



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

January 18, 2015

VOL. 80

NO. 3

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 EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "The Lord Came and Stood" *1 Samuel 3:1-10*

Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting Three – LSB pg. 184*

Hymns: **901 ~ 589 ~** (Communion: **907, 431**) ~ **825**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to St. John Church. We thank God for this time together! We pray that the grace of God will heal your hurts; that the strength of God will give you courage to face the work before you; that the power of God will prepare your way; and that the peace of God will keep you secure and steady in Christ Jesus. 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.



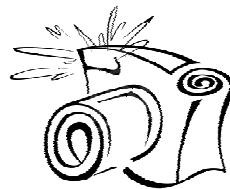
SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ **1st Service:** Maggie Weller & Anna Gerken, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ **2nd Service:** Mitchell Kruse & Colin Johnson, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Steve & Linda Miller, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham, *Altar Guild* ✘

145th ANNIVERSARY PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Say cheese, and get on board for a new congregational pictorial directory.

Photography dates are this week, **January 21-24** (Wednesday thru Saturday). Every household that participates will receive a free 8x10 as well as a copy of the directory. You can still schedule an appointment this morning in the narthex or for the next few days online (pick up instructions in the narthex).



- **Check out the pamphlet from *Universal Church Directories*** for more information about getting ready for you appointment. These pamphlets will be handed out (one per family) as you leave today.

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 10:30AM 1:00 PM	Early Communion Service Sunday School; "Time To Spare"; (No Adult Bible Study today) PTL Soup & Pie Dinner (serving until 1:00 PM) Late Communion 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 (H)
Mon.	7:00 PM	NO SCHOOL – <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i> Township Trustee's Meeting
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	Napoleon Public Library (Gr. K-8) Exercise Class in gym B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. Monclova Christian (A) Building Committee Meeting
Wed.	2:00 PM 6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM	Church Directory Pictures taken (until 8:30 PM) Jr. High Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM) Adult Hand Bell Practice Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 PM 2:00 PM 5:30 PM	Exercise Class Church Directory Pictures taken (until 8:30 PM) B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys; 6:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. BG Christian (A)
Fri.	2:00 PM	Church Directory Pictures taken (until 8:30 PM)
Sat.	10:00AM 10:30AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:15 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys; 12:30 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls; 1:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. Trinity-Toledo (H) Church Directory Pictures taken (until 5:00 PM)
Sun.	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM 4:30 PM	<i>National Lutheran Schools Week (Sunday through Saturday)</i> Early Worship Service Voters' Meeting ; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Worship Service LYF Meeting in the fellowship hall
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Joshua Schmidt</i> , St. John Lutheran, Defiance

SOUP & PIE DINNER – The PTL Soup & Pie Dinner is being held today with serving from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM, in the fellowship hall. On the menu will be *Chili Soup, Noodle Soup, Hot Dog, Sloppy Joe Sandwich, a Salad and Dessert Bar, and Beverage*. Freewill Offering! Bring your own containers for carryout. In the afternoon enjoy watching some basketball games in our gym starting at 1:00 PM against St. Paul Lutheran. **COME AND SUPPORT OUR EAGLE TEAMS!**

L.Y.F.

Get out the word! We're meeting next **Sunday, January 25th** for some fellowship and fun, and to discuss a full agenda of ideas and future plans. We'll meet at 4:30 p.m., so be sure to spread the word!

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
- ❖ *Rosemary Hoeffel* (Christa Bickel's mother), currently on the liver transplant list at University of Michigan Hospital – Ann Arbor
- ❖ *Pastor DeWitt and Larry Mahnke*, both dealing with health issues at this time
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman*, admitted to Toledo Hospital for health issues and is improving

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER OPENINGS – There are openings for Sunday School teachers in Grades 1 & 2 (two needed) and Preschool (one needed) at this time. The ability to teach is a gift that many possess, although it may come more readily for some. Most of us, given the opportunity, can excel if we are dedicated to the Christian belief. There are usually two teachers per classroom and they teach every other month. Sunday School runs September thru May, from approximately 9:30 – 10:15 AM. What better way to put your talents to good use here at St. John. Give it some thought and contact Sunday School Supt. *Brenda Kruse* Sunday mornings to let her know your intent. Thank you!

VOTERS' MEETING NEXT SUNDAY – January 25, 9:30 am

Next Sunday between services, the voters will meet in the fellowship hall for the first assembly of the new year. Items on the agenda are: 1) Annual school report; 2) Audit Committee report; 3) Endowment Fund distributions approval; 4) Thursday evening worship services May thru October.

YOUTH DIRECTOR POSITION AVAILABLE - We are presently seeking candidates for our Youth Director. This is a part-time paid position. The Youth Director, with guidance and assistance from the Vicar and Pastor, promotes and leads the LYF youth ministry in our congregation. This position involves a monthly meeting, and planning and implementing various youth activities throughout the year. If you would like to apply for this position, please speak with *Vicar Shoaff* or *Pastor Niermann*.

ST. JOHN CHURCH LIBRARY – Stop in and check out the growing number of books available in the church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary. 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. To borrow a book, just take it with you, then return it to the basket when you've finished reading. A complete list of the books in the church's library can be found by clicking on the "Book Inventory" link on the library page of our church's website. <http://www.sjl.org/library.html>

NEW GREETER (yellow), ALTAR GUILD (pink), AND USHER (blue) SCHEDULES: The 2015 Greeter, Altar Guild, and Usher schedules are available and can be picked up on the narthex table. 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.

CHURCH NEWSLETTER – We are now collecting articles and information for the next church newsletter. Submissions are encouraged from all groups at St. John, including Archives, Women of Freedom, Boosters, PTL, etc. **Submission deadline is Sunday, Jan. 25th!**

RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP GIFTS IN 2014 – Thanks to the creativity of the Stewardship Board and the generosity of God's people, we made significant progress last year in matching the \$75,000 gift that was given to our congregation for the fellowship hall project. A total of **\$59,375.50** has been raised and matched and applied to the fellowship hall renovation debt. Additional gifts in the last quarter of 2014 total **\$11,393.00**, which brings the grand total to **\$70,768.50**. We are just \$4,231.50 short of matching that gift. We thank God for everyone who has supported and participated in this capital campaign. Stay tuned for more opportunities to put this debt behind us. Additional offering envelopes for *Right Hand of Fellowship* are available in the narthex (*ignore the 2014 year printed on them*), or you can use your regular envelope and mark it for *Right Hand of Fellowship*.



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.**

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 1/11/15	\$5,788.00	\$147.00	\$333.00

ATTENDANCE: 1/11/15 – 8:15 Service: 120; 10:30 Service: 80

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.** 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!

The Quarterlies and Odes can also be picked up at the narthex table.

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 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!

'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 given at any time: monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your envelope), and **food gifts such as canned fruit (peaches, pears, pineapple), cereal, mac & cheese, jelly, spaghetti's, tuna, and canned chicken are desperately needed.** Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated. Food items can be placed in the box near the archives display.

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! PLEASE do not drop off items at the warehouse when it is closed. Thank you!

LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT – *How You Can Help?* If you have used **prescription or nonprescription** glasses or sunglasses in your drawers, desks, or closets, you can donate them now! Children's glasses are especially needed. Both plastic and metal frames are accepted. There is a box on the table in the narthex for the collection of these used glasses.

PRAYER CALENDAR NOTE: Please be aware that if you would like your wedding anniversaries printed on the prayer calendars, you will have to post them each year. Just list them on the blank calendars posted on the bulletin board in the narthex throughout the year. Thank you!

2015 LUTHERAN ANNUAL – We are now taking orders for the 2015 Lutheran Annual. It will give you the current addresses, phone numbers, emails, and websites of churches, pastors, teachers, etc. Call the church office to order your copy. Deadline is Fri., Jan. 23rd.

LOST & FOUND: After the December Voters' Meeting a brown clutch purse was found. No identification inside, but a small amount of cash and a floral printed woman's hankie. If you are missing this purse, call the office to claim it.

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.

EAGLE NEWS: The Eagle News publication is now available online via FastDirect Communication. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnsfreedom/>, click on “Links” at the top of the page, then click on “Eagle News - January” in the “Everybody” column. There will still be printed copies available on the narthex table for those parishioners without computer access. Enjoy!

PTL MEETING: The next PTL Meeting will be held on Mon., Feb. 9th at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall. Soup & Pie results as well as other business at hand will be discussed. Please plan to attend!

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK: NLSW is scheduled for Jan. 25 – Jan. 31, 2015. There will be various extra activities going at school that week, so stay tuned in the weekly newsletter, church bulletin, and through your child’s teacher’s bulletin board on FastDirect for more information.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE is planned for grade levels PS-8 on Wed., February 4th, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM, for families who would like to come and look at our school and discuss the possibility of sending their child(ren) here for their education. If anyone in the congregation might know of prospective students for Grades PS-8, please be sure to pass this information on to them. There will also be refreshments.

“WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS”: “Worship for Shut-Ins” has joined the WLMB-TV40 line up. If you have a relative or friend who is homebound, hospitalized, or recovering from a recent surgery, you may suggest this 30-minute LCMS worship service to them. So tune in to WLMB-TV40 on Sundays at 6:30 AM and get your Sunday started off right!

PROJECT CONNECT – There are many free booklets in the rack in the narthex. Be sure to check for some good reading. Some titles are: “*Why Do Bad Things Happen To Me,*” “*Has God Abandoned Me,*” “*Dealing with Depression,*” “*Coping with Cancer,*” “*Who Is Jesus,*” “*Just Stress?*”, “*Overcoming A Painful Childhood,*” “*Where’s God in All of This?*”, “*Why Should I go to Church?*” and many more. These booklets are furnished through the Lutheran Hour Ministries.

EXERCISE CLASS: Need to work off a few pounds after the holidays or just want to exercise your heart? St. John hosts an exercise class in the gym. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 - 10:00 AM and the cost is \$5 per class. This is a light aerobics & weights, and strengthening program.

USE OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL – If you would like to use the Fellowship Hall for any occasion or would like to borrow tables or chairs, on a certain date this year, **please contact the church/school office at 419-598-8961 or 419-598-8702**. In addition to calling the office, you may want to check the online church calendar at <http://www.dynacal.com/sjl/>.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

A family altar can alter a family.

“These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house.” (Deut.6:6-7)