



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

July 5, 2015

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NO. 27

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

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Church Website: [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)

### SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: “#LoveWins” *Ezekiel 2:1-7*

Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting Three – LSB pg. 184*

Hymns: **612 ~ 583 ~** (Communion: **632, 620, 839**) ~ **966**

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### **WELCOME TO OUR FRIENDS AND VISITORS**

*Warm greetings and love in Christ are extended to all members and guests. We trust that you will experience the warmth of Christian fellowship, the inspiration of worship and the peace that comes from an awareness of God's presence. If you are a visitor, we ask that you fill out a Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and pass it to the center aisle during the offering this morning. Your presence is a blessing to us.*

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

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Mitchell Kruse & Brady Gerken, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Richard & Bev Elling, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Harold Behrmann & Richard Elling, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Carey Damman, Craig Drewes, Scott VanValkenburg, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham, *Altar Guild* ✠

### **SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY!**

**Why Lutherans Sing What They Sing** – “A Lutheran hymn is not entertainment, but proclamation.” This is the second criterion suggested by Rev. Chad Bird for a hymn that is appropriate for God’s house and God’s people. Music as entertainment is, of course, a huge business in our nation, but it’s not what we’re after in Christ’s Church. If you’ve ever wondered why we sing what we sing in worship, and why we don’t sing other kinds of songs, like those we hear on the radio as “contemporary Christian music” (CCM), this study is for you! 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!

**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	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class
Tue.	9:00 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Bible Study w/ <i>Vicar Shoaff</i> School Board and Stewardship Meetings
Thurs.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Thursday Evening Praise
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Class
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Jeff Corder</i> , 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 Schroeder, and Connor Gerken*
- ❖ *Susan Nye*, recuperating from successful knee replacement surgery
- ❖ *Florence Fitzenreiter*, recuperating at home now

**JULY OFFICE HOURS:** Please note the change in church office hours during the month of July.

They are Monday thru Friday: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. If making a special trip, please call (419-598-8961) to guarantee someone will be here. Thank you!

**PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS** for the next quarter, *July, August, September*, are on the desk in the back of the church. There are also large print booklets available for anybody to pick up.

**BE A JAVA JOY HOST!** Every second Sunday of the month after worship, we aim to have a time of fellowship with coffee, juice and snacks called **Java Joy**. If you would like to host one of these, please sign up in the narthex. Don't let finances stop you – you are welcome to reimburse your expenses from the kitty if you wish.



<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 6/28/15	\$7,420.00	\$287.00	\$598.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Thursday Evening Service: 44; 6/28/15 Service: 185

**COMMUNED** in June: 335 members; 14 guests

**OHIO DISTRICT CONVENTION NEWS** – A little over a week ago, Pastor Niermann and Mark Elling represented St. John, Freedom at the *Ohio District Convention* (June 25-27) in Ann Arbor. To read the minutes of the convention, go to the Ohio District website (oh.lcms.org) and click on the convention link. Once there, scroll down to find the links for the minutes.

**FELLOWSHIP ON THE FAIRWAYS** – **It was a lot of fun!** Last Sunday, on a glorious afternoon, we had our first annual church golf outing at *White Pines Golf Course*. Our thanks to all those who turned out for the fun and fellowship, and to support this fundraiser for our *Right Hand of Fellowship* campaign, and to the Stewardship Board for planning the event. Congratulations to the *Larry & Krista Gerken* family team for pulling down the big prize! If you missed it, you'll want to be sure to get signed up next year!

## **A NEW APPROACH TO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

### **Starting Fall of 2015**

“**CROSS EXPLORATIONS**” (*CE*) is a curriculum and a new model for Sunday School (grades K-6) published by *Concordia Publishing House*. Instead of traditional classrooms, *CE* places students into two groups (grades K-3 and 4-6) who rotate to three different sites called **Engage** (a worship opening), **Explore** (the day's Bible lesson) and **Express** (activities related to the day's lesson).



The advantages for students are that they will engage more of their senses in learning, and will be provided a break from the traditional classrooms they are in all week long. For adult volunteers, it's much less of a time commitment. Instead of one teacher having all of the students for the full class period, volunteers lead one rotation each, lasting only 15 or 20 minutes, and then they're done for the morning.

We would like to form at least three *CE Teams*, who would then lead the Sunday School on a rotating basis. Each team would consist of...

- **One ENGAGE Leader** – leads all students, grades K-6, in an opening worship from approximately 10:15 to 10:25 a.m. (including hymns, songs, readings, etc.)
- **Four EXPLORE Leaders** (a leader and a helper for each group) – lead the day's Bible lesson from 10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. (materials similar to what we've been using).
- **Two EXPRESS Leaders** – collaborate to lead the activities in the gym related to the day's lesson from 10:50 to 11:05 a.m. Activities may include crafts, games, or skits.

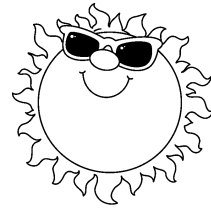
Sign up for staff positions has begun. For more information and to look at some sample materials, see the display in the narthex. If you'd like to volunteer on a *CE Team*, you can sign up at the display table in the narthex, and feel free to up for more than one team.

**REPORT CARDS** can be picked up today in envelopes (*one per family*) at the narthex table.

**ATHLETIC DIRECTOR POSITION**: As of the end of the school year, St. John's has an opening for the position of Athletic Director (as Jason Foor has decided to step away from this position). Anyone interested in applying for this paid position should contact School Board President, *Matt Schroeder* (until July 1<sup>st</sup>). After July 1<sup>st</sup> please contact incoming Board President *Brad Rosebrook*.

**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.

- **July 26 (Sun) --- Farewell to Vicar Shoaff and family.** We'll have a potluck meal at 11:30 a.m. so you can either attend Bible study or head home to get your things together for the potluck.
- **August 9 (Sun) --- Welcome reception for the new vicar** after worship.
- **August 30 (Sun) --- Outdoor Worship Service** (*revised date*) 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.



**AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED** – Again this year, the Stewardship Board is planning a ***Right Hand of Fellowship*** fundraising auction in connection with the outdoor service on Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup> (*proceeds to be matched*). Please be thinking about items you might be able to donate.

**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.

**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!

**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.

**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.

**AREA EVENTS:**

- **Historical Society of Grand Rapids** presents "Li'l Abner", July 10, 11, & 12, 2015, in Grand Rapids, OH. See flyer for times and ticket information!
- **Ice Cream Social** hosted by St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Domersville and Nagel Roads, Defiance, OH, on Sun., July 19<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Free will donation! See flyer!
- **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 deadline is Fri., July 17th!**

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**True freedom is in Christ alone!**

*"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36)*