



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

December 11, 2016

VOL. 81

NO. 50

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

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
Cell: 940-390-3065
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339
Church Website: www.sjl.org

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sermon & Text: "Make the World Great Again" *Matthew 11:1-11*

Order of Service: *Matins (LSB pg. 219)*

Hymns: *511 ~ 690 ~ 349*

Chime Choir: *Gr. 5&6 ring "The King Shall Come"*

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. 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.*



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Ashton Niese & Kaleb Woods, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Jerry & Nancy Short, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✠

HOLY COMMUNION will be offered this morning following the Worship service. Those who wish to attend should fill out a Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and give it to the usher during the collection of the offering this morning. Return immediately to the front pews in the sanctuary following the service.

VOTERS' ASSEMBLY TODAY AFTER THE SERVICE: The annual December Voters' Assembly will be held in the fellowship hall today 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

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

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM 6:00 PM	Worship Service with Communion following Voters' Meeting; Christmas Sweets & Treats fundraiser <i>Java Joy</i> ; "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.	7:00 PM	<i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM 5:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Niermann; Offering: <i>Lutheran Bible Translators</i> Exercise Class <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study B-Ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:00 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys @ BG
Wed.	5:45 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Junior Confirmation Class (<i>until 6:45 PM</i>) Adult Bell Choir practice Advent Service 3 Offering: <i>Lutheran Braille Workers</i> Acolytes: <i>Madison Bostelman & Gavin Gerken</i> Greeters: <i>Tom & Sandy VonDeylen</i> Ushers: <i>Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling</i> Altar Guild: <i>Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short</i>
Thurs.	9:00 AM 4:30 PM 5:30 PM	Exercise class B-Ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls @ Liberty Center B-Ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys; 6:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. St. Pats – Bryan
Sat.	10:00AM 4:30 PM	B-Ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:15 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys @ St. John – Defiance Sr. High LYF Christmas Caroling (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:20AM 7:00 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Children's Christmas Program practice -- Full run through (<i>Gr. PS – 8 until 11:15 AM</i>) School Board & Sr. High LYF sacking Christmas candy bags Children's Christmas Program (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Logan Scheiwe</i> , St. Paul Lutheran – Napoleon

A BIG THANK YOU to all who helped make Advent By Candlelight a special evening. Thank you committee ladies, table hostesses, 7th & 8th Grade (*set-up*), Pastor (*sound and audio*), Bethann Gerken (*piano*), Napoleon High School Jazz Choir (*entertainment group*), and all the ladies who came with their delicious potluck dishes. It was such a nice evening enjoyed by all!!

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!

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*
- ❖ *Shirley Sonnenberg, for a recent medical procedure*
- ❖ *Vernon Kruse, for radiation treatments he is currently receiving*
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs, hospitalized this past week and recovering at Northcrest Nursing Home*



JAVA JOY TODAY! It's the second Sunday of the month, and that means **Java Joy** following the service. Take a little time to enjoy a bite to eat and some fellowship. A table is set up in the front hallway. Your gifts to the "kitty" help keep **Java Joy** alive and going. We thank *Mark & Brenda Elling* and *Rich & Bev Elling* for hosting Java Joy for December.

Interested in being a **Java Joy** host? Please sign up on the table in the narthex. Don't let finances stop you – you are welcome to reimburse your expenses from the kitty if you wish.

TODAY IS CHRISTMAS SWEETS & TREATS! The Christmas Sweets & Treats Shop will be open today after the worship service. 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. Proceeds will go toward a congregational mission trip in the summer of 2107. Stop by and let us brighten your Christmas season with a handpicked box of sweets and treats!

- If you brought items for the Sweets-n-Treats, take them to the gym lobby where a member of the Stewardship Board will assist you.

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, Lisa Bockelman*

Elder – *Alan Gruenhagen, Larry Gerken*

Stewardship Board – *Kathy Badenhop, Dave VonDeylen, Diane Johnson*

Board of Education – *Mike Dietrich, Zoe Foor*

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

APPOINTED: Secretary – *Barb Bockelman*; Church Deacon – *Denny VonDeylen*

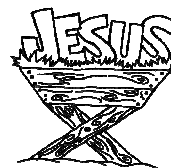
Trustee – *Dave Rohrs, vacant*; Cemetery Sexton – *Ben Kruse*

Cemetery Board – *Todd Kruse(Brenda), Neil Badenhop, Randy Rosebrock*

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 1st.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PRACTICES – Our SJLS students will continue practicing throughout the week, but only a few more rehearsals remain on the schedule for the entire group. One of those rehearsals is this morning after worship. The other will be held next Sunday immediately following the worship service. Parents, if your child hasn't learned their part by heart yet, please take time with them throughout the week to help them.



2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES – With gratitude to God for the generous support of our members of the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this place, the 2017 offering envelopes are available today. Please pick yours up, and may God prosper the work of our hands and the giving of His people! If you did not receive a box of envelopes but would like one, please contact *Sara Myles* (419-966-1335) until Jan. 1st. After Jan. 1st, please contact *Al Damman* (419-598-8425).



ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES will begin **this Wednesday, November 30th**. 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 used to support the ministry of *Lutheran Braille Workers*, providing God's Word to the blind. Thanks be to God for this vital ministry!

SR. HIGH LYF CHRISTMAS CAROLING – The Sr. High LYF will be out caroling on Sat., Dec. 17th. We will be visiting shut-ins and houses in the area of the church. If you live near the church and would like us to stop by, please contact the church office so that we can put you down. We will meet at 4:30 PM in the parking lot of St. John. Afterwards we will come back to the church and warm up with some hot chocolate and cookies. All are welcome to join us!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 12/04/16	\$20,576.00	\$680.00	\$550.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday (12/04/16) Service: 204

ADVENT SERVICE #1 (11-30-16): \$530.00 – Congregational missions; Attendance: 91

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 today.** *You do not need to sign up again if you are currently serving as a greeter, usher or are on an altar guild team.*

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, and October 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).

Christmas at St. John

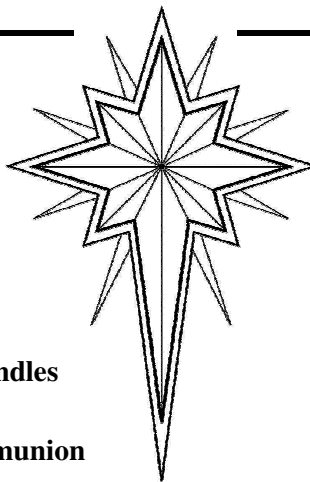
Oh, come, all ye faithful! The time has come once again to celebrate God's greatest gift to humanity, the one and only gift that gives forever!

Sun. Dec. 18 7:00 pm - Children's Christmas Service
"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"
(with a visit from Dr. Martin Luther)

Wed. Dec. 21 7:00 pm - Midweek Advent Service 4

Sat. Dec. 24 7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service of Carols & Candles
"A Christmas Gift Card - It's all yours!"

Sun. Dec. 25 9:00 pm - Christmas Festival Service, Holy Communion



OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Please note that there is no offering envelope in your boxes for the Children's Christmas Program next Sunday at 7:00 PM. If you wish for your offering at that service to be recorded, use any spare Sunday envelope in your set. Regardless of which envelope you use, unless you specify something in writing on the envelope, we will assume it should go to the Home Fund as designated.



SCRIP FOR THE HOLIDAYS: The last SCRIP orders accepted for Christmas will be tomorrow, **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.**

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Check out the table in the hallway by the cry room! The Women of Freedom have put out their boxed Christmas Cards for sale. The dish cloths are also available and be sure to check out the display board to see if you are interested in purchasing any cutlery items such as: Paring Knives, Stubby Butcher Knives, Pie Servers, Vegetable Peelers, Slicer Knives, Granny Forks, Carving Forks, Pizza Cutters, Tomato Slicer, and Small Spatula. Contact officers *Nancy Hogrefe, Marian Damman, Mabel Bischoff, Lois Rosebrock, or Karan Niebergall* if you would like to see or purchase any of these items.

FELLOWSHIP HALL LIGHTS: If you use the fellowship hall or are in the fellowship hall and walk out, please leave the light switches set in the "ON" position. Both ends of the fellowship hall light switches are motion activated, so when you walk in they will automatically come on, and when you walk out they will automatically turn off after 8 minutes. This will take some getting used to, but please do not set the switches to the "off" position. Thank you!

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 2016. Here are the individual year-to-date deposits for 2016: St. John Church - \$16,791.00; St. John School - \$2,609.00; St. John Preschool - \$91.00. A well-deserved “thank you” to Thrivent for providing these funds throughout the year.

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**



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.

PTL COOKBOOKS: Don't forget a cookbook for someone on your Christmas list! This cookbook would make a great gift for that “hard to buy” family member. At a cost of only \$10, check out the display in the side hallway and pick up and pay for your copy today.

ARE YOU A MYSTERY READER? Don't forget to consider being a Mystery Reader for the Kindergarten classroom anytime this school year. They have already had several Readers.

- Who can be a Mystery Reader?* Parents of students, older siblings, grandparents, relatives, church members, or other special people may volunteer to read a story to our class. The goal is to remain a “mystery” so that the children are surprised to learn who our Mystery Reader will be! Please keep it a secret!
- What does a Mystery Reader Do?*

Mystery Readers are welcome to choose any age-appropriate book to read to our class. You may bring a book from home, or if you would like to borrow a book, you are welcome to do so. For added fun, readers may bring props or costumes related to their stories, if you wish.

If this sounds like “you” please complete a form by the Mystery Reader box on the narthex table or contact Mrs. Niermann to sign up.

SUNDAY NIGHT VOLLEYBALL & FELLOWSHIP: 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 6:00 – 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!

SPORTS NOTE: Basketball schedules are being posted on FastDirect. Please check Brad Rosebrook's Calendar in Fast Direct frequently as this is where any changes will be posted.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP: Sign up deadline is tomorrow. 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.*

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.

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!

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

THE TOLEDO SYMPHONY will perform a Christmas Concert at St. Paul Lutheran Church – Napoleon Township, on **Wed., Dec. 14th at 7:30 PM.** Tickets on sale thru their church office at 419-758-3522. See flyer!

✂ ✂ ✂

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Bought all your presents? Don't forget His presence.

"They will call him Immanuel" (which means 'God with us')" (Matt 1:23)



O Come O Come Emmanuel

