



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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NO. 47

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor  
Mr. M. Brent Keller, Vicar  
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

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### LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

Sermon & Text: "A Hard Word Against God" *Malachi 3:13-18*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: [Baptism: "Borning Cry", 605] ~ 549, stz.1-2,5-7 ~ 550 ~

[Communion: 435, 632, 610] ~ 905

Adult Bell Choir: "Here Am I, Lord"

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### 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.*

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### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Clay Behnfeldt & Kaleb Woods, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Steve & Linda Miller, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow, *Altar Guild* ✘

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed in gratefulness to God for the 35<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of *Dean & Sharon Badenhop*, which is today, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. May God continue to bless their marriage with many more years of health and happiness. Congratulations to the Badenhops!

BAPTISM TODAY – Let us rejoice and give thanks with *Nick & Kelly (Dietrich) Sonnenberg* as they present their new-born daughter, *Summer Nickole*, for Holy Baptism. *Summer* was born on October 28<sup>th</sup> at the Fulton County Health Center in Wauseon. Her big sisters are *Jovi* and *Karleigh*. Witnessing *Nickole's* baptism are *Hannah Dietrich* (Kelly's sister) and *John Buldas* (Kelly's brother-in-law). *Nickole's* grandparents are Doug & Sandy Dietrich and Kevin & Kathy Sonnenberg. We rejoice with this family as they celebrate the gift of this child and especially the gift of new life in Christ in Holy Baptism!



**In God's House This Week**

Online church calendar: [www.DynaCal.com/sjl](http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM 5:30 PM	<b>Communion Service</b> Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Sr. High LYF Meeting ( <i>see bulletin note</i> ) Open Volleyball for anyone
Mon.	5:00 PM 7:00 PM	B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. Hicksville ( <i>played at St. Paul – Napoleon</i> ) <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Chapel led by Gr. 5&6; Offering: Henry County Christmas Cheer Exercise Class <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study Shepherd Committee Board of Elders
Wed.	5:45 PM <b>7:00 PM</b>	NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING BREAK Junior Confirmation Class ( <i>until 6:45 PM</i> ) <b>Thanksgiving Eve Service</b> Adult Choir: "We Thank You, Lord" and "O Give Thanks" Acolytes: <i>Zak Schroeder &amp; Ashton Niese</i> Greeters: <i>Esther Layton &amp; Phyllis Silveus</i> Ushers: <i>Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers</i> Altar Guild: <i>Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow</i>
Thurs.		NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING BREAK
Fri.		NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING BREAK
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 5:30 PM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Open Volleyball for anyone
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: *Norma Damman, Lucia Delventhal, Renetta Homan, and Stan Moll*
- ❖ *Pauline Dishop, Marie Damman, and Delora Winkelman*, at The Lutheran Home, Napoleon
- ❖ *Anna Brodman and Marian Buchhop* residing at Country View Haven
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Servicemen, *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Kyle Elling, Emily Schroeder, and Connor Gerken*
- ❖ *Casen Lawrence*, for control of increased seizure activity he has been experiencing
- ❖ *Florence Fitzenreiter*, recovering at home from a recent hospitalization

**BABY BOY!** *Blake & Brittini Miller* would like to announce the arrival of their son, *Damion Blake*, on Tues., Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> at Fulton County Health Center, Wauseon. All are doing well and Damion is sure to be a "star" with siblings, Dakota and Evelyn. Grandparents, Steve & Linda Miller are pretty proud too. Congrats to Blake & Brittini!

**SR. HIGH LYF** will be meeting today, from 4:30-6:00 PM at Miss Bartok's house. We will be having a small thanksgiving get together. Contact Miss Bartok for more information!

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU** to some special people! The Operation Christmas Child campaign netted 46 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 St. John Lutheran School and 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!

**WELL WISHES FOR MR. MYERS:** Based on the Special Voters' Meeting held last Sun., Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> and as requested by Mr. Michael Myers in a letter, a peaceful release from his call to St. John Lutheran Church was granted to him as Teacher of Grades 1&2. At this time we would like to give members a chance to wish him well in his future endeavors and/or thank him for his many years of dedicated service to St. John Lutheran Church & School. There is a box on the narthex table for anyone wanting to give a card or parting gift to Mr. Myers to show your appreciation to him. **This box will be available thru Tues., Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>.** His current address is: Mike Myers, 2315 County Road 451, Rogers City, MI 49779, for anyone wishing to send him a card or gift directly.

**ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT:** *WOMEN AND MEN* – mark your calendars for Advent By Candlelight for Sunday, December 4 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Yes, you heard right! This year all women **and men** of the congregation are invited to attend this special evening designed to help us prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christ's birth. We will enjoy a candlelit potluck dinner and Advent program including a musical performance by the Napoleon Jazz Choir.

At this time we'd like to identify hostesses to each decorate 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.

Watch your mail for a personal invitation or simply RSVP on the sheet in the narthex today!

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/13/16	\$10,157.00	\$404.00	\$605.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Sunday (11/13/16) Service: 256

**LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER:** The first and second grades at St. John now have a long term substitute teacher. His name is *Mr. Ben Majewski*, and he attended St. Augustine School, Napoleon High School, and Ashland College. He graduated from Ashland last spring. Mr. Majewski has been part-time teaching in local schools. Mr. Majewski will be with us through the end of the 2016-17 school year.

We want to thank *Tami Sunderman, Amy Kramer, Jan Schlade, Sue Aschemeier, Deb Hoops, Marcia Kern,* and *Linda Schroeder* for filling in as sub teachers in that room. They were valuable in keeping the progression of the learning for our students in first and second grades.

## CROSS EXPLORATIONS FOR ADULTS – IN THE NORTH FELLOWSHIP HALL

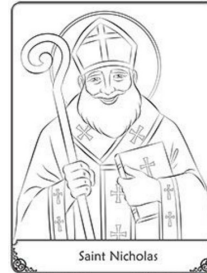
Vicar Keller is conducting a Bible study especially for parents of Sunday School students (but also open to all). Each Sunday we will take an adult look at the same Bible narratives our children are hearing that day in Sunday School. The goal is to assist the parents and adults in taking a journey through God's Word with our children. **We will not be meeting this Sunday due to the Voter's Meeting being held at the same time. Next Sunday we will learn about David becoming King of Israel.**



### *The Real St. Nick* (Next Sunday)

- What do you teach your children or grand-children about Santa Claus?
- Do you know about St. Nicholas, the man behind the legend?
- Want to consider a new holiday tradition for your family that remembers St. Nicholas for who he really was?

Next Sunday, just in time for St. Nicholas Day on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Niermann will lead a single-session video Bible study titled, **“The Real St. Nick: Leader, Legend, or Lie?”** Those with children and grand-children will not want to miss this fascinating look at the Saint behind the Santa. Join us in the north fellowship hall.



**ANNUAL DECEMBER VOTERS' MEETING** – The annual December Voters' Assembly will be held in the fellowship hall on **Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>** after the morning service. Agenda items include: 1) adopting a 2017 budget; 2) discussion about parking lot improvements; 3) possible bylaw changes (pick up a copy in the narthex); 4) nomination and election of 2017 officers

**2017 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.

### **LifeLight** BIBLE STUDY – “Heaven and Hell”

**Due to a scheduling conflict, LifeLight will meet this week on Monday evening (7pm) and Tuesday morning (10am). Please join us!** Many people have questions about heaven and hell, and God's Word has much to say on the subject. Next week our session is titled, **“And They Will Be His People.”** In this study we will get a “sneak peek” of life in the world to come.

This study is part of the *LifeLight* series that offers in-depth studies on many Bible books and topics. Through advance preparation and reflection, as well as group discussion, *LifeLight* studies will always challenge you and give you growth in faith.

# THANKSGIVING EVE

“Come, ye thankful people, come,” and join in the worship of God as we give thanks to Him for every good thing we enjoy. Our offering for Thanksgiving will be directed to

congregational mission of mercy to be scheduled for next year – perhaps to help out in the areas that were flooded recently. In addition, bring an offering of a non-perishable grocery items that we can stock into our food pantry, so that we can be a blessing to others.

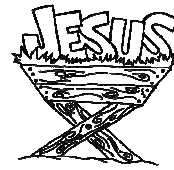
**Worship is on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**



**ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES** will begin on Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. Services will be held each Wednesday in Advent at 7:00 p.m. The schedule for Advent messages is:

- Nov. 30 How Shall I Greet You?, *Matthew 21:1–11*
- Dec 7 Advent’s Fiery Preacher, *Matthew 3:1–12*
- Dec. 14 Not Another Advent!, *Matthew 11:2–15*
- Dec. 21 We Still Need Him, Our Immanuel, *Matthew 1:18–25*

**CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCRIPTS** will be going home soon from both the Sunday School and school. **The Children’s Christmas Service is on Sunday evening, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.** Every child is being assigned a part, but if for some reason your child will not be participating, please be sure to call the church office and let us know ASAP.



**SCRIP OVER THE HOLIDAYS:** SCRIP orders will be accepted on Nov. 22, but not placed until Nov. 28. The last SCRIP orders accepted for Christmas will be on Mon., Dec. 12. SCRIP orders will resume when school is back in session on Tues., Jan. 3. Order forms and program information are posted on FastDirect under ‘Links,’ titled SCRIP Order Forms and SCRIP Program Info. There are also hard copies 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](mailto:honemann@embarqmail.com).**

**CHRISTMAS SWEETS & TREATS DONATIONS** – Get your mixers going and heat your ovens up!!! Start making plans to whip up your favorite Christmas cookies, candies, or other holiday recipes to donate to the Sweets and Treats Shop on Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. We would ask that you bring your items in Ziploc bags, cellophane, or disposable tins with a minimum of 2 dozen pieces per package. Someone will be at the church on Sat., Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 PM if you would like to drop your items off early. Otherwise, please have them to the church by 8:30 AM on Sunday, Dec. 11.

**DECORATING COMMITTEE UPDATE:** We have had a few individuals step forward as volunteers to decorate the church and surroundings for Christmas. 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 give it some thought, and contact the church office if you would like to volunteer. Thank you!

**FELLOWSHIP HALL SET-UP CREW NEEDS YOU!** The Church Council is looking for a few good people to serve on a crew that can be available as needed to set up the fellowship hall for church related events such as funeral luncheons, potlucks, special events, etc (not private events). Set up would typically take place on evenings, although there may be exceptions. If you can help, please sign up in the narthex and include your cell number (if you have one) so that we can use texting for easy communication. We would also like to identify a crew chief to take the reins and to be the primary contact person. Thank you for your help and for all you do!

**Fellowship Hall  
Set-up  
Crew**



**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](mailto: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 2017 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. 11<sup>th</sup>. *You do not need to sign up again if you are currently serving as a greeter, usher or are on an altar guild team.*

**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.

**CALENDARS & MORE CALENDARS FOR 2017** – We now have 2017 calendars from Thrivent Financial and Snyder-Wesche-Hoening Funeral Home in Napoleon available for anyone to take. These calendars will be available on the narthex table and desk on a first come, first serve basis.

**SUNDAY NIGHT VOLLEYBALL & FELLOWSHIP:** Beginning tonight (Nov. 13) and continuing every Sunday night until the end of March 2017, there will be open volleyball in the gym for anyone wishing to come and get a little exercise and enjoy some fellowship with one another. The time will be 5:30 – 8:00 PM and you can come anytime and any week that fits your schedule. Some weeks the time will fluctuate due to previously scheduled events, so if you contact Amy Dietrich at 419-966-7345 she will put you into a group text and let you know of the time each Sunday. This is nothing organized, just "pick up" teams based on whoever shows up. Hope to see you in the gym!

**CHRISTMAS CARDS:** Check out the table in the hallway by the cry room! The Women of Freedom have put out new boxes of Christmas Cards for sale. The dish cloths are also available. Contact *Nancy Hogrefe, Marian Damman, Mabel Bischoff, Lois Rosebrock, or Karan Niebergall.*

**SERVING THEIR COUNTRY:** With Christmas just around the corner, and Christmas cards being sent to family and friends, why not take a few extra minutes to remember our St. John servicemen and women with a card too. 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

*KYLE ELLING*  
1556 Ripple Court  
Gulf Breeze, FL 32563

*EMILY SCHROEDER*  
1680 Rabon Farm Lane  
Columbia, SC 29223

*CONNOR GERKEN*  
379 ECS/SCOIM  
Unit 61208  
APO, AE 09309-1208

**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 5<sup>th</sup>** a box is placed in the narthex and a barrel in the cafeteria/fellowship hall for the collection of canned goods, dry goods and paper products. No Microwave items!

**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 (prepaid) 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.

#### **AREA EVENTS**

- ◆ **COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER!** The churches and service groups of Henry County are hosting a community Thanksgiving Meal at St. Paul Lutheran, 1075 Glenwood Ave., Napoleon on Thurs., Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer for more details!
- ◆ **RIDGEVILLE AMERICAN LEGION BLOOD DRIVE** will be held on Mon., Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> from noon – 6:00 PM at the Legion. Walk-ins welcome!
- ◆ **CHRISTMAS VILLAGE CRAFT SHOW** will be held at the Ridgeville Legion Hall, Sun., Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Lunch will be served. Come and browse the shops!
- ◆ **THE TOLEDO SYMPHONY** will perform a Christmas Concert at **St. Paul Lutheran Church – Napoleon Township, on Wed., Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> 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...**

**A diamond only became beautiful because of great pressure.**

*“Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver;  
I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.” (Isaiah 48:10)*



**GOD**

*is our refuge  
and strength,  
an ever present  
help in trouble*

-PSALM 46:1