



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

January 21, 2018

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NO. 3

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

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "Living with Dying" *Philippians 1:21*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: 912 ~ 797, stz.1 ~ 742 ~ [Communion: 685, 735] ~ 924

Adult Bell Choir: "Peace Like A River"

Solo: "I Am the Bread of Life" *sung by Peter Gerken*

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to St. John Church! "I sought the Lord and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears" (Ps. 34:4). Let us seek the Lord together this day.

Let us offer up our fears and doubts, that we may go forth strengthened and empowered for another week. If you are visiting us today, know that we are

honored by your presence. Simply 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

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Hannah Wachtman & Ella Rosebrook, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Rich & Bev Elling, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karan Niebergall, Ronda and Kaylee Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, *Altar Guild* ✠

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed in remembrance of the first anniversary of the passing of *Vernon Kruse* one year ago today (Jan. 21st). Please keep Diana and the entire Kruse Family in your prayers at this difficult time of year for them. May God give them strength to endure the void they still feel.

GARY NYE MEMORIAL SERVICE has been rescheduled for this coming **Saturday, January 27th at 11:30 a.m.** Susan and her family invite you to attend as we remember Gary who was tragically taken from us in an accident at home on December 29th. Immediately following the service, there will be a fellowship luncheon in the church fellowship hall where you can greet Susan and share a time of food and conversation. Please join the family that day!

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:20AM	♦ ♦ National Lutheran Schools Week ♦ ♦ Communion Service Sunday School; "The Lamp"; Adult Bible Study Sr High National Youth Gathering Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.	5:30 PM 7:00 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution 150 th Anniversary Planning Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 5:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Niermann; <i>Offering: Filling Home – Napoleon</i> Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls @ Hilltop B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys @ St. Pat's – Bryan Rescheduled Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	9:00 AM 6:15 PM 6:30 PM	Hearing Re-checks Jr. High Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM) Adult Bell Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 5:00 PM	Hearing Re-checks; Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:00 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys @ BG Christian
Sat.	10:00AM 11:30AM TBD	B-Ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:15 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs St. John – Defiance; Mini-Eagles play in between games at 11:15 AM Memorial Service for Gary Nye with luncheon following Food prep for PTL Soup & Pie Dinner on Sunday
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:00 PM	Worship Service Soup & Pie Dinner; Sunday School; "The Lamp" B-Ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 2:15 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys; 3:30 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls; 4:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs St. Paul – Napoleon (H); Mini-Eagles play in between games at 3:30 PM
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, Anna Brodman, and Dorothy Gerken*, 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*
- ❖ *Ezekiel Damman, Pat Kramer, Marietta Damman, Alicia Maassel, and Henry Gerken*, dealing with health issues at this time
- ❖ *Linda Riefers*, mourning the passing of her sister, Pat Williams, in Florida

TODAY IS LIFE SUNDAY

Every January the tragic anniversary rolls around of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision (*on January 22, 1973*) that legalized abortion on demand in our country. Since then, over 60 million American babies have been aborted. The economic and demographic impact of these people missing from society is incalculable, but perhaps worst is the spiritual impact that happens to a nation when its citizens treat God's gift of life as a disposable commodity. Today we will pray to God for our nation and consider what God's Word has to say about this burning issue. Join us as together we take a stand for life!



SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY this morning we continue our extended study, **A Man Named Luther – Part 3: The Movement.** Most people don't have a full appreciation of how Martin Luther and the Reformation he sparked has impacted not just the church but, indeed, all of civilization. Join Pastor Niermann this morning in the fellowship hall for the study of God's Word and to gain a deeper appreciation of the Reformation and how it has impacted our world.



NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING: There will be an organizational meeting about the National Youth Gathering today at 10:20 AM in the Cry Room. This meeting is for any 7th Grader thru 11th Grader who may be considering attending this awesome event in Minneapolis, MN in July 2019.

IT'S TIME TO START PLANNING! The year 2019 marks for us the 150th year of this congregation's ministry of Word and Sacrament in Freedom Township. **The first meeting of The 150th Anniversary Committee will be conducted on Monday, January 22nd at 7:00 p.m.** At this committee meeting we will be discussing an anniversary theme, and a rough schedule of events for the anniversary year. A few people have expressed interest in serving on this committee, but we could use the help and input of others. If you would like to serve on this committee, please speak with Pastor Niermann, or you may simply attend the meeting.

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK: Today kicks off National Lutheran Schools Week. Our 60+ Lutheran schools and early childhood centers here in the Ohio District join together with our network of nearly 2,300 LCMS preschools, elementary schools and high schools throughout the nation to celebrate God's work among us. Special assemblies, fun dress down days, prayer services, community events, and other fun activities are planned at each of our schools. St. John is planning various extra activities at school, one of which is going to St. Paul Lutheran, Napoleon, on Mon., Jan. 22nd to observe an artist drawing a religious painting. In addition St. John alumni students will be aired on WNDH radio spots throughout the week on how St. John has helped them prepare for life. Dave Kleck from WNDH will be taping radio spots from each classroom here at our school that will be aired on Thurs., Jan. 25th.



We thank God for the opportunity to provide excellent academic preparation for the children we serve. We are most grateful for the opportunity to share Jesus' amazing love with children and their families.

ELDER REPORT: VICARAGE AT ZION, RIDGEVILLE CORNERS - Our sister congregation in Ridgeville Corners, Zion Lutheran, is presently without a pastor, and will continue to be served by Rev. Von Berlin through June 2018. To fill the vacancy for the following year, Zion is applying to the seminaries for a vicar, and has asked whether our pastor could provide vicar supervision, and whether our congregation could help broaden the vicar's experience by permitting him to serve also at St. John. It is important to note that while Zion's vicar would also serve at St. John in certain capacities, the entire cost will be the responsibility of Zion Lutheran. In addition, Zion has offered to make a significant gift to St. John in exchange for our assistance. Leaders from both congregations have forged a plan, which our elders have reviewed and approved. Of course it remains to be seen whether the seminaries will assign a vicar for a unique situation such as this. To see all the details of this plan, please pick up the report from the table in the narthex.

VOTERS' MEETING – The first Voters' meeting of 2018 will be held on Sun., Feb. 25th after the worship service. Items are on the agenda to date are: 1) Annual school report; 2) Audit Committee report; 3) Endowment Fund distributions approval. Please mark your calendar and plan on attending!

2017 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – It's time to start getting your reports ready for the 2017 Church Annual. The secretaries of the different organizations are asked to write up a summary of the year's activities along with a financial report if there is one. If you need your offering contribution information prior to the distribution of the Annual Report, please call Financial Trustee, *Alan Damman*, at 419-598-8425. **Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers by Fri., Feb. 9.**

NEW ALTAR GUILD (pink) & GREETER (yellow) SCHEDULES: The 2018 Altar Guild and Greeter schedules are available today and can be picked up on the narthex table. The Usher schedule is in the making and will be available soon. Thanks again to all who are willing to be of service to the Lord through St. John. You are a blessing to us all!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 01/14/17	\$7,936.00	\$135.00	\$256.00

ATTENDANCE: 260

LYF SUPER BOWL SUB SALE – It's that time of year again! Super Bowl Sunday is quickly approaching and it's time to get ready for the big game. Why not help out our church's LYF as well? On Sun., Feb. 4th, we will be selling Super Bowl subs to help raise money for our youth group. Each sub will cost \$4.00 (or a 3 for \$10 deal) and will contain salami, bologna, ham, white cheese, and yellow cheese. **To place an order, please fill out the pre-order form at the narthex table and place it in the basket on the table or bring it to the church office by January 28th.** Subs will be available for pick up after church on February 4th. Payment will be due at the time of pick up. **Checks can be made payable to St. John LYF.** Thank you for supporting our LYF youth!

SOUP & PIE DINNER – The annual PTL Soup & Pie Dinner will be held next Sun., Jan. 28, 2018, with serving from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, in the fellowship hall. On the menu will be *Chili Soup, Noodle Soup, Hot Dogs, Sloppy Joes, a Salad and Dessert Bar, and Beverages*. After the Dinner you can stay and enjoy watching some basketball games as all four of our school teams will be playing St. Paul Lutheran –Napoleon.

DONATIONS FOR SOUP & PIE DINNER – The PTL Soup & Pie Committee are asking for donations for the Salad and Dessert Bars. A sign-up sheet is placed on the table in the narthex. Thanks to everyone for taking time to support the PTL through your donations of salads, desserts, or cupcakes. We look forward to another successful Soup & Pie Dinner on January 28th!

ST. JOHN OPEN HOUSE – An **Open House** is planned for grade levels (PS-8) at St. John School for Wednesday evening, **February 7th, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM**, for families who would like to come and look at our school and discuss the possibility of sending their child/children here for their education. There will also be refreshments. If anyone in the congregation might know of a prospective student for Grades PS-8, please be sure to pass this information to them.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2018-19 school year. Anyone interested in enrolling your child in our preschool program should contact the school office at 419-598-8702 to request an enrollment packet and/or turn in their registration form. We will be opening the registration up to the public as of February 1st. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration form.

ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES: You may begin ordering again! Scrip orders will be received on Wednesdays, ordered on Fridays and delivered on the following Tuesday. Order forms 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. 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 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

2018 NATIONAL LUTHERAN ANNUAL – We are taking orders for the 2018 Lutheran Annual. It has the current addresses, phone numbers, emails, and websites of LCMS churches, pastors, teachers, etc. all over the United States. Call the church office to order your copy. Deadline is Fri., Feb. 3rd.

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!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

One kind word can warm three winter months.

“A man has joy in an apt answer, and how delightful is a timely word!” (Prov. 15:23)