



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

January 3, 2016

VOL. 81

NO. 1

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Mr. Aaron Yaeger, Vicar
Miss Mary K. Rettig, Interim Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
Cell: 989-607-4566
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 419-966-6160
Church Website: www.sjl.org

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sermon & Text: "How Wondrously the Gift is Given" *Eph. 1:3-14*
Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting Five (LSB pg. 213)*
Hymns: 371 ~ 602 ~ 953 (Creed) ~ [Communion: 392, 389, 523] ~ 897
Adult Choir: "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem" and "A Faithful Shepherd"

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* ✠ Maggie Weller & Hope Buchhop, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Lois Arps & Evelyn Rohrs, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Harold Behrmann & Richard Elling, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Richard Elling, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman, *Altar Guild* ✠

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed in celebration of *Todd & Chris Hesterman's* 30th Wedding Anniversary which is tomorrow, Monday, January 4th. Congratulations to Todd and Chris and may they have many more happy years together!

Todd and Chris have placed two white roses on the piano in memory of Chris's parents, Norm and Anneita Bair who passed away 3 years ago, within hours of each other, on January 2nd and 3rd.

NEW GREETER (yellow) AND ALTAR GUILD (pink) SCHEDULES: The 2016 Greeter and Altar Guild schedules are available 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!

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 11:30AM	Communion Service w/Installation of Church Officers Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Servant Sunday Potluck Luncheon
Mon.	8:20 AM 7:00 PM	School resumes Adult Bible Study
Tue.	9:00 AM 10:00AM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class in gym Adult Bible Study B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; Gr. 4-6 Boys @ St. John - Defiance Stewardship Board Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 7:00 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM) School Board Meeting; Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM	Men's Bible Study Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant Exercise Class in gym
Sat.	10:30AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:45 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs. Solomon-Woodville
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Early Worship Service with Communion following Sunday School; "Time To Spare"; Adult Bible Class
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, Norma Damman, Don Dickmann, and Lucia Delventhal*
- ❖ *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, Kyle Elling, Emily Schroeder, and Connor Gerken*
- ❖ *Delores Badenhop*, recuperating at The Lutheran Home following her surgery
- ❖ *Simon Robeson*, showing some improvement; moved to OSU for extensive physical rehab
- ❖ *David Niebergall*, now in hospice care for his failing health due to cancer
- ❖ *Marian Fitzenreiter*, at home under hospice care having had several mini strokes following a fall she took this week

ATTENTION ALL MEN – Rise and shine this Thursday and join your brothers in Christ for a good**Bible Study**

breakfast and coffee, and some great discussion around the Word of God. **It's the Men's Bible Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant this Thursday morning at 6:30 a.m.** There is no better way to start your day. Breakfast is \$6.50 (including tax & tip); God's Word is free to all (including grace upon grace, as we take a sneak preview of the Scripture readings for the coming Sunday).

ADULT BIBLE CLASS CANCELLED TODAY – Sunday Adult Bible Class will resume next Sunday. Join us each week as we grow together in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior.

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS – On this **Servant Sunday** we give thanks to God for the service of those whose terms of office are now ending and for those who are being newly installed.

Officers to be installed today are: **President** – *Bob Norden*; **Vice President** – *Tom VonDeylen*; **Treasurer** – *Cathy Gerken*; **Financial Trustee** – *Kathy Gruenhagen*; **Elder** – *David Damman, Jerry Short*; **Stewardship Board** – *Cheryl Sausser, Nate Bickel*; **Board of Education** (installed to take office in July 2016) – *Derek Damman, Jenelle Hesterman*; **Secretary** – *Lori Bickel*; **Church Deacon** – *David Badenhop*; **Trustees** – *Scott Speiser, Dennis Showman*; **Sunday School Supt.** – *Sarah Rosebrock*; **Asst. Sunday School Supt.** – *vacant*; **Cemetery Board** – *Logan Kossow, Clay Badenhop, Joe Hesterman*; **Cemetery Sexton** – *Ben Kruse*.

SERVANT SUNDAY

STARTING A NEW TRADITION TODAY

- Installation of the 2016 officers
- Potluck Appreciation Dinner

Today is our first-ever *Servant Sunday*. On this day we will install the newly elected and appointed officers, and offer prayers of thanks for the service of those who are vacating their offices. Then at **11:30**

a.m. after the Sunday School hour, we will gather for a **congregational potluck dinner**, followed by a brief and less formal time to say our thanks to all who serve us. Mark your calendar for this day!



**As each has received a gift,
use it to serve one another.**

1 Peter 4:10

MITES & WOMEN OF FREEDOM – The next meeting of the St. John Women of FREEDOM will be held Tues., Jan. 19, 2016 at 7:00 PM. This will be a Missions Meeting so everyone should bring their Mite Box if you have one. Our Mission Meetings are for the months of January, April, July, and September. February is our Quilt and Blanket Knotting Party and August there is no meeting. All ladies of St. John are invited to come to our meetings.

Be sure to pick up a copy of the Quarterly and Odes (*they are put together*) from the table in the back of the church.

Also to be noted is that the Women of Freedom will be continuing the Mite-y Socks program in 2016. 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 2016 sock today!

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!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 12/27/15	\$7,318.00	\$845.00	\$523.00

ATTENDANCE: 12/27/15 Service: 203

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (12/20/15): Home Fund - \$2,335.00; Attendance – 440

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS & CANDLES: Home Fund - \$9,126.00 Attendance: 270

CHRISTMAS DAY FESTIVAL SERVICE: Home Fund - \$21,981.00 Attendance: 167

CHRISTMAS THANKS – We give thanks to God for everyone who helped to make our celebration of Christmas this year such a joy. We thank the musicians, choirs and directors, those who decorated the sanctuary, the SJLS and Sunday School students who made such a fine



presentation of the Christmas gospel at their service, the parents who included their children in this Christmas tradition, the staff for all their planning and leadership, those who served in worship as ushers, greeters, altar guild members, acolytes, etc., those who keep God's house tidy and ready for us, those who provided poinsettias to beautify God's house, those who provided goodies for and supported the 'Sweets-n-Treats,' the LYF for sacking candy and stamping 'Sweets-n-

Treat' boxes, and anyone else who helped in any way. Your service to Christ and His people does not go unnoticed! Thank you for helping to make this Christmas a blessed celebration of God's gift to us of the Savior!

CHURCH DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE: The church directories are available for pick up today, for those who had their picture taken or submitted a picture for this directory. They are arranged in alphabetical order with your name label on the back side. Anyone wishing to have a directory who did not have their picture taken or submit a picture, may purchase a copy of the directory for \$3.00. These "for purchase copies" are available today. Please put your \$3 in the "honesty" collection envelope.

THE FLOWER CALENDAR for 2016 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 to let her know if you are getting your own flowers or if you want the Women of Freedom to take care of them.

NOTE: The price for the flowers through the Women of Freedom increased to \$21.00. Please remember that it is your responsibility to contact *Mabel Bischoff*. 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.

RECYCLING PROGRAM – A note received from Zach's Recycling on Filmore Street in Napoleon is available on the narthex table. **Please make note of this recycling change effective Jan. 1, 2016.** Looks like they are only going to pay the school for limited items. You may still continue to bring your other recycling to them, but they just won't pay St. John for those items. In the best interest of the environment, please continue to recycle! "Think green!"

A NEW YEAR, A NEW WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

Starting in January, Pastor and Vicar will offer a new Bible study titled, “**Triune God.**” We are offering a choice of two different times: **Monday evenings, 7-8:15pm**, or **Tuesday mornings, 10-11:15am**. The first sessions will be on January 4th and 5th. There will be three sessions each month.

Have you ever wondered what the bible actually says about the Trinity? Do Christians worship three 'Gods,' as *Jehovah's Witnesses* sometimes accuse? Why do we have the creeds? Can't I just believe the Bible? Is there a good way to symbolize the Trinity? Is the Trinity revealed in the Old Testament? How does our understanding of the Trinity help us understand our own salvation? Join us for our study of our Triune God.

This study is from the *LifeLight* series published by CPH. It is excellent material, and you will “know your stuff” when you’re done. This study invites you to read your Bible at home in preparation for each session. Each student guide costs about \$10 (or less if we order 10 or more), so we need people to sign up to participate. Also, as you are able, we would ask each participant to help cover the cost of these materials. Details of how you can do that will be discussed at the first session.

Sign up today in the narthex, and let us together “grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 3:18)

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 24th!



SOUP & PIE DINNER – The annual PTL Soup & Pie Dinner will be held on Sun., Jan. 24, 2016, with serving from 10:30 AM to 12:30 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.

COMMUNITY CHOIR CONCERT: For those interested, there is now a link on the main page of the church website to a TV26 YouTube video of the 2015 Ridgeville Community Choir Concert held at St. John on Dec. 6th.

CHOICE DOLLARS RECAP: Thanks to everyone who continue to designate their Choice Dollars deposits through Thrivent Financial. Because of your initiative the church, school, and preschool have benefited in 2015. Here are the individual year-to-date deposits for 2015: St. John Church - \$11,103.00; St. John School - \$2,067.00; St. John Preschool - \$697.00. A well-deserved “thank you” to Thrivent for providing these funds throughout the year.

DID YOU KNOW? The free Pepperidge Farm bread, cookies, and crackers available on Sundays down by the gym lobby have the “Labels For Education” UPC codes on the wrappers. Be sure to clip them off and bring them to the school/church office at your convenience.

IF YOU'RE EVER IN A PINCH and could use a little help, the *Good Neighbor Fund* is there to assist you too! Please don't be bashful about asking – everything is strictly confidential. Just give Pastor Niermann a call, and we'll see what we can do!

BE A JAVA JOY HOST! Start the New Year off by signing up for Java Joy! Every second Sunday of the month after the service, we aim to have a time of fellowship with coffee, juice and snacks called **Java Joy**. If you would like to host one of these, please sign up in the narthex. Don't let finances stop you – you are welcome to reimburse your expenses from the kitty if you wish.



COLLECTING STAMPS: The LWML is collecting stamps “For Missions.” A box is on the table in the narthex. Here is what you do: Cut the stamps from the envelopes allowing ¼ inch margin or more around the stamp. The stamp may not be damaged and the perforations around the stamp must be perfect. You need not trim the stamp; we have someone who trims and sorts the stamps. Do not remove stamps from envelopes, albums, and older postcards. An “old” postcard is usually from 1930 or before. The most valuable stamps are commemorative, foreign, and stamp denominations larger than 46 cents. When purchasing stamps, ask the post office staff for commemorative stamps. Colorful and large stamps are desirable. Collecting stamps is an easy way to participate in a mission project sponsored by the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League.

SERVING THEIR COUNTRY: Why not take a few extra minutes in the New Year to remember our St. John servicemen and women with a card. Here are the current addresses we have for them:

JUSTIN ATKINSON
17 Sugar Cane Drive
Savannah, GA 31419

JASON ROHRS
11601 Gun Powder Drive
Fort Washington, MD 20744

CONNOR GERKEN
3656 Kershaw Avenue
Toledo, OH 43613

EMILY SCHROEDER
9401 Wilson Blvd., Lot 38
Columbia, SC 29203

KYLE ELLING
1556 Ripple Court
Gulf Breeze, FL 32563

CHURCH LIBRARY UPDATE: Over 50 new books have been added to our church library, bringing the total number of books available to well over 300. Many of the recent additions are children's books which can give young parents an opportunity to nurture their little ones on these cold winter days with truths from God's Word. Other books range from autobiographies, to church history, to Christian fiction for young adults, to in depth studies into Lutheran theology and Bible commentary. The library, located in the hallway just west of the sanctuary, is self-serve, or you can ask Pastor, Vicar, or Darrel Behrmann for assistance in locating a book or CD on a specific subject. The library inventory is also available at wp.sjl.org/church-library

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

**"Some are saying this was the best Christmas ever.
I always thought that the first one was."**

"Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior." (Luke 2:11)