



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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Be Strengthened In the Lord" *Ephesians 6:10-20*

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Five (LSB pg. 213)

Hymns: 905 ~ 665 ~ 954 ~ (Communion: 566, 668, 664) ~ 662

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We welcome all who have come to worship our God with us today! Each day we live is a priceless gift from God, loaded with possibilities to learn something new, to gain fresh insights into His great truths. May we be showered with those blessings as we together profess His Name today. 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

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Claire Wachtman & Ella Rosebrook, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Lois Arps & Linda Riefers, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Richard Elling & Harold Behrmann, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Carey Damman, Scott VanValkenburg, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kathy Badenhop, Sandy Von Deylen, Mary Rettig, *Altar Guild* ✠



SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY – Currently 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 today as 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.



THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES have returned 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.

In God's House This Week *Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl*

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class
Mon.		NO SCHOOL – Labor Day
Tue.	8:35 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	School Chapel V-ball: Gr. 4-6; 6:00 PM Gr. 7&8 vs. St. Pats – Bryan School Board Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class <i>(until 7:30 PM)</i>
Thurs.	6:30 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Men’s Bible Breakfast at Hill’s Restaurant V-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:15 PM Gr. 7&8 vs St. Paul - Napoleon Thursday Evening Worship
Sat.	10:00AM	V-Ball @ St. John – Defiance <i>(Gr. 4-6 girls only)</i>
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:00 PM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; “The Lamp” Jr High LYF
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Doug DeWitt</i> , Immanuel Lutheran – Hamler

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

DOOR OFFERING TODAY – This morning 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.

ACCREDITATION: The National Lutheran School Association (NLSA) has granted St. John Lutheran School an accreditation for the next five school years. *Kevin Creutz*, the Ohio District Superintendent, will present the official certificate on Sun., September 30 during the worship service. This accreditation association puts their approval on the quality of Christian education at St. John Lutheran School. Please join us for this worship service to give all praise to God.

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

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* or *Kelly Sonnenberg* if you would like to share your time and talents with the children of our Sunday School.



SIDE NOTE ABOUT SUNDAY SCHOOL NEXT SUNDAY: During the worship service we will involve the children with a children's message and a blessing for them and their teachers as the new season of Christian education begins.

There is no greater work a Christian can do than to lead the children to Christ in faith and trust. If it is a blessed thing even to give a cup of water to a child (Matt. 10:42), how much more blessed it is to give a child the very Bread of Life – to give them Jesus! Willing servants are still needed to staff the Sunday School. Speak with *Zoe Foor*, *Kelly Sonnenberg*, or *Pastor Niermann* if you would like to share your time and talents with the children of our Sunday School.

Also remember that the Sunday School students will be practicing music for worship during the openings. Be sure your child is present to learn the songs and anthems that will be sung in the Lord's House once each month.

150th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE REQUEST – The 150th Anniversary Committee is working to build a database of St. John's former members so they can be contacted about anniversary related events. We need everyone's help in this. If you know any former members, would you please pass along to the committee their names and addresses? Don't assume we already know about them or that someone else will give us the information. Use the form in today's bulletin or on the table in the narthex, and drop it in the marked box. Thank you for your assistance in this project! It will be a joy to welcome these folks back to St. John for our anniversary events!



GET WELL WISHES: Had a request from *Valerie Scheffert* in regard to her father and that he has had some major health issues recently and has been in ICU since Aug. 18. Prayers are requested and a shower of cards from fellow Christians would bring cheer and encouragement to him. Cards can be sent to: Dennis Boldt, 2220 Cypress Ct., Midlothian, TX 76065. Many thanks!

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 08/26/18	\$4,154.00	\$46.00	\$139.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday (08/23/18) – No service; Sunday (08/26/18) – 170

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!

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST will be meeting this Thursday at Hill's Restaurant in Napoleon at 6:30 a.m. Join us for an amazing breakfast and for the study of God's Word. We are presently studying the topic of confession and absolution, some of Christ's greatest gifts to His people. Join us for food, fellowship, and the study of God's Word. It's a great way to start the day!



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!!

MEN'S RETREAT WITH REV. CHAD BIRD – Trinity Lutheran in Toledo is hosting a men's retreat on Saturday, September 29th from 9:00am to 8:00pm at the Toledo Botanical Gardens, with Rev. Chad Bird as the presenter. The retreat theme is, "**God Extraordinary Grace for Ordinary Men in the Old Testament and Today.**" The cost is a mere \$10, which includes breakfast, lunch and dinner. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Rev. Chad Bird has become a very popular speaker and blogger in the LCMS and beyond. He has served as an assistant professor of Old Testament theology, and contributed a number of hymns to our hymnal. He has contributed articles to *Modern Reformation*, *The Federalist*, *Lutheran Forum*, *Mockingbird* and other publications.

LYF ICE CREAM SOCIAL – The LYF will be hosting its annual Ice Cream Social on Sun., Sept. 23, with serving from 10:30 to 12:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. On the menu: *Chicken Sandwiches, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Chips, Cakes, Cupcakes, Beverage* and *Schwan's Ice Cream*. Freewill offering! This is a Thrivent Action Team event. Carryouts available also!

BGSU CAMPUS MINISTRY NEEDS STUDENT CONTACTS - Our brand new campus ministry in Bowling Green is seeking the names and contact information for BGSU students from our LCMS congregations. This new ministry is called, "By God's Grace Ministries." They have a location just two blocks off the campus on the main drag through Bowling Green (*Wooster Street*). If you have any of your family members as students at BGSU or know of anyone else who is student, please jot down the information (name and phone, and email if you can) and give it to Pastor Niermann.

FOLLOW OUR CHURCH ON FACEBOOK – our new Facebook 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!)



KFUO RADIO – “Christ for you. Anytime. Anywhere.” St. Paul said, “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” (Rom 10:17) There is perhaps no other broadcast ministry at which you can hear “Christ for you” more faithfully than at KFUO Radio, the radio broadcast Ministry of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. There’s something for everyone, and you can listen on demand by going to www.kfu.org. Check it out – although the devil will hate it, you will “*be strengthened in the Lord and in the strength of His might!*” (Eph. 6:10)

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.

ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES: You may begin ordering SCRIP again. Order forms are on the table in the narthex. 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.**

SERVING IN FREEDOM SURVEY – The Stewardship Board is asking everyone to please fill out the Serving in Freedom Survey, about which you received a letter some weeks ago. 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).

MAGAZINE / COOKIE DOUGH FUNDRAISER: Students from St. John Lutheran School have 10 days left for their magazine and frozen cookie dough sales. There are hundreds of magazines to choose from. There are many different kinds of food items to purchase. This year the profits go for the class trip and playground equipment. Contact the students in the school to make a purchase. Orders 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!

‘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, but **we are especially in need of saltine crackers at this time**. Thank you so much!

AREA EVENTS:

- **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.**
- See flyer on the bulletin board for information on the **“Redhead Run 5K” on Sat., Sept. 15th.**

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Through our labor, no matter how humble, God is at work.

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.” (Col. 3:23-24)