



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

January 6, 2019

VOL. 84

NO. 1

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

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Sermon & Text: "Jesus Christ – Yesterday, Today, Forever"

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: "Yesterday, Today, Forever" ~ 398 ~ 955 ~ [Communion: 395,645,392] ~ 825

Adult Choir: "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem" and "The Angel's Song"

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest this morning, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to our pastor and by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you. Simply pass it to the center aisle during the offering this morning. Thank you!

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✦ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✦ Devin Dietrich & Macee Speiser, *Acolytes* ✦
- ✦ Jerry & Nancy Short, *Greeters* ✦
- ✦ Dave Von Deylen, Dean Badenhop, Dennis Showman, Richard Ellig, *Ushers* ✦
- ✦ Diane Von Deylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, *Altar Guild* ✦



A VOTERS' MEETING is scheduled for Sunday, January 20 after worship in the fellowship hall. On the agenda will be 1) a report on the St. John Endowment fund; 2) the Annual School Report; 3) Audit Committee Report; 4) Old School Update; 5) a school board hiring recommendation.

NEW GREETER (yellow) SCHEDULE: The 2019 Greeter schedules are available today and can be picked up on the narthex table. The Usher and Altar Guild 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!

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

In God's House This WeekOnline church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	10:00AM 10:30AM	150th Anniversary Kick-off Celebration and Communion Service Kick-off luncheon of the 150 th Anniversary of St. John Lutheran Church
Mon.	8:20 AM 4:30 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM	Classes resume B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls vs Swanton (played at SPL) B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys @ Swanton School Board Meeting
Tue.	8:35 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Ohio Lutheran Schools Supt. Kevin Creutz B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:00 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs St. Pats – Bryan Church Council Meeting
Wed.	9:00 AM 6:15 PM	Hearing Re-screenings (PS3 / K / 1 / 3 / 5) Midweek Confirmation Class
Thurs.	9:00 AM 5:30 PM	Hearing Re-screenings (PS45) B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; Gr. 4-6 Boys vs Holy Cross – Defiance
Fri.		End of 2 nd Qtr Grading Period
Sat.	10:00AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:15 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys; 12:30 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls; 1:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs Trinity Lutheran – Toledo
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; “The Lamp” Jr High LYF
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Donald Luhring</i> , St. John 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 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

THANK YOU:

- I would like to thank Emersyn Gerken, and Lydia and Matt Schroeder for their gift of preservice music Christmas Eve; to Zeb Kramer for his part in 2 duets preservice Dec. 30th. Your music was enjoyed by all! Signed, *Sharon Damman*
- Thank you to Pastor Niermann for coming to the hospital and for the prayers. Also, for the cards and prayers from the congregation members as well. *Elmer Maassel*

BE A JAVA JOY HOST! Start the New Year off by signing up for Java Joy! Every second Sunday of the month after the service, we aim to have a time of fellowship with coffee, juice and snacks called **Java Joy**. If you would like to host one of these, please sign up in the narthex. Don’t let finances stop you – you are welcome to reimburse your expenses from the kitty if you wish.

150th Anniversary Kick-off

TODAY IS THE DAY we begin celebrating **150 years of God's grace in Christ at St. John Lutheran.** Throughout these 15 decades of ministry, the world around us has changed radically, but one thing remains the same – **Jesus Christ, Yesterday, Today, and Forever!** There are a number of things happening of which we should all take note.



Four Anniversary Sundays

Today is the first of four anniversary Sundays throughout the year, each stressing a different aspect of our anniversary theme. Each of these special services will be held at 10:00 a.m., and each will be followed by a congregational meal and program. Don't miss these! After today, the schedule of remaining anniversary services is as follows:

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|-----------------|--------------------------------|---|
| March 17 | Jesus Christ, YESTERDAY | Rev. Dr. Matthew Rosebrock / Seminary Kantorei
<i>Meal program, Rev. Dale Kern</i> |
| June 2 | Jesus Christ, TODAY | Rev. Justin Hesterman |
| Sept. 15 | Jesus Christ, FOREVER | Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz (emeritus Lutheran Hour Speaker) |

150th Anniversary Mission Challenge Offering

Today is laid before us a challenge for each member or household to give \$150 this year above their regular offerings to support our adopted mission projects through *The Lutheran Heritage Foundation*. Please see the information insert in this bulletin, additional copies available in the narthex, or online at www.sjl.org.

Anniversary related items

Starting today, you will notice a display of a number of items embossed with our church name and anniversary logo. These are available freely, with suggested donations to defray costs. These items include pens, clips, stemless wine glasses, clothing articles, and a beautiful anniversary blanket/throw featuring our anniversary logo and renderings of some of our buildings through history (some of which will arrive soon). Other items will be available through the year, so stay tuned.

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 the months of January, April, July, and October. The months of March, May, June, September, and November are Ladies Aide meetings. 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.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 12/30/18	\$7,306.00	\$588.00	\$691.00

ATTENDANCE: 197

2019 ENVELOPES – There are still a few 2019 offering envelope boxes to be picked up. If you did not receive a box of envelopes but would like one, please contact *Cheryl Dietrich* (419-592-9792).

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENTION FUND

SPECIAL INVESTMENT OFFER --- The LCEF is a way for you to invest money in instruments which will then help congregations and ministries in the form of loans to expand their ministries. Your money does double duty, earning you a nice rate of interest and helping grow God's kingdom. **Right now there is still a little time left to invest in a special 40-month note that will earn 4% interest for you.** You can invest anything from \$500 to \$40,000 in one of these notes. To apply, go to lcef.org where you'll see the offering on their home page. Click the 'Apply Now' button for instructions and an application. **"LCEF – Where Investments Build Ministry."**



SOUP & PIE DINNER – The annual PTL Soup & Pie Dinner will be held on Sun., Jan. 27, 2019, with serving from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, in the fellowship hall. On the menu will be *Chili Soup, Noodle Soup, Hot Dogs, Sloppy Joes, a Salad and Dessert Bar, and Beverages.* After the Dinner you can stay and enjoy watching some basketball games as all four of our school teams will be playing St. Paul Lutheran.

DONATIONS FOR SOUP & PIE DINNER – The PTL Soup & Pie Committee are asking for donations for the Salad and Dessert Bars. A sign-up sheet is placed on the table in the narthex. Thanks to everyone for taking time to support the PTL through your donations of salads, desserts, pies, or cupcakes. We look forward to another successful Soup & Pie Dinner on January 27th!

LYF FUNDRAISER: 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.

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.

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!

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!)

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2019-20 school year. Anyone interested in enrolling your child in our preschool program should contact the school office at 419-598-8702 to request an enrollment packet and/or turn in their registration form. We will be opening the registration up to the public as of February 4th. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration form.

ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES: You may begin ordering again! Scrip orders will be received on Wednesdays, ordered on Fridays and delivered on the following Tuesday. Order forms are posted on FastDirect under 'Links,' titled SCRIP Order Forms and SCRIP Program Info, there are also hard copies on the table in the narthex and in the 'School Info' rack outside the office. 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.**

RECOLLECTION OF GERALD HISTORY BOOKS – There are still a few copies of this book available. Once the office copies are sold out, you can simply send \$12 to Robert L. Stockman, 1218 Spoonbill Landing Circle, Bradenton, FL 34209, and he will mail your copy to you via USPS.

If at any time during the year you need a gift for a current or former member of St. John, why not consider this history book about the development of Gerald? This book is full of interesting facts about Gerald, Freedom Township, and St. John Church and can be purchased thru the church office anytime.

2019 NATIONAL LUTHERAN ANNUAL – We are taking orders for the 2019 Lutheran Annual. It has the current addresses, phone numbers, emails, and websites of LCMS churches, pastors, teachers, etc. all over the United States. Call the church office to order your copy. Deadline is Mon., Feb. 5th.

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 to 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!

COLLECTING STAMPS: The LWML is collecting stamps “For Missions.” A box is on the table in the narthex. Here is what you do: Cut the stamps from the envelopes allowing ¼ inch margin or more around the stamp. The stamp may not be damaged and the perforations around the stamp must be perfect. You need not trim the stamp; we have someone who trims and sorts the stamps. Do not remove stamps from envelopes, albums, and older postcards. An “old” postcard is usually from 1930 or before. The most valuable stamps are commemorative, foreign, and stamp denominations larger than 46 cents. It only makes sense that you purchase and use commemorative stamps for your personal mailing. When purchasing stamps, ask the post office for commemorative stamps. Colorful and large stamps are desirable. Collecting stamps is an easy way to participate in a mission project sponsored by the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Heb. 13:8)