



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. 48

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

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

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder
Hymns: 810 ~ 564 ~ 509 ~ 941 ~ 537

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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Bethann Gerken, *Pianist* ✘ Gavin Gerken & Kaelyn Gerken, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Richard & Bev Elling, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Badenhop, Sandy VonDeylen, Mary Rettig, *Altar Guild* ✘

VERY GRATEFUL! I would like to thank Pastor Niermann for the visits and prayers and all the cards and well wishes from the congregation during my recent heart attack and recovery. I will finish my cardiac therapy during Christmas week. I am getting stronger each day. Thanks again to everyone! Signed, *Elmer Maassel*

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES will begin on Wed., Dec. 6th at 7:00 PM. Services will be held on subsequent Wednesdays, Dec. 13th, and Dec. 20th also at 7:00 PM.

MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS TIME CHANGE – Beginning on Wed., Dec. 6th and during the Advent Season, the Wednesday evening confirmation class will meet from 5:45 - 6:45 PM to accommodate the 7:00 PM Advent Services.

In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Kramer Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. Napoleon (@ St. Paul) Shepherd Committee Board of Elders
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class Adult Bell Choir practice Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 4:30 PM	Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. Wauseon (@ St. Paul)
Sat.	10:00AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:00 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys @ Solomon
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM 6:00 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; "The Lamp"; Children's Christmas Program practice (Gr. PS – 8 until 11:15 AM) Jr. High LYF Advent By Candlelight Dinner & Program (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Matthew Schiemann</i> , St. John Lutheran – Defiance

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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, and Anna Brodman*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Lucia Delventhal*, at Fulton Manor, Wauseon
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs, Delores Badenhop, and Melba Elling*, in Assisted Living at The Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Armed Services: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Shirley Sonnenberg, Ezekiel Damman, Pat Kramer, and Todd Wachtman*, dealing with health issues at this time
- ❖ *Lawrence Langenhop*, temporarily at Genacross Lutheran Home after a recent fall at home

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT: WOMEN AND MEN – invitations have been mailed for Advent By Candlelight to be held on Sun., Dec. 3 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. 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 an Advent program. RSVP today!

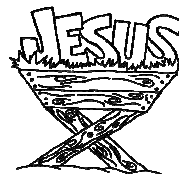
At this time we'd like to identify hostesses to each decorate one dinner table at this event. The hostess sign-up sheet and hostess information packets are located on the Christmas table in the narthex. You may contact *Kathy Behnfeldt* (598-8682) if you have any questions.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY - A Man Named Luther – Part 3:

The Movement. Most people don't have a full appreciation of how Martin Luther and the Reformation he sparked has impacted not just the church but, indeed, all of civilization. In its December 1999 issue, *Time Magazine* listed Martin Luther as the second most influential person of the past millennium. His influence reaches far beyond the church to impact education, family life, and even the formation of governments, our own included. Join Pastor Niermann this morning for the study of God's Word and to gain a deeper appreciation of the Reformation and how it has impacted our world.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE – Parts have been assigned and were handed out last Sunday and throughout the week at school. If you child still does not have their part, please pick it up today in Sunday School. **The Children's Christmas Service is on Sunday evening, December 17th at 7:00 PM.** Christmas practices will begin on Sun., Dec. 3rd during the Sunday School hour. In addition to the practices held during the school week, there will be practices on Sun., Dec. 10th and 17th during the Sunday School hour.



GIVING BACK AT ST. JOHN!

Recently a form with lists of the many ways you can serve here at your church was in the bulletin.

- Some of these are the elective and appointed offices of the congregation. These are the most pressing for us at this time of year.
- Others are volunteer positions for the many things that need to be accomplished for our church to continue in ministry.
- There is also a section for your own ideas. If there's a way you'd like to serve that's not listed, please write in the idea.

Deposit your completed form in the box in the narthex labeled, "Serving Christ in Freedom." These forms will be distributed to the appropriate people so that contact can be made and you can begin serving. It is our prayer that everyone will find at least one way they can serve or perhaps more. God has given gifts to each and every one of us to be used in His service. What a privilege!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/19/17	\$7,188.00	\$226.00	\$417.00

ATTENDANCE: 227 Thanksgiving Eve Service: \$1,679.00; Attendance: 130

VOTERS' MEETING will be Sunday, December 17 after the Communion service in the Fellowship Hall. On the agenda will be: 1) *Election of Officers*; 2) *Distribution of "Soaring with the Eagles" funds*; 3) *Approval of 2018 Budget*; 4) *Second reading and potential vote on Constitution change to Article IV Communicant Membership wording*; 5) *Second reading and potential vote on Constitution change to Article VIII Synodical Membership wording*; 6) *Discussion and potential vote on new policy concerning Religious Employment Criteria*; 7) *Discussion and potential vote on proposed revision to the Facilities Use Policy*; 8) *Discussion and potential vote on positions approved by the Voters Assembly for hiring by the School Board.*

MITTEN TREE – December 3-13

During the first few weeks of this Advent season, we will have a “Mitten Tree” in the narthex where you can make donations of mittens, gloves, hats and scarves, or even new or lightly used coats, for needy people of all ages in our area. Bring your items to church on the first two Sundays and Wednesdays of December. You can hang them or place them underneath the Mitten Tree. After the second midweek Advent service on Dec. 13th the items will be gathered up and sent to *The Salvation Army* for distribution to the needy in our area, in time for Christmas. *Let us heed the words of our Lord, “I was naked and you clothed me.” (Matt. 25:36)*



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 2018. You are the “behind the scenes” people of the church that keep things flowing smoothly on Sunday mornings. We appreciate your dedicated effort!

GREETER, USHER, AND ALTAR GUILD SIGN-UP – We are preparing the 2018 greeter, usher, and altar guild schedules so this is the time to sign-up at the table in the narthex. 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 team? A few people have dropped out over the past year and so we ask you to consider signing up for one of these teams. The sign-up deadline is Sunday, Dec. 10th. *You do not need to sign up again if you are currently serving as a greeter, usher or are on an altar guild team.*

2018 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 Alan Damman, Finance Trustee, and a box will be issued to you.

Advent 2017

- **Advent begins next Sunday, December 3rd**
- **Church Decorating** will be happening sometime this week.
- **Midweek Advent Services** will be held on the Wednesday evenings of December 6, 13, and 20. Services will begin at 7:00 p.m.
- **Advent by Candlelight** is next Sunday, Dec. 3rd. Please get signed up this morning in the narthex.
- **Midweek Confirmation Class** during Advent will meet on Wednesday evenings from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.



CALENDARS & MORE CALENDARS – We received 2018 calendars from Snyder-Wesche-Hoening Funeral Home and Rodenberger Funeral Home, both in Napoleon. These calendars will be available on the narthex table and desk on a first come, first serve basis.

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 Glaser, Marian Damman, Mabel Bischoff, Lois Rosebrock, or Karan Niebergall.*

SCRIP AT ST. JOHN: The *SCRIP* campaign will run for the remainder of the school year. *Make a Note* – **The final order before Christmas break is due on Mon., Dec. 11th.** *SCRIP* orders will resume when school is back in session on Tues., Jan. 2. Think ahead--if you give out gift cards for Christmas consider purchasing them from PTL. Order forms 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. **Payment to St. John Lutheran PTL** must accompany orders. **Any questions can be directed to the SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207.**

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 4th** 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! Suggestions are: *Canned Vegetables, Fruit, Soup, Stews, Meats; Macaroni & Cheese Mixes, Spaghetti's, Spaghetti Sauce, Tomato Juice, Broths, Noodles, Rice, Spaghetti; Instant Potato, Stuffing, Cake Mixes; Cereals, Syrups, Crackers, Peanut Butter, Pudding, Jell-o, Frostings, Fruit Juices, Coffee, Kool-aid, Chocolate Drink Mixes; Tissues, Toilet Tissue, Paper Towels; Bar Soap, Toothpaste, etc.*

AREA EVENTS

- ◆ **RIDGEVILLE AMERICAN LEGION BLOOD DRIVE** will be held on **Mon., Dec. 4th from noon – 6:00 PM** at the Legion. Call 800-733-2767 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins also welcome!
- ◆ **CHRISTMAS VILLAGE CRAFT SHOW** will be held at the Ridgeville Legion Hall, Sun., **Dec. 3rd from 11:00 AM – 4:00 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. 13th at 7:30 PM.** Tickets on sale thru their church office at 419-758-3522. See flyer!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Life is short, Death is sure, Sin the cause, Christ the cure.

*“He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”
(1 John 2:2)*