



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

May 12, 2019

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NO. 19

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 OF EASTER

Sermon & Text: "Surrounded" *John 10:22-30*
Order of Service: See printed Service Folder
Hymns: 709 ~ 950 ~ 735 ~ 740 ~ 711
Adult Choir: "A Faithful Shepherd" and "Until We Meet Again"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Happy Mother's Day!... and a special, grateful welcome to all mothers this morning. We bless and cherish you for the care and nurture you gave or are giving now to your children. We salute you in the name of our Lord who loved His mother and provided for her. If you are visiting with us this morning, help us get to know you better by filling out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you. Simply pass it to the center aisle during the offering.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Addyson Speiser & Macee Speiser, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Bonnie Niermann and Cheryl Yaw, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Carey Damman & Scott Van Valkenburg, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Linda Riefers, Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff, *Altar Guild* ✠

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed by the family of Clara Meyer in honor of her 94th birthday on May 17th. "Clara is an inspiration to us and has been a wonderful role model. We are grateful to God for her life. Happy Birthday and Happy Mother's Day, Mom!"

HEARTFELT THANKS: We would like to say thanks for the visits, cards, food, and memorials given to Don. And we cannot begin to thank Pastor Niermann for his many comforting visits over the years and at the time of Don's passing. Don truly enjoyed the church tapes being delivered by the elders when he couldn't attend church. And a big thank you to all the people who helped Don in anyway by holding the doors open, etc. *Signed, Marian, Steve & Dawn and family*

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service with Communion following Java Joy; Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Tue.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Kramer Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Confirmation Class Preparation – 8 th Grade only
Thurs.	7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Confirmation Questioning in the Fellowship Hall Thursday Evening Worship in the sanctuary
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Confirmation and Communion Service "The Lamp"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM

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, Elmer Maassel, Alicia Maassel, and Eldor Gruenhagen*, who are dealing with health issues at this time

HOLY COMMUNION will be offered this morning following the service. Those who wish to attend should fill out a card from the pew rack in front of you and give it to the usher as you leave your pew this morning. Return immediately to the front pews in the sanctuary.

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 *Dean & Sharon Badenhop* and *Randy & LouAnn Rosebrock* for hosting Java Joy for May. Feel like hosting a **Java Joy** on the second Sunday of the month? 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.



CONFIRMATION PREPARATION & EXAMINATION

- **This Wednesday** evening from **6:15 to 7:45** our 2019 catechumens will gather for final preparations for their oral questioning the next day.
- Then on **Thursday evening** we will gather again at **7:00 p.m.** in the fellowship hall for questioning and for the presentation of the Statements of Faith based upon their chosen Confirmation verses. Following that, we will go to the sanctuary for a brief rehearsal for Confirmation Sunday.

ARCHIVES DISPLAY: The Archives Committee is paying tribute to the upcoming Confirmation Sunday. In the display cases in the hallway, there are pictures of the confirmation classes observing anniversaries. We have started with the 5th anniversary and ended with the 85th anniversary. Also, with the 150th Anniversary of our church, we have added a little extra with a couple of confirmation dresses “from days gone by” for you to see. We hope you enjoy the display.

150th ANNIVERSARY BLANKETS ARE HERE! If you preordered one of these blankets, they are available to you with your names attached in the coat area off the narthex. Additional anniversary blankets are also available for a donation of \$35. Just place your gift in the clear plastic box on the anniversary table in the narthex, and take your blanket with you to enjoy!

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. Starting Thursday, May 23rd, our Thursday services will be held in the north end of the fellowship hall.

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.



OLD THEOLOGY, NEW TECHNOLOGY...Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: The Vocation of Mother, Man's Fall into Sin, 19th Century Lutheran Theologian CFW Walther, Jesus Heals Jairus' Daughter, Confession & Absolution, Job and more. You can listen live or on-demand at www.issuesetc.org and on the LPR mobile app.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM: The next Women of Freedom meeting will be held on Tues., May 21st at 7:00 PM. This will be a Ladies Aid meeting. Sandy Schlosser from Henry County Senior Center will be here to speak with us about the different programs and upcoming events the Center offers. All women are invited to come to our meetings. A business meeting and light refreshments follow Sandy's presentation. We look forward to seeing you there.

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 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:



**LUTHERAN
HERITAGE
FOUNDATION**

- 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.)

DO YOU NEED YARD WORK DONE? The LYF members are finishing up their fundraising for their trip to Minneapolis for the National Youth Gathering. The fundraiser that they wish to do is to help out with your yardwork for those who are in need. For a donation, students will come help you with several items around the yard. Please contact Miss Bartok at the church or at sbartok@sjl.org with a date and how many helpers you would need.

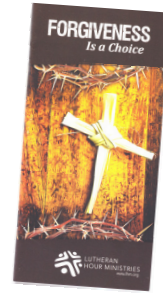
ABOUT LUTHERAN SCHOOLS: *We Pursue Excellence!* In a Christ-centered religiously integrated curriculum Lutheran schools meet or exceed state standards for high quality schools. Through National Lutheran Schools Accreditation (NLSA) schools complete a rigorous self-study, are reviewed by a team of peers and implement initiatives that provide a continuing program of excellence for students.

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!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 05/05/19	\$6,827.00	\$127.00	\$555.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 05/02/19 – 40; Sunday – 05/05/19 – 117

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.

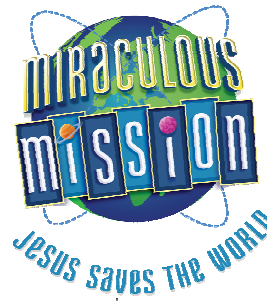


LUTHERAN WITNESS RENEWAL – It’s time to renew your subscription to the Lutheran Witness for the year. To subscribe or renew your subscription, **simply place \$16.00 in an envelope**, along with your name and address, and place it in the Sunday collection plate or bring it to the church office. **Deadline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

UPDATE ON MISS TONYA: School Cook Miss Tonya stopped by this week to say her surgery was unsuccessful. The doctors will be starting the disability process for her. Please keep Tonya in your prayers, as this was not the news she wanted to hear. She continues to have 1-3 episodes per day.

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.

SCRIP FOR GRADUATION: Why not use the PTL SCRIP Program to order gift cards for those graduating seniors in your lives. Order forms are available online via FastDirect or in the School Info rack outside the school office. Please turn those orders in on Wednesdays, with payment to *St. John School PTL Scrip Program*. The gift cards will be sent home the following week on Tuesday. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN will Fri., **May 24th** with early dismissal at 2:00 PM. Closing Day festivities for Gr. K thru 8th students include: Closing chapel at 12:40 PM; Academic and Attendance Awards will be handed out as well as other awards, and Kindergarten Graduation. Anyone is welcome to attend. This is for students in Grade K thru Grade 8.

BOX TOPS: **The final turn in date is Wed., May 15th.** The PTL collects box tops from many different products. With the end of the school year fast approaching, we ask that you have your box tops neatly trimmed before sending them in. This will allow time to count, log, and ship them to the collection center for processing. Please direct any questions to *Amy Rosebrook* at 419-748-7411.

FAIRLAWN ARCHBOLD OPEN HOUSE: Fairlawn Independent Living located at 407 E. Lutz Rd., Archbold, Ohio, will be holding an Open House on Sunday May 19 from 1-4 pm. There will be 6 two-bedroom Duplexes and 4 one-bedroom Apartments available to view. Come learn more about how Fairlawn can make retirement living easy and fun! For more information call 567.444.5102.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE: The Ridgeville Corners Memorial Day service to remember those who served our country will be held on **Mon., May 27 at 10:30 AM** at the Ridgeville American Legion. **Flag Drill:** Children age K thru 4th Grade are invited to participate in the flag drill during the Ridgeville Memorial Day service. Practice will be on Thurs., May 23 at 6:30 PM (for 45 minutes). Call *Laura Bickel* at 419-267-5203 for more info on the flag drill.

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...

A stranger is one who is away from home; a pilgrim is one who is on his way home.

"These all died in faith... They were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." (Heb. 11:13)