



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

December 7, 2014

VOL. 79

NO. 49

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Mr. Reed Shoaff, Vicar
Miss Mary K. Rettig, Principal

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SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sermon & Text: "Comfort Ye My People" *Isaiah 40:1-5*

Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting Four* (LSB pg. 203)

Hymns: **344**, *stz. 1-2* ~ **347** ~ (Communion: **629, 343**) ~ **344**, *stz. 3-5*

Adult Choir: "The King Shall Come" and "This Child, Emmanuel"

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, loaded with possibilities to learn something new, to gain fresh insights into his great truths. 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 this morning.*



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘ **1st Service:** David Maassel & Brady Gerken, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ **2nd Service:** Cally Bialorucki & Maggie Weller, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Dan & Deb Wachtman, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Harold Behrmann & Richard Elling, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✘

THE FLOWERS BY THE ALTAR are placed today to the Glory of God by *Rob & Valerie Scheffert* in honor of *Lydia Babcock's* 13th birthday, which was on Friday, Dec. 5th. Happy Birthday, Lydia!

WORSHIP ON SUNDAY DEC. 21st --- in the fellowship hall

To accommodate the final rehearsal for the children's program, we will gather in the fellowship hall for both worship services on the morning of Sunday, Dec. 21st. These will be communion services. This will permit the sanctuary to be set up for the Christmas program and for rehearsal to take place in the most efficient way.

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM	Early Communion Service Christmas Program Practice for Grades K-8 (<i>until 10:15 AM</i>); Sunday School (<i>Preschool</i>); "Time To Spare" Late Communion Service
Mon.	5:00 PM	B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. St. Pats – Bryan (A)
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 5:30 PM	Chapel led by <i>Pastor Niermann</i> ; Offering: Bethesda Exercise class in gym B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys vs. St. John – Defiance (H)
Wed.	9:00 AM 5:45 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Hearing Checks for PS3 / K / 1 / 3 / 5 Junior High Confirmation Class(5:45 – 6:45 PM) Adult Hand Bell Practice 2nd Midweek Advent Service Offering: <i>Lutheran Church Charities – Rosie the Comfort Dog</i> Adult Bell Choir: "Savior of the Nations Come" Acolytes: <i>Lydia Babcock</i> Greeters: <i>Dan & Joyce Wiechers</i> Ushers: <i>Carey Damman, Craig Drewes, Scott VanValkenburg</i> Altar Guild: <i>Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short</i> Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM	Hearing Checks for PS4&5 Exercise class in gym Secret Santa Workshop (<i>until 2:30 PM</i>) B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. St.John-Def. (H) "Advent By Candlelight" Ladies Christmas program
Sat.	10:30AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:30 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs. Solomon-Woodville (A)
Sun.	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM 1:00 PM	Early Worship Service w/Communion following Voters' Meeting; <i>Java Joy</i> ; "Time To Spare"; Sunday School (<i>Preschool</i>) Christmas Program Practice for Grades K-8 (<i>until 10:15 AM</i>); Late Worship Service 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.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Keith Witte</i> , St. Paul Lutheran, Liberty Center

VOTERS' ASSEMBLY NEXT SUNDAY – December 14th at 9:30 a.m.

On the agenda: 1) Adoption of the 2015 Budget; 2) Election of officers for 2015; 3) Endowment status; 4) Recommend candidate for called Principal/Teacher position

ADVENT DEVOTION BOOKLETS are available on the narthex table. They have been provided to us by L.A.M.P., Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots. Pick up a copy today!

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Marian Fitzenreiter, Donald Landry, and Norma Damman*
- ❖ *Pauline Dishop* and *Marie Damman*, residing at The Lutheran Home, Napoleon
- ❖ *Magdalena Volkman*, residing at Heartland Nursing Home, Wauseon
- ❖ *Anna Brodman* and *Marian Buchhop* residing at Country View Haven
- ❖ *Edwin Rosebrock*, residing at The Orchards - Northcrest, Napoleon
- ❖ *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
- ❖ *Don Badenhop*, hospitalized at Henry County Hospital with pneumonia
- ❖ *Dawn Dickmann*, scheduled to have back surgery Monday at St. Luke's Hospital

Advent Midweek Worship

For the next two weeks, you are encouraged to join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. for our midweek Advent Services. These services are a crucial part of preparing your heart for the celebration of Christ's birth. This year our theme is, "***Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending***" from LSB #336. In preparation for each service, everyone is encouraged to consider a few questions and Bible verses – and then to come on Wednesday evening to learn more about the subject. The weekly themes are:



- Wed. Dec 3 Our Two-Minute Drill (1 Thess. 1:1–10)
- ➔ **Wed. Dec. 10 Praying Like Paul** (1 Thess. 3:10–13)
- Wed. Dec. 17 You've Got a Ticket to Ride! (1 Thess. 4:13–18)
- Sun. Dec. 21 Faithful Watching and Waiting (1 Thess. 5:1–11)
- Wed. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve: Rejoice Evermore (1 Thess. 5:16)

Questions to help you prepare for this Wednesday evening (12/10)

Read **1 Thessalonians 3:10–13** and ponder these questions:

1. Have you ever prayed for someone in the way Paul prays for the Thessalonians?
2. Why does Paul chiefly pray for the Thessalonians to increase in love? What does this tell you about your prayers?
3. Who is going through a difficult season in life that you will pray for?

MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS TIME CHANGE –Throughout the month of December, the Wednesday evening confirmation class will meet from 5:45 - 6:45 PM to accommodate the evening worship services.

BULLETIN STUFFER VOLUNTEERS: There are still a few openings if you'd like to give this a try. A big "thank you" to all who have already signed up to help with stuffing the bulletins in 2015. You are the "behind the scenes" people of the church that keep things flowing smoothly on Sunday mornings. We appreciate your dedicated effort!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICES:

- TODAY** (Dec. 7) Grades K-8 only (9:30-10:15 AM) Preschool in regular SS
Sunday, Dec. 14 Grades K-8 (9:30-10:15 AM) Preschool in regular SS
Friday, Dec. 19 Full practice – Gr. PS-8 (12:30 PM). We would like all students, including those attending public school, to attend this practice, if at all possible.
Sunday, Dec. 21 Grades PS – 8 (9:30-11:30 AM)
Dec. 21 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*)

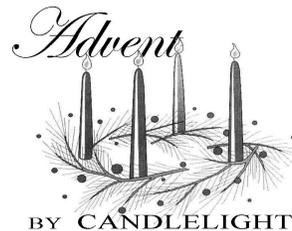


DRESS CODE FOR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Girls should wear either a dress or dress pants and a blouse or sweater. Boys should wear dress pants or khakis (*no cargo pants*) and a sweater or dress shirt (*any color*) and tie (*optional*). **No jeans or athletic shoes.**

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT – There is still time to sign up to attend this year's Advent Dinner and Program for all women of the congregation. You won't want to miss the delicious food, fellowship with friends, and fantastic entertainment! This wonderful evening is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 11th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

🕯️ You may RSVP in one of the following ways:

- Sign up on the sheet in the narthex
- Call *Nancy Glaser* at 419-598-8432
- Email Nancy at meyerinsurance@bright.net



LIST OF 2015 CHURCH OFFICE NOMINATIONS: (to date)

ELECTED: Vice Pres. – *Bob Norden, Dean Badenhop*

Treasurer – *Krista Gerken, Deb Durham*; **Financial Trustee** – *vacant*

Elder – *Dale Damman, Larry Mahnke* (3 year); *Rich Elling, Dave VonDeylen* (1 year)

Stewardship Board – *Sarah VerMeulen, Kristyn Honeman*

Board of Education – *Scott VanValkenburg, Karen Gerken*

Alt. Delegate Syn – *Darrel Behrmann, Rich Elling*

APPOINTED: Secretary – *Rhonda Bockelman*; Church Deacon – *Jeff Buchhop*

Trustee – *Scott Damman, Ted Ripke*; Cemetery Sexton – *Ben Kruse*

Cemetery Board – *Michael Cohrs, Pete Henry, Josh Behnfeldt*

Asst. Sunday School Supt. – *Sarah Rosebrock*

NOTE: The installation of our newly elected and appointed officers for the year 2015 will be conducted in the regular Sunday service on January 4th.

YOUTH DIRECTOR POSITION AVAILABLE - We are presently seeking candidates for our Youth Director. This is a part-time paid position, to begin on December 1st. 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*.

LYF & SCHOOL BOARD will be sacking candy on Sunday, Dec. 21ST at 9:30 AM in the gym.

GIFT IDEA FOR THE CHILDREN IN YOUR LIFE – Just in time for Christmas, *Lutheran Visuals* is making a DVD available titled “Three Christmas Classics.” This DVD contains three Christmas shows that will drive home the true message of Christmas and of God’s gift to us. The three features are:

- **Christmas Is...** (22 minutes, animated)
- **The City That Forgot About Christmas** (22 minutes, animated)
- **The Stableboy's Christmas** (27 minutes, drama)

Cost is \$9.95 plus shipping. To order, call *Lutheran Visuals* at 1-800-527-3211, or order online at www.lutheranvisuals.com.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 11/30/14	\$8,867.00	\$113.00	\$323.00

ATTENDANCE: 11/30/14 – 8:15 Service: 149; 10:30 Service: 109

1ST ADVENT SERVICE: \$941.00 to *Church Vocation Students & LYF*; Attendance: 126

MEMORIALS for *Saundra Sue Landry*: \$75.00 – St. John Church Memorial Fund;
\$120.00 – St. John Lutheran Church Endowment Fund (Capital Projects)

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

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!

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.

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; or Kristyn Honemann at 419-592-0643 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

SPORTS NOTE: Basketball schedules/calendars are being posted on FastDirect. Please continue to check Jason Foor's Calendar in Fast Direct frequently as this is where he will post any changes to the schedules.

HELP NEEDED: The sports program is always looking for volunteers to work the clock and/or scoreboard for the home basketball games. If you are interested in being a volunteer, 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.

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. 21st 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. 21st 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).

CHRISTMAS SWEETS & TREATS DONATIONS – Get your mixers going and heat your ovens up!!! Start making plans to whip up your favorite Christmas cookies, candies, or other holiday recipes to donate to the Sweets and Treats Shop on Sunday, Dec. 21st. We would ask that you bring your items in Ziploc bags, cellophane, or disposable tins with a minimum of 2 dozen pieces per package. Someone will be at the church on Sat., Dec. 20th from 6:00 – 8:00 PM if you would like to drop your items off early. Otherwise, please have them to the church by 8:30 AM on Sunday, Dec. 21st.

ULTIMATE CLOTH SALE: The Stewardship Board will have the Ultimate Cloth® available on Sun. Dec. 21st in conjunction with the Sweets & Treats Shop fundraiser. If you've been meaning to purchase these cloths, you can take care of that on the 21st. Contact Karen Norden (419-267-3477) for more information and pricing. As always, this will be an on-going fundraiser for the Right Hand of Fellowship gift matching campaign.

FREEDOM'S FLOCK NOTICE: On Thurs., Dec. 11th Freedom's Flock will be held in Miss Rettig's classroom due to the set up for the "Advent By Candlelight" program in the fellowship hall that evening. There will be a sign on the outside double doors by Miss Rettig's classroom indicating to pick up your child there. The normal pick up doors will not be accessible that day. Thank you!

THE FAITH ONCE FOR ALL DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS...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: Andrew the Apostle, 4th Century Bishop of Myra St. Nicholas, 4th Century Pastor & Hymnwriter Ambrose of Milan, 8th Century Theologian & Hymnwriter John of Damascus and more. You can listen to what you want when you want at www.issuesetc.org.

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.

PTL COOKBOOKS: Don't forget a cookbook for someone on your Christmas list! This cookbook would make a great gift for that "hard to buy" family member. At a cost of only \$10, check out the display in the side hallway and pick up and pay for your copy today.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Check out the table in the hallway by the cry room! The Ladies Aid have put out their boxed Christmas Cards for sale. The dish cloths are also available and be sure to check out the display board to see if you are interested in purchasing any cutlery items such as: Paring Knives, Stubby Butcher Knives, Pie Servers, Vegetable Peelers, Slicer Knives, Granny Forks, Carving Forks, Pizza Cutters, Tomato Slicer, and Small Spatula. Contact officers *Nancy Hogrefe*, *Nancy Glaser*, *Mabel Bischoff*, or *Pat Maassel* if you would like to see or purchase any of these items.

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.

OHIO ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN: The Ohio Division OGT is located in the north end of the Culligan Water Conditioning building on Independence Drive in Napoleon. Someone is usually there to receive items on the first Tuesday of the month from 9:00-11:00 AM. If you need to drop off items at another time, please contact *Nancy Helmke* (419-758-3539), *Diann Meyer-Grieser* (419-267-3485), *Vicki Grieser* (419-445-2986), or *Harold Behrmann* (419-598-8311) and they will be happy to meet you and open the facility to receive your donations!

‘BREAD FROM HEAVEN’ – A note to St. John members needing food assistance – If you could use food assistance from our food pantry, please speak with *Pastor Niermann*. We are required by the *Northwestern Ohio Food Bank* to keep a record with your name, but pastor will keep your record separate and absolutely confidential.

Contributions can be made at any time. Monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your offering envelope). Food donations for our pantry can be dropped off in the box by the Archives display cases. **Food items especially needed at this time are: spaghetti sauce, cereal, mac n’ cheese, saltines & any crackers, and hamburger helper.** Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated. Thank you so much! As we learned in the meaning of the Fifth Commandment, “*We should fear and love God that we...help and support our neighbor in every physical need.*” (*Small Catechism*)

CHURCH HISTORY BOOKS – If at any time during the year (*and why not at Christmas time*) you need a gift for a current or former member of St. John, why not consider one of our Church History Books. This book is full of interesting facts about St. John’s and is available in the church office at a cost of \$12.00.

HENRY COUNTY CHRISTMAS CHEER –**Dec. 9th is the deadline!** A barrel has been placed in the narthex and a box in the fellowship hall for the collection of canned and dry goods and paper products. No Microwave items!

THE CHRISTMAS VILLAGE CRAFT SHOW will be held at the Ridgeville Legion Hall today 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!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, will be hosting the Napoleon Community Band for their annual Christmas Concert on Mon., Dec. 8th at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. The guest ensemble will be the Academy Brass from the Toledo Area. Come, relax, and enjoy some great Christmas music.

HENRY COUNTY CHORALE CHRISTMAS CONCERT: St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1075 Glenwood Ave., Napoleon, will be hosting a Christmas Concert on Sun., Dec. 14th at 2:00 PM in their sanctuary. See the flyer posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

TOLEDO SYMPHONY CONCERT: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon Township, will be hosting the Toledo Symphony for a Christmas Concert on Wed., Dec. 17th 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...

“Christmas is fast approaching. And now that Christ has aroused our seasonal expectations, He will soon fulfill them all!” *St. Augustine, Sermon 51*

“Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:4)