



# 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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### FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sermon Title and Text: "The King In Us" *Matthew 2:13-23*  
Order of Service: Service of Prayer & Preaching (LSB pg. 260)  
Hymns 367 ~ 374 ~ 389 ~ 969 (*see hymn insert*) ~ 383

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### A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*Welcome to our worship service here at St. John. If we can be of service to you in any way, please speak to our Pastor. If you are looking for a church to call home, please consider joining this church where we seek to help each other grow in faith, in love and in service. Simply 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.*

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

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Emersyn Gerken & Tayah Homan, *Acolyte* ✠
- ✠ Larry & Pat Mahnke, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Dean Badenhop, Dave Von Deylen, Dennis Showman, Richard Elling *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Lou Ann Rosebrock, Diane Von Deylen, *Altar Guild* ✠



**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are placed in memory of Lucia Delventhal by her family. Lucia went to be with her Lord one year ago on Dec. 23, 2018. She is sadly missed by her family, but they are comforted with all the memories they have and knowing she is in heaven. Please keep Lucia's family in your prayers, as well as all others who are missing loved ones over the holidays.

**POINSETTIA PLANTS** – Don't forget to take your poinsettia plant home after the worship service today. There are plastic sleeves to protect them in the side Conference room.

**MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST** is cancelled this week. We will meet again on February 6<sup>th</sup>, the first Thursday of February.

In God's House This Week		Online church calendar: <a href="http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl">www.DynaCal.com/sjl</a>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	<b>Worship Service</b> Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Sat.	10:00AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:15 AM Gr. 7&8 Girls; 12:30 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys @ Monclova Christian
Sun.	9:00AM	<b>Communion Service w/Installation of Officers</b>
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Eric Moquin</i> , St. John Lutheran – Sherwood

**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, Judy Okuly, Ruth Mahnke, and Harvey Russell*, with various health issues

## Christmas Thank You's

**How can we ever thank everyone who helped make our celebration of Christ's birth such a joyous occasion?** At the risk of leaving out some names, we nevertheless want to extend our thanks to the following:



- Those who stayed after worship on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> to decorate the sanctuary;
- The musicians – *Renee Petzoldt, Sharon Damman and Bethann Gerken*, and the adult voice and bell choirs for all the hours of preparation and for leading worship;
- The children of our Sunday School and school for their hard work in presenting the Christmas gospel to us at their service on Sunday evening;
- *Crystal Genter* and *St. John* staff for their many hours rehearsing for the children's service;
- All the parents who helped set up and tear down for the children's service;
- *Joyce Wiechers* for the extra printing and preparation for all of our Christmas services;
- All those who provided poinsettias for the adornment of God's house.

It takes many hands and much help to prepare for the joyous annual celebration of Christmas! May God bless our continuing celebration as the season of Christmas continues!

**THANK YOU** from the School Board to *Mahnke Orchards (Richard & Elaine)* for donating all the apples that were put in the Christmas Sacks; and to the *LYF* for their help in filling the sacks with candy, fruit, and peanuts. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

**MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS** will reconvene in the New Year on Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at the regular time, 6:15 – 7:30 p.m.

**BAPTISMS THIS MORNING** – After worship this morning, there will be a family ceremony for the baptisms of sisters ***Kenzli Sophia*** and ***Logyn Jean Stiriz***, daughters of Gabby & Derrick Stiriz. ***Kenzli*** is 3 years old, and ***Logyn*** was born on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> of this year. Witnessing the baptisms today are **Jodelynn Meyers** and **Greg Carrick** for ***Kenzli***, and **Elizabeth Perez** and **James Dominique** for ***Logyn***. Grandparents are **Arlene Carrick** and **Andrew Carrick**, and **Jeff & Cathy Stiriz**. May God bring to completion in these children what He begins today in baptism, that they may eternally celebrate the marriage feast in the Kingdom of our Lord!



**NEW GREETER (yellow) SCHEDULES:** The 2020 Greeter schedule is available today and can be picked up on the narthex table. The Altar Guild and Usher 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!

**PICTORIAL DIRECTORY PHOTO SUBMISSION** – Recently we completed photography sessions for our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary pictorial directory. **If you did not have your picture taken and you would still like to have your photo in the directory, as well as receive a copy of the directory, please submit a photograph to Joyce along with \$10.00** (make checks payable to St. John Lutheran Church; write ‘Photo Submission’ on memo line). **The deadline for submitting your own photographs is Wed., Jan. 8, 2020.** Just to reemphasize, those who submit their own photographs (and \$10.00) will also receive a copy of the directory when it is published.



**OUR CHURCH FAMILY  
DIRECTORY**

**OLD SCHOOL RENOVATION BROCHURES** – Recently the *Old School Renovation Finance Committee* sent out a mailing to St. John Lutheran Church members and to SJLS Alumni with an informational brochure about the Old School renovation into a Youth Center, and the opportunity to participate in this project through monetary gifts. If you would expect to have received this mailing but for some reason did not, please accept our apology (*nothing is perfect in this world*), and pick up one of these brochures in the narthex. **Thank you to everyone for your gifts and donations that are moving this project forward!**

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 12/22/19	\$54,100.00	\$130.00	\$605.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Sunday – 12/22/19 – 279

**CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM (12/22/19):** Home Fund - \$1,828.00 Attendance: 455

**CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE (12/24/19):** Home Fund - \$5,237.00 Attendance: 285

**CHRISTMAS DAY FESTIVAL SERVICE:** Home Fund - \$2,595.00; Attendance: 129

**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. 1<sup>st</sup>. After Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 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!

**THE FLOWER CALENDAR** for 2020 is posted on the bulletin board 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.

**WOMEN OF FREEDOM PROGRAM BOOKLETS** – The Program Booklets for 2020 are 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 and Odes are available in the rack above the narthex table.

**INSTALLATION OF 2020 CHURCH OFFICERS (JAN. 5<sup>TH</sup>)** – 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. 5<sup>th</sup>.**

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*.

**TEACHING POSITION:** St. John Lutheran School is seeking applications for a dynamic third and fourth grade teacher for the 2020-21 school year. Requirements are a Bachelor degree in education, a background check, 3 references, and subscribing to the St. John Lutheran Church and School religious beliefs. If you have questions please call the school office at 419-598-8702. Applicants can mail a resume' to St. John Lutheran School, 16035 County Road U, Napoleon, OH 43545.

**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!

**CHOICE DOLLARS RECAP:** Thanks to everyone who continues to designate their Choice Dollars through Thrivent Financial. Because of your initiative the church and school have benefited in 2019. Here are the individual year-to-date deposits for 2019: St. John Church - \$15,935.00; St. John School - \$4,921.00; St. John Preschool \$-0-. A well-deserved thank you to Thrivent for providing these funds.

**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.

**PROJECT CONNECT** – There are many free booklets in the wall rack in the narthex. Some titles are: “*Why Do Bad Things Happen To Me,*” “*Has God Abandoned Me,*” “*Dealing with Depression,*” “*Coping with Cancer,*” “*Who Is Jesus,*” “*Just Stress?*”, “*Where's God in All of This?*”, “*Why Should I go to Church?*” and many more. These booklets are furnished through the Lutheran Hour Ministries.

**HEARING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE:** If hearing in worship has been a problem for you, pick up one of the receiver units for our hearing assistance system. An usher will assist you and you'll hear much more clearly. (*Also, please let us know how the system is working for you.*)

For those who use the hearing assistance system regularly and for the sake of hygiene, we ask that you claim one of the ear buds as your own and keep it with you in your purse, pocket, etc. Bring it with you to church, and simply plug it into one the receivers.

**USE OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL** – If you would like to use the Fellowship Hall for any occasion, on a certain date in this upcoming year, **please contact the church/school office at 419-598-8961 or 419-598-8702.** In addition to calling the office, you may want to check the online master calendar at <http://www.dynacal.com/sjl/> (*you can also link to it from [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)*).

**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!

**RELAY FOR LIFE:** There will be a Relay For Life Kick Off Party on Mon., Jan. 6, 2020 from 6-8 pm at the Napoleon Moose Lodge, 1381 Oakwood Ave. Open to the public! See flyer for more info.

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### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**Christmas is the day that holds all time together.**

*“When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.” Eph. 4:4-5*

