



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

December 16, 2018

VOL. 83

NO. 50

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

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sermon & Text: "Rejoice in the Lord Always" *Philippians 4:4-7*
Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Three (LSB pg. 184)
Hymns: "Rejoice in the Lord" ~ 803 ~ (Communion: 515, 357, 737) ~ 349
Adult Bell Choir: "Away In A Manger"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

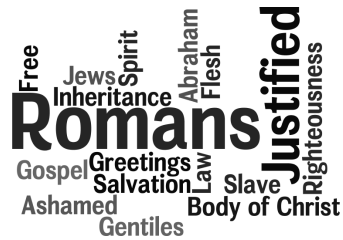
Advent is a season of repentance and preparation for the Coming of Christ. We warmly welcome all who have come to worship our God with us today! Each day we live is a priceless gift from God, loaded with possibilities to learn something new, to gain fresh insights into His great truths. If you are a 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 & Bryce Bostelman, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Esther Layton & Phyllis Silveus, *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)



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 1:00 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Children's Christmas Program practice (<i>Gr. PS – 8 until 11:30 AM</i>) B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 2:15 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys; 3:30 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls; 4:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys @ St. Paul – Napoleon
Tue.	8:35 AM 5:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Kramer B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. Ayersville (played @ St. Paul – Napoleon) B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys @ Hicksville
Wed.	5:45 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Junior Confirmation Class (<i>until 6:45 PM</i>) Adult Bell Choir practice Advent Service 3 ; Offering: <i>Church Vocation Students</i> Adult Choir: "Waiting for Bethlehem's Light" Acolytes: <i>Devin Dietrich & Karter Behnfeldt</i> Greeters: <i>Larry & Pat Mahnke</i> Ushers: <i>Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop</i> Altar Guild: <i>Diane Von Deylen, LouAnn Rosebrock</i> Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	5:30 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:30 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys @ Holy Cross – Defiance
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 10:30AM 7:00 PM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; "The Lamp"; Children's Christmas Program practice – Full run through (<i>Gr. PS – 8 until 11:30 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. Jacob Stuenkel, St. Peter Lutheran – Florida</i>

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
- ❖ *Elmer Maassel*, recuperating at home 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.

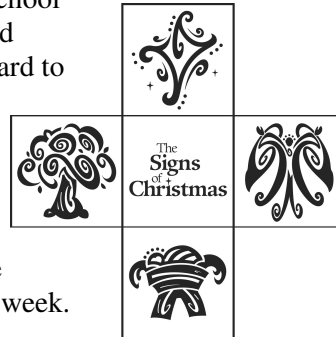
ADVENT SERVICES! Our midweek Advent services and our spiritual preparations for the right celebration of Christmas have begun. Our midweek Advent theme comes from the words of the prophet Zechariah, **“Your King is Coming!”** Be sure to join us for these beautiful and quiet evening services as God’s Word gives us a proper focus for this holy season.



- Wed. Dec 5 “Jesus, King of Shame” Offering: Church Vocational Students
- 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**

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Next Sunday, December 23rd, the children and youth of our Sunday School and school will be leading the congregation in worship of the Christ Child under the theme, **“The Signs of Christmas.”** They have been working hard to memorize their lines, to set up the sanctuary, and to rehearse – all to bring you the good news of great joy of the Savior who is born. **Be sure to join us next Sunday evening at 7:00pm for this very special worship service, when “out of the mouth of babes” we will hear the praises of God!**



Final rehearsals are this morning and next Sunday morning during the Sunday School hour, as well as another practice during a school day this week.

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.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR THE CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Please note that there is no offering envelope in your boxes for the Children’s Christmas Program at 7:00 PM on Sun., Dec. 23rd. If you wish for your offering 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 apply your contribution to the Home Fund as designated.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 12/09/18	\$8,055.00	\$105.00	\$642.00

ATTENDANCE: 211

COMMUNED in November: 336 members, 9 guests

2ND ADVENT SERVICE: \$2,785.00 – *Lutheran Hour Ministries/Issues Etc.*; Attendance: 109

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

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES – With gratitude to God for the generous support of our members of the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this place, the 2019 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 *Kathy Gruenhagen* (419-335-9173) until Jan. 1st. After Jan. 1st, please contact *Cheryl Dietrich* (419-592-9792).

Christmas at St. John

The time has come once again when the church around the world celebrates the greatest good news of all, the birth of our Savior two millennia ago. **Join the celebration!**

**Once He came in blessing,
All our ills redressing,
Came in likeness lowly,
Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us,
Hope and freedom gave us**



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|------------------------|-----------|---|
| • Sunday, December 23 | 7:00 p.m. | Children's Christmas Service
"The Signs of Christmas" |
| • Monday, December 24 | 7:00 p.m. | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
"Fear Not!" Medley of Carols |
| • Tuesday, December 25 | 9:30 a.m. | Christmas Day Festival Service with Communion
"Infinite Gifts in Finite Wrappings" |
| • Sunday, December 30 | 9:00 a.m. | Sunday after Christmas
With lots of our favorite carols |

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA – Looking for a last minute Christmas gift? The Women of Freedom have beautiful Rada Cutlery available (*knives, servers, pizza cutters, and vegetable peelers*). These items are not on display for safety reasons. Contact any of the following: *Mabel Bischoff, Nancy Hogrefe, Nancy Glaser, or Karan Niebergall* if you would like to see or purchase any of these items.

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.

INSTALLATION OF 2019 CHURCH OFFICERS (DEC. 30TH) – 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 2019 will be **installed into those offices during worship on the last Sunday of December (12-30).**

Officers to be installed are: **President** – *Brad Rosebrook*; **Vice President** – *Richard Elling*; **Treasurer** – *Cathy Gerken*; **Financial Trustee** – *Jerry Langenhop*; **Elders** – *Denny Behnfeldt, Todd Hesterman*; **Stewardship Board** – *Deb Wachtman, Judy Okuly*; **Alt. Delegate Synod** – *Peter Gerken*; **Board of Education** (installed to take office in July 2019) – *Amy Kramer, Joel Stier*; **Secretary** – *Deb Durham*; **Church Deacon** – *Matt Schroeder*; **Trustees** – *Juergen Goertz, Dean Badenhop*; **Sunday School Supt.** – *Kelly Sonnenberg*; **Asst. Sunday School Supt.** – *Stephanie Damman*; **Cemetery Board** – *Ron Germann, Andrew Naveau, Dave Johnson* **Cemetery Sexton** – *Ben Kruse*.

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!

150th Anniversary Kick-off

Three weeks from today, on **Sunday, Jan. 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.**"

For the congregational anniversary meal on January 6, meat, beverage and table service will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. God has been so gracious to our congregation these 150 years – *let's celebrate!*



Jesus Christ
Yesterday Today Forever

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*

CHURCH'S ARTIFICIAL TREE: Due to purchasing the two new Christmas trees in the front of the church this year, Church Council has decided to offer the previous artificial tree to anyone interested. If you are interested in taking this tree, please contact one of the Trustees to make arrangements to pick it up from the old school. The Trustees are David Rohrs, Terry Norden, Rodney Rosebrock, and Dave Rosebrock.

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.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

"Christmas, my child, is love in action." –Dale Evans

"In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him." (1 John 4:8)

OPENING SONG: "Rejoice in the Lord Always"



Re - joice in the Lord al - ways, and a - gain I say re - joice.



Re - joice in the Lord al - ways, and a - gain I say re - joice.
END



Re - joice, re - joice, and a - gain I say re - joice.



Re - joice, re - joice, and a - gain I say re - joice.