



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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FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "The Year King Uzziah Died" *Isaiah 6:1-8*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: **791 ~ 507 ~ 506**

Children's Choir: "Go, My Children, With My Blessing"

WELCOME TO OUR VETERANS & VISITORS

On this Memorial Day Weekend, welcome to this service of worship in which we remember, with reverence and thanksgiving, those who gave their lives for our country. Above all, however, we would remember Him whose love includes people of all nations—our Lord Jesus who gave His life for all of us. May the remembrance of His sacrifice bring reconciliation and peace! If you are a visitor today, please fill out a blue pew card from the rack in front of you and pass it to the center aisle during the offering.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✂ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✂ Landen Kolodziejczyk-Dennie & Taylor Dietrich, *Acolytes* ✂
- ✂ Dan & Joyce Wiechers, *Greeters* ✂
- ✂ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✂
- ✂ Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop, *Ushers* ✂
- ✂ Diane Von Deylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, *Altar Guild* ✂

GRADUATION CLASS OF 2018 – The Altar Flowers are placed today in honor of the eighth grade graduating class of St. John. The 2018 graduates are:

<i>Clayton Behnfeldt</i>	<i>Gavin Lawrence Gerken</i>	<i>Symara Tierney Hagerman</i>
<i>Zakary Matthew Schroeder</i>	<i>Hannah Grace Wachtman</i>	<i>Kaleb Spenser Woods</i>

We wish you all of God's blessings as you begin the next chapter in your lives. Good luck to both of you and CONGRATULATIONS from everyone at St. John!

In God's House This Week*Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl*

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	8th Grade Graduation and Worship Service Reception in fellowship hall for 8 th Grade Graduates
Tue.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Exercise Class Shepherd Committee Board of Elders
Thurs.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Thursday Evening Worship with Communion
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Voters' Meeting in fellowship hall
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Matthew Schiemann</i> , St. John Lutheran – Defiance

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*
- ❖ *Seth Gerken, Bev Elling, and Marvin Gruenhagen*, dealing with health issues
- ❖ *Don Dickmann*, back at the Orchards of Northcrest recuperating
- ❖ *Macie Wyse*, (great-niece to Denny & Diane Von Deylen), 2-yr old diagnosed with leukemia
- ❖ *Dale Hoffman*, recuperating at home following hospitalization for kidney stones
- ❖ *Zak Kruse and Emily Winnenberg*, being united in marriage today at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH

BAPTISM YESTERDAY - In a family celebration yesterday afternoon, Nick & Jenelle (Hesterman) McCarthy presented their infant daughter, Maclyn Elaine, for Holy Baptism. Maclyn was born on April 15th at the WellSpan Ephrata Community Hospital in Ephrata, Pennsylvania. Her grandparents are Todd & Christine Hesterman and Timothy & Karen McCarthy. We rejoice with this family as they celebrate the life and the new life in Christ of little Maclyn. May the good work that God began in her at the baptismal font be brought to completion on the day of Jesus Christ.

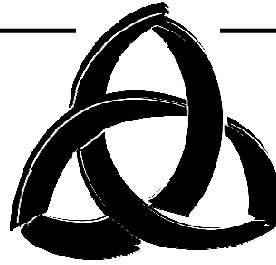


SUDDEN LOSS: *Carlton Rosebrock*, 62, passed away suddenly on Wed., May 23rd at St. V's Hospital, Toledo following a medical procedure. As arrangements are pending as of this printing, we ask that you keep Jamie and Tyne in your daily prayers, in hopes that God give them the strength needed to get through this tough time in their life.

A SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING will be held after worship on Sunday, June 3rd to discuss: 1) Plans for the old school building and its conversion into a center for our youth, as well as other functions. See financial information sheet on the narthex table ; 2) Re-instating Bonnie Niermann to full-time teaching status as of July 1, 2018.

Trinity Sunday

Trinity Sunday is the first Sunday after Pentecost in the Western Christian liturgical calendar. Whereas Pentecost marked the end of the festival half of the church year, Trinity Sunday marks the beginning of the “long green season” in which the church focuses on the teachings of Christ and His apostles. The color for Trinity Sunday itself is white, reminding us that we worship a holy and righteous God.



Trinity Sunday is unique in the church year in that it commemorates a specific Christian doctrine or teaching. God has revealed Himself to us as one God, but subsisting in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Yet the substance of God is not divided into thirds, like a pie. In each person of the Trinity dwells the fullness of the Godhead. This is a mystery that is not intended to be grasped by reason or understanding, for God is incomprehensible. *“Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.” (Ps. 145:3)*

The Holy Trinity is to be received by us by faith alone. Today we confess Him to be our God, our Savior, and our Lord, as we sing with the seraphim, “Holy, holy, holy!”

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Today Adult Bible Study will be cancelled due to Graduation festivities. Hope to see you back at Bible Study in June.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School is cancelled for today. There will be no Sunday School for the months of June, July, and August. We will resume Sunday School the first Sunday in September, which will be promotion Sunday.

NIERMANN – ANDRZEJEWSKI WEDDING – *An Open invitation from Rachel Niermann*

In thanksgiving to God for my church family and for all that you’ve meant to me over the last twenty years, Jakob and I would like to invite you all to our wedding ceremony on Saturday, June 16th at 3:00 PM. We will be blessed to have both of our fathers leading the service. While we’ve had to limit the invitations we sent out for the reception, it would mean so much to Jakob and me to have my family of faith join us for this special worship service. Please, no gifts are necessary. The honor of your presence is gift enough!

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES are now being offered at St. John through September. We hope this will make it possible to attend worship when summer plans take you away during weekends. Services are now being held in the north end of the fellowship hall. Holy Communion will be available at our Thursday services on the Thursdays prior to our regular Communion Sundays.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RECOGNITION – If you are graduating from high school with the class of 2018, we'd like to take a moment or two to recognize you in our worship on **Sunday, June 3rd**. On that day we'll have you gather together before worship in the "Cry Room" and be seated together for worship. We'll ask about your plans, and offer prayer for you as well. In the meantime, we'd appreciate having a picture of each graduate that we can project during the recognition. Email them to *Pastor Niermann* at sniermann.sjl@gmail.com, or drop off in the office.

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 05/20/18	\$7,204.00	\$67.00	\$487.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday (05/17/18) – 42; Sunday (05/20/18) – 320

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** – Use the link on our webpage at sjl.org
- **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 neighbor. Take a few and pass them along!

VBS FOOD DONATIONS: Please check the VBS table for the Food Donation Sign-Up Sheet listing items still needed for snacks during VBS week. Sign your name beside the item you are able to bring. **Mark VBS on the food item and bring it to the kitchen prior to or on Sun., June 10th**. Thank you!

ABOUT LUTHERAN SCHOOLS: *We Innovate!* Lutheran schools continually evolve to meet the needs of students and the communities they serve. Fine arts, blended classrooms and virtual schools are the many opportunities that students can explore and experience in reaching their full potential.

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.**

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!

REPORT CARDS will be available for viewing and or printing via FastDirect Communication as of Sun., June 10th. We will no longer print hard copies from the office. Please check FastDirect on the 10th. Thank you!

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.

LWML INGATHERING: With the LWML Convention on June 6th, St. John is collecting personal hygiene items to be given to the Ingathering this year. There is a collection box beside the Women of Freedom boxed cards, dish cloth table in the side hallway to put your donated items into. Suggestions are: *Shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, lotion, hand sanitizer, towelettes, shave cream, razors, etc.* These items must be new and unopened. Thank you so much!

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!

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!

COLLECTING STAMPS: The LWML is collecting stamps “For Missions.” A box is on the table in the narthex. Here is what you do: Cut the stamps from the envelopes allowing ¼ inch margin or more around the stamp. The stamp may not be damaged and the perforations around the stamp must be perfect. You need not trim the stamp; we have someone who trims and sorts the stamps. Do not remove stamps from envelopes, albums, and older postcards. An “old” postcard is usually from 1930 or before. The most valuable stamps are commemorative, foreign, and stamp denominations larger than 46 cents. It only makes sense that you purchase and use commemorative stamps for your personal mailing. When purchasing stamps, ask the post office for commemorative stamps. Colorful and large stamps are desirable. Collecting stamps is an easy way to participate in a mission project sponsored by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE: The Ridgeville Corners Memorial Day service to remember those who served our country will be held on **Mon., May 28 at 10:30 AM** at the Ridgeville American Legion. **Flag Drill:** Children age PreK thru 4th Grade are invited to participate in the flag drill during the Ridgeville Memorial Day service. Practices will be on Tues., May 22 and Thurs., May 24. Call *Laura Bickel* at 419-267-5203 or *Jenny Behnfeldt* at 419-267-5636 for more info on the flag drill.

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.

ANOTHER SAVE THE DATE: The 11th *Stephanie Lynn Kossow Memorial Golf Outing* will be held on Sat., July 28th, with a 1:00 PM shotgun start. Flyers will be available soon!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Life is short, Death is sure, Sin the cause, Christ the cure!

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rom. 6:23)