



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

January 15, 2017

VOL. 82

NO. 3

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

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
Cell: 940-390-3065
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339
Church Website: www.sjl.org

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "Behold, the Lamb of God" Isaiah 49:1-7

Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting 4 (LSB pg. 203)*

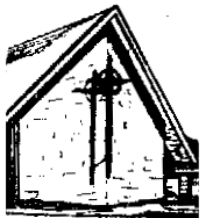
Hymns: 402 ~ 407, vs. 1, 4-7 ~ [Communion: 550, 434, 795] ~ 809

Adult Bell Choir: "Children of the Heavenly Father"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to St. John Church. We thank God for this time together! We pray that the grace of God will heal your hurts; that the strength of God will give you courage to face the work before you; that the power of God will prepare your way; and that the peace of God will keep you secure and steady in Christ Jesus. 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* ✠ Hope Buchhop & Clay Behnfeldt, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Elmer & Pat Maassel, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karan Niebergall, Ronda and Kaylee Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, *Altar Guild* ✠

NOW WITH THE LORD: Early Sunday morning, *Elmer F. Riefers*, 77, passed away unexpectedly. Elmer's funeral was held at St. John Lutheran Church on Thurs., Jan. 12, 2017 at 1:00 PM, with burial following in the St. John Cemetery. Elmer will be sadly missed by his family, but also by many of his friends in the community. Please keep Linda, Bob (Karen), Kathy (Ed), and Tom in your prayers at this difficult time for them.

NEW ALTAR GUILD (pink), GREETER (yellow), & USHER (blue) SCHEDULES: The 2017 Altar Guild, Greeter, and Usher schedules are available today and can be picked up on the narthex table. Thanks again to all who are willing to be of service to the Lord through St. John.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM 6:00 PM	Communion Service Sunday School; "Time To Spare"; Adult Bible Study Jr. High LYF Open Volleyball
Mon.	4:30 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	NO SCHOOL – <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i> B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. Holgate (played at St. Paul) B-ball: Gr. 7&8 boys vs. NW Ohio Cougars Freedom Township Trustee's & Zoning Board Meeting
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Vicar Keller Exercise Class Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:45 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM) Adult Bell Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 4:30 PM	Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. Tinora
Sat.	10:00AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:15 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs. Solomon - Woodville
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM	♦ ♦ National Lutheran Schools Week ♦ ♦
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Sr. High LYF Meeting Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: Rev.

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Lucia Delventhal, Renetta Homan, Stan Moll, Florence Fitzenreiter, and Delores Badenhop*
- ❖ *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 Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Servicemen, *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Kyle Elling, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, and Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Casen Lawrence*, for seizure activity he has been experiencing
- ❖ *Shirley Sonnenberg*, for a recent medical procedure
- ❖ *Vernon Kruse*, for treatments and a recent hospitalization
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs*, recuperating at home now following a recent fall
- ❖ *Rodney Rosebrock*, for rotator cuff repair recently

THE CONSTITUTION OF OUR CONGREGATION has recently undergone some updating.

Copies of the most recent version are available for you upon request to Joyce in the church office. She will give you either a paper copy, or send it to you as an email attachment.

NEW **LifeLight** BIBLE STUDY - Sign up today and help us choose our topic!

The new study will begin February 6 & 7 (Monday evening and Tuesday morning). **LifeLight** offers in-depth Bible studies designed to give an increase and growth in faith for all who participate. When you sign up, be sure to express your preference between the following two studies:

- **"Wilderness Wandering"** examines Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy and Israel's wilderness wanderings. In this study, we would examine how they got where they were, how they made offerings, the priestly ministry, cleanliness, atonement, holiness, the festivals, numbers, and the plan to settle the Promised Land. --or--
- **"Parables"** will look at why Jesus spoke in parables (*think Matthew 13:34-35*). From there the study looks at several well-known parables, such as the Lost Sheep and the Vine and the Branches, as well as perhaps some less known parables, such as the wineskins and wise servant.

You can sign up for either the Monday or Tuesday study groups. We'll meet the first, second and fourth weeks of February, March, and April (Mondays 7-8:15pm, Tuesdays 10-11:15am).

Life's Big Questions, God Big Answers – New Bible Study

Beginning this morning in the fellowship hall, Pastor's Sunday morning adult Bible study will be looking into some of life's big questions and exploring God's Word for God's big answers. Does evolution explain the world? What are humans? What is a canon? (This one has to do with how Scripture came to exist.) Was Noah's flood really a worldwide event? What is post-modernism and the new tolerance? This study covers 13 questions in all, and we'll try to tackle two of them each Sunday during the course of this study. Please join us as we grow in grace and in the knowledge of God's Holy Word.

HELP WITH SERVICE SLIDES – We are still recruiting some people to help with worship slides by taking charge of the "presentation clicker" and advancing the slides during worship services. Once we've identified some people, we will set up a training session to teach everyone how to perform this task. If you are interested in serving in this way, please speak with Dan Wachtman or Pastor Niermann.

2016 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – It's time to start getting your reports ready for the 2016 Church Annual. The secretaries 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, *Sara Myles*, at 419-966-1335. **Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers by Tues., Jan. 31.**

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 01/08/17	\$7,480.00	\$113.00	\$425.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday (01/08/17) Service: 215

MITES & WOMEN OF FREEDOM – The next meeting of the St. John Women of FREEDOM will be held Tues., Jan. 17, 2017 at 7:00 PM. This will be a Missions Meeting so everyone should bring their Mite Box if you have one. Our Mission Meetings are for the months of January, April, July, and October. February is our Quilt and Blanket Knotting Party and in August there is no meeting. All ladies of St. John are invited to come to our meetings.

Be sure to pick up a copy of the Quarterly and Odes from the table in the narthex.

Also to be noted is that the Women of Freedom will be continuing the Mite-y Socks program in 2017. These are tiny little baby socks, with instructions attached, that you can fill with coins (*dimes*) throughout the year. \$7.80 is the goal or more, if you wish. These *Mite-y Socks* are a means for all of us to help out the LWML Mite program in a big way with very little effort. Pick up your 2017 sock today!

SCHOOL MEMORIES: There are several copies of old St. John School yearbooks found in the office that are being offered, to anyone interested, on a “first come, first serve” basis. These are from the 2000-2001 school year (14 copies) and the 2002-2003 school year (23 copies). If you were a student or the parent of a student at that time, you may want to pick up a keepsake copy; or anyone can just pick up a copy to enjoy. They are available on the desk in the narthex.

THE FLOWER CALENDAR for 2017 is posted inside the sliding door showcase in the narthex. If you wish to sign up for a certain Sunday to place flowers on the altar or the piano, sign your name on that Sunday and then about two weeks before that date, call *Mabel Bischoff* at 419-598-8757 to let her know if you are getting your own flowers or if you want the Women of Freedom to take care of them. **The price for the flowers through the Women of Freedom is \$21.00.** Please remember that it is your responsibility to contact *Mabel Bischoff*. Also, please contact the church office with the information for the bulletin before Wednesday of the week you are placing the flowers in church. This will insure that you are not forgotten or overlooked.

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 church’s LYF as well? On Sun., Feb. 5th, we will be selling Super Bowl subs to help raise money for our youth group. Each sub will cost \$3.00 and will contain salami, bologna, ham, white cheese, and yellow cheese. To place an order, please fill out the pre-order form inserted in today’s bulletin and place it in the basket at the back of the church or bring it to the church office by February 1st. Subs will be available for pick up after church on February 5th. Payment will be due at the time of pick up. **Checks can be made payable to St. John LYF.** Thank you for supporting our LYF youth!

CHURCH LIBRARY: Books have been added to the St. John Lutheran Church Library located in the hallway west of the sanctuary. New additions include Reformation Heritage Bible Commentaries on Luke, Revelation, Mark, Hebrews, the Pastoral Letters, and the General Epistles. Just a few of the books added include, “Passover to Communion”, “The Miracles of Jesus”, “Concordia’s Complete Bible Handbook”, “Christianity in the Age of Terrorism”, a biography of Wilhelm Loehe, and Volumes 1-3 of Pieper’s “Christian Dogmatics”. Pick out any of these or other books or DVDs to read or watch at your leisure and return them in the basket provided when you are finished. Many children’s books are also available for fathers and mothers to read with their children.

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.**

SOUP & PIE DINNER – The annual PTL Soup & Pie Dinner will be held on Sun., Jan. 29, 2017, with serving from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, in the fellowship hall. On the menu will be *Chili Soup, Noodle Soup, Hot Dogs, Sloppy Joes, a Salad and Dessert Bar, and Beverages*. After the Dinner you can stay and enjoy watching some basketball games as all four of our school teams will be playing St. Paul Lutheran –Napoleon.



DONATIONS FOR SOUP & PIE DINNER – The PTL Soup & Pie Committee are asking for donations for the Salad and Dessert Bars. A sign-up sheet is placed on the table in the narthex. Thanks to everyone for taking time to support the PTL through your donations of salads, desserts, or cupcakes. We look forward to another successful Soup & Pie Dinner on January 29th!

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK: NLSW is scheduled for Jan. 22 – Jan. 28, 2017. A few interesting facts about Lutheran Schools...We foster education! Schools in The LCMS serve children in early childhood programs through grade 12 in over 2,000 schools nationwide and 3 schools internationally. Additionally, 10 colleges and universities operate to serve post-secondary and graduate students across the nation. In celebration of National Lutheran Schools Week, we will be holding various extra activities at school that week, including live broadcasts on the local radio station, WNDH 103.1. We plan to end the week with popcorn and a movie on Friday afternoon.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE is planned for grade levels PS-8 on Wed., February 8th, 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.

FREEDOM FLOCK HELP: The Freedom Flock After School Program is looking for a few people to fill in with our after school program when there is an emergency, illness, etc. with the full time aide. You would be “on call” if we need a quick substitute. It would be for three hours or less (*depending how soon all the children are picked up*) from 3 – 6 PM. If you are interested, please contact the school office at 419-598-8702.

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 \$7 per class (*pay as you come*). \$6 if prepaying for sessions. 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.

2017 LUTHERAN ANNUAL – We are now taking orders for the 2017 Lutheran Annual. It has the current addresses, phone numbers, emails, and websites of LCMS churches, pastors, teachers, etc. all over the United States. Call the church office to order your copy. Deadline is Fri., Jan. 27th.

FELLOWSHIP HALL SET-UP CREW: The Church Council is looking for a few good people to serve on a crew that can be available as needed to set up the fellowship hall for church related events such as funeral luncheons, potlucks, special events, etc (not private events). Set up would typically take place on evenings, although there may be exceptions. If you can help, please sign up in the narthex and include your cell number (if you have one) so that we can use texting for easy communication. We would also like to identify a crew chief to take the reins and to be the primary contact person. Thank you for your help and for all you do!

**Fellowship Hall
Set-up
Crew**



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.

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!

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.

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!

✘ ✘ ✘

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

There is nothing to fear when your lifeguard walks on water

*“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.” (Isaiah 43:2)*