



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

October 15, 2017

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NO. 42

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

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339
Church Website: www.sjl.org

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "The Invitation" *Matthew 22:1-14*
Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting One – LSB pg. 151
Hymns: **680 ~ 514 ~** (Communion: **775, 633, 973**) ~ **510**
Adult Bell Choir: "Just As I Am"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Now is the hour of worship. God speaks to us and we listen and respond with our hymns, prayers and praises. Together we bless the Lord whose purpose is to save us and keep us in His faithful flock. He is The God of Grace and The God of Glory. If you are new to our community, we hope you will consider making this your church home. Fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and give it to the usher as you leave the church this morning.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Bethann Gerken, *Pianist* ✘ Macee Speiser & Addyson Speiser, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Bob & Diane Norden, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Tom VonDeylen, Neil Badenhop, Doug Dietrich, Roger Lulfs, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow, *Altar Guild* ✘

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

In God's House This WeekOnline church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Jr. & Sr. High LYF to Leader's Corn Maze (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Tue.	8:35 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Kramer V-ball: Gr. 4-6; 6:00 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls @ Monclova Christian Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class Adult Hand Bell Practice Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Preschool 4/5 yr old Grandparents' Day PTL Scholastic Book Fair (until 8:30 PM) Grades 1-8 School Parents Open House (<i>until 8:00 PM</i>) Thursday Evening Worship
Fri.	9:00 AM	Preschool 3 yr old Grandparents' Day
Sat.	TBA	St. John – Defiance Volleyball Tournament
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 5:00 PM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" 500 th Anniversary Circuit Reformation Celebration (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Donald Luhring</i> , St. John Lutheran – Defiance

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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, and Anna Brodman*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Lucia Delventhal*, at Fulton Manor, Wauseon
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs, Delores Badenhop, 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, Ezekiel Damman, Elmer Maassel, and Pat Kramer*, dealing with health issues at this time

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES – There are two more Thursday evening services scheduled for this year, the last of which is on Thursday, October 26th. Then it won't be long before we'll be having midweek services again for Thanksgiving and Advent. Regular Thursday evening services are slated to begin again on the first Thursday of May 2018.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM: The next Women of Freedom meeting will be Tues., Oct. 17th at 7:00 PM. All ladies of St. John invited to come. Bring your mite box to the meeting. The Quarterlies are available on the table in the narthex.

A NOTE OF THANKS: Dear friends in Christ, Thank you for your generous contribution to my college education. This semester I will be student teaching at St. John Lutheran School in Defiance, OH. I have finished my courses at Concordia University Ann Arbor, MI and will be a certified elementary school teacher at the completion of my student teaching in December. I will have a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education with a focus in Language Arts and a minor in Early Childhood Education. I will also be certified to teach in Lutheran schools as I will graduate with a Lutheran Teacher's Diploma, or LTD. Receiving my LTD is very important to me because I want to share the good news of Christ with my students and help them grow in their knowledge and love of the Lord.

The aid I have received from you will help me achieve that goal. I feel so blessed to know that I have the support, both prayerfully and monetarily, of my home church in this journey. God bless, *Rachel M. Niermann*

THE CONSERVATIVE REFORMATION...Did Martin Luther aspire to start a new church? Was he a 16th Century Che Guevara intending to overthrow institutional authority? Was the goal of the 16th Century Lutheran reformers reformation or revolution? Find out in an extended series with Dr. Larry Rast, president of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. **Issues, Etc.** is a radio talk show and podcast hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. You can listen live or at your convenience at www.issuesetc.org and on the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT: The Advent By Candlelight committee has been assigned. Members include: *Kathy Behnfeldt, Mabel Bischoff, Joann Buchhop, Marian Damman, Marietta Damman, Sharon Damman, Marian Dickmann.*

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 10/08/17	\$9,007.82	\$186.00	\$187.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday (10/05/17) Service: 35 Sunday (10/08/17) Service: 168

COMMUNED in September: 345 members; 13 guests

DEDICATION OF BUDDY BENCH – This coming Wednesday morning at 8:35 AM, the students and staff of St. John Lutheran School will gather outside near the playground for the dedication of the new "Buddy Bench." This solid granite bench is a gift to the school and congregation in memory of **Will Gruenhagen**. The Buddy Bench is a simple idea to help eliminate loneliness and foster friendship on the playground. If you haven't seen it yet, be sure to stop out by the playground and see this new bench. It is a beautiful and enduring reminder of our calling as Christians to love one another as God has loved us in Christ!

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.

Reformation 500

CIRCUIT REFORMATION SERVICE – Next Sunday, Oct. 22nd ~ 5 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, 1075 Glenwood Ave., 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 & Hand bell Choir**
- **Beautiful hymns of the Reformation**

CONGREGATIONAL CELEBRATION – Sun, Oct. 29th

On this 500th Anniversary year, the Reformation will be celebrated in congregations all across Christendom on Sunday, October 29th. That morning we will also have a special Reformation Celebration themed, “Reformation Journeys.” In this Divine Service we will touch upon three ways in which the Reformation has profoundly impacted...

- Family and Heritage
- Education and Preaching
- Music and Worship

Let us assemble that day in the House of God to give thanks and praise to Christ who, through His servant Martin Luther, brought the Gospel to light for the entire world!



JR/SR HIGH LYF OUTING: Join us at Leaders' Corn Maze today from 2:00 – 4:00 PM for fun and fellowship. Event cost will be \$5 per LYF member and can be given to Miss Bartok on the day of the event. If students are unable to attend because of the cost, please contact Miss Bartok. Guests are invited and encouraged, but they must pay the \$5 (group rate) admission. Students may stay longer if you are with a parent or in high school. Families are also welcome!

SOMETHING IS MISSING! In preparing for the upcoming volleyball tournament, it was discovered that the **nacho cheese machine is missing** from the storage room off the kitchen. If anyone has borrowed it, could you please be sure to return it? Or if you moved it and know its whereabouts, please call the school office as soon as possible.

“THE REFORMATION” A New Volume from CPH – TODAY IS THE FINAL DAY TO

ORDER. 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. Today is the final day to order at this price. The order will be placed tomorrow.

MISSION GIVING OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS

Next Sunday (Oct. 22) during Sunday School the *Lutheran Women’s Missionary League* of St. John will hand out **Mite Boxes** to the Sunday School students. The *Mite Box* is inspired by the widow in **Mark 12** who gave a few mites as her offering – not much monetarily, but it was everything she had and therefore generous beyond measure! The purpose of a *Mite Box* is to collect the “mites” (*coins*) you find in your pockets, in the washer or dryer, on the dresser or under the couch cushions, and to give them as an offering for missions. It’s a great way for children and families to share the joy of giving.



The children will have three weeks to gather their ‘mites’ into these boxes. Then on LWML Sunday, November 12, they will be invited forward during worship to present their ‘mite’ offerings to the Lord. Each *mite* is a small amount, but together they fund mighty projects in mission fields. To see a list of these projects, visit www.lwml.org and under the Missions tab click ‘Mission Grants.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SERVICE – Assignment of parts

Very soon **ALL the children of our congregation** (preschool through 8th grade) will be assigned a part in the annual Children’s Christmas Service, scheduled for Sunday evening, December 17. These will be handed out in Sunday School and school, or mailed out. For organization purposes it’s more efficient for us to work from the assumption that all children will participate, and we certainly want to encourage that! This tradition helps our children learn and understand the true message of Christmas.

IF, however, for some reason your child will not be participating, we ask that you would please do us the courtesy of calling the church office soon to inform us. This will save us from having to scramble at the last minute to reassign parts. Thank you for helping us in this way!

FYI – this year’s Children’s Christmas Service is titled, “A ‘Sola’ Christmas.” It is built around the five great “solas” of the Reformation: Scripture Alone, Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Christ Alone, and To God’s Glory Alone.



“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!

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.

SCHOOL VISITATION & SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR: The School Visitation Open House (Gr. K-8) will be held on Thurs., October 19th from 7 – 8 PM. 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.

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 to the PTL Scholastic Book Fair.

AREA EVENTS:

- **St. John Lutheran Church – Stryker** invites you to their Country Corner Craft Fair today 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! See flyer!
- **Toledo School for the Arts** is presenting the musical “The Music Man” on Oct. 19-21 at 7:00 PM at Owens Community College. Call 419-246-8732 (Ext.226) for ticket information.
- **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. Paul Lutheran Church – Liberty Center** is hosting their Fall Soup & Pie Dinner on Sun., Oct. 22nd serving from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM. Carryout available! See flyer!
- **Zion Lutheran Church – Ridgeville Corners** is hosting a Bratwurst Dinner on Oct. 29th at 11:00 AM in celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. See flyer!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

“Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.” ~Dr. Martin Luther

“Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!” (Psa 95:1)