



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

December 25, 2016

VOL. 81

NO. 52

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

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

### THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Sermon & Text: "The Best Gift" *John 1:1-14*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: 384 ~ 368 ~ 380 ~ 382 ~ 391 ~ [Communion: 383,393,369] ~ 387

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*The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us.*

### A SAVIOR IS BORN

*Please help us get to know who you are by filling 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**

- ✘ Hope Buchhop & Maggie Weller, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Gavin Gerken, *Banner Bearer* ✘ Emersyn Gerken, *Crucifer* ✘
- ✘ Lois Arps & Evelyn Rohrs, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✘

**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. Enjoy them!

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** booklets for January, February, and March are on the desk in the back of the church. Pick up a copy today!

**MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS** – There **will be** class on Wednesday, Dec. 28.

**2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES** – There are still several who have not picked up their 2017 offering envelopes. If you did not receive a box of envelopes but would like one, please contact *Sara Myles* (419-966-1335) until Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>. After Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, please contact *Al Damman* (419-598-8425).

**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	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Christmas Day Festival Service w/Communion;</b> Offering: <i>Home Fund</i> Acolytes: <i>Maggie Weller &amp; Hope Buchhop</i> Greeters: <i>Lois Arps &amp; Evelyn Rohrs</i> Ushers: <i>Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling</i> Altar Guild: <i>Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short</i>
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class
Sun.	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM 6:00 PM	<b>Communion Service</b> Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Open Volleyball
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. David Goehmann</i> , St. Luke Lutheran – Wauseon

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

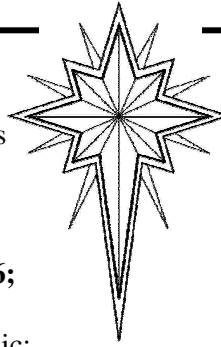
- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Lucia Delventhal, Renetta Homan, Stan Moll, Florence Fitzenreiter, and Delores Badenhop*
- ❖ *Marie Damman* and *Delora Winkelman*, at The Lutheran Home, Napoleon
- ❖ *Anna Brodman* and *Marian Buchhop* residing at Country View Haven
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Servicemen, *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Kyle Elling, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, and Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Casen Lawrence*, for seizure activity he has been experiencing
- ❖ *Shirley Sonnenberg*, for a recent medical procedure
- ❖ *Vernon Kruse*, for radiation treatments and a recent hospitalization
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs*, recuperating at Northcrest Nursing Home following a recent fall
- ❖ *Rodney Rosebrock*, for outpatient surgery at FCHC for rotator cuff repair this past week

**THANK YOU** from the School Board to Mahnke Orchards (*Richard & Elaine*) for donating all the apples that were put in the Christmas Sacks; to the LYF for their help in filling the sacks with candy, fruit, and peanuts; and to Church Decorating Volunteer Crew for decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

**NEW GREETER (yellow) SCHEDULES:** The 2017 Greeter schedules are available today and can be picked up on the narthex table. Usher and Altar 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!

**MITE-Y-SOCKS:** Anyone that filled a Mite-Y Sock for Missions this year, may turn them in now. A large LWML Mite box is placed on the table in the narthex into which you may place your Mite-y-Sock for this year. If you wish to keep your sock to refill in 2017, simply empty it into the box.

# Christmas Thanks



THIS MORNING, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, we also give thanks to Him for the fellowship of the redeemed in this place who have loved His appearing. We are especially grateful for all those who helped make our Christmas celebration such a great time of joy. **Thank you to...**

- those who **decorated the sanctuary** for Advent and Christmas;
- everyone who planned and participated in **Advent by Candlelight 2016**;
- those who supported **Sweets-n-Treats** for a summer mission trip;
- our **musicians and choirs** for beautifying our worship with special music;
- the **children** who proclaimed Jesus' birth at this year's children's service, and their parents for **supporting them in this way in their faith development**;
- the **school** staff and other **volunteers** who helped with the children's Christmas service;
- the **ushers, altar guild members, greeters** and **acolytes** who helped us in worship;
- to **all who gave gifts** to the various causes we supported at our midweek services.

# Merry Christmas

**WOMEN OF FREEDOM** – The Program Booklets for 2017 are in a box on the table in the narthex. They are in alphabetical order. Be sure to pick yours up today. Also be sure to check to see what month you are on for serving. If that time does not work out for you, you can switch with someone.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 12/18/16	\$32,009.00	\$130.00	\$567.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Sunday (12/18/16) Service: 265

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (12/18/16):** \$1,583.00 – Home Fund; Attendance: 401

**ADVENT SERVICE #4 (12-21-16):** \$564.00 – Local Lutheran Hour Radio; Attendance: 81

**MEMORIALS** for *Loren Maassel*: \$4,450.00 – St. John Church Memorial Fund  
\$30.00 – St. John School Memorial Fund

**HELP WITH SERVICE SLIDES** – In the New Year we'd like to recruit some people to help with worship slides by taking charge of the "presentation clicker" and advancing the slides during worship services. Once we've identified some people, we will set up a training session to teach everyone how to perform this task. If you are interested in serving in this way, please speak with Dan Wachtman or Pastor Niermann.



**INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS** – We give thanks to God for everyone who submitted their names for nomination to our various church offices. Your servant hearts and willing spirits provide an example for us all! **Those who were elected or appointed to offices for the coming year will be installed into those offices on the first Sunday of the New Year, January 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Officers to be installed are: **President** – *Tom VonDeylen*; **Vice President** – *Dan Wiechers*; **Treasurer** – *Cathy Gerken*; **Financial Trustee** – *Cheryl Dietrich*; **Elders** – *Alan Gruenhagen, Larry Gerken*; **Stewardship Board** – *Kathy Badenhop, Diane Johnson*; **Board of Education** (installed to take office in July 2017) – *Zoe Foor, Christa Bickel*; **Alt. Delegate Syn** – *Todd Hesterman*; **Secretary** – *Barb Bockelman*; **Church Deacon** – *Denny VonDeylen*; **Trustees** – *Dave Rohrs, Terry Norden*; **Sunday School Supt.** – *Zoe Foor, Lisa Brown*; **Asst. Sunday School Supt.** – *vacant*; **Cemetery Board** – *Todd Kruse, Neil Badenhop, Randy Rosebrock*; **Cemetery Sexton** – *Ben Kruse*.

**ASSISTANT SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPT.** – With the recent elections and appointments, we are still searching for a volunteer for Assistant SS Superintendent. We will need someone beginning in January 2017. Thank you to whoever chooses to help out with this appointed position.

**THE FLOWER CALENDAR** for 2017 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. **The price for the flowers through the Women of Freedom is \$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.

**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!

**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**



**FREEDOM FLOCK HELP:** The Freedom Flock After School Program is looking for a few people to fill in with our after school program when there is an emergency, illness, etc. with the full time aide. You would be “on call” if we need a quick substitute. It would be for three hours or less (*depending how soon all the children are picked up*) from 3 – 6 PM. If you are interested, please contact the school office at 419-598-8702.

**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!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENINGS** are held in the kitchen end of the fellowship hall. The goal is to alleviate the crunch after church so that Sunday School can get off to a quieter and more timely start.

**PTL FUNDRAISER:** The St. John PTL is selling vehicle decals as a fundraiser. Blue order forms are available in the “School Info” rack outside the office. The cost is \$10 per decal and order deadline is Fri., Jan. 6, 2017. Checks should be made payable to St. John PTL. We will also post the order form on FastDirect under “Links” in the “Everybody” section.

**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.

**SPORTS NOTE:** **Basketball schedules/calendars are being posted on FastDirect.** Please continue to check Brad Rosebrook's Calendar in Fast Direct frequently as this is where he will post any changes to the schedules.

**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)*

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree.**

*“Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.” (LSB 361:4)*