



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. Charles Kramer, Principal

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FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

(OUTDOOR SERVICE)

Sermon & Text: "Dearly Beloved..." *Ephesians 5:22-33*
Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to the service of God's House and the fellowship of this congregation. We hope that you will be both comforted and challenged by the Word of God from us today. If you are new to our community; we hope you will consider making this your church home. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and pass it to the center aisle during the offering this morning.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘ Macee Speiser & Addyson Speiser, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Dan & Joyce Wiechers, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Tom Von Deylen, Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Roger Lulfs, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Linda Riefers, Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff, *Altar Guild* ✘

OUTDOOR SERVICE THANKS – This morning we thank the Stewardship Board and the Outdoor Service Committee for taking the lead in preparing for this day and setting up, and the School Board for the games and activities. Thank you, Sharon Damman, for recording the music for our worship service. Thanks also to everyone who is providing desserts or salads for our picnic. May God bless our day together in the Lord!

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES will be returning to the sanctuary for the month of September, now that school is back in session. Holy Communion will be available at our Thursday services on the Thursdays prior to our regular Communion Sundays.

150th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE MEETING is scheduled for tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. If you'd still like to be part of the planning, it's not too late to join us. There's a lot to be done, so we can always use your help!



In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM	Outdoor Worship Service at the Fairgrounds
Mon.	5:30 PM 7:00 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution 150 th Anniversary Committee Meeting
Tue.	8:20 AM 8:35 AM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	First student for PS4/5 Chapel led by Pastor Kramer Shepherd Committee Board of Elders
Wed.	8:20 AM 7:00 PM	First student for PS3 Jr. High Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>)
Thurs.	5:00 PM 7:00 PM	V-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:00 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls @ MCA Thursday Evening Worship with Communion
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Matthew Schiemann</i> , St. John Lutheran – Defiance

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, and Dorothy Gerken*, 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*
- ❖ *Don & Teal (Rausch) Hasselswerth*, for their prematurely born twins, Connor and Sloane
- ❖ *Elmer Maassel and Derrick Maassel*, for recent health issues

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY will continue next Sunday when we're back in the church. We are studying Paul's letter to the Romans, the fourth chapter. Here Paul makes his case from the lives of Abraham and David that justification is by the grace of God apart from any works that we perform. This gets to the heart and core of our Christian faith, and every Christian therefore ought to be familiar with these words of the apostle. So please join us next Sunday when we get going again – it's never too late! Now that school is in session, we will resume meeting in the north end of the fellowship hall.



MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION PARENT & STUDENT MEETING will be held on **Wednesday, August 29th at 7:00 p.m.** During this 30 minute meeting parents and students will be given all the information and materials they need to prepare for midweek confirmation classes this year. **Regular classes will begin on Wed., Sept. 5th.** We're looking forward to a great year together of growth in the Word of God through the study of the Small Catechism and its six chief parts.

Sunday School / Christian Education

It's time to gear up for another season of Christian education at St. John. Sunday School grades K-6 will be using the 'Cross Explorations' curriculum that will have them rotating to three sites...

1. **ENGAGE** ~ 10:15-10:25 a.m. in the sanctuary
Combined opening worship for all students, grades K-6
2. **EXPLORE** ~ 10:30-10:45 a.m. in two classrooms
The Bible lesson for the day (K-3 in 1-2 classroom; 4-6 in 5-6 classroom)
3. **EXPRESS** ~ 10:50-11:05 a.m. in the fellowship hall

While the students are in ENGAGE and EXPLORE, all adults and Sunday School parents are invited to come to Adult Bible Study which is held in the north end of the fellowship hall. Meanwhile, preschool, junior and senior high classes will continue their normal schedule. Here's the calendar of what's coming...



- **Today, and Sunday, Sept. 2nd – No Sunday School**
- **Sunday, Sept. 9th** - Regular Sunday School classes begin

WILLING SERVANTS ARE STILL NEEDED to staff the Sunday School. Speak with *Zoe Foor* if you would like to share your time and talents with the children of our Sunday School.

DOOR OFFERING NEXT SUNDAY – Next Sunday after worship we will receive a final door offering in support of *Amber Gruenhagen* who has embarked on an extended mission trip to Brazil with CRU. The focus of her work is campus ministry and sharing the Gospel with the students. Thank you for any support you can offer her. Please keep Amber in your prayers during her trip.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 08/19/18	\$7,920.74	\$345.00	\$353.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday (08/16/18) – 44; Sunday (08/19/18) – 155

EXERCISE CLASSES at 9:00 AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays are cancelled until further notice.

LWML RETREAT – Ladies, please consider attending the LWML Fall Retreat at St. John Lutheran Church, Routes 6 & 66, on Sat., Sept. 15. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the program running from 9 until 2 p.m. The theme is "Make A Joyful Noise." Guest speaker is *Diana Schnack* of Columbus, and has been an inspirational speaker/humorist at Ohio District functions. The cost for the Retreat is \$14, which includes a light breakfast and lunch. Registration forms are inserted in today's bulletin and are also available on the table in the narthex. Completed forms may be sent with payment to Linda Ludemann, 6266 Domersville Rd., Defiance, OH 43512. **Final day to register is Tues., Aug. 28th.** Contact *Linda Riefers* at 419-267-3366 with questions. All ladies invited – come join us!!

WOMEN OF FREEDOM: The Women of Freedom will not be meeting in August. Our next meeting will be Tues., Sept. 18. Our speaker will be *Nancy Helmke* from the Orphan Grain Train. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend!

FOLLOW OUR CHURCH ON FACEBOOK – Pastor Niermann is posting to our church’s Facebook page. In addition to keeping up with all the normal things happening at church, this page will become a source of information about our 150th Anniversary year, as well as a place where members and school alumni will be encouraged to share memories of the past. Be sure to head there soon and check out the anniversary theme and logo on the page banner.



If you aren’t following our church yet on Facebook, just search for “St. John Lutheran, Napoleon” and you’ll see us in this list with a profile picture of the outside front of the sanctuary. Be sure to share the page with your friends, and let’s build a good following, especially as we approach the 150th Anniversary celebration. (Our school also has a Facebook page; find and follow it!)

CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE FALL BIBLE SALE – Through the end of September, our publishing house is offering Bibles at a sale price. This is the time to buy if you’re thinking about a great Bible for yourself or for a gift. For example...



- The basic *Lutheran Study Bible* (which we have on a rack for Bible study) is on sale for \$39.99, down from \$54.99. This is a fantastic Bible for study, with lots of notes to enrich your reading.
- *120 Bible Stories* is on sale for \$14.99 (reg. \$19.99); this is perfect for teaching the great stories of the Bible to children ages 8-12.
- *Today’s Light Devotional Bible* is on sale for \$24.99 (reg. \$32.99); easy-to-read sections of Scripture with devotional commentary and real-life application.

To order these or others, just Google “cph bibles” and click on the first link. Use the menu to the left to search categories. Prices in red print are sale prices.

SERVING IN FREEDOM SURVEY – Recently the Stewardship Board sent a letter to the congregation about service in the congregation through elected and appointed offices, as well as other areas of volunteer service. The goal is to get members plugged into areas of service that suit their interests, and to make the nomination process a little easier. The Board asks that everyone please take a few minutes to fill out this survey so that, as the letter says, we can each take our turns serving the body of Christ using the gifts for service God has given to every one of us. You can use the paper survey that was included with the letter and drop it off in the narthex, or take the online version of the survey using the link on our website (sjl.org>links>Serving in Freedom Survey).

COUNCIL MINUTES –Council meeting minutes are not published until they are approved a month later. If you would like to read about the most recent council meeting, an unofficial and unapproved copy of the minutes is available for viewing in the church office.

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!

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS 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 note this. Thank you!

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. Thank you!

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.

NEW FACES AT ST. JOHN: We warmly welcome the following new staff members this school year: *Mrs. Deb Boysel*, who will be the Freedom Flock Aide; *Mrs. Michelle Weddelman*, who is joining us as the 1st & 2nd Grade Teacher; *Mrs. Crystal Genter* who is coming on board as the Computer Instructor, Music Instructor, and PE Instructor for Grades K-8. Welcome to St. John, *Mrs. Boysel*, *Mrs. Weddelman*, and *Mrs. Genter*!

MAGAZINE / COOKIE DOUGH FUNDRAISER: The magazine and cookie dough sales from Preschool thru Grade 8 will begin on Mon., Aug. 27 at 9:30 AM. It will end on Tues., Sept. 11. Cookie dough will be delivered on Tues., Oct. 16 in the afternoon.

SJL SCHOOL FUNDRAISER – Plans are in motion for the Annual “Soar With the Eagles” St. John Lutheran School Fundraiser to be held at the Ridgeville American Legion Hall on Fri., Nov. 9, 2018. There will be a meal, along with a live and silent auction. Stay tuned!

ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP: Membership is now being taken for the Athletic Booster Club. Prices are \$20.00 for a couple and \$10.00 for an individual. Make checks payable to St. John Boosters and send to school with your child. Forms (orchid) are available on the narthex table or contact any of the Booster officers. Join today and help out the children’s athletic program. Our programs here at St. John give our students a sense of sportsmanship, discipline, structure and self-confidence needed to go out into the world.

‘BREAD FROM HEAVEN’ – A note to St. John members needing food assistance – If you could use food assistance from our food pantry, please speak with *Pastor Niermann*. We are required by the *Northwestern Ohio Food Bank* to keep a record with your name, but pastor will keep your record separate and absolutely confidential.

Contributions can be made at any time. Monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your offering envelope). Food donations for our pantry can be dropped off in the box by the Archives display cases. Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated. Thank you so much! As we learned in the meaning of the Fifth Commandment, “*We should fear and love God that we...help and support our neighbor in every physical need.*” (*Small Catechism*)

THE LUTHERAN HOUR – The Lutheran Hour Ministries can be heard on a few radio stations in our area. They cover many topics relevant to today's issues. Broadcasts can be heard Sundays on: Archbold's WMTR 96.1 at 7:30 AM; Napoleon's WNDH 103.1 at 9:00 AM.

BE A JAVA JOY HOST! Every second Sunday of the month after the service, we aim to have a time of fellowship with coffee, juice and snacks called **Java Joy**. If you would like to host one of these, please sign up in the narthex. Don't let finances stop you – you are welcome to reimburse your expenses from the kitty.



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.

B.G.S.U. CAMPUS MINISTRY OPEN HOUSE – NW Ohio Circuit 2 of the LCMS Ohio District is pleased and excited to announce the opening of the new LCMS campus ministry at Bowling Green State Univ, called "By God's Grace Ministries." Rev. Von Berlin will serve as the chaplain, and will provide worship, Bible study, and fellowship opportunities for BGSU students. The address of the campus ministry building is: 325 Wooster St. Bowling Green, Ohio. Today at 4:30 there will be a student gathering and open house for anyone wishing to visit and learn about this new ministry. You are welcome to attend! Most of all, please get the word around to BGSU students so they can attend.

AREA EVENTS:

- **Ridgeville Fire Dept.** is hosting a Drive-thru Rib Dinner on Thurs., Sept. 20th from 3-7 PM. Presale ticket deadline is Sat., Sept. 1st. See flyer on bulletin board for more info!
- **Genacross Lutheran Services** is hosting a Cruise-In Carnival on Sun., Sept. 9th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Napoleon Campus. Lots and lots of activities. See flyer!
- **Thrivent – Family Fun on the Farm** – Thrivent members are invited to Leaders Farms on Sun., Sept. 9th from 1-5 PM for a day of family fun and generosity. There will be lunch, pumpkin painting, and a wide variety of family-friendly activities offered by Leaders Farms! Registration deadline is Mon., Sept. 3rd.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

**A perfect marriage is just two imperfect people
who refuse to give up on each other.**

"Love...keeps no record of wrongs. Love never fails." (1 Cor. 13:5, 8)