



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

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Mr. Reed Shoaff, Vicar  
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### TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Keep Watch" *Matthew 25:1-13*

Order of Service: *Matins (LSB pg. 219)*

Hymns: **508 ~ 514** ~ "It Is Your Word, O God"

Children's Choirs: *Gr. 5-8 sing "Jesus, Name Above All Names"*  
*and Gr. 7&8 ring "My Lord, What A Morning"*

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### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*Welcome to God's House of Worship. Come, one and all, and praise the Lord. May the joy of Christ living in us fill His church with thanksgiving. If you are visiting with us today, we are very glad you came. We ask that you 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 this morning to note your presence with us.*

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

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ **1<sup>st</sup> Service:** Emily Bostelman & Maggie Weller, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ **2<sup>nd</sup> Service:** Katelyn Drewes & Lydia Babcock, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Don & Karan Niebergall, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Denny Bockelman, Jeff Buchhop, Dave Myles, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Lois Rosebrock, Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow, *Altar Guild* ✘

**THANK YOU:** Thank you to all the people who supported and participated in the first St. John Arts & Craft Show last weekend. Also, thank you to everyone who donated in any way to this event. A big thank you to the LYF for their delicious food prepared and enjoyed by all! We received many compliments on the organization of the show and the hospitality shown. Thank you again!

**HOLY COMMUNION** will be offered this morning following the Early Worship service. Those who wish to attend should fill out a card from the pew rack in front of you and give it to the usher as you leave your pew this morning. Return immediately to the front pews in the sanctuary.

**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	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM	Early Worship Service w/Communion following <i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; “ <i>Time To Spare</i> ” Late Worship Service
Mon.	7:00 PM	PTL Meeting
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Supt. of Lutheran Schools, <i>Travis Grulke</i> ; Offering: <i>Henry County Christmas Cheer program</i> Exercise Class Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM	Jr. Hi Confirmation Class ( <i>until 7:30 PM</i> ) Adult Bell Choir Adult Choir
Thurs.	9:00 AM 2:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Early Dismissal due to Parent/Teacher Conferences Ladies Aid Meeting Adult Information Class w/Pastor
Fri.		NO SCHOOL due to Parent/Teacher Conferences
Sun.	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM	Early Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; “ <i>Time To Spare</i> ” Late Communion Service
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Stephen Niermann</i> , St. John Lutheran, Napoleon

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Marian Fitzenreiter, Donald Landry, and Edwin Rosebrock*
- ❖ *Pauline Dishop* and *Marie Damman*, residing at The Lutheran Home, Napoleon
- ❖ *Magdalena Volkman*, residing at Heartland Nursing Home, Wauseon
- ❖ *Anna Brodman, Marian Buchhop, and Norma Damman*, residing at Country View Haven
- ❖ *Helen Norden*, residing at Greenbriar Assisted Living, Birmingham, AL
- ❖ Servicemen and women, *Justin Atkinson, Kyle Elling, Jason Rohrs, Emily Niermann, and Connor Gerken*
- ❖ *Casen Lawrence*, as he has had on-going seizures resulting in hospitalization
- ❖ *Yvonne Volkman* and *Marvin Gruenhagen* dealing with health issues
- ❖ *Joel Stier*, diagnosed with Hodgkin’s lymphoma and currently undergoing chemotherapy
- ❖ *Chris Basehor* (Sarah VerMeulen’s cousin), dealing with a reoccurrence of her cancer

**TIME TO SPARE SUNDAY SCHOOL:** On Sun., Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> we will be having Brittany Gillen come to our Sunday School class to share with us her experiences of working with Habitat for Humanity over the past few years. Breakfast will be available. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be joining us.

**Java Joy TODAY** since it's the second Sunday of the month. Be sure to stop out in the front hallway this morning for some refreshments and fellowship. Our host today is ***Marietta Damman and Family***, and we thank them for this service of love to us all!



- ***WOULD YOU CONSIDER HOSTING JAVA JOY?*** *Hosting does not have to be expensive – you are welcome to reimburse some or all of your expenses, if you wish, from the ‘kitty’ – so please don’t let that hold you back. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for all the second Sundays of the year. Please sign up, and pick up the sheet of guidelines from the table. Thank you!*

**ITEMS “FOR SALE” FROM PTL:** There will be a table set up beside the Java Joy table today with an assortment of Scrip gift cards available (*on the spot*) and, also, order forms and information about “That’s My Pan” ordering. These are both PTL fundraisers currently underway. Check it out!

### **SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES!**

**While the young ones are in Sunday School, you can be growing in faith too!**

- **“THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS”** – This book is a fascinating look by C.S. Lewis into the devil’s cunning and deception, and it just gets better and better. In **Letter #15** Screwtape argues that one of hell’s most effective weapons against God’s people is to make them live in the future rather than in the present. Join Pastor Niermann in the north end of the fellowship hall for this intriguing study, and you will gain an advantage as you fight the good fight of faith. Don’t worry if you’ve not attended before – each letter is a Bible study unto itself.
- **“MARRIAGE BY GOD’S DESIGN”** – “The commitment to love and be faithful to one’s spouse-for better, for worse, in sickness and in health- is not a pledge to keep the same feelings. It is a pledge to do certain things, to voluntary conduct.” Today we will be considering the question, “What is true love?” Is it just a feeling?...or is there more to it? Join Vicar Shoaff in the fellowship hall as we look to God’s Word and the example of Christ to understand what “true love” really is.

**LADIES AID MEETING:** Our next meeting is Thurs., Nov. 13, at 7:00 PM. On the docket for the meeting: 1)Pack boxes of goodies for our shut-ins and servicemen and women; 2)Poinsettias for our shut-ins; 3)Watch the DVD titled “The Nativity Story” at 7:15 PM. We are also asking our Ladies Aid members to bring in cookies, crackers, etc. that can be packed for our shut-ins and servicemen. We look forward to seeing some new faces at the November meeting.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATING COMMITTEE:** The Christmas decorating committee has a simple request this year. They are looking for “muscle power” to help them assemble the Christmas tree that goes in the front of the church. Would there be anyone (*about 3-4 people*) interested in helping them? Please note you will be going up on ladders. Contact Sandy (419-598-8695), Kathy (419-966-4523), or Anita (419-598-8221) and leave a message if you can be of service. The committee would like to thank *Jeff & Matthew Buchhop* again for their volunteer help with last year’s decorating. You were a blessing to us!

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PREPARATION** – This year the Christmas program for the children and congregation is scheduled for Sunday, Dec, 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. To assign parts, we need to assemble a list of school and Sunday School students who will definitely be present for the program. We strongly encourage all parents to make this commitment with their children. These programs not only create wonderful memories, they are also an important Christmas tradition that helps anchor the Christ of Christmas in their hearts!



**To confirm your child's participation, please call the church/school office by Friday, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>.** Parts will be assigned the following week. There will be rehearsals on the Sundays of Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14, and Dec. 21 (*subject to change*) between services.

**ARCHIVES DISPLAY** – The Archives Display has been changed and is now highlighting the 2014-2015 school pictures of the students and staff of St. John Lutheran School. Please stop down and check them out at your leisure.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/02/14	\$9,588.26	\$518.00	\$838.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 11/02/14 – 8:15 Service: 134; 10:30 Service: 150

**FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY** – November 23<sup>rd</sup>  
As part of our efforts under the “WITNESS, Mercy, Life Together” emphasis, we will be planning *Friendship Sundays* periodically, the first of which we've scheduled for Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. The purpose of a *Friendship Sunday* is to provide you an opportunity to invite friends and family to a worship and fellowship event that is especially geared to our guests. Our first *Friendship Sunday* will take place around a theme that is strong in the Scripture readings that day – **GATHERED**. Much planning needs to take place. If you'd like to help plan our first *Friendship Sunday*, please speak with Pastor Niermann.



**POINSETTIA SALE** –The poinsettia sale for Christmas is underway, and green order forms are on the narthex table. The deadline for ordering is Fri., Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>. **The cost increased to \$8.00 per plant.** You may bring your form and **check payable to St. John Lutheran School** to the office. Be sure to fill in the line, “*In Loving Memory of*” or “*In Honor of*” if you wish. This information will be published in the church bulletin as an insert the Sunday the poinsettias are placed in the sanctuary.



**YOUTH DIRECTOR POSITION AVAILABLE** - We are presently seeking candidates for our Youth Director. This is a part-time paid position, to begin on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The Youth Director, with guidance and assistance from the Vicar and Pastor, promotes and leads the LYF youth ministry in our congregation. This position involves a monthly meeting, and planning and implementing various youth activities throughout the year. If you would like to apply for this position, please speak with *Vicar Shoaff* or *Pastor Niermann*.

**THRIVENT CALENDARS:** We received approximately 25 complimentary 2015 calendars from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans this past week. They are available on a “first come, first serve” basis on the desk in the narthex. Help yourself if you so desire!

**RECYCLING PROGRAM:** As of the Sept. 2014 School Board Meeting, it was decided to implement a recycling program at St. John School. This will be done through Zack’s Recycling, Napoleon. Please pick up a green flyer explaining the recycling program from the table in the narthex or contact school board member, *Renee Bostelman* (419-758-3335) with any questions.

**OSU QUILT** – A silent auction is being conducted for the OSU quilt (*lap size*) on display in the side hallway. A minimum opening bid of \$100 is being asked. Bid sheets for this silent auction are located on the table in the narthex. Bids will be closed as of noon on Sun., Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is a fundraiser for the on-going Right Hand of Fellowship gift matching campaign, so let’s support the campaign and “Go Bucks.”

**CHRISTMAS SWEETS & TREATS!** The Stewardship Board is organizing a Christmas fundraiser for the Right Hand of Fellowship Gift Matching campaign. The Christmas Sweets & Treats Shop will be open on Sunday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> after each of the Early and Late Services that day.

Here is how it will work. You can make a freewill donation and receive a small or large gift box, after which you will go to tables, set up in the hallway and pick out any of the baked goods to fill your box with Christmas goodies. All money raised will be given (and matched) toward the Right Hand of Fellowship campaign – Fellowship Hall debt reduction.

Stop by on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> and let us brighten your Christmas season with a handpicked box of sweets and treats! Any questions about this fundraiser should be directed to *Karen Norden* (419-267-3477) or *Kim VanValkenburg* (419-519-0437). More information will be forthcoming requesting donations of your favorite holiday cookies, candies, bars, etc. for this fundraising event. Stay tuned!

**RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP FUNDRAISER:** The Stewardship Board is offering “for sale” the Ultimate Cloth® as a fundraiser. These are a MiraFiber® technology cloth that cleans with water only. More effective than harsh cleaning chemicals and soaps. Contact Karen Norden (419-267-3477) for more information and pricing. This will be an on-going fundraiser for the Right Hand of Fellowship gift matching campaign.

**ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP:** Membership is still being taken for the Athletic Booster Club. **Sign up deadline is Mon., Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>.** 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. Join today!

**ST. JOHN SCRIP:** The *SCRIP* campaign is in full swing. 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 Wednesdays, with payment to *St. John School PTL Scrip Program*. The gift cards will be sent home the following week on Tuesday. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to the following SCRIP Coordinators: Karen Gerken at 567-454-0087 or email at [kgerken564@gmail.com](mailto:kgerken564@gmail.com); or Kristyn Honemann at 419-592-0643 or email at [honemann@embarqmail.com](mailto:honemann@embarqmail.com).**

**CHRISTMAS CHEER PROGRAM** –Henry County Ministerial Association has begun its annual campaign for the collection of food for low income and needy persons in Henry County. From now through **Tues., December 9<sup>th</sup>** a barrel is placed in the 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, Spaghettio'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, and Shampoo.*

**CHURCH LIBRARY** – The church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary, is growing to contain a lot of excellent books that will edify your faith. 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. Please check out the selection. To borrow a book, just take it with you, then return it to the basket when you've finished reading.

**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!

**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. There is also a "For Kids" tab which allows you to listen to the Children's Sermons at St. John, or follow the link to fun and games at JCPlayZone.

**THE LUTHERAN HOUR** – The Lutheran Hour Ministries can be heard on several radio stations in our area. They cover many interesting topics relevant to today's issues. Broadcasts can be heard Sundays on: Holland's WPOS 102.3 at 7:00 AM; Archbold's WMTR 96.1 at 7:30 AM; Defiance's WONW (AM)1280 at 10:30 AM; Napoleon's WNDH 103.1 at 12:00 PM.

**SYMPHONY OF TREES** will be presenting the *JINGLE BELL JAM & SUNDAY BRUNCH* on Sun., Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> with serving until 1:00 PM at The Armory Arts & Event Center, 127 E. Clinton St., Napoleon. The cost is \$8.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 4-10 years old, and free for those 3 and under. Proceeds to benefit child abuse programming for the Center for Child and Family Advocacy, Henry Co. CASA Program, and the Henry County Hospital.

**TOLEDO SYMPHONY CONCERT:** St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon Township, will be hosting the Toledo Symphony for a Christmas Concert on Wed., Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM in their sanctuary. Ticket information can be found on the flyer posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.**

*"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." (Matt. 25:13)*