



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

August 27, 2017

VOL. 82

NO. 35

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor  
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

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### TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Guaranteed" *Matthew 16:13-20*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: **904 ~ 644 ~ 843 ~ 918**

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### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*Welcome to the service of God's House and the fellowship of this congregation. We hope that you will be both comforted and challenged by the Word of God from us today. If you are new to our community; we hope you will consider making this your church home. 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 this morning.*

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### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✘ Zak Schroeder & Taylor Dietrich, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Richard & Bev Elling, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Denny Behnfeldt, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke, Elmer Maassel, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman, *Altar Guild* ✘

**COMBINED ELDERS & COUNCIL MEETING** – This Tuesday the elders (*the council is also invited*) will be meeting with **Rev. Kevin Wilson**, the Ohio District Executive Director of Mission & Ministry, to discuss a possible program for our church called **Re: Vitality**, a program for Lutheran revitalization. If we sign on to this program, it is our prayer that we will gain a renewed sense of direction and fervor for the ministry that Christ has given us in this place.

**A FAIR THANK YOU:** The staff of St. John would like to thank everyone who was involved in the fair booth and the parade this year. It was amazing to see a "sea of Eagle blue" throughout the week at the fair. We couldn't have done this event without all of your support and help! Signed, *Sarah Bartok*

<b>In God's House This Week</b>		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Outdoor Worship Service Adult Bible Class
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Kramer Exercise Class V-ball: Gr. 4-6; 6:00 PM Gr. 7&8 vs MCA Shepherd Committee Board of Elders
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class ( <i>until 7:30 PM</i> )
Thurs.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Thursday Evening Worship with Communion
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Matthew Schiemann</i> , St. John Lutheran – Defiance

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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, Stan Moll, Delores Badenhop*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, and Anna Brodman*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Lucia Delventhal*, at Fulton Manor, Wauseon
- ❖ *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
- ❖ *Melba Elling*, moved to Assisted Living at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Don Dickmann*, recuperating at The Orchards of Northcrest

**ARCHIVES DISPLAY**: The Archives Committee has been busy again, and this time they are highlighting the Mother- Daughter Banquets held here at St. John over the years. Did you know the first Mother-Daughter Banquet was held on June 27, 1967? And 30 years later, the last banquet was held on May 7, 1997. All the program booklets, committee members for each year, and the themes are being displayed. If you're a middle-aged to senior-aged woman, you should well remember going to a Mother-Daughter banquet in past years. Be sure to stop by the display to reminisce.

**LYF ASSISTANCE NEEDED** – *Sarah Bartok*, our LYF leader, is seeking assistance with this youth ministry in our congregation for both the Junior High and Senior High levels. If you would be interested in volunteering, please speak with Sarah. Your service would be a blessing to her and to our youth whom she is serving.

**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!

## SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES THIS NEW SEASON

As we approach the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation on October 31<sup>st</sup>, our Sunday Bible studies will focus on Reformation-related topics on which we still need to reflect even half a millennium later. Join us starting next Sunday for these studies. You'll come to appreciate the profound impact Martin Luther had in both church and human history.



### **A Man Named Luther – Part 2: The Moment (starts Sunday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>)**

This video-based Bible study from *Lutheran Hour Ministries* examines the errant teachings and wayward traditions of the Late Medieval Church that eventually prompted Luther's writing of the 95 Theses that sparked the Protestant Reformation. This Bible study takes a close look at the widespread teachings of purgatory, penance, celibacy, prayers for the dead, transubstantiation, the treasury of merits of Christ, devotion to Mary and the rosary, the institution of the papacy, and the one most often linked to the Reformation: the sale of indulgences.

### **A Man Named Luther – Part 3: The Movement (following Part 2)**

In this study, we will see how the Reformation transformed European society and, eventually, left a profound impression around the globe on culture and citizen alike. Everything from education, politics, science, theology, marriage, and the family – and even extending to one's view of vocation and his relationship to God – came under the shaping and seminal influence of the Reformation. Ultimately, the Reformation contributed a number of ideas that traveled across the Atlantic which, in turn, influenced our Republic via ideas of individual rights and representative democracy.



**MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION** resumes this **Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m.** Young people going into the 7<sup>th</sup> grade should have received a letter announcing this. If for some reason you didn't get the letter, please call the Pastor for more information or to ask any questions you may have. We're looking forward to a great year of growth in God's Word as we study together.

**LYF COLOR FUN RUN/WALK FUNDRAISER** – Join our 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students as they host a Color Fun Run/Walk on Sat., Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:sbartok@sjl.org). See "color" flyers in the hallway too!

**NEW FACES AT ST. JOHN:** We warmly welcome several new staff members this school year.

*Mrs. Jennifer Bergstedt*, will be the School Cook, along with *Mrs. Betty Cole* overseeing the accounting/bookkeeping portion of the lunch program. *Miss Abby Weller* will be our School Janitor and *Miss Lydia Badenhop* is coming on board as the Computer Instructor, Gr. 7&8 Science Teacher, and the Freedom's Flock Aide for the After School Care program. Welcome aboard *Mrs. Bergstedt*, *Miss Weller*, *Miss Badenhop*, and *Mrs. Cole*!

**LAWN SIGNS:** Lawn signs for display in your front yard or any visible area you can think of are still available. These free signs can be taken from the back of the narthex. You make take as many as you need in order to give our school some good advertising.

**PRINCIPAL'S NOTE:** God has blessed St. John Lutheran School with 64 students in Preschool to 8th grades. Pastor Niermann opened our school year with a chapel service. It was based on our theme "It's Still All About Jesus." The emphasis will be on how God the Holy Spirit will open our hearts and minds to see *Jesus*, each and every day. To God alone be the glory!

## Sunday School / Christian Education

It's time to gear up for another season of Christian education at St. John. Sunday School grades K-6 will be using the 'Cross Explorations' curriculum that will have them rotating to three sites...

1. **ENGAGE** ~ 10:15-10:25 a.m. in the sanctuary  
Combined opening worship for all students, grades K-6
2. **EXPLORE** ~ 10:30-10:45 a.m. in two classrooms  
The Bible lesson for the day (K-3 in 1-2 classroom; 4-6 in 5-6 classroom)
3. **EXPRESS** ~ 10:50-11:05 a.m. in the fellowship hall

While the students are in ENGAGE and EXPLORE, all adults and Sunday School parents are invited to come to Adult Bible Study which is held in the north end of the fellowship hall. Then the children will join the parents and adults for the EXPRESS part of the schedule to share some intergenerational, parent-child time doing an activity that reinforces the day's lesson. Meanwhile, preschool, junior and senior high classes will continue their normal schedule. Here's the calendar of what's coming...



- **Today, and Sunday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> – No Sunday School**
- **Sunday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>** - Regular Sunday School classes begin
- **Sunday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>** – Sr. High Sunday School class begins

**WILLING SERVANTS ARE STILL NEEDED** to staff the Sunday School. Speak with *Zoe Foor* if you would like to share your time and talents with the children of our Sunday School.

<b>FINANCIAL FACTS:</b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 08/20/17	\$6,434.00	\$73.00	\$151.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Thursday (8/17/17) Service: 25      Sunday (8/20/17) Service: 232

CELEBRATING  
**150**  
YEARS

**IT'S TIME TO FORM A 150<sup>th</sup> 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 150<sup>th</sup> 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.

**FREEDOM'S FLOCK** – St. John's after school program will begin at 3:00 PM on the first day of school, August 23. The Freedom Flock Aide will be *Lydia Badenhop*. Ms. Badenhop will be in charge Monday thru Friday. Please contact Director *Karen Riefers* to pre-register your child(ren) and pay the \$15 per family registration by August 23, if possible. You can also access the Freedom's Flock Handbook and Registration/Medical forms on FastDirect. If any adult or student (16 or older) would like to volunteer to also help with the program, you may contact Karen at 419-598-8686.

**MAGAZINE / COOKIE DOUGH FUNDRAISER:** The magazine and cookie dough sales from Kindergarten thru Grade 8 is underway and will run thru Thurs., Sept. 7. Cookie dough will be delivered on Wed., Oct. 4 in the afternoon.

**SJL SCHOOL FUNDRAISER** – Plans are in motion for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual "Soar With the Eagles" St. John Lutheran School Fundraiser to be held at the Ridgeville American Legion Hall on Fri., Nov. 10, 2017. There will be a meal and dancing, along with a live and silent auction. Stay tuned !

**ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP:** Membership is now being taken for the Athletic Booster Club. Prices are \$20.00 for a couple and \$10.00 for an individual. Make checks payable to St. John Boosters and send to school with your child. Forms (orchid) are available on the narthex table or contact any of the Booster officers. Join today and help out the children's athletic program. Our programs here at St. John give our students a sense of sportsmanship, discipline, structure and self-confidence needed to go out into the world.

**GOT SOME TIME?** Why not be an adult volunteer at St. John School. You could listen to children read, talk about your time in the military, work with flash cards, or tell children about a hobby or craft you enjoy doing. The possibilities are endless and your time with them will be priceless!

If you would be interested in volunteering this school year, please call the school office at 419-598-8702 and give us your name and a contact number. The school will contact you. Thank you in advance for thinking about volunteering at St. John Lutheran.

**VOLLEYBALL SEASON:** *Amy Dietrich* will be our grades 4-8 volleyball coach this season. Volleyball will be open for all girls involved in St. John Lutheran Church and School along with St. Augustine, Napoleon. Throughout the season we will be looking for parents and family members to assist with volleyball activities, this may include line-judging, scoreboard, concessions, and helping at the St. John Freedom Volleyball Invitational in October. Thank you all!

**ST. JOHN CHURCH LIBRARY** – Stop in and check out the growing number of books available in the church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary. The books in this library have been screened to assure that they are true to the Word of God and can be trusted to be theologically sound. To borrow a book, just take it with you, and then return it to the basket when you've finished reading. A complete list of the books in the church's library can be found by clicking on the "Book Inventory" link on the library page of our church's website. <http://www.sjl.org/library.html>

**SAVE THE DATE!** On Sat., Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, Thrivent Reps. *Doug* and *Tyler Kossow* are hosting an event to raise funds to benefit St. John Lutheran School's playground. This will be a fun filled day of food, corn hole, and college football on the big screen. The money raised will go towards the construction of a Gaga Ball pit. Don't know what Gaga Ball is??? Please come and find out!

There will be burgers, hot dogs, and other snack foods. Also, a corn hole tournament beginning at 10:30 AM (registration begins at 10 AM). Following the corn hole we will be watching college football in the fellowship hall. Bring your own lawn or bag chair. Corn hole entry is \$20/team and there will be a freewill donation taken for the food. All proceeds will go to benefit the construction of a Gaga Ball pit on the playground. Plan to come and make this a reality for the kids!

Simply RSVP by Mon., Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> by calling the Ridgeville Corners Thrivent office at 419-267-0113 or by emailing [doug.kossow@thrivent.com](mailto:doug.kossow@thrivent.com) or [tyler.kossow@thrivent.com](mailto:tyler.kossow@thrivent.com).

**COUNCIL MINUTES** – This is just a reminder that council meeting minutes are not published until they are approved a month later. If you would like to read about the most recent council meeting, an unofficial and unapproved copy of the minutes is available for viewing in the church office, usually within a week after the meeting.

**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!

**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. Thank you!

**RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP FUNDRAISER:** The Stewardship Board is offering “for sale” the Ultimate Cloth® as a fundraiser. These are a MiraFiber® technology cloth that cleans with water only. This cloth is more effective than harsh cleaning chemicals and soaps. See *Karen Norden* (419-267-3477) for more information and pricing. This will be an on-going fundraiser for the Right Hand of Fellowship gift matching campaign.

**4-H MUM SALE:** The Henry County 4-H are having a Mum Sale with proceeds to support the 4-H Youth and activities in Henry County. Color of mums available are: Red, White, Yellow, Orange, Bronze, Pink, Purple and Rainbow. Plant sizes and prices are 9” (\$6.00), 12” (\$12.00), 15” (\$17.00), Oval Planter (\$12.00), and Hanging Basket (\$12.00). For more information and if you want to place an order, please contact *Bethann Gerken* at 419-445-7910 or email [bethann@rteceexpress.net](mailto:bethann@rteceexpress.net)

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**Church is who we are, not where we go!**

*“You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house.” (1 Pet. 2:5)*