



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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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

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "God's Delight" *Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: **507 ~ 948 ~ 905 ~ 795**

Children's Choir: *Gr. K-7 sing "Go, My Children, With My Blessing"*

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

God speaks to us and we listen and respond with our hymns, prayers, and praises. Together we bless the Lord, whose purpose is to save us and keep us in His faithful flock. He is the God of Grace and the God of Glory. If you are visiting with us this morning, please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and pass it to the center aisle during the offering.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Hope Buchhop & Madison Bostelman, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Jerry & Nancy Short, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karan Niebergall, Kaylee & Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, *Altar Guild* ✠

GRADUATION CLASS OF 2016 – The Altar Flowers are placed today in honor of the eighth grade graduating class of St. John. The 2016 graduates are:

Maggie Ann Weller

Tyne Elizabeth Rosebrock

We wish you all of God's blessings as you begin the next chapter in your lives. Good luck to both of you and CONGRATULATIONS from everyone at St. John!

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.

In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 11:00AM	8 th Grade Graduation & Worship Service Potluck Meal followed by Field Day for PS thru Grade 8 children
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Shepherd Committee followed by Board of Elders at 7:30 PM
Thurs.		<i>Last Student day of school</i>
	9:00 AM 12:40PM 2:00 PM	Exercise Class Closing Chapel Service; Kindergarten Graduation; Academic Awards; Early Dismissal
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:00 PM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; "Time To Spare" 4-H Meetings (All clubs)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. James Strawn</i> , St. James Lutheran, Archbold

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, *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Kyle Elling, Emily Schroeder, and Connor Gerken*
- ❖ *Vernon Kruse*, still hospitalized dealing with health issues and had further testing done
- ❖ *Betty Ashbaugh*, recuperating at home now and still in need of prayers

BIBLE STUDY is cancelled this morning. Join us again on Sunday, May 29th.

TODAY IS HOLY TRINITY! On this day, Christians all over the world will confess the words of the Athanasian Creed, with its strong emphasis on the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. Trinity Sunday is one of the few celebrations of the Church Year that commemorates a reality and doctrine rather than a person or event. On Trinity Sunday, Christians remember and honor the eternal God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Trinity Sunday is celebrated the Sunday after Pentecost, and lasts only one day, which is symbolic of the unity of the Trinity. Eastern Churches have no tradition of Trinity Sunday, arguing that they celebrate the Trinity every Sunday. Westerners also commemorate the Trinity at every Divine Service with the singing of the triple Alleluia and the Sanctus, and in the confession of the Nicene Creed.



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.

FESTIVITIES TODAY –

- **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, we will converge onto the playground area for Frisbee toss, softball toss, Tug-of-war and relay race events. All children are invited to participate.

We are doing things as a group with the older kids leading the way to teach the younger ones to follow. Grades 7/8 will compete individually against each other in Frisbee and softball toss. They will compete as a team in all other events. Grades 6 – Kindergarten will be split into groups of equal number and will compete against each other in Frisbee and softball toss. **Tug-of-war** will be Grades 6 – 4 split into two evenly matched teams and Grades 3 – Kindergarten split into evenly matched teams. Grades 7/8 will compete against parents and teachers in tug-of-war.

All children will receive tickets to be redeemed for concession goodies of their choice.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE: The Ridgeville Corners American Legion Post #454 will join us on Sun., May 29th for the 9:00 AM Worship Service. This will include Legion, Auxiliary, and S.A.L. members. Following the service, everyone is invited to immediately congregate outside for a short memorial service, 21 gun salute, and taps. Then on **Mon., May 30 at 10:30 AM** there will be a community Memorial Day Service held at the Ridgeville American Legion located on County Road 19, to remember those who served our country and are currently in active duty. God Bless America!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 5/15/16	\$7,655.00	\$240.00	\$597.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday (5-12-16) Praise Service: 24; Sunday (5/15/16) Service: 287

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.

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.**

LYF COLOR RUN/WALK FUNDRAISER – On Sunday, June 26th, at 1:00 PM we will be hosting a Color Run/Walk on our church grounds. The price to participate is \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for kids. Sign up for the event on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/events/1723337247948007/>) or email Sarah Bartok at sbartok@sjl.org. See flyers in the hallway too! More info next Sunday!

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.

***LifeLight* Bible Study – SUMMER**

It has been decided that the summer *LifeLight Bible Study* topic will be “**Heaven and Hell.**” The nine sessions of this study are as follows:

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| 1: A Guided Tour of Heaven and Hell | 6: Behold, the Dwelling Place of God is With Men |
| 2: Daddy, What Happens When We Die? | 7: And They Will Be His People |
| 3: The Justice of God & the Fate of the Wicked, Part 1 | 8: For the Healing of the Nations |
| 4: The Justice of God & the Fate of the Wicked, Part 2 | 9: Living Heavenward |
| 5: The Mercy of God and the Fate of the Redeemed | |

Study sessions will be held on the first three Mondays of each month, June through August. Depending on the level of interest, there will be both a morning session (10:00 am) and an evening session (7:00 pm). Sign up today in the narthex!

SUMMER READING: The next selection from the St. John Church Library Book Club is “House of Living Stones” by Katie Schuermann. The novel revolves around a fictional Lutheran congregation in Bradbury, Illinois. It should be a more casual summer read than our previous selections. The Concordia Publishing House website says the book is “a whimsical and touching story about small-town life, misconceptions, and the power of forgiveness.” Join Pastor, Vicar, and other members of our congregation in reading this novel which will further our understanding of forgiveness through Christ. Please use the sign-up sheet at the back of the church to reserve your copy provided free of charge by the St. John Church Library. **Sign-up deadline is June 5th!**

WOMEN OF FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIPS: Here is an 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.

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.**

***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.



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.**

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.

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.

'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*)

PROJECT CONNECT – There are many free booklets in the rack in the narthex. Be sure to check for some good reading. Some titles are: "*Why Do Bad Things Happen To Me,*" "*Has God Abandoned Me,*" "*Dealing with Depression,*" "*Coping with Cancer,*" "*Who Is Jesus,*" "*Just Stress?*", "*Overcoming A Painful Childhood,*" "*Where's God in All of This?*", "*Why Should I go to Church?*" and many more. These booklets are furnished through the Lutheran Hour Ministries.

MEMORIAL DAY FLAG DRILL & COMMUNITY CHOIR: PreK thru 4th Grade children 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.

The Ridgeville Community Choir will also be singing during the service. If you are interested in participating in the Choir, please be at the Legion by 9:45 on Mon., May 30th for a brief rehearsal.

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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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

We don't change the message; the message changes us!

*"Do not conform to the pattern of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."* (Rom. 12:2)