



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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NO. 16

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon & Text: "The GOOD Shepherd" *John 10:11*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: 710 ~ 537 ~ 709 ~ 781 ~ 711

Children's Bell Choir: "It Is Well With My Soul"

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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Addyson Speiser & Gavin Gerken, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Jerry & Nancy Short, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow, *Altar Guild* ✠

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed in honor of the 69th Wedding Anniversary of *Don & Delores Badenhop* by their family. Don & Delores were married on April 21, 1949. We congratulate them and wish them the best at this time of celebration. God has blessed them with many years of happiness. Congratulations!

VOTERS' MEETING TODAY: The Voters' Meeting today will be held in the fellowship hall immediately following the Worship Service. On the agenda: 1) Update on the Old School; 2) New Teacher Approval. The LYF has offered to provide child care following Sunday School, so the younger families can attend the meeting.

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM	Worship Service Voters' Meeting; Sunday School; "The Lamp" <i>Love & Logic</i> Parenting Workshop NLSA Committee Meet & Greet Dinner (<i>by invitation only</i>)
Mon.	8:20 AM 5:30 PM	NLSA Accreditation <i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	8:20 AM 8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	NLSA Accreditation Chapel led by Grades 5&6 ; Offering: <i>Genacross Lutheran Home</i> Exercise Class Shepherd Committee followed by Board of Elders at 7:30 PM
Wed.	6:15 PM 7:00 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class Divine Call Service (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Thurs.	9:00 AM 4:00 PM	Exercise Class Confirmand Mini-Retreat (<i>until 7:00 PM</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 2:30 PM 4:30 PM	Worship Service Pancake & Sausage Breakfast; Sunday School; "The Lamp" <i>Love & Logic</i> Parenting Workshop (<i>final class</i>) Sr High LYF Meeting
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Dale Kern, Retired</i>

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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, and Willie Gerken*
- ❖ *Lucia Delventhal*, at Fulton Manor, Wauseon
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, Dorothy Gerken, and Delores Badenhop*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs and Melba Elling*, in Assisted Living at Genacross 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 recent knee replacement surgery
- ❖ *Seth Gerken*, who suffered a torn MCL and had surgery this past Wednesday
- ❖ *Don Dickmann*, recuperating from double pneumonia at the Orchards at Northcrest
- ❖ *Tim Swick*, who suffered 2nd degree burns in a recent accident and is recovering at home
- ❖ *Marvin Gruenhagen*, at Henry County Hospital Swing Bed for rehab to gain strength
- ❖ *Clay Badenhop & Kelsey Ketcham*, for their upcoming wedding, April 28th in Troy, Ohio

CONFIRMATION REUNION: The Confirmation Class of 1948 are getting together today to celebrate their 70th year and class members are as follows: *Esther Schlueter* (Harlan) *Layton*; *Lucille Behnfeltdt* (Harold) *Gobrogge*; *Frances Bostelman* (Ray) *Behrmann*; *Arlene Homan* (Clare) *Grime*; *Ruth Maassel* (Don) *McClaine*; *Ruth Miller* (William) *Knierim*; *Marvin* (Arlene) *Gruenhagen*; *Delbert* (Marian) *Damman*; *Marvin* (Arlene) *Zumfelde*. Deceased class members are: *Lucia Rosebrock, Carlton Meyer, Laverne Riefers, Roland Bunke, Kenneth Dammann*.

TWO NEW ARRIVALS:

- ♥ *Nick & Jenelle* (Hesterman) *McCarthy* are proud to announce the arrival of their first child, a daughter, **Maclyn Elaine**, at Ephrata Community Hospital, Ephrata, PA on Sunday, April 15th. All are doing well and adjusting to being a new family. Todd & Chris Hesterman, are very proud first-time grandparents too! Congratulations to the McCarthys!
- ♥ *Greg & Jenna* (Damman) *Kehnast* would also like to announce the birth of their daughter, **Taylor Rae**, on Tuesday, April 17th at Fulton County Health Center, Wauseon. Jenna & Taylor are home and doing very well. And sisters Brynnleigh, Braelyn, and Lakyn are going to be the best helpers for mom and dad. Grandparents, Denny & Deb Damman will be there for backup help too. Congrats to the Kehnasts!

CONFIRMATION MINI-RETREAT – Sacrament of the Altar

This Thursday (4-26) late afternoon, the Confirmation Class of 2018 will gather for a mini-retreat to prepare for the right reception of Holy Communion on Confirmation Sunday (May 20). **We will meet from 4:00-7:00 p.m. in the conference room** next to pastors' office. Pastor will have some after-school snacks for the students, and will also serve them a pizza dinner.

FINANCIAL FACTS:

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 04/15/18	\$6,768.00	\$60.00	\$390.00

ATTENDANCE: 179

WELCOME TO THE NLSA ACCREDITATION TEAM: Tonight the St. John Lutheran School staff will be inviting the National Lutheran School Accreditation Team to our school for a Meet & Greet Dinner. The Visiting Team's work will take all of Monday and Tuesday to complete. They will be meeting with our school board members, our school staff, and our principal. The team will evaluate our student's academic achievement, our school staff and their licenses, our extracurricular activities, our activities in the community, and the ways in which our Lord's Word is taught in our school.

Members of the team are: *Mr. Jim Landskroener* (Principal, Trinity Lutheran School, Toledo), *Mrs. Faith Wiechers* (Junior high teacher, St. Paul Lutheran School, Napoleon), *Mr. Jim George* (Principal, St. Augustine Catholic School, Napoleon) and *Mr. Kevin Creutz* (Superintendent of Lutheran Schools, Ohio). We thank God for the talents that each of these individuals will bring. They will use their God given abilities to evaluate the accreditation of our school for the next five years.

FREE SWIVEL CHAIRS: There are 10 black cloth swivel chairs from the School Library that are no longer needed. They are in the Ladies Aid quilting room and are marked with masking tape. If you have need of one, please stop in and take one home today.

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.

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 25th. 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.



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! Staff recruitment forms on which you can sign up to help with various aspects of our VBS are available on the 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 3rd 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 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 into your browser (*there is no link*) and fill out the application. Deadline for fall enrollment is June 1st.

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 15th.**

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 meeting last Tuesday, 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 be signing up people on the sign-up list in the narthex.**



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!

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!

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 22nd** at 6:00 PM in the fellowship hall. There will be a short program followed by light refreshments.

ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES: Please turn those orders in on Wednesdays, with payment to *St. John School PTL Scrip Program*. The gift cards will be sent home the following week on Tuesday. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST – The 7th & 8th Graders will be hosting a Pancake & Sausage Breakfast Fundraiser on Sunday, April 29th 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 28th 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.

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. 2nd. Her medical bills are excessive and that is the reason for the "Hip" Benefit. This will be taking place on Saturday, April 28th 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!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – Please take time to check out the flyer on the bulletin board in the narthex asking for volunteers in a variety of areas at the Henry County Hospital. Opportunities include assisting patients and visitors at the Welcome Center, working in the Gift Shop, serving meals in the Café at lunchtime, lending a hand with projects in various departments, and more! The hours can be very flexible and there is always a free meal in the Café when volunteering. Questions can be directed to Sarah or Katie in Volunteer Services at the hospital at 419-591-4766.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

"The sinner needs its Savior, just like a lost sheep needs its shepherd."

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:10)