



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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THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Service Divine Service, Setting Three (LSB pg. 184)
Sermon "Abounding in Hope" *Romans 15:4-13*
Hymns **349 ~ 387 ~ (Communion: 347, 338, 348) ~ 345**
Adult Bell Choir: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

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, loaded with possibilities to learn something new, to gain fresh insights into His great truths. 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 this morning.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Parker Woods & Brooklyn Bostelman, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Lois Arps and Linda Riefers, *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 *Roger Mahnke* by his loving wife, Ruth. God's peace be with you and your family as you celebrate Christmas without your loved ones.

UNITED IN MARRIAGE: *Cody Knapp* and *Emily Gerken* were married yesterday, Dec., 14th, here at St. John Lutheran. May God richly bless them as they begin their journey as husband and wife. Congratulations Cody and Emily!

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.

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:00 PM	Communion Service Sweets-n-Treats Fundraiser; Adult Bible Study; "The Lamp"; Children's Christmas Service 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.	6:00 PM	Call Committee and School Board combined meeting
Tue.	8:35 AM 5:00 PM	School Chapel B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys @ St John - Defiance
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 3 ; Offering: <i>Church Vocation Students</i> Acolytes: <i>Trenton Kruse & Devin Dietrich</i> Greeters: <i>Marilyn Meyer and Arlene Wallace</i> Ushers: <i>Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg</i> Altar Guild: <i>Diane Von Deylen, Lou Ann Rosebrock</i> Adult Choir practice
Fri.		Last Day of School – Christmas Break begins at 3:00 PM
Sat.	9:00 AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 10:15 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys; 11:30 AM Gr. 7&8 Boys; 12:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls; 2:00 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs St. John - Emmanuel
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 7:00 PM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; "The Lamp"; Final Children's Christmas Service Practice for Gr. PS – 8 (<i>until done</i>) Children's Christmas Service (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Kurt Mews</i> , St. John 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, 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

CHRISTMAS SWEETS-n-TREATS – TODAY!

This morning we thank all the bakers of the congregation who made some of their best Christmas treats, and have them available for us to enjoy! Please head down to the gym lobby area and fill up a Styrofoam box with your favorites, and leave a donation for the old school renovation project. Then go home and enjoy your Christmas Sweets-n-Treats! Thank you to the Stewardship Board who coordinated and is overseeing this event!



FINAL MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE – It’s been an interesting topic, exploring some of the *Impossible Births* in Scripture, and seeing how they point us to Christ, whose own impossible birth we are about to celebrate. So far we have considered **Sarah**, the mother of Isaac, and **Manoah’s wife**, the mother of Samson. **This week we look into the story of Hannah, the mother of Samuel under the theme, “Heard by God.”**

Worship is at 7:00 p.m. Our offering this Wednesday evening will support our young people who are pursuing church work careers.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SERVICE NOTES

- This year the Children’s Christmas Service will be **next Sunday evening, Dec. 22nd at 7:00 p.m.**
- **Children in Preschool thru Grade 7 should arrive at church about 15 minutes before the service (6:45) and gather in the fellowship hall.**
- **Parents, please do not leave your children with us prior to 6:45** – we don’t have enough adult help to keep an eye on all the children before then. Thank you!
- **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.



DRESS CODE for the Christmas Service is as follows: Girls should wear either a dress or dress pants and a blouse or sweater. Boys should wear dress pants or khakis (*no cargo pants*) and a sweater or dress shirt (*any color*) and tie (*optional*). No jeans or athletic shoes.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR THE CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Please note that there is no offering envelope in your boxes for the Children’s Christmas Service at 7:00 PM on Sun., Dec. 22nd. If you wish for your offering to be recorded, use any spare Sunday envelope in your set. Regardless of which envelope you use, unless you specify something in writing on the envelope, we will apply your contribution to the Home Fund as designated.

Christmas at St. John

Oh Come, Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!



• Sun. Dec. 22 – 7:00 pm	Children’s Christmas Service “We Sing of His Glory” <i>Children gather at 6:45 in the fellowship hall</i>
• Tue. Dec. 24 – 7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service of Carols & Candles <i>“Silent Night, Holy Night”</i>
• Wed. Dec. 25 – 9:30 am	Christmas Day Festival Service, with Holy Communion <i>The meal that puts the feast in the festival!</i>

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).

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

GREETER, USHER, AND ALTAR GUILD SIGN-UP – **The sign-up deadline is today.** 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? *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.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 12/08/19	\$8,306.31	\$84.00	\$335.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 12/08/19 – 240

1ST ADVENT SERVICE: \$631.00 – *Worship Anew*; Attendance: 81

2ND ADVENT SERVICE: \$622.00 – *Becker Missionary Work in Kenya*; Attendance: 74

INSTALLATION OF 2020 CHURCH OFFICERS (JAN. 5TH) – We give thanks to God for everyone who submitted their names for nomination to our various church offices. Your servant hearts and willing spirits provide an example for us all! Those who were elected or appointed to offices for 2020 will be **installed into those offices during worship on Sun., Jan. 5th.**

Officers to be installed are: **President** – *Richard Elling*; **Vice President** – *Neil Badenhop*; **Treasurer** – *Cathy Gerken*; **Financial Trustee** – *Jim Hogrefe*; **Elders** – *Steve Gruenhagen, Jeremy Honemann*; **Stewardship Board** – *Hannah Montana, Mary Kay Rettig*; **Alt. Delegate Synod** – *Peter Gerken*; **Board of Education** (installed to take office in July 2020) – *Ashley Crall, Marlea Myles*; **Secretary** – *Deb Durham*; **Church Deacon** – *Carey Damman*; **Trustees** – *Mike Dietrich, Greg Kehnast*; **Sunday School Supt.** – *Stephanie Damman*; **Asst. Sunday School Supt.** – *Todd Wachtman*; **Cemetery Board** – *Jake Myles, Joe Badenhop, Brady Gerken*; **Cemetery Sexton** – *Ben Kruse*.

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.

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.

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.

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.**

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.

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!

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA – Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron 454, Ridgeville Corners, has ordered nine wreaths for each of the area cemeteries that the Ridgeville Legion supports (with patriotic flags during the summer months). One wreath will be placed at each cemetery. This is the SAL's first step to expand this program for next year. In 2020, the SAL will ask Veteran's families or other interested people to purchase and place these wreaths on Veteran's graves at this time of year. The cost for each wreath will be \$15. Person to contact is Tom Hurst. For more information on the Wreaths Across America program, please go to: <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>

AREA EVENTS

- ◆ **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...

There's no better way to spend Christmas than at home with the ones you love!

"Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere." Psa 84:10

COLORING PAGE

