



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

July 26, 2015

VOL. 80

NO. 30

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

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Bows & Love & Water" *Gen. 9:8-17; Eph. 3:14-21; Mark 6:45-56*

Order of Service: *See printed Service folder*

Hymns: **544 ~ 947 ~ 604** ~ [Communion: **637**] ~ **922**, stz.1-4

Adult Choir: "Beautiful Savior" and "Until We Meet Again"

Kantor: *Peter Gerken*; Soloist: *Lydia Babcock*

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome! We are here at the Savior's invitation; therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, receiving mercy and finding grace to help in every time of need. If you have no church of your own, we invite you to make this your home church. 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

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Caleb Bockelman & Landon Willeman, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Todd & Chris Hesterman, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Carey Damman, Craig Drewes, Scott VanValkenburg, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham, *Altar Guild* ✘

FAREWELL TO VICAR & EMILY SHOAFF – God has surely blessed us through the service of Vicar Shoaff to our congregation over this past year. It has been our joy and delight to get to know him and Emily and their children. We pray that God will bless Vicar Shoaff in his final preparations for the Holy Ministry!

- **Following Bible Class, at 11:30 a.m. we will have a farewell potluck dinner with the Shoaffs as our guests of honor. Please bring a dish to share and join us in our fellowship!**

In God's House This WeekOnline church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 11:30AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class Farewell Potluck luncheon for Vicar Shoaff and family
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread from Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Women of FREEDOM Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>) Board of Elders
Thurs.		Thursday Evening Praise with Communion
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Dale Kern</i> , retired, St. John Lutheran, Stryker

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*
- ❖ *Dawn Dickmann*, recuperating from back surgery
- ❖ *John Damman*, recuperating from gall bladder surgery
- ❖ *Don Dickmann*, recuperating at The Orchards of Northcrest - Napoleon

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY!

Why Lutherans Sing What They Sing – “A Lutheran hymn is shaped by the theology of the cross.” This is the third criterion suggested by Rev. Chad Bird for a hymn that is appropriate for God’s house and God’s people. Who God is and how He deals with us is made known through suffering and the cross. As such, music fit for God’s house must also bear the cruciform image of Christ. If you’ve ever wondered why we sing what we sing in worship, and why we don’t sing other kinds of songs, like those we hear on the radio as “contemporary Christian music” (CCM), this study is for you! 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!

HEARTFELT THANKS: “Dear Family, I would like to thank everyone who “showered” me with cards and gifts as I retired from my Called ministry at St. John. My retirement celebration on June 7th was a day I will always remember and cherish. It was so much fun and how great it was to hear and recall so many memories from the past 44 years. Thank you St. John Choir for singing “Feed My Lambs” – it made the day extra special. Finally, a big thank you also to the committee members who put it all together! You did an awesome job!” Love, *Miss Mary Rettig*

OFFICE HOURS: The church/school summer office hours will be Monday thru Friday: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. If making a special trip, please call (419-598-8961) to guarantee someone will be there.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 7/12/15	\$8,120.00	\$127.00	\$673.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday Evening Service: 43; 7/12/15 Service: 208

MEMORIALS for Will Gruenhagen: *St. John Lutheran School Memorial Fund* - \$1,377.00;
St. John Endowment - School Fund - \$1,378.00;
St. John Lutheran Church Home Fund - \$766.00

VICAR TRANSITION – It's time to bid the Shoaff family farewell and to welcome a new vicar. Here are some things to note:

- **Farewell to the Shoaffs** – Today! After worship we will receive a door offering for the Shoaffs. Then at 11:30 a.m. we will have a farewell potluck luncheon. Bring a dish to share!
- **Moving the Vicars** – On Tuesday evening, July 28th we will load the Shoaff's belongings into trailers, then move them to Fort Wayne on Wednesday morning, July 29th. In Fort Wayne we'll load the trailers again with the Yaeger's belongings and move them back to Freedom Township. If you can help on either of these days, please speak with *Denny Bockelman*.
- **New Vicar Reception** – On Sunday, August 9th *Vicar Aaron Yaeger* will be inducted during the morning service. After the service we will have a reception in the fellowship hall with the Yaegers as our guests of honor. Join us, and get to know our new vicar!

OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE – Sunday, August 30th at 10:30 AM on the old school grounds, 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.

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED – Again this year, the Stewardship Board is planning a ***Right Hand of Fellowship*** fundraising auction in connection with the outdoor service on Sunday, August 30th (proceeds to be matched). Please be thinking about items you might be able to donate. We will begin collecting those items in August.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM MEETING: Our next Women of FREEDOM Meeting will be held on July 28th at 7:00 PM. *Miss Sarah Bartok* will be our speaker. The following is what she will share with us about her mission trip... “This past June, six other ladies and I started out on a week long journey to La Union, Guatemala. Our task was to conduct classes at six “English as a Second Language” (ESL) schools to the local children. This trip was not easy, especially when new obstacles were thrown at us each day. But throughout that week, God taught us how to love despite the language barrier, to give thanks in all circumstances, to always laugh when times get hard, to trust in Him, and to come to Him in prayer in both the good and bad times.”

Please bring your mite boxes to this meeting. The Quarterly and Odes are ready to be picked up on the narthex table for anyone liking one. These meetings are open to all women of the church.

RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP FUNDRAISER: The Stewardship Board is offering “for sale” the Ultimate Cloth® as a fundraiser. These are a MiraFiber® technology cloth that cleans with water only. More effective than harsh cleaning chemicals and soaps. See *Karen Norden* (419-267-3477) for more information and pricing. This will be an on-going fundraiser for the Right Hand of Fellowship gift matching campaign.

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).



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. **We will hold a staff meeting on Sunday, August 9th at approximately 10:45 a.m. (after the new vicar reception).** 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.

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!

SCRIP ORDERS: Just a reminder that SCRIP orders can be accepted until Fri., July 31st for inclusion in the 2014-2015 enrollment/tuition reduction calculation. Beginning Aug. 1st, any SCRIP orders will be applied toward your 2015-2016 enrollment/tuition fees. For questions, please contact SCRIP Coordinator, *Kristyn Honemann* at 419-966-0207 or honemann@embarqmail.com.

ANNUAL SCHOOL CLEANING DATES have been set for Mon., Aug. 3 and Wed., Aug. 5 starting at 5:00 PM both nights. Please read your message in FastDirect with all the details about this, as well as the Parent Participation Policy. The carpets will be cleaned on Tues., Aug. 4.

SPORTS PHYSICAL FORMS: Those St. John students in Grades 4 – 8 must complete an Emergency Medical Authorization Form in order to participate in the sports programs offered at St. John. **Only students entering Grades 7 & 8 are required to have a sports physical.** Forms are available in the “School Info” rack outside the school office.

SAVE THE DATE! Come one, come all, to the Arts & Craft Show to be held here at St. John on Sat., Nov. 7th from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. The money raised will go toward the Right Hand of Fellowship campaign. Please contact *Diane Norden* or *Jackie Ripke* with questions. More information to come as it draws near.

COUNCIL MINUTES – This is just a reminder that council meeting minutes are not published until they are approved a month later. If you would like to read about the most recent council meeting, an unofficial and unapproved copy of the minutes is available for viewing in the church office, usually within a week after the meeting.

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!

‘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, and 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*)

AREA EVENT:

- **Ridgeville American Legion** will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Mon., July 27th from Noon – 6:00 PM at the legion. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED-CROSS. Walk-ins are always welcome!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

“God’s answers are wiser than our prayers!”

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.”
(*Proverbs 3:5*)