



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

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School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339
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NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "The Wrestler" *Genesis 32:22-32*
Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting 1 (LSB pg. 151)
Hymns: **869 ~ 661 ~ (Communion: 819, 729, 725) ~ 739**
Adult Hand Bells: "Thy Word"

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest this morning, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to our pastor and by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you. Simply pass it to the center aisle during the offering.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Emersyn Gerken & Brooks Behnfeldt, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Larry & Pat Mahnke, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✠

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed in thankfulness to God for the 55th Wedding Anniversary of *Jerry & Nancy Short*. The Shorts were married on Oct. 24, 1964. Congratulations to them on this milestone anniversary. We wish you many more happy, healthy years of marriage.

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.

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	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Sr High LYF Meeting
Mon.	5:00 PM	V-ball @ MCA
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM	School Chapel led by Gr. 3&4 Vision Re-checks for PS4/5, K, Gr. 1,3,5,7
Wed.	9:00 AM 6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:15 PM	Vision Re-checks for PS3 Jr. High Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>) Adult Bell Practice Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship (<i>final service</i>)
Fri.		End of 1 st Qtr Grading Period
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. James Strawn</i> , St. James Lutheran – Archbold

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
- ❖ *Florence Jones*, hospitalized at UTMC for a very serious bone infection in her toe

THURSDAY SERVICES END OCTOBER 24TH – Please note that our Thursday evening services will continue through next Thursday, October 24th. There will be no service on Thursday, October 31st. Then it won't be long before we'll be having midweek services again for Advent. Regular Thursday evening services are slated to begin again on the first Thursday of May 2020.

LYF ASSISTANCE NEEDED – *Sarah Bartok*, our LYF leader, is seeking assistance with the youth ministry in our congregation for both the Junior High and Senior High levels. If you would like to volunteer, please speak with Sarah. Your service would be a blessing to her and to our youth.

A REMINDER: If you are the LAST person to leave the building at the end of the day, after an athletic event, or after a meeting, etc., please make sure that the hallway lights are turned off and that the entry doors (*where the buzzer is located*) are closed. With a tight budget, every little bit of electrical savings will benefit the church. Thank you for your cooperation.

150th Anniversary Mission Offering – Last day to give

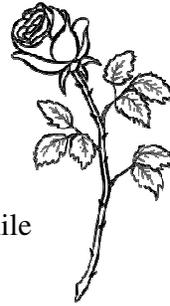
At our Mission Festival next Sunday, October 27, we will present our 150th Anniversary Mission Offering to the Lord and through His servant, *Rev. Robert Rahn of **The Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF)***. Our offering is designated for three LHF projects:

- 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. If you would still like to make a gift for this offering, you may do so yet today. Place your gift in the special envelope on the table in the narthex, or include it with your regular offering and make a notation on the envelope.

ALL SAINTS DAY is coming up two 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 year, 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 name(s) to the list in the narthex.** Please be mindful that while we remember ALL the departed saints today, our special ceremony remembering people by name is for Christians who have died this past year.



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.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 10/13/19	\$10,122.00	\$220.00	\$265.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 10/10/19 – 36; Sunday – 10/13/19 – 224

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!

SCRIP ORDER FORMS: The SCRIP Order Form is inserted in today's bulletin. Additional order forms are available on the narthex table and in the "School Info" rack outside the school office if you should need more. 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.** Thank you and happy early holiday shopping!

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 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 (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 table 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 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.*

LWML NAPOLEON ZONE CHRISTIAN LIFE WORKSHOP –The LWML Fall Christian Life Workshop will be held on Sat., Nov. 16, 2019 at St. Luke Lutheran Church, State Route 108, Wauseon. Registration begins at 8:30 AM. The theme this year is "Blessed to be a Blessing." A Mite offering will be taken to help reach the goals set by the Ohio District for their mission projects. Information flyers are available on the narthex table.

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!

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.

IT'S CHRISTMAS CHEER TIME AGAIN! – Henry County Christmas Cheer has begun its annual campaign for the collection of food for low income and needy persons in Henry County. The campaign runs from now through Tues., December 10th. Very soon a box will be placed in the narthex and a barrel in the cafeteria/fellowship hall for the collection of canned goods, dry goods and paper products. No Microwave items! Suggestions are: *Canned Vegetables, Fruit, Soup, Stews, Meats; Macaroni & Cheese Mixes, Spaghettio's, Spaghetti Sauce, Tomato Juice, Broths, Noodles, Rice, Spaghetti; Instant Potato, Stuffing, Cake Mixes; Cereals, Syrups, Crackers, Peanut Butter, Pudding, Jell-o, Frostings, Fruit Juices, Coffee, Kool-aid, Chocolate Drink Mixes; Tissues, Toilet Tissue, Paper Towels; Bar Soap, Toothpaste, etc.* Please watch expiration dates on your donations. Thank you!

LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BULLETINS are available today on the table in the narthex. The Children's Bulletins are coordinated with the Bible texts for each Sunday, and provide activities that tie in with the weekly themes. Pick one up today for your child.

HEARING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE: If hearing in worship has been a problem for you, pick up one of the receiver units for our hearing assistance system. An usher will assist you and you'll hear much more clearly. *(Also, please let us know how the system is working for you.)*

For those who use the hearing assistance system regularly and for the sake of hygiene, we ask that you claim one of the ear buds as your own and keep it with you in your purse, pocket, etc. Bring it with you when you come to church, and simply plug it into one the receivers. At the end of the service, unplug the ear bud to take with you until the next time.

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.

ST. JOHN CHURCH LIBRARY – Stop in and check out the growing number of books available in the church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary. The books in this library have been screened to assure that they are true to the Word of God and can be trusted to be theologically sound. To borrow a book, just take it with you, and then return it to the basket when you've finished reading. A complete list of the books in the church's library can be found by clicking on the "Book Inventory" link on the library page of our church's website. <http://www.sjl.org/library.html>

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!

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.

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.

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!

AREA EVENTS:

- **Zion Lutheran Church – Ridgeville Corners** invites you to their Bratwurst Dinner on Sun., Oct. 20 at 11:00 AM. See flyer!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

You can judge a man by his enemies as well as by his friends!

"You will be hated by all for my name's sake.

But the one who endures to the end will be saved." ~Jesus, Matt 10:22