



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

December 3, 2017

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

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sermon & Text: "The King Comes – HOW?" *Mark 11:1-10*

Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting Four (page 203)*

Hymns: **331 ~ 339** ~ (Communion: **332, 632, 341**) ~ **333**

Adult Choir: "This Child, Emmanuel", accompanied by Sarah Bartok on the flute

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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Clay Behnfeldt & Logan Honemann, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Esther Layton & Phyllis Silveus, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Richard Elling & Harold Behrmann, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Richard Elling, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham, *Altar Guild* ✘

Advent 2017

- **Advent begins today**, the first day of the new church year.
- **Thank you to those who decorated the church this past 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 this evening.
- **Midweek Confirmation Class** during Advent will meet on Wednesday evenings from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.



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 Adult Bible Class; "The Lamp"; Children's Christmas Program practice (<i>Gr. PS – 8 until 11:15 AM</i>) Advent By Candlelight Dinner & Program (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.	Noon 4:30 PM	Blood Drive at Ridgeville American Legion (<i>until 6:00 PM</i>) B-Ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. Delta (@ <i>St. Paul – Napoleon</i>)
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 4:30 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Kramer Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. Swanton (@ <i>St. Paul – Napoleon</i>) B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys @ Swanton School Board & Stewardship Board Meetings
Wed.	4:30 PM 5:45 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Mini Eagles Basketball practice (<i>until 5:30 PM</i>) Junior Confirmation Class (<i>until 6:45 PM</i>) Adult Bell Choir practice Advent Service 1 ; Offering: <i>Church Vocation Students</i> Acolytes: <i>Hannah Wachtman & Claire Wachtman</i> Greeters: <i>Larry & Pat Mahnke</i> Ushers: <i>Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers</i> Altar Guild: <i>Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham</i> Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 5:00 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant Exercise class B-Ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls; 6:15 M Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. St. Pats – Bryan (H)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service with Communion following "The Lamp"; Adult Bible Study; Children's Christmas Program practice – Full run through (<i>Gr. PS – 8 until 11:15 AM</i>)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Jacob Stuenkel, St. Peter Lutheran – Florida</i>

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
- ❖ *Deb Damman*, recuperating at home following outpatient surgery this past week

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 have 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.

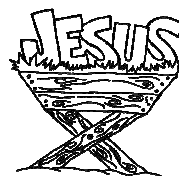


ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT – Tonight is the night for a special evening designed to help us prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christ's birth. We will enjoy a delicious candlelit potluck dinner, an Advent program including a visit with the Black Swamp Storyteller, fellowship with friends, and a Christmas carol (or two). This wonderful evening is scheduled to begin at 6:00 and wrap up at 8:00 PM. Looking forward to seeing many of you there!



MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet during Advent on Wednesdays from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. with the midweek Advent service to follow.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE – Parts have been assigned and handed out. If your 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 today 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.



DRESS CODE FOR THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Girls should wear either a dress or dress pants and a blouse or sweater. Boys should wear dress pants or khakis (*no cargo pants*) and a sweater or dress shirt (*any color*) and tie (*optional*). No jeans or athletic shoes.

ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP – For the next three Wednesdays, God's people will gather for midweek Advent services at 7:00 p.m. Our midweek theme this year is...

"We Three Kings"

But not the three you're thinking of

To find out the identities of the three kings of which we speak, and what they have to do with King Jesus, join us this and each Wednesday evening during Advent. Take time this year to count down to Christmas in a way that will truly prepare your heart for a joyous celebration of Christ's birth!



SACKING CANDY: The School Board and Sr. High LYF members will be assembling the Christmas sacks on Sun., Dec. 17th during the Sunday School hour.

MITTEN TREE – Beginning today and for the next 10 days, a “Mitten Tree” will be set up 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)*



NOMINATIONS FOR 2017 – The Stewardship Board is trying to fill a ballot for office nominations for 2017. If you are contacted about possibly serving in an office, please give prayerful consideration to that request. Every child of God has gifts to be used in service to Christ and His people. Thank you for your response to His calling, “Here am I, send me!”

Bible Study



MEN’S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY – Join us bright and early this Thursday morning at 6:30 AM at *Hill’s Family Restaurant* in Napoleon. Breakfast is \$7.00, which includes the tip. It’s a great way to start your day! Good food, good friends, and a good Word from God!

EXPERT GUESTS, EXPANSIVE TOPICS, EXTOLLING CHRIST... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. This week's topics include: Joel Osteen's book "Blessed in the Darkness," 4th Century Bishop Saint Nicholas, John the Baptist Prepares the Way, Peter & John Heal a Lame Man and more. You can listen live at www.issuesetc.org and on the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

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!

LYF HOCKEY NIGHT! On Dec. 16th, both Jr & Sr High LYF will be going to a Toledo Walleye hockey game at the Huntington Center. The cost will be \$17, with group recognition on the video board during the game. RSVP to Miss Bartok by Tues., Dec. 5th. We will also need chaperones / drivers for the game.

OLD SCHOOL PURCHASE OFFER: There has been interest recently from someone to purchase the old school. They have been shown the interior of the building, and have made an offer of \$28,000 to buy it. This will be a Voters' Meeting discussion item on Dec. 17th.

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*; **ADDED ITEM:** 9) *Potential consideration of a buyer's offer to purchase the old school.*

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/26/17	\$8,442.87	\$116.00	\$172.00

ATTENDANCE: 228

MEMORIAL given in memory of the 27th birthday of Carl Rohrs to St. John Lutheran Church - \$500

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.

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.**

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. **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.*

ST. JOHN MINI EAGLES BASKETBALL program will begin on Wed., Dec. 6, 2017 from 4:30 – 5:30 PM. We are pleased to be able to have Mini Eagles again this year! A brief parent meeting will be held at the beginning of this first practice, right at 4:30 PM. During this meeting we will provide you with the schedule, have you complete an emergency medical form, and answer any questions. Please have your child wear gym shoes while at practice.

Our goal is to provide an opportunity for our young St. John's kids to have fun and learn basketball fundamentals. All are welcome to participate! *Kurtis & Amy Kramer* will be the coaches this year. If you have questions before the first practice feel free to call Amy at 419-297-6998.

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.

BOX TOPS TURN IN DATE: The PTL continues to collect box tops from Big G Cereals and many other products. The box top has to say, *Box Tops For Education*. Box Tops for Education pay us 10¢ for each box top sent in. Just a reminder that 50 box tops earn a \$2 prize. All participants will get a thank you gift! **Please bring them in a bag with the student's name. Collection boxes are in each of the classrooms. The turn in date prior to the holidays is Fri., Dec. 8th.** Please direct all questions to *Renee Bostelman* at 419-758-3335.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP: Sign up deadline is **Mon., Dec. 11th**. 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!

CHRISTMAS CHEER PROGRAM – **Deadline is tomorrow, December 4th**. A barrel is placed in the cafeteria/fellowship hall for the collection of canned goods, dry goods and paper products.

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, today **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...

I wait. I watch. I hope. Advent!

*“O Lord, how shall I greet You, how welcome You aright?”
(LSB 334:1)*