



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
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

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THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Against Our Nature" *Matthew 16:21-28*
Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Four – LSB pg. 203
Hymns: 531 ~ 753 ~ (Communion: 688, 632, 426) ~ 718

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We welcome all who have come to worship our God with us today! Each day we live is a priceless gift from God, loaded with possibilities to learn something new, to gain fresh insights into His great truths. May we be showered with those blessings as we together profess His Name today. 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* ✧ Taylor Dietrich & Kaleb Woods, *Acolytes* ✧
- ✧ Bob & Diane Norden, *Greeters* ✧
- ✧ Harold Behrmann & Richard Elling, *Visitation* ✧
- ✧ Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop, *Ushers* ✧
- ✧ Linda Riefers, Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff, *Altar Guild* ✧

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed in celebration and recognition of the 60th Wedding Anniversary of Marvin & Arlene Gruenhagen by their family. Marv & Arlene's actual anniversary was on Fri., Sept. 1st. May God continue to give them many more happy years together. Congrats!

NEW FAMILY: Congratulations to *Josh & Kristina Elling* on the birth of their first child, a daughter, *Alaina Lenore*, on Wed., Aug. 23rd at Wood Co Hospital. Everyone is doing well and getting settled in at home. Grandparents, Mark & Brenda Elling will be sure to "help out" where needed too. Blessings to the Ellings!

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class
Mon.		NO SCHOOL – Labor Day
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Exercise Class V-ball: Gr. 4-6; 6:00 PM Gr. 7&8 vs. St. Pats – Bryan School Board & Stewardship Board Meetings
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>)
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant School Pictures taken (PS 4/5 thru Gr. 8); Exercise Class V-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 5:30 PM Gr. 7&8 @ St. Paul - Napoleon Thursday Evening Worship
Fri.	9:00 AM	School Pictures taken (PS3)
Sat.	10:00AM	V-ball: Gr. 4-6; 11:00 AM Gr. 7&8 vs. St. John – Defiance
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Keith Witte</i> , St. Paul Lutheran – Liberty Center

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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, Delores Badenhop*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, and Anna Brodman*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Lucia Delventhal*, at Fulton Manor, Wauseon
- ❖ *Melba Elling*, in Assisted Living at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Armed Services: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Shirley Sonnenberg*, dealing with health issues
- ❖ *Don Dickmann*, recuperating at The Orchards of Northcrest
- ❖ *Elmer Maassel*, recovering from a heart attack; followed by surgery this past week
- ❖ *Stan Moll*, at Fulton Co Health Center following a fall this past week

ADULT BIBLE STUDY THIS MORNING – Who Are the Despised?

In His 'Sermon on the Plain' (Luke 6) our Lord said, "Blessed are you when people hate, exclude, and revile you and consider you evil on account of Him." More and more in our culture we are starting to feel the hatred directed at those who love Christ. Yet we don't despair, because those who are hated for His sake are in fact blessed above all others! Join us this morning for a single session Bible study of these words of Christ, and let's be encouraged and strengthened in faith!

ADULT BELL CHOIR: The Adult Bell Choir will have practices on Wednesdays again this year. Our first practice will be on Wed., Sept. 13th at 6:30 PM. For returning Bell Choir members, please contact Karan if this is a conflict for you. We are always looking for new members to join us. If you'd like to get involved and share your talents, please contact *Karan Niebergall* at 419-598-8251.

"THE LAMP" HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

The high school Sunday Bible study (*formerly "Time to Spare"*) has a new name - "**The Lamp.**" The class voted last year on this name change to reflect the words of Psalm 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." The first session for this new season of Christian education will be Sunday, Sept. 17th in the Cry Room. Spread the word, invite a friend, and join us as God's Spirit enlightens us through His Word.

Bible Study



MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST - Join us at 6:30 a.m. this Thursday (and on the first Thursday morning of each month) at Hill's Restaurant in Napoleon. We will pray and study God's Word together, and enjoy one another's fellowship. Bible and breakfast – it's a great way to start the day. Breakfast is \$7.00 (and includes the tip).

LYF ASSISTANCE NEEDED – Sarah Bartok, our LYF leader, is seeking assistance with this youth ministry in our congregation for both the Junior High and Senior High levels. If you would like to volunteer, please speak with Sarah. Your service would be a blessing to her and to our youth.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES THIS NEW SEASON

As we approach the 500th anniversary of the Reformation on October 31st, our Sunday Bible studies will focus on Reformation-related topics on which we still need to reflect even half a millennium later. Join us starting next Sunday for these studies. You'll come to appreciate the profound impact Martin Luther had in both church and human history.



A Man Named Luther – Part 2: The Moment (starts Sunday, Sept. 3rd)

This video-based Bible study from *Lutheran Hour Ministries* examines the errant teachings and wayward traditions of the Late Medieval Church that eventually prompted Luther's writing of the 95 Theses that sparked the Protestant Reformation. This Bible study takes a close look at the widespread teachings of purgatory, penance, celibacy, prayers for the dead, transubstantiation, the treasury of merits of Christ, devotion to Mary and the rosary, the institution of the papacy, and the one most often linked to the Reformation: the sale of indulgences.

A Man Named Luther – Part 3: The Movement (following Part 2)

In this study, we will see how the Reformation transformed European society and, eventually, left a profound impression around the globe on culture and citizen alike. Everything from education, politics, science, theology, marriage, and the family – and even extending to one's view of vocation and his relationship to God – came under the shaping and seminal influence of the Reformation. Ultimately, the Reformation contributed a number of ideas that traveled across the Atlantic which, in turn, influenced our Republic via ideas of individual rights and representative democracy.

CELEBRATING
150
YEARS

IT'S TIME TO FORM A 150th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE! In about a year and a half, we will turn the calendar to the year 2019 – the year our congregation will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its founding in 1869. It's an anniversary we will want to celebrate in many ways with joy and thanksgiving. If you would like to be part of the anniversary committee, please speak with Pastor Niermann, and we will have our first meeting this fall.

Sunday School / Christian Education

It's time to gear up for another season of Christian education at St. John. Sunday School grades K-6 will be using the 'Cross Explorations' curriculum that will have them rotating to three sites...

1. **ENGAGE** ~ 10:15-10:25 a.m. in the sanctuary
Combined opening worship for all students, grades K-6
2. **EXPLORE** ~ 10:30-10:45 a.m. in two classrooms
The Bible lesson for the day (K-3 in 1-2 classroom; 4-6 in 5-6 classroom)
3. **EXPRESS** ~ 10:50-11:05 a.m. in the fellowship hall

While the students are in ENGAGE and EXPLORE, all adults and Sunday School parents are invited to come to Adult Bible Study which is held in the north end of the fellowship hall. Then the children will join the parents and adults for the EXPRESS part of the schedule to share some intergenerational, parent-child time doing an activity that reinforces the day's lesson. Meanwhile, preschool, junior and senior high classes will continue their normal schedule. Here's the calendar of what's coming...



- **Sunday, Sept. 3rd – No Sunday School**
- **Sunday, Sept. 10th** - Regular Sunday School classes begin
- **Sunday, Sept. 17th** – Sr. High Sunday School class begins

WILLING SERVANTS ARE STILL NEEDED to staff the Sunday School. Speak with *Zoe Foor* if you would like to share your time and talents with the children of our Sunday School.

SIDE NOTE ABOUT SUNDAY SCHOOL NEXT SUNDAY: During the worship service we will involve the children with a children's message and a blessing for them and their teachers as the new season of Christian education begins.

There is no greater work a Christian can do than to lead the children to Christ in faith and trust. If it is a blessed thing even to give a cup of water to a child (Matt. 10:42), how much more blessed it is give a child the very Bread of Life – to give them Jesus! Willing servants are still needed to staff the Sunday School. Speak with *Zoe Foor*, *Lisa Brown*, or *Pastor Niermann* if you would like to share your time and talents with the children of our Sunday School.

Also remember that the Sunday School students will be practicing music for worship during the openings. Be sure your child is present to learn the songs and anthems that will be sung in the Lord's House once each month.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 08/27/17	\$5,422.00	\$360.00	\$530.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday (8/24/17) Service: 42 Sunday (8/27/17) Service: 152

COMMUNED in August: 300 members and 12 guests

MISSION FESTIVAL INVITATION – Our friends at **Zion Lutheran in Ridgeville** are having a Mission Festival next Sunday, Sept. 10th. They invite you to a **hog roast at 11:30 a.m. (no cost)** and a **mission presentation at 1:30 p.m.** about the Missouri Synod's *Worldwide Spanish Speaking Initiative* to recruit and train Spanish speaking pastors. The presenter is Rev. Donald Wiley from our Fort Wayne seminary, who served formerly as a missionary to Panama. A free-will offering will be received in support of his ministry.

LWML RETREAT – Ladies, please consider attending the LWML Fall Retreat at St. John Lutheran Church, Routes 6 & 66, on Sat., Sept. 16. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the program beginning at 9 until 2 p.m. The theme is “We Are God’s Handiwork.” Guest speaker is *Diana Schnack* of Columbus, who is presently an officer of the Ohio District LWML and has been an inspirational speaker/humorist at Ohio District functions. The cost for the Retreat is \$12, which includes a salad bar lunch. Registration forms are on the table in the narthex, and you may leave your completed form with payment in the box provided. Final day to register is Friday September 8. Contact *Nancy Glaser* at 419-598-8432 with any questions. All ladies are invited – come join us!!

HYGIENE ITEMS NEEDED – In conjunction with the LWML Fall Retreat, the Women of Freedom are collecting travel size hygiene items to put into kits. These kits will be given to the Defiance Area Hospice Center for use by family members and others who are visiting/staying with those in hospice. Please donate travel size shampoo, deodorant, soap/body wash, scrubby, toothbrush, toothpaste, mouthwash, comb, hair spray. Items are needed prior to September 15. A box is on the table in the narthex, or contact *Nancy Glaser* at 419-598-8432 to arrange for pickup of items. Thank you!

MAGAZINE / COOKIE DOUGH FUNDRAISER: Students from St. John Lutheran School only have 4 days left for their magazine and frozen cookie dough sales. There are hundreds of magazines to choose from. There are 12 kinds of frozen tubs of cookie dough to purchase. This year the profits go for the class trip and playground equipment. Contact the students in the school to make a purchase.

SJL SCHOOL FUNDRAISER – Plans are in motion for the 1st Annual “Soar With the Eagles” St. John Lutheran School Fundraiser to be held at the Ridgeville American Legion Hall on Fri., Nov. 10, 2017. There will be a meal and dancing, along with a live and silent auction. Stay tuned !

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 (orchid) are available on the narthex table or contact any of the Booster officers. Join today and help out the children’s athletic program.

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.**

A SIMPLE AND CONVENIENT WAY TO GIVE – This fall, consider signing up for electronic giving which is now called *Joyful Response*. St. John Lutheran Church relies on financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. One simple, easy to use authorization form can begin or change your electronic contributions amount. Contact *Joyce Wiechers* in the office at 419-598-8961 for more details. Thank you!

LAWN SIGNS: Lawn signs for display in your front yard or any visible area you can think of are still available. These free signs can be taken from the back of the narthex. You make take as many as you need in order to give our school some good advertising.

COLOR FUN RUN/WALK FUNDRAISER – Join our 7th & 8th Grade students as they host a Color Fun Run/Walk on Sat., Sept. 23rd beginning at 1:00 PM. Come run or walk around the designated route on the church grounds and get covered with lots of different colors. Food and water will also be available and is included in the price. The price to participate is \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children. Please, no pets during the race and throughout the course. Sign up for the event on Facebook or email Sarah Bartok at sbartok@sjl.org. See “color” flyers in the hallway too!

LYF ICE CREAM SOCIAL – The LYF will be hosting its annual Ice Cream Social on Sun., Sept. 24, with serving from 10:30 to 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. On the menu: *Chicken Sandwiches, Sloppy Joe’s, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Chips, Pies, Cakes, Cupcakes, Beverage and Schwan’s Ice Cream*. Freewill offering! Carryouts available also!

SAVE THE DATE! On Sat., Sept. 30th, Thrivent Reps. *Doug* and *Tyler Kossow* are hosting an event to raise funds to benefit St. John Lutheran School’s playground. This will be a fun filled day of food, corn hole, and college football on the big screen. The money raised will go towards the construction of a Gaga Ball pit. Don’t know what Gaga Ball is??? Please come and find out!

There will be burgers, hot dogs, and other snack foods. Also, a corn hole tournament beginning at 10:30 AM (registration begins at 10 AM). Following the corn hole we will be watching college football in the fellowship hall. Bring your own lawn or bag chair. Corn hole entry is \$20/team and there will be a freewill donation taken for the food. All proceeds will go to benefit the construction of a Gaga Ball pit on the playground. Plan to come and make this a reality for the kids!

Simply RSVP by Mon., Sept. 25th by calling the Ridgeville Corners Thrivent office at 419-267-0113 or by emailing doug.kossow@thrivent.com or tyler.kossow@thrivent.com.

4-H MUM SALE: The Henry County 4-H are having a Mum Sale with proceeds to support the 4-H Youth and activities in Henry County. Color of mums available are: Red, White, Yellow, Orange, Bronze, Pink, Purple and Rainbow. Plant sizes and prices are 9” (\$6.00), 12” (\$12.00), 15” (\$17.00), Oval Planter (\$12.00), and Hanging Basket (\$12.00). For more information and if you want to place an order, please contact *Bethann Gerken* at 419-445-7910 or email bethann@rteceexpress.net

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Men, don’t just bring home the bacon; bring home the Book!

“Fathers,...bring up your children in the training and instruction of the Lord.” (Eph. 6:4)