



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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Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Mr. M. Brent Keller, Vicar
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Together Set Apart" *John 17:17-21*

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Five (LSB pg. 213)

Hymns: 653 ~ "Brothers & Sisters in Christ" ~ (Communion: 701, 616, 644) ~ 651

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

A warm welcome to all our guests. We are pleased that you chose to worship at St. John Church this morning. We hope that this time spent with our God and with friends in Christ will prove spiritually uplifting to you. 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

- ✘ Bethann Gerken, *Pianist* ✘ Hannah Wachtman & Ashton Niese, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Tom & Sandy VonDeylen, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Denny Bockelman, Jeff Buchhop, Dave Myles, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Badenhop, Sandy VonDeylen, Mary Rettig, *Altar Guild* ✘

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed in honor of the 62nd Wedding Anniversary of Henry & Dorothy Gerken by their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Their anniversary is Mon., Sept. 19th. Happy Anniversary to Henry & Dorothy!

SUDDENLY GONE: Steven J. Okuly, 62, passed away suddenly on Fri., Sept. 9, 2016 at his home. A memorial service was held at Rodenberger Funeral Home on Mon., Sept. 12th at 11:00 AM. Please keep his wife, Judy, daughter, Jill & Erik Vidra, and son, Jason Okuly, and their families in your daily prayers at this time of loss for them.

PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS for the quarter of October, November, and December are on the desk in the narthex. There are also large print copies available.

In God's House This Week *Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl*

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Sr. High LYF (<i>until 6:00 PM</i>)
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by <i>Pastor Niermann</i> Exercise Class Women of FREEDOM Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:45 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>) Adult Hand Bell practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Thursday Evening Worship
Sat.	10:00AM	V-ball: Elementary @ BG Christian w/St. Pat's – Bryan
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Sunday School; LYF Ice Cream Social (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Willie Stottlemyer</i> , St. Stephen Lutheran – Defiance

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Lucia Delventhal, and Renetta Homan*
- ❖ *Pauline Dishop, Marie Damman, and Delora Winkelman*, at The Lutheran Home, Napoleon
- ❖ *Anna Brodman and Marian Buchhop* residing at Country View Haven
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Orchards of Northcrest - Napoleon
- ❖ Servicemen, *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Kyle Elling, Emily Schroeder, and Connor Gerken*
- ❖ *Stan Moll*, recuperating nicely at home now
- ❖ *The Rod & Lisa Rohrs Family*, grieving the passing of Lisa's brother, Jim Gerken, on Mon., Sept. 12th in Colorado Springs, CO



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY SUNDAY – This morning we are featuring our Concordia University in Ann Arbor. *Rev. John Bush* is with us representing the university and to proclaim God's Word to us based on the school year theme, **"Together Set Apart."** We welcome *Rev. Bush* to St. John and pray God's blessings upon his presence with us in worship. Please be sure to check out the display he has

set up to learn more about Concordia and its role in preparing young men and women for service in both the church and in the world.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 9/11/16	\$7,476.00	\$148.00	\$433.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday (9/08/16) Worship Service: 32; Sunday (9/11/16) Service: 170

WOMEN OF FREEDOM: The next meeting will be Tues., Sept. 20th at 7:00 PM. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend!

SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF MEETING - On Sunday (Oct. 2) the Sunday School staff, and anyone considering volunteering for the Sunday School, will meet after the Sunday School hour to make further plans and schedules for the coming year. Please join us, even if you're just thinking about volunteering, so you can learn more about this vital ministry to the youth and children of our congregation.

NEWS ON SR. HIGH LYF: – There will be a meeting today from 4:30 – 6:00 PM at Miss Bartok's house. We are planning on a bonfire to kick off the new school year. Also, roasting marshmallows and having fun with some games. There will also be discussion about important dates for the year and upcoming fundraisers. Contact Miss Bartok for directions to her house, if needed. Come and enjoy some fellowship and fun!

LYF ICE CREAM SOCIAL – The LYF will be hosting its annual Ice Cream Social on Sun., Sept. 25, 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!

CHURCH PROTERY MATTERS

- **EAST BALL FIELD BACK STOP** – The Church Council discussed removing the back stop on the east ball field since this field has not been used for ballgames for many years and the fence inhibits the full removal of snow during heavy winters. If anyone would like to claim the steel posts and chain link fencing, they would be available for free to anyone who removes them for us.
- **LANDSCAPING MAINTENANCE** – The ladies who have taken care of the landscaping over the past years (*especially weeding and mulching*) are not able to do so any longer, so we're looking for some volunteers who could help with this work from time to time as needed.

If you can help with either of these church property matters, please speak with Pres. Bob Norden or a Trustee. Thank you for considering this service to Christ and His people!

EAGLE NEWS TODAY: The Eagle News publication is 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-September" in the "Everybody" column. There will still be printed copies passed out at the end of the service today. Hope you enjoy it!

LAST SUNDAY FOR SHARE THE BOUNTY – This morning for the final time this season, a table has been set up under the carport where you can bring any spare produce from your garden and share it with others in the congregation. Bring whatever you can and take whatever you can use, and share the bounty of summer! There have been some mighty good vegetables provided this summer by many green thumbs in our congregation! Thank you to everyone who has so generously shared the produce of your gardens with us.

NEW LifeLight BIBLE STUDY has begun!

But it's not too late to join us for this study of "HEAVEN AND HELL."

This is a topic about which people have many questions, and God's Word has much to say. This study is part of the *LifeLight* series that offers in-depth studies on many Bible books and topics. Through advance preparation and reflection, as well as group discussion, *LifeLight* studies will always challenge you and give you growth in faith. Our next chapter is titled,

"Daddy, what happens when we die?" Please note that *LifeLight* does not meet this week. Our next gatherings are scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 25 and 26. Please come and grow with us in God's Word, **either Monday evening at 7:00 pm or Tuesday morning at 10:00 am.**



CALLED TO VOTE: A Christian Approach to Elections

Last Sunday Pastor Niermann began a very timely study titled, **"Called to Vote."** Whether you already know who you're voting for this November or are still deciding whether to vote at all, this study is for you. While this study is *not* a voting guide – it won't lead you to a specific candidate or party platform – it will spark thoughtful and biblical conversation about voting in a democracy and our duty as Christian citizens.

So before you head to the polls this November, join us for this four-session study from Pastor Ken Schurb. You'll be convicted, encouraged, and more prepared than ever to participate in the political process. Let's go to the polls this year informed, not only by our own best thinking, but also by the Word of God.

CROSS EXPLORATIONS FOR ADULTS – Begins today in the south fellowship hall

The Vicar will be conducting a Bible study especially for parents of Sunday School students (but also open to all). Each Sunday we will take an adult look at the same Bible narratives our children are hearing that day in Sunday School. The goal is to assist the parents and adults in taking a journey through God's Word with our children. Vicar Keller will be around this morning passing our information for this new study.

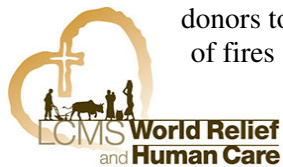


COLLECTING OLD BIBLES: This year our school will be working on a service project. We would ask that you look around your homes for any unused Bibles. What next, you ask? Bring them in to the office and St. John School will donate them to Orphan Grain Train. Orphan Grain Train will then distribute them to individuals and families that have had their homes destroyed by hurricane, tornado, or flood. Often times these people have nothing left in their homes. Giving them a Bible that you don't need is one way that we can reach out to families that are suffering a loss. This will be ongoing for the school year, so keep them coming and tell your extended families too.

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!

ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES: You may begin ordering SCRIP again. Order forms are on the table in the narthex. 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.**

LCMS DISASTER RESPONSE – There is a lot going on right now in our nation that is causing human misery and suffering, and presenting as Christians a way of extending God’s mercy and love. With a gift to LCMS Disaster Response, you can join your resources with those of thousands of other donors to make a difference in the lives of people who are suffering right now because of fires (in California) and flood (in Louisiana). To learn more about what’s going on, visit the LCMS Disaster Response webpage at:



<https://www.lcms.org/disaster> Use the “GIVE NOW” link to make a gift. Also stay tuned for other ways in which we might be able to extend help.

2017 NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH OFFICES – Very soon now the Stewardship Board will begin the process of nominating and appointing people for the various offices of our congregation. As they prepare to do so, please take note of the following:

- If there is an office in which you’d like to serve, please offer your name to the Stewardship Board for consideration. Speak with *Pastor Niermann*.
- If you are approached about serving in an office, give it careful and prayerful thought. You are being asked because the Stewardship Board, with prayers for God’s guidance, has identified you as someone whose service in that office will be a blessing to us all!

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.

POSITION OPENING – St. John Lutheran School is seeking someone to fill the position of **Athletic Director**. This individual is responsible for overseeing all the athletic functions and events involving St. John Lutheran School. This is paid position. If interested in this position or you would like more details, please speak with *Principal Kramer* or Board Pres., *Sunday Griffith*.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP: Membership is now being taken for the Athletic Booster Club. Prices are \$20.00 for a couple and \$10.00 for an individual. Make checks payable to St. John Boosters and send to school with your child. Forms are available outside the school office or contact any of the Booster officers. Join today and help out the children’s athletic program. Our programs here at St. John give our students a sense of sportsmanship, discipline, structure and self-confidence needed to go out into the world.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING COMMITTEE: Still searching for that group of individuals who would be interested in decorating the church and surroundings for the Christmas season. So put some thought into this effort and before the time comes to decorate the church and surroundings this year, contact Pastor Niermann or the church office. If no one volunteers, this responsibility would revert back to the School Board, as was done in the past. So please give it some thought, and contact the church office if you would like to volunteer. Thank you!

ITEMS FOR SALE: Check out the table in the hallway by the cry room! 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 dish cloths and boxed cards. Also check out the display board to see if you are interested in purchasing any cutlery items such as: Paring Knives, Stubby Butcher Knives, Pie Servers, Vegetable Peelers, Slicer Knives, Granny or Carving Forks, Pizza Cutters, Small Spatula, etc. Contact officers *Nancy Hogrefe, Marian Damman, Mabel Bischoff, Lois Rosebrock, or Karan Niebergall* to purchase any of these items.

COLLECTING STAMPS: The LWML is collecting stamps "For Missions." A box is on the table in the narthex. Here is what you do: Cut the stamps from the envelopes allowing ¼ inch margin or more around the stamp. The stamp may not be damaged and the perforations around the stamp must be perfect. You need not trim the stamp; we have someone who trims and sorts the stamps. Do not remove stamps from envelopes, albums, and older postcards. An "old" postcard is usually from 1930 or before. The most valuable stamps are commemorative, foreign, and stamp denominations larger than 46 cents. It only makes sense that you purchase and use commemorative stamps for your personal mailing. When purchasing stamps, ask the post office staff for commemorative stamps. Colorful and large stamps are desirable. Collecting stamps is an easy way to participate in a mission project sponsored by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

ONLINE CHURCH CALENDAR! The online church calendar at www.dynacal.com/sjl can be a valuable tool to members. Be sure to bookmark the site for future reference. Explore the site and notice how you can view all church related events, see information for any of the sub-categories, view the calendar in different ways; month view, day view, etc.; click on an event and bring up a description of the event; or print the calendar for your reference at home. Keep exploring, and have fun with it. Information is updated regularly.

AREA EVENTS:

- **The Filling Home – Napoleon** is hosting its Festival of Tables on **Sat., Sept. 24th at 12:00 p.m.** in the Filling Home Therapy Center. See flyer for more info!
- **St. Paul Lutheran – Liberty Center** invites you to an Organ Recital on **Sun., Sept. 25th at 3:00 PM** at the church. See flyer on bulletin board!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

"No two Christians will ever meet for the last time."

"...and he was gathered to his people." (Gen. 25:8; 35:29; 49:29; Num. 20:24; Judg. 2:10)