



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

October 16, 2016

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NO. 42

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

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TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "The Persistent Widow" *Luke 18:1-8*
Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting Three (LSB pg. 184)*
Hymns: 754 ~ 734 ~ [Communion: 621 ~ 624] ~ 666
Adult Bell Choir: "We Bow Down"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Now is the hour of worship. 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 new to our community, we hope you will consider making this your church home. Fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and give it to the usher as you leave the church this morning.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘ Hope Buchhop & Gavin Gerken, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Marietta Damman & Arlene Wallace, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Tom VonDeylen, Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Roger Lulfs, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Linda Riefers, Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff, *Altar Guild* ✘

NEW ARRIVAL: *John & Abby (Dietrich) Buldas* are very happy to announce the arrival of their son, *Theodore "Theo" John Buldas* on Mon., Oct. 10th at Fulton County Health Center. Mother and son are doing fine and getting adjusted in a new routine at home. Grandparents, Doug & Sandy Dietrich are eager to share some hugs with their new grandson too! Congrats to John & Abby!

FOLLOW-UP REPORT - This morning as you leave church, the ushers will hand to our members a brief half-page report to follow up on the letter that was recently mailed to the congregation. Please read and consider it, and pray about it.

In God's House This Week *Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl*

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Sr. High LYF Meeting
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Kramer Exercise Class V-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:30PM Gr. 7&8 Girls vs Monclova Christian Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:45 PM 7:30 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class Adult Hand Bell Practice Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 9:00 AM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Preschool 4/5-year old Grandparents' Day (<i>see bulletin note</i>) Exercise Class Parent Visitation Open House & Scholastic Book Fair (<i>see bulletin note</i>) Thursday Evening Worship
Fri.	9:00 AM	Preschool 3-year old Grandparents' Day (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Donald Luhring</i> , St. John 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*
- ❖ *Jerry & Lori Langenhop*, celebrating the birth of a grandson, Archibald "Archie" James Langenhop, born to CJ & Lisa Langenhop on Wed., Oct. 5th in Cincinnati

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENINGS – Sunday School openings will be held in the kitchen end of the fellowship hall. This should help alleviate the crunch after church.

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES – There are two more Thursday evening services scheduled for this year, the last of which is on Thursday, October 27th. Then it won't be long before we'll be having midweek services again for Thanksgiving and Advent. Regular Thursday evening services are slated to begin again on the first Thursday of May 2017.

OUT OF THE OFFICE – Secretary, *Joyce Wiechers*, will be out of the office on Mon. & Tues., October 17 & 18. Miss Rettig will be filling in for Joyce on those days. Thank you!

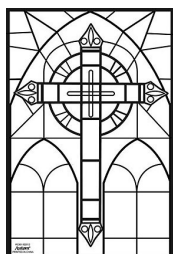
WOMEN OF FREEDOM: The next Women of Freedom meeting will be Tues., Oct. 18th at 7:00 PM. All ladies of St. John invited to come. Bring your mite box to the meeting.

LifeLight BIBLE STUDY will not be meeting this week.

We will meet again on Monday and Tuesday (Oct. 24th and 25th) for chapter five of our study, “The Mercy of God and the Fate of the Redeemed.” Please put this on your calendar and plan on joining us for this fantastic study of God’s Word and for all the discussion it is generating.



THE NOMINATIONS PROCESS HAS BEGUN – The Stewardship Board is pleased to announce that a round of letters has gone out to members of our congregation asking if they would be willing to serve in one of the offices of our congregation. Please keep this process in your prayers, and please pray for those who are considering a nomination or an appointment. **We are so thankful to God for all those who serve!** If you received one of these letters, please consider it prayerfully – your service in the Lord’s name is never in vain, and it is deeply appreciated!



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. **This will be the last call for anyone who would like to serve on this committee.**

CALLED TO VOTE: A Christian Approach to Elections

Last Sunday Pastor Niermann left us with a question to ponder. In view of what Scripture says about honoring the emperor (1 Pet. 2) and not rebelling against the authorities established by God (Rom. 13), was the American Revolution contrary to the Word of God?

This is part of our discussion in 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.

DECORATING COMMITTEE UPDATE: We have had a few individuals step forward as volunteers to decorate the church and surroundings for Christmas. We could still use a few more helping hands, so if this is something you’ve been pondering, why not jump on board and be a helper. Please give it some thought, and contact the church office if you would like to volunteer. Thank you!

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. This week we see that through the lineage of a common woman, Ruth, God ultimately brought forth His Son, who is the Savior of all: Jews and Gentiles, men and women. **We will now be meeting in the balcony to permit the children to hold their openings in the fellowship hall.**



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.

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!

FINANCIAL FACTS:

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 10/09/16	\$7,395.00	\$92.00	\$322.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday (10/06/16) Worship Service: 21; Sunday (10/09/16) Service: 225

SCRIP ORDER FORMS: The SCRIP Order Form has been updated for the holidays. Order forms are available on the narthex table and in the "School Info" rack outside the school office if you should need more. Thank you and happy shopping!

MYSTERY READER: Is there a Mystery Reader among us???? Please send Kindergarten Teacher, Mrs. Niermann an email at bniermann@sjl.org if you would like to be a "mystery reader". We have already had one mystery reader which proved very exciting for the kindergarteners. There are forms available on the narthex table to sign up. Complete the form and bring to the school office.

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.

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.

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 (6:30 – 8:00 PM) 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!!!

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.

GET INVOLVED THROUGH THRIVENT – HURRICANE MATTHEW: Hurricane Matthew, the strongest Caribbean storm in nearly a decade, has left a trail of destruction in the Caribbean and United States. Haiti, the poorest country in Latin America, suffered significant damage: Hurricane Matthew destroyed tens of thousands of homes, and left more than 60,000 people staying in temporary shelters. When tragic events like this occur, Thrivent Financial members and others want to know how they can help. As a membership organization of Christians committed to guiding members to be wise with money and live generously, Thrivent is supporting your generosity in the following ways by matching **\$250,000** in personal donations made on Thrivent.com to certain disaster relief organizations responding in Haiti and other areas affected by Hurricane Matthew. The dollar-for-dollar match is open to members and others who want to give, and will lead to a total combined impact of up to \$500,000. For details about the match, visit the [Disaster Response page on Thrivent.com](#). Type “disaster response” in the Search Field; scroll down and click on Disaster Response.

OR – GET INVOLVED IN GRASSROOTS DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS: Consider getting involved in your community to help raise funds for disaster relief by forming a Thrivent Action Team. Thrivent provides promotional materials, t-shirts, and a \$250 Community Impact Card that can be used as seed money to purchase project supplies and create promotional materials. To apply or to learn more about Thrivent Action Teams, go to Thrivent.com/actionteam.

LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT – ***How You Can Help?*** If you have used **prescription or nonprescription** glasses or sunglasses in your drawers, desks, or closets, you can donate them now! Children's glasses are especially needed. Both plastic and metal frames are accepted. There is a box on the table in the narthex for the collection of these used glasses.

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.

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!

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. Paul Lutheran – Liberty Center** is hosting its Fall Soup & Pie Dinner **today from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM**. Freewill Offering and Carry Outs available! See flyer!
- **St. Martin’s 150th Anniversary Concert Series** presents the BGSU Collegiate Chorale on **Sun., Oct. 23rd at 4:00 PM** at the church located at 203 S. Defiance St., Archbold, OH.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

What you won’t need in heaven: Clock, Doc., Lock, Glock, H&R Block!

*“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying: “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man...
...the former things have passed away.” (Revelation 21:3-4)*