



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

June 18, 2017

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

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SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "On Eagle's Wings" *Exodus 19:2-8*
Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Five (*LSB pg. 213*)
Hymns: 727 ~ 953 ~ (Communion: 571, 581) ~ 937 ~ 646

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING CHURCH *Happy Father's Day!... and a special, grateful welcome to all fathers this morning. We bless and cherish you for the strong, reliable and confident provider you have been or continue to be to your families. We salute you in the name of our Lord. If you are visiting with us this morning, help us get to know you better by filling out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you. Simply pass it to the center aisle during the offering.*



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Bethann Gerken, *Pianist* ✘ Hope Buchhop & Clay Behnfeldt, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Dave & Sara Myles, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Tom VonDeylen, Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Roger Lulfs, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✘

NEW ARRIVAL: Congratulations to *Bobby & Kara Cowell* on the arrival of their son, *Bodie William Cowell* on Tues., June 6th at Fulton County Health Center, Wauseon. Mother and child are home and doing fine. And Bodie was surely welcomed home with lots of hugs from big brother and sister, Westen and Lanny. Blessings to all the Cowell's!

CONFIRMATION THIS MORNING – In the *Rite of Confirmation* this morning before worship, *Abbie Badenhop* made the good confession of faith in Christ before her family and the elders, and was confirmed as a full member of our congregation. Please extend the hand of welcome and fellowship to Abbie this morning. **Welcome, dear sister in Christ!** We rejoice to share with Abbie every good gift that Christ has for His church!

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	♦ ♦ ♦ FATHER'S DAY ♦ ♦ ♦ Communion Service Adult Bible Class
Tue.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Women of Freedom Meeting
Thurs.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Thursday Evening Worship
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Willie Stottlemyer</i> , St. Stephen Lutheran – Defiance

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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, Stan Moll, Delores Badenhop, Don Dickmann*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, and Anna Brodman*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Armed Services: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Shirley Sonnenberg*, dealing with health issues
- ❖ *Lucia Delventhal*, at Fulton Manor, Wauseon, for rehab
- ❖ *Melba Elling*, hospitalized at UTMC after falling in her home



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! Thank you to all those dads who provide for the needs of their children's lives, and most especially for the greater needs of the children's spirits! Fathers have a very special and crucial role to play in propagating the Christian faith in the hearts of the next generation. Please be sure to read the Father's Day devotion included in today's bulletin.

ST. JOHN NEW ORLEANS TRAVELERS – Throughout this week, please keep in your prayers those of our congregation who are in New Orleans volunteering for the *Camp Restore* ministry. They will be working to help restore hope to people of that area whose lives were ravaged by hurricane and tornado. May God be with them and bring them safely home to us at the end of the week.

FURNITURE LOANED TO VICAR - If you loaned an item of furniture to the vicar and would like to have it back, please confirm this with *Pastor Niermann* or *Vicar Keller*.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 06/11/17	\$7,106.00	\$1,424.00	\$520.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday (6/08/17) Service: 36 Sunday (6/11/17) Service: 146

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY – Growing Together in Grace!

- **TODAY - FROM WHERE DID THE DIFFERENT RACES COME?** Fifty-four years ago, Martin Luther King Jr. said, “*I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.*” Yet all these years later, racial tensions seem to be on the rise in America. Why does race divide us? What is the origin and extent of the differences between the races? What does the Bible have to say about it? Join Pastor Niermann this morning in the fellowship hall for the final session of our Bible study series, *Big Questions, Biblical Answers*. We’ll watch a video on the subject and hold discussion.
- **JULY – FROM ALEXANDER CAMPBELL TO MARTIN LUTHER:** *Vicar Keller’s Journey to the Lutheran Church*. Many of you know that Vicar Keller came to the Lutheran Confession as an adult. Some of you have heard portions of his journey, but he has not told all of it. During the Adult Bible Hour in the month of July, he will explain his background and how he came to the Lutheran Church and to the right teaching on important doctrines such as baptism, the Lord’s Supper, and Original Sin. In his attempt to prove the Lutherans wrong, he became a Lutheran. On this 500th anniversary of the Reformation, as always, it is important for us to hear stories such as this, and be reminded of the blessed heritage that is ours in the pure and right teaching of the Word of God. In addition, Vicar Keller is asking if there are theological topics that you would like covered that would be seen through his former lens and how Scripture explains them.

PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS for the next quarter, *July, August, September*, are on the desk in the back of the church. There are also large print booklets available for anybody to pick up.

STAINED GLASS FROM THE OLD CHURCH – The word is that there are a few members of the congregation who have in their possession pieces of stained glass from the windows in the old church. If you are willing to part with these, we could incorporate that glass into the new stained glass windows that are being planned and built. This would provide a beautiful and interesting link to our history. Please speak with Pastor Niermann if you have some of that old glass you’d like to contribute.

ARCHIVES DISPLAY: Two very special teachers are currently being highlighted in the Archives Display case for everyone to check out. *Lowell Petzoldt* celebrates 41 years in the teaching ministry, all of which have been here at St. John School. *Bonnie Niermann* celebrates 15 years as our Kindergarten teacher. Be sure to stop by and reminisce at the tribute to both of them.

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS need to be turned in to the office by Wednesday of each week in order to be included in the Thursday and Sunday bulletin. Please note this. Thank you!

CELEBRATING
150
YEARS

IT’S TIME TO FORM A 150th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE! In about a year and a half, we will turn the calendar to the year 2019 – the year our congregation will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its founding in 1869. It’s an anniversary we will want to celebrate in many ways with joy and thanksgiving. If you would like to be part of the anniversary committee, please speak with Pastor Niermann, and we will have our first meeting this fall.

REPORT CARDS will be available for viewing and or printing via FastDirect Communication as of today. We will no longer print hard copies. Parents, please check your FastDirect.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS: Please note the church office hours during the month of June are Monday thru Thursday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Closed over the lunch hour and all day on Fridays. If making a special trip, please call (419-598-8961) to guarantee someone will be here. Thank you!

PRAYER CALENDAR NOTE: Please be aware that if you would like your wedding anniversaries printed on the prayer calendars, you will have to post them each year. Just list them on the blank calendars posted on the bulletin board in the narthex throughout the year.

LYF COLOR FUN RUN/WALK FUNDRAISER – Join our Junior and Senior High LYF youth as they host their Color Fun Run/Walk on Sat., July 8th beginning at 1:00 PM. Come run or walk around the designated route on the church grounds and get covered with lots of different colors. Food and water will also be available and is included in the price. The price to participate is \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children. Please, no pets during the race and throughout the course. Sign up for the event on Facebook or email Sarah Bartok at sbartok@sjl.org. See “color” flyers in the hallway too!

ST. JOHN SCHOOL POSITION OPENINGS – St. John Lutheran School is seeking several people to fill the following positions that will be open for the 2017-18 school year.

- **Computer and/or Music Instructor** – This individual is responsible for computer instruction and/or classroom music 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.
- **Gr. 7&8 Science Teacher** – This individual is responsible for instructing the 7th & 8th grades in the area of general science. This is a paid position.
- **Freedom’s Flock Care Provider** – This individual is responsible for the care of the students in our after-school program each day from 3:00 to 6:00 PM. 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.

SJL FUNDRAISER: Put this on your calendars....Plans are in motion for a St. John Lutheran School Fundraiser to be held at the Ridgeville American Legion Hall on Fri., Nov. 10, 2017. There will be a meal, along with a live and silent auction. Stay tuned for more information as plans are firmed up for this upcoming event.

SAVE THE DATE: The 10th Annual Stephanie Lynn Kossow Memorial Golf Outing will be held on Sat., July 22nd, with a 1:00 PM shotgun start. Registration forms now available on the narthex table!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

The imprint of a father remains forever on the life of the child. -Roy Lessin

The righteous man walks in his integrity—blessed are his children after him!” (Prov. 20:7)

FAITHFUL – A Father’s Day Devotion

On the third Sunday of June, we reflect with thanksgiving on the blessings of our fathers. We buy cards, neckties, and golf balls to show our appreciation to those who worked so hard to raise us, train us, and provide for us.

We are especially thankful for faithful Christian fathers who take seriously the Lord’s call to “. . . *bring up [their children] in the training and admonition of the Lord*” (Eph. 6:4). In addition to making sure their children had food, clothing, and shelter, these faithful fathers made sure they heard the Word of God. They brought their children to Sunday school and church services. They led family devotions and prayers. They taught their children about Jesus.

Father’s Day is also an opportunity for fathers to give thanks to God for their children. While children are the joy of most fathers, there can be no greater joy for a Christian father than to see his children following the Lord Jesus. “*The father of a righteous man has great joy*” (Prov 23:24).

If we are being honest with ourselves and our God, we will find another emotion that affects us on Father’s Day. Namely, guilt. Guilt for times we did not give our fathers the love and respect that God commanded. Guilt for the hard time we gave Dad when he tried to get us to work on our memory work or how he almost had to drag us to church on Sunday.

Honest fathers also wrestle with guilt. Guilt for the times we disciplined our children out of frustration and anger, rather than in love and patience. Guilt for the times we failed to be the spiritual shepherd of our own homes, when we put worldly things ahead of the spiritual needs of our children.

Therefore, we turn our eyes off of Jesus—even on Father’s Day—and in Him we find perfect faithfulness! He was subject to Joseph and Mary (Luke 2:51), giving them perfect love and respect. He was also subject to His heavenly Father when He prayed in the garden, “*Not what I will, but what You will*” (Mark 14:36). What the Father was asking His faithful Son to do was beyond comprehension. The Son was to suffer for the sins of unfaithful children and fathers. Yet there was no whining or complaining to His Father that “It’s not fair!” Instead, this Son continued to be faithful to His Father, and was “. . . *obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross*” (Phil 2:8).

As we wrestle with a mix of emotions on this Father’s Day (which is also the Lord’s Day), let us gather together in the Lord’s house and beneath the cross of Christ to view with repentance and rejoicing the faithful Son of God Who died to cleanse father and child alike from all their unfaithfulness. Having forgiveness for our unfaithfulness, let us continue to give thanks to our Heavenly Father for all His faithful blessings, especially the blessing of Christian fathers!

