



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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SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "A Powerful Word of Judgment" *Matthew 21:23-32*

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Five (LSB pg. 213)

Hymns: **807 ~ 854 ~ 953** ~ (Communion: **554, 618, 655**) ~ **978**

Adult Choir: "Blessed Assurance" and "As We Eat the Bread"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

You are among Christian friends today. We all have come to the Lord's House to hear what He has to say and to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. We pray that His grace will touch and move 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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Hannah Wachtman & Claire Wachtman, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Don & Karan Niebergall, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Harold Behrmann & Richard Elling, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Tom VonDeylen, Neil Badenhop, Doug Dietrich, Roger Lulfs, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow, *Altar Guild* ✠

BABIES, BABIES...and more babies! Congratulations go out to the Call and Crall families. On Sat., Sept. 23rd at St. Charles Hospital, Oregon, Ohio, *AJ & Kara* (Elling) *Call* became first time parents to a little boy, **Charlie James**. Two days later on Mon., Sept. 25th at Henry County Hospital, *Aaron & Ashley* (Elling) *Crall* were blessed with their second child, a son, **Archer Chase**. Everyone is doing well, have returned home, and are getting settled in to their new environments. Congratulations also to Mark & Brenda Elling as they enjoy watching their family grow and grow!

THANK YOU ALL: The Jr. and Sr. High LYF youth would like to thank everyone who attended the Ice Cream Social this year. With your support of the event, youth are working hard to raise money for future LYF events, including the National Youth Gathering in 2019. A special thanks to *Terry & Karen Norden* for donating the vanilla ice cream for the event; thank you to *Dan Wachtman* for donating hamburger and hot dog buns; and to Culligan for donating water for the event.

In God's House This Week*Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl*

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Kramer Exercise Class V-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls @ NWO Cougars School Board & Stewardship Board Meetings
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class Adult Hand Bell Practice Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant Exercise Class V-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:00 PM Gr. 7&8 @ St. John – Defiance Thursday Evening Worship
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service with Communion following Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Jeff Corder</i> , St. John Lutheran, Stryker

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 and Ezekiel Damman*, dealing with health issues
- ❖ *Don Dickmann*, back home and receiving Home Health Care
- ❖ *Elmer Maassel*, recovering from a heart attack
- ❖ *Stan Moll*, recuperating back at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Pat Kramer*, at Cleveland Clinic following another surgery on her knee for infection
- ❖ *Hildegard Behrmann*, having outpatient tear duct surgery in Toledo on Monday

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 Niermann this morning in the fellowship hall for the study of God's Word!



REFORMATION
2017 It's *Still* All About
Jesus

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

LWML QUARTERLIES are available on the table in the narthex.

DONATION DAY – The Concordia Theological Seminary Guild, with the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, is holding a special Donation Day on Tues., Oct. 10 at the Seminary campus in Fort Wayne. Especially needed are men’s’ dress clothes, along with other gently used clothing, dry and canned food items, paper towels, toilet paper, disposable diapers, and personal hygiene items. Monetary donations are also appreciated. *Lois Rosebrock* will be attending this event, and she may be contacted at 419-598-8248 with any donations/questions.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 09/24/17	\$6,584.00	\$176.00	\$162.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday (9/21/17) Service: 39 Sunday (09/24/17) Service: 205

CIRCUIT REFORMATION SERVICE – Sunday, Oct. 22nd ~ 5:00 p.m.

500 years ago this October 31st, Dr. Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the doors of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany and unwittingly sparked a reformation of the church of his day and for all time. God used Luther mightily to bring the Gospel out of darkness into the light, and 500 years later we are the heirs of his work, writings and teachings.

On Sunday, October 22nd the congregations of the LCMS Northwest Ohio Circuit II will be celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in a special joint worship service at St. Paul Lutheran in Napoleon. Mark your calendars for this special service, featuring...

- **Preaching by Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing**, Associate Professor of Exegetical Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne
- **Special music by a mass circuit choir** (including choir members from St. John)
- **Brass Ensemble & Handbell Choir**
- **Beautiful hymns of the Reformation**



“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*.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR TIME CHANGES – The Lutheran Hour Ministries can be heard on a few radio stations in our area. They cover many topics relevant to today’s issues. Broadcasts can be heard Sundays on: Archbold’s WMTR 96.1 at 7:30 AM and **Napoleon’s WNDH 103.1 at 9:00 AM.**

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.

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.

VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT: The St. John Eagles Gr. 7&8 Invitational Volleyball Tournament will be held on Sat., Oct. 14, starting at 9:00 AM. As with any tournament, there is a lot of preparation involved with running a successful tournament. Volunteers are needed to work concessions. *High School Seniors:* This can be used towards your Community Service hours. Please contact *Brad Rosebrook* at 419-966-3099 if you can work.

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.

“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.

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.

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).

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. If you give out gift cards for Christmas consider buying them from PTL 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.**

EAGLE NEWS: The Eagle News publication will be available today as you leave 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-September" in the "Everybody" column.

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.

DID YOU KNOW? The free Pepperidge Farm bread, cookies, and crackers available on Sundays down by the gym lobby have the "Labels For Education" UPC codes on the wrappers. Be sure to clip them off and bring them to the school/church office at your convenience.

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!

AREA EVENTS:

- **St. Luke Lutheran Church – Wauseon** is hosting its Harvest Fest on **Sun., Oct. 22nd from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** at the church. See flyer for more info!
- **St. John Lutheran Church – Stryker** invites you to their Country Corner Craft Fair on **Sun., Oct. 15th** at the church. Lunch served from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM and the craft fair goes from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Come and enjoy!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

"For where God built a church, there the Devil would also build a chapel." ~Dr. Martin Luther

"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8)