



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

October 9, 2016

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NO. 41

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Mr. M. Brent Keller, Vicar
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

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TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

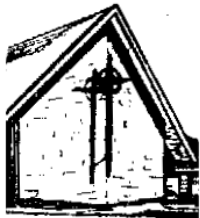
Sermon & Text: "Be Strengthened" 2 Timothy 2:1

Order of Service: *Service of Prayer and Preaching (LSB pg. 184)*

Hymns: 694 ~ (Baptism: "Borning Cry" ~ 588) ~ 668 ~ 655

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to the services of God's House and the fellowship of our congregation. Enter in stillness...know that the Lord is God. Listen in reverence...it is God who has made us. Sing with delight...it is God who hears us. Speak with conviction...there is no other God. Depart in peace...it is God's gift for you. Serve with joy...it is your gift to God. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you to note your presence and pass it to the center aisle during the offering.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Zak Schroeder & Madison Bostelman, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Lois Arps & Evelyn Rohrs, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Tom VonDeylen, Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Roger Lulfs, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Linda Riefers, Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff, *Altar Guild* ✠



BAPTISM TODAY – This morning we rejoice to witness the new baptismal birth of **Isaac Ervin Wilson**, infant son of **Curtis & Sarah (nee Damman) Wilson**. Isaac was born on August 4th at the Holmes County Regional Medical Center in Melbourne, Florida. His baptismal sponsors are Melanie Wilson, Lucas Damman, Jessica Damman, and Krista Howard. Isaac's grandparents are David & Teresa Damman and Craig & Mary Wilson.

Together with this family, we give thanks to God for the gift of this child and for his new birth by water and spirit into the family of God. May the good work God begins this day in *Isaac* be brought to its completion on the day of Jesus Christ.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM	Worship Service with Communion following <i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Jr. High LYF Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.	5:00 PM 7:00 PM	V-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:00PM Gr. 7&8 Girls @ St. Pat's - Bryan <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Niermann; Offering: <i>K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry</i> Exercise Class <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study V-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:30PM Gr. 7&8 Girls vs Trinity – Toledo Church Council Meeting
Wed.	9:00 AM 6:15 PM 6:45 PM 7:30 PM	Vision Re-checks for PS3/K/1/3/5/7 Jr. High Confirmation Class Adult Hand Bell Practice Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 10:30AM 7:00 PM	Vision Re-checks for PS 4&5; Exercise Class Firefighter Phil Safety Program Thursday Evening Worship
Fri.		NO SCHOOL – Lutheran Educator's Conference
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Sr. High LYF Meeting (<i>until 6:00 PM</i>)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Lee Genter</i> , Christ Our Savior Lutheran – Defiance

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Lucia Delventhal, Renetta Homan, and Stan Moll*
- ❖ *Pauline Dishop, Marie Damman, and Delora Winkelman*, at The Lutheran Home, Napoleon
- ❖ *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*
- ❖ *Pete Gerken*, as he is scheduled for a heart ablation on Wed., Oct. 12th in Cleveland

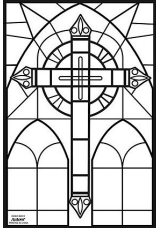
SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENINGS – Starting this morning, Sunday School openings will be held in the kitchen end of the fellowship hall. This should help alleviate the crunch after church. After the children have received their *JavaJoy* treats, they can head to the fellowship hall for the opening.

JR. HIGH LYF OUTING: Join us at Leaders' Corn Maze on Sun., Oct. 9th from 4:00 – 6:00 PM for a night of fun and fellowship. Event cost will be \$5 per LYF member and can be given to Miss Bartok on the day of the event. If students are unable to attend because of the cost, please contact Miss Bartok. Guests are invited and encouraged, but they must pay the \$5 (group rate) admission. Families are also welcome!

JAVA JOY TODAY! It's the second Sunday of the month, and that means **Java Joy** following the service. Take a little time to enjoy a bite to eat and some fellowship. A table is set up in the front hallway. Your gifts to the "kitty" help keep **Java Joy** alive and going. We thank *Jeff & Sara Buchhop* and *Mike & Amy Dietrich* for hosting Java Joy for October. (*NOTE: In order for everyone to enjoy the food items, we ask that you only take 2 items when going through the line.*) Thank you!



Interested in being a **Java Joy** host? Please sign up on the table in the narthex. Don't let finances stop you – you are welcome to reimburse your expenses from the kitty if you wish.



STAINED GLASS WINDOW UPDATE – The stained glass window project has been on hold for about a year as Sue Hurst, the designer and artist, has been dealing with cancer and chemotherapy treatments. She is now finished with her treatments and has been declared cancer-free, praise be to God! She is feeling better and is about ready to return to our project. At the same time, the bulk of the gift from the *Oliver & Juanita (Maassel) Thorpe* family has been received. The remainder will be sent to us after the New Year. The pieces are falling into place, and it's time for us to reconstitute a Stained Glass Window Committee to get to work with Sue Hurst. If you would be interested in serving on this committee, please speak with Pastor Niermann or President Bob Norden.

CALLED TO VOTE: A Christian Approach to Elections

Today Pastor Niermann continues a very timely study titled, "**Called to Vote.**" Whether you already know who you're voting for this November or are still deciding whether to vote at all, this study is for you. While this study is *not* a voting guide – it won't lead you to a specific candidate or party platform – it will spark thoughtful and biblical conversation about voting in a democracy and our duty as Christian citizens.

So before you head to the polls this November, check out this four-week study from Pastor Ken Schurb. You'll be convicted, encouraged, and more prepared than ever to participate in the political process. Let's go to the polls this year informed, not only by our own best thinking, but also by the Word of God.

CROSS EXPLORATIONS FOR ADULTS – IN THE BALCONY

Vicar Keller is conducting a Bible study especially for parents of Sunday School students (but also open to all). Each Sunday we will take an adult look at the same Bible narratives our children are hearing that day in Sunday School. The goal is to assist the parents and adults in taking a journey through God's Word with our children. **We will now be meeting in the balcony to permit the children to hold their openings in the fellowship hall.**



ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP: Membership is now being taken for the Athletic Booster Club. Prices are \$20.00 for a couple and \$10.00 for an individual. Make checks payable to St. John Boosters and send to school with your child. Forms are available outside the school office or contact any of the Booster officers.

LifeLight BIBLE STUDY – “Heaven and Hell”

LifeLight meets this week on Monday evening (7pm) or Tuesday morning (10am). It's not too late to join us! Many people have questions about heaven and hell, and God's Word has much to say on the subject. Our next chapter is titled, “**The Justice of God and the Fate of the Wicked?**” Please come and grow with us in God's Word at either session.



This study is part of the ***LifeLight*** series that offers in-depth studies on many Bible books and topics. Through advance preparation and reflection, as well as group discussion, ***LifeLight*** studies will always challenge you and give you growth in faith.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 10/02/16	\$10,351.00	\$203.00	\$393.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday (9/29/16) Worship Service: 31; Sunday (10/02/16) Service: 231

WOMEN OF FREEDOM: The next Women of Freedom meeting will be Tues., Oct. 18th at 7:00 PM. All ladies of St. John invited to come. Bring your mite box to the meeting.

COLLECTING OLD BIBLES: This year our school will be working on a service project. We would ask that you look around your homes for any unused Bibles. What next, you ask? Bring them in to the office and St. John School will donate them to Orphan Grain Train. Orphan Grain Train will then distribute them to individuals and families that have had their homes destroyed by hurricane, tornado, or flood. Often times these people have nothing left in their homes. Giving them a Bible that you don't need is one way that we can reach out to families that are suffering a loss. This will be ongoing for the school year, so keep them coming and tell your extended families too.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING COMMITTEE: Still searching for that group of individuals who would be interested in decorating the church and surroundings for the Christmas season. So put some thought into this effort and before the time comes to decorate the church and surroundings this year, contact Pastor Niermann or the church office. If no one volunteers, this responsibility would revert back to the School Board, as was done in the past. So please give it some thought, and contact the church office if you would like to volunteer. Thank you!

PTL COOKBOOKS – The “Recipes and Remembrances” cookbooks from PTL are still available for purchase. They have a very nice collection of great recipes in them and would make a neat gift for that “hard to buy” family member or friend. This is a PTL fundraiser and the cookbooks are available on the table in the side hall. The cost is \$10.00. If writing a check, please make it payable to: *St. John PTL*. We hope you enjoy it! Thank you for supporting the PTL!

S.T.O.P. PENNY DRIVE – The PTL Fall Penny Drive at St. John School begins on Mon., Oct. 3rd and runs thru Mon., Oct. 31st. Send your pennies in to school with your child or grandchild. The winning classroom will be awarded a pizza party.

SUNNY D BOOK SPREE – The St. John School students hope you can help them make their classroom sunnier! Classrooms that save 20 *SunnyD* labels earn 20 FREE books. Here's how it works. **COLLECT** *SunnyD* UPC labels from these eligible products: 1, 2, or 3 liter bottles; 16 oz., 48 oz., 64 oz., 96 oz., or 128 oz. bottles; 6.75 oz.- 6, 8, or 24 pack outer wraps; 6.75 oz.-12 pack cardboard case; 11.3 oz.-6 or 24 pack outer wraps; 12 oz.-12 or 24 pack cans outer wraps. **SEND** the UPC labels to your child's classroom. **One way to collect *SunnyD* labels would be to consider serving *SunnyD* at your upcoming Halloween parties...it is orange!** It's as easy as that!

PARENT VISITATION & OPEN HOUSE – St. John School has scheduled their **Parent Visitation Open House** for the evening of **Thursday, October 20**, from 7:00 – 8:00 PM. This will run in conjunction with the PTL Scholastic Book Fair in the fellowship hall.

PRESCHOOL GRANDPARENTS' DAY – **Preschool Grandparents' Day** will be held from 9:00 – 11:00 AM on **Thurs., Oct. 20th for the 4 & 5-year old class** and same time on **Fri., Oct. 21st for the 3-year old class**. Grandparents should plan to arrive at 9 AM and report to the gym. Grandparents will also have the opportunity to take their grandchild through the PTL Scholastic Book Fair those days. Come and enjoy all the fun in Preschool!!!

SCRIP AT ST. JOHN: Let's plan ahead! Scrip is great for having "extra money" in your wallet. Purchase gift cards to use for personal shopping or going out to eat. Plan ahead now for birthdays and holidays! Scrip orders will be received on Wednesdays, ordered on Fridays and delivered on Tuesdays. Here is a new twist...the 5/6 graders will be going to Outdoor Education in April 2017. Any Scrip purchased from now until March by those students' families could apply 1/2 of their Scrip proceeds toward defraying the cost of their child's share to attend OE. They can use all of their proceeds if they choose, but if they wanted to split it 50/50 that half could be used for OE and the rest could be applied toward their school payment for 2017-2018 school year. More Scrip news will be forthcoming as well as the open house in October. Order forms and program information are posted on FastDirect under 'Links,' titled SCRIP Order Forms and SCRIP Program Info. There are also hard copies in the 'School Info' rack outside the office and on the table in the narthex. Please feel free to share with family and friends. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to the SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

LCMS DISASTER RESPONSE – There is a lot going on right now in our nation that is causing human misery and suffering, and presenting us Christians a way of extending God's mercy and love. With a gift to LCMS Disaster Response, you can join your resources to those of thousands of other donors to make a difference in the lives of people who are suffering right now because of fire (in California) and flood (in Louisiana). To learn more about what's going on, visit the LCMS Disaster Response webpage at: <https://www.lcms.org/disaster> Use the "GIVE NOW" link to make a gift. Also stay tuned as we ponder other ways in which we might be able to extend help.

CHURCH PROPERTY MATTERS

- **EAST BALL FIELD BACK STOP** – The Church Council discussed removing the back stop on the east ball field since this field has not been used for ballgames for many years and the fence inhibits the full removal of snow during heavy winters. If anyone would like to claim the steel posts and chain link fencing, they would be available for free to anyone who removes them for us.
- **LANDSCAPING MAINTENANCE** – The ladies who have taken care of the landscaping over the past years (*especially weeding and mulching*) are not able to do so any longer, so we're looking for some volunteers who could help with this work from time to time as needed.

If you can help with either of these church property matters, please speak with Pres. Bob Norden or a Trustee. Thank you for considering this service to Christ and His people!

SIMPLY GIVING is an automated, simple and convenient giving program from Thrivent Financial which allows you to have your offerings debited directly from your bank account and electronically transferred to the church's bank account. St. John Lutheran Church relies on financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. Contact *Joyce* in the office at 419-598-8961 for details.

LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BULLETINS are available today on the table in the narthex. The Children's Bulletins are coordinated with the Bible texts for each Sunday, and provide activities that tie in with the weekly themes. Pick one up today for your child.

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.

AREA EVENTS:

- **St. Luke Lutheran Church – Wauseon** is hosting its Harvest Fest **today from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** at the church. See flyer for more info!
- **St. Paul Lutheran – Napoleon Township** invites you to hear Guest Speaker Robert Rogers **today at 1:00 PM** at the church. No charge to attend. See flyer on bulletin board!
- **Zion Lutheran Church – Ridgeville Corners** invites us to a Mission U Workshop at their church on **Sat., Oct. 15 from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**. Pre-Registration forms available on the narthex table. Mission U is a program of the Lutheran Hour Ministries.
- **St. Paul Lutheran – Liberty Center** is hosting its Fall Soup & Pie Dinner on **Sun., Oct. 16th from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM**. Freewill Offering and Carry Outs available! See flyer!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

If God seems silent, try opening your Bible!

"Hear the word of the LORD; open your ears to the words of his mouth." (Jer 9:20)