



# 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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NO. 17

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

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### FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon & Text: "The Καλός Shepherd" *John 10:11-18 & Psalm 23*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: 900 ~ 549 ~ 709 ~ 782 ~ 710 ~ 479

Choirs: (Early) Gr. K-4 sing "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

(Early) Adult Bell Choir ring "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

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### A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest this morning, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to our pastor and by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you. Simply pass it to the center aisle during the offering.*

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

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ 1<sup>st</sup> Service: Caleb Bockelman & Colin Johnson, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: Emily Bostelman & Katelyn Drewes, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Don & Karan Niebergall, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Lois Rosebrock, Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow, *Altar Guild* ✘

**DOXOLOGY TODAY** – Grades K-4 will be singing the "Doxology" at the end of the early service this morning. The students may come forward at that time from wherever they happen to be seated. The arrangement they will be singing is from *The Other Song Book*, compiled by Dave Anderson, who had a concert here at St. John two years ago.

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE!** St. John now has a Facebook Page. Here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnFreedomTownship>. Please "like" your church's page!

**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 10:30AM 4:30 PM	Early Worship Service Sunday School; Adult Bible Class; "Time To Spare" Late Worship Service 4-H Meetings ( <i>no Cloverbuds today</i> )
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Gr. 5&6 Exercise Class Bible Study w/Vicar Shoaff Board of Elders; Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM	Jr. Confirmation Class Adult Bell Choir practice Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM	Exercise Class
Sun.	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM	Early Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Communion Service
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Dale Kern</i> , retired from St. John Lutheran, Stryker

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Marian Fitzenreiter, Donald Landry, and Norma Damman*
- ❖ *Pauline Dishop, Marie Damman, and Delora Winkelman*, 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
- ❖ *Rosie Gruenhagen and Renetta Homan*, at home recuperating
- ❖ *Henry Gerken*, continuing recuperation at home now from back surgery
- ❖ *Lucia Delventhal*, admitted to Toledo Hospital on Thursday with health issues
- ❖ *The Family of Yvonne Volkman*, at her passing on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>

**CHANGE OF WORSHIP TIMES** – The voters decided at their last meeting to revert back to **one Sunday worship service at 9:00 a.m.** with Sunday School to follow. The new schedule **will begin on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>.**

- **Thursday Evening worship services** will begin in May, with the first one scheduled for Thursday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m. Until school is out for the summer, these services will be held in the sanctuary. These services will use the readings and hymns for the following Sunday. Holy Communion will be offered on the Thursdays prior to regular Communion Sundays.

## **SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY!**

**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. In **Letter #28** Screwtape ironically encourages Wormwood to preserve the life of his ‘patient’ as long as he can, because developing worldliness in him takes time. Join Pastor Niermann in the north end of the fellowship hall for this intriguing study. Don’t worry if you’ve missed sessions or not attended before – each letter is a Bible study unto itself.

## **VICAR SHOAFF'S MARRIAGE BIBLE STUDY HAS COME TO A CLOSE**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I pray that the Marriage Bible Study was a blessing for your marriages. I would admonish you to continue tending to God's Word by faithfully attending Sunday Morning Bible Study with *Pastor Niermann*. Growing in your faith and grounding yourself in the Holy Scriptures is vital to a strong marriage and it is a godly example for your children. -*Vicar Shoaff*

## **THIS WEEK IN THE EPISTLE OF JAMES BIBLE STUDY - TUESDAY @ 10AM**

Join *Vicar Shoaff* and your brothers and sisters in Christ as we begin to study the Epistle of James. James, the brother of Jesus, exhorts us, "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds." What does this mean? As Christians, are we to smile when we are wronged? Should we take pleasure in suffering? Or does James have something else in mind? Find out this Tuesday! The Bible study meets in the **north end** of the **fellowship hall** this (*and every*) **Tuesday (10AM-11:15AM)**.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL PLANNING MEETING** - This coming Saturday, May 2nd at 10:00 a.m., *Pastor Niermann* and Superintendent *Brenda Kruse* are convening a meeting of the Sunday School staff, of past Superintendents, and of any interested parents to discuss plans for the future of the Sunday School ministry, including the possibility of an new approach to Sunday School ministry. Please join us!

**QUARTERLIES & ODES:** The Quarterlies and Odes for the Women of Freedom are ready to be picked up from the table in the narthex. Our next meeting will be Tues., April 28th at 7:00 PM. Our speaker will be *Ron Meyer* to tell us about his trip to Haiti. Save all your old eye glasses and bring them to the meeting. *Mite-y Socks* are still available on the narthex table!

**VICARAGE PLACEMENT SERVICE, LIVE STREAM** - Tomorrow evening, Monday, April 27th, St. John will be assigned a new vicar from our seminary in Fort Wayne. The service is at 7:00 p.m. in the Kramer chapel on the seminary campus. You can either attend it in person, as will *Pastor Niermann*, or watch the live stream at <http://www.ctsfw.edu>.

**2014 CHURCH ANNUAL** is available on the desk and table in the narthex. If there are any corrections to be made, please contact Joyce in the office. Pick up your copy today!

**LUTHERAN WITNESS RENEWAL** – It’s time to renew your subscription to the Lutheran Witness for this year. To subscribe or renew your subscription, **simply place \$17.00 in an envelope**, along with your name and address, and place it in the Sunday collection plate or bring it down to the church office. **Deadline for subscriptions is May 17<sup>th</sup>**.

## *Ascension Deficit Disorder*

When a Christian fails to remember the ascension of Christ to the right hand of God, he or she is vulnerable to fear and anxiety, as if our risen Lord no longer has things under His mighty and loving control.

As is years past, St. John is teaming up with St. Paul (Liberty Center), and St. Luke and Emmaus (Wauseon) for a **Joint Celebration of Our Lord's Ascension**. This Communion service will be held on **Ascension Day, Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** right here in our sanctuary. Join us, and be reminded that Christ is at the "right hand of God the Father Almighty," and rules all things for His church – and put an end to *Ascension Deficit Disorder* in your life.



**SERVICE OPPORTUNITY: HUMAN CARE** – The idea has been suggested, and the elders have approved, that we form a group of folks within our congregation to tend to matters of human care within the body of Christ. As members of Christ's body, we are called to take care of each other. A lot of that is already taking place informally among members, but it would be this group's task to stay tuned in to what's going on in people's lives and to coordinate human care efforts if circumstances call for it. The possibilities are endless! It's a great opportunity for retirees or for those who want to serve but not necessarily as elected officers. Please think and pray about this.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 4/19/15	\$7,882.00	\$192.00	\$278.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 4/19/15 – Early Service: 140; Late Service: 84

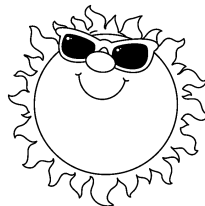
**MEMORIALS** for Walter Delventhal: *St. John Endowment Fund* - \$4,290.00

**WOMEN OF FREEDOM 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 Women of Freedom Scholarships are available to any young person attending one of our synodical schools. Simply contact any Women of Freedom member for more details about this.

**INTERESTED IN A CHURCH PROFESSION? WE'D LIKE TO HELP!** Recently a number of young people from St. John have pursued educational goals to prepare them for full-time service as teachers and pastors. If you are interested in a church profession (*as a pastor, deaconess, teacher, lay minister, or a Director of Christian Education, Christian Outreach, Parish Music, or Family Life Ministry*), our congregation would like to support you by offering a tuition gift. An application for this gift is available online --- type [www.sjl.org/student\\_gift\\_app.pdf](http://www.sjl.org/student_gift_app.pdf) into your browser (*there is no link*) and fill out the application. Deadline for fall enrollment is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**COMING UP THIS SUMMER** – It never hurts to mark your calendars early, so here are a few dates to consider for the summer of 2015.

- **June 12-13 (Fri-Sat) --- Marriage Retreat** coordinated by St. John along with St. Paul, Liberty Center and St. Luke, Wauseon. Theme: “Growing Together, from the Breakfast Table to Kissing Goodnight.” Location is the beautiful *Lial Renewal Center* at Oak Openings. Cost is \$15 per couple for the retreat, plus various lodging options for an overnight stay. More information available on the narthex table!
- **June 15-23 (Mon-Tue) --- Youth Retreat to the Great Sand Dunes of southern Colorado.** All youth of LYF age, including those from this year’s confirmation class, are eligible to attend. This trip is being coordinated with the youth of St. James, Burlington.
- **June 28 (Sun) --- Fellowship on the Fairways** – first annual SJL golf outing at White Pines. Scramble starts with a 1:30 p.m. shotgun. Cost is \$35, includes golf, cart, meal and prizes. This is a fund raiser for the *Right Hand of Fellowship* campaign.
- **August 23 (Sun) --- Outdoor Worship Service** at 10:30 a.m., followed by a fellowship meal (*meat provided*) and an auction to raise funds for the Right Hand of Fellowship campaign. Begin thinking about items you can provide for the auction.



**LYF – GET OUT THE WORD!** It’s official – in June we’re going to be joining the youth of St. James, Burlington on a camping expedition to the great sand dunes of southern Colorado. We’ll be crossing into northern New Mexico as well to see some amazing places. Imagine exploring the ancient ruins of the Pueblo people at Chaco Canyon, hiking up to their cliff dwellings at Mesa Verda, or exploring the Black Canyon - then growing together in faith around a campfire in the evening. Information and a registration form has been mailed out, so please consider it and get ready for a fantastic nine days of fun, fellowship, exploration and spiritual growth!



**EAGLE NEWS** : The Eagle News publication is available online via FastDirect. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnfreedom/>, click on “Links” at the top of the page, then click on “Eagle News-April” in the “Everybody” column. Copies are also available on the table in the narthex.

**GRANDPARENT’S DAY**: A reminder that Grandparent’s Day at St. John School for Grades K-8 will be held on **Friday, May 8** from 12:30 - 3:00 PM. *Lunch is not included.*

**S.T.O.P. PENNY DRIVE** – The PTL Spring Penny Drive at St. John School has begun and runs thru Fri., May 8<sup>th</sup>. The classroom collecting the most pennies will be treated to a pizza party. All other classrooms will get an ice cream party. Save those pennies and give them to one of our students or turn your pennies in at the school office. Mr. Petzoldt will be monitoring the weekly results this spring. **NOTE: Since this fundraiser started in October 1992, the PTL has raised \$15,950 for the school.** Remember to **Save Those Old Pennies!**

**PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT** – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2015-16 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.

**GREAT MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS** – The “Recipes and Remembrances” cookbooks from PTL would surely make Mom smile. They have a very nice collection of great recipes in them. Also, the notecards created by St. John students would make a nice gift. These are both PTL fundraisers and are available today at the table in the narthex. The cost is \$10.00 for the cookbook and \$5.00 for the notecard packets. If writing a check, please make it payable to: *St. John PTL*. We hope you enjoy making all the “goodies” in the cookbook, as well as writing letters inside the notecards you purchase. Thank you for supporting the PTL!

**DID YOU KNOW?** The free Pepperidge Farm bread, cookies, and crackers available on Sundays down by the gym lobby have the “Labels For Education” UPC codes on the wrappers. Be sure to clip them off and bring them to the school/church office at your convenience.

**TRINITY - TOLEDO INSTALLATION** – Trinity Lutheran Church invites you to the installation of *Pastor-Elect Mark W. Love* as Trinity's Senior Administrative Pastor. The joyous event is scheduled for today beginning at 4:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church, 4560 Glendale Avenue, Toledo. Pastor Love will be installed by Ohio District President, *Rev. Terry Cripe*. Please join us for a dinner, which will follow the service. We hope that you are able to celebrate this blessing with us today!

**A SINCERE THANKS:** “We, the members of Good Shepherd of the Deaf Lutheran Church want to thank you and the members of St. John Lutheran Church for your gift of \$630. Please know we appreciate your gift to this ministry. Pastor Steve, your congregation has been a loyal supporter for the ministry God has given us. Thank you for what you do, and the support you give to this ministry. Your prayers we cherish so much. Thank you!” Signed, *Shirrel Petzoldt*, Pastor

**4-H MEETINGS** – The Gerald Busy Fingers 4-H Club and the Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Club (Grades 3-12), will be having their meeting today at 1:00 PM at St. John Lutheran School. **NOTE: No Cloverbuds meeting today.**

**HOSPICE BAZAAR:** The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Hospice of Henry Co. Bazaar will be held on Thurs., May 14 at the Napoleon American Legion. All live auction donations must be received by May 1<sup>st</sup>. They are accepting donations of silent auction items, handmade wooden items, craft or needlework items or baked goods and pies for the day of the bazaar. See flyer for all the details!

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone,  
but in every leaf in spring-time. ~Martin Luther**

*“The wilderness will rejoice and blossom!” (Isa. 35:1)*