



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

May 24, 2015

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NO. 21

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

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### THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Afraid of the Holy Ghost?" Acts 2:4

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: 502 ~ 498 ~ 489 ~ 965 ~ 434 ~ [Communion: 500, 497] ~ 913

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### WELCOME TO OUR VETERANS & VISITORS

*On this Memorial Day Weekend, welcome to this service of worship in which we remember, with reverence and thanksgiving, those who gave their lives for our country. Above all, however, we would remember Him whose love includes people of all nations—our Lord Jesus who gave His life for all of us. May the remembrance of His sacrifice bring reconciliation and peace! If you are visiting with us this morning, 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.*

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

- ✘ Bethann Gerken, *Pianist* ✘ 1<sup>st</sup> Service: Katelyn Drewes & Maggie Weller, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: Bailey Johnson & Tyne Rosebrock, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Tom & Sandy VonDeylen, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *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 in honor of the Golden Wedding Anniversary of *Reldon (Shorty) & Mabel Bischoff!* They were married on May 22, 1965 by *Rev. Richard Ludwig* in Decatur, IN. They have one daughter, Stacy, and 3 grandchildren. Long-time friends, *Ted & Marge Bostelman*, are also celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They were married on May 21, 1965 and have 3 children, *Ted (Patricia) Bostelman, Ike (Heather) Bostelman, and Marcia (Bob) Gobrogge*, along with 6 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

The couples will be celebrating with an Open House at the St. Paul Youth Center, 1075 Glenwood Ave, Napoleon, TODAY, May 24, 2015, from 1-4 PM. Please stop in to wish them well and share some unforgettable memories.

**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	Early Worship Service <b>Voters' Meeting</b> ; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Worship Service
Mon.	10:30AM	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> due to observance of Memorial Day Memorial Day Service at Ridgeville American Legion
Tue.	9:00 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Bible Study w/Vicar Shoaff Board of Elders; Women of Freedom Meeting
Thurs.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Thursday Evening Praise (in fellowship hall – north end)
Fri.	12:40PM 2:00 PM	Last Student day of school Closing Chapel Service; Kindergarten Graduation; Academic Awards; Early Dismissal
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 11:00AM 2:30 PM	Worship Service w/8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation; Installation of 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, <i>Miss Sarah Bartok</i> Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Potluck Meal followed by Field Day for PS thru Grade 8 children 4-H Meetings (All clubs)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. James Strawn</i> , St. James Lutheran, Archbold

**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*
- ❖ *Lucia Delventhal*, at home recuperating following a mini stroke
- ❖ *Carey Damman*, at home recuperating from successful knee replacement surgery

**VOTERS MEETING** – There is going to be a Special Voters' Meeting today immediately following the first service. The only item on the agenda is approval by the congregation to issue a call for a principal and Gr. 7&8 teacher.

**THANK YOU** – *Shorty & Mabel Bischoff* would like to thank whoever surprised them by putting the flowers on the altar for their anniversary celebration today. They are beautiful!!

**"THANK YOU!"** to everyone who gave me birthday cards, gifts, and well wishes for my 90th birthday. God's blessings to you all! *Clara Meyer*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** 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.

**SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY!**

**Why Lutherans Sing What They Sing** – begins today in the fellowship hall!

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.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION** – This morning we have invited

this year's high school graduates (the confirmation class of 2011) to come together again in the early service. We'll remember their confirmation theme, ask about their plans for the future, and commend them and their plans to God in prayer. Congratulations to the high school graduates of 2015! May God richly bless the years ahead. They are: *Lucas Damman, Olyvia Dickmann, Jared Dishop, Dean Drewes, Justin Flory, Seth Gerken, Amanda Gruenhagen, Luke Gruenhagen, Kendra Michaelis, Grace Norden, Kyle Showman, Allison VerMeulen, and Jacob VonDeylen.*



**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!

**ONE SERVICE SCHEDULE BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY** – 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 NEXT SUNDAY, May 31<sup>st</sup>.**

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 5/17/15	\$7,154.00	\$235.00	\$766.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Thursday Evening Service: 112; 5/17/15 – Early Service: 118; Late Service: 185

**THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES HAVE BEGUN** – From now through October, you will have the opportunity of worshipping on **Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.** in 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.

**TWO WOODEN KITCHEN TABLES:** Church Council would like to offer "for sale to highest bidder" the two big wooden tables with Formica tops that were previously used in the kitchen. This will be done by closed bid purchase. Please contact *Denny Bockelman* at 419-598-8822 with questions on this.

**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!

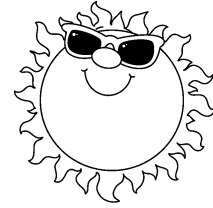
- **One Sunday service schedule begins** – worship at 9:00 a.m.
- **SJLS Graduation** – With prayer and congratulations, we will graduate the SJLS class of 2015.
- **Teacher Installation** – **Miss Sarah Bartok** will be installed as our new 5-6 grade teacher.
- **Potluck Dinner** – Graduates will be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

**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.



**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.**

**ZACH'S RECYCLING PROGRAM** – Please make a note to bring your recyclables directly to Zach's Recycling on Filmore Street in Napoleon. **Do not bring them to St. John School.** When taking them to Zach's, simply tell them to put your recyclables on the St. John Lutheran School account. That's it---very simple!

**EAGLE NEWS**: The Eagle News publication will be passed out today as you leave the services. It is also available online via FastDirect. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnsfreedom/>, click on “Links” at the top of the page, then click on “Eagle News-May” in the “Everybody” column. Enjoy!

**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!

**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](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>.

**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.



**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 are available in the narthex – sign up as a full or partial team or as an individual. 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.

**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!



**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.

**BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS** 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!

**PRAYER CALENDAR NOTE:** Please be aware that if you would like your wedding anniversaries printed on the prayer calendars, you will have to post them each year. Just list them on the blank calendars posted on the bulletin board in the narthex throughout the year. Thank you!

**'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, saltines & any crackers.** 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*)

**ST. JOHN CHURCH LIBRARY** – Stop in and check out the growing number of books available in the church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary. 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. To borrow a book, just take it with you, and then return it to the basket when you've finished reading. A complete list of the books in the church's library can be found by clicking on the "Book Inventory" link on the library page of our church's website. <http://www.sjl.org/library.html>.

**4-H:** The Gerald Busy Fingers, Cloverbuds, and Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Clubs will be having their next meeting Sun., May 31 at 2:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

**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...

**Faithbook: Jesus' way of sending you a friend request.**

*“I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.” (John 15:15)*