



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

January 13, 2019

VOL. 84

NO. 2

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

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "When You Pass Through the Waters" Isaiah 43:2

Order of Service: Prayer & Preaching (LSB pg. 260)

Hymns: 399 ~ (Baptism: 725, 588) ~ 594 ~ 722 ~ 601

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to St. John Church! We thank God for this time together! We pray that the grace of God will heal your hurts; that the strength of God will give you courage to face the work before you; that the power of God will prepare your way; and that the peace of God will keep you secure and steady in Christ Jesus. If you are a visitor, 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* ✠ Jared Lange & Brooks Behnfeldt, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Tom & Sandy Von Deylen, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Dave Von Deylen, Dean Badenhop, Dennis Showman, Richard Elling, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Diane Von Deylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, *Altar Guild* ✠

ALTAR FLOWERS & BAPTISMS THIS MORNING – God is good, and has blessed **Brad & Kailee** (Rosebrock) **Leonard** with twin girls, **Liza Marie** and **Rose Charlotte**. They were born on December 5th at the Toledo Hospital. Liza's baptismal sponsors are Megan Hesterman and Mitch Leonard; Rose's sponsors are Megan Bostelman and Kayla Leonard. The twins' grandparents are **Dave & Karen Rosebrock** and **Scott & Juleen Leonard**. This morning we thank God with this family for the double blessing of these twin girls, and pray that what God begins today in the waters of their baptism He would also bring to completion on the day of Jesus Christ. Congratulations to Brad & Kailee and to your family and friends on this joyous day!



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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM	Worship Service w/Communion following <i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; “The Lamp” Jr High LYF
Mon.	4:30 PM	B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls vs Holgate (played at SPL)
Tue.	8:35 AM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Kramer ; Offering – Filling Home of Napoleon B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys @ Liberty Center Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 7:00 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	4:30 PM	B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls @ Tinora
Sat.	10:00AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:00 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs Solomon – Woodville
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion / Worship Service Voters’ Meeting; Sunday School; “The Lamp”
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Dale Kern</i> , Retired, St. John Lutheran – Stryker

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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, and Willie Gerken*
- ❖ *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*
- ❖ *Macie Wyse*, going thru difficult therapy as she continues her battle with cancer
- ❖ *Cheryl Yaw’s sister-in-law, Cindy Walbolt*, who has had a recurrence of her cancer
- ❖ *John & Abby (Dietrich) Buldas*, blessed with a little girl, Taytum Konstantina, at FCHC on Fri., Jan. 4th



JAVA JOY TODAY! It’s the second Sunday of the month, and that means **Java Joy** after worship. Take a little time to enjoy a bite to eat and some fellowship. A table is set up in the front hallway. Your gifts to the “kitty” help keep **Java Joy** alive and going. We thank *Jim & Nancy Hogrefe* for hosting Java Joy for January. (*NOTE: In order for everyone to enjoy the food items, we ask that you only take 2 items when*

going through the line.) Thank you!

Be a **Java Joy** host. Every second Sunday of the month we aim to have this time of fellowship. If you would like to host one of these, please sign up on the table in the narthex. Don’t let finances stop you – you are welcome to reimburse your expenses from the kitty if you wish.

A VOTERS’ MEETING is scheduled for Sunday, January 20 after worship in the fellowship hall. On the agenda will be 1) A report on the St. John Endowment fund; 2) The Annual School Report; 3) Audit Committee Report; 4) Old School Update; 5) a School Board hiring recommendation; 6) Cemetery policy for burial of cremation remains.

NEW ALTAR GUILD (pink) & GREETER (yellow) SCHEDULES: The 2019 Altar Guild and Greeter schedules are available today and can be picked up on the narthex table. The Usher schedule is in the making and will be available soon. Thanks again to all who are willing to be of service to the Lord through St. John. You are a blessing to us all!

SUNDAY SCHOOL – We are looking for some volunteers to help teach Sunday School for the 2019 calendar year. You don't have to have any teaching experience and we are looking for anyone at any age! All that is required is the love for Jesus in your heart and the willingness to share that with the children of our church! You will be put into a position/grade level at your comfort level and will be on a rotation where you will only be obligated to teach once a month (*or possibly once every three weeks*). If you are interested, please contact either Steph Damman (419-966-3941) or Kelly Sonnenberg (419-906-1626). *****NOTE: There will be short meeting for all who teach Sunday School on Sun., Jan. 20th after Sunday School at 11:15 AM.**

PROPOSED CEMETERY POLICY FOR BURIAL OF CREMATION REMAINS – At the Voters' Meeting next Sunday we will discuss a proposed policy for the burial of cremation remains in our cemetery. If you would like to review this proposed policy ahead of time, copies are available on the table in the narthex.

MITES & WOMEN OF FREEDOM – The next meeting of the St. John Women of FREEDOM will be held Tues., Jan. 15, 2019 at 7:00 PM. This will be a Missions Meeting so everyone should bring their Quarterly and your Mite Box if you have one. Our Mission Meetings are the months of January, April, July, and October. The months of March, May, September, and November are Women of Freedom meetings. February is our Quilt and Blanket Knotting Party and in August there is no meeting. All ladies of St. John are invited to come to our meetings. **NOTE:** The Program Booklets for 2019 are in on the narthex table. Pick yours up today! Be sure to check to see what month you are on for serving. If that does not work out for you, you can switch with someone. All ladies are welcome and if you would like your name added to the active member list (booklet), just attend a meeting and join us in Christian fellowship and service.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 01/06/19	\$6,952.00	\$69.00	\$702.00

ATTENDANCE: 243

COMMUNED in December: 480 members; 8 guests

YOUTH CENTER: For those of you who would like to donate your labor for the new Youth Center project, there is a green sheet on the table in the narthex to sign up and list your phone number. We will be starting on some of the work very soon. We have some interior brick from the chimney that needs to be removed, also framing walls, help installing windows, blowing insulation in the attic (*at a later date*), etc. This labor will help to offset the financial burden of the project. In the past we have enjoyed the company of members getting together to build and improve the Lord's house. Thank you in advance for your support. Questions...Call Denny Damman at 419-966-2687. *The Building Committee*

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.

150th Anniversary Notes

We got off to a great start last Sunday for our 150th Anniversary Year celebration. Throughout these 15 decades of ministry, the world around us has changed radically, but one thing remains the same – **Jesus Christ, Yesterday, Today, and Forever!** Below are a few random notes related to our anniversary.



Jesus Christ
Yesterday Today Forever

OUR NEXT ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY – March 17th

There are four special anniversary Sundays scheduled for the year. The second of these services is scheduled for **Sunday, March 17** when our focus will be, “**Jesus Christ – YESTERDAY.**” We will remember all of God’s mercies through the years, and thank Him for all His blessings, especially our forebears in faith!

- **Rev. Dr. Matthew Rosebrock** will be our guest preacher.
- **The Kantorei men’s chorus from our Fort Wayne seminary** will be our musical guests.
- **A meal and program will follow.** Rev. Dale Kern will be on hand as one of our early pastors telling the story of our church’s founding. It’s going to be a great day!

150th ANNIVERSARY MISSION CHALLENGE OFFERING

This year we are challenging each household to give \$150 above their regular offerings to support our adopted mission projects through *The Lutheran Heritage Foundation*. An information sheet is available in the narthex and online at www.sjl.org. Envelopes for your gift installments will be available in the narthex throughout the year. Include your envelope number if you want the tax deduction, and drop your offering in the clear donation box. A chart of our progress will be updated monthly.

ANNIVERSARY RELATED ITEMS

- **Pens and Memo Clips** – Please feel free to take these, and to share with others. If you wish to help defray the cost, drop a few quarters into the clear donation box.
- **Stemless Wine Glasses** – Again, take and share. Suggested donation is \$1.25 per glass, \$5.00 for a set of four. The company assures us these glasses are dishwasher safe.
- **Anniversary Blanket/Throw** – These are available to order for \$35. Use the order envelope on the table and drop it in the donation box. We will place our first order for these blankets at the end of January.

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENTION FUND

SPECIAL INVESTMENT OFFER (forms available on the narthex table)

--- The LCEF is a way for you to invest money in instruments which will then help congregations and ministries in the form of loans to expand their ministries. Your money does double duty, earning you a nice rate of interest and helping grow God's kingdom. **Right now there is still a little time left to invest in a special 40-month note that will earn 4% interest for you.** You can invest anything from \$500 to \$40,000 in one of these notes. To apply, go to lcef.org where you'll see the offering on their home page. Click the 'Apply Now' button for instructions and an application. **"LCEF – Where Investments Build Ministry" – pick up your application today!**



LYF FUNDRAISER: SKITTLES GUESSING JAR - The youth are also conducting their Skittles Guessing Jar fundraiser. Guesses are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Take as many guesses as you want! The winner will receive the full jar of Skittles. This fundraiser will run through January. All funds raised will be put towards the youth's trip to the National Youth Gathering in July.

LYF SUPER BOWL SUB SALE – It's that time of year again! Super Bowl Sunday is quickly approaching and it's time to get ready for the big game. Why not help out our church's LYF as well? On Sun., Feb. 3rd, we will be selling Super Bowl subs to help raise money for our youth group. Each sub will cost \$4.00 (or a 3 for \$10 deal) and will contain salami, bologna, ham, white cheese, and yellow cheese. **To place an order, please fill out the pre-order form inserted in today's bulletin and place it in the basket on the table or bring it to the church office by January 27th.** Subs will be available for pick up after church on February 3rd. Payment will be due at the time of pick up. **Checks can be made payable to St. John LYF.** Thank you for supporting our LYF youth!

SOUP & PIE DINNER – The annual PTL Soup & Pie Dinner will be held on Sun., Jan. 27, 2019, with serving from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, in the fellowship hall. On the menu will be *Chili Soup, Noodle Soup, Hot Dogs, Sloppy Joes, a Salad and Dessert Bar, and Beverages.* After the Dinner you can stay and enjoy watching some basketball games as all four of our school teams will be playing St. Paul Lutheran.

DONATIONS FOR SOUP & PIE DINNER – The PTL Soup & Pie Committee are asking for donations for the Salad and Dessert Bars. A sign-up sheet is placed on the table in the narthex. Thanks to everyone for taking time to support the PTL through your donations of salads, desserts, pies, or cupcakes. We look forward to another successful Soup & Pie Dinner on January 27th!

ST. JOHN OPEN HOUSE – An **Open House** is planned for grade levels (PS-8) at St. John School for Wednesday evening, **February 6th, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM**, for families who would like to come and look at our school and discuss the possibility of sending their child/children here for their education. There will also be refreshments. If anyone in the congregation might know of a prospective student for Grades PS-8, please be sure to pass this information to them.

ST. JOHN MINI EAGLES CHEERING: There will be a cheering opportunity for any Mini Eagle interested in cheering at the St. John vs St. Paul (Soup & Pie Sunday) basketball games. We are scheduling 2 practices on Wed., Jan. 16th and Jan. 23rd from 4:30 – 5:30 PM both dates. More information will be available at the first practice. T-shirts can be ordered for \$12 at the first practice on the 16th. Contact Christa Bickel at 419-262-3248 with questions.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2019-20 school year. Anyone interested in enrolling your child in our preschool program should contact the school office at 419-598-8702 to request an enrollment packet and/or turn in their registration form. We will be opening the registration up to the public as of February 4th. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration form.

ST. JOHN SCRIP: Scrip orders will be received on Wednesdays, ordered on Fridays and delivered on the following Tuesday. Order forms are posted on FastDirect under ‘Links,’ titled SCRIP Order Forms and SCRIP Program Info, there are also hard copies on the table in the narthex and in the ‘School Info’ rack outside the office. 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.**

RECOLLECTION OF GERALD HISTORY BOOKS – There are still a few copies of this book available. Once the office copies are sold out, you can simply send \$12 to Robert L. Stockman, 1218 Spoonbill Landing Circle, Bradenton, FL 34209, and he will mail your copy to you via USPS. If at any time during the year you need a gift for a current or former member of St. John, why not consider this history book about the development of Gerald? This book is full of interesting facts about Gerald, Freedom Township, and St. John Church and can be purchased thru the church office anytime.

MYSTERY READER: Is there a Mystery Reader among us???? Please send Kindergarten Teacher, Mrs. Niermann an email at bniermann@sjl.org if you would like to be a “mystery reader”. We have already had a few mystery readers which proved very exciting for the kindergarteners. There are also forms available on the narthex table to sign up. Complete the form and drop in the box provided or bring to your form to the school office.

4-H NEWS: The Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Club will have their first 4-H meeting on Sun., Feb. 10 starting at 1:00 PM at St. John Lutheran Church. We will be meeting in the gym. We would like to meet with the parents briefly at 1:00. New members are always welcome!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not get all bent out of shape.

“Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.” (1 Thess. 5:15)