



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

April 15, 2018

VOL. 83

NO. 15

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

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Church Website: [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)

### THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon & Text: "Joy in Repentance" *Luke 24:36-49*  
Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Four (LSB pg. 203)  
Hymns: 483 ~ 484△~ (Communion: 482, 611, 936) ~ 464  
Adult Bell Choir: "Thy Word"

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### 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 or register your name in the Guest Book in the Narthex.*

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

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Hannah Wachtman & Zak Schroeder, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Bonnie Niermann & Cheryl Yaw, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow, *Altar Guild* ✠

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are given in remembrance of Richard & Ruth Wagner, Ruth Petzoldt; and in honor of Tillmon Petzoldt, parents/grandparents of Lowell, Renee, Blake, Kristin & Courtney Petzoldt. Lowell's mother died 11 years ago on May 27, 2007; Renee's mother died 10 years ago on March 15, 2008; her father 1 year ago on April 20, 2017. Lowell's father celebrated 97 years of age on Feb. 28, 2018. The white roses are in memory of Renee's parents & Lowell's mother and the red rose in honor of Lowell's father.

**IT'S A BOY!** ...and now there are three! Joel & Nicole (*Von Deylen*) Stier are happy to announce the birth of their son, *Easton James*, at Bryan Community Hospital on Thurs., April 12<sup>th</sup>. Big brothers, Owen and AJ are very excited to have another play pal too. And grandparents Denny & Diane Von Deylen are all smiles as well. All are doing very well. Congratulations to the Stier Family!

**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 2:30 PM	<b>Communion Service</b> JAVA JOY; Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" <i>Love &amp; Logic</i> Parenting Workshop
Tue.	<b>8:35 AM</b> 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	<b>Chapel led by Pastor Kramer</b> Exercise Class Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 7:00 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM	Exercise Class
Sun.	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM 2:30 PM 4:30 PM 5:30 PM	<b>Worship Service</b> Voters' Meeting; Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" <i>Love &amp; Logic</i> Parenting Workshop Sr High LYF Meeting NLSA Committee Meet & Greet Dinner
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, Willie Gerken*
- ❖ *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*
- ❖ *Bev Elling*, recuperating at home from knee replacement surgery at FCHC this past week
- ❖ *Seth Gerken*, who suffered a torn MCL in a football injury and was hospitalized this past week
- ❖ *Don Dickmann*, hospitalized with double pneumonia and now at the Orchards at Northcrest
- ❖ *Tim Swick*, who suffered burns in an accident last Wednesday and is hospitalized at St. V's
- ❖ *Marvin Gruenhagen*, for evaluation at St. V's this past Friday

**Java Joy TODAY!** Be sure to stop out in the front hallway this morning for some refreshments and fellowship. Our hosts today are **Jim & Nancy Hogrefe**, and we thank them for this service of love to us all!



- **WOULD YOU CONSIDER HOSTING JAVA JOY?** *Hosting does not have to be expensive – you are welcome to reimburse some or all of your expenses, if you wish, from the 'kitty' – so please don't let that hold you back. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for all the second Sundays of the year. Please sign up, and pick up the sheet of guidelines from the table. Thank you!*

**FINANCIAL FACTS:**

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 04/08/18	\$12,104.06	\$209.00	\$502.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 219

**COMMUNED** in March: 255 members; 4 guests

**ARCHIVES DISPLAY:** The Archives Committee members have put up a display of past Confirmation classes ranging from 1938 (*80th anniversary*) to 2013 (*celebrating their 5th anniversary*). Come and check it out in the display case in the side hallway by the church. We are sure you will find a familiar face in the display.

**NEXT VOTERS' MEETING:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Voters' Meeting of 2018 will be held in the fellowship hall on Sunday, Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup> immediately following the Worship Service. Currently on the agenda: 1) Update on the Old School; 2) New Teacher Approval

**2017 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT** are available on the desk and table in the narthex. Thanks to everyone for your information submitted to be included in this report.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL STAFF RECRUITMENT

VBS is scheduled for the mornings of June 10 to 14 (Sunday to Thursday). Our plan is as follows:

- **SUNDAY** – We'll kick off VBS with a special emphasis in the morning service, followed by the lesson and activities for Day One, and concluding with a hotdog lunch at 1:00 p.m.
- **MONDAY to THURSDAY** – VBS will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a worship opening, and conclude at 11:30 a.m.



Our theme this year is, “**Splash Canyon: God’s Promise on Life’s Wild Ride.**” Each day the students and their small group guides will rotate to five sites where they will hear the Bible stories, memorize key Bible verses, make crafts, enjoy snacks, and participate in fun activities. See the VBS table in the narthex for more information.

**VBS needs you!** Our first step is to recruit staff. Enclosed in today’s bulletin is a green staff recruitment form on which you can sign up to help with various aspects of our VBS. Return forms to the VBS table in the narthex. Our first staff meeting will be on **Monday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m.**, so please sign up to help and let’s get the journey started!

**THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICES** will begin on Thurs., May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. Once school is out for the summer, we will move these services into the north end fellowship hall. Our Thursday evening worship services will be held each week through October 25. Holy Communion will usually be on the Thursday evenings prior to regular Communion Sundays.

**WHY LUTHERAN SCHOOLS?** *Congregations in the Community:* As the school reaches many segments of the community, the parents who come to the school begin to inquire about the sponsoring congregation. Members frequently ask each other, “Does this congregation have a school?” But non-member school parents frequently ask the school, “Does this school have a church?” The congregation becomes better known in the community because of the school parents, and the school’s marketing efforts.

**FORMER VICAR TO RECEIVE DIVINE CALL** – Our former vicar, **Mr. Brent Keller**, will be receiving his first Divine Call into the holy ministry on Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. The call service will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Kramer Chapel on the campus of our Fort Wayne seminary. You are welcome and encouraged to attend, and to greet and congratulate the Kellers. If you've never been to one of these services, you're in for a real treat! If you cannot attend in person, you can watch the service live-streamed on the seminary's website at [www.ctsfw.edu/ctsfw-events](http://www.ctsfw.edu/ctsfw-events).



**Love and Logic** St. John Lutheran Church & School presents “Parenting the Love and Logic Way,” a parenting program designed by the Love and Logic Institute. This program is great for parents as well as educators, grandparents, or anyone who works with children. Participants will learn how to...

- Avoid un-winnable power-struggles and arguments
- Stay calm when your kids do incredibly upsetting things
- Set enforceable limits
- Avoid enabling and being empowering
- Help your kids learn from mistakes rather than repeating them
- Raise kids who are family members rather than dictators

This program got underway last Sunday, but it would still be extremely beneficial to jump in now even if you missed the first session. The feedback is that it's an exceptional, interesting, and very practical program to help anyone who deals with children in their lives. Join the group this afternoon from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. in the 7-8 grade classroom!

**WHY DO WE?** A member of the congregation has suggested a feature in our bulletin that asks and answers questions about why we do what we do in our worship and practice. This is an excellent idea that we hope will enrich everyone's worship and life of faith. A few of the questions suggested are: **Why do we turn to the cross during a processional? Why do we not sing certain hymns and songs? Why do we use Creeds? Why do we practice “closed Communion?” Why do we baptize infants?** If you have a question you'd like to see answered, please submit it using the form on the table in the narthex. Starting in May (if enough questions are submitted), we will make this a regular feature of our Sunday bulletin.



**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>.

**EDUCATION & EDIFICATION...Issues, Etc.** is a radio talk show and podcast hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. This week's topics include: Men & Church, Christian Privilege, Making the Case for Life to Millennials, Megachurch Pastor Mark Driscoll's Return, Deaf Ministry and more. You can listen live or at your convenience at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org) and on the LPR mobile app.

**LUTHERAN WITNESS RENEWAL** – It's time to renew your subscription to the Lutheran Witness for the year. To subscribe or renew your subscription, **simply place \$16.00 in an envelope**, along with your name and address, and place it in the Sunday collection plate or bring it to the church office. **Deadline for subscriptions is May 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**GOOD NEIGHBOR WORK GROUP** – For years we have had our “Good Neighbor Fund” by which we are able to financially assist people in times of need and to stock a food pantry for a monthly distribution. Your donations to the fund have been a blessing to many.

**But what about donating our time and abilities to help others?** The Stewardship Board, at its last meeting, decided this is an idea whose time has come. The idea is to provide practical help to people on an occasional basis when more than money is needed – perhaps when a neighbor is recovering from a fire or other disaster, or when a person comes to need a wheel chair ramp, or a fallen tree needs to be cleaned up, or an elderly couple's home needs to be painted. Offering help in these situations is a powerful witness of God's love, and is great stewardship of the time, talents and resources God has given to each of us for service. We'll begin signing up people soon – for now, give some thoughtful and prayerful consideration to becoming part of such a group at St. John.



**GREAT MOTHER'S DAY GIFT** – The “Recipes and Remembrances” cookbooks from PTL would surely make Mom smile. They have a very nice collection of great recipes in them. This is a PTL fundraiser and copies available today at the table in the side hallway. The cost is \$10.00. If writing a check, please make it payable to: *St. John PTL*. Thank you for supporting the PTL!

**EAGLE NEWS**: The Eagle News is available today 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-April” in the “Everybody” column. Extra copies available on the narthex table.

**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. This cloth is 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.

**GRANDPARENT'S DAY**: A reminder that Grandparent's Day at St. John School for Grades K-8 will be held on **Friday, May 4** from 12:30 - 3:00 PM. *Lunch is not included.*

**PRESCHOOL'S GRADUATION** will be **Tues., May 22<sup>nd</sup>** at 6:00 PM in the fellowship hall. There will be a short program followed by light refreshments.

**ST. JOHN SCHOOL POSITION OPENINGS** – St. John Lutheran School is seeking a few people to fill the following positions that will be open after this school year.

- **Computer Instructor** – This individual is responsible for computer instruction one day per week for Grades K thru 8. Must have a teaching license and background check.
- **Jr High Science Teacher** for 4 hours per week. Must have a teaching license and a background check.
- **Music Instructor** – This individual is responsible for classroom music instruction one day per week for Grades K thru 8. Must have a background check.
- **Freedom Flock Aide (After School Care)** – This person is in charge of the aftercare program each day that school is in session from 3-6 p.m. It averages 10-12 hours per week. Must have a background check.

If you are interested in more information on these positions, please speak with Principal Kramer or the chairman of the School Board, Karen Gerken. Thank you!

**PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST** – The 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders will be hosting a Pancake & Sausage Breakfast Fundraiser on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> with serving from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM here at St. John. This fundraiser will help support their upcoming class trip to Washington D.C. It will be freewill! A Thrivent Action Team Event.

**MINI RELAY FOR LIFE EVENT** – Join us for the FIRST Henry County Mini Relay For Life hosted by today's youth, tomorrow's leaders. This event is geared towards the YOUTH of our counties and is an idea that was sparked from area pastors and youth leaders to encourage youth of all ages and youth groups to form teams and join us on this fun-filled day! Lunch will be provided. There will be an informational meeting held at a later date. This Mini Relay For Life event will be held on Sat., April 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1075 Glenwood Ave., Napoleon. For more information or to get involved you can contact Sue Gerken at [suegerken@bright.net](mailto:suegerken@bright.net).

**CANDY'S "HIP" BENEFIT:** *Bringing a community of friends and family together for a good cause!* Candy Gerken-Gill is the daughter of our preschool aide, Betty Cole. She has had multiple hip injections as well as reconstructive surgeries, none of which have given Candy the expected results needed. A hip replacement was done on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Her medical bills are excessive and that is the reason for the "Hip" Benefit. This will be taking place on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at Oberhaus Park, 750 W. Maumee, Napoleon, OH from 2 – 8 PM. There will be raffles, kids' activities, live DJ, bake sale, spaghetti dinner, and lots more. Hope to see some of you there!

**SAVE THE DATE:** Plans are in motion for the "Soar with the Eagles" school fundraiser to be held at the Ridgeville American Legion Hall on Fri., Nov. 9, 2018. There will be a meal, along with live and silent auctions. The format will be the same as last year's event. Stay tuned for more info.

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**Do not abandon yourself to despair.**

**We are Easter people, and 'Alleluia' is our song!**

*"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." (Rom 12:12)*