K-8) Exercise Class Building Committee Meeting
Wed.	5:45 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Junior High Confirmation Class(5:45 – 6:45 PM) Adult Hand Bell Practice 3rd Midweek Advent Service Offering: <i>Summer Mission Trip</i> Adult Choir: “Prepare the Way Before Him” Acolytes: <i>Anna Gerken & Alex Stevens</i> Greeters: <i>Dave & Sara Myles</i> Ushers: <i>Al Damman, Andy Damman, Tim Hodson</i> Altar Guild: <i>Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman</i> Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 5:30 PM	Exercise Class in gym B-ball: Tentatively scheduled Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. Toledo Christian (A)
Fri.	8:30 AM	Christmas Program practice (Preschool thru Gr. 8) NO EARLY DISMISSAL TODAY! Christmas Break begins
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 – Toledo (A)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15AM 7:00 PM	Worship Service Christmas Program Practice for Preschool – Gr. 8 (<i>until 11:15 AM</i>); LYF & School Board sacking Christmas bags Children’s Christmas Program (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.- Sat.	7:20 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Charles Kramer</i> , St. Paul Lutheran, Napoleon

ADULT BIBLE STUDY --- For the remainder of December we will break away from the *Engage* series and take a look instead at a few of the “Baloney Shop” segments from the *Lutheran Hour Ministries* website. In these videos *Rev. Ken Klaus* takes a unique look at the foolishness and fallacies of the criticisms we face as Christians. We’ll watch a few of these and discuss them together. Won’t you please join us!

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

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

- Our Homebound Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Marian Fitzenreiter, and Donald & Sue Landry* dealing with various health issues
- Pauline Dishop, Marie Damman, and Joann Miller*, residing at The Lutheran Home
- Magdalena Volkman*, residing at Heartland Nursing Home, Wauseon
- Lucy Rosebrock*, residing at GlennPark of Defiance
- Marian Buchhop and Annalou Brodman* residing at Country View Haven
- Helen Norden*, residing at Greenbriar Assisted Living, Birmingham, AL
- Servicemen and women*, Justin Atkinson, Kyle Elling, Jason Rohrs, and Emily Niermann
- Arnold Bischoff*, recovering from heart surgery and pneumonia at Fulton Manor, Wauseon
- Don Dickmann*, recovering from pneumonia at Golden Living Center – Northcrest, Napoleon

LYF CHRISTMAS PARTY: The LYF will be having their Christmas party today beginning at 6:00 PM at *Carey & Sharon Damman's* house. Please bring a \$5-7.00 gift to exchange. Also, bring a munchie or dessert item to share. Hope to see a lot of you there!

LYF & SCHOOL BOARD will be sacking candy on Sunday, Dec. 22nd at 10:15 AM in the gym.

2014 OFFERING ENVELOPES – With gratitude to God for the generous support of our members of the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this place, the 2014 offering envelopes are available today. Please pick yours up, and may God prosper the work of our hands and the giving of His people!

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP – “Advent at the Movies”



So far we've viewed scenes from the Christmas classic, “It's a Wonderful Life” and “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.” It's amazing what you can see in a movie when you look at it in a fresh way through the lens of our Christian Christmas faith.

This coming Wednesday at “Advent at the Movies” we will take a new look at another Christmas favorite, “**The Santa Clause.**” This movie raises the question, “What happens when we suit up with Jesus Christ and put Him on?” Won't you join us? Prepare your heart for the celebration of His coming this Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m.

SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS SERVICES

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|----------------------|------------------|---|
| Sun. Dec. 22 | 7:00 p.m. | Children's Christmas Program, “It's All About Mercy”
<i>Bring a non-perishable food item for our food pantry to present to the Savior as an offering pleasing to Him.</i> |
| Tues. Dec. 24 | 7:00 p.m. | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service |
| Wed. Dec. 25 | 9:30 a.m. | Christmas Day Festival Service
<i>With Holy Communion, the meal that puts the 'Mass' in Christmas</i> |



<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	<u>Home Fund</u>	<u>Synod & Missions</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 12/08/13	\$7,386.00	\$207.00	\$608.00

ATTENDANCE: 12/08/13 – 294

2ND ADVENT SERVICE: *Concordia University – Ann Arbor, MI* - \$599.00; Attendance – 99

DRESS CODE FOR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Girls should wear either a dress or dress pants and a blouse or sweater. Boys should wear dress pants or khakis (*no cargo pants*) and a sweater or dress shirt (*any color*) and tie (*optional*). **No jeans or athletic shoes.**

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICES:

- TODAY** Grades PS-8 (10:15-11:30 AM)
 Friday, Dec. 20 Full practice – Gr. PS-8 (8:30 AM or TBD)
 Sunday, Dec. 22 Grades PS – 8 (10:15-11:15 AM)
 7:00 PM Christmas Program – 8th Grade ushers should arrive at 6:00 PM.
 All other children should arrive at 6:30 PM (*Meet in the Fellowship Hall*)

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Please note that there is no offering envelope for the Children's Christmas Program next Sunday at 7:00 PM. If you wish for your offering at that service to be recorded, use any spare Sunday envelope in your set. Regardless of which envelope you use, unless you specify something in writing on the envelope, we will assume it should go for the designated purpose, which is Church Vocation Student.



ST. JOHN CHURCH LIBRARY: New books have just been added to the Church Library here at St. John. ✦ For youth and children there are new books about Christmas, Bible Stories, and Easter. Some titles include "The Christmas Story According to Luke" and "The Blind Man by the Road". ✦ Other books found in the new books section cover topics such as church denominations in America, marriage, divorce, addictions, the service of women in the church, studies on Bible Books, and Christian care at the end of life. ✦ Also added is a book series called "How to Respond", which answers questions about the new age movement, lodges, cults, Muslims, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Judaism, and Satanism.

The library is self-serve and is located in the hallway just west of the Sanctuary. Feel free to take out books at any time and return them in the tray provided. If you would like help finding a book on a particular topic call *Darrel Behrmann* at 419-598-8252.

CHOICE DOLLARS RECAP: Thanks to everyone who have signed up for the automatic Choice Dollars deposits through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Because of your initiative the church, school, and preschool have benefited in 2013. Here are the individual year-to-date deposits for 2013: St. John Church - \$15,075.00; St. John School - \$1,191.00; St. John Preschool - \$0. A well deserved "thank you" to Thrivent for providing these funds throughout the year.

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS – We give thanks to God for everyone who submitted their names for nomination to our various church offices. Your servant hearts and willing spirits provide an example for us all! **Those who were elected or appointed to offices for the coming year will be installed into those offices on the first Sunday of the New Year, January 5th.**

Officers to be installed are: **ELECTED**: **President** – *Craig Drewes*; **Vice President** – *Dennis Bockelman*; **Treasurer** – *Krista Gerken*; **Financial Trustee** – *Sara Myles*; **Elder** – *Delbert Damman, Jim Hogrefe*; **Stewardship Board** – *Tim Johnston, Rob Scheffert*; **Board of Education** (installed to take office in July 2014) – *Jamie Rosebrock, Sunday Griffith*; **Alternate Delegate Synod** – *Mark Elling*. **APPOINTED**: **Secretary** – *Rhonda Bockelman*; **Church Deacon** – *Carey Damman*; **Trustees** – *Randy Damman, Elmer Maassel*; **Sunday School Supt.** – *Brenda Kruse*; **Cemetery Board** – *Bobby Cowell, Roger Lulfs, Blake Miller*; **Cemetery Sexton** – *Ben Kruse*.

FUN(d) RAISING CONTINUES:

- ✓ Fun Pasta orders can still be placed thru the end of the year. Just go to **www.funpastafundraising.com/shop/st-john-lutheran-church** to place your order. If you prefer free shipping, contact Karen Norden at 419-267-3477 and she can combine several orders to get the free shipping for you.
- ✓ Yankee Candle orders also can be placed thru the end of the year. For ordering, go to **www.yankeecandlefundraising.com** and enter group #990058626. The website should say “Right Hand of Fellowship Gift Matching Campaign”.

MITES: The LWML *Mite-y Socks* will be back in 2014. 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. Jump on board and look for the *Mite-y socks* in January!

EAGLE NEWS: Due to time restraints with the holidays quickly approaching, we are posting the *December Eagle News* on FastDirect School Information System on Tues., Dec. 17th. You can access FastDirect by going to www.sjl.org and clicking on St. John School Website on the left; then click on FastDirect School Information System also on the left side; and then click on “Links” again on the left side of the page. Look for “Eagle News – DECEMBER” and enjoy! There will also be a few hard copies available on the narthex table in January.

HELP NEEDED: The sports program is in need of volunteers to work the clock and/or scoreboard for the home basketball games. If there are several volunteers, we can work around your busy schedules and make it work for all of us. Please contact *Jason Foor* at 419-906-5074 or by email at jyfoor@gmail.com.

BAKE SALE: There will be a Bake Sale held today at the St. Paul basketball games. A silent auction will be conducted for 2 cakes, one decorated for St. Paul and one for St. John. The money for the winning bid on the St. Paul cake will go toward their Athletic Department and the money for the winning bid on the St. John cake will go toward the St. John Athletic Boosters. Let’s Go Eagles!

TIME TO UPDATE OUR DIRECTORY: There are many addresses and phone numbers in the Annual Report directory that need updated. If you (*and/or your adult children*) have address changes; or if you have eliminated your land line telephone and only have cell phone numbers, **please call or email** the church office at 419-598-8961 or email jwiechers@sjl.org with updated information. It will be very helpful to have current addresses on file when we do our mailings. Thank you!

THE GIFT OF GENEROSITY: This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported St. John Lutheran Church this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead. If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings or if you plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to look into our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions.

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. Thank you!

ST. JOHN SCRIP: The *SCRIP* campaign will wrap up on Wed., Dec. 18th. So make those final Christmas purchases. Order forms and program information are posted on FastDirect under ‘Links,’ titled *SCRIP Order Forms* and *SCRIP Program Information*. There are also hard copies on the narthex table and in the “School Info” rack outside the office. Please turn your orders in on Wednesday, with payment to *St. John School PTL Scrip Program*. The gift cards will be sent home on Friday. As this wraps up the *SCRIP* program for the school year, the PTL thanks everyone who supported this fundraiser over the past several weeks. Contact *Karen Gerken* at 567-454-0087 or email at kgerken564@gmail.com with any questions.

LABELS FOR EDUCATION: Our school collects labels all year long. **Labels For Education have expanded and now include UPC labels from Post Cereals, BIC, Pop-Secret, and several others.** For a complete listing of sponsors go to www.labelsforeducation.com. These labels earn points for St. John to be redeemed for many school supplies. ***NOTE: Please turn in your Labels For Education and Box Tops For Education labels in separate Ziploc bags or envelopes.***

BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION, AND POP TABS: Our school also collects *Box Tops For Education*, and aluminum pop tabs. *Box Tops For Education* is a PTL fundraiser earning 10¢ per box top for the PTL. They too have expanded their sponsors, so be sure to check over your grocery items carefully so you don’t miss any. The pop tabs collected all go to support the Ronald McDonald House in Toledo. There are collection boxes in the school office for each of these. ***NOTE: Please turn in your Labels For Education and Box Tops For Education labels in separate bags or envelopes.***

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THANKSGIVING FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

The test of good manners is to be patient with the bad ones.

“A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.” (Prov. 19:11)