



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

October 23, 2016

VOL. 81

NO. 43

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

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
Cell: 940-390-3065
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339
Church Website: www.sjl.org

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Going Home Justified" *Luke 18:9-17*

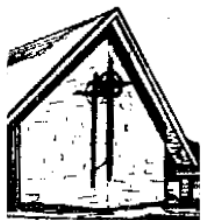
Order of Service: *Matins (LSB pg. 219)*

Hymns: **565 ~ 615 ~ 611**

Choir: *Sunday School Choir sing "Jesus Loves the Little Children"*

A WARM 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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Zak Schroeder & Clara Damman, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Richard & Bev Elling, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Tom VonDeylen, Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Roger Lulfs, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Linda Riefers, Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff, *Altar Guild* ✠

REFORMATION SUNDAY – Next Sunday is a special day on the church calendar as we celebrate the 499th anniversary of the Reformation. Through His servant, Martin Luther, God brought to light the saving truth of His Gospel, and that truth sets us free indeed. This Gospel of Christ is the eternal Truth, as Pastor Niermann will speak about in his sermon. **"A mighty fortress is our God!"** Come, let's celebrate our great heritage in God's Word!



SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENINGS are now being held in the kitchen end of the fellowship hall. The goal is to alleviate the crunch after church so that the students of the Sunday School can get off to a quieter and more timely start.

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

| Date | Time | Activities |
|---------------|---|---|
| Today | 9:00 AM 10:20AM | Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" |
| Mon. | 5:30 PM 7:00 PM | <i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study |
| Tue. | 8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM | Chapel led by Gr. 7&8; Offering: <i>LCC – K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry</i> Exercise Class <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study Shepherd Committee Board of Elders |
| Wed. | 6:15 PM 6:45 PM 7:30 PM | Junior Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM) Adult Bell Choir Practice Adult Choir Practice |
| Thurs. | 9:00 AM 7:00 PM | Exercise Class Thursday Evening Worship (<i>final one</i>) |
| Fri. | 6:30 PM | Wedding Rehearsal – <i>Elling / Shultz</i> |
| Sat. | 3:30 PM | Wedding Ceremony – <i>Joshua Elling / Kristina Shultz</i> |
| Sun. | 9:00 AM 10:20AM | Worship Service -- **REFORMATION SUNDAY** Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" |
| Mon.- Sat. | 7:30 AM | Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Dale Kern</i> , Retired – St. John Lutheran, Stryker |

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 Lange*, hospitalized recently at St. V's, Toledo for severe burns to his leg

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES ENDING FOR THE SEASON – This Thursday evening will be the last of our Thursday services for this season. 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.

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!

PASTOR'S ADULT BIBLE STUDY is cancelled this morning in his absence. We will pick up with our study, *Called to Vote*, again next Sunday. You are encouraged instead to sit in on the Vicar's Bible study. Read more about Vicar Keller's Bible Study below.

CROSS EXPLORATIONS FOR ADULTS - NORTH FELLOWSHIP HALL TODAY

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 for the sake of Christ, God, who is always eager to forgive us and grant us His grace, calls all people to repentance through preachers such as Samuel. **This week we will meet in the north end of the Fellowship Hall where Pastor's class normally meets. Next week we will return to the balcony.**



LifeLight BIBLE STUDY – “Heaven and Hell”

LifeLight meets this week on Monday evening (7pm) or Tuesday morning (10am). Please join us! Many people have questions about heaven and hell, and God's Word has much to say on the subject. This week our session is titled, **“Behold, the Dwelling Place of God is With Men.”** In this study we will get a “sneak peek” of life in the world to come.



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.

VETS TO VOLUNTEER! With Veteran's Day approaching, we would like to know if there are any veterans that would be willing to come in to the school and talk to the students about their time in the military and what Veteran's Day means to them. If you know someone or ARE that someone, please call the school office at 419-598-8702 and we will set up a date and time. Thank you for serving!

PRAYER CALENDAR NOTE: Please be aware that if you would like your wedding anniversaries printed on the prayer calendars, you will have to post them each year. Just list them on the blank calendars posted on the bulletin board in the narthex throughout the year. Thank you!

COUNCIL MINUTES – This is just a reminder that council meeting minutes are not published until they are approved a month later. If you would like to read about the most recent council meeting, an unofficial and unapproved copy of the minutes is available for viewing in the church office, usually within a week after the meeting.

| FINANCIAL FACTS: | Home Fund | Synod & Missions | Building Fund |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|
| Weekly Need | \$9,792.78 | \$500.00 | \$961.54 |
| Rec'd 10/16/16 | \$15,847.00 | \$285.00 | \$170.00 |

ATTENDANCE: Thursday (10/13/16) Worship Service: 26; Sunday (10/16/16) Service: 210

MEMORIALS given for *Steven Okuly*: St. John Lutheran Church - \$1,435.00

EAGLE NEWS: The Eagle News publication will be passed out at the end of the service today and will also be available on the narthex table. It can be found online via FastDirect. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnfreedom/>, click on “Links” at the top of the page, then click on “Eagle News-October” in the “Everybody” column.

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 is you should need more. Thank you and happy shopping!

ST. JOHN SPIRITWEAR: At its last meeting, the PTL decided to sell SJL Eagle spirit wear again. This is a great way to show your Eagle Pride. Order forms are located on the narthex table and in the “School Info” rack outside the office. Make checks payable to **THREE CORD**. Orders must be turned in by Wed., Oct. 26th.

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.

GIRLS’ BASKETBALL MEETING: The 2016-17 SJL basketball season is just around the corner! The coaching staff for Gr. 4-8 Girls’ Basketball Team will host a meeting for prospective team parents and athletes on Wed., October 26th at 6:00 PM in the gym. Information on the team program, practices, and games will be provided for your consideration. See you on the 26th!

SPORTS SCHEDULE NOTE: With Brad Rosebrook as our current Athletic Director, please go to his “Calendar” in Fast Direct frequently as this is where he will post the sports schedules and any changes to the sports schedules. Keep in mind that in order to view the games for the volleyball or basketball season, you can go to either FastDirect directly (*thru the school*) or you can enter the church’s website (www.sjl.org), click on “School” at the top of page, click on “FastDirect School Info. System” on the left side of page, click on “BulletinBoard/Calendar” on the left side of page, and then scroll down to Brad Rosebrook, Athletic Director and click on his “Calendar”.

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!

AREA EVENTS:

- **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.

✘ ✘ ✘

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Anything over your head is still beneath God’s feet!

“This is what the LORD says: ‘Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool.’” (Isa 66:1)