



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

May 3, 2015

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NO. 18

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor  
Mr. Reed Shoaff, Vicar  
Miss Mary K. Rettig, Principal

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### FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon & Text: "Abiding" *John 15:1-8*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: 807 ~ 805 ~ 919 ~ [Communion: 474, 691] ~ 632

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### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest this morning, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to our pastor and 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 or register your name in the Guest Book in the Narthex.*

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

- ✘ Bethann Gerken, *Pianist* ✘ 1<sup>st</sup> Service: Mitchell Kruse & Brady Gerken, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: Maggie Weller & Cally Bialorucki, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ The Niermann Family, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Harold Behrmann & Richard Elling, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Al Damman, Andy Damman, Tim Hodson, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✘

**SUDDEN LOSS:** On Thurs., April 23, 2015, God called *Yvonne Volkman*, 74, to His home in heaven. Yvonne's funeral was held here at St. John on Tues., April 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM. She was buried in the St. John Lutheran Cemetery. We lift up prayers of strength for her husband, *LaVern*; and children, *Dale & Ginger Volkman, Robert & Pam Volkman, and Daniel Volkman* as they grieve her sudden passing. May God's peace be with all of them!

**2014 CHURCH ANNUAL** is available on the desk and table in the narthex. If there are any corrections to be made, please contact Joyce in the office. Pick up your copy today!

<b>In God's House This Week</b>		<i>Online church calendar: <a href="http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl">www.DynaCal.com/sjl</a></i>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM	Early Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Communion Service
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Niermann; Offering: Concordia Gospel Outreach Exercise Class Bible Study w/Vicar Shoaff School Board and Stewardship Meetings
Wed.	10:20AM 6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM	Late Start-Up due to Teacher In-Service (9:00 AM) ALL Confirmands meet Adult Bell Choir practice Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant Exercise Class Thursday Evening Praise
Fri.	12:30PM	Grandparents' Day ( <i>Grades K-8</i> ) until 3:00 PM; <i>Lunch not included</i>
Sun.	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM	Early Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Worship Service
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. John Holyer</i> , St. Paul Lutheran, Napoleon

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Marian Fitzenreiter, Donald Landry, and Norma Damman*
- ❖ *Pauline Dishop, Marie Damman, and Delora Winkelman*, at The Lutheran Home, Napoleon
- ❖ *Magdalena Volkman*, residing at Heartland Nursing Home, Wauseon
- ❖ *Anna Brodman and Marian Buchhop* residing at Country View Haven
- ❖ *Helen Norden*, residing at Greenbriar Assisted Living, Birmingham, AL
- ❖ Servicemen and women, *Justin Atkinson, Kyle Elling, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, and Connor Gerken*
- ❖ *Casen Lawrence, Rosie Gruenhagen, and Renetta Homan*, with health related issues
- ❖ *Lucia Delventhal*, at Fulton Manor for physical rehab following a mini stroke

**SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY!**

**While the young ones are in Sunday School, you can be growing in faith too!**

- **“THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS”** – This book is a fascinating look by C.S. Lewis into the devil's cunning and deception. In **Letter #28** Screwtape ironically encourages Wormwood to preserve the life of his 'patient' as long as he can, because developing worldliness in him takes time. Join Pastor Niermann in the north end of the fellowship hall for this intriguing study. Don't worry if you've missed sessions or not attended before – each letter is a Bible study unto itself.

## **FLOWERS TODAY:**

- ❖ Altar flowers are placed today in loving memory of *Ryan Rosebrock*, who left us suddenly on May 3, 2009. We keep you in our thoughts and prayers daily but especially at this time of year. With Much Love, *Brad, Sarah, Mitch, and Anika Rosebrock*
- ❖ The single rose budvase on the altar is also in memory of our son and brother, *Ryan Rosebrock*, who was taken to heaven 6 years ago on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. We still miss you and think of you so much each and every day. We love you, *Dad, Mom, Michael, Michelle, Ben, and Ryan.*
- ❖ Flowers on the piano today are placed in loving memory of our daughter and sister, *Stephanie Kossow*, who went to live with her Lord on May 1, 2008. It has now been 7 years and you continue to be in our thoughts and prayers each and every day, but especially at this time of year. We love you, *Dad, Mom, Tyler, and Logan*

## **THIS WEEK IN THE EPISTLE OF JAMES BIBLE STUDY - TUESDAY @ 10AM**

Join *Vicar Shoaff* and your brothers and sisters in Christ as we study the Epistle of James. James writes, "If any of you lacks wisdom...let him ask God in faith and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting." Prayer is an incredible gift, but so often it can be such a difficult and confusing discipline. What do I pray for? How do I know if God is answering me? If I have greater faith, will God say, "yes," to more of my prayers? Can I "name it and claim it?" Find out **this** Tuesday! The Bible study meets in the **north end** of the **fellowship hall** this (*and every*) **Tuesday (10AM-11:15AM)**.

**CHANGE OF SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES** – The voters decided at their last meeting to revert back to **one Sunday worship service at 9:00 a.m.** with Sunday School to follow. The new schedule **will begin on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>**.

**THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES BEGIN** – This Thursday, May 7, we begin offering a worship service on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Until school is out for the summer, these services will be held in the sanctuary; once school is out, they will move to the north end of the fellowship hall. These services will use the readings and hymns for the following Sunday. Holy Communion will be offered on the Thursdays prior to regular Communion Sundays.

**BE A JAVA JOY HOST!** Every second Sunday of the month after worship, we aim to have a time of fellowship with coffee, juice and snacks called **Java Joy**. If you would like to host one of these, please sign up in the narthex. Don't let finances stop you – you are welcome to reimburse your expenses from the kitty if you wish.



**SERVICE OPPORTUNITY: HUMAN CARE** – The idea has been suggested, and the elders have approved, that we form a group of folks within our congregation to tend to matters of human care within the body of Christ. As members of Christ's body, we are called to take care of each other. A lot of that is already taking place informally among members, but it would be this group's task to stay tuned in to what's going on in people's lives and to coordinate human care efforts if circumstances call for it. The possibilities are endless! It's a great opportunity for retirees or for those who want to serve but not necessarily as elected officers. Please think and pray about this.

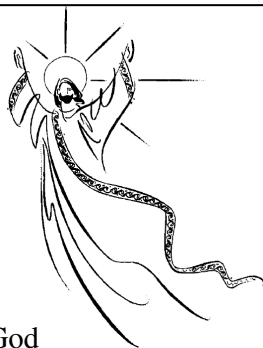


**MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST** – After His resurrection, Jesus invited His disciples to breakfast (John 21:12), and He still invites His disciples! On the first Thursday of each month, get your day off to a great start with good food and friends and God's Word, the Bread of Life! **This coming Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at 6:30 a.m. at Hill's Restaurant in Napoleon.** Won't you please join us?

*Ascension Deficit Disorder*

When a Christian fails to remember the ascension of Christ to the right hand of God, he or she is vulnerable to fear and anxiety, as if our risen Lord no longer has things under His mighty and loving control.

As in years past, St. John is teaming up with St. Paul (Liberty Center), and St. Luke and Emmaus (Wauseon) for a **Joint Celebration of Our Lord's Ascension**. This Communion service will be held on **Ascension Day, Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** right here in our sanctuary. Join us, and be reminded that Christ is at the "right hand of God the Father Almighty," and rules all things for His church – and put an end to *Ascension Deficit Disorder* in your life.



<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 4/26/15	\$6,413.00	\$102.00	\$633.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 4/26/15 – Early Service: 177; Late Service: 79

**COMMUNED** in April: 460 members; 14 guests

**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 May 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**LYF – GET OUT THE WORD!** It's official – in June we're going to be joining the youth of St. James, Burlington on a camping expedition to the great sand dunes of southern Colorado. We'll be crossing into northern New Mexico as well to see some amazing places. Imagine exploring the ancient ruins of the Pueblo people at Chaco Canyon, hiking up to their cliff dwellings at Mesa Verda, or exploring the Black Canyon - then growing together in faith around a campfire in the evening. Information and a registration form has been mailed out, so please consider it and get ready for a fantastic nine days of fun, fellowship, exploration and spiritual growth!

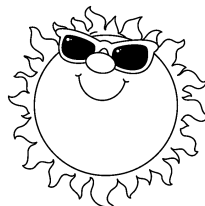


**ITEMS FOR SALE:** The Women of Freedom are offering a scene canvas painting of the church. You may have any Bible verse, message or name painted on it. The cost is \$45. Give *Nancy Glaser* a call at 419-598-8432 to place your order. The other wooden buildings are still available for sale as well as the various dish cloths, cutlery, and boxed cards. Proceeds benefit the Women of Freedom.

**PRAYER CALENDAR NOTE:** Please be aware that if you would like your wedding anniversaries printed on the prayer calendars, you will have to post them each year. Just list them on the blank calendars posted on the bulletin board in the narthex throughout the year. Thank you!

**COMING UP THIS SUMMER** – It never hurts to mark your calendars early, so here are a few dates to consider for the summer of 2015.

- **June 12-13 (Fri-Sat) --- Marriage Retreat** coordinated by St. John along with St. Paul, Liberty Center and St. Luke, Wauseon. Theme: “Growing Together, from the Breakfast Table to Kissing Goodnight.” Location is the beautiful *Lial Renewal Center* at Oak Openings. Cost is \$15 per couple for the retreat, plus various lodging options for an overnight stay. More information available on the narthex table!
- **June 15-23 (Mon-Tue) --- Youth Retreat to the Great Sand Dunes of southern Colorado.** All youth of LYF age, including those from this year’s confirmation class, are eligible to attend. This trip is being coordinated with the youth of St. James, Burlington.
- **June 28 (Sun) --- Fellowship on the Fairways** – first annual SJL golf outing at White Pines. Scramble starts with a 1:30 p.m. shotgun. Cost is \$35, includes golf, cart, meal and prizes. This is a fund raiser for the *Right Hand of Fellowship* campaign.
- **August 23 (Sun) --- Outdoor Worship Service** at 10:30 a.m., followed by a fellowship meal (*meat provided*) and an auction to raise funds for the Right Hand of Fellowship campaign. Begin thinking about items you can provide for the auction.



**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), *Vicki Grieser* (419-445-2986), or *Harold Behrmann* (419-598-8311) 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!

**PRESCHOOL’S GRADUATION** will be **Thurs., May 21<sup>st</sup>** at 6:30 PM in the church. There will be a short program followed by light refreshments in the fellowship hall.

**PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT** – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2015-16 school year. Anyone interested in enrolling your child in our preschool program should contact the school office at 419-598-8702 to request an enrollment packet and/or turn in their registration form.

**MAKE UP AND LAST DAY OF SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN** will Fri., **May 29<sup>th</sup>** with early dismissal at 2:00 PM. Closing Day festivities include: Closing chapel at 12:40 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.**

**S.T.O.P. PENNY DRIVE** – The PTL Spring Penny Drive at St. John School has begun and runs thru Fri., May 8<sup>th</sup>. The classroom collecting the most pennies will be treated to a pizza party. All other classrooms will get an ice cream party. Save those pennies and give them to one of our students or turn your pennies in at the school office. Mr. Petzoldt will be monitoring the weekly results this spring. **NOTE: Since this fundraiser started in October 1992, the PTL has raised \$15,950 for the school.** Remember to **Save Those Old Pennies!**

**DID YOU KNOW?** The free Pepperidge Farm bread, cookies, and crackers available on Sundays down by the gym lobby have the “Labels For Education” UPC codes on the wrappers. Be sure to clip them off and bring them to the school/church office at your convenience.

**GREAT MOTHER’S DAY GIFTS** – The “Recipes and Remembrances” cookbooks from PTL would surely make Mom smile. They have a very nice collection of great recipes in them. Also, the notecards created by St. John students would also make a nice gift. These are both PTL fundraisers and are available today on the table in the narthex. The cost is \$10.00 for the cookbook and \$5.00 for the notecard packets. If writing a check, please make it payable to: *St. John PTL*. We hope you enjoy making all the “goodies” in this cookbook and thank you for supporting the PTL!

**HOSPICE BAZAAR:** The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Hospice of Henry Co. Bazaar will be held on Thurs., May 14 at the Napoleon American Legion. All live auction donations must be received by May 1<sup>st</sup>. They are accepting donations of silent auction items, handmade wooden items, craft or needlework items or baked goods and pies for the day of the bazaar. See flyer for all the details!

**LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT** – *How You Can Help?* If you have used **prescription or nonprescription** glasses or sunglasses in your drawers, desks, or closets, you can donate them now! Children's glasses are especially needed. Both plastic and metal frames are accepted. There is a box on the table in the narthex for the collection of these used glasses.

**RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPT. AUXILIARY** will be hosting a Drive Thru Chicken BBQ on Sun., May 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**Fight truth decay – brush up on the Bible!**

*“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth”  
(John 8:31-32)*