



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

February 3, 2019

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NO. 5

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

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "I Am Only..." *Jeremiah 1:4-10*
Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Three (LSB pg. 184)
Hymns: 842 ~ 511 ~ (Communion: 622, 783, 830) ~ 643
Adult Choir: "Amazing Grace"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

The Psalmist wrote: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the House of the Lord.'" We are happy to have you with us, whether someone invited you or you came by yourself. We are glad to share this House of the Lord with you. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to our pastor and by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you. Simply pass it to the center aisle during the offering this morning. Thank you!

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Bethann Gerken, *Pianist* ✠ Kaelyn Gerken & Ella Rosebrook, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Lois Arps & Linda Riefers, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karen Lulfs, Kaylee Wentworth, Ronda Wentworth, Karan Niebergall, *Altar Guild* ✠



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.

2018 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – The 2018 individual offering contribution totals (green sheets) are available this morning on the table in the narthex. These will also be printed in the Church Annual Report. We hope this helps those members in need of this information for tax purposes. If you have any questions on your yearly contribution information, please call Financial Trustee, *Kathy Gruenhagen* at 419-335-9173.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 6:00 PM	Communion Service Voters' Meeting; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Sr High LYF Super Bowl Party at Miss Bartok's house
Mon.	5:30 PM 7:00 PM	B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls; 6:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys @ St Pats – Bryan Adult Instruction Classes begin (<i>A 10-week series</i>)
Tue.	8:35 AM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Kramer B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys @ Holgate Stewardship Board & School Board Meetings
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class St John Open House – Preschool thru Gr. 8 (until 7:30 PM)
Thurs.	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant
Sat.	10:00AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:15 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys; 12:30 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls; 1:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys @ Monclova Christian Academy
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 12:30PM 1:00 PM 4:00 PM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" 4-H – Gerald Busy Fingers & Cloverbuds 4-H – Freedom Royal Farmers in the gym Jr High LYF Meeting
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Theodore Rellstab</i> , St. John Lutheran – Holgate

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
- ❖ *Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen*, that God might grant improved health
- ❖ *Shorty Bischoff*, for answers regarding his recurring heart related symptoms
- ❖ *Susan Nye*, who is now home and recuperating from her recent fall
- ❖ *Don Dickmann*, who is recovering at home from a procedure

SUPER BOWL SUB SALE TODAY! It's finally here! Super Bowl Sub Sunday!

Stop by the kitchen to pick up your order after church today. There are a limited number of extras available for sale too, so if you still want to purchase subs, stop by the kitchen. Each sub will cost \$4.00 (or a 3 for \$10 deal) and will contain salami, bologna, ham, white cheese, and yellow cheese. **Checks can be made out to St. John LYF.** Thank you for supporting our Sr. High LYF as they continue to raise funds for the 2019 Nat'l Youth Gathering!



NEW USHER (blue) SCHEDULES: The 2019 Usher schedules are now available and can be picked up on the narthex table. Thanks again!

SR. HIGH LYE: Come one, come all to the Super Bowl Party 2019 at Miss Bartok's home today from 6:00 PM – your curfew. Bring snacks and be ready to root for your favorite team! Not into football??? There will be other games and activities going on as well. Hope to see you later today!



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.**

GIDEON'S PRESENTATION NEXT SUNDAY – Every other February we invite a representative from *Gideons International* to take a few minutes to fill us in on their ministry of spreading God's Word through the printing of Scripture in many languages. Next Sunday, *Tim Schumm* will be with us to make this presentation at the end of our service. In addition, the church council has authorized a door offering in support of this ministry. Please come prepared with your offering if you wish to lend your financial support.



The Gideons

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 01/27/19	\$11,221.59	\$120.00	\$734.00

ATTENDANCE: 259

EAGLE NEWS: Going to try again....The Eagle News publication is being passed out today. Extra copies are available on the narthex table and also online via FastDirect Communication. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnfreedom/>, click on “Links” at the top of the page, then click on “Eagle News - January” in the “Everybody” column.

2018 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – It's time to start getting your reports ready for the 2018 Church Annual. The secretaries of the different organizations are asked to write up a summary of the year's activities along with a financial report if there is one. **Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers by Fri., Feb. 15.**

TIME TO UPDATE OUR DIRECTORY: There are many addresses and phone numbers in the Annual Report directory that are needed or that need updated. If you (*and/or your adult children*) have address changes; or if you have eliminated your land line telephone and only have cell phone numbers, **please call or email** the church office at 419-598-8961 or jwiechers@sjl.org with updated information. It will be very helpful to have current addresses on file when we do our mailings. Thank you!

ABOUT LUTHERAN SCHOOLS – STRENGTHENING CONGREGATIONS: Lutheran schools equip children to become Christian leaders in the congregation. The school also involves young parents in congregation activities more than in congregations without schools. These young parents frequently become new leaders of the congregation. Students are encouraged to become future pastors and teachers, ensuring an ongoing supply of church workers.

150th Anniversary Notes

NEXT ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY – Mar. 17

The second of our four main anniversary services is scheduled for **Sunday, March 17** when our focus will be, “**Jesus Christ – YESTERDAY.**” 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!



Jesus Christ
Yesterday Today Forever

MAILING TO FORMER MEMBERS – This week we are sending out a mailing 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 be 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. An order will be placed this week, and should be ready to be picked up in a few weeks.

THANK YOU FROM SOUP & PIE COMMITTEE – The Soup & Pie Committee would like to



thank everyone for their support of the Annual Soup & Pie Dinner. Thanks to everyone who donated salads, desserts, and any other food items in order to make this fundraiser a success. We had a great turnout! Also thanks to the committee workers for all your teamwork and extra help offered. There were some new faces on the committee this year and we appreciate everyone's effort.

(Signed: Patty Bockelman, Larry & Krista Gerken, Ernie & Jaclyn Franz, Tri-chairs)

ST. JOHN OPEN HOUSE – An **Open House** is planned for grade levels (PS-8) at St. John School on Wednesday evening, **February 6th, from 6:30 to 7:30**, 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: You may begin ordering again! 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.**

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. 12th.

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).

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!

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*

“RECOLLECTION OF GERALD” HISTORY BOOKS – Sold out!!! If you didn't get one yet, you can still do so by simply sending \$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!

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.

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.

LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT – How You Can Help? If you have used **prescription or nonprescription** glasses or sunglasses in your drawers, desks, or closets, you can donate them now! Children's glasses are especially needed. Both plastic and metal frames are accepted. There is a box on the table in the narthex for the collection of these used glasses.

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!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

God wants full custody, not just weekend visits.

“You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.” (Jer. 29:13)