



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

January 4, 2015

VOL. 80

NO. 1

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

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
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Church Website: www.sjl.org

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sermon & Text: "Our Second Christmas" *Galatians 4:4-7*
Order of Service: *Divine Service Setting Five – LSB pg. 213*
Hymns: 376 ~ 725 ~ (Communion: 981, 384) ~ 390
Adult Choir: "One Child" and "As We Break the Bread"

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to our worship service here at St. John. If we can be of service to you in any way, please speak to our Pastor. If you are looking for a church to call home, please consider joining this church where we seek to help each other grow in faith, in love and in service. Simply 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: Maggie Weller & Cally Bialorucki, *Acolytes* ✕
✕ 2nd Service: Katelyn Drewes & Lydia Babcock, *Acolytes* ✕
✕ Todd & Chris Hesterman, *Greeters* ✕
✕ Harold Behrmann & Richard Elling, *Visitation* ✕
✕ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Richard Elling, *Ushers* ✕
✕ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham, *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...

Thank you, and thanks be to God for you!



In God's House This WeekOnline church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM	Early Communion Service w/Installation of church officers Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Communion Service w/Installation of church officers
Mon.	8:20 AM 5:30 PM	School resumes B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys vs. St. John - Defiance (A)
Tue.	9:00 AM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class in gym B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. St. Pats - Bryan (H) Stewardship Board & School Board Meetings
Wed.	9:15 AM 6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM	Late Start-Up (<i>Teacher In-Service at 9:00 AM</i>) Jr. High Confirmation Class (<i>6:15 – 7:30 PM</i>) Adult Hand Bell Practice Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 5:30 PM	Exercise Class in gym B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. St. John-Defiance (A)
Sat.	10:30AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:45 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs. Solomon (H)
Sun.	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM	Early Worship Service with Communion following <i>Java Joy</i> ; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"; Adult Bible Study Late Worship Service
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Jeff Corder</i> , St. John Lutheran, Stryker

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

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!

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 #20** Screwtape advises his apprentice demon to get his patient into a “desirable” marriage – which of course from hell’s perspective is a marriage that will draw him further from God. 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.

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! If you are still interested in serving God’s people here at St. John in a way that is much needed and appreciated, please contact the church office.

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULES – *As of this week Altar Guild Schedules have been reprinted due to an error.* The corrected yellow copies are available on the narthex table. If you had already picked up your 2015 copy last Sunday, please dispose of it and get a current one today. Thank you!

2014 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – It’s time to start getting your reports ready for the 2014 Church Annual. The officers of the different organizations are asked to write up a summary of the year’s activities along with a financial report if there is one. If you need your offering contribution information prior to the distribution of the Annual Report, please call Financial Trustee, *Jerry Langenhop*, at 419-598-8151. **Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers by Tues., Jan. 20.**

DONATIONS FOR SOUP & PIE DINNER – The PTL Soup & Pie Committee are asking for donations for the Salad and Dessert Bars. A sign-up sheet is placed on the table in the narthex. Thanks to everyone for taking time to support the PTL through your donations of salads, desserts, or cupcakes. We look forward to another successful Soup & Pie Dinner on January 18th!

SOUP & PIE DINNER – The annual PTL Soup & Pie Dinner will be held on Sun., Jan. 18, 2015, with serving from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM, in the fellowship hall. On the menu will be Chili Soup, Noodle Soup, Hot Dogs, Sloppy Joes, a Salad and Dessert Bar, and Beverages. After the Dinner you can stay and enjoy watching some basketball games as all four of our school teams will be playing St. Paul Lutheran –Napoleon.



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 today.**

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 12/28/14	\$7,800.00	\$583.00	\$1,208.00

ATTENDANCE: 12/28/14 – 8:15 Service: 101; 10:30 Service: 98

MITES & 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.** Also to be noted is that the Women of Freedom will be continuing the Mite-y Socks program in 2015. These are tiny little baby socks, with instructions attached, that you can fill with coins (*dimes*) throughout the year. \$7.80 is the goal or more, if you wish. These *Mite-y Socks* are a means for all of us to help out the LWML Mite program in a big way with very little effort. Pick up your sock today!

145th ANNIVERSARY PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Just one week 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.

