



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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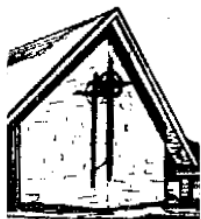
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sermon & Text: "Christmas Every Day" *Isaiah 61:10-62:3*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: 389 ~ 368 ~ 369 ~ 391 ~ 381

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS *The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. Please help us get to know who you are by filling 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: Tyne Rosebrock & Maggie Weller, *Acolytes* ✕
✕ 2nd Service: Brooks Behnfeldt, *Acolytes* ✕
✕ Ron & Elaine Hesterman, *Greeters* ✕
✕ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✕
✕ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✕
✕ Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman, *Altar Guild* ✕

CHRISTMAS THANKS! Thank you to everyone who helped make our celebration of Christ's birth so full and joyous! To the musicians and choirs, to those who decorated the sanctuary or prepared the altar for services, to all those who worked so hard on the children's Christmas service, to the students who presented such a wonderful service of worship, and to all who did anything around the building to help prepare for our Christmas celebration...

Thanks you, and thanks be God for you!



In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM	Early Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Worship Service
Tue.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Board of Elders
Fri.		Last day of Christmas Break (<i>School resumes Mon., Jan. 6th</i>)
Sun.	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM	Early Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Communion Service
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. David Goehmann</i> , St. Luke Lutheran, Wauseon

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

JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS – *Alexander Joel Stier*, infant son born to *Joel & Nicole Stier* arrived on Monday, Dec. 22nd at Community Hospital – Bryan. Mother and baby are doing fine and are sure to get lots of help from son and big brother, Owen. Grandparents Denny & Diane VonDeylen will be more than happy to help where needed too. Congrats to the Stiers'!

THANK YOU from the School Board to Mahnke Orchards (*Richard & Elaine*) for donating all the apples that were put in the Christmas Sacks; to the LYF for their help in filling the sacks with candy, fruit, and peanuts; and to *Glenn & Kathy Badenhop, Tom & Sandy VonDeylen, Neil & Anita Badenhop, Larry and Brady Gerken*, and *Dave and Bailey Johnson* for decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

THANKS FROM THE COOK – School Cook, Liza Gerken would like to take this time to say a very special "thank you" to all who have donated or supported the lunch program this past year. Everything you have done or donated is deeply appreciated by the St. John Students and me. May you all have a blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you!

2015 OFFERING ENVELOPES – There are still several who have not picked up their 2015 offering envelopes. If you did not receive a box of envelopes but would like one, please contact *Jerry Langenhop* (419-598-8151) until Jan. 1st. After Jan. 1st, contact *Kathy Behnfeldt* (419-598-8682).

POINSETTIA PLANTS – Don't forget to take your poinsettia plant home after the worship service today. There are plastic sleeves to protect them in the side Conference room.

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

NEW GREETER (yellow) AND ALTAR GUILD (pink) SCHEDULES: The 2015 Greeter and Altar Guild schedules are available today and can be picked up on the narthex table. Usher schedules are in the making and will be available soon. Thanks again to all who are willing to be of service to the Lord through St. John. You are a blessing to us all!

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 #19** Screwtape is convinced that God cannot actually love us, but he cannot for the life of him figure out God's “real” motive in taking such good care of us. 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 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.

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 4th.**

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*.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 12/21/14	\$69,456.00	\$343.00	\$838.00

ATTENDANCE: 12/21/14 – 8:15 Service: 162; 10:30 Service: 83

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (12/21/14): Fellowship Hall Debt - \$2,188.00;
Home Fund - \$780.00; Attendance – 528

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS & CANDLES: Home Fund - \$5,480.00 Attendance: 350

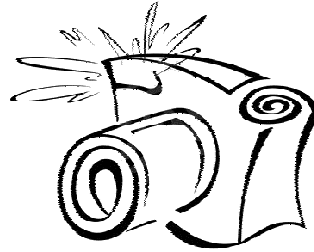
CHRISTMAS DAY FESTIVAL SERVICE: Home Fund - \$2,647.00 Attendance: 169

145th ANNIVERSARY PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Just two weeks left to sign up for an appointment!

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. There is also a link on our website, 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.

THE FLOWER CALENDAR for 2015 is posted inside the sliding door showcase in the narthex. If you wish to sign up for a certain Sunday to place flowers on the altar or the piano, sign your name on that Sunday and then about two weeks before that date, call *Mabel Bischoff* at 419-598-8757. You may order your own flowers or go through the Ladies Aid. The price for the flowers through the Ladies Aid is \$20.00. Please remember that it is your responsibility to contact *Mabel Bischoff* to let her know if you are getting your own flowers or if you want the Ladies Aid to take care of them. Also, please contact the church office with the information for the bulletin before Wednesday of the week you are placing the flowers in church. This will insure that you are not forgotten or overlooked.