



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

September 23, 2018

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

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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: **605 ~ 563 ~ 562 ~ 851 ~ 725**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Warm greetings and love in Christ are extended to all members and guests. We trust that you will experience the warmth of Christian fellowship, the inspiration of worship and the peace that comes from an awareness of God's presence. 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

- ✘ Bethann Gerken, *Pianist* ✘ Kaelyn Gerken & Jared Lange, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Elmer & Pat Maassel, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Carey Damman, Scott VanValkenburg, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Badenhop, Sandy Von Deylen, Mary Rettig, *Altar Guild* ✘

ADULT BIBLE STUDY HAS BEEN CANCELLED THIS MORNING due to the LYF Ice Cream Social. Adult Bible Study will resume next Sunday in the fellowship hall.

LYF ICE CREAM SOCIAL is today with serving from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit the LYF servant events and the 2019 National Youth Convention in Minneapolis. On the menu: *Chicken Sandwiches, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Chips, Pies, Cakes, Cupcakes, Beverage* and *Schwan's Ice Cream*. Freewill offering! Carryout available! A Thrivent Action Team event! Come out and support the youth of our congregation!

THANK YOU! Thanks so much for all the birthday wishes and cards at the Open House last Sunday. Also, for singing Happy Birthday to me after the church service. It was a wonderful celebration from all the church members and families. God has been so good to me! Signed, *Bill Von Deylen*

In God's House This WeekOnline church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:30AM	Worship Service Sunday School LYF Ice Cream Social
	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	8:35 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Chapel led by Grades 3&4 ; Offering: <i>Orphan Grain Train</i> V-ball: Gr. 4-6; 6:00 PM Gr. 7&8 @ St. Paul – Napoleon Shepherd Committee Board of Elders
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr High Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>)
Thurs.	5:00 PM 7:00 PM	V-ball @ BG Christian (2 games) Thursday Evening Worship
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; “The Lamp”
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Jacob Stuenkel</i> , St. Peter Lutheran – Florida

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
- ❖ *Marvin Gruenhagen*, recuperating at home with therapy after his recent hospitalization
- ❖ *Macie Wyse*, going thru some difficult therapy as she continues her battle with cancer

THANK YOU FROM BRAZIL: "Whether I met with you personally or talked with you at church, and to whatever capacity you personally supported my ministry in Brazil, I am so thankful for you as members of St. John. God financially provided for this upcoming year through many of you, and I am so grateful. I will be praying for St. John and its members, and please continue to pray for me and the Brazilian students who are hungry for the Gospel. More than anything, I pray that for each of you, your personal relationship with Jesus as your Savior becomes stronger this year than ever before, and I am excited for the ways that God makes that clearer for me and students here this year in Brazil. Thank you again!" Signed, *Amber Gruenhagen*

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES – While the elders this year had recommended that the Thursday services go through September, by popular demand they will be extended through the month of October. As always, the Thursday service is a preview of the Sunday service, and Communion is available on the Thursdays prior to Communion Sundays.

PRESENTATION OF SCHOOL ACCREDITATION NEXT SUNDAY –

Recently our school underwent an extensive accreditation process of National Lutheran Schools Accreditation, and has again earned full accreditation. A team of professional educators visited our school last spring over the course of a few days, and recommended us to the NLSA for full accreditation. This process reaches its culmination next Sunday when Mr. Kevin Creutz, Supt. of Ohio District LCMS schools, will be with us in our worship service to present the certificate of accreditation. Please join us for this joyful event and enjoy some light refreshments following the service in the side hallway!



PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS for the quarter of October, November, and December are on the desk in the narthex. There are also large print copies available.

ADULT HAND BELLS: Hand bells will be starting on Wed., Oct. 3rd from 6:30 – 7:15 PM. New members are always welcome, so please consider joining this year. We'd love to have you in the choir.

SERVING IN FREEDOM SURVEY – The Stewardship Board is gearing up for another round of nominations, and is asking everyone to please fill out the Serving in Freedom Survey to help along the process. 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](http://sjl.org/links/Serving%20in%20Freedom%20Survey)).

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 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!



MEN'S RETREAT WITH REV. CHAD BIRD – **Today is the last day to sign up!** Trinity Lutheran in Toledo is hosting a men's retreat this 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.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 09/16/18	\$15,564.09	\$121.00	\$444.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday (09/13/18) – 39; Sunday (09/16/18) – 176

COMMUNED in August: 361 members; 4 guests

DONATION DAY – The Concordia Theological Seminary Guild, with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, is holding a special Donation Day on Tues., Oct. 9 at the Seminary campus in Fort Wayne. Especially needed are men's dress clothes, along with other gently used clothing, dry and canned food items, paper towels, toilet paper, disposable diapers, and personal hygiene items. Monetary donations are also appreciated. *Lois Rosebrock* will be attending this event, and she may be contacted at 419-598-8248 with any donations/questions.

“SOAR WITH THE EAGLES” SCHOOL FUNDRAISER – An evening of dinner, live and silent auctions, door prizes, music, and fellowship await you as the 2nd Annual “Soar With the Eagles” St. John Lutheran School Fundraiser will be held at the Ridgeville American Legion Hall on Fri., Nov. 9, 2018. See today's bulletin insert for all the information about the event. Doors open at 6:00 PM. Dinner will be served from 6-7:30 PM and the auctioning will begin at 7:30 PM. All proceeds will go to St. John Lutheran School operating expense. **Tickets can be purchased at St. John Lutheran School or by contacting Margo at (419-966-3469).** Only 300 tickets will be sold!

WOMEN'S SELF DEFENSE SEMINAR – Join us on Tues., Oct. 23rd (6:00-7:30 pm) for a women's self-defense seminar. Master Dawn Angileri (*a friend of Sarah Bartok*) will be coming to the church to instruct women how to defend themselves if they feel the need to do so. Master Angileri is a 4th degree black belt and has owned and operated a karate school in Michigan for over 14 years. She has taught numerous women's self-defense courses over the years. This seminar is open to any female from 6th grade to adult. We ask that you wear easy to move in clothing for this event. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet at the narthex table. This is a free event but we are asking participants to contribute a free will donation to pay for Master Angileri's travel expenses from Michigan. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Bartok at the church or by email (sbartok@sjl.org)

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.



FOR SALE: There is “for sale” in the office a new Lutheran Study Bible for anyone interested. The cost is \$40. If paying by check, please make payable to *St. John Lutheran School*. Thank you!

ST. JOHN CHURCH LIBRARY – Stop in and check out the growing number of books available in the church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary. The books in this library have been screened to assure that they are true to the Word of God and can be trusted to be theologically sound. To borrow a book, just take it with you, and then return it to the basket when you’ve finished reading. A complete list of the books in the church’s library can be found by clicking on the “Book Inventory” link on the library page of our church’s website. <http://www.sjl.org/library.html>

OHIO ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN: The Ohio Division OGT is located in the north end of the Culligan Water Conditioning building on Independence Drive in Napoleon. Someone is usually there to receive items on the first Tuesday of the month from 9:00-11:00 AM. If you need to drop off items at another time, please contact *Nancy Helmke* (419-758-3539), *Diann Meyer-Grieser* (419-267-3485), or *Vicki Grieser* (419-445-2986) and they will be happy to meet you and open the facility to receive your donations! PLEASE do not drop off items at the warehouse when it is closed. Thank you!

HURRICANE HELP THRU THRIVENT:

Hurricane Florence plagued the southeastern Atlantic seaboard for days causing devastation and destruction for many.

As a membership organization of Christians, we know Thrivent members want to support those who are recovering from the hurricane. And we’re making it easy to help.



Make a personal donation; Thrivent will match up to \$1 million

You can make a personal donation through Thrivent.com to specific organizations helping the hurricane victims. When you do, Thrivent will match your donation dollar for dollar – up to \$1 million. This matching opportunity will run until the match is met or until Dec. 31, 2018, whichever comes first. Thrivent will help pay processing fees to ensure 100 percent of your donation goes directly to help those in need.* To make a donation and to see the list of organizations included in the match, visit the [Disaster Response page on Thrivent.com](#).

Lead a Thrivent Action Team

Get your friends, family and coworkers to band together to help raise funds for those affected by the hurricanes by forming a [Thrivent Action Team](#). Use promo code “Hurricane Florence,” and you’ll receive your Thrivent Action Kit – containing T-shirts, seed money and promotional materials – 5 to 7 business days after approval.

Direct Choice Dollars[®]

[Thrivent Choice[®]](#) lets eligible members recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable outreach funding. If you have Choice Dollars available to direct, please consider selecting enrolled organizations helping those impacted by Hurricane Florence. For additional details visit the [Disaster Response page on Thrivent.com](#).

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.**

FALL PENNY CHALLENGE – The PTL Fall Penny Challenge at St. John School begins on Mon., Oct. 1st and runs thru Fri., Nov. 2nd. Send your pennies in to school with your child or grandchild. The winning classroom will be awarded a pizza party.

PRESCHOOL GRANDPARENTS' DAY – **Preschool Grandparents' Day** will be held from 9:00 – 11:00 AM on **Thurs., Oct. 18th for the 4 & 5-year old class** and same time on **Fri., Oct. 19th for the 3-year old class**. Grandparents should plan to arrive at 9 AM and report to the gym. Grandparents will also have the opportunity to take their grandchild through the PTL Scholastic Book Fair those days. See note below. Come and enjoy all the fun in Preschool!!!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR: St. John PTL will be having a Scholastic Book Fair which is open to the public on Thursday, Oct. 18, from 6:30 – 8:30 PM; and again on Friday, Oct. 19 from 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM. A lot of help is needed, so call Christa Bickel (419-262-3248) if you can help.

SCHOOL VISITATION: This will be held on October 18th from 7 – 8 PM. The PTL will be sponsoring a book fair that evening also. More details will be sent home the beginning of October.

SCRIP AT ST. JOHN: Let's plan ahead! Scrip is great for having "extra money" in your wallet. Purchase gift cards to use for personal shopping or going out to eat. Plan ahead now for birthdays and holidays! Scrip orders will be received on Wednesdays, ordered on Fridays and delivered on Tuesdays.

For those that don't know, *SCRIP* is gift cards that you purchase through PTL for full face value. They work for both in store purchases and online shopping. PTL works through a company that purchases these gift cards in bulk from participating retailers. A percentage of the purchase stays with PTL and a percentage goes to the student's family toward enrollment/tuition. This fundraiser nets the PTL approximately \$300 each year. Think ahead--if you give out gift cards for Christmas consider purchasing them from PTL instead

of at the store so that a portion of that sale stays with St. John Lutheran School. Order forms and program information are posted on FastDirect under 'Links,' titled SCRIP Order Forms and SCRIP Program Info. There are also hard copies in the 'School Info' rack outside the office and on the table in the church narthex. Please feel free to share with family and friends. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to the SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

A smooth sea never made a skillful sailor.

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness." (James 1:2-3)