



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

May 14, 2017

VOL. 82

NO. 20

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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School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339
Church Website: www.sjl.org

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon & Text: "Crave the Milk of the Gospel" 1 Peter 2:2-10

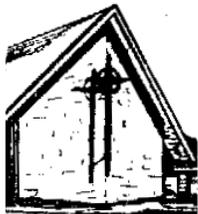
Order of Service: *Matins (LSB pg. 219)*

Hymns: 950 ~ 633 ~ 861

Children's Bell Choir: Grades 7&8 ring "Simple Gifts"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

God speaks to us and we listen and respond with our hymns, prayers, and praises. Together we bless the Lord, whose purpose is to save us and keep us in His faithful flock. He is the God of Grace and the God of Glory. If you are visiting with us this morning, please 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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Hannah Wachtman & Ashton Niese, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Joyce Wiechers & Nancy Short, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kathy Badenhop, Sandy VonDeylen, Mary Rettig, *Altar Guild* ✠

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed by the family of Clara Meyer in honor of her 92nd birthday on Wed., May 17th. Happy Birthday and Happy Mother's Day, too! May you be blessed with continued good health and happiness!

WE MOURN THE PASSING: *Florence Fitzenreiter*, 89, passed away on Sun., May 7, 2017 at Defiance Inpatient Hospice. The funeral visitation and service were both held here at St. John Church on Tues., May 9th at 1:30 PM and 3:30 PM, respectively. Burial followed in the St. John Lutheran Cemetery. Please keep the entire Fitzenreiter Family in your thoughts and prayers at this time of grief.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:20AM	Worship Service w/Communion following Sunday School; "Time To Spare" New Orleans Mission Group Meeting
Mon.	6:30 PM	VBS Work Night (<i>meet in Fellowship Hall</i>)
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Kramer Exercise Class Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	6:00 PM 6:15 PM	Preschool Graduation in the Fellowship Hall Jr. High Confirmation
Thurs.	9:00 PM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Confirmation Questioning; Thursday Evening Worship
Fri.	5:30 PM	Jr. High LYF (<i>until 7:00 PM</i>)
Sat.	4:30 PM	Sr. High LYF (<i>until 6:00 PM</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Confirmation and Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
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:

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, Stan Moll, and Delores Badenhop*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, and Anna Brodman*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Servicemen, *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, and Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Annetta Rosebrock, Evelyn Rohrs, and Shirley Sonnenberg*, all dealing with health issues
- ❖ *Don Dickmann*, moved to the Orchards of Northcrest for rehab
- ❖ *Lucia Delventhal*, at Fulton Manor, Wauseon, for rehab
- ❖ *Ron Germann*, at home recuperating from knee surgery this past week

ADULT BIBLE STUDY IS CANCELLED TODAY. Next Sunday the vicar will continue our discussion about missing links in the "evolutionary chain." These missing links provide a daunting problem for those who believe in evolution, but for those who believe the Word of God, they are exactly what we would expect. Join us next Sunday!

NEW ORLEANS MISSION GROUP MEETING – Today, the group that has signed up to go to New Orleans will meet together during the Sunday School hour in the Fellowship Hall to begin making final plans for their trip.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM: The next Women of Freedom meeting will be held on Tues., May 16th at 7:00 PM. All women are encouraged to come to our meetings. We look forward to seeing you there.



TODAY IS MOTHER'S DAY, and we wish every mother who is with us today a very happy and blessed day. The vocation of motherhood is one of the most important by which God would raise up the next generation to fear and love Him above all things. For all those Christian mothers who pray, read God's Word, worship, and speak of the Lord with their children, we give thanks to the Lord this day!

In addition, we would like to honor mothers today with a little something that the children will receive during the children's sermon to give to their mothers. Let this little token of love be a powerful reminder that a mom's greatest calling is to raise her children as sons and daughters of our heavenly Father, through Christ the Lord!

Happy Mother's Day!

THANKS, THANKS, and MORE THANKS! We would like to thank the members of St. John Lutheran Church for making the anniversary celebration last Sunday very special. We would like to thank our Lord who has guided and sustained us these many years. Thank you to the school board members who made sure to take care of the potluck details. Finally, thank you for the many cards, congratulatory wishes, prayers, and gifts that we received. Praise God from whom all blessings flow. It was truly a day to remember...*Pastor Kramer, Mr. Petzoldt, Mrs. Niermann, Mrs. Wiechers*

THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP HAS RESUMED – From now through summer, there is an option for you to worship on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. We will worship in the Sanctuary until the school year is finished, after which we will gather in the north end of the fellowship hall. These Thursday services are ordinarily previews of the coming Sunday. Holy Communion will ordinarily be available on Thursdays prior to Communion Sundays.

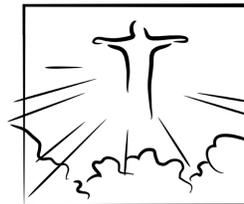
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2017

- **June 4-8 (Sunday to Thursday), 6:15 – 8:20 p.m.**
- **Enroll students** using the form in the narthex, or online using the link on our website, www.sjl.org
- **Bible Storytelling and Bible Challenge** – where our students will hear and memorize the Word of God
- **Crafts – Snacks - Games**
- **Sponsorship** - \$10 sponsors a VBS student. Sign up in the narthex.
- **Material Support** - Supply items for snacks & crafts. There is a snack sign-up sheet on the VBS table in the Narthex. In order, to help with expenses we are hoping that our snack needs will be donated.



CALLING ALL JR. & SR. HIGH LYF: VBS will be held June 4 – 8 from 6:15 – 8:20 PM. This is where you come in...we still need Group Leaders and Helpers. Also, if you are going to be a high school senior in 2017-2018 you will receive community service hours for helping with VBS. Please contact Mary Rettig (419-966-6160) if you are able to help. Thank you!

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION, JOINT SERVICE - Forty days after our Lord's resurrection, He "ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things." (*Eph. 4:10*) Our Lord's ascension was not His "swan song," but the beginning of an entirely new and better way of being present with His Church.



Ascension Day is Thursday, May 25th. That day at 7:00 p.m. join your circuit brothers and sisters for an Ascension Divine Service hosted right here at St. John. Participating congregations are Emmaus and St. Luke (*Wauseon*), St John (*Freedom Twp.*), St. Paul (*Liberty Center*), and Zion (*Ridgeville*). Join us for the celebration!

JAVA JOY COORDINATOR NEEDED - We're looking for a person to watch the Java Joy sign-up list to make sure someone is signed up for each second Sunday. If no one is signed up, it would mean approaching people to ask if they would consider hosting. If you are interested to serve in this way, or for more information on what this task entails, please speak with Rosella Gruenhagen or Pastor Niermann. Thanks for thinking about it!

EAGLE NEWS : The Eagle News publication is being passed out today after the service. It is also available 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-April/May" in the "Everybody" column. Enjoy!

SUMMER MISSION TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS

NEXT PHASE – MATERIAL SUPPORT

We have a good group of folks signed up to go to New Orleans to help with hurricane and tornado relief efforts through Camp Restore. From now until the time they leave (in approximately a month) we will receive donations for material support of our group. This is not required by Camp

Restore, but depending on the work our group does, they will be using materials (i.e. construction materials) to assist those who need help. These are provided by the donations of God's people from all around the *Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*. If you would like to help defray expenses for materials that our group will be using, there will be a basket in the narthex to receive your gifts for the next month. As always, thank you for your support of this mission trip!



<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 05/07/17	\$8,855.00	\$238.00	\$470.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday (5/07/17) Service: 251

LUTHERAN WITNESS RENEWAL – **Deadline for subscriptions is tomorrow.** It's time to renew your subscription to the Lutheran Witness for the year. To subscribe or renew your subscription, **simply place \$16.00 in an envelope**, along with your name and address, and place it in the Sunday collection plate or bring it to the church office.

ST. JOHN SCHOOL POSITION OPENINGS – St. John Lutheran School is seeking several people to fill the following positions that will be open after this school year.

- **Computer Instructor** – This individual is responsible for computer instruction one day per week for Grades K thru 8. This is a paid position.
- **Music Instructor** – This individual is responsible for classroom music instruction one day per week for Grades K thru 8. This is a paid position.
- **School Cook** – This individual is responsible for preparing and serving daily lunches for the students and staff, and submitting reports in regard to the lunch program at St. John. This is a paid position.
- **School Janitor** – This individual is responsible for all the janitorial duties involved with the functioning of the school, including classrooms, cafeteria, gym, locker rooms, and restrooms. This is a paid position.

If you are interested in more information on any of these positions, please speak with Principal Kramer or the chairman of the School Board, Sunday Griffith.

PRESCHOOL'S GRADUATION will be **Wed., May 17th** at 6:00 PM in the fellowship hall. Everyone invited to this big day for the preschoolers. There will be a short program followed by light refreshments. **The Preschoolers last day of preschool is on Thurs., May 18th** (both classes). This will be a Field Day that both classes can participate in. The Field Day starts at 10:00AM. A flyer was sent home last week explaining all the details. Come and enjoy!

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN will **Thurs., May 25th with early dismissal at 2:00 PM.** Closing Day festivities include: Closing chapel at 12:40 PM; as well as Kindergarten graduation, awards, prizes. All parents are welcome to come. This is for students in K-garten through Grade 8. Academic and Attendance Awards will be handed out as well as other awards. **Please note: This service will include Kindergarten Graduation.**

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!

INTERESTED IN A CHURCH PROFESSION? WE'D LIKE TO HELP! Recently a number of young people from St. John have pursued educational goals to prepare them for full-time service as teachers and pastors. If you are interested in a church profession (*as a pastor, deaconess, teacher, lay minister, or a Director of Christian Education, Christian Outreach, Parish Music, or Family Life Ministry*), our congregation would like to support you by offering a tuition gift. An application for this gift is available online --- type **www.sjl.org/student_gift_app.pdf** into your browser (*there is no link*) and fill out the application. Deadline for fall enrollment is June 1st.

“WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS”: “Worship for Shut-Ins” has joined the WLMB-TV40 line up. If you have a relative or friend who is homebound, hospitalized, or recovering from a recent surgery, you may suggest this 30-minute LCMS worship service to them. So tune in to WLMB-TV40 on Sundays at 6:30 AM and get your Sunday started off right!

SCRIP FOR GRADUATION: Why not use the PTL SCRIP Program to order gift cards for those graduating seniors in your lives. Order forms are inserted in today's bulletin and are also available online via FastDirect or in the School Info rack outside the school office. 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.**

BOX TOPS: To allow for the sorting and logging of all the Box Tops, the PTL is asking that all Box Tops be turned in by Mon., May 15th. Remember to neatly trim them before sending them in.

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.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIPS: Here is another opportunity to encourage and help young people prepare for service to the church as pastors, teachers, lay workers, deaconesses, and parish workers. \$500 per year Women of Freedom Scholarships are available to any young person attending one of our synodical schools. Simply contact any Women of Freedom member for details.

SERVANT EVENT: Families Serving Families Outreach Camp brings local families together to act out their Christian faith through serving other families in need in Henry & Fulton Counties. These families will participate in various service projects including painting, roofing, and yardwork and cleaning. Event Details (bright orange) and **Registration forms (white)** are available on the narthex table and are **due by either May 28th** for the June 2-4 event **or July 16th** for the July 21-23 event.

RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPT. AUXILIARY will be hosting a Drive Thru Chicken BBQ on Sun., May 21st at the Ridgeville Fire Station. Serving begins at 11:00 AM until gone. Menu consists of: *½ Chicken (Brookview), Potatoes, Coleslaw, Roll, and Butter.* Freewill offering. Come and support your local Fire Dept. Sponsored by Ridgeville Fire Department Auxiliary.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE: The Ridgeville Corners Memorial Day service to remember those who served our country will be held on **Mon., May 29 at 10:30 AM** at the Ridgeville American Legion. **Flag Drill:** Children age PreK thru 4th Grade are invited to participate in the flag drill during the Ridgeville Memorial Day service. Practices will be on Tues., May 23rd and Thurs., May 25th. Call *Laura Bickel* at 419-267-5203 or *Jenny Behnfeldt* at 419-267-5636 for more info on the flag drill.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

"Mom: a vocation just above queen!"

*"Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:
Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all."
(Prov. 31:28-29)*