



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

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Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

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### SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sermon & Text: "Prepare the Way" *Mark 1:1-8*

Order of Service: *Morning Prayer (LSB page 235)*

Hymns: 343 ~ 344 ~ 345

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**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.*

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#### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✂ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✂ Addyson Speiser & Macee Speiser, *Acolytes* ✂  
✂ Dave & Sara Myles, *Greeters* ✂
- ✂ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✂
- ✂ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Richard Elling, *Ushers* ✂
- ✂ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham, *Altar Guild* ✂



**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 *Peter, Karen* and *Anna Gerken* 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.

**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.

**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> 10:20AM	<b>Worship Service with Communion following</b> <i>Java Joy</i> ; “The Lamp”; Adult Bible Study; Children’s Christmas Program practice – Full run through ( <i>Gr. PS – 8 until 11:15 AM</i> )
Mon.	4:30 PM 5:00 PM	B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys @ Liberty Center B-ball: Gr. 4-6 girls; 6:15 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. Monclova (H)
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Niermann; Offering: <i>Lutheran Bible Translators</i> Exercise Class Church Council Meeting
Wed.	5:45 PM 6:00 PM <b>7:00 PM</b>	Junior Confirmation Class ( <i>until 6:45 PM</i> ) Adult Bell Choir practice <b>Advent Service 2</b> Offering: <i>Lutheran Hour Radio</i> Acolytes: <i>Landen Kolodziejczyk-Dennie and Ella Rosebrook</i> Greeters: <i>Don &amp; Karan Niebergall</i> Ushers: <i>Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling</i> Altar Guild: <i>Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham</i>
Thurs.	9:00 AM 4:30 PM	Exercise class B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls vs Liberty Center (@ St. Paul)
Sat.	10:00AM TBA	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:15 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys @ St. John – Defiance Jr & Sr High LYF to Toledo Walleye Hockey Game ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Sun.	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM 10:30AM 7:00 PM	<b>Communion Service</b> Voters’ Meeting; “The Lamp”; 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 Schweewe</i> , St. Paul Lutheran – Napoleon

**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
- ❖ *Marietta Damman*, recuperating at home from recent knee replacement surgery
- ❖ *Lawrence Behrmann*, scheduled gall stone removal surgery on Mon., Dec. 11

**A BIG THANK YOU** to all who helped make Advent By Candlelight a special evening. Thank you committee ladies, table hostesses, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders (*set-up*), Pastor Niermann (*sound and audio*), Pastor Kern for his wonderful storytelling (*entertainment*), and all the ladies who came with their delicious potluck dishes. It was such a nice evening enjoyed by all!!

**SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY** this morning will continue the third part of our extended 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 in the fellowship hall for the study of God's Word and to gain a deeper appreciation of the Reformation and how it has impacted our world.

**2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES** – With gratitude to God for the generous support of our members of the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this place, the 2018 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 *Al Damman* (419-598-8425 until Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>. After Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, please contact *Kathy Gruenhagen* (419-335-9173).

**GIVING BACK AT ST. JOHN!**

This morning you will find forms on the narthex table with lists of the many ways you can serve here at your church.



- 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!

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 12/03/17	\$8,741.00	\$394.00	\$332.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 223      **COMMUNED** in November: 344 members; 14 guests

**1<sup>ST</sup> ADVENT SERVICE (12/06/17):** *Church Vocation Students* - \$656.00      Attendance: 94

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE** – Parts have been assigned and rehearsals have begun. It is critical that the children be at every rehearsal they can possibly attend. The schedule of remaining rehearsals is as follows:



- TODAY – During the Sunday School hour
- FRIDAY (12/15) – 9:30 a.m. **NOTE: This is a change from the original schedule**
- NEXT SUNDAY (12/17) – During the Sunday School hour till noon

The children's Christmas service will be held next Sunday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Set the time aside to celebrate the birth of Christ as it is told to us again by the children of our families and congregation!

**FYI – this year's Children's Christmas Service is titled, "A 'Sola' Christmas."** It is built around the five great "solas" of the Reformation: Scripture Alone, Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Christ Alone, and To God's Glory Alone.

**DRESS CODE FOR THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE:** 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.

**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.

**SACKING CANDY NEXT SUNDAY:** The School Board and Sr. High LYF members will be assembling the Christmas sacks on Sun., Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> during the Sunday School hour.

**EAGLE NEWS:** The Eagle News publication is being distributed today and is available for viewing on FastDirect Communication. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnfreedom/>, click on "Links" at the top of the page, then click on "Eagle News-November" in the "Everybody" column.

**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.*

**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. 17<sup>th</sup>.

**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.**

**ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP** – This year our Advent midweek theme is...

### **“We Three Kings”**

The secret is out – the three kings on whom we are focusing are Israel’s first three kings – Saul, David, and Solomon. Last Wednesday we considered how Israel rejected its heavenly King in favor of a human king – Saul – so they could be more like the world. This Wednesday evening we turn our attention to Israel’s second king, the great king David. 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! Midweek Advent services are on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.



**LYF HOCKEY NIGHT!** On Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, both Jr & Sr High LYF will be going to a Toledo Walleye hockey game at the Huntington Center. Game time is 7:15 PM and cost is \$17, with group recognition on the video board during the game. We will also need chaperones / drivers for the game.

### **MITTEN TREE** – December 3-20

**For the next week (through Wed., Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>) 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. On Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, 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)*



### **LIST OF 2018 CHURCH OFFICE NOMINATIONS:** *(as of the printing of this bulletin)*

**ELECTED:** Vice Pres. – *vacant*

Treasurer – *Cathy Gerken*; Financial Trustee – *Mary Kossow*

Elder – *Brian Bickel, Larry Sausser*

Stewardship Board – *Kurtis Kramer, Dave VonDeylen*

Board of Education – *Bob Riefers, Tara Sausser*

**APPOINTED:** Secretary – *Sandy VonDeylen*; Church Deacon – *Doug Dietrich*

Trustee – *David Myles, Stan Gerken*; Cemetery Sexton – *Ben Kruse*

Cemetery Board – *Tyler Kossow, Jordan Myles, Roger Lulfs*

Asst. Sunday School Supt. – *Kelly Sonnenberg*

**NOTE:** There are still more ballot spots that could be filled, so if you would consider serving in any of these offices, please contact *Pastor Niermann* or call the church office. The installation of newly elected and appointed officers for 2018 will be conducted in the regular Sunday service on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

**CHOICE DOLLARS RECAP:** Thanks to everyone who continue to designate their Choice Dollars deposits through Thrivent Financial. Because of your initiative the church and school have benefited in 2017. Here are the individual year-to-date deposits for 2017: St. John Church - \$13,519.00; St. John School - \$2,292.00; St. John Preschool \$-0-. A well-deserved “thank you” to Thrivent for providing these funds throughout the year.

**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.

**SCRIP FOR THE HOLIDAYS:** **The last SCRIP orders accepted for Christmas will be tomorrow, Mon., Dec. 11.** 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](mailto:honemann@embarqmail.com).**

**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.

**BOX TOPS TURN IN DATE:** **The turn in date prior to the holidays is now!** 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 student 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.** Please direct all questions to *Renee Bostelman* at 419-758-3335.

**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.*

**THE TOLEDO SYMPHONY** will perform a Christmas Concert at St. Paul Lutheran Church – Napoleon Township, on **Wed., Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM.** Tickets on sale thru their church office

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**The message of Christmas is not, “Let it snow” or even, “Let us shop!”**

**The message of Christ is, “Let us worship!”**

*“We have come to worship Him.” (Matt. 2:2)*