



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

May 5, 2019

VOL. 84

NO. 18

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Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting One (LSB pg. 151)
Hymns: 481 ~ 812 ~ (Communion: 680, 683, 475) ~ 465

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest this morning, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. 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 or register your name in the Guest Book in the Narthex.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✧ Bethann Gerken, *Pianist* ✧ Devin Dietrich & Logan Honemann, *Acolytes* ✧
- ✧ Don & Karan Niebergall, *Greeters* ✧
- ✧ Carey Damman & Scott Van Valkenburg, *Ushers* ✧
- ✧ Linda Riefers, Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff, *Altar Guild* ✧

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY are placed in loving memory of our daughter, sister, and best friend, *Stephanie Kossow*, who went to be with the Lord 11 years ago on May 1st. As the years go by, we still miss her each and every day, but know she is singing her heart out in heaven along with three of her grandparents. Signed, *Doug, Mary, Tyler, Olivia, and Logan*

A NOTE OF THANKS FROM THE LANGENHOP'S: To all who sent cards, gave memorials, made visits, and provided us support during Dad's recent stay at Genacross and through his passing, we say "Thank you". Special appreciation to Pastor Niermann for his comforting words, to Sharon for the music, and to the Women of Freedom who served us all so well both in body and spirit! From the cradle to the grave, the St. John family was Dad's family. And we are so blessed to have you in our lives. Signed – *Judy, Jerry and Cori, and families.*

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:00 PM 4:30 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" 4-H Meetings Sr High LYF
Mon.	6:30 PM	Preschool Graduation in the sanctuary
Tue.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Niermann Stewardship Board Meeting
Wed.	9:00 AM 6:15 PM	7 th & 8 th Grade Quiz Bowl Tourney at NWOESC in Archbold Confirmation Class Preparation – 8 th Grade only
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship in the sanctuary
Sat.	4:30 PM	Jr High LYF
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service with Communion following Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: Rev. James Strawn, St. James Lutheran – Archbold

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*
- ❖ *Shirley Sonnenberg, Shorty Bischoff, Ron Dietrich, Darrel Bockelman, and Eldor Gruenhagen*, who are dealing with health issues at this time
- ❖ *Elmer Maassel*, recovering at home from open heart surgery
- ❖ *Alicia Maassel*, currently home and recovering from her recent hospitalization

CONFIRMATION PREPARATIONS – For the next two Wednesdays, May 8 and 15, **all 2019 catechumens will gather together from 6:15 to 7:45 p.m.** to make preparations for the confirmation examination on Thursday, May 16th. It is essential that all confirmands be present at both of these sessions! **Also, all catechumens by now should have turned in to the pastor, at least the first draft of their statement of faith.**

THURSDAY SERVICES HAVE BEGUN! Each Thursday service will be a preview of the coming Sunday. The Sacrament of the Altar will be celebrated on the Thursdays prior to the regular Communion Sundays. Until school is out for the summer, these services will be held in the sanctuary.

ALSO TO BE NOTED: With Thursday night services starting, bulletin announcements must be turned in to the office by Wednesday of each week in order to be included in the Thursday and Sunday bulletin. Please make a note of this. Thank you!

150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION III

Four weeks from today, on **Sunday, June 2nd**, we will gather for the third of four special 150th anniversary celebrations. Our theme for the day will be, **“Jesus Christ – TODAY.”** Our guest preacher will be **Rev. Justin Hesterman**, son of *Todd & Chris Hesterman*. As with each of our anniversary services, **worship will be at 10:00 a.m.**



After the service, we will gather again in the fellowship hall for a **congregational meal and for a brief program** at which we will honor long-time servants of the congregation in all areas of ministry. It will be a special opportunity for us to say “thank you” to some very dedicated servants of God.

UPDATE ON 150th ANNIVERSARY OFFERING

Thank you to everyone who has made contributions to our 150th Anniversary Mission Challenge Offering. To review, we have set before the households of our congregation the challenge to consider a \$150 gift for this Anniversary Offering (one dollar for each year of our



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history). It is our hope that if 100 people give at this level, we can reach the goal of \$15,000 for this offering. This offering will support the word of *The Lutheran Heritage Foundation* in three areas of their mission:

- to train indigenous pastors in the south Sudan where the growth of the church and the need for pastors is so great;
- to provide catechisms for the Bemba people of Zambia, so that new Christians may be properly trained in the faith;
- to put “A Children’s Garden of Bible Stories,” into the hands of children in Myanmar (*or Burma*) so that a new generation of Christians may hear and learn of the Lord.

Then at our **Mission Festival on Sunday, October 27th**, we will present this offering, with thanksgiving to God, to Rev. Robert Rahn, our guest preacher that day and founder of *The Lutheran Heritage Foundation*. What a day of rejoicing that will be to mark our 150th Anniversary with a mission gift that will have such a large impact for God’s kingdom! (Currently the Mission Offering donation total stands at \$4,755.)

150th ANNIVERSARY BLANKETS – Just a reminder to get your order in for these beautiful anniversary blankets woven with pictures of some of our historic buildings. These blankets are \$35 each. Use the envelope to enclose your check and place your order. We should have our first order of these blankets very soon.

FINANCIAL FACTS:

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 04/28/19	\$6,062.00	\$200.00	\$147.00

ATTENDANCE: 215

L.H.M. BOOKLETS – *Lutheran Hour Ministries* makes available some excellent booklets that address all kinds of issues confronting us as Christians. For example, one booklet is titled, **‘Forgiveness Is a Choice.’** If you or someone you know is having a hard time forgiving, this is the booklet to read! It addresses some common misconceptions about forgiveness – that forgiving somehow invalidates our pain, or that forgiveness should be easy to do. Or what if you’re in a position where someone else refuses to forgive you? This booklet offers helpful advice. In the end, the ability to forgive is the mark of a true child of God, for God in Christ has forgiven our entire debt of sin! Check out this LHM booklet and many other titles in the narthex wall rack.



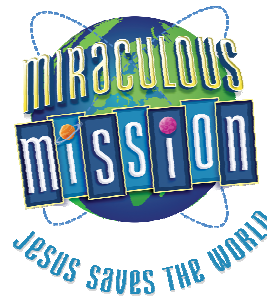
VOLUNTEERS FOR WORSHIP SLIDES – If you’re good with your TV remote and game controller, we’ve got a job for you. During each worship service we need an individual who will advance the slides on the sanctuary screens. If you would be interested in serving in this way, please speak with Dan Wachtman or with Pastor. If we can get a few people together, we will do some quick training and have you serving in no time!

LUTHERAN WITNESS RENEWAL – It’s time to renew your subscription to the Lutheran Witness for the year. To subscribe or renew your subscription, **simply place \$16.00 in an envelope**, along with your name and address, and place it in the Sunday collection plate or bring it to the church office. **Deadline for subscriptions is May 15th.**

VBS STAFF RECRUITMENT & STUDENT REGISTRATION

While we are still working on recruiting staff for VBS, it’s also time to begin enrolling students. VBS will be here before you know it!

VBS will be held on the **mornings of June 3-7**. Our theme this year is **“Miraculous Mission: Jesus Saves the World.”** Sometimes we talk about superheroes saving the world, but they are only make-believe. Only the Son of God can actually do this work! He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the whole world, and through whom God has reconciled the world to Himself!



STUDENT ENROLLMENT – To enroll a student...

- use the link at sjl.org to enroll online, -or-
- pick up an enrollment brochure in the narthex and return it to the narthex when completed.

STAFF RECRUITMENT – To join the VBS staff...

Speak with VBS Director, Karen Riefers and pick up a VBS Staff Recruitment form in the narthex. Please review the positions that we need to fill, and please consider signing up.

REV. GEORGE MAASSEL MEMORIAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH GRANTS – This is a reminder that a number of years back, the family of Rev. Maassel gave a gift to the congregation, which we subsequently decided to use as grants for any church organization planning an event that has local community outreach as a focus. If your organization is planning something that is related to community outreach and has the specific intent of inviting non-members and following up on them, please consider applying for one of these grants. An information page and application is available on the documents area of our website, www.sjl.org.

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.

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!

WOMEN OF FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIPS: Here is another opportunity to encourage and help young people prepare for service to the church as pastors, teachers, lay workers, deaconesses, and parish workers. \$500 per year Women of Freedom Scholarships are available to any young person attending one of our synodical schools. Simply contact any Women of Freedom member for more details about this.

INTERESTED IN A CHURCH PROFESSION? WE’D LIKE TO HELP! Recently a number of young people from St. John have pursued educational goals to prepare them for full-time service as teachers and pastors. If you are interested in a church profession (*as a pastor, deaconess, teacher, lay minister, or a Director of Christian Education, Christian Outreach, Parish Music, or Family Life Ministry*), our congregation would like to support you by offering a tuition gift. An application for this gift is available online --- type www.sjl.org/student_gift_app.pdf into your browser (*there is no link*) and fill out the application. Deadline for fall enrollment is June 1st.

‘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. Thank you so much! As we learned in the meaning of the Fifth Commandment, “*We should fear and love God that we...help and support our neighbor in every physical need.*” (*Small Catechism*)

HEARING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE: If hearing in worship has been a problem for you, pick up one of the receiver units for our hearing assistance system. An usher will assist you and you’ll hear much more clearly. (*Also, please let us know how the system is working for you.*)

For those who use the hearing assistance system regularly and for the sake of hygiene, we ask that you claim one of the ear buds as your own and keep it with you in your purse, pocket, etc. Bring it with you when you come to church, and simply plug it into one the receivers. At the end of the service, unplug the ear bud to take with you until the next time.

RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP FUNDRAISER: The Stewardship Board is offering “for sale” the Ultimate Cloth® as a fundraiser. These are a MiraFiber® technology cloth that cleans with water only. This cloth is more effective than harsh cleaning chemicals and soaps. See *Karen Norden* (419-267-3477) for more information and pricing. This will be an on-going fundraiser for the Right Hand of Fellowship gift matching campaign.

PRESCHOOL'S GRADUATION will be **tomorrow, May 6th** at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. This ceremony is for the 3-yr old and 4/5-yr old classes. Everyone is invited to this big day for the preschoolers. There will be a program followed by light refreshments (in the fellowship hall).

SCHOOL FUNDRAISER: St. John School is sponsoring a Krispy Kreme donut fundraiser to raise money for the new archery class which is scheduled for the 2019-2020 school year. This fundraiser will run from now thru Mon., May 6th. Please approach a K – Gr. 8 student to place your order.

GREAT JOB ST. JOHN STUDENTS!!! “Mary Poppins, Jr” was a big success this past weekend. Everyone did fantastic! We received nothing but nice compliments on both performances. Even though things get a little “crazy” when trying to put on a musical of this magnitude, when it comes down to performing it, you (*the students*) came through like a rock! We can't thank the parents and family members enough for adjusting your schedules to accommodate the extra practices needed over the last two weeks. Stay tuned for the next performance....HmMMM, what will that be?????

4/5-YR PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION: St. John Lutheran Preschool is in full swing. The 4/5 year old class numbers have changed due to the change of enrollment date for kindergarten next year. **We currently have openings for the 4/5-yr class.** The 3 year old class also has openings. Anyone interested in enrolling your child in our preschool program should contact the school office at 419-598-8702 to obtain a registrations packet. 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.**

MYSTERY READER: Is there a Mystery Reader among us???? Time is getting short to be a Mystery Reader yet this school year. Please send Kindergarten Teacher, Mrs. Niermann an email at bniermann@sjl.org if you would like to be a “mystery reader”. We have had several mystery readers so far which proved very exciting for the kindergarteners. You may also call the school office to schedule a time to stop by and read a book to the kindergarten students.

RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPT. AUXILIARY will be hosting a Drive Thru Chicken BBQ on Sun., May 19 at the Ridgeville Fire Station. Serving begins at 11:00 AM until gone. Menu consists of: ½ Chicken (Brookview), Potatoes, Coleslaw, Roll, and Butter. Freewill offering. Come and support your local Fire Dept. Sponsored by Ridgeville Fire Department Auxiliary.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Cheerfulness oils the machinery of life!

“A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.” (Prov. 17:22)