



# 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

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181  
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339  
Church Website: www.sjl.org

### THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "They Lived and Stood" *Ezekiel 27:1-14*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: 497 ~ 660 ~ 496 ~ [Communion: 599, 650, 700] ~ 503

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### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*A warm welcome to all, especially friends and relatives of our Confirmation Class. If you are visiting with us this morning, help us get to know you better by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and pass it to the center aisle during the offering. You can also register your name in the Guest Book in the Narthex and introduce yourself to the Pastor.*

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

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Claire Wachtman & Bryce Bostelman, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Lois Arps & Linda Riefers, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Diane Von Deylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, *Altar Guild* ✠

**CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2018** – This morning we rejoice with eight young individuals who have concluded their time of instruction in the Small Catechism and who stand before us today to confess and confirm their faith in Christ, into whom they have been baptized. May God give continued growth to their faith through their study of Scripture and association with the church, and preserve and protect them from the attacks of the evil one.



Our confirmands this year are: *Clayton Behnfeldt, Taylor Dietrich, Gavin Gerken, Aliina Lange, Ashton Niese, Zakary Schroeder, Hannah Wachtman, and Kaleb Woods.*

**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	<b>Confirmation and Communion Service</b> "The Lamp"
Tue.	9:00 AM <b>6:30 PM</b>	Exercise Class <b>Preschool Graduation</b> ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Thurs.	9:00 AM <b>12:40PM</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>	Exercise Class <b>Closing Chapel</b> ; Academic & Attendance Awards; Early Dismiss @ 2PM <b>Thursday Evening Worship with Communion in sanctuary</b>
Fri.	5:30 PM	Jr. High LYF End of the Year meeting ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Sun.	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:30AM	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation and Worship Service</b> Reception in fellowship hall for 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Graduates
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. James Strawn</i> , St. James Lutheran – Archbold

**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*
- ❖ *Seth Gerken, Bev Elling, and Marvin Gruenhagen*, dealing with health issues
- ❖ *Don Dickmann*, back at the Orchards of Northcrest recuperating
- ❖ *Macie Wyse*, (great-niece to Denny & Diane Von Deylen), 2-yr old diagnosed with leukemia
- ❖ *Karen Sonnenberg*, at the passing of her sister, Lucille Gobrogge on Thursday

**PASTORAL ACTS** – Pastor Niermann reports that **Jordan Emery Lange** confirmed his Christian and baptismal faith last Thursday evening, and that he is now a full communing member of the congregation. Also, this coming Saturday in a family ceremony, he will baptize **Maclyn Elaine McCarthy**, the infant daughter of Nick & Janelle (*Hesterman*) McCarthy. May the work of the Holy Spirit in Jordan and Maclyn be brought to its conclusion on the day of Jesus Christ!

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY:** Today and next Sunday Adult Bible Study will be cancelled due to Confirmation and Graduation festivities. Hope to see you back at Bible Study the first Sunday in June.

**A SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING** will be held after worship on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss: 1) Plans for the old school building and its conversion into a center for our youth, as well as other functions. See financial information sheet in today's bulletin ; 2) Re-instating Bonnie Niermann to full-time teaching status as of July 1, 2018.

**JR. HIGH LYF** – The Jr. High LYF will be having their end of the year meeting on Fri., May 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at the church. Pizza will be provided. Please contact Miss Bartok if you are planning to come.

# Pentecost Sunday



Pentecost, for the Jews, was celebrated seven weeks and a day (on the fiftieth day) after Passover. They called it *Shavuot*, meaning ‘weeks.’ The Greek word for this day was *Pentecost*, meaning ‘fiftieth.’ For the Jews is a day with double significance: biblically, it marks the all-important wheat harvest (Exo 34:22); traditionally, it commemorates the anniversary of the day God gave the *Torah* (the Books of Moses) to Israel at Mt. Sinai. It was on that day in Jerusalem, ten days after Jesus ascended, that thousands of Jews had gathered in Jerusalem for *Shavuot*. With the sound of a rushing wind and tongues of fire, the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus’ disciples. They preached the first Christian sermon concerning Christ crucified and risen, and 3,000 people believed and were baptized. Thus the church of Jesus Christ was born.

Pentecost is the third major festival day of the Christian faith (along with Christmas and Easter). We celebrate the word of the Holy Spirit who, by the preaching of the Gospel, ignited faith in the hearts of the early Christians, and also called us to faith in Christ. “Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest, and make our hearts Your place of rest!” (LSB 498:1)

**THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES** are now being offered at St. John through September. We hope this will make it possible to attend worship when summer plans take you away during weekends. Services are now being held in the north end of the fellowship hall. Holy Communion will be available at our Thursday services on the Thursdays prior to our 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 we will try to make this a regular feature of our bulletin.



**8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE GRADUATION** will be held next Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. A small reception will be held to honor the graduates following the 9:00 AM Worship Service in the fellowship hall. There will be cake, coffee, and juice. Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduates are: *Clay Behnfeldt, Gavin Gerken, Symara Hagerman, Zak Schroeder, Hannah Wachtman, and Kaleb Woods.*

<b>FINANCIAL FACTS:</b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 05/13/18	\$11,714.58	\$824.00	\$785.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Thursday (05/10/18) – No Service @ St. John; Sunday (05/13/18) – 225

**ABOUT LUTHERAN SCHOOLS:** *We Pursue Excellence!* In a Christ-centered religiously integrated curriculum Lutheran schools meet or exceed state standards for high quality schools. Through National Lutheran Schools Accreditation (NLSA) schools complete a rigorous self-study, are reviewed by a team of peers and implement initiatives that provide a continuing program of excellence for students.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

### Enrollment is Open!



**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 a fun activity. See the VBS table in the narthex for more information.

We are still in need of a few people to be student group leaders, to lead groups of students to the various site rotations. Please speak with Miss Rettig if you can help!

### **VBS ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN!**

- **ONLINE** – Use the link on our webpage at [sjl.org](http://sjl.org)
- **PAPER FORM** – Enrollment brochures are available in the narthex for you to use. These brochures are also an excellent way of spreading the word to family, friends and neighbors. Take a few and pass them along!

**VBS MATERIALS NEEDED** – As we prepare for VBS next month, the staff is asking the congregation if it can provide certain items for crafts and games. Anything you can provide will help us keep expenses to a minimum. Please review the list, and sign up in the narthex for anything you can bring. **Crafts and games should be dropped off in the fellowship hall on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Thank you for your help in our VBS mission of telling the little ones of Jesus!

**VBS FOOD DONATIONS:** Please check the VBS table for the Food Donation Sign-Up Sheet listing items still needed for snacks during VBS week. Sign your name beside the item you are able to bring. **Mark VBS on the food item and bring it to the kitchen prior to or on Sun., June 10<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you!

**CALLING ALL JR. & SR. HIGH LYF:** VBS will be held June 10 – 14. This is where you come in...we still need Group Leaders and Helpers. Also, if you are going to be a high school senior in 2018-2019 you will receive community service hours for helping with VBS. Please contact Mary Rettig (419-966-6160) if you are able to help. Thank you!

**PRESCHOOL'S GRADUATION** will be **Tues., May 22<sup>nd</sup>** at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited to this big day for the preschoolers. There will be a program followed by light refreshments in the fellowship hall. **The Preschoolers last day of preschool is on Tues., May 22<sup>nd</sup>** (both classes).

**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN** will Thurs., **May 24<sup>th</sup>** with early dismissal at 2:00 PM. Closing Day festivities include: Closing chapel at 12:40 PM; Academic and Attendance Awards will be handed out as well as other awards. Everyone welcome! This is for students in Gr. 1 thru Gr. 8.

**SCRIP FOR GRADUATION**: Why not use the PTL SCRIP Program to order gift cards for those graduating seniors in your lives. Order forms are available online via FastDirect or in the School Info rack outside the school office. 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.**

**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!

**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 TODAY on the sign-up list in the narthex.**



**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!

**BULLETIN NOTES:** With Thursday night services starting, bulletin announcements need to be turned in to the office by Wednesday of each week in order to be included in the Thursday and Sunday bulletin. Please make a note of this. Thank you!

**WOMEN OF FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIPS:** Here is another opportunity to encourage and help young people prepare for service to the church as pastors, teachers, lay workers, deaconesses, and parish workers. \$500 per year Women of Freedom Scholarships are available to any young person attending one of our synodical schools. Simply contact any Women of Freedom member for more details about this.

**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 (*such as a pastor, deaconess, teacher, lay minister, a Director of Christian Education, etc.*), our congregation would like to support you by offering a tuition gift. An application is available online at [www.sjl.org/student\\_gift\\_app.pdf](http://www.sjl.org/student_gift_app.pdf). There is no link. Deadline for fall enrollment is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**USE OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL** – If you would like to use the Fellowship Hall for any occasion, on a certain date this year, **please contact the church/school office at 419-598-8961 or 419-598-8702**. In addition to calling the office, you may want to check the online master calendar at <http://www.dynacal.com/sjl/> (*you can also link to it from [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)*).

**MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE:** The Ridgeville Corners Memorial Day service to remember those who served our country will be held on **Mon., May 28 at 10:30 AM** at the Ridgeville American Legion. **Flag Drill:** Children age PreK thru 4<sup>th</sup> Grade are invited to participate in the flag drill during the Ridgeville Memorial Day service. Practices will be on Tues., May 22 and Thurs., May 24. Call *Laura Bickel* at 419-267-5203 or *Jenny Behnfeldt* at 419-267-5636 for more info on the flag drill.

**RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPT. AUXILIARY** will be hosting a Drive Thru Chicken BBQ on Sun., May 20 at the Ridgeville Fire Station. Serving begins at 11:00 AM until gone. Menu consists of: ½ *Chicken* (Brookview), *Potatoes*, *Coleslaw*, *Roll*, and *Butter*. Freewill offering. Come and support your local Fire Dept. Sponsored by Ridgeville Fire Department Auxiliary.

**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 information.

**ANOTHER SAVE THE DATE:** The 11<sup>th</sup> *Annual Stephanie Lynn Kossow Memorial Golf Outing* will be held on Sat., July 28<sup>th</sup>, with a 1:00 PM shotgun start. Flyers will be available soon!

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**Skip rope, not church!**

*“Let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another.” (Heb. 10:25)*