



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

December 9, 2018

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NO. 45

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

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sermon & Text: "How Far Away" *Malachi 3:1-7b*

Order of Service: Matins (*LSB pg. 219*)

Hymns: **344 ~ 354 ~ 941** (*sub for Te Deum*) ~ **347**

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.*



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Brooks Behnfeldt & Trenton Kruse, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Richard & Bev Elling, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Dave Von Deylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Richard Elling, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✠

VOTERS' MEETING will be in the Fellowship Hall immediately after today's service. 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.

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.

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

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 | Worship Service w/ Communion following Voters' Meeting; Children's Christmas Program practice (<i>Gr. PS – 8 until 11:30 AM</i>) Sr. High LYF |
| Mon. | 4:30 PM | B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys vs Liberty Center (played at St. Paul) |
| Tue. | 8:35 AM 4:15 PM 7:00 PM | Chapel led by Pastor Kramer ; Offering: <i>Lutheran Bible Translators</i> B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys @ Napoleon) Church Council Meeting |
| Wed. | 9:00 AM 5:45 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM | Hearing Screenings (PS3 / K / 1 / 3 / 5) Midweek Confirmation Class (<i>until 6:45 PM</i>) Adult Bell Choir practice Advent Service 2 ; Offering: <i>The Lutheran Hour & Issues Etc.</i> broadcasts Acolytes: <i>Devin Dietrich</i> Greeters: <i>Elmer & Pat Maassel</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. | 9:00 AM 10:00AM 4:30 PM | Hearing Screenings (PS4&5) Secret Santa Workshop (<i>until 2:00 PM</i>) B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls @ Liberty Center |
| Sat. | 10:00AM | B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:15 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys @ St. John – Defiance |
| Sun. | 9:00 AM 10:20AM | Communion Service Adult Bible Study; "The Lamp"; Children's Christmas Program practice (<i>Gr. PS – 8until 11:30 AM</i>) |
| Mon.- Sat. | 7:30 AM | Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Willie Stottlemyer</i> , St. Stephen Lutheran, Defiance |

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*, from surgeries
- ❖ *Elmer Maassel*, hospitalized at UPMC, Toledo, following a fall at his residence

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.

DOUBLE DUTY! Congratulations to *Brad & Kailee* (Rosebrock) *Leonard* on the birth of twin girls this past Wednesday, Dec. 5th at Toledo Hospital. **Rose Charlotte** and **Liza Maria** have arrived! They are doing very well, as is Kailee. Brad and big brother, Levi are ready to help out once everyone comes home. Even grandparents, Dave & Karen Rosebrock will be eager to lend a hand...but mostly to hold and hug those little girls. Congrats again to the Leonards!!

LIST OF 2019 CHURCH OFFICE NOMINATIONS:

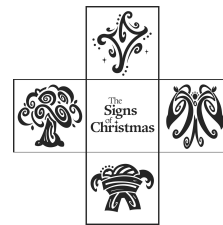
ELECTED: Vice Pres. – *Richard Elling*; **Treasurer** – *Cathy Gerken*;
Financial Trustee – *Jerry Langenhop*; **Elder** – *Denny Behnfeldt, Ron Hesterman, Todd Hesterman*
Stewardship Board – *Deb Wachtman, Judy Okuly, Jeremy Honemann*
Board of Education – *Amy Kramer, Joel Stier, Ernie Franz, Bob Morrison*
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.

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

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 have begun during the Sunday School hour. In addition, 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** - The Sr. High LYF are offering sticky buns periodically again this year after church. 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 conducting their Skittles Guessing Jar fundraiser. 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.

DECEMBER FOOD PANTRY – PLEASE NOTE: There will not be a Bread From Heaven food distribution in December. The next distribution will be Mon., Jan. 28th at 5:30 PM.

ADVENT SERVICES! Our midweek Advent services and our spiritual preparations for the right celebration of Christmas have begun. 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

FINANCIAL FACTS:

| | Home Fund | Synod & Missions | Building Fund |
|----------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|
| Weekly Need | \$9,792.78 | \$500.00 | \$961.54 |
| Rec’d 12/02/18 | \$10,065.93 | \$213.00 | \$266.00 |

ATTENDANCE: 245

1ST ADVENT SERVICE (12/05/18): \$1,186.00 – *LYF Nat’l Youth Gathering group*; Attendance: 97

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!

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*

150th Anniversary Kick-off

Four weeks from today, on **Sunday, January 6th**, we will kick off our **150th Anniversary Year Celebration** with a special worship service and a potluck meal and program to follow. Be sure to mark your calendar for this special day in our congregation’s history, as we celebrate the year together under our anniversary theme,

“Jesus Christ: Yesterday, Today, Forever.”



Jesus Christ
Yesterday Today Forever

LAST ORDER FOR SCRIP FOR THE HOLIDAYS is tomorrow (12-10-18). 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 are available in the 'School Info' rack outside the office and on the table in the narthex.

CHOICE DOLLARS RECAP: Thanks to everyone who continues to designate their Choice Dollars through Thrivent Financial. Because of your initiative the church and school have benefited in 2018. Here are the individual year-to-date deposits for 2018: St. John Church - \$7,795.00; St. John School - \$2,182.00; St. John Preschool \$0-. A well-deserved thank you to Thrivent for providing these funds.

YOUTH CENTER DONATIONS: Don't forget the future "youth center" when you make those end of the year donations. There are still envelopes available on the narthex table for anyone wishing to donate. Make your payment to **St. John Lutheran Church** and put "St. John Lutheran Youth Center" on the memo line. Thank you for helping to make this a reality!

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, stop in at the church office and pick up and pay for your copy today.

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.

IF YOU'RE EVER IN A PINCH and could use a little help, the *Good Neighbor Fund* is there to assist you too! Please don't be bashful about asking – everything is strictly confidential. Just give Pastor Niermann a call, and we'll see what we can do!

RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP FUNDRAISER: The Stewardship Board is offering "for sale" the Ultimate Cloth® as a fundraiser. These are a MiraFiber® technology cloth that cleans with water only. This cloth is more effective than harsh cleaning chemicals and soaps. See *Karen Norden* (419-267-3477) for more information and pricing. This will be an on-going fundraiser for the Right Hand of Fellowship gift matching campaign.

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.

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*, *Krista Gerken*, and *Becky Michaelis*.

COUNCIL MINUTES – This is just a reminder that council meeting minutes are not published until they are approved a month later. If you would like to read about the most recent council meeting, an unofficial and unapproved copy of the minutes is available for viewing in the church office, usually within a week after the meeting.

MYSTERY READER: Is there a Mystery Reader among us???? Please send Kindergarten Teacher, Mrs. Niermann an email at bniermann@sjl.org if you would like to be a “mystery reader”. We have already had a few mystery readers which proved very exciting for the kindergarteners. There are also forms available on the narthex table to sign up. Complete the form and drop in the box provided or bring your form to the school office.

OHIO ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN: The Ohio Division OGT is located in the north end of the Culligan Water Conditioning building on Independence Drive in Napoleon. Someone is usually there to receive items on the first Tuesday of the month from 9:00-11:00 AM. If you need to drop off items at another time, please contact *Nancy Helmke* (419-758-3539), *Diann Meyer-Grieser* (419-267-3485), or *Vicki Grieser* (419-445-2986) and they will be happy to meet you and open the facility to receive your donations! PLEASE do not drop off items at the warehouse when it is closed. Thank you!

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!)

PROJECT CONNECT – There are many free booklets in the rack in the narthex. Be sure to check for some good reading. Some titles are: “*Why Do Bad Things Happen To Me,*” “*Has God Abandoned Me,*” “*Dealing with Depression,*” “*Coping with Cancer,*” “*Who Is Jesus,*” “*Just Stress?*”, “*Overcoming A Painful Childhood,*” “*Where’s God in All of This?*”, “*Why Should I go to Church?*” and many more. These booklets are furnished through the Lutheran Hour Ministries.

THE TOLEDO SYMPHONY will perform a Christmas Concert at St. Paul Lutheran Church – Napoleon Township, on **Wed., Dec. 12th at 7:30 PM.** Tickets on sale thru their church office.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

God has two thrones: one in the highest heaven, and one in the lowest heart.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” (Psa 51:10)