



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

April 24, 2016

VOL. 81

NO. 17

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Mr. Aaron Yaeger, Vicar
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
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Church Website: www.sjl.org

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon & Text: "A Little While" *John 16:12-22*

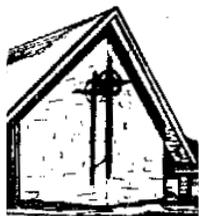
Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: 700 ~ 818 ~ [Baptism: *Borning Cry*, 603] ~ 673 ~ 469, stz.1, 4-5 ~ 478

Children's Choir: *Grades K-8 sing "Let Me Learn of Jesus"*

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest this morning, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to our pastor and by filling out the 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* ✠ Aden Foor & Lydia Babcock, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dave & Sara Myles, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Carey Damman, Craig Drewes, Scott VanValkenburg, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Linda Riefers, Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff, *Altar Guild* ✠

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed in celebration of the 67th Wedding Anniversary of *Don & Delores Badenhop* and are placed by their family. They were married on April 21, 1949. Congratulations, Don & Delores; and wishing you many more years together!

LifeLight Bible Study – This week we complete our nine-session study of the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. Our study this week is titled, "**The Holy Trinity and Man.**" We'll explore man's original place with respect to God, how sin affected the relationship, and how God moved to restore it. The Monday evening group meets at 7:00 p.m.; the Tuesday morning group meets at 10:00 a.m. We will also discuss which **LifeLight** study we might like to look at next. Please join us!

In God's House This WeekOnline church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

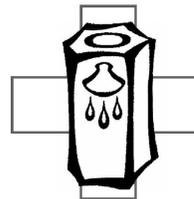
| Date | Time | Activities |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Today | 9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:00 PM | Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" 4-H Meetings (<i>All 3 Clubs</i>) |
| Mon. | 5:30 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM | <i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution Spring Musical "Full Costume" Dress Rehearsal (<i>Gr. K-8 until 8:00 PM</i>) <i>Trinity LifeLight</i> Bible Study |
| Tue. | 8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM | Chapel led by Gr. 5&6; Offering: <i>The Lutheran Home-Napoleon</i> Exercise Class <i>Trinity LifeLight</i> Bible Study Shepherd Committee Board of Elders |
| Wed. | 9:30 AM 6:15 PM 7:00 PM | Spring Musical Preview Performance (<i>Congregation invited</i>) Jr. Hi Confirmation Class Adult Choir Practice |
| Thurs. | | Exercise Class |
| Fri. | 7:00 PM | Spring Musical performance of <i>Alice in Wonderland Jr.</i> |
| Sun. | 9:00 AM 10:20AM 2:00 PM | Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Spring Musical performance of <i>Alice in Wonderland Jr.</i> |
| Mon.- Sat. | 7:30 AM | Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Dale Kern</i> , Retired – St. John Lutheran, Stryker |

MATTERS FOR PRAYER – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Norma Damman, Don Dickmann, and Lucia Delventhal*
- ❖ *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
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Orchards of Northcrest - Napoleon
- ❖ Servicemen and women, *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Kyle Elling, Emily Schroeder, and Connor Gerken*
- ❖ *Lois Rosebrock*, recovering at home after hip replacement
- ❖ *Vernon Kruse*, diagnosed with a spot of lung cancer
- ❖ *Betty Ashbaugh*, rehabilitating at The Lutheran Home following hip replacement
- ❖ *Pastor Stephen Post*, missionary to Belize, and the impoverished people with whom he shares the Gospel of Christ

2015 CHURCH ANNUAL will be available on the desk and table in the narthex following the service today. Thanks to everyone for your information submitted to be included in this report. And many thanks to those of you who helped collate this big report. Thank you also for your patience.

BAPTISM THIS MORNING – It is our privilege and joy this morning to witness the Easter Showers of baptismal water poured out upon **Jarrett Dean Allen**, infant son of **Andrew & Jessica (nee Weller) Allen**. Jarrett was born on March 15th at the Fulton County Health Center in Wauseon. His baptismal sponsors are *Melissa Michaelis, Holly Weller, and Alex Gruenhagen*; Andrew's brother *Brian* will stand with the family as a witness. Jarrett's grandparents are *Eric & Teresa Weller* and *Bob & Robin Allen*. As God raises this child with Christ in baptism to a new life, we add our prayers that the work He begins this day He would also bring to completion, that Jarrett may one day receive the inheritance of the saints in heaven.



CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2016 – This year's confirmands have a number of important dates coming up.

- On the Wednesdays of May 4th and 11th the confirmands will meet at 6:15 p.m. to prepare for public examination.
- On Thursday, May 5th we will come together from 4:00-7:30 p.m. for a little retreat to study and prepare for the Sacrament of the Altar. Pastor will provide after-school snacks and a pizza supper.
- Public examination is on Thursday, May 12th at 7:00 p.m.
- Confirmation is on Sunday, May 15th

NEW VICAR ASSIGNED THIS WEEK – Last Sunday the congregation formally voted to continue participation in the vicarage program. A new vicar will be assigned to us this Tuesday at one of the two vicarage placement services, either the St. Louis seminary at 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) or at the Fort Wayne seminary at 7:00 p.m. These will be streamed live online; look for information on the respective seminary websites.

- **Former Vicar Reed Shoaff** will receive his first pastoral call at the Fort Wayne seminary call service this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. This service can also be viewed online using the links provided on the seminary website.

Links for the live online streaming of these services will be available on our church website, www.sjl.org. Be sure to check it out!

BIBLE STUDY THIS MORNING

- **Leviticus** – This ancient book is filled with laws regulating the religious and civil life of God's people, Israel. Though many of the regulations no longer apply in this time of Christ, they greatly enrich our understanding of Christ. Now our study moves on to the priesthood itself. Aaron and his sons from the tribe of Levi were appointed to serve as intermediaries between God and His people, and as such are a picture of Christ who mediates our relationship with God. Join Pastor Niermann in the study of this ancient book of the Israelites. We'll meet in the north fellowship hall.
- **Marriage and Family** – Vicar Yaeger is leading a Bible Study in the south fellowship hall, especially for our Sunday School parents and anyone else interested. We'll look at such topics as: Foundations of Marriage and Family in Creation; Biblical Intimacy, Exercising Faith and Love, More Than Romance, and Leaving a Legacy for the family.

| <u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u> | Home Fund | Synod & Missions | Building Fund |
|-------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------|
| Weekly Need | \$9,792.78 | \$500.00 | \$961.54 |
| Rec'd 4/17/16 | \$8,023.00 | \$299.00 | \$265.00 |

ATTENDANCE: 4/17/16 Service: 216

SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES

- **There are a few holes to fill in the Sunday School Staff. We need a few more teachers in the rotation for Preschool and Grades 3-6,** and perhaps also a few people who could be stand-by teachers. Teachers rotate on a three-week schedule, teaching every third Sunday. Please pray about this, and step up to serve by talking with Pastor Niermann or Superintendent Sarah Rosebrock. Thanks!
- **All Sunday School students will be practicing songs and anthems each Sunday in preparation for singing on the third Sunday of each month.** Practices are held immediately after Sunday School opening each Sunday. The children are scheduled to sing next Sunday, April 24th.



ST. JOHN SPRING MUSICAL: “Alice in Wonderland Jr.” is being presented by St. John Lutheran School students on Fri., April 29 at 7:00 PM and also on Sun., May 1 at 2:00 PM in the school gym. Kindergarten through 8th grade students are involved in this musical. There will be a free will admission donation. Many people have put a lot of time and effort into this production, so plan to come and enjoy a very entertaining evening and afternoon with us. Refreshments will be served following each of the performances.



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 16th.**

THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICES will begin in May.

- The first Thursday in May (5/5) is **The Ascension of Our Lord** when we will join our circuit sisters and brothers for the annual joint Ascension service at St. Luke Lutheran, Wauseon with Rev. Keith Witte as this year’s preacher.
- **Thereafter, our Thursday evening worship services will be held each week through October at 7:00 p.m.** Until the school year is finished, we will gather in the sanctuary. Holy Communion will usually be on the Thursday evenings prior to regular Communion Sundays.



ASCENSION SERVICE WITH SISTER CONGREGATIONS – Ascension Day is an oft-forgotten holy day on the church calendar, probably because it always falls on a Thursday (40 days after Easter). This year, however, we will not forget. Our congregation, with Emmaus and St. Luke (Wauseon), and St. Paul (Liberty Center) will gather for a joint service that Thursday evening, May 5th, to celebrate Christ’s ascension and all that it means for us. The service will be held at 7:00 p.m. at St. Luke, Wauseon.

Growing Together MARRIAGE RETREAT – May 20-21

“It's so hard to find time together...” “I can't remember the last time we had a date...”

“It's like we're living separate lives...” “I wish we had time to reconnect...”

For the second year St. John is teaming up with sister congregations in our area to provide a marriage retreat opportunity for all interested married or engaged couples.

This retreat is scheduled for May 20-21 (Friday evening and Saturday) at the beautiful *Lial Renewal Center* in Whitehouse. Information on this retreat is available in the narthex or from the link on our webpage, www.sjl.org. For just \$20 each couple will have a wonderful time away when they can focus on growing together. The cost includes a Friday evening wine and cheese party, and Saturday breakfast and lunch. If you want to lodge overnight at the Renewal Center, the cost is just \$60 more.



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL POSITION OPENINGS – St. John Lutheran School is seeking a few good people to fill two positions that will be opening after this school year.

- **Freedom's Flock Care Provider** – This individual is responsible for the care of the students in our after-school program each day from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- **Librarian** – This person will assist SJLS students on their library days to check out books from our library and maintaining appropriate records.

If you are interested in more information, please speak with Principal Kramer or the chairman of the School Board, Brad Rosebrook.

GOT SOME TIME? Why not be an adult volunteer at St. John School. You could listen to children read, talk about your time in the military, work with flash cards, or tell children about a hobby or craft you enjoy doing. The possibilities are endless and your time with them will be priceless!

If you would be interested in volunteering in the next school year, please call the school office at 419-598-8702 and give us your name and a contact number. The school will contact you. Thank you in advance for thinking about volunteering at our school.

ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES: You may begin ordering SCRIP again. Please turn those orders in on Wednesdays, with payment to *St. John School PTL Scrip Program*. The gift cards will be sent home the following week on Tuesday. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

S.T.O.P. PENNY DRIVE – The PTL Spring Penny Drive at St. John School has begun and runs thru Fri., May 6th. The classroom collecting the most pennies will be treated to a pizza party. All other classrooms will get an ice cream party. Save those pennies and give them to one of our students or turn your pennies in at the school office. **NOTE: Since starting this fundraiser in October 1992, the PTL has now raised \$16,912.35 for the school.** Remember to Save Those Old Pennies!

EAGLE NEWS: The Eagle News publication is available online via FastDirect and will also be passed out at the end of today's service. To view online, go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnfreedom/>, click on "Links" at the top of the page, then click on "Eagle News-April" in the "Everybody" column.

GRANDPARENT'S DAY: A reminder that Grandparent's Day at St. John School for Grades K-8 will be held on **Friday, May 6** from 12:30 - 3:00 PM. *Lunch is not included.*

GREAT MOTHER'S DAY GIFT – The "Recipes and Remembrances" cookbooks from PTL would surely make Mom smile. They have a very nice collection of great recipes in them. This is a PTL fundraiser and copies available today at the table in the side hallway. The cost is \$10.00. If writing a check, please make it payable to: *St. John PTL*. We hope you enjoy making all the "goodies" in the cookbook. Thank you for supporting the PTL!

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!

HEARING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE: If hearing in worship has been a problem for you, pick up one of the receiver units for our hearing assistance system. An usher will assist you and you'll hear much more clearly. (*Also, please let us know how the system is working for you.*)

For those who use the hearing assistance system regularly and for the sake of hygiene, we ask that you claim one of the ear buds as your own and keep it with you in your purse, pocket, etc. Bring it with you when you come to church, and simply plug it into one of the receivers. At the end of the service, unplug the ear bud to take with you until the next time.

4-H CLUB MEETING CHANGES: The Gerald Busy Fingers and Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Clubs will be having their meeting today at 1:00 PM. The Gerald Busy Fingers are meeting at The Lutheran Home and the Freedom Royal Farmers will meet at St. John School. **NOTE: The Cloverbuds will not be meeting today.**

ST. MARTIN'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT SERIES presents...*Let the Church Say "Amen"* hymn festival on Sunday, Apr. 24 at 4:00 PM at St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 203 S. Defiance Street, Archbold, OH. This will feature *Steve Basselman*, organist at St. Martin's and the St. Martin's Chancel Choir accompanied by a variety of instrumentation. The concert is free and made possible through the generous donations of the members of St. Martin's in celebration of the congregation's 150th anniversary. Join them afterwards for a freewill offering meal! See flyer!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Don't take tomorrow to bed with you.

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matt. 6:34)