



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

October 19, 2014

VOL. 79

NO. 42

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

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NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "The Well-Integrated Christian" *1 Thess. 1:1-10*

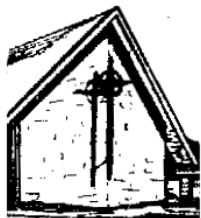
Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting Five (LSB pg. 213)*

Hymns: **686 ~ 940 ~ 953** ~ (Communion: **629, 692**) ~ **617**

Choirs: (Early) - *Gr. 5&6 Chimes* - "Jesus Loves Me";
Adult Bells - "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Now is the hour of worship. God speaks to us and we listen and respond with our hymns, prayers and praises. Together we bless the Lord whose purpose is to save us and keep us in His faithful flock. He is The God of Grace and The God of Glory. If you are new to our community, we hope you will consider making this your church home. Fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and give it to the usher as you leave the church this morning.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ 1st Service: Cody Damman & Brady Gerken, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ 2nd Service: Cally Bialorucki & Maggie Weller, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Steve & Linda Miller, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Al Damman, Andy Damman, Tim Hodson, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Linda Riefers, Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff, *Altar Guild* ✠

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed in loving memory of Valerie Scheffert's mother, *Jean Boldt*, who passed away one year ago this past Thursday, October 16th. Please keep Valerie and her family in your prayers today.

MITE BOXES FOR LWML! The *Lutheran Women's Missionary League* would like to thank everyone who turned in their mite boxes last week. The total collected was \$199.53. This money will go a long way in spreading God's word through mission work. Thank you all from the LWML!!!

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	Early Communion or Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Communion or Worship Service
Mon. &	Tues.	NO SCHOOL due to All Professionals' Church Workers Conference
Tue.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Building Committee Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 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 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Bible Study w/Vicar Shoaff (<i>rescheduled from last Thursday</i>) Adult Information Class w/Pastor Niermann
Sat.	6:00 PM	LYF Outing at Alex Gruenhagen's house & Leader's Corn Maze
Sun.	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM	**REFORMATION SUNDAY** Early Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Worship Service
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Joshua Schmidt</i> , St. John Lutheran, Defiance

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Marian Fitzenreiter, Donald 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, Marvin Gruenhagen, and Lois Arps*, at home with health issues
- ❖ *Norma Damman*, rehabbing at The Lutheran Home – Napoleon from knee replacement
- ❖ *Joel Stier*, diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma and currently undergoing chemotherapy
- ❖ *Sue Landry*, in Cardiac ICU at Toledo Hospital
- ❖ *Chris Basehor* (Sarah VerMeulen's cousin), dealing with a reoccurrence of her cancer

YOUTH DIRECTOR POSITION AVAILABLE - We are presently seeking candidates for our Youth Director. This is a part-time paid position, to begin on December 1st. The Youth Director, with guidance and assistance from the Vicar and Pastor, promotes and leads the LYF youth ministry in our congregation. This position involves a monthly meeting, and planning and implementing various youth activities throughout the year. If you would like to apply for this position, please speak with *Vicar Shoaff* or *Pastor Niermann*.

LYF & THE CORN MAZE – The LYF will be going to Leader’s Corn Maze on Sat., Oct. 25th. We will be meeting at *Alex Gruenhagen’s* house at 6:00 p.m. for a costume party. We will then be going to the maze and then we will head back to Alex’s for a bonfire to close out the evening. If you have any questions concerning it, feel free to contact Alex at gruenhagen.4@osu.edu or 419-966-7808.

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 #13** this crafty demon talks about the best ways to keep us living the lies of Satan. 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 be 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.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 10/12/14	\$6,453.00	\$313.00	\$652.00

ATTENDANCE: 10/12/14 – 8:15 Service: 141; 10:30 Service: 82

COMMUNED in *September*: 364 members; 6 guests

NEXT SUNDAY IS REFORMATION SUNDAY – We give thanks to God for all that He accomplished through His servant, Dr. Martin Luther. As we sing one of Luther’s most famous hymns, “*A Mighty Fortress is Our God*,” we rejoice that we are heirs of the Gospel that came to light through Luther’s life and ministry, and that we have come to know the saving power of that Gospel to all who believe it! Be sure to join us next Sunday for this 497-year anniversary celebration of the Reformation!



LWML MEETING: The next LWML meeting will be Tues., Oct. 28th at 7:00 PM. Our speaker will be *Vicar Shoaff*. The fall Quarterlies and Odes are on the table in the back of the church. Pick up a copy today!

UPDATE - SALE OF TABLES: All tables have been spoken for. Sorry if you were not able to get one...they went quickly. Thanks to those who bought them.

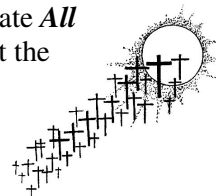
IF YOU’RE EVER IN A PINCH and could use a little help, the ***Good Neighbor Fund*** is there to assist you too! Please don’t be bashful about asking – everything is strictly confidential. Just give *Pastor Niermann* a call, and we’ll see what we can do!

NOMINATION LETTERS MAILED –The Stewardship Board has begun the process of nominating and appointing people for the various offices of our congregation for 2015. Letters were mailed recently. 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!

THANK YOU! I'd like to thank all those who have donated items to the school lunch program so far this year. Your gifts are deeply appreciated and are certainly enjoyed by all the students. God's Blessings to you all, *Liza Gerken*, Cook

ALL SAINTS COMMEMORATION – On Sunday, November 2nd we will celebrate *All Saints*. On that day the Church remembers all of the saints of God who have fought the good fight, have finished their race, and are with the Lord. Specifically, we will remember the members of our own church family who have died since the last celebration of *All Saints* and have taken their place at the throne of God's Lamb. They are *Norman Fitzenreiter, Norma Dietrich, Joan Miller, Arnold Bischoff, Hilda Kruse, Lucia Rosebrock, and Lonnie Layton*.



Friendship Sunday – November 23rd

As part of our efforts under the “WITNESS, Mercy, Life Together” emphasis, we will be planning *Friendship Sundays* periodically, the first of which we've scheduled for Sunday, November 23rd. The purpose of a *Friendship Sunday* is to provide you an opportunity to invite friends and family to a worship and fellowship event that is especially geared to our guests. Our first *Friendship Sunday* will take place around a theme that is strong in the Scripture readings that day – **GATHERED**. Much planning needs to take place. If you'd like to help plan our first *Friendship Sunday*, please speak with Pastor Niermann.



RECYCLING PROGRAM: As of the Sept. 2014 School Board Meeting, it was decided to implement a recycling program at St. John School. This will be done through Zack's Recycling, Napoleon. Please pick up a green flyer explaining the recycling program from the table in the narthex or contact school board member, *Renee Bostelman* (419-758-3335) with any questions.

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. Contact 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.

FLYERS - ST. JOHN CRAFT SHOW! If you want to help in a special way with the craft show, how about grabbing a few flyers from the narthex table and posting them somewhere out in the community? The St. John Arts & Craft Show will be held here at St. John on Sat., Nov. 1st from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. The money raised will go toward the Right Hand of Fellowship campaign. We will have a congregational booth set up for donated homemade craft items from members who wish to 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.

S.T.O.P. PENNY DRIVE – The PTL Fall Penny Drive at St. John School 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. Let's keep it up!*

SCRIP AT ST. JOHN: The *SCRIP* campaign has begun and will run for the remainder of the school year. *Make a Note* – The final order before Christmas break is due on Wed., Dec. 17th for delivery on Mon., Dec. 22nd. For those that don't know, *SCRIP* is gift cards that you purchase through PTL for full face value. They work for both in store purchases and online shopping. PTL works through a company that purchases these gift cards in bulk from participating retailers. A percentage of the purchase stays with PTL and a percentage goes to the student's family toward enrollment/tuition. This fundraiser nets the PTL approximately \$300 each year. Think ahead--if you give out gift cards for Christmas consider purchasing them from PTL instead of at the store so that a



portion of that sale stays with St. John Lutheran School. Order forms and program information are posted on FastDirect under 'Links,' titled *SCRIP* Order Forms and *SCRIP* Program Info. There are also hard copies in the 'School Info' rack outside the office and on the table in the narthex. Please feel free to share with family and friends. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about *SCRIP* can be directed to the following *SCRIP* Coordinators: Karen Gerken at 567-454-0087 or email at kgerken564@gmail.com; or Kristyn Honemann at 419-592-0643 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP: Membership is still being taken for the Athletic Booster Club. **Sign up deadline is Mon., Dec. 8th.** Prices are \$20.00 for a couple and \$10.00 for an individual. Make checks payable to St. John Boosters and send to school with your child. Forms are available in the "School Info" rack outside the school office. Join today!

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.

'BREAD FROM HEAVEN' FOOD PANTRY – At any time you can make a food donation for our pantry – **just drop off items in the box by the Archives display cases.** 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.** Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated. Thank you so much! As we learned in the meaning of the Fifth Commandment, *“We should fear and love God that we...help and support our neighbor in every physical need.”* (Small Catechism)

CUTLERY FOR SALE: The Ladies Aid sells Rada Cutlery products. These items are not on display for safety reasons. Check out the display board to see if you are interested in purchasing any of these items: Paring Knives, Stubby Butcher Knives, Pie Servers, Vegetable Peelers, Slicer Knives, Granny Forks, Carving Forks, Pizza Cutters, Tomato Slicer, and Small Spatula. Contact officers *Nancy Hogrefe, Nancy Glaser, Mabel Bischoff, or Pat Maassel* if you would like to see or purchase any of these items.

COUNTRY CORNER CRAFT BAZAAR – **Today** St. John Lutheran Church, Stryker, at the corner of St. Rt. 6 & 66, is hosting a craft show and luncheon from 11:00 AM-2:00 PM. Freewill offering for the luncheon! *Craft items only will also be sold the following Saturday, October 25, from 9:00 to 3:00 PM.* See flyer!

LUTHERAN HOME – BAVARIAN VILLAGE OPEN HOUSE: You are invited to Bavarian Village Condos Open House on Tues., Oct. 21 and Sun., Oct. 26, 2014, from 2:00 – 4:00 PM located behind the Lutheran Home of Napoleon. See flyer on bulletin board!

FILLING HOME FALL FLING – On Saturday, Nov. 1, the Filling Home Women's Guild will hold their *Tenth Annual Filling Fall Fling*. This will be held from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM in the Wellness Activity Center on the Filling Home campus. See flyer on the bulletin board for more info!

THRIVENT ELECTION DINNER: The Henry County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will be holding their annual Election Dinner on Sun., Nov. 2. This will be held at the Filling Memorial Home – Napoleon. **Reservation deadline is tomorrow.** Please contact *Jean Cohrs* at 419-599-8280 or email her at jean.cohrs@gmail.com to make reservations.

PRESCHOOL SUBSTITUTE TEACHER NEEDED – Emmaus Lutheran Church in Wauseon is seeking qualified candidates to serve as a substitute teacher in their preschool. If you are interested to see a job description or to apply, please speak with *Pastor Niermann*.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

A baby's life is God's choice.

“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.”

(Psalm 139:13)