



# 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  
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

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### FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Frustrating Forgiveness" *Matthew 18:21-22*

Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting Three (LSB pg. 184)*

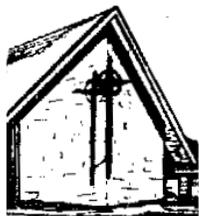
Hymns: **851 ~ 611** ~ [Communion: **606, 845, 610**] ~ **814**

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### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*A warm welcome to all our guests. We are pleased that you chose to worship at St. John Church this morning. We hope that this time spent with our God and with friends in Christ will prove spiritually uplifting to you. 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**

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Ashton Niese & Logan Honemann, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Larry & Pat Mahnke, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Linda Riefers, Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff, *Altar Guild* ✘

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are placed in celebration of the marriage of *Joe Hesterman* and *Bailey Ewen* held yesterday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> here at St. John at 2:00 PM and officiated by Rev. Dale Kern. The flowers are also in memory of those who aren't with us. We rejoice with Joe and Bailey as they begin their life together as husband and wife. Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Hesterman!

**"HERE AM I, LORD!"** – At its meeting this past week, the Stewardship Board began the process of identifying nominees for the various offices of our congregation. If there is a congregational office in which you would like to serve, please speak with *Cheryl Sausser* or *Pastor Niermann* to let them know. And as always, please keep this process in your prayers that God would raise for us congregational leaders who love the Father's House and delight in tending to its business.

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**In God's House This Week**Online church calendar: [www.DynaCal.com/sjl](http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Sr. High LYF meeting at Miss Bartok's
Mon.	5:00 PM	V-ball: Gr. 4-6 @ BG Christian
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by <i>Grades 3&amp;4</i> Exercise Class Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class ( <i>until 7:30 PM</i> ) Adult Hand Bell practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class V-ball: Gr. 4-6; 6:00 PM Gr. 7&8 @ St. Pats – Bryan Thursday Evening Worship
Sat.	1:00 PM	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Color Run Fundraiser ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:30AM	Worship Service Sunday School; "The Lamp" Jr/Sr High LYF Ice Cream Social ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
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, Delores Badenhop*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, and Anna Brodman*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Lucia Delventhal*, at Fulton Manor, Wauseon
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs and Melba Elling*, in Assisted Living at The 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
- ❖ *Don Dickmann*, moved back home and receiving Home Health Care
- ❖ *Elmer Maassel*, recovering from a heart attack
- ❖ *Stan Moll*, hospitalized at Henry County Hospital in very poor health
- ❖ *Pat Kramer*, recovering at home from a knee procedure at Cleveland Clinic
- ❖ *Ezekiel Damman*, dealing with health issues at this time
- ❖ *Jaclyn, Madelyn, and Jared Dishop*, on the passing of their grandmother, *Betty Jackson*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** – With Sunday School underway, we are looking for some people to volunteer to teach Sunday School. Cross Explorations works on a rotating schedule for teaching so you would only be teaching approximately once a month. Sunday School runs September thru May, from 10:15 – 11:00 AM. What better way to put your talents to good use here at St. John! Give it some thought and contact Sunday School Superintendents, *Zoe Foor* or *Lisa Brown* on Sunday morning.

**"THE LAMP" HIGH SCHOOL & BEYOND BIBLE STUDY!**

The first session for this new season of Christian education begins today! The "Time To Spare" Bible study has a new name - "**The Lamp.**" The name change is a reflection on the words of Psalm 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Everyone high school age and beyond is invited to this class held after church in the Cry Room. In this confusing world, it is so important to light our journeys with "The Lamp" of God's Word. Please come and enjoy food for your soul and body and some great social time! Spread the word, invite a friend, and join us as God's Spirit enlightens us through His Word.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 09/10/17	\$11,193.00	\$326.00	\$177.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Thursday (9/07/17) Service: 27      Sunday (09/10/17) Service: 178

**SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY** this morning will resume our study, **A Man Named Luther – Part 2: The Moment.** 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. Join Pastor Kramer this morning in the fellowship hall for the study of God's Word!



**WOMEN OF FREEDOM:** The next meeting will be Tues., Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend!

**PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS** for the quarter of October, November, and December are on the desk in the narthex. There are also large print copies available.

**BLUE RIBBON PANEL ON FUNDING CHURCH & SCHOOL** – At its meeting last Tuesday the Church Council decided to establish a "Blue Ribbon Panel" to study the matter of funding the ministry of our church and school into the future. (A Blue Ribbon Panel is a group appointed to investigate and analyze a given question.)

This group will look at past funding, current funding, and will create recommendations for future funding. We expect this panel to be a group of exceptionally concerned members who will be appointed to investigate, study, and analyze our Church and School finances. Panel members should be energetic and open minded to the best direction for our Church and School. In coordination with the Elders, Stewardship Board, and School Board, panel members may be asked to solicit opinions from congregational members. This panel will not make any decisions. They will make recommendations to the Voters. If more than 9 people volunteer, panel members will be chosen by the Voters' Assembly.

If you would like to serve on this Blue Ribbon Panel, please speak with congregational president Tom Von Deylen.

**SR. HIGH LYF** – The Sr High LYF will meet today from 4:30 – 6:00 PM at Miss Bartok’s house. We are planning on a bonfire to kick off the new school year. Also, roasting marshmallows and having fun with some games. There will also be discussion about important dates for the year and upcoming fundraisers. Contact Miss Bartok for directions to her house, if needed. Come and enjoy some fellowship and fun!

**LYF ICE CREAM SOCIAL** – The LYF will be hosting its annual Ice Cream Social on Sun., Sept. 25, with serving from 10:30 to 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. **There is a signup sheet on the table in the narthex for donations of desserts.** On the menu: *Chicken Sandwiches, Sloppy Joe’s, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Salad, Chips, Pies, Cakes, Cupcakes, Beverage and Schwan’s Ice Cream.* Freewill offering! Carryout available also! Thrivent Financial will be matching funds for this event. Come out and support the youth of our congregation!

**“THE REFORMATION” A New Volume from CPH** – As we near the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, it’s a great time for all of us to refresh in our minds the history surrounding this movement that changed the world. CPH is offering a new hardback, 250-page volume titled **“The Reformation,”** written by *Cameron MacKenzie*. Never before has the history of the Reformation been prepared in English like this one! The text is comprehensive and accessible, and explains things clearly in a way that will hold the reader’s attention. The volume is beautifully illustrated as well.

If you might be interested in purchasing this book, a sample is on display for you in the narthex, as well as a poster where you can sign up to receive your copy. The special pre-order price is \$22.49 per copy. Make checks payable to “St John Lutheran Church” and write “Reformation book” on the memo line. This book will be offered at this price through Sunday, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> – the order will be placed the next day (10/16).

**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!

**RSVP BY THE 18<sup>TH</sup>!** 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, a corn hole tournament, and college football on the big screen. The money raised will go towards the construction of a Gaga Ball pit. **The RSVP deadline is tomorrow.** Call the Ridgeville Corners Thrivent office at 419-267-0113 or email [doug.kossow@thrivent.com](mailto:doug.kossow@thrivent.com) or [tyler.kossow@thrivent.com](mailto:tyler.kossow@thrivent.com).

There will be burgers, hot dogs, and other snack foods. The corn hole tournament begins at 10:30 AM (registration at 10 AM). **Corn hole entry is \$20/team with the winning team getting 2 tickets to the upcoming Ohio State vs. Illinois game on Nov. 18.** 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!

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.

**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 like to volunteer, please speak with Sarah. Your service would be a blessing to her and to our youth.

**“SOAR WITH THE EAGLES” SCHOOL FUNDRAISER** – An evening of dinner, live and silent auctions, door prizes, music, and fellowship await you as the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual “Soar With the Eagles” St. John Lutheran School Fundraiser will be held at the Ridgeville American Legion Hall on Fri., Nov. 10, 2017. Doors open at 6:00 PM. Dinner will be served from 6-7:30 PM and the auctioning will begin at 7:30 PM. All proceeds will go to St. John Lutheran School operating expense.

Tickets are \$50.00 each or \$375 for a table of eight. Tickets include entry to the event, dinner catered by the Legion Auxiliary, entertainment, and late-night snacks. There will be business-sponsored "happy hours" with drinks provided. Top door prizes include \$1000 cash, a Smart TV, and a YETI Cooler. **You may purchase tickets at St. John Lutheran School or by contacting Margo Behnfeldt (419-966-3469) or Sunday Griffith (419-277-4055).** \*Only 300 tickets will be sold, so get yours fast before it's too late!

**FACEBOOK PAGE:** Please "like" and "share" our page to bring all our St. John School news to your screen. Our Facebook page will be a great way to share lessons going on in the classroom, special student recognitions, important events, and announcements. The link is <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnlutheranschoolnapoleon/>

**SUNNY D LABELS** – Throughout the school year please save labels from *Sunny D* drinks. Classrooms that save 20 *SunnyD* labels earn 20 FREE books. Here's how it works. **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** the UPC labels to the school office at any time. We can redeem these labels for free children's books for our library or classrooms.

**ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES:** You may begin ordering SCRIP again. Order forms are on the table in the narthex. 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](mailto:honemann@embarqmail.com).**

**SCHOOL VISITATION:** The School Visitation Open House will be held on Thurs., October 19<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 8 PM. The PTL will be sponsoring a book fair that evening also.

**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 are available outside the school office 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.

**HURRICANE HELP:**

- ❑ Hurricane Harvey has flooded the people of southern Texas. To help the people of Texas, St. John School is collecting monetary donations for Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk, NE during the entire month of September. These can be either cash or check donations. Please make checks payable to St. John Lutheran School and write "Texas Flooding" on the memo line. Donations can be sent in to the school office where there is a big blue box labeled "Help for Texas Hurricane Flooding". Join us as we help send aid to the many families devastated by Hurricane Harvey...and continue to keep all of them in your prayers.
- ❑ Getting involved as a Thrivent member! Thrivent Financial, as a membership organization of Christians committed to guiding members to be wise with money and live generously, is supporting your generosity to the Hurricane Harvey and Irma victims in the following way. Thrivent members can make personal donations online through Thrivent.com to specific disaster relief organizations responding to both major hurricanes. Thrivent will match up to \$3,000,000 of donations made to these disaster relief organizations. The dollar-for-dollar match will lead to a total combined impact of \$6 million. For more details and to see the list of organizations included in the match, visit the Disaster Response page on Thrivent.com.
- ❑ Another way to help is by leading a Thrivent Action Team! Get your friends, family and coworkers to band together to help raise funds for those affected by Hurricane Harvey and Irma by forming a Thrivent Action Team. Use promo code "2017 Hurricanes," and you'll receive your Thrivent Action Kit –containing T-shirts, seed money and promotional materials – 5 to 7 business days after approval. Get started today!



**GROUP EXERCISE CLASS:** St. John Lutheran, Stryker, at the corner of 6 & 66 will be having a Strength & Sculpt Group Exercise Class starting on September 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 to 8pm. See the flier on the bulletin board for more information and how to register. The cost for the class is a freewill offering and proceeds go to benefit Restore Elikia, a nonprofit organization building a self-sustaining orphanage in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**God is the rock in a hurricane world!**

*"For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;  
he will lift me high upon a rock." (Psa 27:5)*