



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom
Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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Miss Mary K. Rettig, Principal

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School: 419-598-8702 Home: 419-966-6160
Church Website: www.sjl.org

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon & Text: "The Shepherd's Shove" *John 10:4*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: **864 ~ 550 ~ 740 ~ 709 ~ 711**

Children's Choir (*Late Service*): *Gr. 7&8 Bells ring "Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus"*

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING CHURCH *Happy Mother's Day!... and a special, grateful welcome to all mothers this morning. We bless and cherish you for the care and nurture you gave or are giving now to your children. We salute you in the name of our Lord who loved His mother and provided for her. If you are visiting with us this morning, help us get to know you better by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you. Simply pass it to the center aisle during the offering.*



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

1st Service: ✠ David Maassel, *Acolytes* ✠

2nd Service: ✠ Aaron Bostelman & Conner Bialorucki, *Acolytes* ✠

✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠

✠ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✠

✠ Richard & Bev Elling, *Greeters* ✠

✠ Denny Bockelman, Jeff Buchhop, Dave Myles, *Ushers* ✠

✠ Lois Rosebrock, Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow, *Altar Guild* ✠

ALTAR FLOWERS are placed today in honor of *Clara Meyer*, with gratefulness to God and lots of love from her family. Clara's 89th birthday is this Saturday, May 17. Happy Birthday Clara!

THANK YOU: The family of *Hilda Kruse* would like to thank everyone for their kindness shown by way of prayers, cards, sharing a memory of Hilda with us, and memorial contributions given during her short illness and passing. We will all miss her "bit of humor" she always shared with each of us.

| In God's House This Week | | <i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i> |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Date | Time | Activities |
| Today | 8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM | Early Worship Service w/Communion following <i>Java Joy</i> ; Sunday School; Adult Bible Class; “ <i>Time To Spare</i> ” Late Worship Service |
| Mon. | 8:45 AM | Gr. 5&6 Field Trip to Toledo Mud Hens game |
| Tue. | 9:00 AM 7:00 PM | Exercise Class; 8 th Grade Quiz Bowl at Central School Church Council Meeting |
| Wed. | 6:15 PM | Confirmation Preparation for Questioning |
| Thur. | 9:00 AM 7:00 PM | Exercise Class; 7 th Grade Quiz Bowl at Central School Confirmation Public Questioning |
| Fri. | 9:00 AM | Gr. 1&2 Field Trip to Ridgeville Fire Station |
| Sun. | 8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM 6:30 PM | Early Communion Service Sunday School; Adult Bible Class; “ <i>Time To Spare</i> ” Late Confirmation & Communion Service 4-H Meetings (All clubs) |
| Mon.- Sat. | 7:20 AM | Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Stephen Niermann</i> , St. John Lutheran, Napoleon |

MATTERS FOR PRAYER – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- Our Homebound Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Marian Fitzenreiter, and Donald & Sue Landry*
- Lucy Rosebrock, Pauline Dishop and Marie Damman*, residing at The Lutheran Home
- Magdalena Volkman*, residing at Heartland Nursing Home, Wauseon
- Marian Buchhop and Anna Brodman*, residing at Country View Haven
- Helen Norden*, residing at Greenbriar Assisted Living, Birmingham, AL
- Servicemen and women*, Justin Atkinson, Kyle Elling, Jason Rohrs, and Emily Niermann
- Edwin Rosebrock*, at home dealing with health issues at this time
- Casen Lawrence*, as he has had on-going seizures resulting in hospitalization
- Norma Damman*, rehabbing at home following a fractured hip

NEW PARENTS: First-time Grandparents, *Jerry & Lori Langenhop* would like to announce the birth of their grand-daughter, *Fiona Ruth Langenhop* to *CJ & Lisa Langenhop* on May 2 in Cincinnati. Mom and baby (*and Dad*) are doing great and would appreciate prayers of gratefulness to our Lord for this new blessing to our family. Great Grandpa *Lawrence Langenhop* and Great Grandma *Lois Arps* are just as excited on *Fiona's* arrival. Congrats to the Langenhop family!

IT'S A BOY! *Jason & Anna Damman* are the proud parents of a baby boy, *Andrew Michael*, born on Mon., May 5th at Fairview Hospital in Cleveland. Big sister, *Alyssa*, is very excited about having a baby brother (*at least so far!!*) Grandparents *Denny & Deb Damman* and Great Grandpa *John Damman* feel very blessed on *Andrew's* arrival.

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



JAVA JOY TODAY! It's the second Sunday of the month, and that means **Java Joy** after worship. Take a little time to enjoy a bite to eat and some fellowship. A table is set up in the front hallway. Your gifts to the "kitty" help keep **Java Joy** alive and going. We thank the *Terry & Karen Norden Family* and *Sarah & Allison VerMeulen* for hosting Java Joy for May. (*NOTE: In order for everyone to enjoy the food items, we ask that you only take 2 items when going through the line.*)

Be a **Java Joy** host. Every second Sunday of the month we aim to have this time of fellowship. If you would like to host one of these, 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.

THANK YOU LADIES: The Ladies Night Out fundraiser for the "Right Hand of Fellowship" gift matching campaign was well attended. The potluck meal was delicious (*as always*) and everyone had a very enjoyable time. Auctioneer Ted did an awesome job and added more laughs to the already fun filled evening. The real winner was the "Right Hand of Fellowship" campaign as another \$1000 was raised to be matched. Thanks again!

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES

The Means of Grace – (*This study is intended to fill in a little time as we prepare for our next bigger study, "The Screwtape Letters" - see below*). God seems to have a fondness for doing His greatest work through the most ordinary means – with mud He healed the blind; with a word from His mouth he raised the dead; with wood and nails He redeemed the world. And now with water, bread and wine He comes to us, simply but powerfully. Join us beginning this morning!

The Screwtape Letters – In this classic book by C.S. Lewis we meet Screwtape, a fictitious devil with vast experience in the art of temptation. In a series of 31 letters, he teaches his craft to an apprentice devil by the name of Wormwood. It is a fascinating and eye-opening look into the craftiness of our enemy as he works tirelessly to draw us away from our Savior.

CS LEWIS
Screwtape
LETTERS

This Bible study will be modeled as a book club. Everyone is encouraged to purchase a copy of this book (used copies are available on Amazon.com for a few dollars), or download the free Kindle edition at <http://www.epubbud.com/book.php?g=UH6Q68D3> (**this link is available at sjl.org**). Each week we will read a few of the letters, then come together on Sundays to discuss what we've read, and to compare it with God's Word. This is a classic piece of literature that every Christian ought to read. Get your copy ordered or downloaded, and we'll begin this study in a few weeks or so. Watch for details.

VBS STAFF RECRUITMENT – Beginning today we will recruit staff for our 2014 Vacation Bible School, which is scheduled for the evenings of June 8-12 (*Sun. to Thurs.*). See the enclosed insert with information on how to sign up online, or use the staff sign-up sheets on the table in the narthex. Please keep this ministry to our children in your prayers, and consider how you can help.

BREAD FROM HEAVEN Food Pantry distribution will be held on **Mon., May 19 at 5:30 PM.** This is a change as shown on the church calendar for May. **Please note the revised date.**

| <u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u> | <u>Home Fund</u> | <u>Synod & Missions</u> | <u>Building Fund</u> |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Weekly Need | \$9,792.78 | \$500.00 | \$961.54 |
| Rec'd 5/04/14 | \$9,986.00 | \$300.50 | \$930.50 |

ATTENDANCE: 5/04/14 – 1st Service: 172 2nd Service: 88

COMMUNED in April: 515 members, 5 guests

MEMORIALS received – *Arnold Bischoff*: “Right Hand of Fellowship” - \$620.00

MEET THE VICAR – A few weeks ago our congregation was assigned a vicar for the coming year. His name is *Reed Shoaff*. He and his wife, *Emily*, have two sons (Abraham, 4; and Phineas, 2), and one on the way, due in August just about the time *Reed* will be installed. *Reed* is from Colby, Kansas (NW Kansas) and *Emily* is from Kansas City, Kansas. More biographical information will be available when we receive it. In the meantime, please pray for the following...

- that the Shoaff family may be blessed in their association with us;
- that their unborn child would be kept safe through pregnancy and delivery;
- that our support for Vicar Shoaff and his ministry will be generous;
- that our preparations for their housing, installation, and life among us may go well.

LUTHERAN WITNESS RENEWAL – It's time to renew your subscription to the Lutheran Witness for this year. To subscribe or renew your subscription, **simply place \$17.00 in an envelope**, along with your name and address, and place it in the Sunday collection plate or bring it down to the church office. **Deadline for subscriptions is Sunday, May 18th.**

NEW ARCHIVES DISPLAY: With the upcoming celebration of our church's 145th Anniversary, the Archives committee has collected pictures & information from the first 75 years of the church's history and placed it in their display cases. The pictures are of past pastors, past teachers, the old church and the old school. We even found Miss Schick's whistle and pictures of track teams and baseball teams. Stop by and check it out!

PREPARATIONS FOR THE VICAR – To get ready for *Vicar Shoaff's* ministry among us, there are number of things we need to get accomplished.

1. **Office** - A temporary partition wall will section off about 8 ft. of the room currently used for quilting.
2. **Apartment** – We need to locate an unfurnished apartment (preferably two bedrooms to accommodate a few children) in or near Napoleon. Once we have housing, we will have time to pull some items together if necessary to furnish what they will need. Please speak with *Pastor Niermann* if you know of any apartments that would be suitable for our Vicar and can be occupied starting August 1.
3. **Support** – Together we all need to get used to the idea of a second church staff member and what that means for the finances. Along with exciting possibilities comes additional responsibilities, and we pray that everyone will be generous in their financial and prayer support for a Vicar's ministry among us.



CHURCH LIBRARY – The church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary, is growing to contain a lot of excellent books that will edify your faith. The books in this library have been screened to assure that they are true to the Word of God and can be trusted to be theologically sound. Please check out the selection. To borrow a book, just take it with you, and then return it to the basket when you've finished reading.

CUTLERY FOR SALE: The Ladies Aid is selling Rada Cutlery products. These items are not on display for safety reasons. Check out the display board to see if you are interested in purchasing any of these items: Paring Knives, Stubby Butcher Knives, Pie Servers, Vegetable Peelers, Slicer Knives, Granny Forks, Carving Forks, Pizza Cutters, Tomato Slicer, and Small Spatula. Contact officers *Nancy Hogrefe, Nancy Glaser, Mabel Bischoff, or Pat Maassel* if you would like to see or purchase any of these items.

INTERESTED IN A CHURCH PROFESSION? WE'D LIKE TO HELP! Recently a number of young people from St. John have pursued educational goals to prepare them for full-time service as teachers and pastors. If you are interested in a church profession (*as a pastor, deaconess, teacher, lay minister, or a Director of Christian Education, Christian Outreach, Parish Music, or Family Life Ministry*), our congregation would like to support you by offering a tuition gift. An application for this gift is available online --- type www.sjl.org/student_gift_app.pdf into your browser (*there is no link*) and fill out the application. Deadline for fall enrollment is June 1st.

TURN YOUR OLD USED CELL PHONE INTO A GIFT FOR THE POOR AND FOR YOUR CHURCH!

Informed sources tell us that the average American household has 5 to 6 old unused cell phones lying around. Now you can put those phones to good use AND keep them out of the landfills. Bring them to church and deposit them in the large white box in the narthex. They will be forwarded to a company that sorts them and prepares them to be given to poor families for emergency use, and sends us a check. Old cell phones range in value from \$1 up to \$50.



ST. JOHN FIELD DAY: The St. John Field Day will be held on Thurs., May 29th beginning at 11:30 AM. Closing Chapel and Kindergarten Graduation will begin at 1:00 PM.

PRESCHOOL HAPPENINGS: ♦ Last 3 year old student day is Fri., May 23rd. ♦ Last 4&5 year old student day is Thurs., May 22nd. ♦ Preschool Graduation will be **Thurs., May 22nd** at 6:30 PM in the church. There will be a short program followed by light refreshments in the fellowship hall.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN will be **Thurs., May 29th** with early dismissal at 2:00 PM. Closing Day festivities include: Closing chapel at 1:00 PM; as well as Kindergarten graduation, awards, prizes. All parents are welcome to come. This is for students in K-garten through Grade 8. Academic and Attendance Awards will be handed out as well as other awards. **Please note: This service will include Kindergarten Graduation.**

LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BULLETINS are available today on the table in the narthex. The Children's Bulletins are coordinated with the Bible texts for each Sunday, and provide activities that tie in with the weekly themes. Pick one up today for your child.

ONLINE CHURCH CALENDAR! The online church calendar at www.dynacal.com/sjl can be a valuable tool to members. Explore the site and notice how you can:

- ☞ view all events, both church and school, or view them separately;
- ☞ search by words, events, or categories;
- ☞ see information for any of the sub-categories under church and school;
- ☞ view the calendar in different ways; month view, day view, etc.;
- ☞ click on an event and bring up a description of the event;
- ☞ print the calendar for your reference at home.

Keep exploring, and have fun with it. Information is updated regularly.

CHICKEN DINNER: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Napoleon Township (located on corner of Henry Co Rds 17 & Q1), invites you to their Annual Mother's Day Chicken Dinner **today from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Menu: BBQ Chicken (*from Brookview*), Baked Potato, Coleslaw, Rolls, Desserts and Drinks. Carry out available. Free will offering. Proceeds go to Relay for Life.

HOSPICE BAZAAR: The 8th Annual Hospice of Henry Co. Bazaar will be held on **Wed. and Thurs., May 14 & 15** at the Napoleon American Legion. See flyer for all the details!

RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPT. AUXILIARY will be hosting a Drive Thru Chicken BBQ on **Sun., May 18th** at the Ridgeville Fire Station. Serving begins at 11:00 AM until gone. Menu consists of: *½ Chicken, Baked Potato, Coleslaw, Roll, and Butter.* Come and support your local Fire Dept. Cost is free will donation, with Thrivent Matching Funds.

5K RUN/WALK: The Super Saints Relay For Life team from St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon Township, will be hosting a 5K Run/Walk on **Sun., May 18th beginning at 11:30 AM.** See flyer for all the details. Proceeds benefit Relay For Life!

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE: The Ridgeville Corners Memorial Day service to remember those who served our country will be held on **Mon., May 26 at 10:30 AM** at the Ridgeville American Legion. **Flag Drill:** Children age PreK thru 4th Grade are invited to participate in the flag drill during the Ridgeville Memorial Day service. **Practices will take place on Tues., May 20th and Thurs., May 22nd, at the Legion at 6:30 PM.** Call *Laura Bickel* at 419-267-5203 or *Jenny Behnfeldt* at 419-267-5636 for questions or more info.

SAVE THE DATE: The 7th Annual *Stephanie Lynn Kossow Memorial Golf Outing* will be held on Sat., July 26th, with a 1:00 PM shotgun start. Registration forms will be available soon!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

"God's answers are wiser than our prayers!"

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord." (Isaiah 55:8)