



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

May 10, 2015

VOL. 80

NO. 19

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

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Church Website: www.sjl.org

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon & Text: "You Did Not Choose Me, but I Chose You" *John 15:9-17*

Thursday Order of Service: *Evening Prayer (LSB pg. 243)*

Sunday Order of Service: *Matins (LSB pg. 219)*

Hymns: **597 ~ 556**, stz.1-4 ~ **941 ~ 556**, stz.5-10

Choirs: (Early) *Gr. 7&8 Bell Choir rings "Lead On, O King Eternal"*

(Late) *Adult Vocal Choir sings "Alleluia, Alleluia!"*

A PRAYER UPON *Happy Mother's Day!... and a special, grateful welcome to all mothers*

ENTERING CHURCH

this morning. We bless and cherish you for the care and nurture you gave or are giving now to your children. We salute you in the name of our Lord who loved His mother and provided for her. If you are visiting with us this morning, help us get to know you better by filling out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you. Simply pass it to the center aisle during the offering.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ **1st Service:** David Maassel, *Acolyte* ✘

✘ **2nd Service:** Maggie Weller & Cally Bialorucki, *Acolytes* ✘

✘ Bob & Diane Norden, *Greeters* ✘

✘ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✘

✘ Al Damman, Andy Damman, Tim Hodson, *Ushers* ✘

✘ Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✘

THE FLOWERS:

- Flowers placed on the altar are provided by the family of Clara Meyer in honor of her 90th birthday on May 17th. We are grateful to God for her many blessings and for the wonderful blessing that she is to us. Happy Birthday and Happy Mother's Day, too!
- Flowers placed on the piano are in celebration of the 55th Wedding Anniversary of *Elmer & Linda Riefers* and are placed by their family. They were married on May 7, 1960 by *Rev. George Maassel*. Congratulations, Elmer and Linda; and many more years together!

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 Worship Service w/Communion following <i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Worship Service
Tue.	9:00 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class; 8 th Grade Quiz Bowl at Central School Bible Study w/Vicar Shoaff Church Council Meeting
Wed.	7:00 PM	Confirmation Public Questioning
Thurs.	9:00 AM	Exercise Class; 7 th Grade Quiz Bowl at Central School
Sun.	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM 6:30 PM	Early Communion Service Adult Bible Class; "Time To Spare" Late Service with Confirmation and Communion 4-H Meetings (All clubs)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Stephen Niermann</i> , St. John Lutheran, Napoleon

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 Schroeder, and Connor Gerken*
- ❖ *Casen Lawrence, Rosie Gruenhagen, and Renetta Homan*, with health related issues
- ❖ *Lucia Delventhal*, at Fulton Manor for physical rehab following a mini stroke

HOLY COMMUNION will be offered this morning following the service. Those who wish to attend should fill out a card from the pew rack in front of you and give it to the usher as you leave your pew this morning. Return immediately to the front pews in the sanctuary.



JAVA JOY TODAY! It's the second Sunday of the month, and that means **Java Joy** after worship. Take a little time to enjoy a bite to eat and some fellowship. A table is set up in the front hallway. Your gifts to the "kitty" help keep **Java Joy** alive and going. We thank the *Rob & Valerie Scheffert* and *Peter & Karen Gerken* for hosting Java Joy for May. Be a **Java Joy** host. Every second Sunday of the month we aim to have this time of fellowship. If you would like to host one of

these, please sign up on the table in the narthex. Don't let finances stop you – you are welcome to reimburse your expenses from the kitty if you wish.

CHANGE OF SUNDAY 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 31st.

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. In **Letter #31**, the last of the letters, Screwtape deals harshly with Wormwood who has lost his patient to heaven. 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.
- **STARTING NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 17th**: **“WHY LUTHERANS SING WHAT THEY SING”** –

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School will be cancelled on Sun., May 17th due to Confirmation. Also, the last Sunday of May (31st) will be the last date for Sunday School until we resume again in the fall of 2015 (Sept. 6).

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

Join *Vicar Shoaff* and your brothers and sisters in Christ as we study the Epistle of James. James writes, "Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation...the rich man will fade away in the midst of his pursuits." Christians throughout history have shunned worldly possessions and taken vows of poverty in order to imitate their Savior. Is voluntary poverty a requirement for a true Christian? Is there a danger in this sort of thinking? On the other hand, what are the dangers of wealth? Is it OK for me to buy and own things that I desire? Find out **this** Tuesday! The Bible study meets in the **north end of the fellowship hall** this (*and every*) **Tuesday (10AM-11:15AM)**

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES HAVE BEGUN – From now through October; you will have the opportunity of worshipping on **Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.** Until school is out for the summer, these services will be held in the sanctuary; once school is out, they will move to the north end of the fellowship hall. 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 (with the exception of this coming Thursday, which is the joint Ascension Day service).

RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP GIFT MATCHING CONTINUES

– **Great news!** We learned this week that the original \$75,000 challenge gift has accrued interest, and that there are therefore more funds left to be matched. This will enable us to completely retire the remaining boiler and fellowship hall debt (just another \$7,000 or so to go), and a little more besides. So for the time being, any gifts given to the Right Hand of Fellowship campaign will again be matched. We thank God for the generosity of everyone’s gifts!

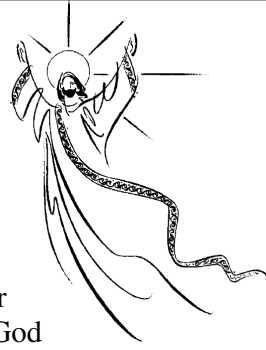


LUTHERAN WITNESS RENEWAL – It’s time to renew your subscription to the Lutheran Witness for this year. To subscribe or renew your subscription, **simply place \$17.00 in an envelope**, along with your name and address, and place it in the Sunday collection plate or bring it down to the church office.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

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, this Thursday, May 14th 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.



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION – On Sunday, May 24th we invite all of you to gather with us in the early service for graduate recognition. We'll remember your confirmation theme, we'll ask you about your plans for the future, and commend those plans to God in prayer. In the meantime, we'd appreciate having a picture of each graduate that we can project during the recognition. Email them to *Pastor Niermann* at sniermann.sjl@gmail.com, or drop off in the office.

A BIG DAY ON SUNDAY, MAY 31 – Three weeks from today, there will be a lot happening here at St. John – be sure you're in God's house!

- **One Sunday service schedule begins** – worship at 9:00 a.m.
- **SJLS Graduation** – With prayer and congratulations, we will graduate the SJLS class of 2015.
- **Teacher Installation** – **Miss Sarah Bartok** will be installed as our new 5-6 grade teacher.
- **Potluck Dinner** – Graduates will be our guests of honor as we gather for food and fellowship at 11:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share!
- **Field Day** – After dinner, the children and youth will head outside for some fun field day events; parents may want to bring lawn chairs to take it all in.

Sunday
May 31

TABLES & CHAIRS REMINDER: If you have a Confirmation or Graduation celebration this year, this is just a reminder that the church is no longer loaning out tables and chairs for these functions. Please make other arrangements. Thank you!

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 5/03/15	\$9,411.00	\$282.00	\$458.00

ATTENDANCE: 5/03/15 – Early Service: 114; Late Service: 82

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.

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.

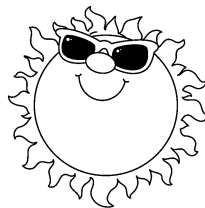
LYF – GET OUT THE WORD! It’s official – in June we’re going to be joining the youth of St. James, Burlington on a camping expedition to the great sand dunes of southern Colorado. We’ll be crossing into northern New Mexico as well to see some amazing places. Imagine exploring the ancient ruins of the 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!



- **Chaperones/drivers needed** – If you can join the youth to be part of shaping them as Christians and just to enjoy the trip with them, please speak with Pastor Niermann.

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.



GARDEN PRODUCE SHARING – When you plant your gardens this spring, keep in mind our produce swap later in the summer. There will be a table under the carport to which you can bring your produce to share, or from which you can take any produce you can use. It’s a great way for us to share the bounty of God’s good gifts!

ESSENTIAL EXERCISE FOR THE CHRISTIAN MIND...Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: Joel Osteen's Book "You Can, You Will," The Movie "Avengers: Age of Ultron," Lutheran Missions, Paul & Silas in Prison and more. You can listen to what you want when you want at www.issuesetc.org.



FELLOWSHIP ON THE FAIRWAYS – St. John Golf Outing

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 28 for an afternoon round of golf at White Pines. It's the first annual *Fellowship on the Fairways* golf outing. Forms to begin signing up teams will be available soon. This scramble event will begin with a 1:30 p.m. shotgun. Cost is \$35 per person, which includes golf, cart, meal and prizes. This is a fund raiser for the Right Hand of Fellowship campaign, and all proceeds will be matched.

A HIDDEN TREASURE – Many of you are not aware that St. John School has been blessed since 2008 with a check from someone in our community who chose to donate between \$25 and \$100 each week to the school. This man was Richard Luzny, a local realtor, who is now retiring. Since 2008, he has donated more than \$14,000 to the school to be used as we see fit. We have used it to fund our spring musicals and our music program, helped out a few families with financial assistance, purchased workbooks for the classrooms, purchased software programs for the library, etc. We cannot begin to thank Richard for all of his financial support to the school over the years. In mid-April with our check came a note that read: "Dear Friends, Enclosed is my last check to you for a while. I am going into retirement. May the Father bless you all." Signed, *Richard*

MAKE UP AND LAST DAY OF SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN will Fri., **May 29th** with early dismissal at 2:00 PM. Closing Day festivities include: Closing chapel at 12:40 PM; as well as Kindergarten graduation, awards, prizes. All parents are welcome to come. This is for students in K-garten through Grade 8. Academic and Attendance Awards will be handed out as well as other awards. **Please note: This service will include Kindergarten Graduation.**

ST. JOHN FIELD DAY: The St. John Field Day will be held on 8th Grade Graduation Sunday, May 31st beginning at 12:00 PM.

PRESCHOOL HAPPENINGS: ♦ **Last 3 year old student day** is Fri., May 22nd. ♦ **Last 4&5 year old student day** is Thurs., May 21st. ♦ **Preschool Graduation** will be **Thurs., May 21st** at 6:30 PM in the church. There will be a short program followed by light refreshments in the fellowship hall.

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.

HOSPICE BAZAAR: The 9th 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 1st. 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!

RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPT. AUXILIARY will be hosting a Drive Thru Chicken BBQ on Sun., May 17th at the Ridgeville Fire Station. Serving begins at 11:00 AM until gone. Menu consists of: *½ Chicken, Baked Potato, Coleslaw, Roll, and Butter.* Cost is free will donation.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE: The Ridgeville Corners Memorial Day service to remember those who served our country will be held on **Mon., May 25 at 10:30 AM** at the Ridgeville American Legion. **Flag Drill:** Children age PreK thru 4th Grade are invited to participate in the flag drill during the Ridgeville Memorial Day service. Call *Laura Bickel* at 419-267-5203 or *Jenny Behnfeldt* at 419-267-5636 for questions or more info on the flag drill.

SAVE THE DATE: The 8th *Annual Stephanie Lynn Kossow Memorial Golf Outing* will be held on Sat., July 25th, with a 1:00 PM shotgun start. Registration forms available on the narthex table!

‘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 made at any time. Monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your offering envelope). Food donations for our pantry can be dropped off in the box by the Archives display cases. **Food items especially needed at this time are: spaghetti sauce, cereal, mac n’ cheese, saltines & any crackers, and hamburger helper.** 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*)

ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOL & YOUNG ADULTS: Join us in the Cry Room after church each Sunday for Bible Study, fellowship, and snacks. Feed your soul and your body to start your week out right! Looking forward to having you join us each week! *Sharon Damman*

BULLETIN NOTES need to be turned in to the office by Wednesday of each week in order to be included in the Thursday and Sunday bulletin. Please make a note of this. Thank you!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

A. S. A. P. – Always Say A Prayer!

“Pray without ceasing.” (1 Thess. 4:17)

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.

PROJECT CONNECT – There are many free booklets in the rack in the narthex. Be sure to check for some good reading. Some titles are: “*Why Do Bad Things Happen To Me,*” “*Has God Abandoned Me,*” “*Dealing with Depression,*” “*Coping with Cancer,*” “*Who Is Jesus,*” “*Just Stress?*”, “*Overcoming A Painful Childhood,*” “*Where’s God in All of This?*”, “*Why Should I go to Church?*” and many more. These booklets are furnished through the Lutheran Hour Ministries.

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** into your browser (*there is no link*) and fill out the application. Deadline for fall enrollment is June 1st.

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 details.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR – The Lutheran Hour Ministries can be heard on several radio stations in our area. They cover many interesting topics relevant to today’s issues. Broadcasts can be heard Sundays on: Holland’s WPOS 102.3 at 7:00 AM; Archbold’s WMTR 96.1 at 7:30 AM; Defiance’s WONW (AM)1280 at 10:30 AM; Napoleon’s WNDH 103.1 at 12:00 PM.

“WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS”: “Worship for Shut-Ins” has joined the WLMB-TV40 line up. If you have a relative or friend who is homebound, hospitalized, or recovering from a recent surgery, you may suggest this 30-minute LCMS worship service to them. So tune in to WLMB-TV40 on Sundays at 6:30 AM and get your Sunday started off right!

BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION, AND POP TABS: Our school also collects *Box Tops For Education*, and aluminum pop tabs all year long. *Box Tops For Education* is an ongoing PTL fundraiser earning 10¢ per box top for the PTL. They too have expanded their sponsors, so be sure to check over your grocery items carefully so you don’t miss any box tops. The pop tabs collected all go to support the Ronald McDonald House in Toledo. 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!