



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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SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Which of the Two Did the Will of His Father?" *Matthew 21:23-32*

Order of Service: *See printed Order of Service*

Hymns: **607 ~ 832 ~ 566 ~ 658**

Children's Choir: *Grades K-4 sing "Baa, Baa, He's the Good Shepherd"*

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Warm greetings and love in Christ are extended to all members and guests. We trust that you will experience the warmth of Christian fellowship, the inspiration of worship and the peace that comes from an awareness of God's presence. 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:** Caleb Bockelman & Brady Gerken, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ **2nd Service:** Anna Gerken & Tyne Rosebrock, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Ron & Elaine Hesterman, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *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 59th Wedding Anniversary of Ron & Elaine Hesterman on the 25th of September. Love, *Todd, Chris, and kids*

BAPTISM TODAY – This morning in the late service, we rejoice to witness the baptism of **TY DAMMAN HENRY**, infant son of **Pete & Brooke (née Damman) Henry**. Ty was born on August 18th at the Fulton County Health Center in Wauseon. His baptismal sponsors are **Kelly Grubbs** and **Scott Damman** (Brooke's siblings) and **Joshua** and **Jordan Henry** (Pete's brothers). Ty's grandparents are **Randy & Sandy Damman** and **Wayne & Veronica Henry**. God bless this family as they celebrate the life of this child and his new life in Christ. May the good work God begins today in Ty be brought to completion on the day of Jesus Christ!



In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	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
Tue.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Board of Elders
Wed.	10:20AM 6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:45 PM	Late Start-up (8:15 AM <i>Teacher In-Service</i>) Jr. Hi Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>) Adult Bell Choir practice Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant Exercise Class Bible Study w/ <i>Vicar Shoaff</i> ; Adult Information Class w/ <i>Pastor Niermann</i>
Sat.	9:00 AM	District Presidential visit from <i>Rev. Terry Cripe</i> (until noon)
Sun.	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM	Early Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Worship Service
Mon.- Sat.	7:20 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. David Goehmann</i> , St. Luke Lutheran, Wauseon

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
- ❖ *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
- ❖ *Lois Arps*, recovering at home after surgery this past week from a broken ankle
- ❖ *Norma Damman*, recovering from knee replacement surgery this past Monday
- ❖ *Joel Stier*, diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma and currently undergoing chemotherapy

PASTOR & VICAR IN THE PEWS – If you notice once in a while that the Pastor or Vicar are in the pews during a service, the purpose is to allow the Pastor to observe and evaluate the Vicar from the congregation's perspective, and to permit the Vicar to observe the Pastor. It also allows them a few precious opportunities to worship with their loved ones, and to be hearers of the Word with everyone else.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES!

While the young ones are in Sunday School, you can be growing in faith too!

- **“THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS”** – This book is a fascinating look by C.S. Lewis into the devil’s cunning and deception, and it just gets better and better. In **Letter #11** this crafty devil talks about the causes of laughter. He focuses on jokes about sexuality and sinful behaviors, and how hell uses joking to make us flippant about our sins. Join Pastor Niermann in the north end of the fellowship hall for this intriguing study, and you will gain an advantage as you fight the good fight of faith. Don’t worry if you’ve not attended before – each letter is a Bible study unto itself.
- **“MARRIAGE BY GOD’S DESIGN”** –“The commitment to love and be faithful to one's spouse-for better, for worse, in sickness and in health- is not a pledge to keep the same feelings. It is a pledge to do certain things, to voluntary conduct." Today we will considering the question, "What is true love?" Is it just a feeling?...or is there more to it? Join Vicar Shoaff in the fellowship hall as we look to God's Word and the example of Christ to understand what "true love" really is.

CALLING ALL CHURCH LEADERS – a District Presidential visitation to our congregation will take place this coming Saturday, October 4th, from 9 a.m. to noon. President Terry Cripe will conduct the meeting, and will share with us what’s going on in our district and synod and to review with us our congregational ministries in the areas of witness, mercy and life together. This is meant to be a time of encouragement and a time for leaders to reflect on how their work for Christ and our community might be strengthened.

LWML SUNDAY – Celebrate with Women in Mission

A special worship service is planned for **next Sunday, Oct. 5th**, to celebrate all that God has done through the LWML. Our worship theme will be **“Fragrant Sacrifices and Offerings,”** based on Ephesians 5:2, *“and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”* Author of this service, Rev. Victor Belton, writes, “The LWML wants all women to find joy in Bible study, mission service, and reaching the lost and hurting for Christ.” Check out our website at www.lwml.org.



ADULT CHOIR PRACTICES :

- ✚ **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.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL THANKS – A special “thank you” goes out to all who supported the LYF sponsored Ice Cream Social. We had a big turnout and lots of good help. Thank you to everyone that donated all the delicious desserts.

LYF MEETING: Today at 4:30 PM there will be an LYF meeting in Miss Rettig’s classroom.

LADIES – *Calling all quilters!* The Ladies Aid is working on a quilt for the Craft Show on Nov. 1st and would like to invite anyone interested to help quilt on Monday and Tuesday afternoons to enable us to complete the quilt in time for the craft show. If these days don’t work for you, please contact Clara Meyer, Phyllis Silveus, or Nancy Hogrefe to make arrangements for additional times.

FILL UP THOSE LWML MITE BOXES! Next Sunday is **LWML SUNDAY**, when we invite the children to bring their filled mite boxes back to church. They will be invited forward in both services to offer their mites to the Lord in the Lord’s house.



Remember, LWML Sunday is next Sunday, October 5th. ***If your child does not yet have one of these Mite Boxes, there is still a week to participate. Pick up a box in the narthex, and begin gathering all that loose change from around the house.*** Our children’s mites will be combined with others from around the nation to support great and needed project 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/>.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 9/21/14	\$5,624.00	\$328.00	\$353.00

ATTENDANCE: 9/21/14 – 8:15 Service: 116; 10:30 Service: 159

VOTERS’ MEETING – OCTOBER 12TH – Join us two weeks from today between the services for the regular voters’ assembly. The meeting will begin after the first service at approx. 9:30 a.m.

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.*

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!

'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.

EAGLE NEWS: 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!

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.

SALE OF OLD TABLES: Because of the dilapidated condition of the old white tables that we have occasionally loaned out, the Council has decided it is time for the church to be rid of them. A sale of these old tables by free-will donation will be held soon. As you plan your reunions, graduations, etc., please be aware that the sale of these tables means the church will no longer have tables available for loan (*we do not loan out the tables in the fellowship hall*). In addition, it was decided that with this change, we would also no longer loan out the chairs.

THRIVENT CHAPTER BOARD – The Henry County Thrivent Chapter Board would like to have a representative from St. John's to sit on the Chapter Board. It would involve roughly one meeting per month, along with getting to know a lot of great people. Indication is that this is the last year for the Henry County Thrivent Chapter. Please contact Joyce in the office if you are interested in getting involved in something like this.

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.

SUNNY D BOOK SPREE – The St. John School students hope you can help them make their classroom sunnier! 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 your child's classroom. **One way to collect *SunnyD* labels would be to consider serving *SunnyD* at your upcoming Halloween parties...it is orange!** It's as easy as that!

S.T.O.P. PENNY DRIVE – The PTL Fall Penny Drive at St. John School begins on Mon., Sept. 29th and runs thru Sat., Nov. 1st. Send your pennies in to school with your child or grandchild. The winning classroom will be awarded a pizza party. *NOTE: Since starting this fundraiser in October 1992, the PTL has raised \$15,950.20 for the school.* So you can see how each and every penny adds up to a lot of support for the school. Let's keep it up!

PARENT VISITATION & OPEN HOUSE – St. John School has scheduled their **Parent Visitation Open House** for the evening of **Thursday, October 16**, from 7:00 – 8:00 PM. This will run in conjunction with the PTL Scholastic Book Fair in the fellowship hall.

HEARING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE: If hearing in worship has been a problem for you, pick up one of the receiver units for our hearing assistance system. An usher will assist you and you'll hear much more clearly. (*Also, please let us know how the system is working for you.*)

For those who use the hearing assistance system regularly and for the sake of hygiene, we ask that you claim one of the ear buds as your own and keep it with you in your purse, pocket, etc. Bring it with you when you come to church, and simply plug it into one the receivers. At the end of the service, unplug the ear bud to take with you until the next time.

ST. JOHN WEBSITE: Did you know you can listen to *Pastor Niermann's* sermons on the internet? Just click on the "Media" tab on our website. There is also a "For Kids" tab which allows you to listen to the Children's Sermons at St. John, or follow the link to fun and games at JCPlayZone.

LADIES' VOLLEYBALL – The ladies from St. Paul Lutheran, 1075 Glenwood Ave., Napoleon, would like to invite the ladies from St. John to join them on Monday evenings from 7:30 – 9:00 for volleyball. They play every Monday night, as long as St. Paul has had school that day also. What better way to stir up some good fellowship with a sister church.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

A diamond is just a coal that got better under pressure!

"...for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the

*tested genuineness of your faith...may be found to result in praise and glory and honor
at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:6-7)*