



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 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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FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "Called Out of Conflict" *1 Corinthians 1:18-31*

Order of Service: *Service of Prayer & Preaching (LSB pg. 260)*

Hymns: **837** ~ "The Power of the Cross" ~ **845** ~ **842**

Children's Choir: *Sunday School Children sing "I'm in the Lord's Army"*

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; and that the peace of God will keep you secure and steady in Christ Jesus. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to our pastor and by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you. Simply pass it to the center aisle during the offering this morning. Thank you!



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Taylor Dietrich & Kaleb Woods, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Larry & Pat Mahnke, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Jim & Linda Meyer, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karan Niebergall, Ronda and Kaylee Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, *Altar Guild* ✠

WE MOURN the sudden passing of Vernon L. Kruse, 70, on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017 in Toledo. Vern's funeral was held at St. John on Wed., Jan. 25, 2017 at 1:00 PM with burial in the St. John Cemetery. Vern's quiet and calm personality, along with his pleasant smile will certainly be missed by many. Please pray for comfort and strength for the Kruse family at this difficult time for them.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:00 PM	Worship Service PTL Soup & Pie Dinner ; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" 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.	5:00 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:00 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs. BG Christian
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Kramer Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys @ NW Ohio Cougars (played at Filling Home) Shepherd Committee Board of Elders
Wed.	10:20AM 6:15 PM 7:00 PM	Late Start-up (<i>Teacher In-service at 8:30 AM</i>) Jr. High Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30</i>) Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM	Men's Bible Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant Exercise Class
Sat.	8:00 AM 10:00AM	Jr. & Sr. High LYF making Super Bowl subs B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:00 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys; 12:00 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. Monclova Christian Academy
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Eric Moquin</i> , St. John Lutheran – Sherwood

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, Delora Winkelman, and Marian Buchhop* at The Lutheran Home, Napoleon
- ❖ *Anna Brodman* 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
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs*, hospitalized again this past week
- ❖ *Glenn & Marcia Huebel* (Sr. Pastor at Messiah Lutheran, Keller, TX), whose house was struck by lightning causing an attic fire resulting in major structural damage
- ❖ *Kelli Etchison*, on the birth of her son, *Preston Johnson*, on Sat., Jan. 21 at Defiance Regional

VOTERS' MEETING – The first voters' meeting of 2017 will be held on Sun., Feb. 26th after the worship service. Items on the agenda to date are: 1) Annual school report; 2) Audit Committee report; 3) Endowment Fund distributions approval. Please mark your calendar and plan on attending!

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST – Men, join us this Thursday morning, Feb. 2 for breakfast and Bible Study. We meet at **6:30 a.m. at Hill's Family Restaurant** in Napoleon. Cost is \$7. It's great food, great fellowship, and a great way to start your day. It's GRRRRRR-EAT!

NEW LifeLight BIBLE STUDY - Pick up the Session 1 Study Guide in the narthex TODAY!

You may have heard it said that Jesus spoke in parables so that everyone would understand him. They say that the word pictures of the parables would have made sense to the audience of Jesus. While the meaning of the parables is open for Christians, is this also true of those who do not believe? If they were so simple to understand, then why didn't everyone follow Jesus? "**Parables**" will look at why Jesus spoke in parables (*think Matthew 13:34-35*). In the following weeks, we will look at a topic on the work and mission of Jesus to the radical grace of our God to our Lord's desire that all would come to faith and be saved. In each of these topics, we will study some of Jesus' parables and see how he used them to show us the Truth.

We'll meet the first, second and fourth weeks of February, March, and April (*Mondays 7-8:15pm, Tuesdays 10-11:15am*). The study guide for the first session, "**Why Parables?**" is available today. Feel free to pick one up and work through it so we can "hit the ground runnin'" in February!

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

At the beginning of all apologetics is the question of the Bible's reliability and authority, which many people doubt and call into question. So in class today we put the Bible to the TEST. **T** is for the TRUTH statements in the Bible; **E** is for the EXPLOITS of its characters; **S** is for the SETTINGS in which the story takes place; **T** is for the TRACES that are left to us to discover. In all these ways, the Bible proves again and again to be reliable and trustworthy. Please join us as we grow in grace and in the knowledge of God's Holy Word, and in our own ability to defend the Christian faith.

SR. HIGH LYF: Come one, come all to the Super Bowl Party 2017 at Miss Bartok's home on Feb. 5th from 6:00 PM – your curfew. Bring snacks and be ready to root for your favorite team! Not into football??? There will be other games and activities going on as well. Hope to see you on the 5th!

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK provides our network of nearly 2,200 LCMS preschools, elementary schools and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work among us in Lutheran schools. In celebration of National Lutheran Schools Week, we held various extra activities at school, including live broadcasts on Friday, Jan. 27th on WNDH 103.1. You can also listen to several alumni give their testimony of St. John by going to <http://wp.sjl.org/2017-st-john-school-radio-spots/>. We ended the week with popcorn and a movie on Friday afternoon. A special thanks goes out to those St. John alumni who provided us with their 30-second public relation spots, and to Todd Wachtman for assisting with this project. Todd collected all e-mails and transferred the recordings onto CDs.

ARCHIVES DISPLAY: The Archives Display has been changed and is now highlighting the 2016-2017 school pictures of the students and staff of St. John Lutheran School. Also pictured are the pictures of Lowell Petzoldt and Bonnie Niermann who will both be celebrating milestones in their teaching careers. Please stop down and check them out at your leisure.

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 01/22/17	\$7,928.00	\$380.00	\$845.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday (01/22/17) Service: 275

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 drop it in the basket located at the narthex table 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!

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 interested in serving in this way, please speak with Dan Wachtman or Pastor Niermann.

FAMILIES SERVING FAMILIES – This is an Outreach Camp that brings local families together to act out their Christian faith by serving other families in need. **St. Paul Lutheran Church – Liberty Center** coordinates this camp. During the camp, families will provide home repairs and maintenance for local families in need. Eligible project examples are: Interior or Exterior Painting, Weatherization, Mobile Home Skirting, Handicap Accessibility Modifications, Porch or Stairs Repair, Landscape Maintenance, etc. At this time, applications are being accepted for those in need of such repairs or maintenance. Bright orange applications are on the narthex table or apply online at <http://www.saintpaulc.org/families-serving-families/>. Application deadline is February 1, 2017.

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.

TIME TO UPDATE OUR DIRECTORY: There are many addresses and phone numbers in the Annual Report directory that need updated. If you (and/or your adult children) have address changes; or if you have eliminated your land line telephone and only have cell phone numbers, **please call or email** the church office at 419-598-8961 or email jwiechers@sjl.org with updated information. It will be very helpful to have current addresses on file when we do our mailings. Thank you!

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.

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.**

ST. JOHN MINI EAGLES BASKETBALL program began this past Wednesday. This will continue over the next several Wednesdays until the end of February. Practices will begin at 6:30 PM, will last 1 hour, and will focus on basketball fundamentals. We may extend the program if our volunteer coaches can hold practices on a day other than Wednesdays due to Lenten services beginning on March 1st. The coaches this year are Kurtis & Amy Kramer and Nate & Christa Bickel. Please have your child wear gym shoes while at practice. These Mini Eagles will scrimmage each other this coming Sunday between the games with St. Paul.

ARE YOU A MYSTERY READER? Don't forget to consider being a Mystery Reader for the Kindergarten classroom anytime this school year. They have already had several Readers.

- Who can be a Mystery Reader?* Parents of students, older siblings, grandparents, relatives, church members, or other special people may volunteer to read a story to our class. The goal is to remain a "mystery" so that the children are surprised to learn who our Mystery Reader will be! Please keep it a secret!
- What does a Mystery Reader Do?* Mystery Readers are welcome to choose any age-appropriate book to read to our class. You may bring a book from home, or if you would like to borrow a book, you are welcome to do so. For added fun, readers may bring props or costumes related to their stories, if you wish.

If this sounds like "you" please contact Mrs. Niermann (email: bniermann@sjl.org) to sign up.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR – The Lutheran Hour Ministries can be heard on several radio stations in our area. They cover many interesting topics relevant to today's issues. Broadcasts can be heard Sundays on: Holland's WPOS 102.3 at 7:00 AM; Archbold's WMTR 96.1 at 7:30 AM; Defiance's WONW (AM)1280 at 10:30 AM; Napoleon's WNDH 103.1 at 12:00 PM.

EAGLE NEWS: The Eagle News publication is available today on the narthex table 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.

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.

RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP FUNDRAISER: The Stewardship Board is offering “for sale” the Ultimate Cloth® as a fundraiser. These are a MiraFiber® technology cloth that cleans with water only. More effective than harsh cleaning chemicals and soaps. See Karen Norden (419-267-3477) for more information and pricing. This will be an on-going fundraiser for the Right Hand of Fellowship gift matching campaign.

INTERESTED IN A CHURCH PROFESSION? WE’D LIKE TO HELP! Recently a number of young people from St. John have pursued educational goals to prepare them for full-time service as teachers and pastors. If you are interested in a church profession (*as a pastor, deaconess, teacher, lay minister, or a Director of Christian Education, Christian Outreach, Parish Music, or Family Life Ministry*), our congregation would like to support you by offering a tuition gift. An application for this gift is available online --- type **www.sjl.org/student_gift_app.pdf** into your browser (*there is no link*) and fill out the application. Deadline for fall enrollment is June 1st.

“WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS”: “Worship for Shut-Ins” has joined the WLMB-TV40 line up. If you have a relative or friend who is homebound, hospitalized, or recovering from a recent surgery, you may suggest this 30-minute LCMS worship service to them. So tune in to WLMB-TV40 on Sundays at 6:30 AM and get your Sunday started off right!

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!

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!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

If you give the devil an inch he will become a ruler.

“Give no opportunity to the devil.” (Eph. 4:27)