



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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Mr. M. Brent Keller, Vicar
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

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TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting Three (LSB pg. 184)*

Hymns: (Baptism: “**Borning Cry**”, 725) ~ 857 ~ (Communion: 623, 843, 587) ~ 845

Adult Choir: “Praise to the Lord” and “Come Find Forgiveness and Love”

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

You are among Christian friends today. We all have come to the Lord’s House to hear what He has to say and to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. We pray that His grace will touch and move 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

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Clay Behnfeldt & Zak Schroeder, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dan & Joyce Wiechers, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Harold Behrmann & Richard Elling, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Tom VonDeylen, Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Roger Lulfs, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Linda Riefers, Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff, *Altar Guild* ✠

MARRIAGE BLESSINGS! A congratulation goes out to *Brian Allen & Melissa Michaelis* united in marriage yesterday, Sat., Oct. 1st at the home of Wayne & Becky Michaelis. May God be with Brian and Melissa as they start a new and exciting chapter in their lives. Congratulations to the Allens!



BAPTISM TODAY – Today once again we witness the miracle of new birth in Christ in the waters of Holy Baptism. *Brynlee Nicole Handy* is the infant daughter of *Seth & Kacie (Hodson) Handy*. She was born on September 2nd at the Bryan Hospital. Her sponsors are *Melanie Hodson* (Kacie’s sister), *LeAnn Joost* (Kacie’s cousin), and *Emily Trisel* (Seth’s sister). Brynlee’s grandparents are Tim & Renee Hodson, Jeanie (and Jay) Trisel, and Ron (and Theresa) Handy. We rejoice with this family in their celebration of Brynlee’s new life in Christ; may God bring to completion the work He begins today in this child of heaven.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 11:10AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Sunday School Staff Meeting following the Sunday School hour
Mon.	5:30 PM 7:00 PM	V-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls vs. BG Christian PTL Meeting; <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Vicar Keller Exercise Class <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study V-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls @ NWO Cougars School Board & Stewardship Board Meetings
Wed.	10:20AM 6:15 PM 6:45 PM 7:30 PM	Late Start-Up due to Teacher In-Service at 8:30 AM Jr. High Confirmation Class Adult Hand Bell Practice Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant V-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls @ St. John – Defiance Thursday Evening Worship
Sat.	9:00 AM	St. John Freedom Invitational Volleyball Tournament
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM	Worship Service with Communion following Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Jr. High LYF Meeting (<i>until 6:00 PM</i>)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Jeff Corder</i> , St. John Lutheran – Stryker

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Lucia Delventhal, Renetta Homan, and Stan Moll*
- ❖ *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*

SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF MEETING - Today 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.

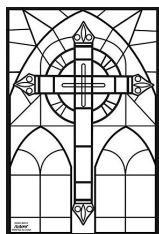
LYF – THANK YOU! Both Jr. and Sr. High LYF members would like to thank everyone for supporting their Ice Cream Social last Sunday. We had a very nice turnout and many compliments on the good food served. We will be back next year! Thanks again!

A LETTER WAS MAILED TO YOU – Hopefully you’ve received your letter regarding the cash-flow situation we are currently facing. If you have not received it as yet, it should arrive shortly. Read it carefully, and pray about this matter. It is an issue that we need to confront and solve. May God guide and lead us!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 9/25/16	\$6,915.00	\$170.00	\$607.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday (9/22/16) Worship Service: 34; Sunday (9/25/16) Service: 219

COMMUNED in September: 316 members; 9 guests



STAINED GLASS WINDOW UPDATE – The stained glass window project has been on hold for about a year as Sue Hurst, the designer and artist, has been dealing with cancer and chemotherapy treatments. She is now finished with her treatments and has been declared cancer-free, praise be to God! She is feeling better and is about ready to return to our project. At the same time, the bulk of the gift from the *Oliver & Juanita (Maassel) Thorpe* family has been received. The remainder will be sent to us after the New Year. The pieces are falling into place, and it’s time for us to reconstitute a Stained Glass Window Committee to get to work with Sue Hurst. If you would be interested in serving on this committee, please speak with Pastor Niermann or President Bob Norden.

CHURCH PROPERTY 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!

CALLED TO VOTE: A Christian Approach to Elections

Pastor Niermann has begun 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, check out this four-week 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.

LifeLight BIBLE STUDY – “Heaven and Hell”

LifeLight meets this week on Monday evening (7pm) or Tuesday morning (10am). It's not too late to join us! Many people have questions about heaven and hell, and God's Word has much to say on the subject. Our next chapter is titled, “**The Justice of God and the Fate of the Wicked?**” Please come and grow with us in God's Word at either session.



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.

CROSS EXPLORATIONS FOR ADULTS –

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 out information for this new study.



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!

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.

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!

POSITION FILLED: Following the Athletic Booster's meeting last week, it was announced that *Brad Rosebrook* has taken the position of St. John Athletic Director. Brad will be a very good asset to the sports programs at St. John. Please give Brad your support as he transitions into this position. Thank you Brad and lets *GO EAGLES!*

S.T.O.P. PENNY DRIVE – The PTL Fall Penny Drive at St. John School begins on Mon., Oct. 3rd and runs thru Mon., Oct. 31st. Send your pennies in to school with your child or grandchild. The winning classroom will be awarded a pizza party.

VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT & PTL BAKE SALE:

- ❖ The St. John Eagles Gr. 7&8 Invitational Volleyball Tournament will be held on Sat., Oct. 8, starting at 9:00 AM. As with any tournament, there is a lot of preparation involved with running a successful tournament. Volunteers are needed to work concessions. *High School Seniors:* This can be used towards your Community Service hours. Please contact *Brad Rosebrook* at 419-966-3099 if you can work.
- ❖ The PTL will also be hosting a Bake Sale to be held during the volleyball tournament on Sat., Oct. 8th. This fundraiser will benefit the upgrade and addition of playground equipment. Donations are needed from parents of St. John School & Preschool students and can be sent to the school on Friday, Oct. 7th or the morning of Saturday, Oct. 8th by 8:30 AM. Check for your favorite baked goods recipes and support the PTL Bake Sale. Yumm-yumm!

LCMS DISASTER RESPONSE – There is a lot going on right now in our nation that is causing human misery and suffering, and presenting us Christians a way of extending God's mercy and love. With a gift to LCMS Disaster Response, you can join your resources to those of thousands of other donors to make a difference in the lives of people who are suffering right now because of fire (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 as we ponder other ways in which we might be able to extend help.

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.

PARENT VISITATION & OPEN HOUSE – St. John School has scheduled their **Parent Visitation Open House** for the evening of **Thursday, October 22**, from 7:00 – 8:00 PM. This will run in conjunction with the PTL Scholastic Book Fair in the fellowship hall.

PRESCHOOL GRANDPARENTS' DAY – **Preschool Grandparents' Day** will be held from 9:00 – 11:00 AM on **Thurs., Oct. 20th for the 4 & 5-year old class** and same time on **Fri., Oct. 21st for the 3-year old class**. Grandparents should plan to arrive at 9 AM and report to the gym. Grandparents will also have the opportunity to take their grandchild through the PTL Scholastic Book Fair those days. Come and enjoy all the fun in Preschool!!!

SCRIP AT ST. JOHN: Let's plan ahead! Scrip is great for having "extra money" in your wallet. Purchase gift cards to use for personal shopping or going out to eat. Plan ahead now for birthdays and holidays! Scrip orders will be received on Wednesdays, ordered on Fridays and delivered on Tuesdays. Here is a new twist...the 5/6 graders will be going to Outdoor Education in April 2017. Any Scrip purchased from now until March by those students' families could apply 1/2 of their Scrip proceeds toward defraying the cost of their child's share to attend OE. They can use all of their proceeds if they choose, but if they wanted to split it 50/50 that half could be used for OE and the rest could be applied toward their school payment for 2017-2018 school year. More Scrip news will be forthcoming as well as the open house in October. Order forms and program information are posted on FastDirect under 'Links,' titled SCRIP Order Forms and SCRIP Program Info. There are also hard copies in the 'School Info' rack outside the office and on the table in the narthex. Please feel free to share with family and friends. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to the SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

PTL MEETING: The next PTL Meeting will be on Mon., October 3rd at 7:00 PM. This is an additional meeting so we can discuss sportswear apparel and fundraisers in the upcoming couple months. As a result of the 1st PTL meeting, make a note that the officers will remain the same. They are: President – *Kristyn Honemann*; Vice-President – *Shawna Schroeder*; Secretary – *Zoe Foor*; Treasurer – *Amy Rosebrook*.

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 products: 1 - 3 liter bottles; 16/48/64/96/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.

LADIES' VOLLEYBALL – The ladies from St. Paul Lutheran, 1075 Glenwood Ave., Napoleon, would like to invite the ladies from St. John to join them on Monday evenings from 7:30 – 9:00 for volleyball. They play every Monday night, as long as St. Paul has had school that day also.

AREA EVENTS:

- **St. Luke Lutheran Church – Wauseon** is hosting its Harvest Fest on **Sun., Oct. 9th from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** at the church. See flyer for more info!
- **St. Paul Lutheran – Napoleon Township** invites you to hear Guest Speaker Robert Rogers on **Sun., Oct. 9th at 1:00 PM** at the church. No charge to attend. See flyer on bulletin board!
- **Zion Lutheran Church – Ridgeville Corners** invites us to a Mission U Workshop at their church on **Sat., Oct. 15 from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**. Pre-Registration forms available on the narthex table. Mission U is a program of the Lutheran Hour Ministries.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

A Bible falling apart belongs to someone who isn't!

"Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything." (2 Tim 2:7)