



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

September 6, 2015

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NO. 36

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Mr. Aaron Yaeger, Vicar
Miss Mary K. Rettig, Interim Principal

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Church Website: www.sjl.org

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Jesus Does All Things Well" *Mark 7:31-37*

Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting 1 (LSB pg.151)*

Hymns: 398 ~ 797 ~ [Communion: 841, 849, 602] ~ 842

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We welcome all who have come to worship our God with us today! Each day we live is a priceless gift from God, loaded with possibilities to learn something new, to gain fresh insights into His great truths. May we be showered with those blessings as we together profess His Name today. 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* ✠ Maggie Weller & Lydia Babcock, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ The Niermann Family, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Harold Behrmann & Richard Elling, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Al Damman, Andy Damman, Tim Hodson, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kathy Badenhop, Sandy VonDeylen, Mary Rettig, *Altar Guild* ✠

WEDDING BLESSINGS: Today we would like to recognize the marriage of *John Buldas* and *Abby Dietrich* which took place at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Toledo, yesterday; Sept. 5th. We rejoice with John & Abby as they begin their life together as husband and wife, and wish them many years of happiness together. Congrats to the happy couple!

THANK YOU, WILLING SERVANTS! We give thanks to God for all the people who worked so diligently to make last Sunday such a special day. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare the school yard for the outdoor service and helped get things set up, to the Stewardship Board members for planning and preparing the bratwurst luncheon and to everyone who provided the amazing variety of side dishes and desserts, to those who brought and organized items for the ***Right Hand of Fellowship*** auction, and to everyone who donated so generously through your bids. Over \$4,000 was raised, which means that the fellowship hall renovation is now paid in full! Praise be to God for His many good gifts to us and to our congregation!

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class
Mon.		NO SCHOOL – Labor Day
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel Service led by <i>Pastor Niermann</i> ; Offering: <i>Orphan Grain Train</i> Exercise Class V-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:00 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. St. John – Defiance (A) Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class
Thurs.	9:00 AM 9:00 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class School pictures taken for PS 4&5 yr old and Gr. K-8 V-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:00 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. St. Paul - Napoleon (A) Thursday Evening Praise
Fri.	9:00 AM	School pictures taken for PS 3 yr old
Sat.	11:00AM	V-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; TBD Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. Tri-Match @ Trinity-Toledo
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service with Communion following service Sunday School resumes for all ages; <i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Class;
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Keith Witte</i> , St. Paul Lutheran – Liberty Center

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 *Justin Atkinson, Kyle Elling, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, and Connor Gerken*
- ❖ *Don Dickmann*, recuperating at The Orchards of Northcrest – Napoleon
- ❖ *Lawrence Langenhop*, recuperating at The Lutheran Home following hip surgery
- ❖ *Juergen & Cheri (Atkinson) Goertz*, as they mourn the passing of Juergen's mother, Ursula

Youth Happenings

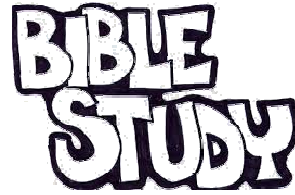
We are gearing up for a great season of youth meetings and events, for both junior and senior high youth.

- **JUNIOR HIGH** – Youth grades 6-8 are invited to join us next Sunday, Sept 13th for **Pizza, Planning and Play** from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. At our initial meeting we'll brainstorm and discuss plans for the upcoming year. We'll also announce a few dates for upcoming youth events in our area and district. Join us!
- **SENIOR HIGH** – High School youth are part of the **Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF)**. Our first meeting this new school year will be on Sunday, Sept. 20th at 4:30 p.m. With the national youth gathering coming up next year in New Orleans, there is a lot to discuss and plan. We'll have pizza together and chart the year ahead!

ADULT SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY OPTIONS - Starting next Sunday, there will be two options for Sunday adult Bible study.

#1 – Cross Explorations for Adults

Pastor Niermann will lead an adult study of the same Scriptures the Sunday School students are hearing that day. While all interested adults are invited, it is one of the purposes of this class to equip our Sunday School parents for home discussions about God’s Word. Then at 10:50 a.m. the students will join us for EXPRESS, an activity related to the day’s Scripture.



#2 – Cross; We Suffer with Jesus

Vicar Yaeger will lead this study from the Lutheran Spirituality series. How do we understand the suffering we experience in our Christian life? Should we avoid it? Or embrace it? What do Baptism and temptation have to do with suffering? Come hear what Jesus has to say to us in the study, ‘Cross: We Suffer With Jesus.’

DO I REALLY NEED TO BE IN BIBLE STUDY?

Sunday School / Christian Education

It’s time to gear up for another season of Christian education at St. John. Some exciting things are happening! Sunday School grades K-6 will begin using the ‘Cross Explorations’ curriculum that will have them rotating to three sites...

1. **ENGAGE** ~ 10:15-10:25 a.m. in the sanctuary
Combined opening worship for all students, grades K-6
2. **EXPLORE** ~ 10:30-10:45 a.m. in two classrooms
The Bible lesson for the day (K-3 in 1-2 classroom; 4-6 in 5-6 classroom)
3. **EXPRESS** ~ 10:50-11:05 a.m. in the fellowship hall
Students join their parents for activities that reinforce that day’s lesson

While the students are in ENGAGE and EXPLORE, all adults and Sunday School parents are invited to sit down with Pastor in the fellowship hall for an adult version of that day’s lesson. Then the children will join the parents and adults for the EXPRESS part of the schedule to share some intergenerational, parent-child time doing an activity that reinforces the day’s lesson. Meanwhile, preschool, junior and senior high classes will continue their normal schedule. Here’s the calendar of what’s coming...



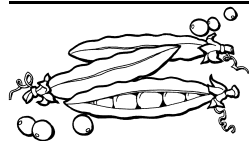
- **Sunday, Sept. 6th** - Labor Day weekend, no Sunday School
- **Sunday, Sept. 13th** - Regular Sunday School classes begin

WILLING SERVANTS ARE STILL NEEDED to staff the Sunday School. Speak with Pastor Niermann or sign up in the narthex!

ADULT BELL CHOIR: The Adult Bell Choir will have practices on Wednesdays again this year. Our first practice will be on Wed., Sept. 16th at 6:30 PM. We are always looking for new members to join us. If you think you'd like to get involved and share your talents, please contact *Karan Niebergall* at 419-598-8251.

ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOL & YOUNG ADULTS: Join us in the Cry Room after church next Sunday for Bible Study, fellowship, and snacks. Feed your soul and your body to start your week out right! Looking forward to having you join us each week! *Sharon Damman*

SHARE THE BOUNTY - GARDEN PRODUCE SHARING – If your garden is producing more than you can eat, how about sharing the bounty with your friends in faith here at St. John. Each Sunday there is a table under the carport where you can place any food you bring. Share what you have, and also take what you can use. It's a great way for us to share the bounty of God's good gifts!



FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 8/30/15	\$6,600.00	\$407.00	\$515.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday Evening Service: 32; 8/30/15 Service: 163

LWML FALL RETREAT – The Fall Retreat will be held on Saturday, September 19th, at St. John Family Center, Stryker, from 9:00 – 2:00 PM, with registration beginning at 8:30 AM. Registration fee is \$12.00 which includes lunch. Registration forms are available on the table in the narthex. Sign up deadline is Friday, Sept. 11th. See flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

LYF ICE CREAM SOCIAL – The LYF will be hosting its annual Ice Cream Social on Sun., Sept. 27, with serving from 10:30 to 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. There is a signup sheet on the table in the narthex for donations of desserts. On the menu: *Chicken Sandwiches, Sloppy Joe's, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Salad, Chips, Pies, Cakes, Cupcakes, Beverage and Schwan's Ice Cream*. Freewill offering! Carryouts available also! Thrivent Financial will be matching funds for this event. Come out and support the youth of our congregation!

SCHOOL NOTES:

- ✓ **BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP** – St. John Booster membership for the 2015-16 school year are: \$20.00 for husband and wife; \$10.00 for single. Make checks payable to *St. John Boosters*.
- ✓ **SCHOOL PICTURES** will be taken by *Emilie Parsons* of Emilie's Photo Design this year and are scheduled for Thurs., Sept., 10th at 9:00 AM for the 4/5-year old Preschool class and Gr. K-8; and Fri., Sept. 11th at 9:00 AM for 3-year old Preschool class and anyone absent on Sept. 10th. Order forms will be sent home shortly after school starts.
- ✓ **SCRIP PROGRAM** will be offered again this school year. Anyone willing to help the PTL with this fundraiser can contact *Kristyn Honemann* at 419-966-0207.
- ✓ **PTL MEETING** will be held on Mon., Sept. 14th at **7:30 PM. (Note time change!)** This will be a business meeting. Plan to attend and support the school.

YOUR FAMILY TREE: Through the years, some people have wondered about their family ancestry. Who were they and where did they come from? Perhaps you have already searched old records at the court house, checked birth and death certificates, checked your family Bibles or searched on ancestry.com.

Like many of us here in Freedom Township and in Henry County we come from a line of German lineage. In September 2014, there were eight Rabe family members who did their Rabe ancestry search in Germany over five full days in the Visselhovede area. For more than a year prior to the trip, Lester Rabe's sister, Lori Esch from Lebanon, Ohio made contact with a gentleman named *Walter Homann* who lives in Walsrode, Germany. He was a godsend and thrives on family genealogy. Well, *Walter Homann* is coming to stay with Lester & Janice Rabe on Mon., Sept. 7th for one week. If you have any interest in finding more information on your family members who lived around Visselhovede Germany, perhaps Walter can help. Walter works for a nominal fee to cover his time and other expenses. He speaks High German, so we have found an interpreter to help with the communication barrier! If interested, talk to *Lester* or *Janice Rabe* or call them at 419-598-8801 and they'll see if Walter can help you with your family ancestry too.

LWML SUNDAY is October 4th: *Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?...and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well* (Matt. 6:26, 32b, 33). Our LWML looks forward to a special time of sharing with you the exciting missions of the LWML – God's ministry around the world through mites, service, prayer, and Christian fellowship. Mite boxes will be handed out to all the students at St. John School (Gr. K-8) on Tues., Sept. 8 (*following Chapel*), and to St. John Sunday School children on Sun., Sept. 13th. These mite boxes will be collected on LWML Sunday, Oct. 4th.

SUNNY D LABELS – Throughout the school year please 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. We can redeem these labels for free children's books for our library or classrooms.

COLLEGE STUDENT ADDRESSES: If your son or daughter has or will soon be heading off to college, please notify the church office so we can have a record of where they are attending. This way we will be able to mail them the church newsletter. This will be our means of keeping them informed on church happenings. You can either call the church office or e-mail jwiechers@sjl.org.

A SIMPLE AND CONVENIENT WAY TO GIVE – This fall, consider signing up for electronic giving. St. John Lutheran Church relies on financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. One simple, easy to use authorization form can begin or change your electronic contributions amount. Contact *Joyce Wiechers* in the office at 419-598-8961 for more details. Thank you!

'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 given at any time: monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your church envelope). **Food items especially needed at this time are: spaghetti sauce, saltines & any crackers.** Because of your generous donations, we were able to help 36 families last month. Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated. Food items can be placed in the box near the archives display.

WOULD YOU HOST A JAVA JOY? Every second Sunday of the month, we seek hosts for **Java Joy**, a time of refreshment and fellowship following the service. Hosting **Java Joy** does not have to be expensive – you are welcome to reimburse some or all of your expenses, if you wish, from the 'kitty' – so please don't let that hold you back. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for all the second Sundays of the year. Please sign up, and pick up the sheet of guidelines from the table.



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!

SAVE THE DATE! Come one, come all, to the Arts & Craft Show to be held here at St. John on Sat., Nov. 7th. The money raised will go toward the Right Hand of Fellowship campaign. Please contact *Diane Norden* (419-598-8234) or *Jackie Ripke* (419-267-5574) with questions. More information to come as it draws near.

MUM SALE – The Henry County 4-H Advisory Council is hosting a Mum Sale – they are \$5.50 for a 9” pot, \$10.50 for a 12” pot, and \$15.00 for a 14” pot. Colors available are red, yellow, orange, bronze, pink, white, pineapple, purple, and rainbow (available in 12” only). Proceeds benefit refurbishing the 4-H building at the fairgrounds and for 4-H Camp Scholarships. **Order deadline is Fri., Sept. 15th.** For more information please contact *Bethann Gerken* at 419-445-7910 or email her at bethann@rtecxpress.net.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

When you're down to nothing, God is up to something.

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”

(James 1:2-3)