



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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SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "Changed to be Growing" *1 Corinthians 3:1-9*

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

Hymns: 907 ~ (Baptism: 591, 588) ~ 941 ~ 650

Gr. 5&6 Chime Choir: "Come Christians Join to Sing"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to every member, friend, and visitor. You have entered this church, not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. May you who enter here find rest, forgiveness, and strength. May your worship here enable you to see your Savior more clearly, love Him more dearly, follow Him more nearly, and serve Him more sincerely. If you have no church home of your own, we invite you to join the St. John family.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Bethann Gerken, *Pianist* ✠ Clara Damman & Aden Foor, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Bonnie Niermann & Cheryl Yaw, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham, *Altar Guild* ✠

BAPTISM TODAY – This morning we rejoice with **Joe & Cara Von Deylen** as they present their infant daughter, **Lola Ann**, for Holy Baptism. *Lola* was born on December 22, 2016 at the Toledo Hospital. Her baptismal sponsors are Kristi Von Deylen and Missy Fairs. *Lola's* grandparents are Dave & Jane Von Deylen and Dave & Debbie Fairs. We rejoice today with this family, and pray that the good work God begins today in this child will be carried on to completion on the day of Jesus Christ, and that parents and sponsors will be true to their promise to raise *Lola* in the fear and love of the Lord! God bless them!



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!

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

| Date | Time | Activities |
|---------------|--|--|
| Today | 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. | 7:00 PM 7:00 PM | PTL Meeting <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study |
| Tue. | 8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM | Chapel led by Vicar Keller; <i>Offering: "Hearts For Jesus"</i> Exercise Class <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study Church Council Meeting |
| Wed. | 10:30AM 6:15 PM 7:00 PM | "Who Do You Tell" Bullying Program (<i>Gr. 3&4</i>) Jr. High Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>) Adult Choir Practice |
| Thurs. | 9:00 AM 10:30AM | Exercise Class "Who Do You Tell" Bullying Program (<i>Gr. 3&4</i>) |
| Fri. | -Sun. | B-Ball: NWOLL Tournament at Trinity – Toledo (<i>runs thru Sunday</i>) |
| Sun. | 9:00 AM 10:20AM 11:00AM TBD | Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Chicken Pie Dinner at the Ridgeville Legion NWOLL Tournament Championship Games @ Trinity – Toledo |
| Mon.- Sat. | 7:30 AM | Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Theodore Rellstab</i> , St. John Lutheran – Holgate |

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
- ❖ *Teresa Weller*, for outpatient foot surgery this past Thursday
- ❖ *Annetta Rosebrock, Evelyn Rohrs, and Shirley Sonnenberg*, all dealing with health issues

Java Joy TODAY! Be sure to stop out in the front hallway this morning for some refreshments and fellowship. Our hosts today are *Kurtis & Amy Kramer*, and we thank them for this service of love to us all!

- **WOULD YOU CONSIDER HOSTING JAVA JOY?** *Hosting does not have to be expensive – you are welcome to reimburse some or all of your expenses, if you wish, from the ‘kitty’ – so please don’t let that hold you back. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for all the second Sundays of the year. Please sign up, and pick up the sheet of guidelines from the table. Thank you!*



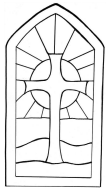
NEW LifeLight BIBLE STUDY - Pick up the Session 1 Study Guide TODAY!

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. In "*Parables*" this week we will study an interesting parable about new wine and old wine skins (Matthew 9:15-17). Throughout this study we are considering the radical grace of God that prompted Him to send His kingdom to us in the person of His only Son.

Our second gathering for this study is 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!*

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. Currently we are considering the question of whether science supports the Bible. This question looms large in the minds of many people, and we need to be equipped to answer it. Please join us during the Sunday School hour as we grow in grace and in the knowledge of God's Holy Word, and in our own ability to defend the Christian faith.



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!

NEWSPAPERS NEEDED TODAY! The LYF is looking for some extra newspapers for their LYF meeting today. 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. Thank you!

“HERE AM I, SEND ME!” 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 ASAP.

ST. JOHN SCRIP: Order forms are included in today's bulletin. 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.**

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 based on 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.**

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!

| <u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u> | Home Fund | Synod & Missions | Building Fund |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------|
| Weekly Need | \$9,792.78 | \$500.00 | \$961.54 |
| Rec'd 02/05/17 | \$8,222.00 | \$128.00 | \$845.00 |

ATTENDANCE: Sunday (02/05/17) Service: 233

LADIES BLANKET TYING PARTY is planned for Monday, Feb. 20 at 9:00 AM. We will be tying blankets (no quilting). A change this year is that the ladies will meet at the home of Jane Greene. Jane's home is at the east edge of Ridgeville on US Route 6. It's the red brick ranch home directly across from St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Come for a while or spend the day. The ladies of Bethlehem Lutheran Church on the Ridge will be joining us. A light lunch will be provided. All ladies welcome, just bring your 'yarn' needle and scissors. Looking forward to seeing you Feb. 20th!

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.



SUMMER MISSION TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS - We are in the planning stages for a summer mission trip to New Orleans. The area has not fully recovered from the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and has been hit by severe storms and floods since then, including multiple tornadoes this past week. We would like to serve our neighbors in New Orleans this summer by lending our time and gifts to the community through *Camp Restore*, which is a Recognized Service Organization in our Synod. **Please join us for an informational meeting on March 5th in the Fellowship Hall after Sunday School!**

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. Plan to attend!

ST. JOHN MINI EAGLES BASKETBALL program began a few weeks ago. 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.

ATHLETIC BANQUET: The St. John Athletic Banquet is scheduled for Sun., March 26th at 4:30 PM with a potluck meal. This year the Boosters will be providing the meat and drinks, so if you plan to come, please bring a side dish or two to share. Honorees will be all St. John athletes (Gr. 4-8), the Mini-Eagles (Gr. 1-3), and the cheerleaders. Everyone welcome!

GRADES 3-5 ROUND ROBIN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT will be held here on Sat., March 11th with the first game starting at 9:00 AM. This is a one day boys' & girls' tournament. Volunteer referees and scoreboard help are needed for this tournament.

Admission/entry fee will be a non-perishable food item to be donated to the St. John *Bread From Heaven* Food Pantry. The food item donations will be a competition among the participating teams. Boxes will be set up by team designation and the team with the most items donated will be declared the "winner" of the tournament. Contact *Brad Rosebrook* at 419-966-3099 with questions.

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.

SUNNY D LABELS – Throughout the school year please continue to save labels from *Sunny D* drinks. Classrooms that save 20 *SunnyD* labels earn 20 FREE books. **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** UPC labels to the school office any time.

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.

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.

FREE SEMINAR: Genacross Lutheran Services (formerly Lutheran Home – Napoleon) is hosting a seminar called **AUTISM: Living in an Autistic World** on Thurs., Feb. 16th at 4:00 PM in the Alpine Village Activity Room. Please RSVP to 419-592-1688 by February 13th.

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...

Brush up on your Bible: It prevents Truth decay.

"If you continue in My word, you are truly My disciples.

Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32)