



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 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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SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon & Text: "A Whole New World" *John 20:24-29*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: 467 ~ 461 ~ 472 ~ 471 ~ 476 ~ 480

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest this morning, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. 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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Bethann Gerken, *Pianist* ✘ Aden Foor & Gavin Gerken, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Tom & Sandy VonDeylen, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Carey Damman, Craig Drewes, Scott VanValkenburg, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Linda Riefers, Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff, *Altar Guild* ✘

FLOWERS TODAY:

- ❖ Altar flowers are placed in celebration of the 40th Wedding Anniversary of Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, which was Saturday, April 22nd. God's blessings as you celebrate this milestone in your lives. We wish you many more years together. Congratulations Eldor & Rosie!
- ❖ Piano flowers are placed today in recognition of the teaching ministry anniversaries of Rev. Charles Kramer – 40 years; Mr. Lowell Petzoldt – 40 years; Mrs. Bonnie Niermann – 15 years; Joyce Wiechers – 10 years (*as church & school secretary*). St. John's is very blessed and honored to celebrate these milestones with each one of you. Congratulations to all!

2016 CHURCH ANNUAL is available on the desk and table in the narthex following the service today. Thanks to everyone for your information submitted to be included in this report.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 11:30AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Teacher & Staff Anniversary Recognition Potluck
Mon.	5:30 PM 7:00 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study; Adult Instruction Class
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Niermann; Offering: <i>The Lutheran Home-Napoleon</i> Exercise Class <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study Shepherd Committee Board of Elders
Wed.	6:15 PM 7:00 PM	Jr. Hi Confirmation Class Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class VBS Staff Meeting
Sat.	8:30 AM 1:30 PM	LWML Zone Spring Rally at St. Paul Lutheran – Liberty Center Basketball Fun Games (<i>with Talent Show @ halftime</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Dale Kern, Retired</i> , St. John Lutheran – Stryker

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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, Florence Fitzenreiter, and Delores Badenhop*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, and Anna Brodman*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Servicemen, *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, and Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Annetta Rosebrock, Evelyn Rohrs, and Shirley Sonnenberg*, all dealing with health issues
- ❖ *Don Dickmann*, moved to the Orchards of Northcrest for rehab this past week
- ❖ *Lucia Delventhal*, undergoing PT at Fulton Manor, Wauseon, after a recent fall
- ❖ *Ron Germann*, at home recuperating from knee surgery this past week
- ❖ *Lowell & Renee Petzoldt*, at the passing of Renee's father, Richard Wagner, this past Thursday

LOTS OF KNOTS: Blankets displayed on the pews this morning were sewn by the Women of Freedom with help from several ladies from Bethlehem Lutheran Church on the Ridge. A special thanks to *Jane Greene* (Linda Riefers' sister) who allowed us to use her basement and tables to assemble and knot the blankets. The large blankets will be donated to Orphan Grain Train; the medium sized blankets will go to Shepherd's Circle in Archbold; and the smaller blankets to our St. John shut-ins, as well as the Ridgeville Legion Veteran and Auxiliary Member shut-ins. Thank you, ladies, for the donated fabric and lots of hours of assembling and knotting.

RESCHEDULED STAFF & TEACHER ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION: With due respect to the entire Petzoldt family in regard to the passing of Renee's father on Thurs., April 20, the Teacher & Staff Anniversary recognition has been cancelled and rescheduled. **The date for the service and potluck has been moved to Sun., May 7th.** The worship service will be at 9:00 AM and the potluck will be at 11:30 AM. Those being recognized include the following individuals: *Rev. Charles Kramer* – 40 years; *Mr. Lowell Petzoldt* – 40 years; *Mrs. Bonnie Niermann* – 15 years; *Joyce Wiechers* – 10 years (*as church & school secretary*). Of note, the School Board will be furnishing pulled pork from Brookview Farm Meats. Please bring a side dish or two to pass.

WITH THANKS: On behalf of the Women of Freedom, thank you so much to everyone who attended our Easter Breakfast. A special thanks goes out to those that helped with the setup, serving and cleanup, and to all of you who donated food or drink. The event would not have been possible without you! Thanks again- *Nancy Glaser, President*

LifeLight BIBLE STUDY meet this Monday evening and Tuesday morning.

The Parables of Jesus - We know that we are saved by faith alone, and that this is done through the working of the Holy Spirit. And what means does the Spirit use to create and sustain this faith? Of course, it is through the Word and Sacraments. This week, we hear the words of Jesus admonish us through parables to build our lives upon him, to constantly hear his word, and to pray with faith that our God hears and answers every one of our prayers.

JAVA JOY COORDINATOR NEEDED - Java Joy on the second Sunday of each month has been a real blessing, but the individual who has coordinated it in the past needs to step away from that task. We're looking for a replacement. The task is fairly simple. It would mean watching the Java Joy sign-up list to make sure someone is signed up for each second Sunday. If no one is signed up, it would mean approaching people to ask if they would consider hosting. If you are interested to serve in this way, or for more information on what this task entails, please speak with Rosella Gruenhagen or Pastor Niermann. Thanks for thinking about it!



ARCHIVES DISPLAY: The Archives Committee members have put up a display of past Confirmation classes ranging from 1937 (*80th anniversary*) to 2012 (*celebrating their 5th anniversary*). Come and check it out in the showcases in the hallway by the church. We are sure you will find a familiar face in the display.

LWML SPRING RALLY - The Women of Freedom are invited to the Napoleon Zone Spring Rally to be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Liberty Center, on Saturday, April 29th with registration and breakfast at 8:30 AM and the program from 9-11:30 AM. The speakers will be presenting a program about the "Families Serving Families" mission work at St. Paul – Liberty Center.

LUTHERAN WITNESS RENEWAL – It's time to renew your subscription to the Lutheran Witness for the year. To subscribe or renew your subscription, **simply place \$16.00 in an envelope**, along with your name and address, and place it in the Sunday collection plate or bring it to the church office. **Deadline for subscriptions is May 15th.**



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - Staff sign-up

Yep, it's time to think about putting together a team for a summer Vacation Bible School. **VBS is scheduled for the evenings of June 4-8** (Sunday to Thursday). The first staff planning meeting is this Thursday evening. Mary Rettig has volunteered to be our director, and so we continue signing up staff members. If you would like to serve the children of our congregation as a VBS staff member, please fill out the form on the table in the narthex and drop it in the container marked VBS Staff Sign-Up. Please think and pray about this, as you consider the words of Jesus, "Let the children come unto me, and do not forbid them!"

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 04/16/17	\$15,794.00	\$941.00	\$425.00

ATTENDANCE: 4/16/17 Sunrise Service: 180; Late Service: 270

MAUNDY THURSDAY SVC. (4/13/17): Luth. Heritage Foundation - \$573.00; Attendance: 129

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE (4/14/17): Home Fund - \$1,273.00; Attendance: 166

THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICES will begin on Thurs., May 4th at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. Once school is out for the summer, we will move these services into the north end fellowship hall. Our Thursday evening worship services will be held each week through October 26. Holy Communion will usually be on the Thursday evenings prior to regular Communion Sundays.

SUMMER MISSION TRIP – SIGN-UP NOW! We are planning a summer mission trip to New Orleans. The area has not fully recovered from the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and has been hit by severe storms and floods since then. Informational leaflets about this trip and its costs are available in the narthex next to a sign-up sheet.

NEW MOVIE SCREENING

Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World

Martin Luther triggered a seismic upheaval that rocked the western world in the 1500s—with an impact that continues to reverberate to this day. This new film tells the great adventure story of his life. At the same time, it examines his quest for truth—questions we all must face—including "Who am I?" "What is my purpose?" and "How do I get right with God?"



Now you can see this compelling new movie at a special screening right here at St. John on Sunday evening, May 7th. The movie has received high marks for its content, production and message. In addition to the movie that evening, there will be concessions and door prizes of some fun Luther memorabilia. We are also inviting the community and our circuit brothers and sisters to join us for this event. Mark your calendar, and watch for more information.

GRANDPARENT'S DAY: A reminder that Grandparent's Day at St. John School for Grades K-8 will be held on **Friday, May 5** from 12:30 - 3:00 PM. *Lunch is not included.*

BASKETBALL FUN...AND TALENT TOO! On Sat., April 29th at 1:30 PM there will be a Student vs. Staff/Coaches Basketball game held here in our gym. The student team will consist of 5th – 8th students, and the Staff/Coaches team will consist of...well, you know who. During half time of the games, we will be having a student talent show. There are a lot of talented children in our school and we would like to showcase their talents. So plan to come and have some fun!

GREAT MOTHER'S DAY GIFT – The “Recipes and Remembrances” cookbooks from PTL would surely make Mom smile. They have a very nice collection of great recipes in them. This is a PTL fundraiser and copies available today at the table in the side hallway. The cost is \$10.00. If writing a check, please make it payable to: *St. John PTL*. We hope you enjoy making all the “goodies” in the cookbook. Thank you for supporting the PTL!

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.

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!

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.

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.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

His tomb is empty! Why isn't the church full?

“Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!” So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.”
(*Matthew 28:9*)