



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

December 04, 2016

VOL. 81

NO. 49

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

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### SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sermon & Text: "The Axe Man Cometh" *Matthew 3:1-12*

Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting 3 (LSB pg. 184)*

Hymns: 359 ~ 344 ~ [Communion: 638,561,618] ~ 346

Adult Choir: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

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**WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS** *Advent is a season of repentance and preparation for the Coming of Christ. We warmly 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. 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.*

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

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Madison Bostelman & Ashton Niese, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ The Niermann Family, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Harold Behrmann & Richard Elling, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Karan Niebergall, Kaylee & Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, *Altar Guild* ✘

**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

**MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS TIME CHANGE** –Throughout December, the Wednesday evening confirmation class will meet from 5:45 - 6:45 PM to accommodate the Advent Services.

**ADVENT DEVOTION BOOKLETS** are available on the narthex table. They have been provided to us by L.A.M.P., Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots. Pick up a copy today!

<b>In God's House This Week</b>		<i>Online church calendar: <a href="http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl">www.DynaCal.com/sjl</a></i>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM 2:00 PM 6:00 PM	<b>Communion Service</b> Adult Bible Class; "Time To Spare" Children's Christmas Program practice ( <i>Gr. PS – 8 until 11:15 AM</i> ) Open Volleyball for anyone ( <i>note time change</i> ) <i>Advent By Candlelight</i> Potluck & Program
Mon.	7:00 PM	<i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Kramer Exercise Class <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study B-Ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls @ Swanton School Board & Stewardship Board Meetings
Wed.	10:20AM 5:45 PM 6:00 PM <b>7:00 PM</b>   8:00 PM	Late Start-Up due to Teacher In-Service at 8:30 AM Junior Confirmation Class ( <i>until 6:45 PM</i> ) Adult Bell Choir practice <b>Advent Service 2</b> Offering: <i>Providing scholarships to our youth for church vocations</i> Acolytes: <i>Taylor Dietrich &amp; Clay Behnfeldt</i> Greeters: <i>Bob &amp; Diane Norden</i> Ushers: <i>Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling</i> Altar Guild: <i>Karan Niebergall, Kaylee &amp; Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs</i> Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 4:30 PM	Exercise class B-Ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys @ Liberty Center
Fri.	TBD	B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls & Boys – St. Paul Napoleon Tournament
Sun.	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM 10:20AM  4:30 PM 6:00 PM	<b>Worship Service with Communion following</b> Voters' Meeting; Christmas Sweets & Treats fundraiser "Time To Spare"; Children's Christmas Program practice – Full run through ( <i>Gr. PS – 8 until 11:15 AM</i> ) Jr. High LYF Meeting Open Volleyball for anyone
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Keith Witte</i> , St. Paul Lutheran – Liberty Center

**THANKS SO MUCH FOR THE HELP:** We would like to give a great BIG and TALL "thank you" to *Pastor Kramer* and his family (Kurtis, Amy, Zeb, Zeek, Zach, Sarah, and Chris), *Larry Gerken* and his nephew, *Jacob Hogrefe*, *Neil Badenhop* and *Tom VonDeylen*, for their help in putting up the tree and working on the lights. *Joyce Wiechers* for her help with putting up the wreaths. Kurtis and Chris also rewired the tree in the fellowship hall and Amy helped *Phyllis Silveus* decorate that tree.

Make sure you join us in telling these people how much their willingness to help has added to our enjoyment of the Christmas season! Signed, *Anita, Kathy* and *Sandy*

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Lucia Delventhal, Renetta Homan, Stan Moll, and Delores Badenhop*
- ❖ *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, Connor Gerken, and Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Casen Lawrence*, for control of increased seizure activity he has been experiencing
- ❖ *Florence Fitzenreiter*, recovering at home from a recent hospitalization
- ❖ *Kaylynn Parsley* (Cheryl Yaw's great granddaughter), hospitalized in Dayton for RSV
- ❖ *Shirley Sonnenberg*, for a medical procedure she had this past week
- ❖ *Vernon Kruse*, for radiation treatments he is currently receiving

**SINCERE THANKS** – We wish to thank Pastor Niermann and Vicar Keller for their visits, prayers and words of comfort extended to our family during this time of sorrow. Thank you to the Women of Freedom for serving the meal and to all those who set up table and chairs for the funeral. Thanks, also, to the members of St. John for their prayers, cards and kindness shown during this difficult time. God's blessings to each one of you! *The Loren Maassel Family*

**ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT** – Tonight is the night for a special evening designed to help us prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christ's birth. We will enjoy a delicious candlelit potluck dinner, an Advent program including a musical performance by the Napoleon Jazz Choir, fellowship with friends, and a Christmas carol (or two). This wonderful evening is scheduled to begin at 5:30 and wrap up at 7:30 PM. Looking forward to seeing many of you there!



**ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES:** 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*
- **The offering this Wednesday evening** will be dedicated to providing scholarships for any youth of our congregation who want to pursue a career and vocation in church work.

**LETTER WRITERS** - The Women of Freedom write letters to a seminary student throughout the year. As of now, we still need volunteers to write letters for the months of August, September, October, November and December for the year 2017. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the back of the church or call Marian Damman (419-598-8462). The list for next year is then put in the 2017 Women of Freedom Program Booklet.

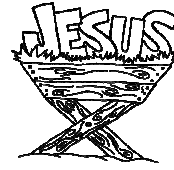
<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/27/16	\$9,806.17	\$374.00	\$445.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Sunday (11/27/16) Service: 262

**COMMUNED** in November: 523 members; 11 guests

**THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE:** \$1,078.00 to congregational missions; Attendance: 133

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCRIPTS** have been distributed 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.



**LIST OF 2017 CHURCH OFFICE NOMINATIONS:** *(as of the printing of this bulletin)*

**ELECTED:** Vice Pres. – *Dan Wiechers*

Treasurer – *Cathy Gerken*; Financial Trustee – *Cheryl Dietrich*

Elder – *Alan Gruenhagen, Larry Gerken*

Stewardship Board – *Kathy Badenhop, vacant*

Board of Education – *Mike Dietrich, vacant*

Alt. Delegate Syn – *Todd Hesterman, Dean Badenhop*

**APPOINTED:** Secretary – *Barb Bockelman*; Church Deacon – *vacant*

Trustee – *vacant, vacant*; Cemetery Sexton – *Ben Kruse*

Cemetery Board – *Todd Kruse, Neil Badenhop*

Asst. Sunday School Supt. – *vacant*

**NOTE:** The installation of our newly elected and appointed officers for the year 2017 will be conducted in the regular Sunday service on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

**LifeLight** meets this week on Monday evening (7pm) or 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. This week our session is titled, “**Living Heavenward.**” In this session we will discuss how we are to live our lives here as those whose lives are oriented to heaven.

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.

**BULLETIN STUFFER VOLUNTEERS:** There are still a few openings if you'd like to give this a try. A big “thank you” to all who have already signed up to help with stuffing the bulletins in 2017. You are the “behind the scenes” people of the church that keep things flowing smoothly on Sunday mornings. We appreciate your dedicated effort!

**SACKING CANDY:** The School Board and Sr. High LYF members will be assembling the Christmas sacks on Sun., Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> during the Sunday School hour.

**GREETER, USHER, AND ALTAR GUILD SIGN-UP** – 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.*

**SCRIP OVER THE HOLIDAYS:** 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!** The Stewardship Board is organizing a Christmas fundraiser for the Right Hand of Fellowship capital campaign. Put it on your calendar for Sun., Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> 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 Good Neighbor Fund.

Stop by on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> and let us brighten your Christmas season with a handpicked box of sweets and treats! Any questions should be directed to *Sarah VerMeulen, Kristyn Honemann, Cheryl Sausser, or Nate Bickel.*

**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.

**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!

**ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP:** **Sign up deadline is Mon., Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>.** Prices are \$20.00 for a couple and \$10.00 for an individual. Make checks payable to St. John Boosters and send to school with your child. Forms are available in the “School Info” rack outside the school office or contact any of the Booster officers: *Amy Rosebrook, Jody Meller, Krista Gerken, and Becky Michaelis.* Join today!

**MINI EAGLE INTEREST:** I would like to get Mini Eagles going again this season. The mini eagle program is designed to teach children in Grades K-2 the basics of basketball and begin to learn the fundamentals of the game. Any child in these grades can participate; however, I need a couple things to make this a success. The most important is a volunteer or two to coach the kids. I would like to see one or two of the parents coach the kids and hold a practice once per week. If we get a team together we may play other schools if they have similar programs. Otherwise we will hold practices and scrimmage during halftime at home games. Please consider helping with this program. Contact me if you have any questions. Thank you and Go Eagles! *AD Brad Rosebrook (419-966-3099)*

**VOLUNTEERS:** Grades 1&2 could use some volunteers to come in periodically to listen to them read, and work with them on flash cards and other math skills. If you would be interested in volunteering, please call the school office at 419-598-8702 and give us your name and a contact number. The school will contact you.

**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

#### **AREA EVENTS**

- ◆ **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!
- ◆ **COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT:** On **Monday, Dec. 5 at 7:00 PM** the Napoleon Community Band will perform a concert for the community. The concert will be held at the Emanuel Lutheran Church in Napoleon located at 810 Scott Street. Come and enjoy the band as they play some of their favorite Christmas songs. See flyer!
- ◆ **THE TOLEDO SYMPHONY** will perform a Christmas Concert at St. Paul Lutheran Church – Napoleon Township, on **Wed., Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM.** Tickets on sale thru their church office at 419-758-3522. See flyer!

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**Christmas is about presence, not presents.**

*“I will also walk among you and be your God.” (Lev. 26:12)*