



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

October 27, 2019

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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

REFORMATION DAY (observed)

Guest Preacher: *Rev. Robert Rahn*, Lutheran Heritage Foundation
Sermon & Text: "Freed by the Truth" *John 8:31-36*
Order of Service: See printed Service Folder
Hymns: **837 ~ 947 ~ 823 ~ 833 ~ 948 ~ 656**

A PRAYER UPON

ENTERING CHURCH

We thank God this day for His work through Martin Luther to bring to light the Gospel of Jesus. May He reform us and renew us as we seek His purposes under the power of this Gospel. The church gathers under the Gospel of Christ. It is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes. You are welcome as our guest this morning. 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. May the Lord bless our worship.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Emersyn Gerken & Tayah Homan, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Esther Layton & Linda Meyer, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✘

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.

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.

In God's House This Week		Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Shepherd Committee
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:15 PM	Jr High Confirmation Class Adult Bell Choir Practice Adult Choir Practice
Sun.	2:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:20AM	Turn your clocks back one hour All Saints Sunday and Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Logan Schiewe</i> , St. Paul 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
- ❖ *Florence Jones*, recovering at Vancrest Nursing Home, Holgate, after recent hospitalization
- ❖ *Dan Wiechers*, hospitalized at Toledo Hospital for an intestinal blockage
- ❖ *Judy Okuly*, hospitalized and recovering after heart bypass surgery
- ❖ *Eric & Faith Wiechers*, on the arrival of their son, Fritz David, on Wed., Oct. 23rd

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS NEXT WEEKEND! On Saturday (Nov. 2) before you go to bed, be sure to turn your clocks BACK one hour. If you don't you'll arrive at church the next morning an hour early. Not that that would be so terrible! If one *day* in the Lord's courts is better than a thousand anywhere else (*Psa 84:10*), wouldn't one extra *hour* in His courts be better than spending that hour anywhere else?

THURSDAY SERVICES HAVE ENDED – Please note our Thursday evening services have come to an end for this year. Thursday evening services will resume again on the first Thursday of May.

ACTIVITY CALENDAR/ PRAYER CALENDAR: Both of these calendars will be delayed one week, due to Joyce being out of the office this past week dealing with family medical issues. Thank you for understanding.

WELCOME REV. ROBERT RAHN

This morning we are privileged to have with us **Rev. Robert Rahn**, founder of **The Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF)** and currently serving in Church Relations for LHF. He is a graduate of Concordia College, St. Paul, MN (1956) and of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (1961). He likes to say, "God's work, done in God's way, will never lack supply." Throughout his career, Rev. Robert Rahn has proven these words time and time again by spreading the Gospel with doctrinal accuracy in whatever situation God placed him.



Rev. Rahn has pastored congregations in Montana and Illinois, served in campus ministry at Concordia – River Forest, and in development for Concordia Theological Seminary, among other ministry activities. Out of the basement of his Michigan home, he founded LHF, an organization dedicated to translating, publishing and distributing confessional Lutheran materials worldwide. After LHF's first work in Russia, the mission organization today has expanded to working in over 100 languages, publishing nearly 1,000 titles including Luther's Small Catechism, The Book of Concord, and A Child's Garden of Bible Stories.

Throughout his 58 years of ministry, Rev. Rahn's wife, Donna and their son, Jeffrey, have lent their faithful support to his endeavors.

It is our joy and privilege to welcome Rev. Rahn and Donna to St. John, and to present them with our 150th Anniversary Mission Offering. May God bless the work of the LHF and bless our gift to this ministry, for the salvation of many!

OUR 150th ANNIVERSARY MISSION OFFERING – This morning we will present Rev. Rahn our year-long anniversary offering, for the work of the **Lutheran Heritage Foundation** in three areas in particular...

- 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.*

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously for this offering! We have no way of knowing how powerfully this gift will impact the lives of people for Christ, but we do know that under the blessings of God it will have a mighty impact! Let us thank God for the opportunity to reach so many for Christ!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 10/20/19	\$9,460.00	\$89.00	\$230.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 10/17/19 – 45; Sunday – 10/20/19 – 161

YOUTH CENTER DONATIONS: Don't forget the future "youth center" when you make those end of the year donations. There are pre-addressed envelopes available on the narthex table for anyone wishing to donate. So as not to cause confusion for the Finance Trustees, only use the pre-addressed envelopes and mail them to Eileen @ LCEF. Please don't put your donation in the Sunday offering plate. Make your check payable to **St. John Lutheran Church**, put "St. John Lutheran Youth Center" on the memo line, and mail it to Eileen Fitzenreiter's LCEF office in Napoleon. Thank you for helping to make this a reality!

ALL SAINTS DAY is next Sunday. 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.

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!

ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES: Scrip orders will be received on Wednesdays, ordered on Fridays and delivered on the following Tuesday. Order forms are posted on FastDirect under 'Links,' titled SCRIP Order Forms and SCRIP Program Info, there are also hard copies in the 'School Info' rack outside the office. Please feel free to share with family and friends. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to the SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

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!

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.

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.*

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!

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!

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.

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.

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!

RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP FUNDRAISER: The Stewardship Board is offering "for sale" the Ultimate Cloth® as a fundraiser. These are a MiraFiber® technology cloth that cleans with water only. This cloth is more effective than harsh cleaning chemicals and soaps. See *Karen Norden* (419-267-3477) for more information and pricing. This will be an on-going fundraiser for the Right Hand of Fellowship gift matching campaign.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Christians are the light of the world. Let's flip the switch on!

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." ~Jesus, Matt 5:16