



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

April 8, 2018

VOL. 83

NO. 14

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Hymns: **465 ~ 480 ~ 481 ~ 466**

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

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Ashton Niese & Logan Honemann, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Don & Karan Niebergall, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow, *Altar Guild* ✠

CONFIRMATION CLASS – PLANNING MEETING – This morning Pastor will meet with this year's confirmation class and their parents to make plans for Confirmation and related events. We will meet after the Sunday School hour, about 11:15 a.m., in the 7-8 grade classroom.

HOLY COMMUNION will be offered this morning following the Worship service. Those who wish to attend should fill out a Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and give it to the usher during the collection of the offering this morning. Return immediately to the front pews in the sanctuary following the service.

2017 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT will be 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 Week *Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl*

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 2:30 PM 4:30 PM	Worship Service with Communion following Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" <i>Love & Logic</i> Parenting Workshop St. John Athletic Banquet
Mon.	7:00 PM	PTL Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Niermann ; Offering: <i>Genacross Lutheran Home</i> OAA & ITBS testing for Gr. 1-8 (Tues/Wed/Thurs) Exercise Class Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class
Thurs.	9:00 AM	Exercise Class
Sat.	TBD 9:00 AM	Jr High Tool Time at Concordia – Ann Arbor (<i>return on Sunday</i>) LWML Zone Spring Rally at St. Paul Lutheran – Napoleon
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 2:30 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" <i>Love & Logic</i> Parenting Workshop
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Lee Genter</i> , Christ Our Savior Lutheran – Defiance

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

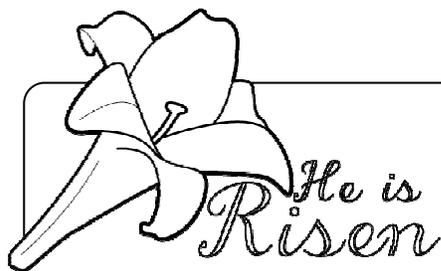
- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, Willie Gerken*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, and Dorothy Gerken* at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Lucia Delventhal*, at Fulton Manor, Wauseon
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs, Delores Badenhop, and Melba Elling*, in Assisted Living at The Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Armed Services: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Ben Majewski (Gr. 1&2 Teacher)*, recovering from surgery for cancer

PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS for the next quarter, *April, May, June*, are on the desk in the narthex. There are also large print booklets available for anybody to pick up.

NEXT VOTERS' MEETING: The 2nd Voters' Meeting of 2018 will be held in the fellowship hall on Sunday, Apr. 22nd immediately following the Worship Service. Currently on the agenda: 1) Update on the Old School; 2) New Teacher Approval

ARCHIVES DISPLAY: The Archives Committee members have put up a display of past Confirmation classes ranging from 1938 (*80th anniversary*) to 2013 (*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 QUARTERLIES: The Quarterlies for the Women of Freedom are still available on the table in the narthex. There are always interesting articles to be found in them. Pick up a copy today!



EASTER THANKS

It was with great joy that we gathered last Sunday to offer praise to God in celebration of Christ's glorious resurrection from the dead!

We also give thanks to God for all the people whose contributions made our Easter celebration such a festive day. We thank the choir and musicians for the joyful sounds that led us in worship. We are grateful for all the people who served in worship as ushers, deacons, altar guild members, greeters, acolytes, banner and cross bearers, and to those who decorated the sanctuary and fellowship hall. And how can we say thanks enough to everyone who provided flowers for the sanctuary and food for our breakfast?

We thank God for everyone's contributions, big and small. May God continue to give each of us great joy in all that we do to serve one another in His congregation of saints!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

EASTER BREAKFAST THANKS: Thank You!! One hundred ninety-seven people enjoyed an Easter Breakfast between services Sunday morning. Our thanks to all who took part. Whether it was a donation of food, giving of your time and talents or your presence to partake of the food – all joined to make the morning a special time of fellowship and sharing. A generous freewill offering of \$661 was greatly appreciated and will be a great benefit to the Mission and Church work of the Women of Freedom. Thanks also to Thrivent Financial who designated our event as a Choice Project and provided \$250 to help fund the initial cost.

CONFIRMATION REUNION: The 1968 Confirmation Class of St. John gathered on Saturday, April 7 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of their confirmation. Class members are Darlene (*Badenhop*) Hoffman, Larry Bischoff, Dennis Damman, Jane (*Delventhal*) Crandall, Michael Dietrich, Richard Elling, William Fitzenreiter, James Gerken (dec'd), Elaine (*Kruse*) Leininger, Connie (*Meyer*) Fry, John Rosebrock, Mary (*Rosebrock*) Burdue, David Schmitkey, Linda Schroeder, David Silveus, Charlene (*Sonnenberg*) Liska & Thomas Von Deylen.

WHY LUTHERAN SCHOOLS? *Congregational Responsibility for Christian Education:* When the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod was formed, it became a requirement of Synodical membership that congregations would provide Christian education for their children. This was before public schools were available and before Sunday schools were popular. Thus a congregation was expected to operate a Lutheran School if it was to become a member of the Synod. The Great Commission was not given only to parents, but to all members of the church. A current proverb, "It takes a village," reminds congregations that it is their corporate responsibility to provide a Christian education for the children of the congregation.

ATHLETIC BANQUET: The St. John Athletic Banquet is today at 4:30 PM with a potluck meal. The Boosters will be providing the meat and drinks, so please bring a side dish to share. Honorees will be all St. John athletes (Gr. 4-8), the Mini-Eagles (Gr. 1-3), and the cheerleaders. Special guests will be high school senior athletes who will share their experience with academics and athletics at the high school level. Come and enjoy some great fellowship!



FORMER VICAR TO RECEIVE DIVINE CALL – Our former vicar, **Mr. Brent Keller**, will be receiving his first Divine Call into the holy ministry on Wednesday, April 25th. The call service will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Kramer Chapel on the campus of our Fort Wayne seminary. You are welcome and encouraged to attend, and to greet and congratulate the Kellers. If you've never been to one of these services at Kramer Chapel, you're in for a real treat!

LWML SPRING RALLY - The Women of Freedom are invited to the Napoleon Zone Spring Rally to be held at the Trinity Center at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon, on Saturday, April 14th with registration/breakfast at 8:30 AM and the program from 9-11:30 AM. The guest speaker will be *Kelly Storch* talking about Kids Alive International in Zambia. The collection will go to Kelly's Mission Fund, Napoleon Zone, and Mission Mites. See additional information on the narthex table.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 04/01/18	\$7,511.00	\$304.00	\$317.00

ATTENDANCE: 04/01/18 Sunrise Service: 191; Late Service: 284

MAUNDY THURSDAY SVC. (03/29/18): Luth. Immigr. Refugee Svc - \$678.00; Attendance: 102

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE (03/30/18): Home Fund - \$1,530.00; Attendance: 153



St. John Lutheran Church & School presents "Parenting the Love and Logic Way," a parenting program designed by the Love and Logic Institute. This program is great for parents as well as educators, grandparents, or anyone who works with children. Participants will learn how to...

- Avoid un-winnable power-struggles and arguments
- Stay calm when your kids do incredibly upsetting things
- Set enforceable limits
- Avoid enabling and being empowering
- Help your kids learn from mistakes rather than repeating them
- Raise kids who are family members rather than dictators

And much more! This parenting program is designed to give you practical skills that can be used immediately! There will be a total of four Sunday afternoon sessions **starting TODAY**, from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. in our fellowship hall. Cost is \$15 per couple for the workbook. Sessions will be facilitated by Faith Wiechers, daughter-in-law of Dan & Joyce Wiechers. **Sign up now in the narthex! Also, pick up a flier for your own information or to invite a friend.**

PTL MEETING – The next PTL meeting will be held on Mon., April 9th at 7:00 PM in the north end of the Fellowship Hall. This will be a business meeting. Please plan to attend.

GOOD NEIGHBOR WORK GROUP – For years we have had our “Good Neighbor Fund” by which we are able to financially assist people in times of need and to stock a food pantry for a monthly distribution. Your donations to the fund have been a blessing to many.



But what about donating our time and abilities to help others? The Stewardship Board, at its meeting last Tuesday, decided this is an idea whose time has come. The idea is to provide practical help to people on an occasional basis when more than money is needed – perhaps when a neighbor is recovering from a fire or other disaster, or when a person comes to need a wheel chair ramp, or a fallen tree needs to be cleaned up, or an elderly couple’s home needs to be painted. Offering help in these situations is a powerful witness of God’s love, and is great stewardship of the time, talents and resources God has given to each of us for service. We’ll begin signing up people soon – for now, give some thoughtful and prayerful consideration to becoming part of such a group at St. John.

POSITION OPENINGS: St. John Lutheran School is seeking individuals for the following positions for the 2018-19 school year: 1) **Jr High Science Teacher** for 4 hours per week. Must have a teaching license and a background check; 2) **Computer Teacher** for Grades K-8 for 4 hours per week. Must have a teaching license and a background check; 3) **Freedom Flock Aide** (*After school care*) for 12-15 hours per week from 3 – 6 PM. Must have a background check. Interested applicants should contact the school office at 419-598-8702. Thank you!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PLANS – Initial planning has begun for VBS. We are considering returning to a morning VBS program this year to try to avoid all of the busyness of family schedules on summer evenings. While we are not yet signing up staff, it would be helpful to know that there are people who can be present to teach and help with crafts, snacks, and recreation. If you are inclined to help with a morning VBS, please speak with this year’s VBS director, Mary Rettig. She can be reached at 419-966-6160 or email her at mrettig@sjl.org.

3-YR OLD PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION: The 3 year old class still has openings. 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. **The 4/5 year old class is currently full for the 2018-19 school year, and we have started a waiting list.** There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration form.

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.

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 Niemann a call, and we’ll see what we can do!

'BREAD FROM HEAVEN' – A note to St. John members needing food assistance – If you could use food assistance from our food pantry, please speak with *Pastor Niermann*. We are required by the *Northwestern Ohio Food Bank* to keep a record with your name, but pastor will keep your record separate and absolutely confidential.

Contributions can be made at any time. Monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your offering envelope). Food donations for our pantry can be dropped off in the box by the Archives display cases. Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated. Thank you so much! As we learned in the meaning of the Fifth Commandment, “*We should fear and love God that we...help and support our neighbor in every physical need.*” (*Small Catechism*)

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. This cloth is 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – Please take time to check out the flyer on the bulletin board in the narthex asking for volunteers in a variety of areas at the Henry County Hospital. Opportunities include assisting patients and visitors at the Welcome Center, working in the Gift Shop, serving meals in the Café at lunchtime, lending a hand with projects in various departments, and more! The hours can be very flexible and there is always a free meal in the Café when volunteering. Questions can be directed to Sarah or Katie in Volunteer Services at the hospital at 419-591-4766.

GRANDPARENT’S DAY: A reminder that Grandparent’s Day at St. John School for Grades K-8 will be held on **Friday, May 4** from 12:30 - 3:00 PM. *Lunch is not included.*

SAVE THE DATE: Plans are in motion for the “Soar with the Eagles” school fundraiser to be held at the Ridgeville American Legion Hall on Fri., Nov. 9, 2018. There will be a meal, along with live and silent auctions. The format will be the same as last year’s event. Stay tuned for more information as plans are firmed up for this year’s event.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ❑ **Today, Sun., April 8th** – BBQ Chicken Dinner Drive-Thru from 11:00 AM until gone in downtown Ridgeville Corners, OH. See flyer!
- ❑ **Saturday, April 28th** – Mini Relay for Life Event from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at St. Paul Lutheran, 1075 Glenwood Ave., Napoleon, OH. See flyer!
- ❑ **Sunday, April 29th** – Pancake & Sausage Breakfast Fundraiser – 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM here at St. John, sponsored by the 7th & 8th Graders. Freewill offering! Thrivent Action Team Event.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

**Jesus did not come to this world to make bad people good;
He came to make dead people alive!**

“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)