



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

October 13, 2019

VOL. 84

NO. 39

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

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "He Directs Our Footsteps" *Ruth 1:1-19a*

Order of Service: Morning Prayer (LSB pg. 235)

Hymns: (Baptism: 'Borning Cry', 722) ~ 855 ~ 918

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Now is the hour of worship. God speaks to us and we listen and respond with our hymns, prayers and praises. Together we bless the Lord whose purpose is to save us and keep us in His faithful flock. He is The God of Grace and The God of Glory. If you are new to our community, we hope you will consider making this your church home. Fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and give it to the usher as you leave the church this morning.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Ian Rosebrook & Parker Woods, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Richard & Bev Elling, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✠

THE BUD VASE ON PIANO is placed by Randy & Lou Ann Rosebrock in honor of the baptism of their grandson, Axel Jeffrey, today. They look forward to watching Axel grow in Christ each day!

BAPTISM THIS MORNING – Today we rejoice with **Michael & Samantha Cohrs** as they present their infant son, **Axel Jeffrey Cohrs**, for Holy Baptism. **Axel** was born August 28th at the Defiance Regional Hospital. His baptismal sponsors are **Michelle Weddelman**, Michael's sister, and **Emily Creque**, Samantha's sister. Axel's grandparents are **Randy & Lou Ann Rosebrock** and the late **Alvin Cohrs**, and **Gregg Wanemacher** and the late **Pamela Wanemacher**. Baptism is a miracle each time it happens! God takes this child of nature and makes him a new-born creature, a member of His own through Jesus Christ. **We celebrate with this family today!**

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Jr. High LYF Meeting
Tue.	8:35 AM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	School Chapel V-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:30 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls vs St Pat's – Bryan Women of Freedom Meeting
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.	9:00 AM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Preschool 4/5 yr old Grandparents' Day (<i>see bulletin note</i>) PTL Scholastic Book Fair (<i>until 8:30 PM</i>) Grades 1-8 School Parents Open House (<i>until 8:00 PM</i>) Thursday Evening Worship with Communion
Fri.	9:00 AM 8:30 AM	Preschool 3 yr old Grandparents' Day (<i>see bulletin note</i>) PTL Scholastic Book Fair (<i>until 11:00 AM</i>)
Sat.	9:00 AM	St. John – Defiance Gr. 4-6 Volleyball Tournament
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Theodore Rellstab</i> , St. John Lutheran – Holgate

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
- ❖ *LaVern Volkman and his family*; LaVern's brother, Norville Volkman, passed away last Monday and was laid to rest yesterday in our cemetery. Norville's wife is Terry Volkman.

WORD OF THANKS: We would like to thank everyone who sent us cards, gave us personal wishes and prayers of thanksgiving for our recent wedding anniversary. God has truly blessed us with a great church family and we appreciate each and every one of you. God's Blessings to all of you! Signed, *Henry and Dorothy Gerken*

THURSDAY SERVICES END OCTOBER 24TH – Please note that our Thursday evening services will continue through Thursday, October 24th. There will be no service on Thursday, October 31st.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM: The next Women of Freedom meeting will be on Tues., Oct. 15th at 7:00 PM. This will be a Mission Meeting so bring your Quarterlies and Mite Box (if you have one). The Bible Study for the evening is on pg. 20 in the Quarterly. There are always interesting articles to be found in them. The Quarterlies are available in the wall rack in the narthex. Pick up your copy today! All ladies of St. John are invited to come to our meetings.

SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING – SUNDAY, NOV. 3

At their meeting on Sept. 29, the voters asked the Old School Finance Committee to come back to the voters as soon as possible with a specific plan about how to address the rest of the financing of the Old School Renovation, especially in view of some extra needed projects (footer tiling, additional windows, etc.) and associated cost overruns. The Committee is ready to present its plan at a special meeting on **Sunday, Nov. 3rd** after the worship service.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 10/06/19	\$5,868.00	\$229.00	\$454.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 10/03/19 – 35; Sunday – 10/06/19 – 153

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 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.**
- **December 5-6 (Thr-Fri) from 2:00-8:00 p.m.**
- **December 7 (Saturday) from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Sign-up for photography appointments begins 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 you 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 (6 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.

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).

ALL SAINTS DAY is coming up just three weeks from today on Sunday, Nov. 3rd. On that day we will remember especially our fellow members of St. John who have departed to be with the Lord since our last commemoration of All Saints. In addition this, we will place a final rose at the baptismal font for Christian brothers and sisters who died in the past year but who were not members of St. John. **If you have a Christian deceased loved one you would like to remember that day, add their names to the list in the narthex.** Please be mindful that while we remember ALL the departed saints on this day, our special ceremony remembering people by name is for Christians who have died in the past year.



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!

ANNIVERSARY RELATED KEEP-SAKES – In the narthex is the table 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.*

150th Anniversary Mission Challenge Offering...

Two 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 two 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!

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.

PRAYER CALENDAR NOTE: Please be aware that if you would like your wedding anniversaries printed on the prayer calendars, you will have to post them each year. Just list them on the blank calendars posted on the bulletin board in the narthex throughout the year.

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!

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.

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!

✂ ✂ ✂

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Prayerlessness begets carelessness!

"You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask." James 4:2