



# 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

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181  
Cell: 785-477-2344  
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 419-966-6160  
Church Website: www.sjl.org

### FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "As High as the Heavens, As Close as a Brother?" *Isaiah 55:6-9*

Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting Three (LSB page 184)*

Hymns: **910 ~ 557 ~** (Communion: **563, 333**) ~ **621**

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### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*A warm welcome to all our guests. We are pleased that you chose to worship at St. John Church this morning. We hope that this time spent with our God and with friends in Christ will prove spiritually uplifting to you. 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.*

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### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ **1<sup>st</sup> Service:** Cally Bialorucki & Emily Bostelman, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ **2<sup>nd</sup> Service:** Anna Gerken & Maggie Weller, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Peter & Karen Gerken, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Badenhop, Sandy VonDeylen, Mary Rettig, *Altar Guild* ✘

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are placed in celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of *Henry & Dorothy Gerken* by their children, grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Henry & Dorothy were married on September 19, 1954. Congratulations to the Gerkens!

**LYF ICE CREAM SOCIAL** is today with serving from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit the LYF servant events and future youth conventions. On the menu: *Chicken Sandwiches, Sloppy Joes, Hot Dogs, Salad, Baked Beans, Chips, Pies, Cakes, Cupcakes, Beverage* and *Schwan's Ice Cream*. Freewill offering! Carryout available! Thrivent will be Matching Funds!

**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	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM	Early Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" LYF Ice Cream Social ( <i>see bulletin note</i> ) Late Communion Service
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution ( <i>until 6:30 PM</i> )
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM	Chapel Service led by <i>Grades 3&amp;4</i> ; Offering: <i>Orphan Grain Train</i> Exercise Class
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:45 PM	Jr. Hi Confirmation Class ( <i>until 7:30 PM</i> ) Adult Bell Choir practice Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Adult Information Class with <i>Pastor Niermann</i>
Sun.	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM 4:30 PM	Early Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Worship Service LYF Meeting in <i>Miss Rettig's</i> classroom
Mon.- Sat.	7:20 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Willie Stottlemyer</i> , St. Stephen Lutheran, Defiance

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Marian Fitzenreiter, Donald & Sue Landry, and Edwin Rosebrock*
- ❖ *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*
- ❖ *Casen Lawrence*, as he has had on-going seizures resulting in hospitalization
- ❖ *Yvonne Volkman and Don Flory*, currently at home as they battle cancer
- ❖ *Marvin Gruenhagen*, undergoing more testing

**ADULT CHOIRS STARTING WED., SEPT. 24<sup>TH</sup>**

- ✚ **Bell Choir** meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. We are always looking for new members to join us. If you think you'd like to get involved and share your talents, please contact *Karan Niebergall* at 419-598-8251.
- ✚ **Vocal Choir** also meets Wednesday nights at 7:45 in the church balcony. If you've been thinking about joining the choir, now is a good time to become a member. We are always looking for more members to sing His praises, and could use a few more tenors and sopranos.

**PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS** for the quarter of October, November, and December are on the desk in the narthex. There are also large print copies available.

**LYF MEETING:** Next Sunday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM there will be an LYF meeting in Miss Rettig's classroom. Please plan to attend.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 9/14/14	\$7,252.00	\$133.00	\$643.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 9/14/14 – 8:15 Service: 153; 10:30 Service: 97

**COMMUNED** in August: 395 members; 53 guests

**MEMORIALS** given for *Lonnie Layton*: St. John Lutheran School Memorial Fund - \$25.00;  
St. John Lutheran Church Memorial Fund - \$200.00

**THANK YOU:** The family of Lonnie Layton wishes to thank everyone including *Pastor Niermann* for the kind words spoken and for cards received during this very difficult time.

**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. 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 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 #10 today, Screwtape advises Wormwood to encourage his patient's friendship with worldly acquaintances, laughing with them when he shouldn't, and being silent with them when he should speak up.
- **YOUNGER ADULT BIBLE STUDY WITH THE VICAR** – 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 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**EAGLE NEWS TODAY:** The Eagle News publication is now available online via FastDirect Communication. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnfreedom/>, click on “Links” on the left side of the page, then click on “Eagle News” in the “Everybody” column. There will still be printed copies available on the narthex table for those parishioners without computer access. Hope you enjoy it!

**FILL UP THOSE LWML MITE BOXES!** By now, all the children should have an LWML Mite Box into which they can be depositing those coins from the clothes dryer or under the sofa cushions, the pocket change from the end of the day, or other gifts. The children still have two more weeks to fill their boxes. Then on **LWML Sunday (October 5<sup>th</sup>)** the children will be invited forward in both services to offer their mites to the Lord in His house. Their mites will be combined with the gifts of children from all over the LCMS community to do mighty things in the Lord’s mission. For a list of the mission projects supported by these mites, please visit the LWML website at <http://lwml.org/missions/mission-grants/>.



- *If your child does not yet have one of these Mite Boxes, please pick one up in the narthex from the table.*

**LADIES CHRISTMAS PROGRAM COMMITTEE:** Here are the names of the ladies on the committee for the “Advent By Candlelight” program this year. They are: *Dorothy Gerken, Nancy Glaser, Rosie Gruenhagen, Elaine Hesterman, Nancy Hogrefe, Sherrie Kruse, and Pat Maassel.*

**‘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.

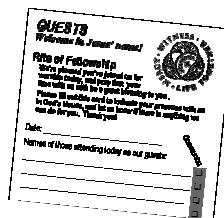
Contributions can be given at any time. Monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your offering envelope). **Food items especially needed at this time are: canned peaches, mixed fruit, pineapple, spaghetti sauce, cereal, mac n’ cheese, saltines & any crackers, hamburger helper, chicken noodle soup and tomato soup.** NOTE: Please refrain from donating home canned goods or baked goods. Food service regulations do not allow us to pass these out via the food pantry. Any other contributions are always greatly appreciated. Food items can be placed in the box down the side hallway near the archives display.

**2015 NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH OFFICES** – Very soon now the Stewardship Board will begin the process of nominating and appointing people for the various offices of our congregation. As they prepare to do so, please take note of the following:

- If there is an office in which you'd like to serve, please offer your name to the Stewardship Board for consideration. Speak with *Pastor Niermann*.
- If you are approached about serving in an office, give it careful and prayerful thought. You are being asked because the Stewardship Board, with prayers for God's guidance, has identified you as someone whose service in that office will be a blessing to us all!

**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!



**LADIES AID 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 Ladies Aid Scholarships are available to any young person attending one of our synodical schools. Simply contact any Ladies Aid member for more details about this.

**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.

**ST. JOHN CRAFT SHOW!** 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. There will also be a booth/table set up for donated homemade craft items from our congregation members who wish to contribute to and support the Right Hand of Fellowship. Please contact *Diane Norden* (419-598-8234) or *Jackie Ripke* (419-267-5574) with questions. If you wish to set up your own table, vendor applications are still available on the table in the narthex. More information to come as it draws near.

**CHURCH LIBRARY** – The church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary, is growing to contain a lot of excellent books that will edify your faith. The books in this library have been screened to assure that they are true to the Word of God and can be trusted to be theologically sound. Please check out the selection. To borrow a book, just take it with you, then return it to the basket when you've finished reading.

**LOANING TABLES & CHAIRS:** Per the September 2014 council meeting, it was decided by Church Council that tables and chairs will no longer be loaned out to members of the congregation. Please make note of this when planning any upcoming events, reunions, graduations, etc.

**OHIO ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN:** The Ohio Division OGT is located in the north end of the Culligan Water Conditioning building on Independence Drive in Napoleon. Someone is usually there to receive items on the first Tuesday of the month from 9:00-11:00 AM. If you need to drop off items at another time, please contact *Nancy Helmke* (419-758-3539), *Diann Meyer-Grieser* (419-267-3485), *Vicki Grieser* (419-445-2986), or *Harold Behrmann* (419-598-8311) and they will be happy to meet you and open the facility to receive your donations!

**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.

**LABELS FOR EDUCATION** (*formerly Campbell's Labels for Ed*): Our school collects labels all year long. **Labels For Education have expanded and now include UPC labels from Post Cereals, BIC, Pop-Secret, and several others.** For a complete listing of sponsors go to [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com). These labels earn points for St. John to be redeemed for many school supplies. Mrs. Damman and the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Graders have volunteered to clip, count, and bundle the various Campbell labels for mailing. We will be submitting our labels sometime this school year, so keep them coming! **NOTE: Please turn in your Labels For Education and Box Tops For Education labels in separate Ziploc bags or envelopes. Do not combine them.** Thank you!

**BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION, AND ALUMINUM TABS:** Our school collects *Box Tops For Education*, and aluminum tabs. *Box Tops For Education* is an ongoing PTL fundraiser earning 10¢ per box top for the school. They have expanded their sponsors, so be sure to check over your grocery items carefully so you don't miss any box tops.

Tabs are collected for the Ronald McDonald House in Toledo. They can be collected from soup cans, tuna fish cans, cat food cans, pop cans, etc. The money received from recycling the tabs provides the yearly food budget for the over 500 families that the Ronald McDonald House serves in NW Ohio. There are collection boxes in the school office for each of these. **NOTE: Please turn in your Labels For Education and Box Tops For Education labels in separate Ziploc bags or envelopes. Do not combine them.** Thank you!

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**iPod? iPad? Try iPrayed ... God is listening!**

*"Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear." (Isa. 65:24)*