



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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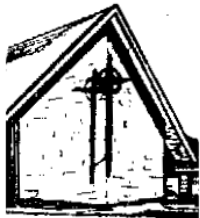
Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339
Church Website: www.sjl.org

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sermon & Text: "Abounding in Hope" *Romans 15:4-13*
Order of Service: Matins (LSB pg. 219)
Hymns: 344 ~ 342 ~ 575 ~ 941 (Canticle) ~ 515
Adult Choir: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" and "Where Is He?"

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. 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.*



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Ian Rosebrook & Brooklyn Bostelman, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dan & Deb Wachtman, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Dean Badenhop, Dave Von Deylen, Dennis Showman, Richard Elling *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Mary Kossow, Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, *Altar Guild* ✠

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed in remembrance of the 10th anniversary of the passing of Phyllis Damman on December 16, 2009, by her family. Please keep John and his family in your prayers as the holidays are always a little tougher without our loved ones present.

VOTERS' MEETING today after Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall. On the agenda is: 1) *Election of Officers*; 2) *Approval of 2020 Budget*.

HOLY COMMUNION will be offered this morning following the Worship service. Those who wish to attend should fill out a Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and give it to the usher during the collection of the offering this morning. Return immediately to the front pews in the sanctuary following the service.

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service w/ Communion following Voters' Meeting; <i>Java Joy</i> ; Children's Christmas Program practice (Gr. PS – 8 until 11:30 AM)
Mon.	7:00 PM	Women of Freedom Christmas Baby Shower (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Tue.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel ; Offering: <i>Lutheran Bible Translators</i> Church Council Meeting
Wed.	5:45 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class (<i>until 6:45 PM</i>) Adult Bell Choir practice Advent Service 2 ; Offering: <i>Missionary Work in Kenya</i> Acolytes: <i>Landen Kruse & Colton Kruse</i> Greeters: <i>Dan & Joyce Wiechers</i> Ushers: <i>Carey Damman & Scott Van Valkenburg</i> Altar Guild: <i>Mary Kossow, Karen Germann, Diana Kruse</i> Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	5:00 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Teams @ Holy Cross
Fri.	9:00 PM 5:30 PM	Jr. & Sr. High LYF Christmas Party (<i>see bulletin note</i>) Wedding Rehearsal – Knapp / Gerken
Sat.	10:00AM 3:30 PM	B-ball: 4-6 Girls; 11:15 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys @ Solomon – Woodville Wedding Ceremony – Cody Knapp & Emily Gerken
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:00 PM	Communion Service Sweets-n-Treats Fundraiser; Adult Bible Study; "The Lamp"; 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
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Carl Rockrohr</i> , Zion Lutheran, Ridgeville Corners

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, Judy Okuly, and Harvey Russell*, with various health issues
- ❖ *Cody Knapp & Emily Gerken*, on their marriage here at St. John on Sat., Dec. 14th

MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS REVISED SCHEDULE – During Advent in 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.



JAVA JOY TODAY! It's the second Sunday of the month, and that means **Java Joy** following the service. Take a little time to enjoy a bite to eat and head down to the fellowship hall for the Voters' Meeting. A table is set up in the front hallway. Your gifts to the "kitty" help keep **Java Joy** alive and going. We thank *Jim & Nancy Hogrefe* for hosting Java Joy for December. (*NOTE: In order for everyone to enjoy the food items, we ask that you only take 2 items when going through the line.*) Thank you!

Interested in being a **Java Joy** host? Please sign up on the table in the narthex. Don't let finances stop you – you are welcome to reimburse your expenses from the kitty if you wish.

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. **Suggested donation items are: Baby wipes/shampoo/bibs/socks, Books, Onesies (size M or L), Boy sleepers, Small toys, Crib sheets, Burp cloths, Sippy cups, Bottles, Baby thermometer, or Baby quilts.** Light supper and dessert will be served. *Matt Richardson*, local musician, will provide musical entertainment. Plan to come and invite a friend! (No RSVP necessary.)

ADVENT AT ST. JOHN – Here's what's going on...

- **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 in Scripture:



<u>DATE</u>	<u>THEME</u>	<u>OFFERING</u>
Dec. 4	Sarah, Mother of Isaac "Is Anything Too Hard for the Lord?"	<i>Worship Anew</i>
Dec. 11	Wife of Manoah, Mother of Samson "His Name is Wonderful"	<i>Becker's Missionary Work in Kenya</i>
Dec. 18	Hannah, Mother of Samuel "Heard by God"	<i>Church Vocation Students</i>

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE NOTES



- This year the Children's Christmas Service will be at 7:00 on **Sunday evening, Dec 22nd**.
- **Parts have been assigned.** Rehearsal schedules have been handed out.
- **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.

SACKING CANDY: The School Board and Sr. High LYF members will be assembling the Christmas sacks on Sun., Dec. 22nd during the Sunday School hour.

2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES – With gratitude to God for the generous support of our members of the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this place, the 2020 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 *Cheryl Dietrich* (419-592-9792) until Jan. 1st. After Jan. 1st, please contact *Mary Kossow* (419-599-0011).

LYF CHRISTMAS PARTY: The Sr. and Jr. High LYF will gather for a Christmas party at River City Bowling Alley for a night of Glo-Bowling. The party will take place Fri., Dec. 13th from 9:00-11:00 PM. The cost for two hours of bowling and shoe rental is \$11 and can be paid before the 13th or the night of. Miss Bartok will be taking care of pizza and drinks. If you are planning on attending, please contact Miss Bartok by Wed., Dec. 11th so she knows how many lanes will be needed.

ADVENT DEVOTIONS FROM L.H.M. – Lutheran Hour Ministries has made available their 2019 Advent Devotions, on the theme, "Call His Name Jesus." To access these devotions, go to www.lhm.org/advent. Large print copies are available on the narthex table today. Light up an Advent Wreath at home and make these devotions part of your daily household routine!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 12/01/19	\$9,794.00	\$224.00	\$372.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 12/01/19 – 279

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE: \$921.00 – Henry County Christmas Cheer; Attendance: 99

LIST OF 2020 CHURCH OFFICE NOMINATIONS: *(as of the printing of this bulletin)*

ELECTED: Vice Pres. – Neil Badenhop; **Treasurer** – Cathy Gerken*;

Financial Trustee – Jim Hogrefe; **Elder** – Steve Gruenhagen, Larry Gerken*

Stewardship Board – Hannah Montana, Mary Rettig

Board of Education – Marlea Myles, Ashley Crall

Alt. Delegate Synod – Peter Gerken*, Dean Maassel

APPOINTED: **Secretary** – Deb Durham*; **Church Deacon** – Carey Damman

Trustee – Mike Dietrich, Greg Kehnast; **Cemetery Sexton** – Ben Kruse*

Cemetery Board – Jake Myles, Joe Badenhop, Brady Gerken

Asst. Sunday School Supt. – Todd Wachtman

NOTE: *The * indicates current office holder.* As you can see, there are still ballot spots that need filled, so please consider serving and contact *Pastor Niermann* or the church office. Installation of newly elected or appointed officers for 2020 will be conducted in the Jan. 5th Sunday Service.



CHRISTMAS SWEETS-TREATS – One Week from Today!

Make your best Christmas treats and bring them to church with you next Sunday, December 15. We will set them out on tables, where everyone can 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.*

LWML WINTER QUARTERLIES & ODES are now available in the tract rack in the narthex.

SCRIP FOR THE HOLIDAYS: The last SCRIP orders accepted for Christmas will be Thurs., Dec. 12. SCRIP orders will resume when school is back in session on Mon., Jan. 6. Think ahead...if you give out gift cards for Christmas consider purchasing them from PTL. Order forms and program information 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 and on the table in the narthex. 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.**

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, Pat Mahnke, or Karan Niebergall* if you would like to see or purchase any of these items.

PTL COOKBOOKS: Don't forget a cookbook for someone on your Christmas list! This cookbook would make a great gift for that "hard to buy" family member. At a cost of only \$10, stop in at the church office and pick up and pay for your copy today.

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! Please watch expiration dates on your donations. **The campaign runs from now through Tues., December 10th.** Thank you!

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.

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: Practices are on Fridays from 3:00 – 4:30 PM. 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. 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 for questions.

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.**

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!

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.

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!

DECEMBER FOOD PANTRY – PLEASE NOTE: There will not be a Bread From Heaven food distribution in December. The next distribution will be Mon., Jan. 27th at 5:30 PM. As always, thank you for all your generosity to our food pantry throughout the year. You “are” making a difference!

AREA EVENTS

- ◆ **THE BRANDON OYER FAMILY BENEFIT** – held at St. John Lutheran – Stryker (at 6 & 66 South of Archbold) today from 11:00 AM until gone. Brookview Chicken BBQ with all the sides. Dine in or Drive Thru. See flyer for more information!
- ◆ **COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-ALONG** hosted by Zion Lutheran Church, Ridgeville Corners today at 2:00 PM at the Giffey Hall on County Road X. See flyer!
- ◆ **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...

Peace on earth is here to stay when we live Christmas every day!

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. And He will be called Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6