



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

June 2, 2019

VOL. 84

NO. 22

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Guest Preacher: Rev. Justin Hesterman

Sermon & Text: "Jesus Christ – TODAY: One in Christ"

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: "Yesterday, Today, Forever" ~ 663 ~ 953 ~ [Communion: 910,649,333] ~ 617 ~ 644

St. John & St. Paul Combined Adult Choirs: "On Eagles' Wings" and "Find Us Faithful"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to every member, friend, and visitor. You have entered this church, not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. May your worship here enable you to see your Savior more clearly, love Him more dearly, follow Him more nearly, and serve Him more sincerely. If you have no church home of your own, we invite you to join the St. John family. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and pass it to the center aisle during the offering.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Kaelyn Gerken & Claire Wachtman, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Emersyn Gerken, *Crucifer* ✠
- ✠ Tom & Sandy Von Deylen, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Tom Von Deylen, Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karen Germann, Mary Kossow, Diana Kruse, *Altar Guild* ✠

THE ROSE ON THE PIANO is placed in honor of the baptism of Kaden Michael Carothers, great grandson of Don & Karan Niebergall.

HEARTFELT THANKS from *Mrs. Niermann* – Thank you to our St. John Family for allowing me to serve as the Kindergarten teacher. My years of teaching here have been filled with joy and blessing and sweet memories. I will truly miss spending my days as the teacher of those precious little ones!

Thank you also for your support through the years and for the recognition last Sunday. *Be sure to fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things He has done for you.*

1 Samuel 12:24

In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service and 150th Anniversary Celebration 150 th Anniversary Potluck Meal & Program
Mon. thru Fri.	9:00 AM	Vacation Bible School (<i>ends at noon</i>)
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:30AM 1:00 PM	Worship Service with Communion following; High School Senior Recognition during the service Pancake & Sausage Breakfast (<i>serving till noon</i>) 4-H Meetings
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*
- ❖ *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
- ❖ *Pat Kramer*, for outpatient surgery at Cleveland Clinic this past week to reduce pain in her amputated leg

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: Adult Bible Study is cancelled today due to the 150th Anniversary festivities. Hope to see you back at Bible Study in a few weeks.

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.

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.

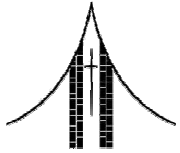
MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST will not meet during the summer months, and will resume again on the Thursday morning of September 5th.

WELCOME

150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION III

This morning we gather for the third of four special 150th anniversary celebrations. Our theme today is “**Jesus Christ – TODAY.**” Our guest preacher is **Rev. Justin Hesterman**, son of Todd & Chris Hesterman.

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 to say “thank you” to some very dedicated servants of God.



THANK YOU to the members of the adult choir from St. Paul Lutheran, Napoleon, for joining us today and for lending your voices to our celebration. In years past our two choirs have combined for various services at both churches, and we are thrilled to welcome them here once more for this special festival!

NOTE: 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. The Women of Freedom again thank you for your help with the meal.

FINANCIAL FACTS:

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 05/26/19	\$6,196.00	\$254.00	\$207.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 05/23/19 – 55; Sunday – 05/26/19 – 172

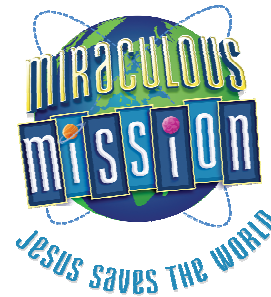
VBS IS THIS WEEK, MONDAY TO FRIDAY MORNING!

VBS ♦ Monday to Friday ♦ 9:00 a.m. to Noon

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!

It's not too late to enroll a student! To do so...

- 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.



THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES are now being held in the north end of the fellowship hall. We hope these Thursday services will make it possible to attend worship when summer plans take you away during weekends. Holy Communion will be available at our Thursday services on the Thursdays prior to our regular Communion Sundays. (Please note that there will be no Thursday services on the Fourth of July and in the week prior to our final anniversary celebration in September.)

FATHER'S DAY PICNIC & HOG ROAST: On **Sunday, June 16th** there will be a Father's Day Picnic & Hog Roast to benefit the Old School's renovation into a Youth Center. The meal will begin following the worship service on the 16th. Carry outs will be available. On the menu: Pork, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Chips, and Lemonade. Cost is a freewill offering. A Thrivent Action Team event.

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!

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 work 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.

Currently, our total gifts for this Anniversary Offering are \$6,430. At our **Mission Festival on Sunday, October 27th**, we will present our 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!

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!

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!

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 for \$10, 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.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS: Please note the church office hours during the month of June are Tuesday thru Friday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Closed over the lunch hour and all day on Mondays. If making a special trip, please call (419-598-8961) to guarantee someone will be here. Thank you!

OHIO ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN: With all the flooding, tornadoes, and storms that have hit the southern states and the Midwest, please keep the OGT in your thoughts when disposing of clothing and household items. 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!

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!

TURN YOUR OLD USED CELL PHONE INTO A GIFT FOR THE POOR AND FOR YOUR CHURCH!

Informed sources tell us that the average American household has 5 to 6 old unused cell phones lying around. Now you can put those phones to good use AND keep them out of the landfills. Bring them to church and deposit them in the large white box in the narthex. They will be forwarded to a company that sorts them and prepares them to be given to poor families for emergency use, and sends us a check. Old cell phones range in value from \$1 up to \$50.



COTA BENEFIT FUNDRAISER: A benefit is being organized for Emily Jackson (*Jan Schlade's teenage granddaughter*), who was born with Cystic Fibrosis. She is in need of a double lung transplant. The benefit will be held at the Napoleon American Legion, on Sun, June 9th from 11:30 AM – 4:00 PM. There will be food, silent auctions, bake sale, etc. Free will donation for the meal. See flyer on bulletin board!

MINI-VACATION! A mini-vacation to the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter is being organized on Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 28 & 29. Space is limited to 54 people. Flyers are available on the bulletin board in the narthex. Contact Linda Riefers at 419-267-3366 for more info.

A SAVE THE DATE: The *Annual Stephanie Lynn Kossow Memorial Golf Outing* will be held on Sat., July 27th this year with a 1:00 PM shotgun start. Flyers available on the narthex table!

✘ ✘ ✘

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

If you want your dreams to come true, don't oversleep.

“Love not sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will have plenty of bread.” (Prov 20:13)