



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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon Text: *Revelation 21:9-11a*
Order of Service: See printed Service Folder
Hymns: 822 ~ 353 ~ 966 ~ 965
Children's Choir: "On Eagle's Wings"

WELCOME TO OUR VETERANS & VISITORS *On this Memorial Day Weekend, welcome to this service of worship in which we remember, with reverence and thanksgiving, those who gave their lives for our country. Above all, however, we would remember Him whose love includes people of all nations—our Lord Jesus who gave His life for all of us. May the remembrance of His sacrifice bring reconciliation and peace! If you are a visitor today, please fill out a blue pew card from the rack in front of you and pass it to the center aisle during the offering.*



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Bethann Gerken, *Pianist* ✘ Emersyn Gerken & Jared Lange, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Brooks Behnfeldt, *Crucifer* ✘
- ✘ Jerry & Nancy Short, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Carey Damman & Scott Van Valkenburg, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Linda Riefers, Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff, *Altar Guild* ✘

GRADUATION CLASS OF 2019 – The Altar Flowers are placed today in honor of the eighth grade graduating class of St. John. The 2019 graduates are:

Bryce Bostelman Ada Griffith Ella Rosebrook Claire Wachtman

We wish you all of God's blessings as you begin the next chapter in your lives. Good luck to both of you and CONGRATULATIONS from everyone at St. John!

In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:30AM	Worship Service and 8th Grade Graduation Reception for Graduates in fellowship hall
Tue.	7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Shepherd Committee Board of Elders
Sun.	10:00 AM 11:30AM	Communion Service and 150th Anniversary Celebration 150 th Anniversary Potluck Meal & Program
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Willie Stottlemyer</i> – St. Stephen Lutheran – Defiance

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*
- ❖ *Shorty Bischoff, Darrel Bockelman, Elmer Maassel, and Eldor Gruenhagen* (in hospice), who are dealing with health issues at this time
- ❖ *Hildegard Behrmann*, now recuperating at Fulton Manor – Wauseon
- ❖ *The Lowell Petzoldt Family*, at the passing of Lowell's father, Tillmon Petzoldt on Sat., May 18th in Perryville, MO. Funeral service was held on Fri., May 24th in Perryville.
- ❖ *Pat Kramer*, for outpatient surgery at Cleveland Clinic on Wed., May 29th to reduce pain in her amputated leg

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL & SUMMER: There will be no Sunday School for June, July, and August. We will resume Sunday School the second Sunday in September, which will be promotion Sunday.

NO THURSDAY SERVICE THIS WEEK! Because of the special 150th Anniversary Service next Sunday, there will be no Thursday worship this week, so that all may be encouraged to participate together in the celebratory worship service. Thursday services will resume the following week in the north end of the narthex. As always, the *Sacrament of the Altar* will be celebrated on the Thursdays prior to the regular Communion Sundays. (There will also be no Thursday service for the week prior to our final anniversary celebration in September.)

150th ANNIVERSARY BLANKETS – In the narthex, be sure to check out the beautiful woven blanket designed for our 150th Anniversary celebration. These blankets are now 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!

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.

NEXT SUNDAY

150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION III

Next **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 and service to the congregation, including choir, women’s guild, Sunday School, Altar Guild, etc. 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.



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.)

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RECOGNITION – If you are graduating from high school with the class of 2019, we'd like to take a moment or two to recognize you in our worship on **Sunday, June 9th**. On that day we'll have you gather together before worship in the "Cry Room" and be seated together for worship. We'll ask about your plans, and offer prayer for you as well. In the meantime, we'd appreciate having a picture of each graduate that we can project during the recognition. Email them to *Pastor Niermann* at sniermann.sjl@gmail.com, or drop off in the office.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 05/19/19	\$7,189.12	\$206.00	\$442.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 05/16/19 – 59; Sunday – 05/19/19 – 291

MEMORIALS for *Lawrence Langenhop*: SJL Endowment Fund (*Capital Projects*) - \$2,797.00; SJL Endowment Fund (*School*) – \$94.00; Hospice of Henry County - \$90.00; Doug & Jayne Westhoven Benefit - \$20.00; The Lutheran Hour – Undesignated amounts

VBS STAFF RECRUITMENT & STUDENT REGISTRATION

While we are still working on recruiting staff for VBS, it's also time to enroll 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.

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.

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're interested in serving in this way, please speak with Dan Wachtman or with Pastor. We'll do some quick training and have you serving in no time!

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.

REPORT CARDS will be available for viewing and/or printing via FastDirect Communication as of Sun., June 9th. We will no longer print hard copies from the office. Please check FastDirect on the 9th. Thank you!

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.

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.

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 FM at 7:30 AM; **Napoleon’s WNDH 103.1 FM at 9:00 AM**; Fort Wayne’s WOWO 1190 AM at 10:30 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*).



SPECIAL MEMORIAL DAY COMMUNITY CHOIR

The Ridgeville American Legion Post will be conducting a Memorial Day observance on Monday, May 27th at 10:30 a.m. at the Ridgeville Legion Hall.

If you would like to be part of the choir for this observance, please arrive at the hall one hour early (at 9:30 a.m.) for rehearsal. If you have any questions, please contact Denny Damman.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Sins are costly. Why not behave and save the difference?

“The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Rom 6:23)