



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

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

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### REFORMATION SUNDAY (observed)

Sermon & Text: "Truth is Forever" *John 8:31-36*

Order of Service: *See printed Service folder*

Hymns: 555 ~ 655 ~ 660 ~ 656 ~ 578

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### A PRAYER UPON ENTERING CHURCH

*We thank God this day for His work through Martin Luther to bring  
to light the Gospel of Jesus. May He reform us and renew us as we seek  
His purposes under the power of this Gospel. The church gathers under*

*the Gospel of Christ. It is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes. You are  
welcome as our guest this morning. 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. May the Lord bless our worship.*

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### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Taylor Dietrich & Aden Foor, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Peter & Karen Gerken, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Jim & Linda Meyer, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Tom VonDeylen, Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Roger Lulfs, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Linda Riefers, Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff, *Altar Guild* ✠

**JUST MARRIED!** May God richly bless the marriage of Josh Elling to Kristina Shultz, whose wedding took place here at St. John yesterday, Oct., 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM. We rejoice with Josh & Kristina as they begin their life together as husband and wife, and wish them many years of happiness together. Congrats to the Ellings!

**THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES HAVE ENDED FOR THIS SEASON** – 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.

## In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: [www.DynaCal.com/sjl](http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl)

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service <b>**REFORMATION SUNDAY**</b> Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Mon.	7:00 PM	<i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Kramer Exercise Class <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study School Board & Stewardship Board Meetings
Wed.	10:20AM 6:15 PM 6:45 PM 7:30 PM	Late Start-Up due to Teacher In-Service at 8:30 AM Junior Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM) Adult Bell Choir Practice Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 3:30 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant - Napoleon Exercise Class Parent / Teacher Conferences
Fri.		<b>NO SCHOOL</b> due to Parent / Teacher Conferences
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	<i>Turn your clocks back one hour as Daylight Saving Time ends</i> Communion Service – <i>All Saints Day</i> Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Eric Moquin</i> , – St. John Lutheran, Sherwood

### **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 Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Servicemen, *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Kyle Elling, Emily Schroeder, and Connor Gerken*
- ❖ *Jerry Lange*, returned to St. V's in Toledo for skin grafting to his leg due to severe burns
- ❖ *Rodney Rosebrock*, for a heart ablation procedure at Parkview – Fort Wayne this past week
- ❖ *Loren Maassel*, hospitalized at UTMC and gravely ill with a rapidly progressing brain disease



### **REFORMATION SUNDAY** – Today we mark the 499<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation.

On October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1517 Martin Luther nailed 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church, Germany intending to start a debate within the church about some of its teachings and practices. His challenge to the church instead sparked a movement that celebrated liberty in Christ and in the Good News of His life, death and resurrection for our

salvation. Through His servant, Martin Luther, God brought to light the saving truth of His Gospel, and that truth sets us free indeed. **"A mighty fortress is our God!"** Come, let us celebrate our great heritage in God's Word!

**TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK:** Remember to turn your clocks back this coming weekend, Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 AM. Daylight saving time ends! *Schlaf Gut!*

**NEXT SUNDAY IS ALL SAINTS** – On that day we will remember with thanksgiving those of our faith family who were called to glory since our last celebration of All Saints: **Roger Mahnke, Marian Fitzenreiter, Helen Norden, Magdalena Volkman, and Steve Okuly.** “For all the saints who from their labors rest, Who Thee, by faith before the world confessed, Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia!”

## All Saints Sunday

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING:** The Budget Committee will be meeting on Tues., Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM. **The Budget Committee consists of the following 2016 office holders:** *Church Treasurer*, two second year **Trustees**, *two of the four Board of Ed members currently serving their second and third year*, two **Church Deacons**, *two Financial Trustees currently serving their second and third year*, the **Elder** completing his term of office, *and two Stewardship members, one serving their first year and one their second year.* Please make every effort to attend this important meeting on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**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.

### **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.**



<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 10/23/16	\$15,668.30	\$84.00	\$730.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Thursday (10/20/16) Worship Service: 30; Sunday (10/23/16) Service: 230

**LADIES OF THE CONGREGATION:** If you would like to fill a shoebox for “Operation Christmas Child”, as was done last year, please pick up a box from the desk in the narthex.

## **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, “**And They Will Be His People.**” 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.

**CALENDARS FOR 2017** – We recently received several 2017 calendars from Snyder-Wesche-Hoening Funeral Home in Napoleon as a donation. These calendars will be available on the narthex table on a first come, first serve basis. There are two styles, one called *Inspirations for Life* and one called *The Saturday Evening Post*.

**POINSETTIA SALE** –The poinsettia sale for Christmas is now underway, and green order forms are inserted in today’s bulletin and also available on the narthex table. **The deadline for ordering is Mon., Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>**. The cost is \$8.00 per plant. You may put your form and check payable to *St. John Lutheran School* in the box on the narthex table. Be sure to fill in the line, “*In Loving Memory of*” or “*In Honor of*”. This information will be published in the church bulletin as an insert the Sunday the poinsettias are placed in the sanctuary.



**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!

## **Bible Study**



### **MEN’S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY** – Join us bright and early this

**Thursday morning** for a sneak preview of next Sunday’s scripture readings.

These texts will form the basis of our study together, as we also share breakfast.

We’ll meet at *Hill’s Family Restaurant* in Napoleon at 6:30 a.m. Breakfast is \$7.00, which includes the tip. It’s a great way to start your day! Good food, good friends, and a good Word from God!

**DID YOU KNOW?** The free Pepperidge Farm bread, cookies, and crackers available on Sundays down by the gym lobby have the “Labels For Education” UPC codes on the wrappers. Be sure to clip them off and bring them to the school/church office at your convenience.

**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!

**CHURCH HISTORY BOOKS** – If at any time during the year you need a gift for a current or former member of St. John, why not consider one of our Church History Books. This book is full of interesting facts about St. John’s and is available in the church office at a cost of \$12.00.

**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!

**EAGLE NEWS** : The Eagle News publication is 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.

**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!

**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. 26<sup>th</sup>.

**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 basketball season, you can go to either FastDirect directly (*thru the school*) or you can enter the church’s website ([www.sjl.org](http://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”.

**PTL S.T.O.P. PENNY DRIVE** will wrap up this tomorrow, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>. Send your pennies in to school with your child or grandchild. The winning classroom will be awarded a pizza party. Every penny adds up to a lot of support for the school. Let’s keep those pennies coming in!

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**Don’t believe everything your heart tells you.**

*“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?” (Jer. 17:9)*