



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - Confirmation

Sermon & Text: "The Best is Yet to Come"
Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*
Hymns: 837 ~ 672 ~ AGPS 218 ~ [Communion: 687, 680, 673] ~ 483
Adult Bell Choir: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

A warm welcome to all, especially friends and relatives of our Confirmation Class. If you are visiting with us this morning, help us get to know you better by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and pass it to the center aisle during the offering. You can also register your name in the Guest Book in the Narthex and introduce yourself to the Pastor.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘ Brooks Behnfeldt & Jared Lange, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Bob & Diane Norden, *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 this year's Confirmation Class and they are listed below in the bulletin. **THE FLOWERS ON THE PIANO** are placed by *Mike & Cheryl Dietrich* in honor of their grandson, *Bryce Bostelman's* confirmation today.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: For the next three Sundays Adult Bible Study will be cancelled due to Confirmation, Graduation, and 150th Anniversary festivities. Hope to see you back at Bible Study the second Sunday in June.

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.

In God's House This WeekOnline church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Confirmation and Communion Service Sunday School
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	7:00 PM	Women of Freedom Meeting
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship
Fri.	12:40PM	Closing Chapel ; Academic & Attendance Awards; Kindergarten Graduation; Early Dismiss @ 2PM
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	8th Grade Graduation and Worship Service Reception in fellowship hall for 8 th Grade Graduates
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Jeremy Kleino</i> , St. Paul Lutheran – Liberty Center

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* (in hospice), who are dealing with health issues at this time
- ❖ *Hildegard Behrmann*, hospitalized last week, but now recuperating at Fulton Manor - Wauseon

GOD BLESS THE CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2019! This class of nine young individuals has chosen its class theme, “**The Best if Yet to Come,**” on today’s reading from Revelation 21 with its glorious vision of eternal life. It is therefore our prayer that each of them would continue to “*grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,*” (2 Pet:18) and would thus conquer in this life and win the prize of their heavenward calling! Truly, ***The Best is Yet to Come!*** May God’s Spirit preserve them and all of us in Christian faith to life everlasting!

**The nine members of this year’s confirmation class (and Confirmation verses) are:**

- **Karter Behnfeldt**, son of Michael & Michelle Behnfeldt (*Psalm 46:1*)
- **Bryce Bostelman**, son of Ryan & Renee Bostelman (*1 Peter 1:8*)
- **Kaelyn Gerken**, daughter of Dean & Jennifer Maassel, Kevin Gerken (*Phil. 4:13*)
- **Logan Honemann**, son of Jeremy & Kristyn Honemann (*Isaiah 40:31*)
- **Ella Rosebrook**, daughter of Bradley & Amy Rosebrook (*Psalm 118:14*)
- **Karleigh Sonnenberg**, daughter of Nick & Kelly Sonnenberg (*Psalm 23:4*)
- **Addyson Speiser**, daughter of Scott & Kylie Speiser (*Proverbs 31:25*)
- **Macee Speiser**, daughter of Scott & Kylie Speiser (*Psalm 46:5*)
- **Claire Wachtman**, daughter of Todd & Tina Wachtman (*Deuteronomy 31:6*)

WOMEN OF FREEDOM: The next 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 speak with us about the different programs and upcoming events the Center offers. All women are invited to come. A business meeting and light refreshments follow Sandy's presentation. Hope to see you there!

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!

150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION III

Two 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.

The potluck meal will follow the same pattern as the previous two anniversary meals. Start time is 11:30 AM, with meat, drink, and tableware provided. Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. The Women of Freedom again thank you for your help with the meal.



LYF FUNDRAISERS → NYG:

- ▶ **DO YOU NEED YARD WORK DONE?** The LYF members are finishing up their fundraising for their trip to the National Youth Gathering (NYG). The fundraiser 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 (419-598-8961) or at sbartok@sjl.org with a date and how many helpers you would need.
- ▶ **SHIRLEY'S POPCORN** – The youth will be selling Shirley's Gourmet Popcorn. Shirley's offers a variety of flavors such as original, theater style, white cheddar, chocolate almond, buckeye, dark salted caramel, and many more. Popcorn orders will be due on Sun., June 9th. Please find an LYF member to place your order. You won't be disappointed.
- ▶ **PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST** – On Sun., June 9th from 10:30 AM - noon, the LYF will be hosting a pancake & sausage breakfast after worship. All proceeds will benefit the youth in their upcoming trip to the National Youth Gathering. A free will offering will be taken. This is a Thrivent Action Team event.

8TH GRADE GRADUATION will be held next Sunday, May 26th at 9:00 AM. A small reception will be held to honor the graduates immediately following the worship service in the fellowship hall. There will be refreshments of cake, coffee, and juice. Our 8th grade graduates are: *Bryce Bostelman, Ada Griffith, Ella Rosebrook, and Claire Wachtman.*

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!

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 05/12/19	\$7,258.00	\$121.00	\$389.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 05/09/19 – 37; Sunday – 05/12/19 – 200

MEMORIALS for Donald Dickmann: SJL Endowment Fund (*Youth & Scholarship*) - \$475.00; SJL Endowment Fund (*Capital Projects*) - \$475.00; SJL Endowment Fund (*Mission & Outreach*) - \$475.00; SJL Endowment Fund (*School*) – \$560.00

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.

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 (*such as a pastor, deaconess, teacher, lay minister, a Director of Christian Education, etc.*), our congregation would like to support you by offering a tuition gift. An application is available online at www.sjl.org/student_gift_app.pdf. There is no link. Deadline for fall enrollment is June 1st.

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.

ST. JOHN SCHOOL POSITION OPENINGS – St. John Lutheran School is seeking a few people to fill the following paid positions that will be open after this school year.

- **School Cook** – This individual is responsible for ordering/purchasing, preparing, and serving lunch for approximately 55-60 students and staff; and the clean up after lunch. This would average 15 hours per week. Must have a FBI/BCI background check.
- **Freedom Flock Aide (After School Care)** – This person is in charge of the aftercare program each day that school is in session from 3-6 p.m. It averages 10-12 hours per week. Must have a FBI/BCI background check.

If you are interested in more information on these positions, please speak with Principal Kramer or the chairman of the School Board, Margo Behnfeldt. Thank you!

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.**

OHIO ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN: The Ohio Division OGT is located in the north end of the Culligan Water Conditioning building on Independence Drive in Napoleon. Someone is usually there to receive items on the first Tuesday of the month from 9:00-11:00 AM. If you need to drop off items at another time, please contact *Nancy Helmke* (419-758-3539), *Diann Meyer-Grieser* (419-267-3485), or *Vicki Grieser* (419-445-2986) and they will be happy to meet you and open the facility to receive your donations! PLEASE do not drop off items at the warehouse when it is closed. Thank you!

CHURCH HISTORY BOOKS – If at any time during the year you need a gift for a current or former member of St. John, why not consider one of our Church History Books. This book is full of interesting facts about St. John’s and is available in the church office at a cost of \$12.00.

GERALD HISTORY BOOKS – If you didn’t get one yet, you can still do so. Stop in at the church office to purchase your copy or you can also 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. Get your copy today!

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!

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. A yellow box is on the table in the narthex.

USE OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL – If you would like to use the Fellowship Hall for any occasion, on a certain date this year, **please contact the church/school office at 419-598-8961 or 419-598-8702.** In addition to calling the office, you may want to check the online master calendar at <http://www.dynacal.com/sjl/> (*you can also link to it from www.sjl.org*).

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.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

The truest end to life is to know that in Christ life never ends.

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” (1 John 5:13)