



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

January 12, 2020

VOL. 85

NO. 2

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

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Sermon Title and Text: "Glued to Jesus" *Romans 6:1-11*

Order of Service: *Matins (LSB pg. 219)*

Hymns *Psalm 29 ~ 594 ~ 404 ~ 590 ~ 596*

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to St. John Church! We thank God for this time together! We pray that the grace of God will heal your hurts; that the strength of God will give you courage to face the work before you; that the power of God will prepare your way; and that the peace of God will keep you secure and steady in Christ Jesus. If you are a visitor, please 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 this morning.

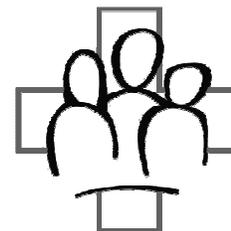


SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Brooklyn Bostelman & Emersyn Gerken, *Acolyte* ✘
- ✘ Dave & Sara Myles, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Dean Badenhop, Dave Von Deylen, Dennis Showman, Richard Elling *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Lou Ann Rosebrock, Diane Von Deylen, *Altar Guild* ✘

ALTAR GUILD (pink), GREETER (yellow), and USHER (blue) SCHEDULES: The 2020 Altar Guild, Greeter, and Usher schedules are available and can be picked up on the narthex table. Thanks again to all who are willing to be of service to the Lord through St. John.

WELCOME TO NEWEST MEMBERS NEXT SUNDAY – Next Sunday, January 19, we will take a few moments in worship to formally welcome our newest members, **Jon & Elaine Buenger**, and **Mike & Tana Maassel, Eric, Skylar and Leah**. After worship the Elders are sponsoring a Java Joy in the front hallway where you can extend to these people the hand of fellowship and offer your welcome. These newest friends in Christ are a true blessing to us – let's be a blessing to them as well!



In God's House This Week *Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl*

Date	Time	Activities
Today	10:00AM 10:30AM 4:30 PM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Jr High LYF
Tue.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class Adult Bell Choir practice Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	5:00 PM	B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls and Boys vs NWO Cougars
Fri.		End of 2 nd Quarter Grading Period
Sat.	10:00AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:15 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs Solomon - Woodville
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM	Communion Service ; New Member Recognition <i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Sr High LYF
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, 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*
- ❖ *Rose Leonard* (daughter of *Brad & Kailee Leonard*), dealing with significant health issues
- ❖ *Florence Jones, Judy Okuly, Ruth Mahnke, and Harvey Russell*, with various health issues
- ❖ *Willie & Arlene Gerken*, currently at Genacross Lutheran Home due to a fall taken by Arlene, and Willie's need for mobility assistance
- ❖ *Larry & Pat Mahnke* and *Jim & Nancy Hogrefe*, who mourn the passing of Pat and Nancy's brother, Ron Hoffman this past Tuesday
- ❖ *Juergen & Cheri Goertz*, who mourn the passing of Cheri's mother, Janet Freeman, on Monday, Jan. 6th
- ❖ *Harold Behrmann*, who will undergo an angioplasty on his leg at FCHC on Thur., Jan. 16th

BE A JAVA JOY HOST! Start the New Year off by signing up for Java Joy! 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.

2020 ENVELOPES – There are still some 2020 offering envelope boxes to be picked up. If you did not receive a box of envelopes but would like one, please contact *Mary Kossow* (419-599-0011).

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – ROMANS 14

As we come to the end of the *Letter to the Romans*, St. Paul gets very practical in dealing with our life together in Christ's congregation. Specifically, he addresses how people often judge one another in matters in which we are actually free. Those who are strong in Christian faith are tempted to despise those weaker in faith for their lack of understanding, while those who are weak in faith are tempted to judge their fellow Christians who exercise Christian freedom. Join us this morning for Bible Study as we explore how Paul deals with these things, and let us grow together in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior!



A VOTERS' MEETING is scheduled for Sunday, February 9, 2020 after worship in the fellowship hall. On the agenda will be 1) a report on the St. John Endowment fund; 2) the Annual School Report; 3) Audit Committee Report; 4) Old School Update.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 1/05/20	\$8,483.00	\$175.00	\$485.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 1/05/20 – 201

THE FLOWER CALENDAR for 2020 is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you wish to sign up for a certain Sunday to place flowers on the altar or the piano, sign your name on that Sunday and then about two weeks before that date, call *Mabel Bischoff* at 419-598-8757 to let her know if you are getting your own flowers or if you want the Women of Freedom to take care of them. **The price for the flowers through the Women of Freedom is \$21.00.** Please remember that it is your responsibility to contact *Mabel Bischoff*. Also, please contact the church office with the information for the bulletin before Wednesday of the week you are placing the flowers in church. This will insure that you are not forgotten or overlooked.

MITES & WOMEN OF FREEDOM – The next meeting of the St. John Women of FREEDOM will be held Tues., Jan. 21, 2020 at 7:00 PM. This will be a Mission meeting so everyone should bring their Quarterly and Mite Box if you have one. Our Mission meetings are held the months of January, April, July, and October. The months of March, May, September, and November are Women of Freedom meetings. February is our Quilt and Blanket Knotting Party and in August there is no meeting. All ladies of St. John are invited to come to our meetings. **NOTE:** The Program Booklets for 2020 are on the narthex table. Pick yours up today! Be sure to check to see what month you are on for serving. If that does not work out for you, you can switch with someone. All ladies are welcome and if you would like your name added to the active member list (booklet), just attend a meeting and join us in Christian fellowship and service.

WHY LUTHERAN SCHOOLS? Nurturing Faith: Faith is nurtured by daily proclamation of the Gospel, teaching children the Word of God and how to read and understand that Word on their own, and by modeling and challenging students to live the Christian faith.

CHURCH COUNCIL / ELDERS / STEWARDSHIP BOARD

Special Announcement for Combined Meetings

This is notice of two special meetings in the near future at which we are calling for the combined presence and participation of our church council, board of Elders, and Stewardship Board. Please try to make these a priority!

1. 'CONSECRATED STEWARDS' INFORMATION MEETING

Tuesday January 28, 7:00 p.m. in the north fellowship hall

The Stewardship Board is calling for a combined meeting with the Council and Elders to learn about a possible program of ministry for our congregation called 'Consecrated Stewards.' Our guest presenters will be **Lisa Janik**, Ohio District Vice President for the *Lutheran Church Extension Fund*, and **Rev. Peter Marcis**, Regional Facilitator for the northwest region of the Ohio District. Please mark your calendar and plan to be present for this important meeting for our congregation.

2. 'BUILT ON THE ROCK' SEMINAR with Ted Kober

Saturday, February 8, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM at St. John, Defiance

Pastor Niermann has spoken briefly with both the Elders and Stewardship Board about Ted Kober's presentation at the last Ohio District Pastor's Conference on his material, '**Built On the Rock: The Healthy Congregation.**' Ted Kober is an LCMS layman who has done extensive work on what constitutes a healthy congregation, and the information he has to share is invaluable for us. It cannot be overstressed how important this seminar will be for us. Lunch is provided for free, and we are working to cover the cost of the seminar workbook (\$5.95 per participant) with funds from a 'Rev. Maassel Memorial Outreach Grant.' **There is a registration for this seminar – deadline is Sunday, Feb. 2nd.** Please make the commitment to attend, and get registered by signing up in the narthex.

OLD SCHOOL RENOVATION BROCHURES – Recently the *Old School Renovation Finance Committee* sent out a mailing to St. John Lutheran Church members and to SJLS Alumni with an informational brochure about the Old School renovation into a Youth Center, and the opportunity to participate in this project through monetary gifts. If you would expect to have received this mailing but for some reason did not, please accept our apology, and pick up one of these brochures in the narthex. **Thank you to everyone for your gifts and donations that are moving this project forward!**

LYF SUPER BOWL SUB SALE – It's that time of year again! Super Bowl Sunday is quickly approaching and it's time to get ready for the big game. Why not help out our LYF as well? On Sun., Feb. 2nd, they will be selling Super Bowl subs to help raise money for the youth group. Each sub will cost \$4.00 (or a 3 for \$10 deal) and will contain salami, bologna, ham, white cheese, and yellow cheese on a 6" bun. **To place an order, please fill out the pre-order form inserted in today's bulletin and place it in the basket on the narthex table or bring it to the church office by Mon., January 27th.** Orders can also be made from the link on the St. John Church Facebook page. Subs will be available for pick up after church on Sun., Feb. 2nd until 11am. Payment will be due at the time of pick up. **Make checks payable to St. John LYF.** Thanks for supporting our LYF youth!

SOUP & PIE DINNER – The annual PTL Soup & Pie Dinner will be held on Sun., Jan. 26, 2020, with serving from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, in the fellowship hall. On the menu will be *Chili Soup, Noodle Soup, Hot Dogs, Sloppy Joes, a Salad and Dessert Bar, and Beverages*. After the Dinner you can stay and enjoy watching some basketball games as all four of our school teams will be playing St. Paul Lutheran.

DONATIONS FOR SOUP & PIE DINNER – The PTL Soup & Pie Committee are asking for donations for the Salad and Dessert Bars. A sign-up sheet is placed on the table in the narthex. Thanks to everyone for taking time to support the PTL through your donations of salads, desserts, pies, or cupcakes. We look forward to another successful Soup & Pie Dinner on January 26th!

POSITIONS TO FILL:

- ▶ **TEACHER GR. 3&4:** St. John Lutheran School is seeking applications for a dynamic third and fourth grade teacher for the 2020-21 school year. Requirements are a Bachelor degree in education, a background check, 3 references, and subscribing to the St. John Lutheran Church and School religious beliefs. If you have questions please call the school office at 419-598-8702. Applicants can mail a resume' to St. John Lutheran School, 16035 County Road U, Napoleon, OH 43545.
- ▶ **TEACHER AID:** St. John Lutheran School is seeking to fill the position of a teacher aid. The applicant must have a high school diploma, be willing to have a background check, be able to help tutor individuals and groups of classroom students, and monitor the students at recess times. In addition the individual should adhere to the teachings and religious beliefs of the Lutheran church. If interested please send or drop off your resume at the school office.

ST. JOHN REGISTRATION OPEN HOUSE – An **Open House** is planned for grade levels (PS-8) at St. John School for Wednesday evening, **February 5th, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM**, for families who would like to come and look at our school and discuss the possibility of sending their child/children here for their education. There will also be refreshments. If anyone in the congregation might know of a prospective student for Grades PS-8, please be sure to pass this information to them.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2020-21 school year. Anyone interested in enrolling your child in our preschool program should contact the school office at 419-598-8702 to request an enrollment packet and/or turn in their registration form. We will be opening the registration up to the public as of February 4th. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration form.

ST. JOHN SCRIP: 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 on the table in the narthex and in the 'School Info' rack outside the office. 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.**

2020 NATIONAL LUTHERAN ANNUAL – We are taking orders for the 2020 Lutheran Annual. It has the current addresses, phone numbers, emails, and websites of LCMS churches, pastors, teachers, etc. all over the United States. Call the church office to order your copy. Deadline is Mon., Feb. 3rd.

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!

HELP US KEEP UPDATED RECORDS – With the advent of cell phones, keeping current contact information is an issue for every organization these days, including the church. When people move or get a new phone number, they often don't think to update that information with us, often leaving us with no way to contact them for ministry related matters. So please, if you move, get a new phone number, or eliminate your landline, contact the church office or make a note of it on the *Rite of Fellowship Card* and help us keep our records as up-to-date as possible.

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 to church, and simply plug it into one of the receivers.

USE OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL – If you would like to use the Fellowship Hall for any occasion, on a certain date in this upcoming year, **please contact the church/school office at 419-598-8961 or 419-598-8702**. In addition to calling the office, you may want to check the online master calendar at <http://www.dynacal.com/sjl/> (*you can also link to it from www.sjl.org*).

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!

4-H NEWS: The Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Club will have their first 4-H meeting on Sun., Feb. 9 starting at 1:00 PM at St. John Lutheran School. We will be meeting in the cafeteria. We would like to meet with the parents briefly at 1:00. New members are always welcome!

✘ ✘ ✘

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

God has two thrones one in the highest heaven and the other in the lowest heart.

“In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy.” 1 Pet 3:15