



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

December 21, 2014

VOL. 79

NO. 51

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

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181  
Cell: 785-477-2344  
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 419-966-6160  
Church Website: [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)

### FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sermon & Text: "May Your Word to Me be Fulfilled" *Luke 1:26-38*

Order of Service: *See printed Service folder*

Hymns: *554 ~ 356 ~ [Communion: 934, 621, 515] ~ 359*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **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**

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt & Bethann Gerken, *Pianists* ✘
- ✘ 1<sup>st</sup> Service: Anna Gerken & Lydia Babcock, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: Abigail Weller & Lexi Woods, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Marietta Damman & Arlene Wallace, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✘

**POINSETTIA PLANTS** – The poinsettias are adorning the sanctuary this morning and will be used for the various Christmas Services. Please see the back side of this insert for a listing of those who purchased these poinsettias. If you ordered a poinsettia plant, it can be taken home after the Christmas Day Festival Service. There will be plastic sleeves to protect them in the side Conference room. Thank you to those who purchased poinsettias to decorate the church during Christmas.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** is cancelled today to permit Pastor and/or Vicar to be with the children for their final rehearsal this morning. Bible study will resume next Sunday, Dec. 28!

**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 7:00 PM	Early Communion Service in Fellowship Hall Christmas Program Practice for Preschool – Gr. 8 ( <i>until 11:30 AM</i> ); LYF & School Board sacking Christmas treat bags Late Communion Service in Fellowship Hall Children's Christmas Program ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Mon.	5:30 PM 5:30 PM	B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. Liberty Center (A) <i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM	Chapel led by Gr. 3&4; Offering: Bethesda Exercise Class Christmas Break begins ( <i>runs to Jan. 5, 2015</i> )
Wed.	7:00 PM	<b>Christmas Eve Service of Carols &amp; Candles</b> Offering: <i>Home Fund</i> Adult Choir: "One Child" Acolytes: <i>Brady Gerken &amp; Landon Willeman</i> Greeters: <i>Rich &amp; Bev Elling</i> Ushers: <i>Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers</i> Altar Guild: <i>Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman</i>
Thurs.	9:30 AM	<b>Christmas Day Festival Service w/Communion</b> Offering: <i>Home Fund</i> Acolytes: <i>Brady Gerken &amp; Mitchell Kruse</i> Greeters: <i>Peter &amp; Karen Gerken</i> Ushers: <i>Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers</i> Altar Guild: <i>Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman</i>
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. Willie Stottlemeyer, St. Stephen Lutheran, Defiance</i>

**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 of 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

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!** This morning in the late service it is our privilege to receive and welcome new members into our congregation as they confirm their faith in the Lord Jesus. We welcome **James & Jennifer Wagner** and their children **Lillian** (10) and **Elliot** (3). We also welcome **Brittini Szabo** and her children **Dakota** (6) and **Evelyn** (5); Brittini is engaged to Blake Miller. Be sure to extend the hand of fellowship to these newest members with us in Christ's body. Welcome to you all!



### *Bring a Bell to the Christmas Morning Service!*



Sleigh bells. Cow bells. Jingle bells. School bells. Ceramic bells. Whatever bell you can find at home, bring it with you on Christmas morning, and together we will ring out the joyous good tidings of the Savior's birth. We did this a few years ago, and the sound in the sanctuary was one of the most joyous things you've ever heard.

### **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICES:**

**TODAY** Grades PS – 8 (9:30-11:30 AM)

**TONIGHT** 7:00 PM Christmas Program – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ushers should arrive at 6:00 PM. All other children should arrive at 6:30 PM (*Meet in the Fellowship Hall*). 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*).



**2015 OFFERING ENVELOPES** – With gratitude to God for the generous support of our members of the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this place, the 2015 offering envelopes are available today. Please pick yours up, and may God prosper the work of our hands and the giving of His people! If you did not receive a box of envelopes but would like one, please contact *Jerry Langenhop* (419-598-8151) until Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>. After Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, please contact *Kathy Behnfeldt* (419-598-8682).

### **OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

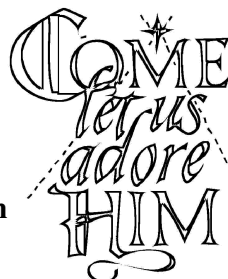
Please note that there is no offering envelope for the Children's Christmas Program tonight at 7:00 PM. If you wish for your offering at that service to be recorded, use any spare Sunday envelope in your set. Regardless of which envelope you use, unless you specify something in writing on the envelope,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



## *Christmas at St. John*

It's time to celebrate the best good tidings this world has ever heard!

- **Dec. 21, 7:00 p.m.** **Children's Christmas Program**  
"Something Fishy at Christmas"
- **Dec. 24, 7:00 p.m.** **Christmas Eve of Carols & Candles**  
"Rejoice Evermore – the Savior is Born!"
- **Dec. 25, 9:30 a.m.** **Christmas Day Festival Service, Communion**  
Bring a bell to ring out the good news!



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

**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 4<sup>th</sup>.**

Officers to be installed are: **President** – *Dennis Bockelman*; **Vice President** – *Bob Norden*; **Treasurer** – *Krista Gerken*; **Financial Trustee** – *Al Damman*; **Elder** – *Dale Damman, Larry Mahnke* (3-year term); *Rich Elling* (1-year term); **Stewardship Board** – *Kristyn Honemann, Sarah VerMeulen*; **Board of Education** (installed to take office in July 2015) – *Karen Gerken, Scott VanValkenburg*; **Alternate Delegate Synod** – *Darrel Behrmann*; **Secretary** – *Rhonda Bockelman*; **Church Deacon** – *Jeff Buchhop*; **Trustees** – *Scott Damman, Ted Ripke*; **Sunday School Supt.** – *Brenda Kruse*; **Asst. Sunday School Supt.** – *Sarah Rosebrock*; **Cemetery Board** – *Michael Cohrs, Pete Henry, Josh Behnfeldt*; **Cemetery Sexton** – *Ben Kruse*.

**WOMEN OF FREEDOM** – The first meeting of the newly formed St. John Women of FREEDOM will be held Tues., Jan. 27, 2015 at 7:00 PM. **The Program Booklets for 2015 are now ready and can be picked up on the table in the narthex at your leisure.** Extra copies are also available for anyone interested in joining or if you just want to learn more about the Women of FREEDOM. Hope to see some new faces at the January meeting!

**MITE-Y SOCKS:** It's time to turn in the *Mite-y Socks* you've been collecting throughout 2014. There is a basket on the table in the narthex. Some of you may have already turned in your sock at the Ladies Advent By Candlelight Christmas Party. The 2015 *Mite-y Socks* to be available in January!

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 12/14/14	\$11,208.64	\$688.00	\$843.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 12/14/14 – 8:15 Service: 178; 10:30 Service: 94

**3<sup>rd</sup> ADVENT SERVICE:** \$473.00 to *Filling Home of Mercy - Napoleon*; Attendance: 88

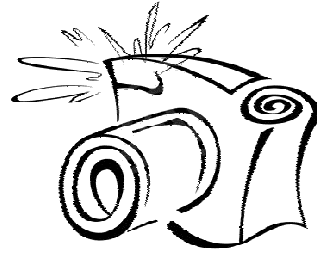
**GIFT IDEA FOR THE CHILDREN IN YOUR LIFE** – Just in time for Christmas, *Lutheran Visuals* is making a DVD available titled “Three Christmas Classics.” This DVD contains three Christmas shows that will drive home the true message of Christmas and of God’s gift to us. The three features are:

- **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](http://www.lutheranvisuals.com).

## 145<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

**Say cheese, and get on board for a new congregational pictorial directory.** Photography dates are **January 21-24** (Wednesday thru Saturday). Every household that participates will receive a free 8x10 as well as a copy of the directory. To schedule your photography appointment, please stop out in the fellowship hall today and sign up for a time that works for you. Things to note:



- **Online Scheduling** – If you prefer to sign up online, you may do so Monday through Friday for the next few weeks (but not weekends). An instruction sheet is available at the table in the narthex or on our website, [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org).
- **Photography Hosts** – We also need volunteers to host on the photography dates to receive and register people. There are three shifts per day: 2-4:00 p.m. / 4-6:00 p.m. / 6-8:30 p.m. Please sign up to host at the table in the narthex.

**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 2014. Here are the individual year-to-date deposits for 2014: St. John Church - \$17,669.00; St. John School - \$2,330.00; St. John Preschool - \$697.00.

**EXTENSION FUND** – As God gave us the gift of His only Son, so too do we give gifts to others during the Christmas season. As nice as our gifts to each other are, seldom do they impact anyone beyond those that receive them. However, by investing in Church Extension, you can make a significant impact on the local Lutheran community. Individual investments are pooled to provide low-cost loans to Ohio District congregations and missions for building, expansion and renovation projects. To learn more about investment opportunities call 1-800-901-2297 for current rates of interest and application forms.

**TODAY IS CHRISTMAS SWEETS & TREATS!** The Christmas Sweets & Treats Shop will be open today after each of the Early and Late Services. 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 and let us brighten your Christmas season with a handpicked box of sweets and treats!

**ULTIMATE CLOTH SALE:** The Stewardship Board will have the Ultimate Cloth® available on Sun. Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup>. 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.

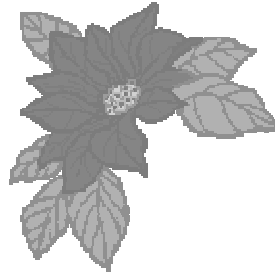
✘ ✘ ✘

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**Three words describe Christmas: God – With - Us**

*“For you are with me.” (Psa. 23:4)*

# *Poinsettia Plants*



<b>NAME</b>	<b>DESIGNATION</b>
Clara Meyer and family	In memory of Raymond F. Meyer
Randy & Lou Ann Rosebrock Family	In memory of our son & brother, Ryan Rosebrock, our parents, Harold & Lois Rosebrock, Franklin Schmitkey, and Aunt Lucy
Doug, Mary, Tyler, & Logan Kossow	In memory of our daughter & sister, Stephanie Lynn Kossow, brother & uncle, Rick Cordes, and father and grandfather, Ervin Kossow
Doug, Mary, Tyler, & Logan Kossow	In honor of our parents & grandparents, Walter & Lucia Delventhal and LaDonna Kossow
Harold Behrmann	In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Behrmann
Juergen & Cheri Goertz	In memory of fathers, Frederick Goertz and Donald Freeman
Tom & Sandy VonDeylen	In memory of Eli & Lily Buckmaster
Don & Marian Dickmann	In memory of parents, Louis & Emelia Dickmann and Art & Louise Arps
Jim & Nancy Hogrefe	In honor of our children and grandchildren
Florence Fitzenreiter Family	In memory of Norman Fitzenreiter
Melba Elling and Family	In memory of Earl Elling
Don & Karan Niebergall	In memory of William & Mildred Vajen and Albert & Stella Niebergall
Sarah VerMeulen	In memory of Sue Landry
Sarah VerMeulen	In memory of Cindy Buchhop
Nancy Hoover	In honor of Walter & Lucia Delventhal
Lester & Janice Rabe	In memory of our deceased family members
Lester & Janice Rabe	In honor of our family
Denny & Rhonda Bockelman	In memory of Elmer & Olga Bockelman, Lowell Flory and Lyle Wallace
Denny & Rhonda Bockelman	In honor of Arlene Wallace and our Grandchildren
Walter & Lucia Delventhal	In memory of Rick Cordes and Stephanie Kossow
Mark & Brenda Elling	In memory of Norman and Helen Castor
Mark & Brenda Elling	In memory of Earl Elling
Mark & Brenda Elling	In honor of our family