



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

May 31, 2015

VOL. 80

NO. 22

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

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
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Church Website: www.sjl.org

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Our Copernican Revolution" *Isaiah 6:1-8*

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 507 ~ 907 ~ 867, stz.1-2, stz.3-5 ~ 822

Children's Choir: *Grades K-8 sing "Baa, Baa Song"*

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

God speaks to us and we listen and respond with our hymns, prayers, and praises. Together we bless the Lord, whose purpose is to save us and keep us in His faithful flock. He is the God of Grace and the God of Glory. If you are visiting with us this morning, 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

- ✠ Bethann Gerken, *Pianist* ✠ Landon Willeman & Colin Johnson, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dan & Deb Wachtman, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Jim & Linda Meyer, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Al Damman, Andy Damman, Tim Hodson, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✠

GRADUATION CLASS OF 2015 – The Altar Flowers are placed today in honor of the eighth grade graduating class of St. John. The 2015 graduates are:

Callyn Jo Bialorucki
Braden Lee Gerken

Anna Elizabeth Gerken
Nathan Cole Meller

We wish you all of God's blessings as you begin the next chapter in your lives. Good luck to all of you and CONGRATULATIONS from everyone at St. John!

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS: Office hours during the month of June are Mon. thru Fri.: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Closed over the lunch hour. If making a special trip, please call (419-598-8961) to guarantee someone will be here. Thank you!

In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM	Worship Service w/8 th Grade Graduation; Installation of 5 th & 6 th Grade Teacher, <i>Miss Sarah Bartok</i>
	10:20AM	Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
	11:00AM	Potluck Meal followed by Field Day for PS thru Grade 8 children
	2:30 PM	4-H Meetings (All clubs)
Tue.	9:00 AM	Exercise Class
	10:00AM	Bible Study w/Vicar Shoaff
	7:00 PM	Stewardship Board Meeting
Thurs.	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant
	9:00 AM	Exercise Class
	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Praise (<i>in fellowship hall – north end</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM	Worship Service
	10:20AM	Retirement Recognition for <i>Miss Mary Kay Rettig</i>
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Donald Luhring</i> , St. John Lutheran, Defiance

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*
- ❖ *Lucia Delventhal*, at home recuperating following a mini stroke
- ❖ *Carey Damman*, at home recuperating from successful knee replacement surgery

ONE SERVICE SCHEDULE BEGINS TODAY – 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. That new schedule begins TODAY. It was most people's desire to have one service for the sake of enjoying the fellowship of the entire congregation. Please make the holy assembly of believers in Christ a top priority in your life. As members of this one body, we all need what our Lord serves each week in His house, and we need each other!

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS need to be turned in to the office by Wednesday of each week in order to be included in the Thursday and Sunday bulletin. Please make a note of this. Thank you!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: There will be no Sunday School for the months of June, July, and August. We will resume Sunday School the first Sunday in September, which will be promotion Sunday.

REPORT CARDS can be picked up in an envelope (*one per family*) in the narthex on Sun., June 14th. Parents of tuition students may pick up report cards the week of June 15 in the office from 10 to noon.

BIG DAY TODAY AT ST JOHN – There will be a lot going on today, so be sure to take full advantage!

- **One Sunday service schedule begins** – worship at 9:00 a.m.
- **SJLS Graduation** – With prayer and congratulations, we will graduate the SJLS class of 2015.
- **Teacher Installation** – **Miss Sarah Bartok** will be installed as our new 5-6 grade teacher.
- **Potluck Dinner** – Graduates will be our guests of honor as we gather for food and fellowship at 11:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share!
- **Field Day** – After dinner, the children and youth will head outside for some fun field day events; parents may want to bring lawn chairs to take it all in.

Sunday
May 31

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY!

Why Lutherans Sing What They Sing – Many times members will ask why we sing the hymns we do and why we don't sing other kinds of songs, especially songs like those we hear on the radio as "contemporary Christian music" (CCM). This Bible study will look at that question in depth and provide the answers you've been seeking. Join Pastor Niermann and Vicar Shoaff as they tag-team teach this study. We'll meet this morning in the fellowship hall – please join us!

A NEW APPROACH TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Starting Fall of 2015

"**CROSS EXPLORATIONS**" (*CE*) is a curriculum and a new model for Sunday School (grades K-6) published by *Concordia Publishing House*. Instead of traditional classrooms, *CE* places students into two groups (grades K-3 and 4-6) who rotate to three different sites called **Engage** (a worship opening), **Explore** (the day's Bible lesson) and **Express** (activities related to the day's lesson).



The advantages for students are that they will engage more of their senses in learning, and will be provided a break from the traditional classrooms they are in all week long. For adult volunteers, it's much less of a time commitment. Instead of one teacher having all of the students for the full class period, volunteers lead one rotation each, lasting only 15 or 20 minutes, and then they're done for the morning.

We would like to form at least three *CE Teams*, who would then lead the Sunday School on a rotating basis. Each team would consist of...

- **One ENGAGE Leader** – leads all students, grades K-6, in an opening worship from approximately 10:15 to 10:25 a.m. (including hymns, songs, readings, etc.)
- **Four EXPLORE Leaders** (a leader and a helper for each group) – lead the day's Bible lesson from 10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. (materials similar to what we've been using).
- **Two EXPRESS Leaders** – collaborate to lead the activities in the gym related to the day's lesson from 10:50 to 11:05 a.m. Activities may include crafts, games, or skits.

Sign up for staff positions has begun. For more information and to look at some sample materials, see the display in the narthex. If you'd like to volunteer on a *CE Team*, you can sign up at the display table in the narthex, and feel free to up for more than one team.

MISS RETTIG'S RETIREMENT: Next Sunday, June 7th immediately following the church service we will be celebrating Miss Mary Rettig's retirement. There will be a potluck meal followed by a program honoring Miss Rettig for her many years of dedicated service to the members and students of St. John Lutheran Church and School. Also, on the 7th, we will have baskets set up as you leave the sanctuary to collect a door offering to be given to Miss Rettig to show our appreciation for everything she has done for St. John. Hope to see many of you there on the 7th of June!

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST - Men, on the first Thursday of each month, you and anyone you care to bring are invited to join us at Hill's Restaurant in Napoleon for a Bible breakfast at 6:30 AM. Cost is \$6.00 which includes the tip. It's a great way to start your day --- good food, friendship, and the Bread of Life!

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES HAVE BEGUN – From now through October, you will have the opportunity of worshipping on **Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.** in 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.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 5/24/15	\$6,022.00	\$139.00	\$376.00

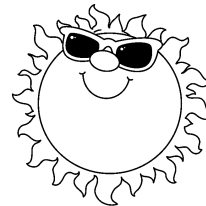
ATTENDANCE: Thursday Evening Service: 44; 5/24/15 – Early Service: 144; Late Service: 67

COMMUNED in May: 515 members; 32 guests

KITCHEN TABLES: Word has been received from the Women of FREEDOM that they would like the church to retain the two big wooden tables with Formica tops that were previously used in the kitchen. These tables have come in very handy with serving funerals. Thus the closed bid purchase is cancelled.

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 will be coming soon!
- **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. (see announcement elsewhere in this bulletin)
- **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.



GARDEN PRODUCE SHARING – When you plant your gardens this spring, keep in mind our produce swap later in the summer. There will be a table under the carport to which you can bring your produce to share, or from which you can take any produce you can use. It's a great way for us to share the bounty of God's good gifts!

ZACH'S RECYCLING PROGRAM – Please make a note to bring your recyclables directly to Zach's Recycling on Filmore Street in Napoleon. **Do not bring them to St. John School.** When taking them to Zach's, simply tell them to put your recyclables on the St. John Lutheran School account. That's it---very simple!



FELLOWSHIP ON THE FAIRWAYS – St. John Golf Outing

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 28 for an afternoon round of golf at White Pines. It's the first annual *Fellowship on the Fairways* golf outing. Forms are available in the narthex – sign up as full or partial team or as an individual. This scramble event will begin with a 1:30 p.m. shotgun. Cost is \$35 per person, which includes golf, cart, meal and prizes. This is a fund raiser for the Right Hand of Fellowship campaign, and all proceeds will be matched.

RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP GIFT MATCHING CONTINUES – The original \$75,000 challenge gift has accrued interest, and there are therefore more funds left to be matched. This will enable us to completely retire the remaining furnace and fellowship hall debt (just another \$7,000 or so to go), and a little more besides. So for the time being, any gifts given to the Right Hand of Fellowship campaign will again be matched. We thank God for the generosity of everyone's gifts!



ST. JOHN CHURCH LIBRARY – Stop in and check out the growing number of books available in the church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary. 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. To borrow a book, just take it with you, and then return it to the basket when you've finished reading. A complete list of the books in the church's library can be found by clicking on the "Book Inventory" link on the library page of our church's website. <http://www.sjl.org/library.html>.

'BREAD FROM HEAVEN' – A note to St. John members needing food assistance – If you could use food assistance from our food pantry, please speak with *Pastor Niermann*. We are required by the *Northwestern Ohio Food Bank* to keep a record with your name, but pastor will keep your record separate and absolutely confidential.

Contributions can be made at any time. Monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your offering envelope). Food donations for our pantry can be dropped off in the box by the Archives display cases. **Food items especially needed at this time are: spaghetti sauce, saltines & any crackers.** Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated. Thank you so much! As we learned in the meaning of the Fifth Commandment, "*We should fear and love God that we...help and support our neighbor in every physical need.*" (*Small Catechism*)

EAGLE NEWS : The Eagle News publication is available today at the table in the narthex. It is also available online via FastDirect. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnfreedom/>, click on “Links” at the top of the page, then click on “Eagle News-May” in the “Everybody” column. Enjoy!

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.

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!

SUNNY D LABELS – Throughout the summer please continue to save labels from *Sunny D* drinks. Classrooms that save 20 *SunnyD* labels earn 20 FREE books. Here’s how it works. **COLLECT** *SunnyD* UPC labels from these eligible products: 1, 2, or 3 liter bottles; 16 oz., 48 oz., 64 oz., 96 oz., or 128 oz. bottles; 6.75 oz.- 6, 8, or 24 pack outer wraps; 6.75 oz.-12 pack cardboard case; 11.3 oz.-6 or 24 pack outer wraps; 12 oz.-12 or 24 pack cans outer wraps. **SEND** the UPC labels to the school office at any time or save them until school resumes in the fall.

BE A JAVA JOY HOST! Every second Sunday of the month between services, 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.

EXERCISE CLASS: Need to work off a few pounds or just want to exercise your heart? St. John hosts an exercise class in the gym. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-10 AM and the cost is \$5 per class (pay as you come). This is a light aerobics and strengthening program. (If you have your own weights, bring them with you.) Please contact *Nancy Glaser* (419-598-8432) with any questions.

4-H: The Gerald Busy Fingers, Cloverbuds, and Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Clubs will be having their next meeting today at 2:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL: **St. John Lutheran Church, Stryker**, is sponsoring their LYF Ice Cream Social on Sunday, June 14th from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the Church Family Center. See flyer!

SAVE THE DATE: The 8th *Annual Stephanie Lynn Kossow Memorial Golf Outing* will be held on Sat., July 25th, with a 1:00 PM shotgun start. Registration forms available on the narthex table!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Life without the Lord is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point.

“This too is meaningless...for without Him, who can eat or find enjoyment?” (Eccl. 2:24-25)