



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

May 6, 2018

VOL. 83

NO. 18

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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Guest Preacher: Thursday Service – Rev. Dale Kern, Retired
Sermon & Text: (Sun.) “Overwhelmed or Overcoming” 1 John 5:1-8
Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*
Hymns: (Thurs.) 482 ~ 691 ~ [Communion: 770]
(Sun.) 482 ~ [Baptism: Borning Cry, 605] ~ 700 ~ [Communion: 542, 770, 543]
Adult Choir: “It Is Well With My Soul” and “Come Find Forgiveness and Love”

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 or register your name in the Guest Book in the Narthex.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Macee Speiser & Addyson Speiser, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Tom & Sandy Von Deylen, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Harold Behrmann & Richard Elling, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Diane Von Deylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, *Altar Guild* ✠

FLOWERS TODAY:

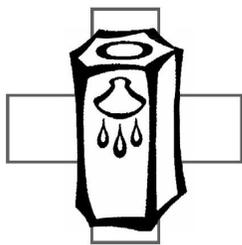
- ❖ The altar flowers are placed in memory of the one year anniversary of the passing of Florence Fitzenreiter on May 7, 2017, and also in memory of Norman Fitzenreiter. We remember the Fitzenreiter Famiy with a prayer at this time of year.
- ❖ The bud vase on the piano are placed in loving memory of our son, brother, uncle, and best friend, *Ryan Rosebrock*, who went to be with the Lord on May 3, 2009. As the years go by, our hearts still yearn to see that sparkle in his eye and to hear his laughter. Prayers today for *Randy, Lou Ann, Michael, Sam, Michelle & Ben, Ryan, and Lucy*

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; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.	7:00 PM	150 th Anniversary Committee Meeting
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Niermann Exercise Class Church Council
Wed.	9:00 AM 6:15 PM	7 th Grade Quiz Bowl Tourney at NWOESC in Archbold Confirmation Class Preparation – 8 th Grade only
Thurs.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class; 8 th Grade Quiz Bowl Tourney at NWOESC in Archbold Joint Ascension Worship Service (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Fri.	9:00 AM 6:00 PM	Field Day Fun with St. John Lutheran – Defiance Wedding Rehearsal – Montana / Dietrich
Sat.	3:30 PM	Wedding Ceremony – Joe Montana & Hannah Dietrich
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Stephen Niermann</i> , St. John Lutheran – Napoleon

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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, and Willie Gerken*
- ❖ *Lucia Delventhal*, at Fulton Manor, Wauseon
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, Dorothy Gerken, and Delores Badenhop*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs and 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*
- ❖ *Bev Elling, Seth Gerken, and Tim Swick*, recuperating at home from recent hospitalizations
- ❖ *Don Dickmann*, recuperating from double pneumonia at the Orchards at Northcrest
- ❖ *Marvin Gruenhagen*, at Henry County Hospital Swing Bed for rehab to gain strength
- ❖ *Macie Wyse*, (Great-niece to Denny & Diane Von Deylen), 2-yr old in Toledo Hospital diagnosed with leukemia this past week
- ❖ *Hannah Dietrich's* marriage to Joe Montana this Saturday, May 12th



BAPTISM TODAY – This morning we rejoice to witness the baptism of ***Easton James Stier***, infant son of Joel & Nicole (*Von Deylen*) Stier. ***Easton*** was born on April 12 at the Community Hospital, Bryan. His baptismal sponsors are Adam & Chelsea Von Deylen, and Jason & Jesse Wyse. Easton's grandparents are Dennis & Diane Von Deylen, Fred & Maria Stier, and Diane Benroth. We rejoice with this family today as they thank God for the gift of this child, and for his new life in Christ through the waters of Holy Baptism. May God bring to completion in Easton what He begins this day at the baptismal font!

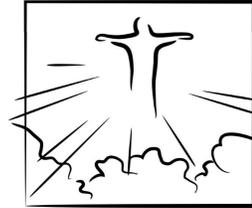
NOTES FOR CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2018 – This Wednesday (and next) we gather to make final preparations for the public examination on Thursday, May 17th. We will meet from 6:15 to 7:45 p.m. in the 7-8 grade classroom. Confirmands should bring their Bibles, catechisms, completed questions, and a pencil.

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES HAVE BEGUN – From now through October; you will have the opportunity of worshipping on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. **NOTE: This Thursday (May 10) our congregation is participating in a circuit joint Ascension Day Service to be held at Emmaus in Wauseon. There will be no service at St. John this week. Please read more below.**

Then until school is out for the summer, Thursday services will be held in the sanctuary; once school is out, they will move to the north end of the fellowship hall. Holy Communion will be offered on Thursdays prior to regular Communion Sundays.

ASCENSION DAY CIRCUIT SERVICE – This Thursday

Forty days after our Lord's resurrection, He "*ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.*" (Eph. 4:10) Our Lord's ascension was not His "swan song," but the beginning of an entirely new and better way of being present with His Church.



Ascension Day is this Thursday, May 10th, the fortieth day after Easter. On that day at 7:00 p.m. please join your circuit brothers and sisters for an Ascension Day Divine Service hosted at Emmaus Lutheran in Wauseon. **Pastor Geske at Emmaus is planning to begin the service with a balloon launch, symbolizing Christ's ascent to the heavens. Children can take a balloon home with them after the service as well!**

Participating congregations are Emmaus and St. Luke (Wauseon), St. Paul (Liberty Center), Zion (Ridgeville), St. John (Stryker), and St. John (Freedom Twp.). Join us for the celebration!

BULLETIN NOTES: With Thursday night services starting, bulletin announcements need to be turned in to the office by Wednesday of each week in order to be included in the Thursday and Sunday bulletin. Please make a note of this. Thank you!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 04/29/18	\$4,850.58	\$359.00	\$167.00

ATTENDANCE: 188

DO YOU NEED YARD WORK DONE? The 7th & 8th grade are finishing up their fundraising for their Washington DC trip this June. One last fundraiser that they wish to do is to help out with your work for those who are in need. For a donation, students will come help you with several items around the yard. Please contact Miss Bartok at the church or at sbartok@sjl.org with a date and how many helpers you would need.

FREE SWIVEL CHAIRS: There are 10 black cloth swivel chairs from the School Library that are no longer needed. They are in the Ladies Aid quilting room and are marked with masking tape. If you have need of one, please stop in and take one home today.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Enrollment is Open!



VBS is scheduled for the mornings of June 10 to 14 (Sunday to Thursday). Our plan is as follows:

- **SUNDAY** – We'll kick off VBS with a special emphasis in the morning service, followed by the lesson and activities for Day One, and concluding with a hotdog lunch at 1:00 p.m.
- **MONDAY to THURSDAY** – VBS will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a worship opening, and conclude at 11:30 a.m.

Our theme this year is, “**Splash Canyon: God’s Promise on Life’s Wild Ride.**” Each day the students and their small group guides will rotate to five sites where they will hear the Bible stories, memorize key Bible verses, make crafts, enjoy snacks, and participate in a fun activities. See the VBS table in the narthex for more information.

We are still in need of a few people to be student group leaders, to lead groups of students to the various site rotations. Please speak with Miss Rettig if you can help!

VBS ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN!

- **ONLINE** – Go to <https://vbsmate.com/events/SJLFreedom/16401>
- **PAPER FORM** – Enrollment brochures are available in the narthex for you to use. These brochures are also an excellent way of spreading the word to family, friends and neighbors. Take a few and pass them along!

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.**

WHY DO WE? A member of the congregation has suggested a feature in our bulletin that asks and answers questions about why we do what we do in our worship and practice. This is an excellent idea that we hope will enrich everyone’s worship and life of faith. A few of the questions suggested are: **Why do we turn to the cross during a processional? Why do we not sing certain hymns and songs? Why do we use Creeds? Why do we practice “closed Communion?” Why do we baptize infants?** If you have a question you'd like to see answered, please submit it using the form on the table in the narthex. Starting in May we will try to make this a regular feature of our bulletin.



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.

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 last meeting, 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 TODAY on the sign-up list in the narthex.**

PRESCHOOL’S GRADUATION will be **Tues., May 22nd** at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited to this big day for the preschoolers. There will be a program followed by light refreshments in the fellowship hall. **The Preschoolers last day of preschool is on Tues., May 22nd** (both classes).

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.

ST. JOHN SCHOOL POSITION OPENINGS – St. John Lutheran School is seeking a few people to fill the following positions that will be open after this school year.

- **Computer Instructor** – This individual is responsible for computer instruction one day per week for Grades K thru 8. Must have a teaching license and background check.
- **Jr High Science Teacher** for 4 hours per week. Must have a teaching license and a background check.
- **Music Instructor** – This individual is responsible for classroom music instruction one day per week for Grades K thru 8. Must have a background check.
- **Freedom Flock Aide (After School Care)** – This person is in charge of the aftercare program each day that school is in session from 3-6 p.m. It averages 10-12 hours per week. Must have a background check.

If you are interested in more information on these positions, please speak with Principal Kramer or the chairman of the School Board, Karen Gerken. Thank you!

SPRING PENNY CHALLENGE – The PTL Spring Penny Drive has been transformed into the **SPRING PENNY CHALLENGE**. This will run from April 30th thru Fri., May 11th. That’s only 2 weeks and its pennies only, but you can sabotage the other classrooms with silver coins. There are yellow flyers explaining the rules on the narthex table if you want to jump on board. The winning classroom collecting the most points will be treated to a pizza party AND an ice cream party. Save those pennies and give them to one of our students or turn your pennies in at the school office. We hope many of you can support the PTL with this fundraiser. Game On!

FIELD DAY OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP! On Friday, May 11 at 9:15 AM, we will be hosting a combined school field day with St. John – Defiance. Very similar to last year’s Fun Day, St. John Defiance will organize most of the events for the day, but there are some things we will be asked to help with. A free lunch will be provided that day by St. John Freedom. We would like to have several St. John parents volunteer to help with this combined school field day on the 11th.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN will Thurs., **May 24th** with early dismissal at 2:00 PM. Closing Day festivities include: Closing chapel at 12:40 PM; Academic and Attendance awards. All parents are welcome to come. This is for students in K-garten through Grade 8. Academic and Attendance Awards will be handed out as well as other awards. **Please note: This service will include Kindergarten Graduation.**

BOX TOPS: The PTL continues to collect box tops from many different products. With the end of the school year fast approaching, we ask that you have your box tops neatly trimmed before sending them in. **The final turn in date prior to the end of school is Mon., May 15th.** This will allow time to count, log, and ship them to the collection center for processing. Please direct any questions to *Renee Bostelman* at 419-758-3335.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIPS: Here is another opportunity to encourage and help young people prepare for service to the church as pastors, teachers, lay workers, deaconesses, and parish workers. \$500 per year Women of Freedom Scholarships are available to any young person attending one of our synodical schools. Simply contact any Women of Freedom member for more details about this.

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 (*such as a pastor, deaconess, teacher, lay minister, a Director of Christian Education, etc.*), our congregation would like to support you by offering a tuition gift. An application is available online at www.sjl.org/student_gift_app.pdf. There is no link. 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!

EXERCISE CLASS: Need to work off a few pounds or just want to exercise your heart? St. John hosts an exercise class in the gym. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-10 AM and the cost is \$7 per class (*pay as you come*). \$6 if prepaying for sessions. This is a light aerobics and strengthening program. (*If you have your own weights, bring them with you.*)

RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPT. AUXILIARY will be hosting a Drive Thru Chicken BBQ on Sun., May 20 at the Ridgeville Fire Station. Serving begins at 11:00 AM until gone. Menu consists of: *½ Chicken* (Brookview), *Potatoes*, *Coleslaw*, *Roll*, and *Butter*. Freewill offering. Come and support your local Fire Dept. Sponsored by Ridgeville Fire Department Auxiliary.

STAINED GLASS WINDOW UPDATE

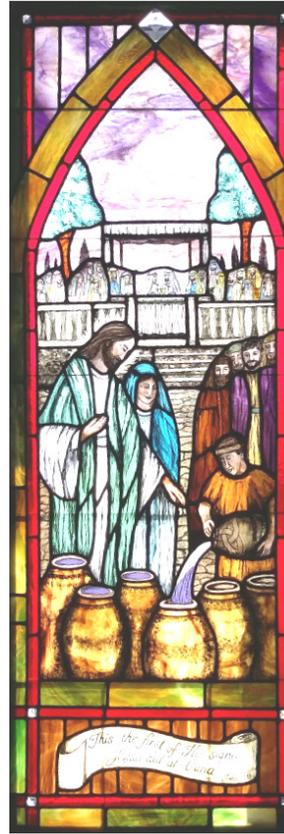
WINDOW FOUR – “This, the first of His signs, Jesus did at Cana.” (John 2:11)

St. John, in his Gospel account, emphasizes the true divinity of Christ - that Jesus is truly God. One of the ways he gets this message across is by telling us of Jesus’ miracles, or “signs,” as John likes to call them. Signs are not meant to draw attention to themselves, but to point us to greater truths. Each of the seven “signs” in John’s Gospel teach us something of vital importance about Jesus’ identity and mission.

The first “sign” that Jesus performed was at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. In this window we see the wedding guests celebrating in the background, unaware of the miracle that is happening nearby. The wine had run out, but Jesus provides abundantly by changing water into wine. At “ground zero” of this miracle, on the pot used for pouring, we see the symbol of the Holy Trinity, for this miracle can only be the work of God. St. John says that by this “sign,” Jesus “manifested His glory,” (2:11) depicted as a subtle glow around Jesus’ head. This manifestation of Jesus’ divine glory resulted in His disciples believing in Him. Thus the “sign” fulfills its purpose, pointing them and us to Jesus as “very God of very God,” and calling forth faith.

In Scripture, wine is often a symbol of God’s gift of joy. The abundance of wine that Jesus provided reveals Him to be the ultimate giver of joy. That joy is evident on the face of those witnessing this miracle, and it will soon spread to all who come to know the joy of their salvation through Christ, God’s incarnate Word!

USE OF OLD GLASS – This window is the first to use some of the glass recovered from the old sanctuary windows; the greens (Jesus’ robe and the trees), and the beiges (the background floor, steps and pillars, as well as the pot used for pouring).



PROJECT CONNECT – There are many free booklets in the rack in the narthex. Be sure to check for some good reading. Some titles are: “Why Do Bad Things Happen To Me,” “Has God Abandoned Me,” “Dealing with Depression,” “Coping with Cancer,” “Who Is Jesus,” “Just Stress?,” “Overcoming A Painful Childhood,” “Where’s God in All of This?,” “Why Should I go to Church?” and many more. These booklets are furnished through the Lutheran Hour Ministries.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

The best part of waking up is Jesus in the cup.

“Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins (Luke 19:10)