



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

May 15, 2016

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NO. 20

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

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Church Website: www.sjl.org

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "The Dove Sent from Heaven" Acts 2:1-21

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 913 ~ 504 ~ 502 ~ 956 ~ 434 ~ [Communion: 599,605,588,795] ~ 643 ~ 496

Adult Bell Choir: "Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

A warm welcome to all, especially friends and relatives of our Confirmation Class. If you are visiting with us this morning, help us get to know you better by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and pass it to the center aisle during the offering. You can also register your name in the Guest Book in the Narthex and introduce yourself to the Pastor.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Hope Buchhop & Anna Gerken, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Bob & Diane Norden, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Karan Niebergall, Kaylee & Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, *Altar Guild* ✘

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed by this year's Confirmation Class.

CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2016 – We pray God's richest blessings upon the confirmation class of 2016 as they are confirmed today and join God's people for the first time as participants at Christ's table. May the good work that God began in their baptisms and has carried through to this day be brought to completion on the day of Jesus Christ! This year's confirmands are:



Lydia Dorothy Jean Babcock
Brooks McKinley Behnfeldt
Caleb James Bockelman

Emily Michelle Catteyson Bostelman
Bailey Marie Johnson
Colin Nathaniel Johnson

Tyne Elizabeth Rosebrock
Maggie Ann Weller
Landon Joseph Willeman

In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:00 PM	Confirmation and Communion Service "Time To Spare" 4-H Meetings (All clubs)
Tue.	7:00 PM	Women of Freedom Meeting
Thurs.	6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Preschool Graduation in the sanctuary Thursday Evening Praise
Sun.	9:00 AM	8 th Grade Graduation & Worship Service
Mon.-Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM

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*
- ❖ *Vernon Kruse*, dealing with health issues and had further testing done
- ❖ *Betty Ashbaugh*, back in Toledo Hospital with continuing serious health problems

TODAY IS PENTECOST! Pentecost is one of the high festivals of the church year, and takes its place alongside Christmas and Easter as one of the most important events in the story of our salvation. On this day we remember how Christ, as promised, sent His Spirit to fill His disciples, who then proclaimed the Gospel of salvation for all! Thus began the history of the Christian Church in these latter days. The Spirit, it turns out, is more than the gentle dove we often see depicted in Christian symbolism. As the first disciples found out, He can be quite dangerous in His call to faith and action! Therefore give ear to God's Word today – if you dare! Who knows what the Holy Spirit may do in you?

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School is cancelled for the remaining of May. 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.

BIBLE STUDY is cancelled this morning, as well as next week. Join us again on Sunday, May 29th as we continue our studies of God's sacred Word.

ARCHIVES DISPLAY: The Archives Committee members have put up a display of past Confirmation classes ranging from 1936 (*80th anniversary*) to 2011 (*celebrating their 5th anniversary*). Come and check it out in the showcases in the hallway by the church.

NEW VICAR PREPARATIONS – A few weeks ago a vicar was assigned to St. John for the coming year. His is **Michael B. Keller** (*he goes by Brent*) who hails from Sanger, Texas (*just north of Dallas*). He and his wife Hanne 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. As we prepare for the Keller's arrival here in Freedom Twp. there are a few things we need to do to get prepared.

1. **A place to live** – We are looking for a house or apartment we can rent for the vicar and his wife and child. If you have any places available or know of any, please speak with Congregation President, *Bob Norden*.
2. **Furnishings** – The Kellers inform us they don't have much for furnishings, so we will be trying to pull together some items. By next Sunday there will be a list in the narthex of items we will be trying to gather around. Items would be on loan to the vicar for the year and will still belong to you when their time here is finished.

SR. LYF STICKY BUNS FUNDRAISER: Selling TODAY!!! This fundraiser is to help our Sr. High LYF raise money for their trip to the National Youth Gathering this July. If you forgot to fill out a pre-order sheet, that's okay! We will have extras available. Find us in the hallway by the 7th & 8th Grade classroom. Thank you for your support!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 5/08/16	\$6,348.00	\$153.00	\$408.00

ATTENDANCE: 5/08/16 Service: 221

BULLETIN NOTES: With Thursday night services starting, bulletin announcements 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!

THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICES HAVE BEGUN

From now through October, you have the option of worshipping on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Until the school year is finished, we will gather in the sanctuary; during the summer months we will gather in the north end of the fellowship hall. Generally, each Thursday service will be a preview of the coming Sunday. Likewise, Holy Communion will usually be celebrated on the Thursday evenings prior to regular Communion Sundays.

A BIG DAY ON SUNDAY, MAY 22 – Two weeks from today, there will be a lot happening here at St. John – be sure you're in God's house!

- **SJLS Graduation** – With prayer and congratulations, we will graduate the SJLS class of 2016.
- **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** – Following the potluck meal at 11:00 AM, we will converge onto the playground area for various track and field events. There will be events for all ages, young and old. All children will receive tickets to be redeemed for concession goodies of their choice.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION – On Sunday, May 29th we invite all of you to gather with us in the worship service for graduate recognition. We'll remember your confirmation theme, we'll ask you about your plans for the future, and commend those plans to God in prayer. In the meantime, we'd appreciate having a picture of each graduate that we can project during the recognition. Email them to *Pastor Niermann* at sniermann.sjl@gmail.com, or drop off in the office.

SCRIP FOR GRADUATION: Why not use the PTL SCRIP Program to order gift cards for those graduating seniors in your lives. Order forms are inserted in today's bulletin and are also available online via FastDirect or in the School Info rack outside the school office. 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.**



***LifeLight* Bible Study – SUMMER**

Sign up has begun for 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.

LUTHERAN WITNESS RENEWAL – **Deadline for subscriptions is tomorrow!** 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.

***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.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. Lodging at Lial has filled up, so you can either camp, stay at a hotel, or drive home on Friday.



Growing Together

BOX TOPS: To allow for the sorting and logging of all the Box Tops, the PTL is asking that all Box Tops be turned in by Fri., May 13th. Remember to have them neatly trimmed before sending them in.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN will be Thurs., May 26th 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.**

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.

PTL OFFICER NOMINATIONS: We are currently seeking nominations for next school year's PTL officers. Please consider getting involved with PTL by becoming an officer. This is just one way of supporting St. John School and bringing new ideas to the forefront for school activities and fundraisers. We would encourage you to give it some serious thought and contact Kristyn Honemann (419-966-0207) or Shawna Schroeder (419-758-3684).

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 interested in more information, please speak with Principal Kramer or Board Pres., Brad Rosebrook.

'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. 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*)

INTERESTED IN A CHURCH PROFESSION? WE'D LIKE TO HELP! Recently a number of young people from St. John have pursued educational goals to prepare them for full-time service as teachers and pastors. 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 into your browser (*there is no link*) and fill out the application. Deadline for fall enrollment is June 1st.

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.

HELP FOR WOMEN CAUGHT UP IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING - The human trafficking of women is a big problem in NW Ohio, in Toledo especially. Some of the women caught up in this world have only ever known life on the streets. To help these women, the Sisters of Notre Dame in Toledo, and the organization STOP (Stop Trafficking of Persons) are working to give them food and toiletries, along with a phone number they can call to get the help they need.

CAN YOU HELP? In the narthex Mitch and Anika Rosebrock have set up a collection box where you can bring items for this ministry of mercy. Please consider giving such items as peanut butter or cheese crackers, fruit bars, toiletries such as hotel sized deodorant, toothpaste and brushes, soap, shampoo, conditioner, lip balm and washcloths. Items will be assembled into baggies and given to these women with the phone number hidden inside. Thank you for helping "the least of these" and doing this for Jesus.

TABLES & CHAIRS REMINDER: If you have a Graduation celebration this year, this is just a reminder that the church is no longer loaning out tables and chairs for these functions. Please make other arrangements. Thank you!

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>

RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPT. AUXILIARY will be hosting a Drive Thru Chicken BBQ today 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.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE: The Ridgeville Corners Memorial Day service to remember those who served our country will be held on **Mon., May 30 at 10:30 AM** at the Ridgeville American Legion. **Flag Drill:** Children age PreK thru 4th 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 9th Annual *Stephanie Lynn Kossow Memorial Golf Outing* will be held on Sat., July 30th, with a 1:00 PM shotgun start. Registration forms available on the narthex table!

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PENTECOST FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Let's not just read church history; let's make some!

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." (Matt. 28:19)