



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

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FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sermon & Text: "The O Antiphons" *Various Scripture Texts*

Order of Service: Morning Prayer (LSB page 235)

Hymns: 356 ~ 357 (during sermon) ~ 933 (Canticle) ~ 383

Adult Choir: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

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* ✘ Kaelyn Gerken & Taylor Dietrich, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Jerry & Nancy Short, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Richard Elling, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✘

ADULT BIBLE CLASS will meet today to study the special topic of "*The Annunciation*" which is today's Gospel reading. When it was announced to Mary that she would bear in her womb the long awaited Messiah, it was a turning point in the history of mankind. Join us this morning in the north end of the fellowship hall for this special Christmas study.

POINSETTIA PLANTS – The poinsettias are adorning the sanctuary this morning and will be used for the various Christmas Services. Please see the insert in today's bulletin for a listing of those who purchased these poinsettias. If you ordered a poinsettia plant, it can be taken home after the Christmas Day Festival Service on Monday. There will be plastic sleeves to protect them in the side Conference room. Thank you to those who purchased poinsettias this Christmas Season.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 7:00 PM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Christmas Eve Service of Carols & Candles ; Offering: <i>Home Fund</i> Acolytes: <i>Clay Behnfeldt & Logan Honemann</i> Greeters: <i>Tom & Sandy VonDeylen</i> Ushers: <i>Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop</i> Altar Guild: <i>Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short</i>
Mon.	9:30 AM	Christmas Day Festival Service w/Communion ; Offering: <i>Home Fund</i> Acolytes: <i>Clay Behnfeldt</i> Greeters: <i>Dan & Deb Wachtman</i> Ushers: <i>Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop</i> Altar Guild: <i>Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short</i>
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
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, Todd Wachtman, and Marietta Damman*, dealing with health issues at this time
- ❖ *Lawrence Langenhop*, recuperating at home now after rehabbing at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Dorothy Gerken*, remains hospitalized at Henry County Hospital for a deep foot sore
- ❖ *Gary Thompson, Lindsey (Elling) Thompson's father-in-law*, for brain cancer
- ❖ *Mary Seibert, Sarah (Brad) Rosebrock's mother*, now in home hospice care for her cancer

MUCH THANKS – I want to thank everyone for their concern, expressions of sympathy, prayers, cards, food and anything else you did for Jim and I. Especially, thanks to Pastor Niermann for his visits and communion given to us. A special thank you to the ladies who prepared and served the nice luncheon after the funeral too. God Bless All Your Souls!! *Linda Meyer & the Meyer Family*

MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS is not scheduled for this week. We will resume class on the first Wednesday of January (1/3) at the normal time, 6:15 p.m.

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

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE – **THANK YOU** to everyone who put so much effort and time into this year's Children's Christmas Service. Thank you especially too **Miss Bartok** and **Mr. Majewski** for co-directing the service, to **Mr. Petzoldt** for all your help with props, to **Mrs. Petzoldt and Mrs. Niebergall** for their musical contributions and time in rehearsal, to **the other staff of St. John** who helped with planning and rehearsals, to **Alex Products** for printing the five "Sola" banners, to **the School Board** for preparing and distributing the treat bags, to **those of you** who helped with sound and set up, to **the parents** who helped their children memorize parts and made sure they were at rehearsals, and of course to all the students who participated and shared with us a fantastic Christmas message!



MITTEN TREE UPDATE – The mittens, hats, gloves, scarves, etc. that you donated to our **Mitten Tree project** were delivered to the Salvation Army this past week. The folks there were surprised at the number of items we had gathered, and commented that these items had come at just the right time to be distributed for Christmas. This Christmas a lot of people of all ages will be receiving those items under their Christmas trees. Thank you for being a blessing to others by your generous donations! As our Lord says, "What you did for the least of these, you did for me."



<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 12/17/17	\$10,446.00	\$84.00	\$320.00

ATTENDANCE: 251

3RD ADVENT SERVICE (12/20/17): LCMS Disaster Relief - \$534.00 Attendance: 84

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (12/17/17): \$2,079.00 – Home Fund; Attendance: 419

Christmas at St. John

TODAY Christmas Eve

9:00 a.m. *Regular Morning Worship Service*

7:00 p.m. *Christmas Eve Service of Carols & Candles*



Dec. 25 Christmas Day

9:30 a.m. *Christmas Festival Service with Holy Communion*

Dec. 31 First Sunday after Christmas

9:00 a.m. *The celebration continues in our morning service*

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS GIFTS – Looking for a last minute Christmas gift? The Women of Freedom have beautiful Rada Cutlery available (*knives, servers, pizza cutters, and vegetable peelers*). The items are on display in the hallway. There are also PTL cookbooks available.

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES – There are still several who have not picked up their 2018 offering envelopes. If you did not receive a box of envelopes but would like one, please contact *Al Damman* (419-598-8425) until Jan. 1st. After Jan. 1st, please contact *Kathy Gruenhagen* (419-335-9173).

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 7th.**

Officers to be installed are: **President** – *Dan Wiechers*; **Vice President** – *Brad Rosebrook*; **Treasurer** – *Cathy Gerken*; **Financial Trustee** – *Mary Kossow*; **Elders** – *Brian Bickel, Larry Sausser*; **Stewardship Board** – *Kurtis Kramer, Dave VonDeylen*; **Board of Education** (installed to take office in July 2018) – *Bob Riefers, Tara Sausser*; **Secretary** – *Sandy VonDeylen*; **Church Deacon** – *Doug Dietrich*; **Trustees** – *Rodney Rosebrook, Dave Rosebrook*; **Sunday School Supt.** – *Zoe Foor, Lisa Brown*; **Asst. Sunday School Supt.** – *Kelly Sonnenberg*; **Cemetery Board** – *Tyler Kossow, Jordan Myles, Roger Lulfs*; **Cemetery Sexton** – *Ben Kruse*.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM MEETING: The Quarterlies are available and can be picked up on the narthex table. The next Women of Freedom meeting will be on Tues., Jan. 16th at 7:00 PM. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend. **NOTE:** The Program Booklets for 2018 are in a box on the narthex table. 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.

THE FLOWER CALENDAR for 2018 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.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

The blessing of Christmas is not in the presents, but in His presence!

*“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,
and they will call him Immanuel” (which means ‘God with us’).” (Matt. 1:23)*