



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

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

Sermon & Text: "Hang In There" *Jude 20-25*
Order of Service: Morning Prayer (LSB pg. 235)
Hymns: **516 ~ 336 ~ 348** (*sub for Te Deum*) ~ **549**
Children's Bell Choir: Grades 5-8 ring "We Gather Together"

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

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Claire Wachtman, *Acolyte* ✠
- ✠ Dan & Joyce Wiechers, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ David Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karen Germann, Mary Kossow, Diana Kruse, *Altar Guild* ✠

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are for the 60th anniversary of the Confirmation Class of 1958. Those in the class are *Ralph Badenhop, Judith (Behnfeldt) Miller, Donna (Damman) Drewes, Wanda (Kruse) Rohrs, Ronald Fuhrhop* (deceased), *Donald Maassel, Larry Mahnke, Sue Ann (Meyer) Bloomer, Lee Norden, Gary Nye* (deceased), *Janice (Schweinhagen) McMaster*, and *Roger Sonnenberg*.

MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

- **This Wednesday, November 28**, midweek confirmation class will meet at the regular time, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.
- **On the Wednesdays of Advent during December**, class will meet from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., followed by worship at 7:00 p.m.

In God's House This Week *Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl*

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.	4:30 PM 5:30 PM	B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls vs Delta (@ St. Paul – Napoleon) <i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Niermann Shepherd Committee Board of Elders
Wed.	3:30 PM 6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:15 PM	Basketball Teams and Cheerleading pictures taken Midweek Confirmation Class Adult Bell Choir practice Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	4:30 PM	B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls @ Wauseon
Sat.	10:00AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:15 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys @ Solomon – Woodville
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; "The Lamp"; Children's Christmas Program practice (Gr. PS – 8 until 11:30 AM) Jr. High LYF
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Logan Schiewe</i> , St. Paul Lutheran – Napoleon

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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, and Willie Gerken*
- ❖ *Lucia Delventhal*, at Fulton Manor, Wauseon
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, and Dorothy Gerken*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs and Melba Elling*, in Assisted Living at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Armed Services: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Macie Wyse*, going thru some difficult therapy as she continues her battle with cancer
- ❖ *Phyllis Silveus*, who is currently undergoing chemotherapy treatments
- ❖ *Tara Sausser, Denny Behnfeldt, Karen Riefers, and Emily Gerken*, all of whom are recovering at home from surgeries this past week
- ❖ *Cathie Geske* (wife of Pastor Steven Geske, Emmaus Lutheran – Wauseon), *diagnosed last week with breast cancer and consulting with doctors for the path ahead*

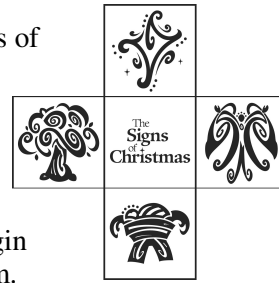


CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATING is scheduled for later this morning at **11:00 a.m.** at the end of the Sunday School hour. Many hands make light work, so we hope you'll join us. This year we will be decorating two smaller trees that will flank the altar. God's people have a long history, dating all the way back to the Old Testament, of making God's house beautiful with fitting adornments. Won't you lend a hand?

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE PREPARATIONS

This Christmas season, on Sunday, December 23rd, the children and students of the congregation will bless us as they lead us in the worship of Jesus under the theme, "The Signs of Christmas." All the children and students of St. John Lutheran Church (preschool through 8th grade) have been assigned parts (*unless we were informed otherwise*), and these are being distributed now. Parents, please help your children learn their lines.

Combined practices for all children, Sunday School and school, will begin next Sunday, Dec. 2nd. Practices will run from after worship to about 11:30 a.m. each Sunday. Additional practices will take place during our SJLS school days.



ADVENT AND A NEW CHURCH YEAR BEGINS IN ONE WEEK! This year the season of Advent begins on Sun., December 2. The following Wednesday (*Dec. 5th at 7:00 p.m.*) we begin our midweek Advent services and our spiritual preparations for the right celebration of Christmas. Our midweek Advent theme comes from the words of the prophet Zechariah, "**Your King is Coming!**" Be sure to join us for these beautiful and quiet evening services as God's Word gives us a proper focus for this holy season.

Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation

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|--------------|--------------------------|--|
| Wed. Dec 5 | "Jesus, King of Shame" | Offering: Nat'l Youth Gathering group |
| Wed. Dec. 12 | "Jesus, King of Guilt" | Offering: Lutheran Hour/Issues Etc. broadcasts |
| Wed. Dec. 19 | "Jesus, King of the Low" | Offering: SJL Church Vocational Students |

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT: *WOMEN AND MEN* – invitations have been mailed this past week for Advent By Candlelight to be held on Thurs., Dec. 6 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. Be sure to sign up and 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 *Nancy Glaser* (598-8432) if you have any questions.

HISTORICAL NOTE – 100 years ago this Saturday, December 1st, the old school building across the road was dedicated by the congregation. That building would house the congregation's school for the next 64 years until in 1982 the school moved into the rooms in our present building along the north side of the back hallway (*this was before the gym addition in 1987 and the "courtyard addition" classrooms in 1995*).

GREETER, USHER, AND ALTAR GUILD SIGN-UP – We are preparing the 2019 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. 9th. *You do not need to sign up again if you are currently serving as a greeter, usher or are on an altar guild team.*

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/18/18	\$17,837.00	\$468.00	\$396.00

ATTENDANCE: 214

2019 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 *Kathy Gruenhagen*, Finance Trustee.

VOTERS' MEETING will be Sunday, December 9 after the Worship Service, and will be held in the Fellowship Hall. On the agenda will be: 1) *Election of Officers*; 2) *Results of "Soar with the Eagles" fundraiser*; 3) *Approval of 2019 Budget*; 4) *School Staffing*. Please plan to attend.

LIST OF 2019 CHURCH OFFICE NOMINATIONS: (as of the printing of this bulletin)

ELECTED: Vice Pres. – *Richard Elling*; Treasurer – *Cathy Gerken*;
Financial Trustee – *Jerry Langenhop*; **Elder** – *Denny Behnfeldt, Ron Hesterman, Todd Hesterman*
Stewardship Board – *Deb Wachtman, Judy Okuly, Jeremy Honemann*
Board of Education – *Amy Kramer, Joel Stier, Ernie Franz, Bob Morrison*
Alt. Delegate Synod – *Peter Gerken, Dale Damman*
APPOINTED: Secretary – *Deb Durham*; **Church Deacon** – *Matt Schroeder*
Trustee – *Juergen Goertz, Dean Badenhop*; **Cemetery Sexton** – *Ben Kruse*
Cemetery Board – *Ron Germann, Andrew Naveau, Dave Johnson*
Asst. Sunday School Supt. – *Stephanie Damman*

NOTE: There are still some ballot spots that could be added to, so please consider serving in any one of these offices by contacting *Pastor Niermann* or call the church office. The installation of newly elected or appointed officers for 2019 will be conducted in the Jan. 6th Sunday Service.

ST. JOHN SCHOOL POSITION OPENING: The Freedom's Flock (After School Care) program has an immediate opening for an Aide position. This person is in charge of the aftercare program each day that school is in session from 3-6 pm. It averages 10-12 hours per week. Must have a background check. If interested in this position, please speak with Principal Kramer by calling the school office.

RIDGEVILLE LEGION BLOOD DRIVE will be held on **Mon., Dec. 3rd** from noon – 6:00 PM at the Legion. Call 800-733-2767 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins also welcome!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

"...what the situation will be like in the world before the Lord returns, namely, Christ will be despised, and the preachers of the Gospel will be regarded as fools." –Martin Luther

"For certain people have crept in unnoticed who...pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ." (Jude 4)