



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

January 20, 2019

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NO. 3

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

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Church Website: www.sjl.org

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "Commit It and Forget It" *John 2:1-11*

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting One (LSB pg. 151)

Hymns: 408 ~ 729 ~ (Communion: 910, 626, 859, 719) ~ 394

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to St. John Church! "I sought the Lord and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears" (Ps. 34:4). Let us seek the Lord together this day.

Let us offer up our fears and doubts, that we may go forth strengthened and empowered for another week. If you are visiting us today, know that we are

honored by your presence. Simply 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 ✠ Colton Kruse & Trenton Kruse, Acolytes ✠
- ✠ Dan & Deb Wachtman, Greeters ✠
- ✠ Dave Von Deylen, Dean Badenhop, Dennis Showman, Richard Elling, Ushers ✠
- ✠ Diane Von Deylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Altar Guild ✠

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE NEW ARRIVAL! We would like to welcome **Kate Pauline Weddelman**, infant daughter born to Ben & Michelle (*Rosebrock*) Weddelman on Fri., Jan. 11th at Defiance Regional Medical Center. Mother and daughter are doing well, and Kate is sure to be spoiled by big brother, Ryan, and big sister, Lucy. Grandparents, Randy & Lou Ann Rosebrock will be sure to do their part to spoil Kate too. Congratulations Ben & Michelle! Enjoy your growing family!

VOTERS' MEETING is scheduled for today 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.

In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 11:15AM	Communion Service Voters' Meeting; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Brief Sunday School Meeting
Mon.		NO SCHOOL – MLK Jr. Day observed
Tue.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
Wed.	6:15 PM TBD	Midweek Confirmation Class Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	5:00 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:00 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys @ St. Pats – Bryan
Sat.	10:00AM 4:30 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:00 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs St. John – Defiance Sr High LYF
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:30AM 1:00 PM	◆ ◆ National Lutheran Schools Week ◆ ◆ Worship Service Sunday School; "The Lamp" PTL Soup & Pie Luncheon B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 2:15 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys; 3:30 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls; 4:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs St. Paul – Napoleon

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
- ❖ *Susan Nye*, who broke a hip in a fall and is recovering after surgery, at Fulton Manor-Wauseon
- ❖ *Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen*, that God might grant improved health
- ❖ *Shorty Bischoff*, for answers regarding his recurring heart related symptoms

THANK YOU to all who came to our first 150th Anniversary Year kick-off celebration! The Women of Freedom were thrilled with the variety of food brought to the potluck. Thrivent Action Team funds were used to purchase meat, beverages and tableware. Dan & Deb Wachtman graciously took care of doing the purchasing of the supplies and brought the meat already cooked in roasters from their home.

Thank you Pastor, choir, organist and others for our special worship service. Everyone enjoyed the program after the meal with some multiple-choice church history questions.

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 today after Sunday School at 11:15 AM.**

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

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 01/13/19	\$6,344.00	\$134.00	\$205.00

ATTENDANCE: 201



ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS – “**I Have Good News For You**” is an adult Christian instruction class that will begin on Monday, Feb. 4th. Classes will be conducted from 7:00-8:15 each Monday evening. This is a membership class for those who wish to join our church, but taking the class does not oblige anyone to join. It's also a great refresher course for our current members. Included in this bulletin is a brochure with information about this class, which you are, encouraged to pass along as an invitation to anyone who may be interested. **If you invite someone, consider joining them for the class as a mentor and encourager in the faith.**

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*

WELCOME LONG-TERM SUB: Due to Mrs. Weddelman having her baby, we welcome **Mrs. Michelle Schaffner** as the long-term sub for Grades 1&2. Mrs. Schaffner hails from Wauseon. She retired in 2017 from teaching, which she had done in the Wauseon School system for 31 years. She brings a lot of expertise to the classroom and the students are looking forward to working with and learning more new things from Mrs. Schaffner.

ABOUT LUTHERAN SCHOOLS – WE SHOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST! Caring, Christian teachers share the Word of God daily with children and families. Strengthening a home, school and church partnership, through an education of the whole child, students are prepared and equipped for a life of Christian citizenship and discipleship.

150th Anniversary Notes

NEXT ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY – Mar. 17

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!



Jesus Christ
Yesterday Today Forever

- **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!

MAILING TO FORMER MEMBERS – We are making final preparations for a mailing to go out to former members of St. John to invite them to our anniversary events. We thank everyone who has supplied us information so far. If you still want to submit someone’s name and contact information to receive this information, use the form in the narthex and deposit it in the basket marked for this purpose. This is the final call.

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.

2019 NATIONAL LUTHERAN ANNUAL – We are taking orders for the 2019 Lutheran Annual. It has the current addresses, phone numbers, emails, and websites of LCMS churches, pastors, teachers, etc. all over the United States. Call the church office to order your copy. Deadline is Mon., Feb. 5th.

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!

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!

WEBSITE SECURITY WARNINGS: If you have visited our church's website recently you may have been given a warning that the site is not secure. The cause of this was a change in the way browsers treated websites without encryption. Nothing had changed on our end, but the browsers had become more sensitive. We have now added SSL encryption and the errors should no longer occur.

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!**



"RECOLLECTION OF GERALD" HISTORY BOOKS – Sold out!!! If you didn't get one yet, you can still do so by 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. Send for your copy 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.

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.

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.**

BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION, AND POP TABS: Our school collects *Box Tops For Education*, and aluminum pop tabs all year long. *Box Tops For Education* is an ongoing PTL fundraiser earning 10¢ per box top for the PTL. They too have expanded their sponsors, so be sure to check over your grocery items carefully so you don't miss any box tops. The pop tabs collected all go to support the Ronald McDonald House in Toledo. There are collection boxes in the school office for each of these. ***NOTE: Please turn in your pop tabs and Box Tops For Education labels in separate Ziploc bags or envelopes. Do not combine them.*** Thank you!

STAMP COLLECTING: The LWML is collecting "Stamps For Missions." Here is what you do: Cut the stamps from the envelopes allowing ¼ inch margin or more around the stamp. The stamp may not be damaged and the perforations around the stamp must be perfect. Regular stamps are no longer accepted. You need not trim the stamp; we have someone who trims and sorts the stamps. Do not remove stamps from envelopes, albums, and older postcards. An "old" postcard is usually from 1930 or before. The most valuable stamps are commemorative and foreign. Collecting stamps is an easy way to participate in a mission project sponsored by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. A yellow box is on the table in the narthex.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

God is the potter, not Harry.

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Rom 2:12)