



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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NO. 4

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor

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Mr. Aaron Yaeger, Vicar

Cell: 989-607-4566

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School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 419-966-6160

Church Website: www.sjl.org

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "Jesus Preaches His Call Document" *John 4:16-30*

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: **816**, stz.1-2 ~ **816**, stz.3 ~ **647**, stz. 1,3 ~ **839** ~ **781**, stz. 1,2,6 ~ **644**

Children's Choir: *Grades K-8 sing "Life Together, Life Forever"*

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to St. John Church! "I sought the Lord and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears" (Ps. 34:4). Let us seek the Lord together this day.

Let us offer up our fears and doubts, that we may go forth strengthened and empowered for another week. If you are visiting us today, know that we are

honored by your presence. Simply 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* ✠ Tyne Rosebrock & Hope Buchhop, *Acolytes* ✠

✠ Peter & Karen Gerken, *Greeters* ✠

✠ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✠

✠ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Richard Elling, *Ushers* ✠

✠ Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman, *Altar Guild* ✠

VOTERS' MEETING – The first voters' meeting of the new year will be held today in the Sanctuary after the worship service (*to accommodate the Soup & Pie Dinner taking place in the fellowship hall*).

Items are on the agenda to date are: 1) Annual school report; 2) Audit Committee report; 3)

Endowment Fund distributions approval.

SOUP & PIE DINNER – The PTL Soup & Pie Dinner is being held today with serving from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, in the fellowship hall. On the menu will be *Chili Soup, Noodle Soup, Hot Dog, Sloppy Joe Sandwich, a Salad and Dessert Bar, and Beverage*. Freewill Offering! Bring your own containers for carryout. In the afternoon enjoy watching some basketball games in our gym starting at 1:00 PM against St. Paul Lutheran. **COME AND SUPPORT OUR EAGLE TEAMS!**

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:30AM 1:00 PM	<p style="text-align: center;">◆ ◆ National Lutheran Schools Week ◆ ◆</p> Worship Service Voters' Meeting ; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" PTL Soup & Pie Dinner (<i>servng until 12:30 PM</i>) B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 2:15 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys; 3:30 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls; 4:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. St. Paul Lutheran – Napoleon
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread from Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	8:35 Am 9:00 AM 10:00AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by <i>Vicar Yaeger</i> ; Offering: <i>Filling Home – Napoleon</i> Exercise Class Tuesday Bible Study B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls; 6:00 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. Monclova Christian Board of Elders
Wed.	6:15 PM 7:00 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30</i>) Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 5:30 PM	Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:30 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. St. Pats – Bryan
Sat.	10:00AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:15 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys; 12:30 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls; 1:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. Trinity – Toledo
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service w/Installation of <i>Pastor Kramer</i> as Principal/7&8 Grade Teacher Welcome reception for <i>Pastor Kramer</i> ; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Dale Kern</i> , Retired, Archbold, OH

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Norma Damman, Don Dickmann, and Lucia Delventhal*
- ❖ *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
- ❖ *Donald Landry and Leona Durham* residing at the Orchards of Northcrest - Napoleon
- ❖ *Helen Norden*, residing at Greenbriar Assisted Living in Birmingham, AL
- ❖ Servicemen and women *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Kyle Elling, Emily Schroeder, and Connor Gerken*
- ❖ *Delores Badenhop*, recuperating at The Lutheran Home following her surgery
- ❖ *Simon Robeson*, showing some improvement; moved to OSU for extensive physical rehab
- ❖ *David Niebergall*, now in hospice care for his failing health due to cancer
- ❖ *Hannah Dietrich*, as she is travelling to Spain for college studies, and left this past week
- ❖ *Dick Mahnke*, recuperating at home from knee replacement this past week at FCHC

ADULT BIBLE CLASS is cancelled for the next two Sundays...

- **today**, for the voters' meeting in the sanctuary;
- **next Sunday**, Jan. 31, for the reception in the fellowship hall for the Kramers.

A THANK YOU NOTE: To Pastor Niermann, Vicar Yaeger and the members of St. John's:

"Thank you for the comforting service celebrating Mom's life, the beautiful song sung by the Children's Choir and the wonderful luncheon served by the Ladies Aid. Also, thank you to each of you who took the time over the years while Mom was house bound to visit or send a card. She could not verbally respond to your act of kindness, but her smile said it all! God's Blessings to each of you! And, as Mom always ended her daily prayers, we say Amen, Amen and Amen." Signed *The family of Marian Fitzenreiter*

INSTALLATION OF NEW PRINCIPAL – Next Sunday, January 31st, we will install into office our new principal/teacher, **Rev. Charles Kramer**. He and his wife, **Pat**, are transferring here from St. Paul in Napoleon. Following the installation service, there will be a reception in the fellowship hall (*during the Sunday School hour*) where we will welcome the Kramers and get to know them in a more informal atmosphere. We are excited to bring Rev. Kramer on board, and pray God's richest blessings upon his leadership in our school.

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK provides our network of nearly 2,300 LCMS preschools, elementary schools and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work among us in Lutheran schools. This year St. John Lutheran School alumni students will be doing WNDH radio spots on how St. John has helped them prepare for life. On Thurs., Jan. 28th *Dave Kleck* from WNDH will be doing live radio spots at our school during the AM hours.

We thank God for the opportunity to provide excellent academic preparation for the children we serve. We are most grateful for the opportunity to share Jesus' amazing love with children and their families. National Lutheran Schools Week gives us an opportunity to proclaim these great blessings within the communities we serve. Our schools are amazing incubators for faithful witness of God's love for us through Christ by teachers and students alike.

LifeLight Bible Study –The Holy Trinity

We've had a tough time getting this study started – postponed the first week for lack of materials, and cancelled last week due to weather. **But we're ready to get started now! We will meet this Monday evening and Tuesday morning (Jan. 25-26). You are most welcome to attend, even if you didn't sign up. We will more than happily accommodate you!**

Study participants can pick up the leaflet for lesson #1 in the narthex this morning as well as the enrichment magazine. The idea of *LifeLight* is that participants read and prepare answers ahead, and come prepared for discussion. May God bless your study of His Word as we grow together in grace and in the knowledge of Christ!



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!

MISSION SUNDAY – February 7th

Two weeks from today, on Sunday, Feb. 7th, our worship will focus on missions with **Rev. Edward Naumann** as our special mission speaker and guest. *Rev. Naumann* has been serving as an LCMS missionary in south Asia (India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, etc.). Partnering with the LCMS, he is working to fill a desperate need for pastors in that region of the world by establishing a Lutheran seminary in Nagercoil, India. Pastors will be trained there not only from India, but also from all the other Lutheran synods in South Asia.



It's an exciting opportunity for us to learn about what God is doing in other parts of the world and to lend our support. During the Sunday School hour, *Rev. Naumann* will share in greater detail what he is doing. Be sure to join us for our Mission Sunday. A special door offering will be received after the service to support *Rev. Naumann*.

- **HOUSING FOR REV. NAUMANN** – If you can host *Rev. Naumann* in your home the night of Saturday, Feb. 6th (*he will be traveling without his family*) please speak with *Pastor Niermann*. Thank you in advance for your Christian hospitality!

NEW SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: MARRIAGE AND FAMILY - What is marriage? Is it merely a civil agreement between two (or more) adults? Is it simply about people who love each other? What is a Christian to say in the midst of a culture so tolerant of a diversity of views?

As Lutherans interact with other Christians, we often struggle to explain our beliefs and practices. We've memorized the Catechism—though that was probably a long time ago for many of us. When confronted with other teachings, we may find it difficult to clearly state our faith. Based on God's Word, as faithfully reflected in the Lutheran Confessions, this study will help you to state clearly what God says about marriage and family. God instituted marriage and family, and the Scriptures are full of implications for us today.

Come join our study of Marriage and Family with *Vicar Yaeger* on Sundays beginning February 14.

2015 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – It's time to start getting your reports ready for the 2015 Church Annual. The officers of the different organizations are asked to write up a summary of the year's activities along with a financial report if there is one. If you need your offering contribution information prior to the distribution of the Annual Report, please call Financial Trustee, *Kathy Behnfeldt*, at 419-598-8682. **Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers by Fri., Jan. 29.**

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 1/17/16	\$7,164.00	\$313.00	\$620.00

ATTENDANCE: 1/17/16 Service: 264

2016 LUTHERAN ANNUAL – We are now taking orders for the 2015 Lutheran Annual. It will give you the current addresses, phone numbers, emails, and websites of churches, pastors, teachers, etc. Call the church office to order your copy. Deadline is Fri., Jan. 29th.

SR. HIGH LYF SUPER BOWL SUB SALE! It's that time of year again! Super Bowl Sunday is quickly approaching and it's time to get ready for the "big game." Why not help out our Sr. High LYF as well? On Sun., Feb. 7th, we will be selling Super Bowl subs to help raise money for our trip to the National Youth Gathering. Each sub will cost \$3.00 and will contain Cotto Salami, bologna, ham, white cheese, and yellow cheese. To place your order, please fill out a pre-order form and place it in the basket at the back of the church or bring it to the church office by February 2nd. Subs will be available for pick up after church on February 7th. Payment will be due at the time of pick up. **Checks can be made out to St. John LYF.** Thank you for supporting our Sr. High LYF!



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE is planned for grade levels PS-8 on Wed., February 3rd, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM, for families who would like to come and look at our school and discuss the possibility of sending their child(ren) here for their education. If anyone in the congregation might know of prospective students for Grades PS-8, please be sure to pass this information on to them. There will also be refreshments.

ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES: You may begin ordering SCRIP again. Please turn those orders in on Wednesdays, with payment to *St. John School PTL Scrip Program*. The gift cards will be sent home the following week on Tuesday. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

PTL MEETING: The next PTL Meeting will be held on Mon., Feb. 8th at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall. Soup & Pie results as well as other business at hand will be discussed. Please plan to attend!

EAGLE NEWS: The Eagle News publication is available today and also online via FastDirect Communication. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnfreedom/>, click on "Links" at the top of the page, then click on "Eagle News - January" in the "Everybody" column. There will still be printed copies available on the narthex table for parishioners to enjoy!

Vacation Bible School 2016 – Believe it or not, it's time to think about VBS. This year the theme of the CPH curriculum is one that we know a thing or two about in these parts – "Barnyard Roundup – Jesus Gathers His People Together." At this time we would like to identify a VBS director (or maybe co-directors) to work with Pastor in making some of the initial plans. Please speak with Pastor Niermann if you are interested in serving the children in this way.



FELLOWSHIP HALL USE – Correction: If you would like to use the Fellowship Hall for any occasion, please contact the church/school office at 419-598-8961 or 419-598-8702. In addition to calling the office, you may want to check the online church calendar at <http://www.dynacal.com/sjl/>. **NOTE: Last Sunday's bulletin had old information in regard to tables or chairs. Tables and chairs are no longer being loaned out, per Council's past decision.**

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!

BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION, AND POP TABS: Our school also collects *Box Tops For Education*, and aluminum pop tabs all year long. *Box Tops For Education* is an ongoing PTL fundraiser earning 10¢ per box top for the PTL. They too have expanded their sponsors, so be sure to check over your grocery items carefully so you don't miss any box tops. The pop tabs collected all go to support the Ronald McDonald House in Toledo. There are collection boxes in the school office for each of these. ***NOTE: Please turn in your Labels For Education and Box Tops For Education labels in separate Ziploc bags or envelopes. Do not combine them.*** Thank you!

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.

HEARING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE: If hearing in worship has been a problem for you, pick up one of the receiver units for our hearing assistance system. An usher will assist you and you'll hear much more clearly. (*Also, please let us know how the system is working for you.*)

For those who use the hearing assistance system regularly and for the sake of hygiene, we ask that you claim one of the ear buds as your own and keep it with you in your purse, pocket, etc. Bring it with you when you come to church, and simply plug it into one of the receivers. At the end of the service, unplug the ear bud to take with you until the next time.

ST. JOHN WEBSITE: Did you know you can listen to *Pastor Niermann's* sermons on the internet? Just click on the "Media" tab on our website. There is also a "For Kids" tab which allows you to listen to the Children's Sermons at St. John, or follow the link to fun and games at JCPlayZone.

ST. MARTIN'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT SERIES presents...*Adrian Chamber Brass* on Sunday, Jan. 31st at 3:30 PM at St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 203 S. Defiance Street, Archbold, OH. This seven piece brass ensemble was founded in 1972 and performs throughout Northwest Ohio and Southern Michigan. They perform a wide range of repertoire from classical to show tunes. Steve Basselman, organist at St. Martin's, will join them for a couple selections for brass and organ. The concert is free and made possible through the generous donations of the members of St. Martin's in celebration of the congregation's 150th anniversary.

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EPIPHANY FACTS...

Frankincense, a perfume, and myrrh, anointing oil,
were traditional gifts for kings during the time of Christ.

"So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh." (LSB 370)