



# 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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Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor  
Mr. Reed Shoaff, Vicar  
Miss Mary K. Rettig, Principal

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### LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

Sermon & Text: "Gathered" *Matthew 25:31-33*

Order of Service: *See printed service folder*

Hymns: 379 ~ 394 ~ 437 ~ 461 ~ 496 ~ 904 ~ 511 ~ 509 ~ 525

Children's Choir: *Grades K-4 sing "Friends"*

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### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*We welcome all who have come to worship our God with us today! Each day we live is a priceless gift from God, loaded with possibilities to learn something new, to gain fresh insights into His great truths. May we be showered with those blessings as we together profess His Name today. 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.*

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

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ 1<sup>st</sup> Service: Tyne Rosebrock & Colin Johnson, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: Maggie Weller & Brady Gerken, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Bob & Diane Norden, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Denny Bockelman, Jeff Buchhop, Dave Myles, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Lois Rosebrock, Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow, *Altar Guild* ✘

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are placed in thankfulness to the Triune God for the 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of *Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann* which is on November 26<sup>th</sup>. We congratulate them and wish them many more years of blessings and happiness!

**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. If you would like to apply for this position, please speak with *Vicar Shoaff* or *Pastor*.

<b>In God's House This Week</b>		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM	Early Worship Service <i>Java Joy</i> ; Combined Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Worship Service
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Gr. 5&6; Offering: <i>Henry Co. Christmas Cheer</i> Exercise Class Board of Elders
Wed.	5:45 PM 7:00 PM	NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING BREAK Junior Confirmation Class (5:45 – 6:45 PM) <b>Thanksgiving Eve Service</b> Offering: <i>Henry County Christmas Cheer</i> Adult Choir: "We Thank You Lord" and "O Give Thanks" Acolytes: <i>Alex Stevens &amp; Brooks Behnfeldt</i> Greeters: <i>Jerry &amp; Nancy Short</i> Ushers: <i>Denny Bockelman, Jeff Buchhop, Dave Myles</i> Altar Guild: <i>Lois Rosebrock, Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow</i>
Thurs. & Fri.		NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING BREAK
Sun.	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM	Early Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Worship Service
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. James Strawn, St. James Lutheran, Archbold</i>

**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

**THANK YOU:** The family of Sue Landry would like to thank everyone for their cards, prayers, kind words, and visits at the sudden passing of Sue on October 24<sup>th</sup>. We truly appreciate everything done at the time of our loss. Thank you to Pastor Niermann and Vicar Shoaff for your comforting words.

**LADIES AID THANK YOU** – The Ladies Aid would like to thank everyone who supported them during the Arts and Craft Show on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. Because of your generosity at the show, they will be making a donation of \$1,055 toward the Right Hand of Fellowship Gift Matching campaign.

**WELCOME FRIENDS!** It is our distinct privilege to have guests and friends who have gathered with us today on this, our Friendship Sunday. We pray that you will be blessed in your worship and in the fellowship of God's people in this place. More than anything, we want you to be gathered with all of God's redeemed children on the day of Christ's coming. May this gathering today of friends in Christ be a foretaste of the eternal fellowship in His kingdom!

Welcome,  
friends!

Be sure to pick up your gift this morning, and enjoy some JAVA JOY refreshments out in the front hallway. Please join us again in the near future. You are always welcome!

**MOVIE / BIBLE STUDY TODAY!** "Explaining All the Scary Stuff in Revelation"

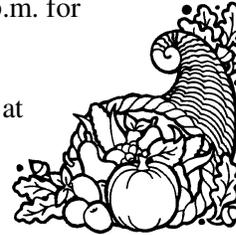
The Beast. The Four Horsemen. The Whore of Babylon. The Bowls of Wrath. If the book of *Revelation* scares you, you are not rightly understanding it. Sure, there are plenty of scary images in the book, but the overriding theme is that Christ has defeated anything and everything that scares you!

These video segments and discussion, chosen especially to go with the theme of the last day of the Church year, will explain a lot about how Christians have been made to fear the end of time, and why we don't need to! Please join us in the fellowship hall for this combined movie/Bible study.

The regular Sunday Bible studies will resume next Sunday.

**THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE** – Join us this Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. for our Thanksgiving Service. "Come, ye thankful people, come!"

- **FOOD OFFERING** – If you are able, bring with you some non-perishable (unexpired) food items. As soon as you arrive, take them forward to the table at the front of the aisle. All items will be given to Henry County Christmas Cheer to be a blessing to families our area.
- **PLATE OFFERING** – Our monetary offerings for the evening will also be forwarded to Henry County Christmas Cheer.



**ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT:** *Advent By Candlelight* is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 11th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. *Advent By Candlelight* is a candlelit potluck dinner and advent program for women designed to help us prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christ's birth. *Arlene Wallace* and *Vicar Shoaff* will be enhancing our program with music.

At this time we'd like to identify hostesses to each decorate and host one dinner table at this event. The hostess sign-up sheet and hostess information packets are located on the Christmas table in the narthex. You may contact *Bonnie Niermann* (598-8181) if you have any questions.

All women of the congregation are invited to this special evening. Watch your mail for a personal invitation or simply RSVP on the sheet in the narthex today!

**CHRISTMAS DECORATING COMMITTEE:** The Christmas decorating committee has a simple request this year. They are looking for "muscle power" to help them **assemble** (not decorate) the Christmas tree that graces 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!



There will be rehearsals on the Sundays of Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14, and Dec. 21 (*subject to change*) between services.

**GREETER, USHER, AND ALTAR GUILD SIGN-UP** – If you are interested in serving God's people here at St. John in a way that is much needed and appreciated, would you consider joining a greeter, usher, or altar guild team? The demand on your time in either area of service is minimal, but the blessing of rendering service to the body of Christ in its worship is tremendous. We are preparing the 2015 greeter, usher, and altar guild schedules so this is the time to sign-up at the table in the narthex. The sign-up deadline is Sunday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. *You do not need to sign up again if you are currently serving as a greeter, usher or are on an altar guild team.*

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/16/14	\$8,299.00	\$183.00	\$1,023.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 11/16/14 – 8:15 Service: 189; 10:30 Service: 130

**BULLETIN STUFFER VOLUNTEERS:** Want to get involved? Why not try volunteering to help with stuffing the bulletins for worship services. It's not too difficult and can be done either at church or in the comfort of your own home. The bulletins are pre-folded. If anyone is willing to donate a little time toward stuffing bulletins, we are looking for about 11-12 couples/families to sign up for this task. If you feel you would like to give this a try, there is a signup sheet on the narthex table. You can even pick the month(s) that work best for you. We can accommodate your busy schedules. ***NOTE:*** If you have stuffed bulletins in the past year, thank you for your service. We ask that you please sign up again and choose your month. You can also call *Lori Langenhop* at 419-598-8151 or email her at [lahop@bright.net](mailto:lahop@bright.net).

**2015 OFFERING BOXES:** Offering envelope boxes will be available in early December. The financial commitments you make as well as how you contribute are between you and God. The church provides offering envelopes to our members in order to promote faithful and joyful giving as well as to serve as a means to record member contributions throughout the year for charitable tax purposes. Due to the costs of these envelope boxes, members who elect to not use their envelopes over the course of two years (*for whatever reason*) will no longer be issued a box of envelopes. If at any time such a member would like to resume using envelopes, please contact Joyce Wiechers or Kathy Behnfeldt, Finance Trustee, and a box will be issued to you.

**WHERE DOCTRINE IS LIFE**...Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. This week's topics include: The Vocation of the Elderly & Widows, The Movie "Interstellar," Trinitarian Heresies, 13th Century Philanthropist & Princess Elizabeth of Hungary and more. You can listen at your convenience at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org).

**SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIAL** has arrived for the Winter quarter. Teachers can pick up their material in the church office today or anytime during the next few weeks. Thank you!

**THRIVENT CALENDARS**: There are only a few calendars left on the desk in the narthex. Help yourself if you so desire!

**LADIES AID SCHOLARSHIPS**: Here is another opportunity to encourage and help young people prepare for service to the church as pastors, teachers, lay workers, deaconesses, and parish workers. \$500 per year Ladies Aid Scholarships are available to any young person attending one of our synodical schools. Simply contact any Ladies Aid member for more details about this.

**ITEMS "FOR SALE" FROM PTL**: There will be a table set up in the hallway on Sun., Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> with "That's My Pan" for sale. **Orders are due no later than Wed., Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> to be in by Christmas!** PTL appreciates your support. Call *Zoe Foor* at 419-906-1773 with questions about "That's My Pan" or to place orders.

**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!

**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.

**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!

**OSU QUILT** – Bids will be closed as of noon today. A silent auction is being conducted for the OSU quilt (*lap size*) on display in the side hallway. Bid sheets for this silent auction are located on the table in the narthex. This is a fundraiser for the Right Hand of Fellowship gift match campaign.

**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).**

**HENRY COUNTY CHRISTMAS CHEER** – Tues., Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> is the deadline! A barrel has been placed in the narthex and boxes in the fellowship hall for the collection of canned and dry goods and paper products. No Microwave items!

**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 3 and under.

**COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER:** St. Paul Lutheran Church in Napoleon has the privilege of hosting this year’s Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM. St. Paul will be furnishing all that is needed for the meal, with the exception of pies. That is where we fit in...If you would like to donate pies for these meals, please drop those off, either Wed., Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM, or on Thurs., Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-11:00 AM at St. Paul’s church. Any questions can be directed to *Pastor Holyer* at 419-592-3535.

**THE CHRISTMAS VILLAGE CRAFT SHOW** will be held at the Ridgeville Legion Hall, County Rd. 19, Napoleon, on Sunday, Dec. 7 from 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Lunch will be served by the Legion Auxiliary. Come and browse through the shops at the craft village!

**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...**

**What the caterpillar calls the end of the world, the Master calls a butterfly.**

*“I believe in the resurrection of the body.” (Apostles’ Creed)*