



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

January 1, 2017

VOL. 82

NO. 1

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

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

THE CIRCUMCISION AND NAME OF JESUS

Sermon & Text: "Savior Is As Savior Does" *Luke 2:21*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: 896 ~ 549 ~ 900 ~ [Communion: 725,524,527] ~ 924 ~ 917

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* ✘ Hope Buchhop & Gavin Gerken, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Marietta Damman & Arlene Wallace, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Harold Behrmann & Rich Elling, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Karan Niebergall, Ronda and Kaylee Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, *Altar Guild* ✘

Life's Big Questions, God Big Answers – New Bible Study

Beginning next Sunday, the Sunday morning adult Bible study will be looking into some of life's big questions and exploring God's Word for God's big answers. Does evolution explain the world? What are humans? What is a canon? (This one has to do with how Scripture came to exist.) Was Noah's flood really a worldwide event? What is post-modernism and the new tolerance? This study covers 13 questions in all, and we'll try to tackle two of them each Sunday during the course of this study. Please join us as we grow in grace and in the knowledge of God's Holy Word.

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.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 6:00 PM	Communion Service w/Installation of Church Officers Sunday School; "Time To Spare"; Adult Bible Study Open Volleyball
Tue.	8:20 AM 8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	School resumes Chapel led by Pastor Kramer Exercise Class Stewardship Board and School Board Meetings
Wed.	10:20AM 6:15 PM 6:45 PM	Late Start-Up due to Teacher In-Service at 8:30 AM Jr. High Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM) Adult Bell Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 5:30 PM	Men's Bible Study Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. St. Pats – Bryan
Sat.	10:00AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:15 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys; 12:30 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls; 1:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. Trinity – Toledo
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM 6:00 PM	Worship Service with Communion following Sunday School; "Time To Spare"; Adult Bible Class Jr. High LYF (until 6:00 PM) Open Volleyball
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: *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 rotator cuff repair recently
- ❖ *Stan & Ruth Moll*, who celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary on Friday, Dec. 30th

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

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 ALTAR GUILD (pink) & GREETER (yellow) SCHEDULES: The 2017 Altar Guild and Greeter schedules are available today and can be picked up on the narthex table. The Usher schedule is 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!

INSTALLATION OF 2017 CHURCH OFFICERS – The Lord’s greatest gifts to His church are not its monetary or material resources, but its people – baptized into Christ, and willing to serve in the name of Him who served them to the death. This morning we give thanks to God for those who have served us this past year as congregational officers, and for those who will be installed into office for the New Year. Those who are being installed this morning are: 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 Synod** – *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.

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 Finance Deacon, *Al Damman* (419-598-8425).

SCHOOL MEMORIES: There are several copies of old St. John School yearbooks found in the office that are being offered, to anyone interested, on a “first come, first serve” basis. These are from the 2000-2001 school year (14 copies) and the 2002-2003 school year (23 copies). If you were a student or the parent of a student at that time, you may want to pick up a keepsake copy; or anyone can just pick up a copy to enjoy. They are available on the desk in the narthex.

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.

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.

MITES & WOMEN OF FREEDOM – The next meeting of the St. John Women of FREEDOM will be held Tues., Jan. 17, 2017 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 October. February is our Quilt and Blanket Knotting Party and in 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 narthex.

Also to be noted is that the Women of Freedom will be continuing the Mite-y Socks program in 2017. 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 2017 sock today!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 12/25/16	\$24,806.00	\$49.00	\$337.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday (12/25/16) Service: 159

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS & CANDLES: *Home Fund* - \$6,004.00 Attendance: 332

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.

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 \$7.00 (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).

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.

SOUP & PIE DINNER – The annual PTL Soup & Pie Dinner will be held on Sun., Jan. 29, 2017, 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.



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 29th!

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.

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.

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.

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.

GOT SOME TIME? Why not be an adult volunteer at St. John School. You could listen to children read, talk about your time in the military, work with flash cards, or tell children about a hobby or craft you enjoy doing. The possibilities are endless and your time with them will be priceless!

If you would be interested in volunteering in the next school year, please call the school office at 419-598-8702 and give us your name and a contact number. The school will contact you. Thank you in advance for thinking about volunteering at our school.

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!

PRAYER CALENDAR NOTE: Please be aware that if you would like your wedding anniversaries printed on the prayer calendars, you will have to post them each year. Just list them on the blank calendars posted on the bulletin board in the narthex throughout the year.

ST. JOHN CHURCH LIBRARY – Stop in and check out the growing number of books available in the church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary. The books in this library have been screened to assure that they are true to the Word of God and can be trusted to be theologically sound. To borrow a book, just take it with you, and then return it to the basket when you've finished reading. A complete list of the books in the church's library can be found by clicking on the "Book Inventory" link on the library page of our church's website. <http://www.sjl.org/library.html>

THE LUTHERAN HOUR – The Lutheran Hour Ministries can be heard on several radio stations in our area. They cover many interesting topics relevant to today's issues. Broadcasts can be heard Sundays on: Holland's WPOS 102.3 at 7:00 AM; Archbold's WMTR 96.1 at 7:30 AM; Defiance's WONW (AM)1280 at 10:30 AM; Napoleon's WNDH 103.1 at 12:00 PM.

“WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS”: “Worship for Shut-Ins” has joined the WLMB-TV40 line up. If you have a relative or friend who is homebound, hospitalized, or recovering from a recent surgery, you may suggest this 30-minute LCMS worship service to them. So tune in to WLMB-TV40 on Sundays at 6:30 AM and get your Sunday started off right!

EXERCISE CLASS: Need to work off a few pounds or just want to exercise your heart? St. John hosts an exercise class in the gym. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-10 AM and the cost is \$7 per class (*pay as you come*). \$6 if prepaying for sessions. This is a light aerobics and strengthening program. (*If you have your own weights, bring them with you.*) Please contact Nancy Glaser (419-598-8432) with any questions.

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**



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

New year, same God!

“Our God, our Help in ages past, our Hope for years to come.” (LSB 361:4)