



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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NO. 4

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

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Church Website: www.sjl.org

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: **912 ~ 812**, stz 1-2 ~ **812**, stz 3-4 ~ **576**

Children's Choirs: *Gr. 7&8 Bell Choir rings "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"*

Preschool – Gr. 8 School Choir sing "I Will Build My Church"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to St. John Church! "I sought the Lord and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears" (Ps. 34:4). Let us seek the Lord together this day.

Let us offer up our fears and doubts, that we may go forth strengthened and empowered for another week. If you are visiting us today, know that we are honored by your presence. Simply 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 this morning.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Zak Schroeder & Clara Damman, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Esther Layton & Phyllis Silveus, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karan Niebergall, Ronda and Kaylee Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, *Altar Guild* ✠

THE FLOWERS ON THE PIANO are placed in celebration and in honor of the 40th Wedding Anniversary of Dan & Deb Wachtman. Dan & Deb were married here at St. John on Jan. 22, 1977 by Rev. A.M. Bickel. An Open House is planned for the Wachtman's today from 1:00 – 3:00 PM in the fellowship hall. Congratulations to Dan & Deb...and wishes for many more happy years together!

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:00 PM 4:30 PM 6:00 PM	♦ ♦ National Lutheran Schools Week ♦ ♦ Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Open House – 40 th Wedding Anniversary of Dan & Deb Wachtman Sr. High LYF Meeting Open Volleyball
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM	Chapel led by Kindergarten; <i>Offering: Filling Home – Napoleon</i> Exercise Class
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:45 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM) Adult Bell Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 5:00 PM	Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. Hilltop (played at St. Paul-Napoleon)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 6:00 PM	Worship Service Soup & Pie Dinner; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Open Volleyball
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Dale Kern</i> , Retired from St. John Lutheran – Stryker

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Lucia Delventhal, Renetta Homan, Stan Moll, Florence Fitzenreiter, and Delores Badenhop*
- ❖ *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, Connor Gerken, and Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Casen Lawrence*, for seizure activity he has been experiencing
- ❖ *Vernon Kruse*, who lies seriously ill in the ICU at the *University of Toledo Medical Center*.
May God bring healing and health to his body
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs*, recuperating at home now following a recent fall
- ❖ *Glenn & Marcia Huebel* (Sr. Pastor at Messiah Lutheran, Keller, TX), whose house was struck by lightning causing an attic fire resulting in major structural damage

THANK YOU! I would like to thank everyone for your cards, gifts, and most of all your prayers sent my way while I was overseas serving our country. Your thoughtfulness was appreciated very much. I am happy to say I am now back in the good old U.S. of A. Thanks again! *Connor Gerken*

VOTERS' MEETING – The first voters' meeting of 2017 will be held on Sun., Feb. 26th after the worship service. Items are on the agenda to date are: 1) Annual school report; 2) Audit Committee report; 3) Endowment Fund distributions approval. Please mark your calendar and plan on attending!

ARCHIVES DISPLAY: The Archives Display has been changed and is now highlighting the 2016-2017 school pictures of the students and staff of St. John Lutheran School. Also pictured are the pictures of Lowell Petzoldt and Bonnie Niermann who will both be celebrating milestones in their teaching careers. Please stop down and check them out at your leisure.

NEW LifeLight BIBLE STUDY - Sign up today and help us choose our topic!

The new study will begin February 6 & 7 (Monday evening and Tuesday morning). *LifeLight* offers in-depth Bible studies designed to give an increase and growth in faith for all who participate. When you sign up, be sure to express your preference between the following two studies:

- **"Wilderness Wandering"** examines Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy and Israel's wilderness wanderings. In this study, we would examine how they got where they were, how they made offerings, the priestly ministry, cleanliness, atonement, holiness, the festivals, numbers, and the plan to settle the Promised Land. --or--
- **"Parables"** will look at why Jesus spoke in parables (*think Matthew 13:34-35*). From there the study looks at several well-known parables, such as the Lost Sheep and the Vine and the Branches, as well as perhaps some less known parables, such as the wineskins and wise servant.

You can sign up for either the Monday or Tuesday study groups. We'll meet the first, second and fourth weeks of February, March, and April (Mondays 7-8:15pm, Tuesdays 10-11:15am).

Life's Big Questions, God Big Answers – New Bible Study

Pastor's Sunday morning adult Bible study will be looking into some of life's big questions and exploring God's Word for God's big answers. Does evolution explain the world? What are humans? What is a canon? (This one has to do with how Scripture came to exist.) Was Noah's flood really a worldwide event? What is post-modernism and the new tolerance? Today we are exploring the defense of Scripture as the authoritative Word of God and why that's important for Christian apologetics. Please join us as we grow in grace and in the knowledge of God's Holy Word.

2016 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – It's time to start getting your reports ready for the 2016 Church Annual. The secretaries of the different organizations are asked to write up a summary of the year's activities along with a financial report if there is one. If you need your offering contribution information prior to the distribution of the Annual Report, please call Financial Trustee, *Sara Myles*, at 419-966-1335. **Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers by Tues., Jan. 31.**

THE CONSTITUTION OF OUR CONGREGATION has recently undergone some updating. Copies of the most recent version are available for you upon request to Joyce in the church office. She will give you either a paper copy, or send it to you as an email attachment.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 01/15/17	\$8,249.00	\$239.00	\$225.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday (01/15/17) Service: 220

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK: NLSW is scheduled for today thru Jan. 28, 2017.

A few interesting facts about Lutheran Schools... We pursue excellence! In a Christ-centered religiously integrated curriculum Lutheran schools meet or exceed state standards for high quality schools. Through National Lutheran Schools Accreditation (NLSA) schools complete a rigorous self-study, are reviewed by a team of peers and implement initiatives that provide a continuing program of excellence for students.

In celebration of National Lutheran Schools Week, we will be holding various extra activities at school this week, including live broadcasts on Friday, Jan. 27th on WNDH 103.1. You can also listen to several alumni give their testimony of St. John by going to <http://wp.sjl.org/2017-st-john-school-radio-spots/>. We plan to culminate the week with popcorn and a movie on Friday afternoon.

SCHOOL MEMORIES: There are several copies of old St. John School yearbooks found in the office that are being offered, to anyone interested, on a “first come, first serve” basis. These are from the 2000-2001 school year (14 copies) and the 2002-2003 school year (23 copies). If you were a student or the parent of a student at that time, you may want to pick up a keepsake copy; or anyone can just pick up a copy to enjoy. They are available on the desk in the narthex.

THE FLOWER CALENDAR for 2017 is posted inside the sliding door showcase in the narthex. If you wish to sign up for a certain Sunday to place flowers on the altar or the piano, sign your name on that Sunday and then about two weeks before that date, call *Mabel Bischoff* at 419-598-8757 to let her know if you are getting your own flowers or if you want the Women of Freedom to take care of them. **The price for the flowers through the Women of Freedom is \$21.00.** Please remember that it is your responsibility to contact *Mabel Bischoff*. Also, please contact the church office with the information for the bulletin before Wednesday of the week you are placing the flowers in church. This will insure that you are not forgotten or overlooked.

HELP WITH SERVICE SLIDES – We are still recruiting some people to help with worship slides by taking charge of the “presentation clicker” and advancing the slides during worship services. Once we’ve identified some people, we will set up a training session to teach everyone how to perform this task. If you are interested in serving in this way, please speak with Dan Wachtman or Pastor Niermann.

CHURCH LIBRARY: Books have been added to the St. John Lutheran Church Library located in the hallway west of the sanctuary. New additions include Reformation Heritage Bible Commentaries on Luke, Revelation, Mark, Hebrews, the Pastoral Letters, and the General Epistles. Just a few of the books added include, “Passover to Communion”, “The Miracles of Jesus”, “Concordia’s Complete Bible Handbook”, “Christianity in the Age of Terrorism”, a biography of Wilhelm Loehe, and Volumes 1-3 of Pieper’s “Christian Dogmatics”. Pick out any of these or other books or DVDs to read or watch at your leisure and return them in the basket provided when you are finished. Many children’s books are also available for fathers and mothers to read with their children.

LYF SUPER BOWL SUB SALE – It's that time of year again! Super Bowl Sunday is quickly approaching and it's time to get ready for the big game. Why not help out our church's LYF as well? On Sun., Feb. 5th, we will be selling Super Bowl subs to help raise money for our youth group. Each sub will cost \$3.00 and will contain salami, bologna, ham, white cheese, and yellow cheese. To place an order, please fill out the pre-order form located at the narthex table and place it in the basket or bring it to the church office by February 1st. Subs will be available for pick up after church on February 5th. Payment will be due at the time of pick up. **Checks can be made payable to St. John LYF.** Thank you for supporting our LYF youth!



EAGLE NEWS : The Eagle News publication is available today and also online via FastDirect Communication. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnfreedom/>, click on "Links" at the top of the page, then click on "Eagle News - January" in the "Everybody" column. There will still be printed copies available on the narthex table for parishioners to enjoy!

SOUP & PIE DINNER – The annual PTL Soup & Pie Dinner will be held next Sun., Jan. 29, 2017, with serving from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, in the fellowship hall. On the menu will be *Chili Soup, Noodle Soup, Hot Dogs, Sloppy Joes, a Salad and Dessert Bar, and Beverages*. After the Dinner you can stay and enjoy watching some basketball games as all four of our school teams will be playing St. Paul Lutheran –Napoleon.



DONATIONS FOR SOUP & PIE DINNER – The PTL Soup & Pie Committee are asking for donations for the Salad and Dessert Bars. A sign-up sheet is placed on the table in the narthex. Thanks to everyone for taking time to support the PTL through your donations of salads, desserts, or cupcakes. We look forward to another successful Soup & Pie Dinner on January 29th!

ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES: You may begin ordering SCRIP again. 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 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE is planned for grade levels PS-8 on Wed., February 8th, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM, for families who would like to come and look at our school and discuss the possibility of sending their child(ren) here for their education. If anyone in the congregation might know of prospective students for Grades PS-8, please be sure to pass this information on to them. There will also be refreshments.

FELLOWSHIP HALL SET-UP CREW: The Church Council is looking for a few good people to serve on a crew that can be available as needed to set up the fellowship hall for church related events such as funeral luncheons, potlucks, special events, etc (not private events). If you can help, please sign up in the narthex and include your cell number. Thank you for your help and for all you do!

FAMILIES SERVING FAMILIES – This is an Outreach Camp that brings local families together to act out their Christian faith by serving other families in need. **St. Paul Lutheran Church – Liberty Center** coordinates this camp. During the camp, families will provide home repairs and maintenance for local families in need. Eligible project examples are: Interior or Exterior Painting, Weatherization, Mobile Home Skirting, Handicap Accessibility Modifications, Porch or Stairs Repair, Landscape Maintenance, etc. At this time, applications are being accepted for those in need of such repairs or maintenance. Bright orange applications are on the narthex table or apply online at <http://www.saintpaulc.org/families-serving-families/> . Application deadline is February 1, 2017.

ARE YOU A MYSTERY READER? Don't forget to consider being a Mystery Reader for the Kindergarten classroom anytime this school year. They have already had several Readers.

- Who can be a Mystery Reader?* Parents of students, older siblings, grandparents, relatives, church members, or other special people may volunteer to read a story to our class. The goal is to remain a “mystery” so that the children are surprised to learn who our Mystery Reader will be! Please keep it a secret!
- What does a Mystery Reader Do?*

Mystery Readers are welcome to choose any age-appropriate book to read to our class. You may bring a book from home, or if you would like to borrow a book, you are welcome to do so. For added fun, readers may bring props or costumes related to their stories, if you wish.

If this sounds like “you” please contact Mrs. Niermann (email: bniermann@sjl.org) to sign up.

SUNDAY NIGHT VOLLEYBALL & FELLOWSHIP: Every Sunday night until the end of March 2017, there will be open volleyball in the gym for anyone wishing to come and get a little exercise and enjoy some fellowship with one another. The time will be 6:00 – 8:00 PM and you can come anytime and any week that fits your schedule. Some weeks the time will fluctuate due to previously scheduled events, so if you contact Amy Dietrich at 419-966-7345 she will put you into a group text and let you know of the time each Sunday. This is nothing organized, just “pick up” teams based on whoever shows up. Hope to see you in the gym!

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 the receivers. At the end of the service, unplug the ear bud to take with you until the next time.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Jesus, the first and greatest recycler.

“He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’” (Rev. 21:5)