



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

December 2, 2018

VOL. 83

NO. 44

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

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 338 ~ 332 ~ [Communion: 554, 340, 349] ~ 350

Adult Choir: "Waiting for Bethlehem's Light" and "Will We Know Him"

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* ✠ Bryce Bostelman & Ella Rosebrook, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Lois Arps & Linda Riefers, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Dave Von Deylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Richard Elling, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✠

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY – Have you ever wondered what power is at work within you that causes you to do the things you hate and know you should not do. You're not alone. Paul had this same struggle, as does every Christian. But we are not left alone to fight this battle. Please join us this morning in the fellowship hall for this study of God's Word – it's never too late! "How blest are those who hear the Word of God and put it into practice." (Luke 11:28)



A CHURCH COUNCIL THANK YOU: Many hands made light work last Sunday as the Christmas decorating took place. Church Council would like to thank the School Board members and everyone else that took the time to help adorn the sanctuary for the season. May God bless our preparations in this season of Advent and our upcoming celebration of the birth of Christ! Thank you volunteers!

In God's House This Week

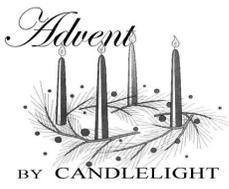
Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

| Date | Time | Activities |
|---------------|--|---|
| Today | 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. | 4:30 PM | B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys @ Delta |
| Tue. | 8:35 AM 4:30 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM | Chapel led by Pastor Kramer B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls @ Swanton B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys vs Swanton (at St. Paul – Napoleon) School Board and Stewardship Board Meetings |
| Wed. | 5:45 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM | Midweek Confirmation Class (until 6:45 PM) Adult Bell Choir practice Advent Service 1; Offering: LYF National Youth Gathering Group Acolytes: <i>Kaelyn Gerken & Karter Behnfeldt</i> Greeters: <i>Marilyn Meyer & Arlene Wallace</i> Ushers: <i>Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop</i> Altar Guild: <i>Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short</i> Adult Choir practice |
| Thurs. | 6:30 AM 6:00 PM | Men's Bible Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant <i>Advent By Candlelight</i> Dinner Program |
| Sun. | 9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM | Worship Service w/Communion following Voters' Meeting; Children's Christmas Program practice (Gr. PS – 8) Sr. High LYF |
| Mon.- Sat. | 7:30 AM | Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Jeremy Kleino</i> , St. Paul Lutheran, Liberty Center |

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

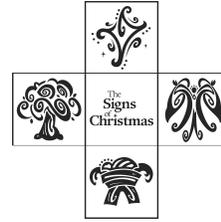
MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION during the season of Advent, for the next three weeks, we will meet from **5:45 to 6:45 p.m.** There will be no class on the Wednesday after Christmas (Dec. 26), and class will resume on Wednesday, January 2nd in the New Year.



ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT – This Thursday 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, 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. Hoping to see many of you there!

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCRIPTS – Parts have been distributed for both the Sunday School and school students. **The Children’s Christmas Service is scheduled for Sun., Dec. 23rd at 7:00 PM.** Christmas practices begin today during the Sunday School hour. In addition to the Sunday practices, there will be additional practices held during the school week for the SJL students.

DRESS CODE for the Christmas Program is as follows: 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.



LYF FUNDRAISERS:

- **STICKY BUNS** - Sticky buns are being offered **today** after church in the side hallway by the Sr. High LYF. This is a free will donation. The proceeds will be going toward the youth’s trip to the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in July 2019. The next sticky bun fundraiser will be on Dec. 23rd.
- **SKITTLES GUESSING JAR** - The youth are also starting their Skittles Guessing Jar fundraiser today. Guesses are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Take as many guesses as you want! The winner will receive the full jar of Skittles. This fundraiser will run through January. All funds raised will be put towards the youth’s trip to the National Youth Gathering in July.



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. It’s a great way to start your day! Good food, good friends, and a good Word from God!

YOUTH CENTER: For those of you who would like to donate your labor for the new Youth Center project, there is a green sheet on the table in the narthex to sign up and list your phone number. We will be starting on some of the work very soon. We have some interior brick from the chimney that needs to be removed, also framing walls, help installing windows, blowing insulation in the attic (*at a later date*), etc. This labor will help to offset the financial burden of the project. In the past we have enjoyed the company of members getting together to build and improve the Lord’s house. Thank you in advance for your support. Questions...Call Denny Damman at 419-966-2687. *The Building Committee*

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*).

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES BEGIN THIS WEEK! The season of Advent begins today!

Also starting this Wednesday (*Dec. 5th at 7:00 p.m.*) are 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.



- Wed. Dec 5 “Jesus, King of Shame” Offering: National 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

SACKING CANDY: The School Board and Sr. High LYF members will be assembling the Christmas sacks on Sun., Dec. 23rd during the Sunday School hour.

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. **The sign-up deadline is next 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.*

| <u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u> | Home Fund | Synod & Missions | Building Fund |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------|
| Weekly Need | \$9,792.78 | \$500.00 | \$961.54 |
| Rec'd 11/25/18 | \$5,718.00 | \$107.00 | \$572.00 |

ATTENDANCE: 219

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE: \$1,242.00 – Henry Co. Christmas Cheer; Attendance: 112

ADVENT DEVOTIONS FROM L.H.M. – Lutheran Hour Ministries has made available their 2018 Advent Devotions, on the theme, "The Coming King." These devotions explore God's marvelous work through the lives of those who were on the scene at the time of the Savior's birth. To access these devotions, go to www.lhm.org/advent (*there is a link on www.sjl.org*). From there you can click 'Read Devotions' to read that day's devotion, or click 'Subscribe' to have your devotions sent daily to your email inbox. Either way, take advantage of these wonderful devotions to further prepare for the coming of our King. Light up an Advent Wreath at home and make these devotions part of your daily household routine!

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.*

2019 OFFERING BOXES: Offering envelope boxes will be available in early December. The church provides offering envelopes to our members in order to promote faithful and joyful giving. 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.

150th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE REQUEST – The 150th Anniversary Committee is working to build a database of St. John's former members so they can be contacted about anniversary related events. We need everyone's help in this. If you know any former members, would you please pass along to the committee their names and addresses? Don't assume we already know about them or that someone else will give us the information. Use the form on the table in the narthex, and drop it in the marked box. Thank you for your assistance in this project! It will be a joy to welcome these folks back to St. John for our anniversary events!



SCRIP FOR THE HOLIDAYS: The last SCRIP orders accepted for Christmas will be **Mon., Dec. 10**. SCRIP orders will resume when school is back in session on Mon., Jan. 7. Think ahead...if you give out gift cards for Christmas consider purchasing them from PTL. 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.**

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. **Please bring them in a Ziploc. The turn in date prior to the holidays is Tues., Dec. 11th.** Please direct all questions to *Renee Bostelman* at 419-758-3335.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR – The Lutheran Hour Ministries can be heard on a few radio stations in our area. They cover many topics relevant to today's issues. Broadcasts can be heard Sundays on: Archbold's WMTR 96.1 at 7:30 AM; Napoleon's WNDH 103.1 at 9:00 AM.

CHRISTMAS CHEER WRAPS UP TOMORROW – Turn in your last minute donations by tomorrow, Dec. 3rd. 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.*

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.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP: Sign up deadline is **Mon., Dec. 10th**. 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, Krista Gerken, and Becky Michaelis.*

FOLLOW OUR CHURCH ON FACEBOOK – Our new Facebook page will become a source of information about our 150th Anniversary year, as well as a place where members and school alumni will be encouraged to share memories of the past. The first of many historical pictures has been posted there for you to enjoy and discuss. Please be sure to 'like' and 'share' these posts so that we can reach the broadest possible audience. Let's build a good Facebook following, especially as we approach the 150th Anniversary celebration.



If you aren't following our church yet on Facebook, just search for "St. John Lutheran, Napoleon" and you'll see us in this list with a profile picture of the outside front of the sanctuary. Be sure to share the page with your friends, and (Our school also has a Facebook page; find and follow it!)

AREA EVENTS

- ◆ **CHRISTMAS VILLAGE CRAFT SHOW** will be held at the Ridgeville Legion Hall, **today from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM.** Lunch is available. Come and browse the shops!
- ◆ **RIDGEVILLE AMERICAN 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!
- ◆ **THE TOLEDO SYMPHONY** will perform a Christmas Concert at St. Paul Lutheran Church – Napoleon Township, **on Wed., Dec. 12th beginning at 7:30 PM.** Tickets on sale thru their church office at 419-758-3522. See flyer!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

God says, "My way is the high way."

"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isa. 55:9)