



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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NO. 46

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181

Mr. Aaron Yaeger, Vicar

Cell: 989-607-4566

Miss Mary K. Rettig, Interim Principal

School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 419-966-6160

Church Website: www.sjl.org

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "You Can't Live on 'Let Us'" *Hebrews 10:11-25*

Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting One (LSB pg. 151)*

Hymns: 875 ~ 564 ~ (Communion: 616, 637, 515) ~ 531

Adult Bell Choir: "Give Thanks"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome! We are here at the Savior's invitation; therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, receiving mercy and finding grace to help in every time of need. If you have no church of your own, we invite you to make this your home church. But above all, we invite you to come to worship with us at any time.

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* ✠ Emily Bostelman & Maggie Weller, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Ron & Elaine Hesterman, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman, *Altar Guild* ✠

Sunday Adult Bible Study - Cross; We Suffer with Jesus

Our daily crosses—a battle against sin, a disease, a lack of success at work, or a shrinking congregation—make it difficult to believe in a gracious God. We wish God would reveal Himself clearly and deliver us. But God chooses to remain hidden. How can this be good news for us? Come and find out as we continue our study: **Cross, We Suffer with Jesus.**

POINSETTIA SALE FINALE – If you haven't done so yet, you have until tomorrow (Nov. 16th) to turn in your order. The order will be called in Tues., Nov. 17th. **The cost is \$8.00 per plant.** You may bring your form and **check payable to St. John Lutheran School** to the office or drop it in the box in the narthex.

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

| Date | Time | Activities |
|---------------|---------|---|
| Today | 9:00 AM | Communion Service |
| | 10:20AM | Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"; Adult Instruction Class in the Conference Room |
| | 1:30 PM | Ridgeville Community Choir practice |
| | 4:30 PM | Jr. High LYF (4:30 – 6:00 PM) |
| Tue. | 9:00 AM | Exercise Class |
| | 7:00 PM | Ridgeville Community Choir practice |
| Wed. | 6:15 PM | Junior Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM) |
| | 7:00 PM | Adult Choir Practice |
| Thurs. | 9:00 AM | Exercise Class |
| Sun. | 9:00 AM | Worship Service |
| | 10:20AM | Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"; Adult Instruction Class in the Conference Room |
| | 1:30 PM | Ridgeville Community Choir practice |
| | 4:30 PM | Sr. High LYF |
| Mon.- Sat. | 7:30 AM | Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Theodore Rellstab</i> , St. John Lutheran – Holgate |

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Marian Fitzenreiter, Norma Damman, and Don Dickmann*
- ❖ *Pauline Dishop, Marie Damman, and Delora Winkelman*, at The Lutheran Home, Napoleon
- ❖ *Magdalena Volkman*, residing at Heartland Nursing Home, Wauseon
- ❖ *Anna Brodman and Marian Buchhop* residing at Country View Haven
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Orchards of Northcrest - Napoleon
- ❖ *Helen Norden*, residing at Greenbriar Assisted Living in Birmingham, AL
- ❖ Servicemen and women *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, and Connor Gerken*
- ❖ *Delores Badenhop*, recuperating at The Lutheran Home following her surgery
- ❖ *RoseMary Hoeffel* (Christa Bickel's mother), home awaiting information for a liver transplant
- ❖ *Kyle Elling*, now deployed overseas, that God would guard him and his comrades against all harm and danger

Thanksgiving Eve Service



The day of Thanksgiving is next week. **On Thanksgiving eve, Wednesday, Nov. 25, join us in God's house at 7:00 p.m. for our service of Thanksgiving to God for His bountiful blessings.** Not only does He give us clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land and animals (*first article of the Creed*), He also provides us with all that we need for our salvation, having purchased us from sin, not with gold or silver, but with the holy, precious blood of Jesus (*second article of the Creed*). We will give thanks for it all, as we sing and worship, pray and dine at the Lord's feast.

THANK YOU: Thank you to all the people who supported and participated in the St. John Arts & Craft Show last weekend. Also, thank you to everyone who donated in any way to this event. A big thank you to the LYF for their delicious food prepared and energy shown throughout the day! We received many compliments on the craft show and the hospitality shown. Thank you again!

| <u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u> | Home Fund | Synod & Missions | Building Fund |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------|
| Weekly Need | \$9,792.78 | \$500.00 | \$961.54 |
| Rec'd 11/08/15 | \$8,087.00 | \$112.00 | \$588.00 |

ATTENDANCE: 11/08/15 Service: 245

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – For all the ladies filling a shoe box for Operation Christmas Child, this is to let you know that **the due date to turn them in is today**. You should place your filled shoe box on the counter in the back of the Fellowship Hall or you can place it on the table in the back of the church. Thank you for your generosity!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PREPARATION – This year the Christmas program for the children and congregation is scheduled for Sunday, Dec, 20th at 7:00 p.m. To assign parts, we need to assemble a list of school and Sunday School students who will definitely be present for the program. We strongly encourage all parents to make this commitment with their children. These programs not only create wonderful memories, they are also an important Christmas tradition that helps anchor the Christ of Christmas in their hearts!



To confirm your child's participation, please call the church/school office by Friday, Nov. 20th. Parts will be assigned the following week. There will be rehearsals on the Sundays in December (*subject to change*) following the worship service.

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT: *Advent By Candlelight* is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 10th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. *Advent By Candlelight* is a candlelit potluck dinner and advent program for women designed to help us prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christ's birth.

At this time we'd like to identify hostesses to each decorate and host one dinner table at this event. The hostess sign-up sheet and hostess information packets are located on the Christmas table in the narthex. You may contact *Bonnie Niermann* (598-8181) if you have any questions.

All women of the congregation are invited to this special evening. Watch your mail for a personal invitation or simply RSVP on the sheet in the narthex today!

GREETER, USHER, AND ALTAR GUILD SIGN-UP – If you are interested in serving God's people here at St. John in a way that is much needed and appreciated, would you consider joining a greeter, usher, or altar guild team? The demand on your time in either area of service is minimal, but the blessing of rendering service to the body of Christ in its worship is tremendous. We are preparing the 2016 greeter, usher, and altar guild schedules so this is the time to sign-up at the table in the narthex. The sign-up deadline is Sunday, Dec. 13th. *You do not need to sign up again if you are currently serving as a greeter, usher or are on an altar guild team.*

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER

In just a matter of weeks, the church will turn the page to a new church year and the season of Advent. Please take note of the following...

- **Midweek Advent Services** will be held on the first three Wednesdays of December at 7:00 p.m. These services will focus on the theme, “Stir Up the Power.” Join us as we explore how God stirs up within his people the power of hope, preparation, love and joy.
- **Midweek Confirmation Class** on those first three Wednesdays of December will meet from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.
- **The Children’s Christmas Service** will be held on Sun., Dec. 20th at 7:00 p.m. It won’t be long until parts will be handed out. Parents please put that date on your family calendar and make this a priority for your young ones. A schedule of rehearsals will be forthcoming.
- **Decoration of the sanctuary** for the season will take place the day after Thanksgiving. It’s a great way to work off all those extra calories. We could still use a few more helping hands, so if this is something you’ve been pondering, why not jump on board and be a helper. Please sign the sheet in the narthex.
- **The Ridgeville Community Choir** will have its Christmas concert in our sanctuary on Sun., Dec. 6th. If you want to sing with this choir, see details elsewhere in the bulletin.



Vacation Bible School 2016 – Believe it or not, it’s time to think about VBS.

This year the theme of the CPH curriculum is one that we know a thing or two about in these parts – “Barnyard Roundup – Jesus Gathers His People Together.” At this time we would like to identify a VBS director (or maybe co-directors) to work with Pastor in making some of the initial plans. Please speak with *Pastor Niermann* if you are interested in serving the children in this way.



USE OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL – If you would like to use the Fellowship Hall for any occasion, 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 master calendar at <http://www.dynacal.com/sjl/> (*you can also link to it from www.sjl.org*).

SCRIP AT ST. JOHN: The *SCRIP* campaign has begun and will run for the remainder of the school year. *Make a Note* – The final order before Christmas break is due on Wed., Dec. 9th for delivery on Thurs., Dec. 17th. Think ahead--if you give out gift cards for Christmas consider purchasing them from PTL instead of at the store so that a portion of that sale stays with St. John Lutheran School. Order forms and program information are posted on FastDirect under ‘Links,’ titled *SCRIP Order Forms* and *SCRIP Program Info*. There are also hard copy order forms in the ‘School Info’ rack outside the office and on the table in the narthex. Please feel free to share with family and friends. Payment must accompany orders. Any questions about *SCRIP* can be directed to the *SCRIP* Coordinator *Kristyn Honemann* at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.

CHRISTMAS CHEER PROGRAM – Henry County Christmas Cheer has begun its annual campaign for the collection of food for low income and needy persons in Henry County. From now through **Mon., December 7th** a barrel is placed in the narthex and cafeteria/fellowship hall for the collection of canned goods, dry goods and paper products. No Microwave items! Suggestions are: *Canned Vegetables, Fruit, Soup, Stews, Meats; Macaroni & Cheese Mixes, Spaghettio's, Spaghetti Sauce, Tomato Juice, Broths, Noodles, Rice, Spaghetti; Instant Potato, Stuffing, Cake Mixes; Cereals, Syrups, Crackers, Peanut Butter, Pudding, Jell-o, Frostings, Fruit Juices, Coffee, Kool-aid, Chocolate Drink Mixes; Tissues, Toilet Tissue, Paper Towels; Bar Soap, Toothpaste, and Shampoo.*

CHRISTMAS SWEETS & TREATS! Just like last year the Stewardship Board is organizing a Christmas fundraiser for the Right Hand of Fellowship capital campaign. Put it on your calendar for Sun., Dec. 20th following the worship service that day. The variety last year was amazing --- and delicious! Please put some thought into what you might be able to provide for this event.

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 toward the Right Hand of Fellowship campaign.

Stop by on Dec. 20th 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). More information will be forthcoming requesting donations of your favorite holiday cookies, candies, bars, etc. for this fundraising event. Stay tuned!

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, and then return it to the basket when you've finished reading.

USE OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL – If you would like to use the Fellowship Hall for any occasion, 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 master calendar at <http://www.dynacal.com/sjl/> (you can also link to it from www.sjl.org).

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!

RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP FUNDRAISER: The Stewardship Board is offering “for sale” the Ultimate Cloth® as a fundraiser. These are a MiraFiber® technology cloth that cleans with water only. More effective than harsh cleaning chemicals and soaps. See Karen Norden (419-267-3477) for more information and pricing. This will be an on-going fundraiser for the Right Hand of Fellowship gift matching campaign.

COUNCIL MINUTES – This is just a reminder that council meeting minutes are not published until they are approved a month later. If you would like to read about the most recent council meeting, an unofficial and unapproved copy of the minutes is available for viewing in the church office, usually within a week after the meeting.

TREE OF LIGHTS – Helping Hands, Loving Hands Christmas Tree of Lights – You are invited to join fellow Christians with your “*helping hands and loving hands*” by honoring/remembering a loved one with a name on the ribbon to help decorate the “*Christmas Tree of Lights*” at The Lutheran Home in Napoleon. If interested, pick up a order sheet from the table in the narthex, fill it out and send it, along with your donation to: The Lutheran Home, c/o Linda Miller, 1036 South Perry Street, Napoleon, OH 43545.

◆ ◆ **AREA EVENTS** ◆ ◆

- **COMMUNITY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT** – The Ridgeville Community Choir along with the Junior Choral Society will be presenting a Christmas concert on Sun., Dec. 6 right here at St. John Lutheran Church. **The Community Choir’s first rehearsal will be held today at 1:30 PM**, and their remaining rehearsal schedule is as follows: *Tues., Nov. 17 at 7:00 PM; Sun., Nov. 22 at 1:30 PM; Tues., Nov. 24 at 7:00 PM; and Tues., Dec. 1 at 7:00 PM.* All rehearsals will be held at St. John – Freedom. Please contact *Steve Basselman* with questions at 419-445-4656 or steveb@the-welcome-place.org.
- **DON WHARTON** is a Christian singer, songwriter, author, humorist, and plane crash survivor. **He will be in concert today at 6:30 PM at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Napoleon.** For more info, check out Don’s website at: www.donwharton.com. See flyer!
- **SYMPHONY OF TREES** will be presenting the *JINGLE BELL JAM & SUNDAY BRUNCH* on Sun., Nov. 22nd with serving until 1:00 PM at **The Armory Arts & Event Center**, 127 E. Clinton St., Napoleon. The cost is \$8.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 4-10 years old, and free for those 3 and under. Proceeds to benefit child abuse programming for the Center for Child and Family Advocacy, Henry Co. CASA Program, and the Henry County Hospital.
- **MUSIC BENEFIT** – A musical performance by *Matthew Wachtman* to benefit Tiana’s Wish **will be held on Sun., Nov. 22nd at 7:00 PM at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Okolona.** The event is free, although donations to Tiana’s Wish will be accepted. See flyer!
- **THE TOLEDO SYMPHONY** will perform a Christmas Concert **at St. Paul Lutheran Church – Napoleon Township, on Wed., Dec. 16th beginning at 7:30 PM.** Tickets go on sale Mon., Nov. 16th thru their church office at 419-758-3522. See flyer!



FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

God wants full custody, not just weekend visits!

“Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates.” (Prov. 8:34)