



# 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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### FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "It's Still All About Jesus" *Hebrews 13:8*

Order of Service: Service of Prayer & Preaching (LSB pg. 260)

Hymns: 537 ~ NLSW Theme Hymn, "Yesterday, Today, Forever" ~ 900

Children's Bell Choir: Grades 7&8 ring "Oh, How I Love Jesus"

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### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*Welcome to St. John Church. We thank God for this time together! We pray that the grace of God will heal your hurts; that the strength of God will give you courage to face the work before you; and that the peace of God will keep you secure and steady in Christ Jesus. 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 this morning. Thank you!*

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

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Logan Honemann & Bryce Bostelman, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Elmer & Pat Maassel, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karan Niebergall, Ronda and Kaylee Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, *Altar Guild* ✠

**PASSED AWAY:** Early Thursday morning, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>, Anna Brodman, went to be with the Lord. Anna's funeral will be at 2:30 PM on Mon., Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>, with a luncheon in the fellowship hall following the service. Burial will be in Carey, Ohio, on Tues., Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>. Please keep Roger & Karen Lulfs in your prayers as they mourn Anna's passing. May God console them with His promises!

**SOUP & PIE DINNER** – The PTL Soup & Pie Dinner is being held today with serving from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, in the fellowship hall. On the menu will be *Chili Soup, Noodle Soup, Hot Dog, Sloppy Joe Sandwich, a Salad and Dessert Bar, and Beverage*. Freewill Offering! Bring your own containers for carryout.

**In God's House This Week**Online church calendar: [www.DynaCal.com/sjl](http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM 1:00 PM	<b>Worship Service</b> 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.	5:00 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys; 6:15 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys @ Monclova Christian
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 5:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Niermann Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:15 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls @ Monclova (makeup game)
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class ( <i>until 7:30</i> ) Adult Bell Choir
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 5:00 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys vs Hilltop (@ St. Paul)
Sat.	10:00AM  6:00 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:15 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys; 12:30 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls; 1:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. Trinity – Toledo; Mini-Eagles play in between games at 12:30 PM Jr. & Sr. High LYF making Super Bowl subs
Sun.	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM	<b>Communion Service</b> Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Eric Moquin</i> , St. John Lutheran – Sherwood

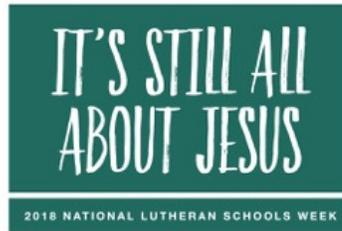
**MATTERS FOR PRAYER** – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, 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*, and *Alicia Maassel*, dealing with health issues at this time
- ❖ *Pat Kramer*, hospitalized at Cleveland Clinic for surgery to her left leg

**VOTERS' MEETING** – The first Voters' meeting of 2018 will be held on Sun., Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> 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!

**MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST** – Men, join us this Thursday morning, Feb. 1 for breakfast and Bible Study. We meet at **6:30 a.m. at Hill's Family Restaurant** in Napoleon. Cost is \$7. It's great food, great fellowship, and a great way to start your day. It's GRRRRRR-EAT!

**NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK:** Today we are celebrating National Lutheran Schools Week at St. John. 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 were planned last week.



This year's theme, "It's Still All About Jesus," is based on Heb. 13:8: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." It provides a fitting purpose for our celebration. We worship the same Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as our ancestors did when they came to America. May God's Word ever be preserved among us!

**A SPECIAL THANKS** goes out to those St. John alumni, Tom VonDeylen, Lexi Woods, Lydia Schroeder, Connor Bialorucki, Aaron Bostelman, Kaylee Wentworth, and Brittany Gillen, who provided us with their 30 second public relation spots. These spots are posted on our sjl.org website and were broadcasted last week on WNDH 103.1 FM. A special thanks goes to Todd Wachtman and Darrel Behrmann for assisting with this project. Todd collected all e-mails and transferred the recordings onto CDs. Darrel has posted these items on our sjl.org website.

**SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY** is cancelled this morning. Next Sunday we will complete our study, **A Man Named Luther**. On the following Sunday, February 11, we will begin a study of Paul's letter to the Romans.

The year is 1515. Luther, as a young monk, sits in a room at the top of a monastery tower studying late into the night when he was about to stumble upon a verse in Paul's letter to the Romans (1:16-17) that would not only change his life, but the entire world. Later, Luther wrote of this 'tower experience': "All at once I felt that I had been born again and entered into paradise itself through open gates. Immediately I saw the whole of Scripture in a different light. This phrase of Paul ("the justice of God") was for me the very gate of paradise."

Because this Bible book had such a profound impact on Martin Luther, it is only fitting in this 500th Reformation Anniversary year that we should take up the study of Romans in our midst and consider God's Word to us through this amazing letter of St. Paul. Join us, that the light of God's Word may shine upon you!



**SR. HIGH LYF:** Come one, come all to the Super Bowl Party 2018 at Miss Bartok's home on Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM – your curfew. Bring snacks and be ready to root for your favorite team! Not into football??? There will be other games and activities going on as well. Hope to see you on the 4<sup>th</sup>!

**NEW USHER (blue) SCHEDULES:** The 2018 Usher schedules are now available and can be picked up on the narthex table. Thanks again!

<b>FINANCIAL FACTS:</b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 01/21/17	\$7,252.00	\$214.00	\$560.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 223

**CELEBRATING**  
**150**  
**YEARS**

**THE PLANNING HAS BEGUN**, but we still need more people involved. The Anniversary Planning Committee is asking that there be representatives on the committee from the Women of Freedom, the Sunday School, the School, the Archives Committee, and the LYF. We like to have everyone involved in planning for this jubilee anniversary. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> when we will be discussing an anniversary theme. Please speak with Pastor Niermann about joining this committee, and plan on attending the next meeting.

**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.

**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.**

**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. 4<sup>th</sup>, 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 28<sup>th</sup>.** Subs will be available for pick up after church on February 4<sup>th</sup>. 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!

**REGISTER FOR PRESCHOOL NOW!** The 4/5 year old class is currently full for the 2018-19 school year, and we will be starting a waiting list for that age level. Please call the school office to get your name on the 4/5 year old list as soon as possible. The 3 year old class still has openings. 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 1<sup>st</sup>. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration form.

**ST. JOHN OPEN HOUSE** – An **Open House** is planned for grade levels (PS-8) at St. John School for Wednesday evening, **February 7<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**ST. JOHN MINI EAGLES BASKETBALL** program is in full swing with practices on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30 PM. We are pleased to be able to have Mini Eagles again this year! Please have your child wear gym shoes while at practice. Our goal is to provide an opportunity for our young St. John's kids to have fun and learn basketball fundamentals. All are welcome to participate! *Kurtis & Amy Kramer* will be the coaches this year.

**PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION VS. CLASSICAL LUTHERAN EDUCATION...** You can listen to in-depth teachings by Dr. Thomas Korcock of Concordia University Chicago on topics like: Methods Driven Education, Socialization, Technology in the Classroom, The Role of Teacher, Goodness & Beauty in Education, Teaching Worldviews and more. **Issues, Etc.** is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen live or on-demand at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org) and on the LPR mobile app.

**TIME TO UPDATE OUR DIRECTORY:** There are many addresses and phone numbers in the Annual Report directory that need updated. If you (and/or your adult children) have address changes; or if you have eliminated your land line telephone and only have cell phone numbers, **please call or email** the church office at 419-598-8961 or email [jwiechers@sjl.org](mailto:jwiechers@sjl.org) with updated information. It will be very helpful to have current addresses on file when we do our mailings. Thank you!

**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](mailto: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. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**EAGLE NEWS** : The Eagle News publication is being passed out today. Extra copies are available on the narthex table and also online via FastDirect Communication. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnfreedom/>, click on “Links” at the top of the page, then click on “Eagle News - January” in the “Everybody” column.

**PROJECT CONNECT** – There are many free booklets in the rack in the narthex. Be sure to check for some good reading. Some titles are: “*Why Do Bad Things Happen To Me,*” “*Has God Abandoned Me,*” “*Dealing with Depression,*” “*Coping with Cancer,*” “*Who Is Jesus,*” “*Just Stress?*”, “*Overcoming A Painful Childhood,*” “*Where’s God in All of This?*”, “*Why Should I go to Church?*” and many more. These booklets are furnished through the Lutheran Hour Ministries.

**LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN’S ACTIVITY BULLETINS** are available 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.

**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 of the receivers. At the end of the service, unplug the ear bud to take with you until the next time.

**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.

**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 gift matching campaign.

**INTERESTED IN A CHURCH PROFESSION? WE’D LIKE TO HELP!** Recently a number of young people from St. John have pursued educational goals to prepare them for full-time service as teachers and pastors. If you are interested in a church profession (*as a pastor, deaconess, teacher, lay minister, or a Director of Christian Education, Christian Outreach, Parish Music, or Family Life Ministry*), our congregation would like to support you by offering a tuition gift. An application for this gift is available online --- type [www.sjl.org/student\\_gift\\_app.pdf](http://www.sjl.org/student_gift_app.pdf) into your browser (*there is no link*) and fill out the application. Deadline for fall enrollment is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**Feel like life is drowning you? Don’t worry, your lifeguard walks on water!**

*“Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck.” (Psa. 69:1)*