



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

September 15, 2019

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NO. 36

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor  
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

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### FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

Sermon Text: **“Faith Faces FOREVER with Boldness”** Romans 8:31-39

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: **“Yesterday, Today, Forever”** ~ 809 ~ (Communion: **629, 649, 650**) ~ 657

Adult Choir: “We Are the Church” and “Come To Me” with Sarah Bartok on flute

Brass Instrumentalists: Joshua Meisner, Marlyn Krueger, Eddie & Lindsay Bialorucki

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### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*A warm welcome to all our guests. We are pleased that you chose to worship at St. John Church this morning. We hope that this time spent with our God and with friends in Christ will prove spiritually uplifting to you. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card or the Blue Guest card from the pew rack in front of you and pass it to the center aisle during the offering this morning.*

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### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Trenton Kruse & Colton Kruse, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Devin Dietrich, *Crucifer* & Emersyn Gerken, *Banner Bearer* ✘
- ✘ Dan & Deb Wachtman, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Ted Ripke, Denny Behnfeldt, Bob Norden, Elmer Maassel, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Badenhop, Mary Rettig, Sandy Von Deylen, *Altar Guild* ✘

**ANNIVERSARY RELATED KEEP-SAKES** – In the narthex today you will see a table full of anniversary related items. We would like all of these items to be in the hands and homes of our members and friends, so please be sure to pick some up today. There are suggested donations for these items if you wish, but the main thing is to take some home. Items include: 1) stemless wine glasses; 2) note clips; 3) pens; 4) Christmas ornaments. The last two anniversary blankets will be given away at the program following worship.

**In God's House This Week**

Online church calendar: [www.DynaCal.com/sjl](http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	10:00AM 11:30AM 4:30 PM	<b>150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Communion Service</b> 150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meal and Program Jr High LYF Kickoff Meeting
Mon.	5:00 PM	V-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls only @ BG Christian (2 games)
Tues.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	<b>School Chapel</b> Women of Freedom Meeting ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:15 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class ( <i>until 7:30 PM</i> ) Adult Bell Practice Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	5:30 PM 7:00 PM	V-ball: Gr. 4-6; 6:30 PM Gr. 7&8 @ St. Pats – Bryan <b>Thursday Evening Mission Service</b> ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Sat.	8:30 AM	LWML Fall Retreat at St. John Lutheran – Stryker ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Sun.	9:00AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM	<b>Worship Service</b> Sunday School; LYF Ice Cream Social Sr High LYF Meeting
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM <i>Rev. Donald Luhning, St. John Lutheran – Defiance</i>

**MATTERS FOR PRAYER** – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, Willie Gerken and Lester Rabe*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Dorothy Gerken, Melba Elling, and Eldor Gruenhagen, at Genacross Lutheran Home*
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs, in Assisted Living at Genacross Lutheran Home*
- ❖ *Lorna Von Deylen, residing at Swanton Valley Center*
- ❖ *Donald Landry, residing at the Ohio Veteran’s Home, Sandusky*
- ❖ Armed Services: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Shorty Bischoff and Ruth Mahnke, who are dealing with health issues*
- ❖ *Rose Leonard (daughter of Brad & Kailee Leonard), dealing with significant health issues*

**150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY PICTORIAL DIRECTORY** – The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee is seeking individuals to form a committee to make plans for a 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pictorial Directory. It has been five years since our last directory. If you would like to be part of this committee, please speak with Pastor Niermann. We’ll get the process going as soon as we can.

**WOMEN OF FREEDOM:** Our next meeting is Tues., Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. *Tanya Trapp, LPN* from Genacross Lutheran Services – Toledo will be our speaker. She will explain all the home services Genacross has to offer. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend.

**VOTERS’ MEETING** – A voters’ is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> after the worship service. The agenda will include a report on the old school renovation and costs, as well as a report on plans that are underway to boost school enrollment.

# 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IV

Welcome to our culminating 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Worship Celebration! Our anniversary theme for the year has been....

## “Jesus Christ – Yesterday, Today, Forever”

...based on Hebrews 13:8. Our theme for this day will be, “Jesus Christ – FOREVER.” Our special guest preacher is the **Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz**. You can find biographical information about Dr. Seltz elsewhere in this bulletin.



## We also welcome as special guests today...

- **Members of the brass ensemble** who are accompanying our worship;
- **Members of the Maassel family** who have organized something of a family reunion around this event. As we feature a new stained glass window this day, we are reminded that these windows are being donated in honor of Rev. George Maassel and in memory of Juanita Thorpe, George & Clara Maassel’s daughter. Welcome to the Maassel family!
- **Other friends and guests who join us today by invitation of church members.**

## Group picture after worship...

Immediately after worship, we invite the entire congregation to assemble outside in the front lawn under the front church edifice (beneath the large cross). We have arranged for a lift so that a picture can be snapped of the entire group as a historical record of this day. (Thank you, Larry Mahnke, for providing the lift.)

## Congregational Meal and Program...

After the group picture, we will make our way to the fellowship hall for the congregational meal and program. This is NOT a potluck meal – all food has been provided by the anniversary committee and by congregational members. We will also hear from Dr. Seltz about the important work he is doing at *The Lutheran Center for Religious Freedom*. Please join us!

## 150th Anniversary Mission Challenge Offering...

Today again is laid before us a challenge for each member or household to give \$150 this year above their regular offerings to support our adopted mission projects through *The Lutheran Heritage Foundation*: 1) training of pastors in South Sudan; 2) provision of catechisms for the Bemba people of Zambia; and 3) providing Bible story books for children in Burma. This would be a wonderful day to give for this worthy mission cause.

### FINANCIAL FACTS:

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 09/08/19	\$7,000.00	\$193.00	\$355.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Thursday – 09/05/19 – 35; Sunday – 09/08/19 – 141

## <<<LYF NOTEWORTHY NEWS>>>

- **LYF ICE CREAM SOCIAL** – The LYF will be hosting its annual Ice Cream Social on Sun., Sept. 22, with serving from 10:30 to 12:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. On the menu: *Chicken Sandwiches, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Chips, Cakes, Cupcakes, Beverage and Schwan's Ice Cream*. Freewill offering! This is a Thrivent Action Team event. Carryout available also!
- **JR. HIGH LYF** - The Jr. High LYF will kick off their year today. All new 6th graders are welcome to attend with the 7th and 8th graders. We will be meeting at the church from 4:30-6:00 PM. Parents of new youth members will need to come to the beginning portion of the meeting to fill out an information sheet.
- **SR. HIGH LYF** - The Sr. High LYF will begin the year at Miss Bartok's house (please message her for her new address) on Sunday, September 22nd. We will meet from 4:30-6:00 PM. All high school youth are welcome to attend.
- **LYF SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES** - The LYF has two service opportunities for the next two Sundays. First, we will need some youth to help at the Anniversary Potluck today. Second, we will need a lot of help at our annual Ice Cream Social. Please contact Miss Bartok if you are able to help at either opportunity.

## **SPECIAL MISSION GUEST THIS THURSDAY EVENING**

At the evening worship service this Thursday (Sept 19), we will welcome **Rev. Vance Becker** and his wife, **Linda**, who are preparing to go to Kenya as full-time missionaries to address the need for the fast-growing church in East Africa for more pastors and church workers. Vance and Linda will be teaching at the **Neema Lutheran College in Matongo, Kenya** where pastors and deaconesses are trained. While Thursday evening services typically preview the coming Sunday, this particular service will have an emphasis all its own. **Everyone is invited for our worship and for a special mission presentation that evening!**



- **CAN YOU HOST THE BECKERS?** As noted above, **Rev. Vance & Linda Becker** will be here on Thursday, Sept 19 for our Thursday evening service. If you could host them in your home that night and send them on their way on Friday morning with breakfast, please speak with Pastor Niermann. We remember the admonition of Scripture, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." (Heb. 13:2)

**LWML RETREAT** – Ladies, please consider attending the LWML Fall Retreat at St. John Lutheran Church, Routes 6 & 66, on Sat., Sept. 21. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the program running until 2 p.m. The theme is "Abounding in Hope." Guest speaker is **Rev. Logan Scheiwe** from St. Paul Lutheran, Napoleon. The cost for the Retreat is \$14, which includes a light breakfast and lunch. Registration forms are available on the table in the narthex. Completed forms may be sent with payment to Linda Bostelman, P.O. Box 393, Antwerp, OH 45813. **Final day to register is Fri., Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>**. All ladies invited – come join us!!

**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!

**A SIMPLE AND CONVENIENT WAY TO GIVE** – This fall, consider signing up for electronic giving which is now called *Joyful Response*. St. John Lutheran Church relies on financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. One simple, easy to use authorization form can begin or change your electronic contributions amount. Contact *Joyce Wiechers* in the office at 419-598-8961 for more details. Thank you!

**FUN AT McDONALD'S!** Who is up for a night of fun at McDonald's in Napoleon? St. John will be hosting "McTeacher Night" **at McDonald's on Tues., Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> from 5-7PM**. Join the teachers and some staff at McDonald's for a night of fun and raise money for our school. McDonald's will be donating 20% of the total serving profits from 5-7PM that night back to our school. Offer good for dine-in and drive thru services.

**ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES:** You may begin ordering SCRIP again. Order forms are on the table in the narthex. 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.**

**ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP:** Membership is now being taken for the Athletic Booster Club. Prices are \$20.00 for a couple and \$10.00 for an individual. Make checks payable to St. John Boosters and send to school with your child. Forms were sent home in your "family packet" and are available outside the school office or contact any of the Booster officers. Our programs here at St. John give our students a sense of sportsmanship, discipline, structure and self-confidence needed to go out into the world.

**4-H MUM SALE:** The 4-H Advisory Council is having a Mum Sale with proceeds to support 4-H Youth and activities in Henry County. **Deadline for orders is Mon., Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>**. Colors of mums available are: Red, White, Yellow, Orange, Bronze, Pink, Purple and Pineapple. Plant sizes and prices are 9" (\$7.00), 12" (\$12.00), 14" (\$17.00), Oval Planter (\$12.00), and Hanging Basket (\$12.00). For more information and if you want to place an order, please contact *Bethann Gerken* at 419-445-7910 or email [bethann@rteceexpress.net](mailto:bethann@rteceexpress.net)

**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 Niemann a call, and we'll see what we can do!

## **Our Guest Preacher Today Welcome, Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz**

Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz serves as the Executive Director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL) in Washington, D.C. Previous to his work with the LCRL, Seltz served as the Speaker of The Lutheran Hour radio program. Before joining Lutheran Hour Ministries, Seltz served as the Director of the Cross-Cultural Ministry Center, as well as professor of Theology at Concordia University in Irvine, California.

Prior to his work at Concordia, Seltz was the Executive Director of Life's Journey Ministries, an urban, not-for-profit evangelism ministry in Manhattan, New York. He was also the founding pastor of the first new Lutheran mission start in New York City in more than 40 years (Church For All Nations-LCMS), started a mission church in Dallas, served as pastor of a large congregation in Tampa.



Seltz holds a bachelor's degree in New Testament-Biblical Languages from Concordia University in Ann Arbor, Michigan, plus a Master of Divinity in Systematics–New Testament and a Master of Sacred Theology in Systematics and a PhD in Theology and Culture, from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He also was awarded the Doctor of Divinity degree from Concordia University Irvine for his urban work in Dallas, NYC, and Los Angeles, launching churches in the city as well as training over 75 candidates for LCMS-urban Ministry in the United States. He and his wife, Marie Yvette, have one daughter, Devin.

We thank God that Dr. Seltz can be with us today, and pray that the Word of God he proclaims will be the catalyst that launches our ministry into a future just as blessed by God as our rich history.

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### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT ...**

**Now in the name of God we meet This joyous anniversary,  
With thanks for every gift of love We have received from God above.**

*From 1969 "Anniversary Hymn" by August Behnfeldt*