



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

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School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339
Church Website: www.sjl.org

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

Sermon & Text: "Do You Know What's Going On?" *Luke 23:27-43*

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 837 ~ 548 ~ 435 ~ 422 ~ 525

Jr High Bell Choir: "Now Thank We All our God"

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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Cal Bickel & Brooklyn Bostelman, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Bonnie Niermann and Cheryl Yaw, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Neil Badenhop, Tom Von Deylen, Doug Dietrich, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff, Linda Riefers, *Altar Guild* ✘

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed in celebration of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of *Darrel & Barb Bockelman*, by their family. Darrel & Barb were married on Nov. 29, 1969 at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wauseon. The Lord has blessed them with many years of marriage and our prayer is that He will continue to grant them many more years. Congratulations to the Bockelmans!

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICES – The Stewardship Board is trying to wrap up its work with preparing nominations for congregational offices for the coming year. We still need some people to step up to serve on the School Board and as Financial Trustees. Please speak with Pastor Niermann or Dave Von Deylen if you would be interested in serving in either of these positions! Thank you!

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.	2:00 pm 5:30 PM	Church Directory picture taking by appointment only (<i>until 8:00 PM</i>) <i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	8:35 AM 2:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	School Chapel Church Directory picture taking by appointment only (<i>until 8:00 PM</i>) Shepherd Committee Meeting Board of Elders
Wed.	5:45 PM 7:00 PM	NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING BREAK (<i>thru Friday</i>) Junior Confirmation Class (<i>until 6:45 PM</i>) Thanksgiving Eve Service Offering: <i>Henry County Christmas Cheer</i> Adult Choir: " <i>For the Fruit</i> " and " <i>We Praise Thee O God</i> " Acolyte: <i>Brooks Behnfeldt & Tayah Homan</i> Greeters: <i>Bob & Diane Norden</i> Ushers: <i>Neil Badenhop, Tom Von Deylen, Doug Dietrich</i> Altar Guild: <i>Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff, Linda Riefers</i>
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 11:00AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Church Christmas Decorating (<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, Willie Gerken and Lester Rabe*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Dorothy Gerken, Melba Elling, Eldor Gruenhagen, and Lorna Von Deylen,* at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs, and Ruth Mahnke,* 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 home after recent hospitalization
- ❖ *Judy Okuly,* home now and recovering after heart bypass surgery
- ❖ *Harvey Russell* (Dorinda Damman's father), who is fighting pancreatic cancer

MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS REVISED SCHEDULE – Starting this week, and through the month of December, the midweek confirmation class on Wednesday evenings will meet from **5:45 to 6:45 p.m.** The regular schedule (6:15-7:30 p.m.) will resume on Wednesday, January 8.

VOTERS' MEETING will be Sunday, December 8 after the Worship Service, and will be held in the Fellowship Hall. On the agenda as of today is: *1) Election of Officers; 3) Approval of 2020 Budget.* Please plan to attend.



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.

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.

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.

ADVENT AT ST. JOHN – The end of the church year is upon us, and a new church year begins next Sunday on the First Sunday of Advent. Here’s what’s going on...

- **SANCTUARY DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS** will take place next Sunday after the worship service. It’s a time for you and your family to serve by making God’s house ready for our Christmas celebration. All are welcome, but it would be great to have the Sunday School parents come down to help while your children are in class that day! Many hands make light work. Hoping to have some good help again, as we did last year!
- **MIDWEEK ADVENT VESPERS** will be held each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. Our theme is, “Impossible Birth!” In preparation for the celebration of Jesus’ birth, we will be considering the impossible births associated with Sarah (wife of Abraham), the wife of Manoah (mother of Samson), and Hannah (mother of Samuel).
- **MIDWEEK ADVENT OFFERINGS** are designated for 1) Worship Anew; 2) Missionary Work in Kenya; and 3) Church Vocation Students.
- **THE CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SERVICE** will be on Sunday, December 22nd, at 7:00 p.m.



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!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE NOTES

- This year the Children's Christmas Service will be on **Sunday evening, Dec 22nd 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.



150th ANNIVERSARY PICTORIAL DIRECTORY – Photography begins 1 week from tomorrow, on Monday, Nov. 25th. 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.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/17/19	\$8,519.00	\$114.00	\$385.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 11/17/19 – 229

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.)

CHRISTMAS SWEETS-n-TREATS – Make your best Christmas treats and bring them to church with you on Sunday, December 15. We will set them out on tables, where everyone can make a donation and then fill a box with their favorites to take home. Donations will be applied to the old school renovation project.



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. 15th. *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.

YOUTH CENTER DONATIONS: Don’t forget the future “youth center” when you make those end of the year donations. There are pre-addressed envelopes available on the narthex table for anyone wishing to donate. So as not to cause confusion for the Finance Trustees, only use the pre-addressed envelopes and mail them to Eileen @ LCEF. Please don’t put your donation in the Sunday offering plate. Make your check payable to **St. John Lutheran Church**, put “St. John Lutheran Youth Center” on the memo line, and mail it to Eileen Fitzenreiter’s LCEF office in Napoleon.

CHRISTMAS CHEER BOX! – A box is now in the narthex marked “Christmas Cheer” 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. The campaign runs from now through Tues., December 10th. Thank you!

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.**

ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP: Sign up deadline is **Mon., Dec. 16th**. 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.

ST. JOHN MINI EAGLES: This past Friday, Nov. 22nd from 3:00 – 4:30 PM the first Mini Eagles practice was held. St. John members in Grades PreK-3 are eligible to participate. During the practice we will have emergency medical forms for the parents to complete. The goal of the program is to develop a love of basketball, make friends, and grow in faith. Practices are skill based and run in “stations”. We are looking for opportunities to demonstrate our skills during halftime of some of the home games. T-shirt order forms will be available for your child at this practice. We will have practice and game schedules coming out soon. The coaches this year will be Amy Kramer and Joel Stier. Amy’s cell is 419-297-6998 if you have any questions about the program.

GERALD HISTORY BOOKS – If you didn’t get one yet, you can still do so. Stop in at the church office to purchase your copy or you can also 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. Get your copy today!

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. 28th from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!
- ◆ **CHRISTMAS VILLAGE CRAFT SHOW** will be held at the Ridgeville Legion Hall, Sun., Dec. 1st from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Lunch is available. Come and browse the shops!
- ◆ **RIDGEVILLE LEGION BLOOD DRIVE** on **Mon., Dec. 2nd from noon – 6:00 PM** at the Legion. Call 800-733-2767 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins also welcome!
- ◆ **CHRISTMAS TREE OF LIGHTS** will be lit on Thurs., Dec. 5th 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. 18th 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...

This Thursday evening, don’t forget to set your scales back 10 lbs!

“And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.” Deuteronomy 8:10