



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

October 22, 2017

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NO. 43

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Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

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### TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Our Resolute God" *Isaiah 45:1-7*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

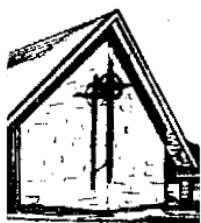
Hymns: 726, stz.1-2 ~ 726, stz.3-4 ~ 940 ~ 525

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### A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest this morning, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to our pastor and by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you. Simply pass it to the center aisle during the offering.*

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

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Karleigh Sonnenberg & Kaelyn Gerken, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Jerry & Nancy Short, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Tom VonDeylen, Neil Badenhop, Doug Dietrich, Roger Lulfs, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow, *Altar Guild* ✠

**"HERE AM I, LORD!"** – At its meeting recently, 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.

**THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES** – There is one more Thursday evening service scheduled for this Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. 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.

<b>In God's House This Week</b>		<i>Online church calendar: <a href="http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl">www.DynaCal.com/sjl</a></i>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 5:00 PM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" 500 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Circuit Reformation Celebration ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Chapel led by <i>Grades 7&amp;8</i> ; Offering: Good Shepherd for the Deaf, Toledo Exercise Class Shepherd Committee Board of Elders
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 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Thursday Evening Worship
Fri.		End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Grading Period
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Dale Kern</i> , Retired, St. John Lutheran – Stryker

**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

**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!



**MEMORIAL GIFT:** The Women of Freedom received a gift of money in memory of *Pauline Dishop*. Some of the money was used to have kneeling pads made. You will notice a comfortable difference when kneeling for communion! Also, some of the memorial money was used to purchase two tall flower pots for beautifying the eastside outer church entrance. We remember, with love, our sister in faith, Pauline.

## Reformation 500

### **CIRCUIT REFORMATION SERVICE – TODAY at 5 p.m.**

500 years ago this October 31<sup>st</sup>, 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.

**Today at 5:00 p.m.** the congregations of our circuit will be celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation in a special joint worship service at St. Paul Lutheran in Napoleon. This special service includes...

- **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**
- **Offering: LCMS Disaster Relief for hurricane relief**
- **Reception following**

### **CONGREGATIONAL CELEBRATION – NEXT SUNDAY**

On this 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, the Reformation will be celebrated in congregations all across Christendom on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. 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 all the world!



**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.

## MISSION GIVING OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS

Today 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](http://www.lwml.org) and under the Missions tab click ‘Mission Grants.

**RESCHEDULED - 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!

**LWML NAPOLEON ZONE CHRISTIAN LIFE WORKSHOP** – Coming to a fellowship hall near you!! We are hosting the LWML Napoleon Zone Christian Life Workshop on Sat., Nov. 11. Registration begins at 8:30 AM with the workshop running from 9-11:30 AM. The theme this year is "Jesus Christ Above All" based on Philippians 2:39. The workshop will be led by *Rev. Jacob Stuenkel*, our Napoleon Zone Counselor. This year’s speaker will be *Karan Niebergall*, Napoleon Zone Representative to the National LWML Convention. All women of St. John are invited! A Mite offering will be taken to help reach the goals set by the Ohio District for their mission projects.

The Ingathering will be for the hurricane victims in Texas and Florida through the Orphan Grain Train. Small kitchen items for families that need to replace lost items: spatulas, spoons, can openers, measuring cups, dish cloths, kitchen towels, pot holders, paring knives. Used items are acceptable if they are in good condition—no stove burns or melted spots, or stains. A flyer with more information is on the table in the narthex, along with a box for any donated kitchen items.

**POINSETTIA SALE** –The poinsettia sale for Christmas is now underway, and gray order forms are inserted in today’s bulletin and also available on the narthex table. **The deadline for ordering is Mon., Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>.** The cost is \$8.00 per plant. You may put your order form and check payable to *St. John Lutheran School* in the box on the narthex table. Be sure to fill in the line, “*In Loving Memory of*” or “*In Honor of*”. This information will be published in the church bulletin as an insert the Sunday the poinsettias are placed in the sanctuary.



**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!

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 10/15/17	\$9,954.99	\$149.00	\$340.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Thursday (10/12/17) Service: 38      Sunday (10/15/17) Service: 188

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE – Assignment of parts**

Very soon **ALL the children of our congregation** (preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

**FREE "SOAR WITH THE EAGLES" TICKETS:** Thrivent Rep., *Tyler Kossow*, would like to extend an invitation to the first 8 individuals (*who are not Thrivent members*) wishing to enjoy a fun-filled evening at the "Soar With the Eagles" night on Fri., Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>. What a great way to have some fun and support St. John Lutheran School. To claim your free ticket, give Tyler a call (419-267-0113) or email him at [tyler.kossow@thrivent.com](mailto:tyler.kossow@thrivent.com).

**"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!

**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.

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.

**'BREAD FROM HEAVEN'** – A note to St. John members needing food assistance – If you could use food assistance from our food pantry, please speak with *Pastor Niermann*. We are required by the *Northwestern Ohio Food Bank* to keep a record with your name, but pastor will keep your record separate and absolutely confidential.

Contributions can be made at any time. Monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your offering envelope). Food donations for our pantry can be dropped off in the box by the Archives display cases. **Food items especially needed at this time are: spaghetti sauce, cereal, mac n' cheese, saltines & any crackers, and hamburger helper.** Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated. Thank you so much! As we learned in the meaning of the Fifth Commandment, "*We should fear and love God that we...help and support our neighbor in every physical need.*" (*Small Catechism*)

**LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BULLETINS** are available today on the table in the narthex. The Children's Bulletins are coordinated with the Bible texts for each Sunday, and provide activities that tie in with the weekly themes. Pick one up today for your child.

**COLLECTING OLD BIBLES:** Our school continues to work on a service project. We would ask that you look around your homes for any unused Bibles. What next, you ask? Bring them in to the office and St. John School will donate them to Orphan Grain Train. Orphan Grain Train will then distribute them to individuals and families that have had their homes destroyed by hurricane, tornado, or flood. Often times these people have nothing left in their homes. Giving them a Bible that you don't need is one way that we can reach out to families that are suffering a loss. This will be ongoing for the school year, so keep them coming and tell your extended families too.

**HEARING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE:** If hearing in worship has been a problem for you, pick up one of the receiver units for our hearing assistance system. An usher will assist you and you'll hear much more clearly. (*Also, please let us know how the system is working for you.*)

For those who use the hearing assistance system regularly and for the sake of hygiene, we ask that you claim one of the ear buds as your own and keep it with you in your purse, pocket, etc. Bring it with you when you come to church, and simply plug it into one the receivers. At the end of the service, unplug the ear bud to take with you until the next time.

**LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT – How You Can Help?** If you have used **prescription or nonprescription** glasses or sunglasses in your drawers, desks, or closets, you can donate them now! Children's glasses are especially needed. Both plastic and metal frames are accepted. There is a box on the table in the narthex for the collection of these used glasses.

**SCRIP ORDER FORMS:** The SCRIP Order Form is inserted in today's bulletin. Additional order forms are available on the narthex table and in the "School Info" rack outside the school office is you should need more. Thank you and happy early holiday shopping!

**GIRLS' BASKETBALL INFO:** The 2017/18 SJL basketball season is just around the corner! The coaching staff for the Grades 4-8 Girls' basketball team will host a meeting for prospective team parents and athletes on Thurs., Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 PM in the gym followed by an Open Gym from 5:30-7:00 PM. Information on the team program, practices, and games will be provided for your consideration. See you there!

**SPORTS SCHEDULE NOTE:** With *Brad Rosebrook* as our Athletic Director, please go to his "Calendar" in Fast Direct frequently as this is where he will post the sports schedules and any changes to the sports schedules. Keep in mind that in order to view the games for the basketball season, you can go to either FastDirect directly (*thru the school*) or you can enter the church's website (*www.sjl.org*), click on "School" at the top of page, click on "FastDirect School Info. System" on the left side of page, click on "BulletinBoard/Calendar" on the left side of page, and then scroll down to Brad Rosebrook, Athletic Director and click on his "Calendar".

**S.T.O.P. FALL PENNY DRIVE** – The PTL Fall Penny Drive at St. John School begins on Mon., Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> and runs thru Fri., Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Send your pennies in to school with your child or grandchild.

**CHURCH LIBRARY** – The church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary, is growing to contain a lot of excellent books that will edify your faith. 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. Please check out the selection. To borrow a book, just take it with you, and then return it to the basket when you've finished reading.

**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 **today 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 **today serving from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM.** Carryout available! See flyer!
- **Zion Lutheran Church – Ridgeville Corners** is hosting a Bratwurst Dinner on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM in celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. See flyer!

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**"Let the wife make the husband glad to come home, and let him make her sorry to see him leave."**

*~ Dr. Martin Luther ~*

*"...and husband and wife love and honor each other." (Small Catechism, 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment)*