



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

May 17, 2015

VOL. 80

NO. 20

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

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### SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

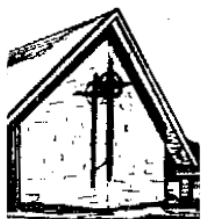
Sermon & Text: "Chosen" Acts 2:12-26  
Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*  
Hymns: 493 ~ 949:2 ~ 689 ~ [Communion: 821,701] ~ 664  
Adult Bell Choir: (*Late*) "Children of the Heavenly Father"

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### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*A warm welcome to all, especially friends and relatives of our Confirmation Class. If you are visiting with us this morning, help us get to know you better by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and pass it to the center aisle during the offering. You can also register your name in the Guest Book in the Narthex and introduce yourself to the Pastor.*

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

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ 1<sup>st</sup> Service: Maggie Weller & Lydia Babcock, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: Caleb Bockelman & Brooks Behnfeldt, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Scott & Kim VanValkenburg, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Al Damman, Andy Damman, Tim Hodson, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✠

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed by this year's Confirmation Class.

MARRIAGE VOWS: We rejoice with *Seth Handy* and *Kacie Hodson*, who were married yesterday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM here at St. John. We pray that they may have many happy years together as husband and wife. Congratulations to newlyweds, Seth & Kacie!

VOTERS MEETING – There is going to be a Special Voters' Meeting on Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> immediately following the first service. The only item on the agenda is approval by the congregation to issue a call for a principal.

**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 6:30 PM	Early Communion Service Adult Bible Class; "Time To Spare" Late Service with Confirmation and Communion 4-H Meetings (All clubs)
Tue.	9:00 AM 10:00AM	Exercise Class Bible Study w/Vicar Shoaff
Thurs.	9:00 AM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Preschool Graduation in the sanctuary Thursday Evening Praise (in fellowship hall – north end)
Sun.	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM	Early Worship Service <b>Voters' Meeting;</b> Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Worship Service
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Theodore Rellstab</i> , St. John Lutheran, Holgate

**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, *Justin Atkinson, Kyle Elling, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, and Connor Gerken*
- ❖ *Lucia Delventhal*, at home recuperating following a mini stroke
- ❖ *Carey Damman*, at home recuperating from successful knee replacement surgery

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Sunday School is cancelled today due to Confirmation. Also, the last Sunday of May (31<sup>st</sup>) will be the last date for Sunday School. There will be no Sunday School for the months of June, July, and August. We will resume Sunday School the first Sunday in September, which will be promotion Sunday.

# Chosen

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2015**

Whatever these young Christians may or may not be chosen for in this world, this much is certain – God has chosen them in Christ and by faith and baptism to be His children and heirs of eternal life! Keep these young people in your prayers and join them regularly at the Sacrament of the Altar for the strengthening of our faith and fellowship. This year's confirmands are:

*Callyn Jo Bialorucki*  
*Katelyn Jayne Drewes*  
*Anna Elizabeth Gerken*

*Braden Lee Gerken*  
*Mitchell Todd Kruse*  
*David Bradley Maassel*

**GONE TOO SOON:** We mourn the sudden loss of William “Will” Gruenhagen, 20, on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Will’s funeral was held here at St. John on Thurs., May 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM. His burial was in St. John Lutheran Cemetery. Please add Alan, Lori, Alex, Haley, and Luke to your daily prayers at this incredibly difficult time for them. Also, for grandparents, Marvin & Arlene, and Arlene (Lori’s mother), who are also experiencing tremendous grief at Will’s death. Prayers for strength to you all!

**THANK YOU** – *Henry Gerken* would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and visits during his recent hospitalization and recuperation for back surgery. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated. It’s good to be worshipping with you again.

## **SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY!**

### **Why Lutherans Sing What They Sing** – begins today!

Many times members will ask why we sing the hymns we do and why we don’t sing other kinds of songs, especially songs like those we hear on the radio as “contemporary Christian music” (CCM). This Bible study will look at that question in depth and provide the answers you’ve been seeking. Join Pastor Niermann and Vicar Shoaff as they tag-team teach this study. We’ll meet this morning in the fellowship hall – please join us!

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION** – Next Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

**THE DATE IS SET!!!** Miss Mary Rettig’s retirement celebration will be held on Sun., June 7<sup>th</sup> immediately following the church service. Mark your calendars and plan to join us as we honor Mary for her many years of dedicated service to the members and students of St. John Lutheran Church and School. Plans are still in the works...but you can plan on a program and potluck meal for sure. Hope to see many of you there on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June!

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 5/10/15	\$7,120.00	\$302.00	\$458.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Thursday Evening Service: 33; 5/10/15 – Early Service: 114; Late Service: 82

**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.

**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 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **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 furnace 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!



**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!

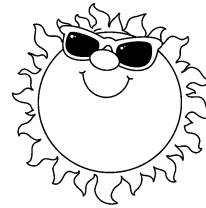
- **One Sunday service schedule begins** – worship at 9:00 a.m.
- **SJLS Graduation** – With prayer and congratulations, we will graduate the SJLS class of 2015.
- **Teacher Installation** – **Miss Sarah Bartok** will be installed as our new 5-6 grade teacher.
- **Potluck Dinner** – Graduates will be 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.



**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!

**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 will be coming soon!
- **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. (see announcement elsewhere in this bulletin)
- **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.



**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!

**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 TODAY!**

**WHERE DOCTRINE IS LIFE...Issues, Etc.** is a radio talk show hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. This week's topics include: Biblical Womanhood, The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit, Esther, 8th Century Theologian Bede the Venerable and more. You can listen at your convenience at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org).

**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.

**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.



**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.

**MAKE UP AND LAST DAY OF SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN** will Fri., May 29<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**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!

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

**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.

**INTERESTED IN A CHURCH PROFESSION? WE'D LIKE TO HELP!** 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 1<sup>st</sup>.

**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.

**4-H:** The Gerald Busy Fingers, Cloverbuds, and Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Clubs will be having their next meeting **today beginning at 6:30 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. **NOTE TIME CHANGE!**

**RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPT. AUXILIARY** will be hosting a Drive Thru Chicken BBQ today 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> *Annual Stephanie Lynn Kossow Memorial Golf Outing* will be held on Sat., July 25<sup>th</sup>, with a 1:00 PM shotgun start. Registration forms available on the narthex table!

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**Can you spell love? G-O-D**

*“Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” (1 John 4:8)*