



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

February 4, 2018

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NO. 5

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

### FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "Able and Willing" *Isaiah 40:21-31*  
Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting One (LSB pg. 151)*  
Hymns: **868 ~ 727 ~** (Communion: **616, 684, 693**) ~ **664**  
Adult Bell Choir: "Power of Your Love"

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### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

The Psalmist wrote: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the House of the Lord.'" We are happy to have you with us, whether someone invited you or you came by yourself. We are glad to share this House of the Lord with you. 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**

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Zak Schroeder & Taylor Dietrich, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Esther Layton & Phyllis Silveus, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Richard Elling & Harold Behrmann, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Tom Von Deylen, Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Roger Lulfs, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Badenhop, Sandy Von Deylen, Mary Rettig, *Altar Guild* ✘

**THANK YOU** to *Larry Mahnke* and *Dean Maassel* for their efforts this winter in keeping the church and school parking lot cleared of snow. They donate their time and equipment to get this job done after each snowfall. This year's snowfall has really kept them on their toes! Great job guys! Thank you for being willing servants here at St. John!

**VOTERS' MEETING** – The first Voters' meeting of 2018 will be 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; 4) Old School. Please mark your calendar!

**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 6:00 PM	<b>Communion Service</b> Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Sr High Super Bowl Party ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Mon.	5:00 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:15 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs BG Christian (H); Mini Eagles play between games at 6:15 PM
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Kramer Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys vs Holgate (@ St. Paul) School Board & Stewardship Board Meetings
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class ( <i>until 7:30</i> ) St. John Open House ( <i>see bulletin note</i> ) Adult Bell Choir Adult Choir
Thurs.	9:00 AM	Exercise Class
Sun.	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM 1:00 PM 4:30 PM	<b>Worship Service w/Communion following</b> Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Meeting Jr High LYF
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Stephen Niermann</i> , St. John – Freedom

**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*, recuperating at home and doing very well following her surgery

**SR. HIGH LYF:** Come one, come all to the Super Bowl Party 2018 at Miss Bartok's home today 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 later today!

**SUPER BOWL SUB SALE TODAY!** It's finally here! Super Bowl Sub Sunday!

Stop by the kitchen to pick up your order after church today. There are a limited number of extras available for sale too, so if you still want to purchase subs, stop by the kitchen. Each sub will cost \$4.00 (or a 3 for \$10 deal) and will contain salami, bologna, ham, white cheese, and yellow cheese. **Checks can be made out to St. John LYF.** Thank you for supporting our Sr. High LYF!



**THANK YOU FROM SOUP & PIE COMMITTEE**



The Soup & Pie Committee would like to thank everyone for their support of the Annual Soup & Pie Dinner. Thanks to everyone who donated salads, desserts, and any other food items in order to make this fundraiser a success. We had a great turnout! Also thanks to the committee workers for all your teamwork and extra help offered. There were some new faces on the committee this year and we appreciate everyone's effort. (Signed: Nate & Christa Bickel, Kirk & Tara Sausser, and Ryan & Renee Bostelman, Tri-chairs)

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

**SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY** today we will be wrapping up our study, "A Man Named Luther."

**UP NEXT – Paul's Letter to 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!



**MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION DURING LENT** – During the season of Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14), the midweek confirmation class will meet from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. The regular class schedule will resume on the Wednesday of Holy Week, March 28<sup>th</sup>.



**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.

**LADIES BLANKET KNOTTING OR QUILTING** is planned for all day Monday, Feb. 19. There will be blanket knotting for those that do not wish to quilt. We will start at 9:00 AM. All ladies of the congregation are invited. You can come and stay all day or just part of the day; whatever fits your schedule. Hope to see you on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>!

**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.**

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 01/28/17	\$6,332.00	\$244.00	\$262.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 273

**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.

**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.

**PTL MEETING:** The next PTL Meeting will be held on Mon., Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall. Soup & Pie results as well as other business at hand will be discussed. Please plan to attend and support the school!

**4-H:** The Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Club will have their first 4-H meeting on Sunday, February 11 starting at 1:00 pm at St. John Lutheran Church. We will be meeting in the gym. We would like to meet with the parents briefly at 1:00. New members are always welcome!

**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.

**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@embargmail.com](mailto:honemann@embargmail.com).**

**PTL COOKBOOKS** – The "Recipes and Remembrances" cookbooks from PTL are still available for purchase. They have a very nice collection of great recipes in them and would make a neat gift for that "hard to buy" family member or friend. This is a PTL fundraiser and the cookbooks are available on the table in the side hall. The cost is \$10.00. If writing a check, please make it payable to: *St. John PTL*. We hope you enjoy it! Thank you for supporting the PTL!

**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.

#### **AREA EVENTS:**

- **Genacross Lutheran Services - Napoleon** is hosting a Medicaid Assistance workshop on Thurs., Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> from 4-5 PM. A light dinner will follow the presentation. See flyer!
- **The Ridgeville American Legion Post 454** will host their annual Chicken Pie Dinner on Sun., Feb. 18 with serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!
- **Ridgeville Twp Volunteer Fire Dept** will host their annual Pancake & Sausage Breakfast on Sun., March 4 from 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!

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#### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**Our government may legalize sin, but God does not.**

*"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked...  
but his delight is in the law of the LORD." (Psa. 1:1-2)*

## Lent 2018 at St. John

This year for Lent, instead of **giving up** something, how about **taking up** the discipline of worship and Bible study for the nurturing of your faith. Consider the opportunities below.

### **LENT MIDWEEK SERVICES – “The Catechism in Six Parts”**

When you were confirmed, your pastor probably reminded you that Confirmation is not the end of your Christian instruction, but just the beginning. Even Martin Luther, who wrote the Small Catechism, said, *“I must still read and study the catechism daily, and yet I cannot master it as I wish, but must remain a child and a pupil of the catechism – and also I do so gladly.”* Currently the pastors in our circuit are studying the Large Catechism together.

But honestly, when was the last time you read the Catechism, or pondered its words? If it’s been a while, our Lenten midweek series – **“The Catechism in Six Parts”** – is just for you! Starting Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14), join us each Wednesday evening during Lent as we refresh our hearts and minds in the teachings of the Catechism. **Lenten services begin at 7:00 p.m. and last approximately 45 minutes.**

- If you can dig out your catechism, do so, and challenge yourself to read it throughout this Lenten season in coordination with our midweek Lenten schedule.
- If you’d like to purchase a Small Catechism for \$14.00, please see Joyce in the office.
- Or, links for the Catechism online will be posted each week on our website, [sjl.org](http://sjl.org).

We’ll begin on Ash Wednesday with the Preface of the Small Catechism, and review the Six Chief Parts on the following Wednesday evenings.



**ASH WEDNESDAY, TWO SERVICES** – This year on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14), there will be two worship services, so that everyone has the opportunity to attend.

**1:00 pm** Combined service for the congregation and SJLS students

**7:00 pm** The regular Ash Wednesday evening service

### **MEN’S LENTEN BIBLE BREAKFAST – “Confession”**

**Join us each Thursday morning during Lent for breakfast and Bible study.** Our six-week study will probe Confession and Absolution as given to us in the Lord's Prayer, in the Divine Service, in words of repentance and forgiveness spoken between Christian brothers and sisters, and in that often overlooked gift of private Confession and Absolution. The goal is to deepen our understanding of Absolution as the comfort Christ alone provides when the devil terrorizes us, tempting us to believe his lie that there is no forgiveness of us.

**Breakfast will be each Thursday morning from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m.,** sometimes at Hill’s Restaurant in Napoleon (cost \$7.00) and sometimes here in our fellowship hall. Watch the schedule, and take up the study of God’s Word this Lenten season.

**WOMEN’S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY:** A women’s Lenten Bible Study – “Your Strong Suit” by Donna Pyle is being planned for Tuesday mornings at 10, and Thursday evenings at 7, during the Lenten season. This will begin on Tues., Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM and on Thurs., Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. This is open to all women of the church. Sign up at the table in the narthex.