



# 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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### SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "Nazareth" *John 1:43-51*  
Order of Service: *Matins (LSB pg. 219)*  
Hymns: **901 ~ 402 ~ 518** (sub for *Te Deum*) ~ **688**

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### 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.*

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### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Karleigh Sonnenberg & Kaelyn Gerken, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Marilyn Meyer & Arlene Wallace, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Karan Niebergall, Ronda and Kaylee Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, *Altar Guild* ✘

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are placed in celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of *Wilbur & Irene Joost*, by their family. Willie and Irene's anniversary is on Wed., Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to the Joosts as they mark this milestone in their life. May God grant you many more happy years together.

**RESCHEDULED GARY NYE MEMORIAL SERVICE:** The memorial service for Gary Nye, 73, has been rescheduled for **Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM.** Susan and her family invite you to attend as we remember Gary who was tragically taken from us in an accident at home on Fri., Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>. Immediately following the memorial service, there will be a fellowship luncheon in the church fellowship hall where you can greet Susan and share a time of food and conversation. Please join the family that day and continue to keep Susan in your daily prayers, not only as she grieves, but for her recovery as well.

**In God's House This Week**Online church calendar: [www.DynaCal.com/sjl](http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:00 PM	Worship Service with Communion following <i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" 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 @ St. Paul – Napoleon
Mon.	4:30 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	NO SCHOOL – <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i> B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls @ Holgate B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys; 6:15 PM Gr. 7&8 boys vs Monclova Christian (H) Freedom Township Trustee's & Zoning Board Meeting
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Niermann Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys vs Liberty Center (@ St. Paul) Women of Freedom Meeting Shepherd Committee Meeting – Rescheduled Board of Elders – Rescheduled
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class Adult Bell Choir practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls vs Tinora (@ St. Paul) Teacher Call Committee Meeting
Sat.	10:00AM 4:30 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:15 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs Solomon–Woodville (H); Mini Eagles play between games at 11:15 AM Jr High LYF
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:20AM	◆ ◆ <b>National Lutheran Schools Week</b> ◆ ◆
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Communion Service Sunday School; "The Lamp"; Adult Bible Study Sr High National Youth Gathering Meeting ( <i>see bulletin note</i> ) Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Donald Luhring</i> , St. John Lutheran – Defiance

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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, Anna Brodman, and Dorothy Gerken*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Lucia Delventhal*, at Fulton Manor, Wauseon
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs, Delores Badenhop, and Melba Elling*, in Assisted Living at The Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Armed Services: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Ezekiel Damman, Pat Kramer, Marietta Damman, Alicia Maassel, and Henry Gerken*, dealing with health issues at this time
- ❖ *Pat Williams*, sister of Linda Riefers, who is under hospice care in Florida



**JAVA JOY TODAY!** It's the second Sunday of the month, and that means **Java Joy** after worship. Take a little time to enjoy a bite to eat and some fellowship. A table is set up in the front hallway. Your gifts to the "kitty" help keep **Java Joy** alive and going. We thank *Denny & Diane VonDeylen* and *Dan & Joyce Wiechers* for hosting Java Joy for January. (*NOTE: In order for everyone to enjoy the food items, we ask that you only take 2 items when going through the line.*) Thank you!

Be a **Java Joy** host. Every second Sunday of the month we aim to have this time of fellowship. If you would like to host one of these, please sign up on the table in the narthex. Don't let finances stop you – you are welcome to reimburse your expenses from the kitty if you wish.

**ELDERS MEETING THIS TUESDAY** – The Elders meeting usually scheduled for the last Tuesday of the month has been rescheduled for this Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY** this morning will continue the third part of our extended study, **A Man Named Luther – Part 3: The Movement**. Most people don't have a full appreciation of how Martin Luther and the Reformation he sparked has impacted not just the church but, indeed, all of civilization. In its December 1999 issue, *Time Magazine* listed Martin Luther as the second most influential person of the past millennium. His influence reaches far beyond the church to impact education, family life, and even the formation of governments, our own included. Join Pastor Niermann this morning in the fellowship hall for the study of God's Word and to gain a deeper appreciation of the Reformation and how it has impacted our world.



• **UP NEXT FOR BIBLE STUDY – The Letter to the Romans**

The year is 1515. Luther, as a young monk, sits in a room at the top of a monastery tower studying late into the night when he was about to stumble upon a verse in Paul's letter to the Romans (1:16-17) that would not only change his life, but the entire world. Later, Luther wrote of this 'tower experience': "All at once I felt that I had been born again and entered into paradise itself through open gates. Immediately I saw the whole of Scripture in a different light. This phrase of Paul ("the justice of God") was for me the very gate of paradise."

Because this Bible book had such a profound impact on Martin Luther, it is only fitting in this 500<sup>th</sup> Reformation Anniversary year that we should take up the study of Romans in our midst and consider God's Word to us through this amazing letter of St. Paul. Join us, that the light of God's Word may shine upon you!

**JR HIGH LYF MEETING CHANGED:** Due to basketball games with St. Paul, Napoleon, today, the Jr. High LYF meeting is changed to Sat., Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM. Please make a note!

**NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING MEETING:** There will be a short organizational meeting about the National Youth Gathering on Sun., Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:20 AM in the Cry Room. This meeting is for any 7<sup>th</sup> Grader thru 11<sup>th</sup> Grader who may be considering attending this awesome event in Minneapolis, MN in July 2019.

CELEBRATING  
**150**  
YEARS

**IT'S TIME TO START PLANNING!** The year 2019 marks for us the 150<sup>th</sup> year of this congregation's ministry of Word and Sacrament in Freedom Township. **The first meeting of *The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee* will be conducted on Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** At this committee meeting we will be discussing an anniversary theme, and a rough schedule of events for the anniversary year. A few people have expressed interest in serving on this committee, but we could use the help and input of others. If you would like to serve on this committee, please speak with Pastor Niermann, or you may simply attend the meeting.

**NEW ALTAR GUILD (pink) & GREETER (yellow) SCHEDULES:** The 2018 Altar Guild and Greeter schedules are available today and can be picked up on the narthex table. The Usher schedule is in the making and will be available soon. Thanks again to all who are willing to be of service to the Lord through St. John. You are a blessing to us all!

**BREAD FROM HEAVEN UPDATE:** First of all, we would like to thank the congregation for all of their support of the food pantry. We recently received a large donation of soup from the Campbell's Soup Co. So to compliment the soup, we are looking for donations of crackers. There is also a need for spaghetti and spaghetti sauce. The next food pantry distribution will be on Mon., Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5:30 – 6:30 PM. Thanks again from the *Bread From Heaven* Committee.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 01/07/17	\$10,043.00	\$127.00	\$662.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 218

**LIFE SUNDAY – January 21<sup>st</sup>**

Every January the tragic anniversary rolls around of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision (on January 22, 1973) that legalized abortion on demand in our country. Since then, over 60 million American babies have been aborted. The economic and demographic impact of these people missing from society is

incalculable, but perhaps worst is the spiritual impact that happens to a nation when its citizens treat God's gift of life as a disposable commodity. On Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> we will pray to God for our nation and consider what God's Word has to say about this burning issue. Join us then, and together let's take a stand for life!



**Lutherans  
For Life**

**NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK:** NLSW is scheduled for Jan. 21 – Jan. 27, 2018. 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 broadcasts on the local radio station.

**SOUP & PIE DINNER** – The annual PTL Soup & Pie Dinner will be held on Sun., Jan. 28, 2018, 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.



**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, pies, or cupcakes. We look forward to another successful Soup & Pie Dinner on January 28<sup>th</sup>!

**MITES & WOMEN OF FREEDOM** – The next meeting of the St. John Women of FREEDOM will be held Tues., Jan. 16, 2018 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. **NOTE:** The Program Booklets for 2018 are in a box on the narthex table. Be sure to pick yours up today. Check to see what month you are on for serving. If that does not work out for you, you can switch with someone. The LWML Quarterlies can also be picked up at the narthex table.

Also to be noted is that the Women of Freedom will be continuing the Mite-y Socks program in 2018. 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 2018 sock today!

**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. 4<sup>th</sup>, we will be selling Super Bowl subs to help raise money for our youth group. Each sub will cost \$4.00 (or a 3 for \$10 deal) 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 on the table or bring it to the church office by January 28<sup>th</sup>.** Subs will be available for pick up after church on February 4<sup>th</sup>. 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!

**ST. JOHN OPEN HOUSE** – An **Open House** is planned for grade levels (PS-8) at St. John School for Wednesday evening, **February 7<sup>th</sup>, 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/children here for their education. There will also be refreshments. If anyone in the congregation might know of a prospective student for Grades PS-8, please be sure to pass this information to them.

**PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT** – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2018-19 school year. Anyone interested in enrolling your child in our preschool program should contact the school office at 419-598-8702 to request an enrollment packet and/or turn in their registration form. We will be opening the registration up to the public as of February 1<sup>st</sup>. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration form.

**ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES**: You may begin ordering again! Scrip orders will be received on Wednesdays, ordered on Fridays and delivered on the following Tuesday. Order forms 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. 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](mailto:honemann@embarqmail.com).**

**THE FLOWER CALENDAR** for 2018 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.

**2018 NATIONAL LUTHERAN ANNUAL** – We are taking orders for the 2018 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., Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**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...**

**No fake news here, but good news!**

*“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)*