



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

July 12, 2015

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NO. 28

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

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Church Website: www.sjl.org

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "The Head of John the Baptist" *Mark 6:14-29*

Order of Service: **Thurs.** – *Vespers (LSB pg. 229)*; **Sun.** – *Morning Prayer (LSB pg. 235)*

Hymns: 724, stz. 1-5 ~ 724, stz. 6-10 ~ 713

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

You are among Christian friends today. We all have come to the Lord's House to hear what He has to say and to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. We pray that His grace will touch and move you. 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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Bailey Johnson & Anna Gerken, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Peter & Karen Gerken, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *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 shaped by the theology of the cross." This is the third criterion suggested by Rev. Chad Bird for a hymn that is appropriate for God's house and God's people. Who God is and how He deals with us is made known through suffering and the cross. As such, music fit for God's house must also bear the cruciform image of Christ. 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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service w/Communion following <i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Class
Tue.	9:00 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Bible Study w/ <i>Vicar Shoaff</i> Church Council Meeting
Thurs.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Thursday Evening Praise
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Lee Genter</i> , Lutheran Home - 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*
- ❖ *Dawn Dickmann*, recuperating from back surgery
- ❖ *John Damman*, hospitalized at Fulton County Health Ctr. for gall bladder surgery
- ❖ *Don Dickmann*, hospitalized at Henry County Hospital with pneumonia



REVISED COMMUNION SCHEDULE FOR JULY – The schedule for Holy Communion this month has been changed to accommodate vacation dates. **Holy Communion will be offered again this month on the fourth Sunday (July 26th) and on the Thursday prior (July 23rd).** Also, Communion will not be celebrated this morning after worship as usual.

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!

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 7/05/15	\$7,130.00	\$107.00	\$768.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday Evening Service: 48; 7/05/15 Service: 138

VICAR TRANSITION – It's been nearly a year since Vicar Shoaff was inducted as our first vicar at St. John. It's just about time to bid the Shoaff family farewell and to welcome a new vicar. Here are some things to note:

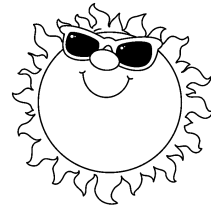
- **Farewell to the Shoaffs** – Sunday, July 26th will be Vicar Shoaff's last day on the job. After worship we will receive a door offering for the Shoaffs. Then at 11:30 a.m. we will have a farewell potluck luncheon. Bring a dish to share!
- **Moving the Vicars** – On Tuesday evening, July 28th we will load the Shoaff's belongings into trailers, then move them to Fort Wayne on Wednesday morning, July 29th. In Fort Wayne we'll load the trailers again with the Yaeger's belongings and move them back to Freedom Township. If you can help on either of these days, please speak with Denny Bockelman.
- **House Cleaning Crew** – On moving day we are assembling a crew to assist Dave & Teresa Damman in doing a thorough cleaning of the house. Bring buckets, rags and gloves, and we'll go at it together!
- **New Vicar Reception** – On Sunday, August 9th Vicar Aaron Yaeger will be inducted during the morning service. After the service we will have a reception in the fellowship hall with the Yaegers as our guests of honor. Join us, and get to know our new vicar!

WOMEN OF FREEDOM MEETING: Our next Women of FREEDOM Meeting will be held on July 28th at 7:00 PM. *Miss Sarah Bartok* will be our speaker. The following is what she will share with us about her mission trip... "This past June, six other ladies and I started out on a week long journey to La Union, Guatemala. Our task was to conduct classes at six "English as a Second Language" (ESL) schools to the local children. This trip was not easy, especially when new obstacles were thrown at us each day. But throughout that week, God taught us how to love despite the language barrier, to give thanks in all circumstances, to always laugh when times get hard, to trust in Him, and to come to Him in prayer in both the good and bad times."

Please bring your mite boxes to this meeting. The Quarterly and Odes are ready to be picked up on the narthex table for anyone liking one. These meetings are open to all women of the church.

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

- **July 26 (Sun) --- Farewell to Vicar Shoaff and family.** See bulletin note under "Vicar Transition" heading.
- **August 9 (Sun) --- Induction of the new vicar** and welcome reception 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 30th (proceeds to be matched). Please be thinking about items you might be able to donate. We will begin collecting those items in August.

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).



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. **We will hold a staff meeting on Sunday, August 9th at approximately 10:45 a.m. (after the new vicar reception).** 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.

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!

AREA EVENTS:

- **Historical Society of Grand Rapids** presents “Li’l Abner”, July 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 19th from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Free will donation! See flyer!
- **8th Annual Stephanie Lynn Kossow Memorial Golf Outing** will be held on Sat., July 25th, with a 1:00 PM shotgun start. **Registration deadline is Fri., July 17th!**

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

God’s Word is the light *IN* the tunnel!

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” (Palm 119:1-5)