



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

May 1, 2016

VOL. 81

NO. 18

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

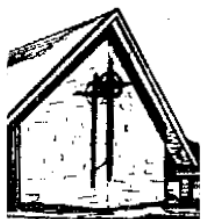
Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
Cell: 989-607-4566
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339
Church Website: www.sjl.org

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon & Text: “The Heavenly City” *Rev. 21:9-14, 21-27*
Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting Three (LSB pg. 184)*
Hymns: **906 ~ 672 ~ [Communion: 632, 680, 474] ~ 673**
Adult Choir: “Hear Us, O Father” and “As We Break the Bread”

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 or register your name in the Guest Book in the Narthex.



SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✧ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✧ Colin Johnson & Brooks Behnfeldt, *Acolytes* ✧
- ✧ Don & Karan Niebergall, *Greeters* ✧
- ✧ Harold Behrmann & Richard Elling, *Visitation* ✧
- ✧ Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, *Ushers* ✧
- ✧ Karan Niebergall, Kaylee & Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, *Altar Guild* ✧

NEW VICAR ASSIGNED – Last Tuesday at the Vicarage placement service at our Fort Wayne seminary a vicar was assigned to St. John for the coming year. His name is **Michael B. Keller** who hails from Sanger, Texas (just north of Dallas). He and his wife Hanna are expecting their first child in June. Vicar Keller will begin his year of service among us when he is installed on Sunday, August 14th.

- **Former Vicar Reed Shaoff** received his first call to the pastoral ministry on Wednesday evening of this week. He will be installed as the pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in London, Arkansas (about 120 miles due south of Branson, Missouri).

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	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>
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor & Vicar ; Offering: Concordia Gospel Outreach Exercise Class School Board & Stewardship Board Meetings
Wed.	10:20AM 6:15 PM	Late Start-Up due to Teacher In-Service at 9:00 AM All Confirmands Class (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant Exercise Class Joint Ascension Service at St. Luke Lutheran, Wauseon
Fri.	12:30PM	Grandparents' Day for Grades K-8
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service w/Communion following <i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Stephen Niermann</i> , St. John Lutheran, Napoleon

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, Vernon Kruse, Ross Damman, and Bev Elling*, recovering from and dealing with health issues
- ❖ *Ralph Kortman* (Mike Myers' uncle), suffering with worsening emphysema

FLOWERS TODAY:

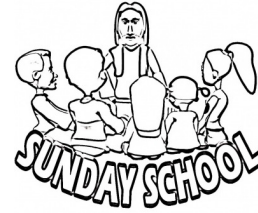
- Altar flowers are placed today in celebration of the 40th Wedding Anniversary of *Denny & Rhonda Bockelman*, which is actually today, May 1. Family and friends wish them many more happy and healthy years together. Congratulations Denny & Rhonda, and enjoy!
- The single rose budvase on the piano is in memory of our son, brother, and uncle, *Ryan Rosebrock*. We miss you each and every day. All our love, *Dad, Mom, Michael, Michelle, Ben, and little Ryan*
- Flowers on the piano today are placed in loving memory of our daughter, sister, and best friend, *Stephanie Kossow*, who we lost 8 years ago today, May 1. We miss you each and every day. You are always in our hearts. Love, *Dad, Mom, Tyler, and Logan*

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. Currently we are studying the section of Leviticus sometimes called “God’s Manual of Purity.” Here there are many regulations stipulating what makes a person “impure” and how they can be made “clean” again for purposes of right worship. Come discover how it all points to Jesus Christ!
- **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.

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!
- **With all that is going on later this month, May 8th will be the final day of the Sunday School season this year.**



2016 CONFIRMATION CLASS – This year’s confirmands have several 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.
- Public examination is on Thursday, May 12th at 7:00 p.m.
- Confirmation is on Sunday, May 15th

ST. JOHN SPRING MUSICAL: “Alice in Wonderland Jr.” is being presented by St. John Lutheran



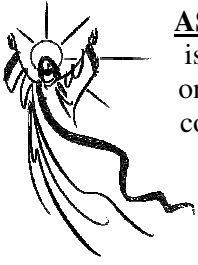
School students today at 2:00 PM. Check out some of the candid pictures taken during rehearsals on our Facebook page. There will be a free will admission donation. Many people have put a lot of time and effort into this production, so plan to come and enjoy a very entertaining afternoon with us. Refreshments will be served following each of the performances.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 4/24/16	\$7,523.00	\$760.00	\$720.00

ATTENDANCE: 4/24/16 Service: 248

ITEMS FOR SALE: The Women of Freedom are offering a scene canvas painting of the church. You may have any Bible verse, message or name painted on it. The cost is \$45. Give *Nancy Glaser* a call at 419-598-8432 to place your order. The other wooden buildings are still available for sale as well as the various dish cloths, cutlery, and boxed cards. Proceeds benefit the Women of Freedom.

2015 CHURCH ANNUAL is available on the desk and table in the narthex. If there are any corrections to be made, please contact Joyce in the office. Pick up your copy today!



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.

YOUR LIFELINE TO THE LUTHERAN WORLDVIEW... 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: The November Elections, The Movie "Captain America: Civil War," Christianity & Logic, Jesus Raises Lazarus and more. You can listen on-demand at www.issuesetc.org and on the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICES will begin in May.

- This Thursday (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. There will be no service this Thursday at St. John.
- **Thursday May 12th through October, our Thursday evening worship services will be held each week 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.

WHY NOT CONSIDER ST. JOHN? Saint John Lutheran School offers preschool to 8th grade Lutheran education. Students are taught the Word of God. In addition all the other subjects are taught. Students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of athletics. Bus transportation is available to students in all the local school districts. If you have any questions about enrollment or would like a tour of the school please call the church office for an appointment.



LifeLight Bible Study – SUMMER

This morning we begin signing up anyone who is interested in summertime ***LifeLight Bible Study*** to be held on three Monday mornings each month in June through August. If you are interested in being part of this study group, please sign up in the narthex. On the sign-up sheet are included four options for the study topic: 1) End Times; 2) Heaven and Hell; 3) The Miracles of Jesus; and 4) The Parables of Jesus. When you sign up, please check off two of these topics that would especially interest you.

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!

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.* There will be an encore performance of the Spring Musical at 12:30 PM.

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.**

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 online at www.tinyurl.com/GrowingTogether2016. 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. Overnight lodging is filled and no longer available.



Growing Together



MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST – After His resurrection, Jesus invited His disciples to breakfast (John 21:12), and He still invites His disciples! On the first Thursday of each month, get your day off to a great start with good food and friends and God's Word, the Bread of Life! **This coming Thursday, May 5th, we will meet at 6:30 a.m. at Hill's Restaurant in Napoleon.** Won't you please join us?

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL POSITION OPENING – St. John Lutheran School is seeking a person to fill the following position 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.

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

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.**

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!

PRESCHOOL'S GRADUATION will be **Thurs., May 19th** at 6:30 PM in the church. There will be a short program followed by light refreshments in the fellowship hall.

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 on the narthex table today. 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.

LABELS FOR EDUCATION ENDING – We have some sad news. In the past few years participation in *Labels for Education* has declined and as a result, Campbell has come to the very difficult decision to wind down the LFE program. The good news is nothing changes this program year. There will be changes for next year's program starting August 1, 2016. We will continue to support American kids through our *Grand Stand for Schools*SM sweepstakes and our community efforts which we annually contribute \$70 million in food and funding to tackle obesity and hunger amongst our country's most vulnerable families.

HOSPICE BAZAAR: The 10th Annual Hospice of Henry Co. Bazaar will be held on Thurs., May 12 from 10:00AM – 8:00 PM at the Napoleon American Legion. The Bazaar will feature vendors, Grannies Attic, a Bake Sale, craft items, plant sale, and silent auction. The Live Auction will begin at noon. A freewill luncheon will also be served. The evening features a quarter auction. Come, support, and enjoy!

RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPT. AUXILIARY will be hosting a Drive Thru Chicken BBQ on Sun., May 15th at the Ridgeville Fire Station. Serving begins at 11:00 AM until gone. Menu consists of: ½ *Chicken* (Brookview), *Potatoes*, *Coleslaw*, *Roll*, and *Butter*. Freewill offering. Come and support your local Fire Dept. Sponsored by Ridgeville Fire Department Auxiliary.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

We use duct tape to fix things – Jesus used nails!

“I am making everything new!” (Rev. 21:5)