



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

January 19, 2020

VOL. 85

NO. 3

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](http://www.sjl.org)

### SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon Title and Text: "Glorified In His Servants" *Isaiah 49:1-7*

Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting Four (LSB pg. 203)*

Hymns: **570 ~ 402** ~ (Communion: **618, 702, 698**) ~ **707**

Adult Bell Choir: "Cares Chorus"

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### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to St. John Church! "I sought the Lord and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears" (Ps. 34:4). Let us seek the Lord together this day. Let us offer up our fears and doubts, that we may go forth strengthened and empowered for another week. If you are visiting us today, know that we are

honored by your presence. Simply 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.

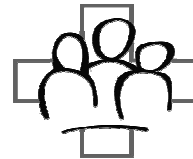
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### SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Colton Kruse & Landen Kruse, *Acolyte* ✠
- ✠ Don & Karan Nieberhgall, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Dean Badenhop, Dave Von Deylen, Dennis Showman, Richard Elling *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Lou Ann Rosebrock, Diane Von Deylen, *Altar Guild* ✠



WELCOME TO NEWEST MEMBERS – This morning we will take a few moments during worship to formally welcome our newest members, **Jon & Elaine Buenger**, and **Mike & Tana Maassel, Eric, Skylar and Leah**. After worship the Elders are sponsoring a Java Joy in the front hallway where you can extend to these people the hand of fellowship and offer your welcome. These newest friends in Christ are a true blessing to us – let's be a blessing to them as well!



2020 ENVELOPES – There are still several 2020 offering envelope boxes to be picked up. If you did not receive a box of envelopes but would like one, please contact *Mary Kossow* (419-599-0011).

**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	9:00AM 10:30AM 4:30 PM	<b>Communion Service;</b> New Member Recognition <i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; “The Lamp” Sr High LYF
		<b>NO SCHOOL</b> – MLK Jr. Day observed
Tue.	8:35 AM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	<b>School Chapel</b> B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys & Girls @ St Pats – Bryan Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class Adult Bell Choir practice Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	5:00 PM	B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls and Boys vs NWO Cougars
Sat.	12:15PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls @ Edgerton
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:30AM 1:00 PM	◆ ◆ <b>National Lutheran Schools Week</b> ◆ ◆ <b>Worship Service</b> Sunday School; “The Lamp” PTL Soup & Pie Luncheon 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 vs St. Paul – Napoleon
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. James Strawn</i> , St. James Lutheran – Burlington

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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, and Lester Rabe*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Dorothy Gerken, Melba Elling, Eldor Gruenhagen, and Lorna Von Deylen*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs*, 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*
- ❖ *Rose Leonard, Florence Jones, Ruth Mahnke, and Harvey Russell*, with various health issues
- ❖ *Willie & Arlene Gerken*, at Genacross Lutheran Home due to a fall taken by Arlene, and Willie’s need for mobility assistance
- ❖ *Cheryl Yaw*, hospitalized at FCHC this past week for A-Fib and fluid around her heart



**WINTER PARKING LOT ASSISTANCE** – If you are able-bodied and sure-footed, please consider serving God’s people by coming a little early on those Sundays when the winter weather is a bit dicey, to help park cars for those who come to the carport, and/or to go outside and give an arm to assist those who need help walking across the parking lot. No need to sign up – just show up a little early to lend a helping hand. Thank you!

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY – ROMANS 14

As we come to the end of the *Letter to the Romans*, St. Paul gets very practical in dealing with our life together in Christ's congregation. Specifically, he addresses how people often judge one another in matters in which we are actually free. Those who are strong in Christian faith are tempted to despise those weaker in faith for their lack of understanding, while those who are weak in faith are tempted to judge their fellow Christians who exercise Christian freedom. Join us this morning for Bible Study as we explore how Paul deals with these things, and let us grow together in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior!



**MANY THANKS:** Crystal Genter would like to thank all the students, staff, Sunday School students, and the many volunteers involved with the Children's Christmas Service on Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>. With everyone's efforts and commitment, the service went very smoothly, and many positive comments were given. Thank you all!

**SOUP & PIE DINNER** – The annual PTL Soup & Pie Dinner will be held on Sun., Jan. 26, 2020, 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 26<sup>th</sup>!

**A VOTERS' MEETING** is scheduled for Sunday, February 9, 2020 after worship in the fellowship hall. On the agenda will be 1) a report on the St. John Endowment fund; 2) the Annual School Report; 3) Audit Committee Report; 4) Old School Update.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 1/12/19	\$6,171.00	\$65.00	\$370.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Sunday – 1/12/19 – 176

**ALTAR GUILD (pink), GREETER (yellow), and USHER (blue) SCHEDULES:** The 2020 Altar Guild, Greeter, and Usher schedules are available and can be picked up on the narthex table. Thanks again to all who are willing to be of service to the Lord through St. John.

**EAGLE NEWS:** The Eagle News will be passed out today at the end of the service. It is also available online via FastDirect Communication. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnfreedom/>, click on "Links" at the top of the page, then click on "Eagle News – January" in the "Everybody" column. Extra copies in the "School Info" rack outside the office.

**WHY LUTHERAN SCHOOLS? A Safe Place:** Unfortunately, in many communities children are not safe. Lutheran schools provide places where children don't have to worry about being attacked verbally or physically. Loving teachers and other staff members daily demonstrate Christ's love for them and their love for children.

**MITES & WOMEN OF FREEDOM** – The next meeting of the St. John Women of FREEDOM will be held Tues., Jan. 21, 2020 at 7:00 PM. This will be a Missions Meeting so everyone should bring their Quarterly and your Mite Box if you have one. Our Mission Meetings are the months of January, April, July, and October. The months of March, May, September, and November are Women of Freedom meetings. 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 2020 are on the narthex table. Pick yours up today! Be sure to check to see what month you are on for serving. If that does not work out for you, you can switch with someone. All ladies are welcome and if you would like your name added to the active member list (booklet), just attend a meeting and join us in Christian fellowship and service.

## **CHURCH COUNCIL / ELDERS / STEWARDSHIP BOARD**

### **Special Announcement for Combined Meetings**

This is notice of two special meetings in the near future at which we are calling for the combined presence and participation of our church council, board of Elders, and Stewardship Board. Please try to make these a priority!

#### **1. 'CONSECRATED STEWARDS' INFORMATION MEETING**

**Tuesday January 28, 7:00 p.m. in the north fellowship hall**

The Stewardship Board is calling for a combined meeting with the Council and Elders to learn about a possible program of ministry for our congregation called 'Consecrated Stewards.' Our guest presenters will be **Lisa Janik**, Ohio District Vice President for the *Lutheran Church Extension Fund*, and **Rev. Peter Marcis**, Regional Facilitator for the northwest region of the Ohio District. Please mark your calendar and plan to be present for this important meeting for our congregation.

#### **2. 'BUILT ON THE ROCK' SEMINAR with Ted Kober**

**Saturday, February 8, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM at St. John, Defiance**

Pastor Niermann has spoken briefly with both the Elders and Stewardship Board about Ted Kober's presentation at the last Ohio District Pastor's Conference on his material, '**Built On the Rock: The Healthy Congregation.**' Ted Kober is an LCMS layman who has done extensive work on what constitutes a healthy congregation, and the information he has to share is invaluable for us. It cannot be overstressed how important this seminar will be for us. Lunch is provided for free, and we are working to cover the cost of the seminar workbook (\$5.95 per participant) with funds from a 'Rev. Maassel Memorial Outreach Grant.' **There is a registration for this seminar – deadline is Sunday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>.** Please make the commitment to attend, and get registered by signing up in the narthex.

**OLD SCHOOL RENOVATION BROCHURES** – Recently the *Old School Renovation Finance Committee* sent out a mailing to St. John Lutheran Church members and to SJLS Alumni with an informational brochure about the Old School renovation into a Youth Center, and the opportunity to participate in this project through monetary gifts. If you would expect to have received this mailing but for some reason did not, please accept our apology, and pick up one of these brochures in the narthex. **Thank you to everyone for your gifts and donations that are moving this project forward!**

**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. 2<sup>nd</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 on a 6" bun. **To place an order, please fill out the pre-order form on the narthex table and place it in the basket or bring it to the church office by Mon., January 27<sup>th</sup>.** Orders can also be made from the link on the St. John Church Facebook page. Subs will be available for pick up after church on Sun., Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> until 11am. Payment will be due at the time of pick up. **Make checks payable to St. John LYF.** Thanks for supporting our LYF youth!

### **POSITIONS TO FILL:**

- ▶ **TEACHER GR. 3&4:** St. John Lutheran School is seeking applications for a dynamic third and fourth grade teacher for the 2020-21 school year. Requirements are a Bachelor degree in education, a background check, 3 references, and subscribing to the St. John Lutheran Church and School religious beliefs. If you have questions please call the school office at 419-598-8702. Applicants can mail a resume' to St. John Lutheran School, 16035 County Road U, Napoleon, OH 43545.
- ▶ **TEACHER AID:** St. John Lutheran School is seeking to fill the position for a teacher aid. The applicant must have a high school diploma, be willing to have a background check, be able to help tutor individuals and groups of classroom students, and monitor the students at recess times. In addition the individual should adhere to the teachings and religious beliefs of the Lutheran church. If interested please send or drop off your resume at the school office.

### **PRESCHOOL:**

- **ENROLLMENT** – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2020-21 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 4<sup>th</sup>. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration form.
- **TUITION** – Prior to Christmas Break, letters were sent to all Preschool families regarding an increase in tuition for the 2020-2021 school year. Here are the School Board approved rates as of the October 2019 Board meeting: 3-yr old Preschool - \$80/month; 4/5-yr old Preschool - \$200/month. It has been several years since a tuition increase has been made, and in order for the program to remain self-funded, this increase will need to be implemented beginning with the 2020-2021 school year.

**ST. JOHN REGISTRATION OPEN HOUSE** – An **Open House** is planned for grade levels (PS-8) at St. John School for Wednesday evening, **February 5<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.

**PANCAKE/SAUSAGE BREAKFAST**: On Sun., Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students will be hosting a delicious Pancake & Sausage Breakfast in the fellowship hall for everyone to enjoy. They will begin serving after the church service until noon. The proceeds from this breakfast will be put towards their 2020 Class Trip to St. Louis. This is a Thrivent Action Team Event. Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast, along with some good fellowship...and support the 7&8 Grade Trip.

**2020 NATIONAL LUTHERAN ANNUAL** – We are taking orders for the 2020 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 Mon., Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**USE OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL** – If you would like to use the Fellowship Hall for any occasion, on a certain date in this upcoming year, **please contact the church/school office at 419-598-8961 or 419-598-8702**. In addition to calling the office, you may want to check the online master calendar at <http://www.dynacal.com/sjl/> (you can also link to it from [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)).

**STAMP COLLECTING**: The LWML is collecting “Stamps For Missions.” 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. Regular stamps are no longer accepted. 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 and foreign. Collecting stamps is an easy way to participate in a mission project sponsored by the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League. A yellow box is on the table in the narthex.

**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!

**4-H NEWS**: The Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Club will have their first 4-H meeting on Sun., Feb. 9 starting at 1:00 PM at St. John Lutheran School. We will be meeting in the cafeteria. We would like to meet with the parents briefly at 1:00. New members are always welcome!

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**God’s answers are wiser than our prayers.**

*“But truly God has listened; He has attended to the voice of my prayer.” Psa 66:19*