



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

February 5, 2017

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NO. 6

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

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
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Church Website: www.sjl.org

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "Salt and Light" *Matthew 5:13-16*

Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting 1 (LSB pg. 151)*

Hymns: **563 ~ 578** ~ (Communion: **425, 452, 617**) ~ **782**

Adult Choir: "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" and "Here, O My Lord"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

The Psalmist wrote: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the House of the Lord.'" We are happy to have you with us, whether someone invited you or you came by yourself. We are glad to share this House of the Lord with you. 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 this morning. Thank you!



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Ashton Niese & Hannah Wachtman, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Dave & Sara Myles, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Harold Behrmann & Richard Elling, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham, *Altar Guild* ✘

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!

THANK YOU to *Larry Mahnke* and *Dean Maassel* for their efforts this winter in keeping the church and school parking lot cleared of snow. They donate their time and equipment to get this job done after each snowfall. So far, we've been lucky with this year's snowfall! God is good! Thank you for being willing servants here at St. John!

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 6:00 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"; LYF Sub Sale Sr. High Super Bowl Party (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.	7:00 PM	<i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Niermann Exercise Class <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:00 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys @ Solomon - Woodville Stewardship Board & School Board Meetings
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30</i>) St. John School & Preschool Open House (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>) Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 5:30 PM	Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls; 6:30 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs Monclova Christian
Sat.	10:00AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:15 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys; 12:30 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls; 1:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys @ St. Paul – Napoleon
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM	Worship Service w/Communion following <i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Jr. High LYF (<i>Note time change! 4:00-5:30 PM</i>) Family Night (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Stephen Niermann</i> , St. John Lutheran – Napoleon

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, Delora Winkelman, and Marian Buchhop* at The Lutheran Home, Napoleon
- ❖ *Anna Brodman* 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
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs*, recovering at home from a recent hospitalization
- ❖ *Delores Badenhop*, moved to The Lutheran Home for physical therapy

SUPER BOWL SUB SALE TODAY! It's finally here! Super Bowl Sub Sunday!

Stop by the kitchen to pick up your order after church today. There are a limited number of extras available for sale too, so if you still want to purchase subs, stop by the kitchen. Cost is \$3 per sub. **Checks can be made out to St. John LYF.** Thank you for supporting our Sr. High LYF!



THANK YOU FROM SOUP & PIE COMMITTEE – The Soup & Pie Committee would like to thank everyone for their support of the Annual Soup & Pie Dinner. Thanks to everyone who donated salads, desserts, and any other food items in order to make this fundraiser a success. We had a great turnout! Also thanks to the committee workers for all your teamwork and extra help offered. There were some new faces on the committee this year and we appreciate everyone's effort. (Signed: Jason & Zoe Foor, Kurtis & Amy Kramer, Co-chairs)



NEW LifeLight BIBLE STUDY - Pick up the Session 1 Study Guide TODAY!

You may have heard it said that Jesus spoke in parables so that everyone would understand him, but that isn't necessarily the case. While the meaning of the parables are open for Christians, their message is confounding to those who are part of Christ's kingdom. "**Why Parables?**" will look at why Jesus spoke in parables (think Matthew 13:34-35). In the following weeks, we will look at a topic the work and mission of Jesus to the radical grace of our God to our Lord's desire that all would come to faith and be saved. In each of these topics, we will study some of Jesus' parables to see how he used them to show us the Truth.

Our first meetings are this week on Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. and again on Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. Choose the one that works best for you, and join us --- *even if you didn't sign up!* The study guide for the first session, "**Why Parables?**" is available in the narthex. Pick up a copy and work through it so we can "hit the ground runnin'" this week!

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

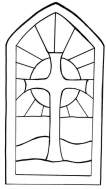
At the beginning of all apologetics is the question of the Bible's reliability and authority, which many people doubt and call into question. So in class today we put the Bible to the TEST. **T** is for the TRUTH statements in the Bible; **E** is for the EXPLOITS of its characters; **S** is for the SETTINGS in which the story takes place; **T** is for the TRACES that are left to us to discover. In all these ways, the Bible proves again and again to be reliable and trustworthy. Please join us as we grow in grace and in the knowledge of God's Holy Word, and in our own ability to defend the Christian faith.

SR. HIGH LYF: Come one, come all to the Super Bowl Party 2017 at Miss Bartok's home on Feb. 5th from 6:00 PM – your curfew. Bring snacks and be ready to root for your favorite team! Not into football??? There will be other games and activities going on as well. Hope to see you on the 5th!

NEWSPAPERS NEEDED! The LYF is looking for some extra newspapers for their next LYF meeting. If you have any lying around that you want to get rid of, we will gladly take them. If you have any to donate please drop them off at the box outside Miss Bartok's classroom. We will need them by February 12th. Thank you!

SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY: St. John Lutheran Church is seeking an individual who would be interested in filling a vacancy on the School Board, due to the relocation of Board member, Jenelle McCarthy to Pennsylvania. This individual would fill the remaining portion of Jenelle's term of 2 ½ years. If you would be interested in serving on the Board, please contact Pastor Niermann.

TALK RADIO FOR THE THINKING CHRISTIAN... You can listen to in-depth conversations on topics like: An Interview with President Obama's Faith Vote Director, The Bible & Immigration, The Story of a Philadelphia Abortionist Convicted of Mass Murder, The Apology of the Augsburg Confession and more. **Issues, Etc.** is a radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen at your convenience at www.issuesetc.org and on the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.



STAINED GLASS COMMITTEE MEETING – A meeting of the *Stained Glass Committee* has been scheduled for Monday, Feb. 13th at 7:30 p.m. There are a number of people who already volunteered, but if you'd still like to be part of this committee, please speak with Pastor Niermann. Steve & Sue Hurst, our window designers and builders, are anxious and ready to get our project under way, and the money for the project is in place – thanks be to God!

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.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: A women's Lenten Bible Study – "Gifts Chosen For You," is being planned for Monday mornings and Thursday evenings during the Lenten season (approx. 4-5 weeks). This Bible Study will focus on our "spiritual gifts." Sign up at the table in the narthex and be watching the bulletin for further information. *NOTE: The days and times are subject to change due to the group's preferences.*

2016 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – Keep up the good work of 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 ASAP.**

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 01/29/17	\$7,153.00	\$405.00	\$510.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday (01/29/17) Service: 300

COMMUNED in January: 265 members; 10 guests

LADIES QUILTING PARTY is planned for all day Monday, Feb. 20. There will be blanket knotting for those that do not wish to quilt. We will start at 9:00 AM. All ladies of the congregation are invited. You can come and stay all day or just part of the day; whatever fits your schedule.

TIME TO UPDATE OUR DIRECTORY: There are many addresses and phone numbers in the Annual Report directory that need updated. If you (and/or your adult children) have address changes; or if you have eliminated your land line telephone and only have cell phone numbers, **please call or email** the church office at 419-598-8961 or email jwiechers@sjl.org with updated information. It will be very helpful to have current addresses on file when we do our mailings. Thank you!

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.

PTL MEETING: The next PTL Meeting will be held on Mon., Feb. 13th at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall. Soup & Pie results as well as other business at hand will be discussed. Please plan to attend!

FAMILY NIGHT: St. John PTL is hosting a Family Night on Sun., Feb. 12th from 6:00 – 8:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We will be playing Candy Bar Bingo. Everyone playing bingo should bring one candy bar. Bring your own snacks for the night. More details coming in next week's newsletter.

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 MINI EAGLES BASKETBALL program began this past Wednesday. This will continue over the next several Wednesdays until the end of February. Practices will begin at 6:30 PM, will last 1 hour, and will focus on basketball fundamentals. We may extend the program if our volunteer coaches can hold practices on a day other than Wednesdays due to Lenten services beginning on March 1st. The coaches this year are Kurtis & Amy Kramer and Nate & Christa Bickel. Please have your child wear gym shoes while at practice. These Mini Eagles will scrimmage each other this coming Sunday between the games with St. Paul.

KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY CHANGES for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2017! The K-clinic will be held on Thursday, March 23rd beginning at 1:00 PM. There WILL BE Kindergarten class until 11:30 AM on March 23rd. **Napoleon Area Schools and St. John Lutheran changed the eligibility date for entering Kindergarten beginning with the 2014-15 school year. The new eligibility is: A child must be five years old on or before August 1 to enroll in Kindergarten.** Items needed for our St. John clinic are: An original and/or certified copy of their birth certificate; a physical dated after August 2016 (*if available*); immunization records; Social Security number; child custody documents if applicable; and the baptism date/baptismal certificate, or dedication date. *NOTE: If your child is enrolled in our Preschool program, we already have the items listed above and you will not need to bring them the day of the clinic.*

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!

HELP WITH SERVICE SLIDES – In the new year we'd like to recruit 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.

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!

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.

ST. JOHN WEBSITE: Did you know you can listen to *Pastor Niermann's* sermons on the internet? Just click on the "Media" tab on our website. There is also a "For Kids" tab which allows you to listen to the Children's Sermons at St. John.

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.

TOWN HALL MEETING: The Henry County Health Dept. is hosting *OPIATE EPIDEMIC: A Town Hall Meeting* on Wed., Feb. 8th at 7:00 PM at Patrick Henry High School Gymnasium. Presenters from the Ohio Atty. General's Office, Henry Co. Sheriff's Office, MAN Unit, Napoleon Fire & Rescue, Henry Co. Prosecutor's Office, and several others will discuss the opiate crisis impacting Henry County. Everyone is invited to attend this educational event.

CHICKEN PIE DINNER – The Ridgeville American Legion Post #454 will host their annual Chicken Pie Dinner on Sun., Feb. 19 with serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Don't believe everything you think!

"Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise." (1 Cor. 3:18)