



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

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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](http://www.sjl.org)

### **TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Sermon & Text: "The Dawning of a New Day" Malachi 4:1-6

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Five (LSB pg. 213)

Hymns: 868 ~ 508 ~ 954 ~ (Communion: 741, "Lift Up Your Heads", 655) ~ 872

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### **WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS**

*We 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. May we be showered with those blessings as we together profess His Name today. 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.*

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

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Emersyn Gerken & Brooks Behnfeldt, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Don & Karan Niebergall, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Neil Badenhop, Tom Von Deylen, Doug Dietrich, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff, Linda Riefers, *Altar Guild* ✘

**POINSETTIA SALE!** **Deadline extended to Tues., Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>.** This is the **absolute latest** to accept orders. The order must be called in first thing Wednesday (20<sup>th</sup>) morning. Pink order forms are available on the narthex table. The cost is \$8.00 per plant. You may put your order form and check payable to *St. John Lutheran School* in the box on the narthex table. Be sure to fill in the line, "*In Loving Memory of*" or "*In Honor of*". This information will be published in the church bulletin as an insert the Sunday the poinsettias are placed in the sanctuary.



**HELP US KEEP UPDATED RECORDS** – With the advent of cell phones, keeping current contact information is an issue for every organization these days, including the church. When people move or get a new phone number, they often don't think to update that information with us, often leaving us with no way to contact them for ministry related matters. So please, if you move, get a new phone number, or eliminate your landline, contact the church office or make a note of it on the *Rite of Fellowship Card* and help us keep our records as up-to-date as possible.

<b>In God's House This Week</b>		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM	<b>Communion Service</b> Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Tue.	<b>8:35 AM</b> 7:00 PM	<b>School Chapel</b> Women of Freedom Meeting ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:15 PM	Jr High Confirmation Class Adult Bell Choir Practice Adult Choir Practice
Sat.	10:00AM	B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Teams vs. Senedot Stripes B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys at Woodburn, IN Tournament
Sun.	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM	<b>Worship Service</b> Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
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, Willie Gerken and Lester Rabe*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Dorothy Gerken, Melba Elling, Eldor Gruenhagen, and Lorna Von Deylen*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs*, 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*
- ❖ *Rose Leonard* (daughter of *Brad & Kailee Leonard*), dealing with significant health issues
- ❖ *Florence Jones*, recovering at Vancrest Nursing Home, Holgate, after recent hospitalization
- ❖ *Judy Okuly*, home now and recovering after heart bypass surgery
- ❖ *Harvey Russell* (Dorinda Damman's father), who is fighting pancreatic cancer
- ❖ *Pastor Brent Keller* (former vicar), dealing with heart issues and recovering from an ablation

**WOMEN OF FREEDOM:** Our next meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. *Judy Burkholder*, RN, from Wauseon, will be our speaker that night. She now offers hyperbaric-oxygen therapy at her home. She will explain how she runs her home services and will answer any questions about the benefits of this type of therapy. We will also have election of officers. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend.

**PICTORIAL DIRECTORY SIGNUP:** We still have several families who have not signed up for picture appointments. **Please take the time today to pick your date and time.** After today, you can expect a phone call to get your appointment set up. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to another "picture perfect" directory.

**NOMINATIONS** – Time is running out!!! If you would still like to be included on the list of nominees for any office, please speak with a member of the Stewardship Board or with Pastor.



## **THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP**

**“Come, ye thankful people, come!”** Join us for our celebration of our national day of Thanksgiving. We will gather for worship on **Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, Nov. 27**, at 7:00 p.m. Also, we encourage participation in a double offering:

- **MONETARY OFFERING** – The offerings we give in the offering plate will support Henry County Christmas Cheer and its work of assisting low income families in our area;
- **FOOD OFFERING** – Everyone is encouraged to bring non-perishable food items for our food pantry, and to present them before the service or during the offering at a table in front of the sanctuary.

**150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY PICTORIAL DIRECTORY** – Photography begins 1 week from tomorrow, on Monday, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up for your appointment if you haven't already.

- **Early Bird Appointments: November 25-26 (Mon/Tues) from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.**
- **December 5-6 (Thr-Fri) from 2:00-8:00 p.m.**
- **December 7 (Saturday) from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Everyone who participates will receive a free 8x10 portrait, and there will be the opportunity to purchase additional portraits, or even a CD with ALL of your pictures and permission to print.

Here are a few things to note for your appointment:

- Photography sessions are 10 minutes each; larger families (6 or more) should schedule two back-to-back appointments.
- Photography backdrop will be blue.
- In addition to household photos, extended families may also schedule photography sessions. Families who wish to take advantage may want to consider grouping their individual appointments close together.
- If you are widowed, or have lost a child, consider bringing a framed photo of your loved one to be held by you in your portrait, if you wish.
- Photographs with pets may also be taken.



## **OUR CHURCH FAMILY DIRECTORY**

To sign up, head to the **church directory in the narthex**, pick your date and time and sign your name. Then fill out a reminder slip to take home with you to get it on your calendar.

**BULLETIN STUFFER VOLUNTEERS:** Want to get involved? Why not try volunteering to help with stuffing the bulletins for worship services. It's not too difficult and can be done either at church or in the comfort of your own home. The bulletins are pre-folded. If anyone is willing to donate a little time toward stuffing bulletins, we are looking for about 11-12 couples/families to sign up for this task. If you feel you would like to give this a try, there is a signup sheet on the narthex table. You can even pick the month(s) that work best for you. **NOTE:** *If you have stuffed bulletins in the past year, thank you for your service. We ask that you please sign up again and choose your month. You can also call Lori Langenhop at 419-598-8151 or email her at [lahop@bright.net](mailto:lahop@bright.net).*

**LADIES CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION:** A special event is being planned for all women of the congregation on Monday, December 9 at 7:00 pm. In celebration of the birth of Jesus we are having a Christmas Baby Shower. More details and suggested donation items for the event can be found on the narthex table. Light snacks and dessert will be served. *Matt Richardson*, local musician, will provide musical entertainment. Plan to come and invite a friend! (No RSVP necessary.)

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/10/19	\$5,645.00	\$94.00	\$825.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Sunday – 11/10/19 – 192

**CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SERVICE NOTES**

- This year the Children’s Christmas Service will be on **Sunday evening, Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM.**
- **Parts are currently being assigned** to students of both our Sunday School and school, and a practice schedule will be published
- If your child will not be participating, please contact the church office to let us know.
- **Our theme this year is, “We Sing of His Glory.”** The students will help us explore the humble and surprising ways God reveals His glory.



**DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS:** The School Board would like to ask for volunteers to help decorate the sanctuary this year. They will be putting up decorations on Sun., Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> following the worship service that day. Please consider giving an hour or two of your time to help with this project. Sunday School parents, it would be great to have you come down and help out while your children are attending Sunday School that day. Hope to have some good help again, as we did last year!

**GREETER, USHER, AND ALTAR GUILD SIGN-UP** – We are preparing the 2020 greeter, usher, and altar guild schedules so this is the time to sign-up at the table in the narthex. If you are interested in serving God’s people here at St. John in a way that is much needed and appreciated, would you consider joining a team? A few people have dropped out over the past year and so we ask you to consider signing up for one of these teams. The sign-up deadline is Sunday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. *You do not need to sign up again if you are currently serving as a greeter, usher or are on an altar guild team.*

**2020 OFFERING BOXES:** Offering envelope boxes will be available in early December. The financial commitments you make as well as how you contribute are between you and God. The church provides offering envelopes to our members in order to promote faithful and joyful giving as well as to serve as a means to record member contributions throughout the year for charitable tax purposes. 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 *Cheryl Dietrich*, Finance Trustee.

**RENEWING OF YOUR MIND**...Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: 1 Corinthians, Is Divorce Contagious?, First Century Bishop Clement of Rome, Temptation, Evil and more. You can listen live or at your convenience at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org) and on the LPR mobile app.

**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.

**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 CARDS:** Check out the table in the hallway by the cry room! The Women of Freedom have put out boxes of Christmas Cards for sale. The dish cloths are also available. Contact *Nancy Glaser, Marian Damman, Mabel Bischoff, Lois Rosebrock, or Karan Niebergall.*

**ST. JOHN SCRIP:** Start your Christmas shopping early! There are so many vendors on the Scrip order form, that you can’t go wrong. Scrip orders are 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 in the ‘School Info’ rack outside the office. 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](mailto:honemann@embarqmail.com).**

**EAGLE NEWS:** The Eagle News will be passed out today following the service. It is available online via FastDirect Communication. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnsfreedom/>, click on “Links” at the top of the page, then click on “Eagle News – November” in the “Everybody” column. Extra copies available in the “School Info” rack outside the office.

**SPORTS SCHEDULE NOTE:** With *Brad Rosebrook* as our Athletic Director, please go to his “Calendar” in Fast Direct frequently as this is where he will post the sports schedules and any changes to the sports schedules. Keep in mind that in order to view the games for the basketball season, you can go to either FastDirect directly (*thru the school*) or you can enter the church’s website ([www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)), click on “School” at the top of page, click on “FastDirect School Info. System” on the left side of page, click on “BulletinBoard/Calendar” on the left side of page, and then scroll down to Brad Rosebrook, Athletic Director and click on **his** “Calendar”.

**ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP:** Sign up deadline is **Mon., Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>**. Prices are \$20.00 for a couple and \$10.00 for an individual. Make checks payable to St. John Boosters. Forms are available in the “School Info” rack outside the school office or on the narthex table.

**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!

**IT'S CHRISTMAS CHEER TIME AGAIN!** – Henry County Christmas Cheer has begun its annual campaign for the collection of food for low income and needy persons in Henry County. The campaign runs from now through Tues., December 10<sup>th</sup>. A barrel has been placed in the fellowship hall for the collection of canned goods, dry goods and paper products. You may also leave your donations by the desk in the narthex. No Microwave items! Suggestions are: *Canned Vegetables, Fruit, Soup, Stews, Meats; Macaroni & Cheese Mixes, Spaghettio'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.* Please watch expiration dates on your donations. Thank you!

**SYMPHONY OF TREES** will be presenting *JINGLE BELL JAM & SUNDAY BRUNCH* today with serving until 1:00 PM at The Armory Arts & Event Center, 127 E. Clinton St., Napoleon. Then from 3 – 4:30 PM there will be a Children's Pajama Party also at the Armory Arts & Event Center. For details visit [www.symphonyoftrees.com](http://www.symphonyoftrees.com) or call 419-591-3840.

#### **AREA EVENTS**

- ◆ **COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER!** The churches and service groups of Henry County are hosting a community Thanksgiving Meal at St. Paul Lutheran, 1075 Glenwood Ave., Napoleon on Thurs., Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!
- ◆ **CHRISTMAS VILLAGE CRAFT SHOW** will be held at the Ridgeville Legion Hall, Sun., Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Lunch is available. Come and browse the shops!
- ◆ **CHRISTMAS TREE OF LIGHTS** will be lit on Thurs., Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM at Genacross Lutheran Home – Napoleon Campus. Please call 419-592-1688 for information on how to donate in order to honor or memorialize someone.
- ◆ **THE TOLEDO SYMPHONY** will perform a Christmas Concert at St. Paul Lutheran Church – Napoleon Township, on Wed., Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> 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...**

**Thanks are the highest form of thought, and gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder!**

G.K. Chesterton

*“I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.” Psa 9:1*