



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Mr. Reed Shoaff, Vicar
Miss Mary K. Rettig, Principal

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THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Who is the Greatest?" *Matthew 18:1-20*

Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting 1 (LSB pg. 151)*

Hymns: **605 ~ 866** ~ [Communion: **522, 612**] ~ **864**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We welcome all who have come to worship our God with us today! Each day we live is a priceless gift from God, loaded with possibilities to learn something new, to gain fresh insights into His great truths. May we be showered with those blessings as we together profess His Name today. 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.

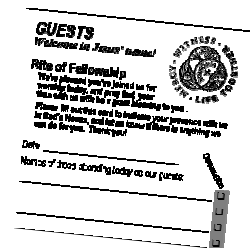


SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✕ 1st Service: ✕ Brady Gerken & Mitchell Kruse, *Acolytes* ✕
- ✕ 2nd Service: ✕ Anna Gerken & Cally Bialorucki, *Acolytes* ✕
- ✕ Marietta Damman & Arlene Wallace, *Greeters* ✕
- ✕ Harold Behrmann & Rich Elling, *Visitation* ✕
- ✕ Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, *Ushers* ✕
- ✕ Kathy Badenhop, Sandy VonDeylen, Mary Rettig, *Altar Guild* ✕

NEW 'RITE OF FELLOWSHIP' CARD FOR OUR GUESTS

This morning in the pews you will notice a new blue card for our guests to use to indicate their presence with us in worship. This card will make it much easier for us to minister to those who visit us. For our members, we will continue to use the beige cards as we have always done until we run out of them, at which time we will revise that card as well. Thank you for filling out these cards every time you attend worship. It's an important ministry tool for us!



In God's House This WeekOnline church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM	Early Communion Service Adult Bible Class (<i>see bulletin note</i>); Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Communion Service
Mon.	7:00 PM	PTL Meeting
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel Service led by <i>Pastor Niermann</i> ; Offering: <i>Orphan Grain Train</i> Exercise Class Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr. Hi Confirmation Class
Thurs.	9:00 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class School pictures taken for PS 4&5 yr old and Gr. K-8 Ladies Aid Meeting; Adult Information with <i>Pastor Niermann</i>
Fri.	9:00 AM	School pictures taken for PS 3 yr old
Sun.	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM	Early Worship Service <i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Worship Service
Mon.- Sat.	7:20 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Keith Witte</i> , St. Paul Lutheran, Liberty Center

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

- ❖ Our Homebound Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Marian Fitzenreiter, and Donald & Sue Landry*
- ❖ *Pauline Dishop and Marie Damman*, residing at The Lutheran Home, Napoleon
- ❖ *Magdalena Volkman*, residing at Heartland Nursing Home, Wauseon
- ❖ *Norma Damman, Anna Brodman and Marian Buchhop*, residing at Country View Haven
- ❖ *Helen Norden*, residing at Greenbriar Assisted Living, Birmingham, AL
- ❖ Servicemen and women, *Justin Atkinson, Kyle Elling, Jason Rohrs, Emily Niermann, and Connor Gerken*
- ❖ *Edwin Rosebrock*, at home dealing with health issues at this time
- ❖ *Casen Lawrence*, as he has had on-going seizures resulting in hospitalization
- ❖ *Yvonne Volkman and Don Flory*, currently at home as they battle cancer
- ❖ *Ruth Mahnke*, recuperating at home from back surgery
- ❖ *Marvin Gruenhagen*, still waiting to undergo more testing at Cleveland Clinic
- ❖ *Esther Layton*, as she grieves the passing of her son, *Lonnie*, recently

RECENT BIRTHS –

- Congratulations and God's blessings to *Vicar Reed & Emily Shoaff* on the safe arrival of their daughter, **Philippa Esther**, on Thurs., Aug. 28th at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn, IN. Big brothers, Phineas and Abraham are sure to be "big helpers" for mom and dad.
- *Jake & Marlea Myles* would like to announce the birth of their first child and daughter, **Lyla Mae**, on Wed., Sept. 3rd at Defiance Regional Medical Center. Marlea and Lyla are both doing fine. Grandparents Dave and Sara Myles couldn't be prouder of their granddaughter!

SUNDAY SCHOOL & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL!

Today we begin a new season of Christian education at St. John with the start of the new Sunday School season. There are opportunities for Christian growth for all.



- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** – Children of all ages are invited to join their respective teachers and classes this morning for the ongoing study of God’s Word. We give thanks to God for those who volunteer their time to teach the children, for our Lord said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them.”

~ And while the young ones are in Sunday School, you can be growing too! ~

- **ADULT BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR** – Join Pastor Niermann in the north end of the fellowship hall for the continuing study of the “*Screwtape Letters*” by C.S. Lewis. This fascinating look into the devil’s craft of temptation will give you an advantage as you fight the good fight of faith. Don’t worry if you’ve not attended before – each letter is a topic of its own. For instance, in letter #8, Screwtape informs Wormwood of the “the law of undulation” – that highs and lows in our spiritual lives are normal, and are even used by God to the advantage of His Kingdom.
- **YOUNGER ADULT BIBLE STUDY WITH THE VICAR** – Starting today, join Vicar Shoaff in the south end of the fellowship hall for the study, “*Marriage by God’s Design.*” The Bible begins with a marriage—Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden—and ends with a marriage—the marriage feast of Christ and His Bride, the Church. Throughout its pages, the Bible explains why God created His human creatures male and female and why He instituted marriage for them. Participants will learn and grow in the understanding and application of its teachings concerning married—and single—living.

ADDITIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTE – With the start of Sunday School, we are in need of 2 teachers at the Preschool level and 1 teacher at the 1st & 2nd Grade level to volunteer their time to nurture the children of St. John. There are usually two teachers per classroom and they teach every other month. We would also like to gather a list of about 4 people to be put on a sub list for all grade levels. Sunday School runs September thru May, from approximately 9:30 – 10:15 AM. What better way to put your talents to good use here at St. John. Give it some serious thought and contact Sunday School Superintendent, *Brenda Kruse* at 419-966-4876.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 8/31/14	\$7,227.00	\$102.00	\$564.00

ATTENDANCE: 8/31/14 – 8:15 Service: 133; 10:30 Service: 113; Thurs. 8/28/14 Service – 30

LYF ICE CREAM SOCIAL – The LYF will be hosting its annual Ice Cream Social on Sun., Sept. 21, with serving from 10:30 to 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. There is a signup sheet on the table in the narthex for donations of desserts. On the menu: *Chicken Sandwiches, Sloppy Joe’s, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Salad, Chips, Pies, Cakes, Cupcakes, Beverage and Schwan’s Ice Cream.* Freewill offering! Carryouts available also! Come out and support the youth of our congregation!

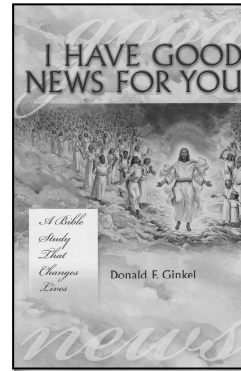
I HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU – starts Thurs., Sept. 11

- Riots Rock Ferguson, Missouri
- American Journalist Beheaded by Islamic Radicals
- Stock Market Bubble May Burst

Tired of all the bad news? Want some good news for once? Well, we have good news for you – about a God who cares for you, a Bible that liberates and guides you, a Savior who redeems you, a washing that cleanses you, a meal that nourishes you, and much, much more!

I Have Good News for You is a ten-session study of the basics of our Christian faith. This study is intended for those who'd like to join our congregation as members, for current members who would appreciate a review of Christian teachings, or even for those who are just curious.

Our first session will be on Thursday, Sept. 11th from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. If you'd like to attend but need help with child-care, please contact *Pastor Niermann* or the church office and we'll get something arranged. There is no cost and no need to register. Just join us, and we will grow together in grace and the knowledge of God, and celebrate some GOOD NEWS for once!



TWO NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDY GOD'S WORD:

▪ ***Your Marriage, by God's Design Bible Study***

Beginning today, St. John Lutheran Church will be offering the Bible study, **Your Marriage, by God's Design** in the south end of the fellowship hall. While the children are being taught God's Word in Sunday School in-between services you will have the tremendous opportunity to dig deep into God's Word as we discern God's will for Christian marriage and parenting.

To register for the Bible study go to <http://tinyurl.com/yourmarriagebygodsdesign>.

When you register online you will have an opportunity to make a donation to cover the cost of the materials. You may also register for the Bible study in the narthex after church and make any donation at the time the study begins. This Bible study is open to the public.

▪ ***Lutheran Confessions: Augsburg Confession and Its Apology Bible Study***

On the 1st and 3rd Thursdays, we will be conducting our study of the Augsburg Confession. It is a 13-session Bible study. We will meet from 7PM-8PM in the north end of the fellowship hall.

What is Biblical Christianity? What does it mean to be a Lutheran? What exactly do we believe, teach, and confess? Not only will you learn more about our Lutheran heritage, but more importantly, you will come to a deeper understanding of the pure teachings of God's Word.

To register for the Bible study go to <http://tinyurl.com/augsburgconfession>. When you register online you will have an opportunity to make a donation to cover the cost of the materials. You may also register for the Bible Study in the narthex after church and make any donation at the time the study begins. Both of these Bible studies are open to the public. Please invite someone! If you have questions, please call or email *Vicar Shoaff*.

'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 given at any time: monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your envelope). **Food items especially needed at this time are: canned peaches, mixed fruit, pineapple, spaghetti sauce, cereal, mac n' cheese, saltines & any crackers, hamburger helper, chicken noodle soup and tomato soup.** Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated. Food items can be placed in the box near the archives display.

CHURCH LIBRARY : “Nineteen new books added to the church library include: "Not a Tame God - Christ in the Writings of C.S. Lewis", "Devotions for the Chronologically Gifted", "Abortion in Perspective", "The Unexplained - Miracles, Mysteries, and More", "Evangelism and Church Growth", and "Racism and the Church - Overcoming the Idolatry". For younger people there are "The Christian Babysitter's Handbook" and "Deal Me In! - Life Issues".

The church library is located in the hallway west of the sanctuary. It is self-serve, so feel free to take materials at any time and return them in the basket provided. Recently added materials are found on the top right shelf with youth materials on the next shelf down.”

LADIES AID: The next meeting will be Thurs., Sept. 11th at 7:00 PM. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend!

LADIES' NOODLE MAKING - CANCELLED – Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Ladies Aid noodle making for the Henry County Hospital Bazaar had to be cancelled. Please take this off your calendar for Fri., Sept. 26th at 1:00 PM.

LWML FALL RETREAT – The Fall Retreat will be held on Saturday, September 20th, at St. John Family Center, Stryker, from 9:00 – 2:00 PM, with registration beginning at 8:30 AM. Registration fee is \$12.00 which includes lunch. Registration forms are available on the table in the narthex. Sign up deadline is Friday, Sept. 12th. See flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

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. 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.

SAVE THE DATE! Come one, come all, to the Arts & Craft Show to be held here at St. John on Sat., Nov. 1st. The money raised will go toward the Right Hand of Fellowship campaign. Please contact *Diane Norden* (419-598-8234) or *Jackie Ripke* (419-267-5574) with questions. Vendor applications are available on the table in the narthex. More information to come as it draws near.

PTL MEETING will be held on Mon., Sept. 8th at 7:00 PM. This will be a business meeting. Plan to attend and support the school.

SCHOOL PICTURES: This will be done on **Thurs., Sept. 11th** for 4&5-year old Preschoolers, Kindergarten, and Gr. 1-8 students starting at 9:00 AM. On **Fri., Sept. 12th** the 3-year old Preschoolers will have their pictures taken beginning at 9:00 AM. A form will be sent home in early September. Be sure to look for it! Payment is due the same day the student's picture will be taken, payable to: *Emilie Parsons*.

GIRLS' & BOYS' BASKETBALL NOTE: Both teams will have practice once per week beginning on Tues., Sept. 9th (GR. 3-8 GIRLS) and Thurs., Sept. 11th (GR. 4-8 BOYS) from 6:30 – 8:00 PM both nights. This will continue until further notice. GO EAGLES!!!!

ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP: Membership is now being taken for the Athletic Booster Club. Prices are \$20.00 for a couple and \$10.00 for an individual. Make checks payable to St. John Boosters. Forms are available on the table in the narthex. Join today and help out the children's athletic program. Our programs here at St. John give our students a sense of sportsmanship, discipline, structure and self-confidence needed to go out into the world.

MUM SALE – The Henry County 4-H Advisory Council is hosting a Mum Sale – they are \$5.50 for a 9” pot and \$10.50 for a 12” pot. Colors available are red, yellow, orange, bronze, pink, white, pineapple, purple, and rainbow (available in large only). Order forms are available on the table in the narthex. **Deadline for orders is September 8.** Proceeds benefit refurbishing the 4-H building at the fairgrounds and for 4-H Camp Scholarships. For more information please contact Bethann at [419-445-7910](tel:419-445-7910) or email bethann@rteceexpress.net

SUNNY D LABELS – Throughout the school year please save labels from *Sunny D* drinks. Classrooms that save 20 *SunnyD* labels earn 20 FREE books. Here's how it works. **COLLECT** *SunnyD* UPC labels from these eligible products: 1, 2, or 3 liter bottles; 16 oz., 48 oz., 64 oz., 96 oz., or 128 oz. bottles; 6.75 oz.- 6, 8, or 24 pack outer wraps; 6.75 oz.-12 pack cardboard case; 11.3 oz.-6 or 24 pack outer wraps; 12 oz.-12 or 24 pack cans outer wraps. **SEND** the UPC labels to the school office at any time. We can redeem these labels for free children's books for our library or classrooms.

A SIMPLE AND CONVENIENT WAY TO GIVE – This fall, consider signing up for electronic giving. St. John Lutheran Church relies on financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. One simple, easy to use authorization form can begin or change your electronic contributions amount. Contact *Joyce Wiechers* in the office at 419-598-8961 for more details. Thank you!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

A Bible that is falling apart usually reveals a life that isn't!

“My words...are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh.” (Prov. 4:22)