



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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Guard the Deposit" 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Three (LSB pg. 184)

Hymns: 902 ~ 655 ~ (Communion: 392, 575, 587) ~ "How Precious is the Book Divine"

Adult Choir: "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" (*choir & congregation*), and "Taste and See"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to the services of God's House and the fellowship of our congregation. Enter in stillness...know that the Lord is God. Listen in reverence...it is God who has made us. Sing with delight...it is God who hears us. Speak with conviction...there is no other God. Depart in peace...it is God's gift for you. Serve with joy...it is your gift to God. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you to note your presence and pass it to the center aisle during the offering.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Emersyn Gerken & Landen Kruse, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Marilyn Meyer & Arlene Wallace, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Sharon Damman, Deb Durham, Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, *Altar Guild* ✠

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES SUNDAY – This morning in our bulletin we are featuring information about *Lutheran Hour Ministries* and all that they do to proclaim the Gospel through its flagship radio broadcast, *The Lutheran Hour*, as well the multitude of other avenues they use for "Bringing Christ to the Nations, and the Nations to the Church."

For Adult Bible Study today, we will take a break from our study of Romans to do a single-session video Bible study from an *LHM* Bible study series titled, "Regrets, Reality, Restoration." We'll consider the third study of this series, "I'm So Sorry," about a young woman who left the faith and who, by God's grace, later returned, and how it impacted her and her family. It is a message of hope for any Christian parent who has a child that has left the faith.



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 Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Tue.	8:35 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	School Chapel <i>McTeacher</i> Night at McDonalds in Napoleon (<i>see bulletin note</i>) Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:15 PM	NO SCHOOL –LEA Teachers Conference in St. Louis, MO (<i>thru Friday</i>) Jr. High Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>) Adult Bell Practice Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	7:00 PM	NO SCHOOL –LEA Teachers Conference in St. Louis, MO (<i>thru Friday</i>) Thursday Evening Worship Service
Fri.		NO SCHOOL –LEA Teachers Conference in St. Louis, MO (<i>thru Friday</i>)
Sat.	9:00 AM	St John Invitational Volleyball Tournament
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Stephen Niermann</i> , St. John Lutheran – Napoleon

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, Eldor Gruenhagen, and Lorna Von Deylen*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs*, 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 and Ruth Mahnke*, dealing with health issues
- ❖ *Rose Leonard* (daughter of *Brad & Kailee Leonard*), dealing with significant health issues

BAPTISM NEXT SUNDAY – Next Sunday, October 13, it will be our joy and privilege to witness the baptism of ***Axel Jeffrey Cohrs***, infant son of ***Michael & Samantha Cohrs***. Let's celebrate with this family God's gift of life and of a new life in Christ!

THURSDAY SERVICES END OCTOBER 23rd – Please note that our Thursday evening services will continue through Thursday, October 23rd. There will be no service on Thursday, October 31st.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 09/29/19	\$6,359.00	\$170.00	\$542.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 09/26/19 – 38; Sunday – 09/29/19 – 166

THE LAMP – Sunday School/Bible Study for high school and college age young people will be starting today. Please congregate in the Cry Room to share fellowship and faith building among each other. Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet and a Light unto my Path!!

150th ANNIVERSARY PICTORIAL DIRECTORY – Plans are underway for a new church directory, with early-bird photography dates scheduled as follows:

- **Early Bird Appointments: November 25-26 (Mon/Tues) from 2:30 to 8:00 p.m.**
- **December 5-6 (Thr-Fri) from 2:30-8:00 p.m.**
- **December 7 (Saturday) from 10:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Sign-up for photography appointments begin today. Everyone who participates will receive a free 8x10 portrait, and there will be the opportunity to purchase additional portraits, or even a CD with ALL of your pictures and permission to print.

As you consider signing up, here are a few things to note:

- Photography sessions are 10 minutes each; larger families (5 or more) should schedule two back-to-back appointments.
- Photography backdrop will be blue.
- In addition to household photos, extended families may also schedule photography sessions. Families who wish to take advantage may want to consider grouping their individual appointments close together.
- If you are widowed, or have lost a child, consider bringing a framed photo of your loved one to be held by you in your portrait, if you wish.
- Photographs with pets may also be taken.



**OUR CHURCH FAMILY
DIRECTORY**

To sign up, head to the **church directory in the narthex**, pick your date and time and sign your name. Then fill out a reminder slip to take home with you to get it on your calendar.

ANNIVERSARY RELATED KEEP-SAKES – In the narthex a table is set up with all the remaining anniversary related keepsake items, including **stemless wine glasses**, **note clips** and **pens**. In addition, there are also **St. John Christmas ornaments**. At this time we want as many of these items to be in your hands as possible, or to be given by you to others. Please take them freely, and give a donation if you wish to defray the cost.

- **Note about anniversary blankets** - There are no more anniversary blankets available. However, we can order more if we meet the minimum order of 25. Envelopes for ordering blankets and paying for them are on the table. If at least 25 blankets (\$35 each) are ordered and paid for by the end of October, we will place another order. *If you pay for a blanket but we do not meet the minimum order, your cash or check will be returned to you.*

NOMINATIONS FOR 2020 – The Stewardship Board has begun the process of nominating people to the various offices of our congregation. If you are interested in a specific office, please speak with a member of the Stewardship Board or with Pastor. Letters were sent out recently to those nominated by the Board. If you received one of these letters, please give serious consideration and prayer to the office for which you've been nominated.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS – We are looking for a few individuals to sign up as volunteers for office fill-in during the school year. You would only be needed if Joyce Wiechers would need to be out of the office. Your responsibilities would mainly be to answer the phone, take any phone messages, allow entry into the building for visitors, make copies, etc. If this is something of interest to you, or you would like to stop by and see how it all works, please contact Joyce in the office (419-598-8702).

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Please make note that the Children's Christmas Program will be presented on Sun., Dec. 22nd at 7:00 PM this year. Information regarding your child's participation will be coming to you soon.

DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS: The School Board would like to ask for volunteers to help decorate the sanctuary this year. They will be putting up decorations on Sun., Dec. 1st following the worship service that day. Please consider giving an hour or two of your time to help with this project. Sunday School parents, it would be great to have you come down and help out while your children are attending Sunday School that day. Hope to have some good help again, as we did last year!

150th Anniversary Mission Challenge Offering...

Three weeks from today, at our Mission Festival on Sunday, October 27th, we will present our 150th Anniversary Mission Offering to the Lord and Rev. Robert Rahn of *The Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF)*. Our offering is designated for three LHF projects:

- 1) *the training of pastors in South Sudan where the rapidly growing Lutheran Church desperately needs pastors;*
- 2) *the provision of catechisms for the Bemba people of Zambia, that the faith may be taught and learned more effectively; and*
- 3) *the provision of Bible story books ('A Child's Garden of Bible Stories') for children in Burma, that the little ones may come to Jesus as He bids them to do.*

The challenge of this mission offering is for every household to consider a gift of \$150 for this offering (one dollar for each year of our history), with a total goal of \$15,000. So far we are about half-way to that goal, with only three weeks to go before we present our offering. To give toward this special thank offering, please use your regular offering envelope and write the amount on the outside of the envelope, or use the special envelope on the anniversary table in the narthex, and deposit it in the clear box on the table.

VETS TO SHARE THOUGHTS! With Veteran's Day approaching, we would like to know if there are any veterans that would be willing to come in to talk to the 5th - 8th grade students about your time in the military and what Veteran's Day means to you. If you know anyone or ARE that person, please call the school office at 419-598-8702 and we will set up a date and time. Thank you for serving!

HERE WE COME 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. 8th 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.

PENNY CHALLENGE – The PTL Penny Challenge at St. John School will be scaling back to once a school year. So keep saving your pennies and be ready to bring them to the school in late April 2020.

VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT: The St. John Eagles Gr. 7&8 Invitational Volleyball Tournament will be held on Sat., Oct. 12, starting at 9:00 AM. As with any tournament, there is a lot of preparation involved with running a successful tournament. Volunteers are needed to work concessions. *High School Seniors:* Your volunteer hours can be used toward your Community Service hours. *School Parents:* Volunteering at this tournament would count towards your “Parent Participation” for this school year. Please contact *Brad Rosebrook* at 419-966-3099 if you can work.

PRESCHOOL GRANDPARENTS’ DAY – **Preschool Grandparents’ Day** will be held from 9:00 – 11:00 AM on **Thurs., Oct. 17th for the 4 & 5-year old class** and same time on **Fri., Oct. 18th for the 3-year old class**. Grandparents should plan to arrive at 9 AM and report to the gym. Grandparents will also have the opportunity to take their grandchild through the PTL Scholastic Book Fair those days. See note below. Come and enjoy all the fun in Preschool!!!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR: St. John PTL will be having a Scholastic Book Fair which is open to the public on Thursday, Oct. 17, from 6:30 – 8:30 PM; and again on Friday, Oct. 18 from 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM. A lot of help is needed, so call Christa Bickel (419-262-3248) if you can help.

SCHOOL VISITATION: This will be held on October 17th from 7 – 8 PM. The PTL will be sponsoring a book fair that evening also.

ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES: You may begin ordering SCRIP again. Order forms are available on Fast Direct and also in the “School Info” rack outside the 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.**

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 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.

MISSION SUPPORT IN HAITI – This is an event for the community to help support the mission efforts of Haley (Yoder) Civil in Haiti coming up in mid-October. On Tues., Oct. 15, 2019 at 1:30 PM and 7:00 PM at Christ Community Church (*formerly the Ridgeville School complex*), Squeezebox with Ted Lange, and Mollie B will be performing two shows. Show Tickets are \$15. There will be an optional meal available prior to each show. See poster on bulletin board for much more information.

BE A JAVA JOY HOST! Every second Sunday of the month after the service, we aim to have a time of fellowship with coffee, juice and snacks called **Java Joy**. If you would like to host one of these, please sign up in the narthex. Don't let finances stop you – you are welcome to reimburse your expenses from the kitty if you wish.



COUNCIL MINUTES – This is just a reminder that council meeting minutes are not published until they are approved a month later. If you would like to read about the most recent council meeting, an unofficial and unapproved copy of the minutes is available for viewing in the church office, usually within a week after the meeting.

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!

'BREAD FROM HEAVEN' – A note to St. John members needing food assistance – If you could use food assistance from our food pantry, please speak with *Pastor Niermann*. We are required by the *Northwestern Ohio Food Bank* to keep a record with your name, but pastor will keep your record separate and absolutely confidential.

Contributions can be made at any time. Monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your offering envelope). Food donations for our pantry can be dropped off in the box by the Archives display cases. **Food items especially needed at this time are: spaghetti sauce, saltines & any crackers, and hamburger helper.** Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated. Thank you so much! As we learned in the meaning of the Fifth Commandment, “*We should fear and love God that we...help and support our neighbor in every physical need.*” (*Small Catechism*)

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!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT ...

**If you could kick the fellow responsible for most of your problems,
you couldn't sit down for three weeks!**

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.” Prov 14:12