



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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LAST SUNDAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR – Sunday of the Fulfillment

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: **801 ~ 336 ~ 348 ~ 575**

Children's Choir: *Grades K-4 sing "Thank You"*

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We 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. May we be showered with those blessings as we together profess His Name today. 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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Aden Foor & Landon Willeman, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Clara Meyer & Phyllis Silveus, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman, *Altar Guild* ✠

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed in gratefulness to God for the 35th Wedding Anniversary of *Jerry & Lori Langenhop*, which was yesterday, Nov. 21st. May God continue to bless their marriage with many more years of health and happiness. Congratulations to the Langenhops!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to some special people! The Operation Christmas Child campaign netted 29 shoe boxes filled with goodies to be shipped along with many other filled shoe boxes to roughly 10.4 million boys and girls in 118 countries in the Name of Jesus. The Women of Freedom coordinated this effort and if you were one of the generous people to fill a shoe box, "thank you" very much. God bless each one of you!

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:30 PM 4:30 PM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"; Adult Instruction Class in the Conference Room Ridgeville Community Choir practice Sr. High LYF
Mon.	5:30 PM 7:00 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution Board of Elders (<i>note date change</i>)
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Gr. 5&6; Offering: Henry County Christmas Cheer Exercise Class Tuesday Bible Study Women of FREEDOM meeting Ridgeville Community Choir practice
Wed.	5:45 PM 7:00 PM	NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING BREAK Junior Confirmation Class (<i>until 6:45 PM</i>) Thanksgiving Eve Service Offering: <i>Good Neighbor Fund / Orphan Grain Train</i> Adult Choir: " <i>What God Can Do</i> " and " <i>Praise to the Lord</i> " Acolytes: <i>Hope Buchhop & Brooks Behnfeldt</i> Greeters: <i>Nancy Short & Joyce Wiechers</i> Ushers: <i>Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers</i> Altar Guild: <i>Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman</i>
Thurs.	& Fri.	NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING BREAK
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"; Adult Instruction Class in the Conference Room
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. James Strawn</i> , St. James Lutheran, Archbold

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), at home awaiting a liver transplant
- ❖ *Kyle Elling*, now deployed overseas, that God would guard him and his comrades against all harm and danger

A CELEBRITY AMONG US: If you haven't already received your copy of the December issue of Thrivent Magazine, when you do, please take time to read the "Living Well" section (pg. 24) which is featuring Centenarian Thrivent members. One of those featured centenarians is our very own, *Magdalena Volkman*, 102, and her interview can be read along with five other 100+ year old Thrivent members from across the United States. We also have laminated copies of the interview (*with her picture*) on the narthex table and bulletin board, and in the hallway across from the 7&8 classroom.

SR. LYF FUNDRAISER: Every 3rd (*in this case 4th*) Sunday, the Sr. High LYF will be selling sticky buns, (*or cinnamon rolls to some of you*), to help raise money for their trip to the National Youth Gathering this July. You can purchase them at our table in the south side hallway after the worship service until 11:15 AM. Thank you for supporting the upcoming youth trip to New Orleans!

Thanksgiving Eve Service



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.

**AS A THANK OFFERING TO HELP STOCK OUR FOOD PANTRY,
BRING NON-PERISHABLE FOOD AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS**

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/15/15	\$7,752.00	\$242.00	\$808.00

ATTENDANCE: 11/15/15 Service: 231

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Cross; We Suffer with Jesus (*Sundays after worship*)

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.**

A Man Named Martin (*Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m.*)

Pastor is leading this video study from *Lutheran Hour Ministries* titled "A Man Named Martin – Part 1, The Man." The influence and impact of Luther's life is the stuff of serious study. As a forlorn sinner feeling lost before a stern and exacting Judge, Luther desponded of all hope for eternity. But as one who came to cling to the Spirit-delivered truths of justification by faith and the liberty believers experience by God's grace, he rebounded to become a triumphant ambassador for the Gospel. Join us for this fresh and explorative look at an individual who, down through the centuries, has increased in importance and vitality to the Christian church.

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!



Parts will be assigned this week, so contact the office ASAP. 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!

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.
- **Decoration of the sanctuary** for the season will take place on the day after Thanksgiving. It's a great way to work off all those extra calories. If you can help, please sign the sheet in the narthex.



2016 OFFERING BOXES: Offering envelope boxes will be available in early December. The financial commitments you make as well as how you contribute are between you and God. The church provides offering envelopes to our members in order to promote faithful and joyful giving as well as to serve as a means to record member contributions throughout the year for charitable tax purposes. Due to the costs of these envelope boxes, members who elect to not use their envelopes over the course of two years (*for whatever reason*) will no longer be issued a box of envelopes. If at any time such a member would like to resume using envelopes, please contact Joyce Wiechers or Sara Myles, Finance Trustee, and a box will be issued to you.

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.



BULLETIN STUFFER VOLUNTEERS: Want to get involved? Why not try volunteering to help with stuffing the bulletins for worship services. It's not too difficult and can be done either at church or in the comfort of your own home. The bulletins are pre-folded. If anyone is willing to donate a little time toward stuffing bulletins, we are looking for about 11-12 couples/families to sign up for this task. If you feel you would like to give this a try, there is a signup sheet on the narthex table. You can even pick the month(s) that work best for you. We can accommodate your busy schedules.
NOTE: If you have stuffed bulletins in the past year, thank you for your service. We ask that you please sign up again and choose your month. You can also call Lori Langenhop at 419-598-8151 or email her at lahop@bright.net.

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.*

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; Macaroni & Cheese Mixes, Spaghetti's, Spaghetti Sauce, Broths, Noodles, Rice, Spaghetti; Cake Mixes; Cereals, Syrups, Crackers, Peanut Butter, Pudding, Jell-o, Frostings, Fruit Juices, Coffee, Tissues, Toilet Tissue, Paper Towels; 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* (419-579-0437). More information will be forthcoming requesting donations of your favorite holiday cookies, candies, bars, etc. for this fundraising event. Stay tuned!

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.

EAGLE NEWS: The Eagle News publication will be available today as you leave the service. It is also available online via FastDirect. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnfreedom/>, click on "Links" at the top of the page, then click on "Eagle News-November" in the "Everybody" column.

◆ ◆ **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 rehearsal schedule is as follows: Today 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.
- **SYMPHONY OF TREES** will be presenting the *JINGLE BELL JAM & SUNDAY BRUNCH* today 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 today at 7:00 PM at **Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Okolona**. The event is free, although donations to Tiana's Wish will be accepted. See flyer!
- **COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER** – St. Paul Lutheran Church in Napoleon has the privilege of hosting a Community Thanksgiving Dinner on **Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26th from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM**. St. Paul will be furnishing all that is needed for the meal, with the exception of pies. That is where we fit in...If you would like to donate pies for these meals, please drop them off at St. Paul's church prior to Thursday. Any questions, please call 419-592-3535. See flyer!
- **BLOODMOBILE AT RIDGEVILLE LEGION**: On Monday, November 30th, there will be a blood drive at the Ridgeville Legion Hall from 12:00 – 6:00 PM. In this season of giving, please consider giving blood for a very good cause. Walk-ins welcome!
- **CHRISTMAS VILLAGE CRAFT SHOW** will be held at the Ridgeville Legion Hall, County Rd. 19, Napoleon, on Sunday, Dec. 6 from 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Lunch will be served by the Legion Auxiliary. Come and browse through the shops at the craft village!
- **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 on sale thru their church office at 419-758-3522. See flyer!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

On Thanksgiving Day we acknowledge our dependence. ~William Jennings Bryan

"You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing." (Psa. 145:16)