



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

September 24, 2017

VOL. 82

NO. 39

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

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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Life and Death Contend" *Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30*

Order of Service: Service of Prayer & Preaching – LSB pg. 260

Hymns: 742 ~ Psalm 27:1-9 (tone 1) ~ 555; 1-5 ~ 555; 6-10 ~ 490

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Warm greetings and love in Christ are extended to all members and guests. We trust that you will experience the warmth of Christian fellowship, the inspiration of worship and the peace that comes from an awareness of God's presence. 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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘ Gavin Gerken & Kaelyn Gerken, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ David & Sara Myles, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *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 honor of the 62nd Wedding Anniversary of *Ron & Elaine Hesterman* on Mon., Sept. 25th by Todd & Chris, Justin & Jessi, Jenelle & Nick, and Joe & Bailey. They all wish Ron & Elaine many more happy years together. Congratulations Ron & Elaine!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY HAS BEEN CANCELLED THIS MORNING because of the LYF Ice Cream Social. Adult Bible Study will resume next Sunday in the fellowship hall.

LYF ICE CREAM SOCIAL is today with serving from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit the LYF servant events and future youth conventions. On the menu: *Chicken Sandwiches, Sloppy Joes, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Chips, Pies, Cakes, Cupcakes, Beverage and Schwan's Ice Cream*. Freewill offering! Carryout available! A Thrivent Action Team event! Come out and support the youth of our congregation!

In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Sunday School; LYF Ice Cream Social (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
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 Niermann; Offering: <i>Orphan Grain Train</i> Exercise Class V-ball: Gr. 4-6; 6:00 PM Gr. 7&8 vs. St. Paul – Napoleon Shepherd Committee Board of Elders
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class Adult Hand Bell Practice Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class V-ball: Gr. 4-6; 6:00 PM Gr. 7&8 vs. Toledo Hornets Thursday Evening Worship
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

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*, recuperating at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Pat Kramer*, recovering at home from a knee procedure at Cleveland Clinic
- ❖ *Ezekiel Damman*, dealing with health issues at this time

"THE LAMP" HIGH SCHOOL & BEYOND BIBLE STUDY!

The new season of Christian education has begun! 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 your body! Spread the word, invite a friend, and join us as God's Spirit enlightens us through His Word.

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.

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

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 09/17/17	\$8,710.89	\$114.00	\$160.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday (9/14/17) Service: 39 Sunday (09/17/17) Service: 180

“THE REFORMATION” A New Volume from CPH – As we near the 500th 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 price good through Sunday, Oct. 15th – the order will be placed on (10/16).

“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.

BLUE RIBBON PANEL ON FUNDING CHURCH & SCHOOL – At its September meeting 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*.

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.

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.

POSITION OPEN – St. John Lutheran School is still seeking someone to fill the position of **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.

If you are interested in more information on this position, please speak with Principal Kramer or the chairman of the School Board, Karen Gerken.

CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT CANCELLED! Thrivent Reps. *Doug* and *Tyler Kossow* notified the church that due to lack of participation, this corn hole tournament / tailgating event on Sat., Sept. 30th is cancelled. Stay tuned for a possible rescheduled event this winter... Thank you to those who did sign up. We hope you can join us for the winter event.

S.T.O.P. FALL PENNY DRIVE – The PTL Fall Penny Drive at St. John School begins on Mon., Oct. 2nd and runs thru Fri., Nov. 3rd. Send your pennies in to school with your child or grandchild. The winning classroom will be awarded a pizza party.

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.

“SOAR WITH THE EAGLES” SCHOOL FUNDRAISER – An evening of dinner, live and silent auctions, door prizes, music, and fellowship await you as the 1st 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!

SCHOOL VISITATION: The School Visitation Open House (Gr. K-8) will be held on Thurs., October 19th from 7 – 8 PM. The PTL will be sponsoring a book fair that evening also.

PRESCHOOL GRANDPARENTS' DAY – **Preschool Grandparents' Day** will be held from 9:00 – 11:00 AM on **Thurs., Oct. 19th for the 4 & 5-year old class** and same time on **Fri., Oct. 20th for the 3-year old class**. Grandparents should plan to arrive at 9 AM and report to the gym. Grandparents will also have the opportunity to take their grandchild through the PTL Scholastic Book Fair those days. See note below. Come and enjoy all the fun in Preschool!!!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR – St. John PTL will be having a **Scholastic Book Fair** which is open to the public on **Thursday, October 19**, from 6:30 – 8:30 PM; and again on **Friday, October 20** from 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM. A lot of help is needed, so call *Christa Bickel* (419-262-3248) or contact her via FastDirect if you can help.

SCRIP AT ST. JOHN: Let's plan ahead! Scrip is great for having "extra money" in your wallet. Purchase gift cards to use for personal shopping or going out to eat. Plan ahead now for birthdays and holidays! Scrip orders will be received on Wednesdays, ordered on Fridays and delivered on Tuesdays. For those that don't know, *SCRIP* is gift cards that you purchase through PTL for full face value. They work for both in store purchases and online shopping. PTL works through a company that purchases these gift cards in bulk from participating retailers. A percentage of the purchase stays with PTL and a percentage goes to the student's family toward enrollment/tuition. This fundraiser nets the PTL approximately \$300 each year. Think ahead--if you give out gift cards for Christmas consider purchasing them from PTL instead of at the store so that a portion of that sale stays with St. John Lutheran School. Order forms and program information are posted on FastDirect under 'Links,' titled *SCRIP Order Forms* and *SCRIP Program Info*. There are also hard copies in the 'School Info' rack outside the office and on the table in the church narthex. Please feel free to share with family and friends. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to the SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207.**

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.

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/>

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. 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.

GROUP EXERCISE CLASS: St. John Lutheran, Stryker, at the corner of 6 & 66 will be having Strength & Sculpt Group Exercise Classes on Thursdays 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).

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.

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!



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

God's Word is daily bread, not just occasional cake.

*"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night...
For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." (Josh 1:8)*