



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

December 30, 2018

VOL. 83

NO. 52

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 AFTER CHRISTMAS

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: [373, 379, 376, 359] ~ 384 ~ 372 ~ 392 ~ 381

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### A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*Welcome to our worship service here at St. John. If we can be of service to you in any way, please speak to our Pastor. If you are looking for a church to call home, please consider joining this church where we seek to help each other grow in faith, in love and in service. Simply 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.*

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### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Emersyn Gerken, *Acolyte* ✠  
✠ Bob & Diane Norden, *Greeters* ✠

✠ Dave Von Deylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✠  
✠ Diane Von Deylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, *Altar Guild* ✠



**THE GIFT OF HEAVEN!** We mourn the passing of *Lucia Delventhal*, 93, on Sun., Dec. 23, 2018 at Fulton Manor, Wauseon. Lucia's funeral was held at St. John Lutheran Church at 11:00 AM on Fri., Dec. 28, 2018. Burial was in St. John Lutheran Cemetery. At this joyous time of year, we rest assured knowing Lucia's prayer was answered: "And take us to heaven to live with Thee there!" Please keep Lucia's daughters, Nancy, Jane, Joyce, Mary, and their families in your daily prayers during the remaining Christmas season.

**NEW GREETER (yellow) SCHEDULES:** The 2019 Greeter schedule is available today and can be picked up on the narthex table. The Altar Guild and Usher schedules are in the making and will be available soon. Thanks again to all who are willing to be of service to the Lord through St. John. You are a blessing to us all!

In God's House This Week		Online church calendar: <a href="http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl">www.DynaCal.com/sjl</a>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	<b>Worship Service and Installation of Church Officers</b> Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Wed.	6:15 PM 7:00 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 4:15 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls vs Napoleon (played at St. Paul – Napoleon)
Sat.	9:00 AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 10:15 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys; 11:30 AM Gr. 7&8 Girls; 12:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs Monclova (H)
Sun.	<b>10:00AM</b> 11:30AM	<b>Communion Service</b> Kick-off luncheon of the 150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. John Lutheran Church
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Lee Genter</i> , Christ Our Savior Lutheran – Defiance

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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, and Willie Gerken*
- ❖ *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
- ❖ *Cheryl Yaw's sister-in-law, Cindy Walbolt*, who has had a recurrence of her cancer



**CHRISTMAS THANKS** – We wish to thank everyone who helped us celebrate Christmas this year. Related to the children's service, thank you to the students who showed and explained to us "The Signs of Christmas," and thanks to the parents for getting the students to rehearsals and helping them with their lines. Thank you, Miss Rettig, for directing the service for us, and to the school staff for all your help!

Thanks also to everyone who decorated the sanctuary and provided poinsettias, set up the outdoor nativity, sang or played in the choirs, and led the music. Thank you to all of the ushers and altar guild members for having God's house ready to go for worship. Your service is a blessing to us all, and a beautiful act of worship of the One whose birth we celebrate!

**THANK YOU** from the School Board to Mahnke Orchards (*Richard & Elaine*) for donating all the apples that were put in the Christmas Sacks; and to the LYF for their help in filling the sacks with candy, fruit, and peanuts. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

**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.


**INSTALLATION OF 2019 OFFICERS TODAY** – With gratitude to God for all those who have served in the past in the various offices of our congregation, and for those who stood for election for this coming year, we will install the 2019 congregational officers next Sunday during the morning service. 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.

**POINSETTIA PLANTS** – Don't forget to take your poinsettia plant home after the worship service today. There are plastic sleeves to protect them in the side Conference room.

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

**MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS** resumes this week on Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.

 **MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL** on Thursday, Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 a.m. Join us for an amazing breakfast and for the study of God's Word. It's a great way to start the New Year and the day!

**MITES & WOMEN OF FREEDOM** – The next meeting of the St. John Women of FREEDOM will be held Tues., Jan. 15, 2019 at 7:00 PM. This will be a Missions Meeting so everyone should bring their Mite Box if you have one. Our Mission Meetings are for the months of January, April, July, and October. February is our Quilt and Blanket Knotting Party and in August there is no meeting. All ladies of St. John are invited to come to our meetings. **NOTE:** The Program Booklets for 2019 are in on the narthex table. Pick yours up today! Be sure to check to see what month you are on for serving. If that does not work out for you, you can switch with someone. The Quarterlies are available and can also be picked up on the narthex table.

**THE FLOWER CALENDAR** for 2019 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.

# 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kick-off

**NEXT SUNDAY, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>**, we will kick off our **150<sup>th</sup> 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

**Please note that each of our four special anniversary services (1/6, 3/17, 6/2, 9/15) will begin at 10:00 a.m. with the congregational meal and program to follow at 11:30 a.m.** (no Sunday School those days). We hope this will make it as easy as possible for everyone to participate fully in the events of the day.

## NOTES FOR KICK-OFF SUNDAY, January 6

- **Worship at 10:00 a.m. / Congregational Meal at 11:30 a.m.**
- **For the meal, meat, beverages and table wear are provided – bring a dish to share.**
- **The program will include a quiz about our early history**, with winners to receive prizes. To study up for this quiz, read to document at [www.sjl.org/SJLShistory.pdf](http://www.sjl.org/SJLShistory.pdf) (link is up at sjl.org)

<b>FINANCIAL FACTS:</b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 12/23/18	\$25,884.00	\$91.00	\$514.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 249

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (12/23/18):** Home Fund - \$22,154.00 Attendance: 409

**CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE (12/24/18):** Home Fund - \$4,602.00 Attendance: 252

**CHRISTMAS DAY FESTIVAL SERVICE:** Home Fund - \$3,550.00; Attendance: 135

**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*

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## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**The world needs a stable influence.**

*In a little stable, Far across the sea, Was a little Baby Just like you and me.*