



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom
Worship • Stewardship • Mission

March 7, 2010

VOL. 75

NO. 10

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Miss Mary K. Rettig, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
School: 419-598-8702 Home: 419-966-6160
Church Website: www.sjl.org

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: *“This Is It?” 1 Peter 1:3-5*

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

Hymns: *542 ~ 447, st. 4-6 ~ (Communion: 570, 629, 423) ~ 924*

Adult Choir: *“We Bow Down” and “Communion Meditation”*

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We invite you to celebrate God’s love as we pray to a Heavenly Father who cares for us, and as we hear His powerful Word to us. May God richly bless your worship today! If you do not have a local church home, we extend a warm invitation to you to become a part of our church family. Fill out a blue pew card from the rack in front of you and hand it to the usher as you leave this morning.

SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING



- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Connor Gerken & Justin Flory, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ The Niermann Family, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Harold Behrmann & Richard Elling and Alan & Kathy Damman, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Glenn Badenhop, Carey Damman, Craig Drewes, Scott VanValkenburg, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karan Niebergall, Ronda & Kaylee Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, *Altar Guild* ✠

The 95 Theses

Join us for our new study of *Luther’s 95 Theses*. Most of us have heard of this document that sparked *The Reformation*, but how many of us actually know what it says? Thesis no. 40, for example, states: *“A truly contrite sinner seeks out, and loves to pay, the penalties of his sins.”* Why is this so? Join us for the discussion as we take a continuing look at the words Luther nailed to the church door in Wittenberg. We will compare the 95 theses with Scripture and the teachings of other churches, especially the church of his day.

EASTER LILIES are being sold again this year by the 7th and 8th graders. Order forms are in today’s bulletin and are also available on the table in the narthex. Please make checks payable to *St. John Lutheran School*. **Deadline for ordering is Friday, March 19th.**

In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:15AM 1:00 PM 7:00 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; “ <i>Time To Spare</i> ” 4-H Meetings “ <i>Fan Into Flame</i> ” Presentation
Mon.	10:00AM 7:00 PM	Preschool & Gr. 3&4 Field Trip to The Lutheran Home, Napoleon PTL Meeting
Tue.	8:40 AM 1:00 PM 7:30 PM	Chapel Service led by <i>Pastor Niermann</i> ; Offering: <i>Ft. Wayne Food Bank</i> Ladies Lenten Bible Study Church Council Meeting
Wed.	5:30 PM 6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM 8:15 PM	LYF Lenten Supper (<i>see bulletin note</i>) Junior Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:15 PM) Adult Hand Bell Practice 4th Lenten Service (Theme: “ <i>Our Savior’s Wounded Body</i> ”) Offering: <i>Lutheran Bible Translators</i> K-4 Choir: “ <i>Beautiful Savior</i> ” Acolyte: <i>Kendra Michaelis & Allison VerMeulen</i> Greeters: <i>Bob & Diane Norden</i> Ushers: <i>Glenn Badenhop, Carey Damman, Craig Drewes, Scott VanValkenburg</i> Altar Guild: <i>Karan Niebergall, Ronda & Kaylee Wentworth, Karen Lulfs</i> Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 7:00 PM	Men’s Lenten Bible Breakfast Ladies Aid Meeting
Sat.	9:00 AM	4&5 th Grade Girls & Boys Basketball Round Robin
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15AM 1:00 PM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; “ <i>Time To Spare</i> ” 4-H Meetings
Mon.- Sat.	7:20 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Willie Stottlemyer</i> , St. Stephen Lutheran, Defiance

MATTERS FOR PRAYER – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- Stan Moll*, receiving hospice care at home
- Henry Huner* and *Eleanore Bischoff*, at Golden Living Center – Northcrest
- Walter Delventhal*, recuperating following lung surgery
- Arnold Bischoff*, recuperating at Golden Living Center – Northcrest following hip surgery
- Mary Rettig*, recuperating from a broken arm as the result of a fall
- Servicemen Justin Atkinson, Kyle Elling, and Jason Rohrs*

LOST & FOUND: There was a small, single, eyeglass lens found on the floor in the fellowship hall on Fri., Feb. 26th over by the west windows. If you or your child is missing a lens, please contact the office to claim it.

LYF LENTEN SUPPERS: The 4th Lenten Supper is being sponsored by the LYF with serving from 5:30-7:00 PM. On the menu: *Spaghetti, Salad, French Bread, Dessert, and Beverage.* LYF members please be in the kitchen ready to work by 5:00 PM and remember each of you needs to bring a dessert that will serve 10-12 people. If you have questions, call *Justin Hesterman* at 419-592-1204. Hope to see you Wednesday night!

“FAN INTO FLAME” OFFERING – This morning, being the first Sunday of the month, we are presented with another opportunity to support the mission of the church through “*Fan Into Flame.*” Give an offering, if you wish, as you leave the sanctuary. Your gifts will support missions, according to the outline of Acts 1:8, “*in Jerusalem (locally) and in all Judea (District wide) and Samaria (nationally), and to the ends of the earth (internationally).*”



- **A Special Opportunity To Learn More!** *This evening from 7—8:00 p.m. we are hosting an informational regional gathering to bring us up to date on what is being accomplished in the mission field through our ‘Fan Into Flame’ gifts. Rev. David Buegler (former District President) and Rev. Terry Cripe (current District President) will be on hand to make the hour-long presentation. YOU ARE WELCOMED TO JOIN US in the fellowship hall this evening. We especially encourage congregational officers and leaders to be at this meeting.*

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK – This week is NLSW! The theme is “Lutheran Schools – Securing Each Child’s Future...For a Life of Service” based on I Cor. 12:5. Lutheran schools throughout the LCMS will be celebrating this week with various activities in their classrooms highlighting the quality education that takes place within each school facility. At St. John, this past Wednesday we had six of our students go to WNDH radio station to record 30 second radio spots with essays each student wrote about what they like at St. John Lutheran. These will be aired during the week of March 7 – 13th. On Wed., March 10th WNDH radio will be here at the school doing live remotes in the morning. Times for these live remotes to air are: 9:45 AM, 10:15 AM, 10:40 AM, and 11:15 AM. The Preschoolers and Grades 3&4 will be traveling to the Lutheran Home to present their paper Lenten crosses, a light display, and sing songs to the residents on Mon., March 8th.

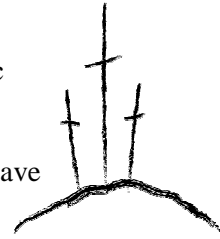
HELPING HAITI – Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is announcing a \$1 million challenge to its members across the country. Thrivent Financial will match \$1 for every \$2 donated by Thrivent Financial members up to \$1 million for the potential of generating \$3 million. Funds will be directed to four Lutheran organizations to support their Haiti earthquake relief efforts: **Lutheran World Relief, ELCA Disaster Response, LCMS World Relief and Human Care, and WELS Committee on Relief.** Thrivent members can make their donation online at www.thrivent.com/helpinghaiti or by making a check payable to one of the four Lutheran organizations listed above. In order for Thrivent Financial to match your donation, be sure to **write “HELPING HAITI” on the memo line of your check** and mail to *Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, 4321 N. Ballard, Appleton, WI 54919.* Donations will be accepted through March 31, 2010.

SAVE THE DATE: The Ohio District LWML Convention is where the action is! Come join the fun June 25-27, 2010, at the Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg, and “Proclaim His Name”! All ladies of the congregation are invited. Registration forms are on the table in the narthex.

LWML Quarterlies and Odes are now available on the table in the narthex. Pick up your copy today!

“LIFE TOGETHER” – A SERMON SERIES FOR THE SUNDAYS OF LENT

This Lenten season *Pastor Niermann* will be preaching a series of Sunday sermons under the theme, “*Life Together*,” based on Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s classic book by that title. We will try to apply insights from Bonhoeffer to our lives in Christ in a postmodern world. Postmodernism rejects out of hand any notion that God has spoken to us in an authoritative word. “Postmoderns” would say, “You have your opinion; I have mine. What’s right for you isn’t right for everyone. Don’t impose your views on me.”



So how do we get into their heads and hearts? Our Lenten series will attempt to do just that, so that listeners sit up and think, “He’s talking about my life! I need to hear this.” Here’s a preview of next Sunday, March 14...

Jesus said to Mary, “Woman, here is your son,” and to John, “Here is your mother.” Do you bristle when people make claims on your life? But claims on your life can help you answer the question, “Who am I?”

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES are conducted each Wednesday evening during Lent, 7:30-8:15 p.m. Our midweek theme this year is “*Our Savior’s Wounded Body*” – a consideration of our Lord’s head, hands, back, *feet*, side, bones and blood, and what it all means for us.

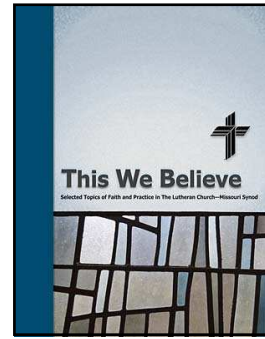
- **LENTEN SUPPERS** – Each Wednesday evening the youth are hosting a Lenten Supper for your enjoyment, starting at 5:30 p.m. Funds raised will be used to send several of our youth to the National Youth Convention in New Orleans in the summer of 2010.
- **PICK YOUR OWN HYMNS** – We will begin each of our remaining mid-week services with a *hymn sing*. Is there a favorite hymn of yours we haven’t gotten around to for awhile? Be ready to raise a hand and give the number; and we’ll sing it.
- **THE LENTEN MIDWEEK OFFERING** this week is designated for *Lutheran Bible Translators*.

WOMEN’S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY – These are held every Tuesday at 1:00 PM in the Conference Room. We are studying women of the Bible. All ladies of our church are invited to participate in these Bible Studies. Please join us on Tuesdays!

MEN’S LENTEN BIBLE BREAKFAST – Men of St. John, please join us on Thursday mornings, 6:30 a.m., at Hill’s Restaurant in Napoleon for a Bible breakfast. Each Thursday morning in Lent we share breakfast and a Bible study on the same theme as the mid-week Lenten service the previous evening. The cost of the breakfast is \$6.00 (includes the tip). Join us! “*When morning guilds the skies, my heart awaking cries: ‘May Jesus Christ be praised!’*”

LADIES AID MEETING: Just a reminder about our next meeting on Thurs., Mar. 11th at 7:00 PM. *Pastor Niermann* will be joining us to present a topic for discussion. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend these monthly meetings. Hope to see you there!

NEW RESOURCE: “THIS WE BELIEVE” --- One of the questions asked most frequently of pastors and other church leaders is, “*What is the official position of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod on...?*” Because this question is on the minds of so many people, a new resource has been made available that summarizes our church’s position on a wide variety of topics. What is the LC-MS position on *artificial insemination; divorce and remarriage; fetal tissue research; evolution; living together outside of marriage; the ordination of women; racism; tithing; the use of wine in the Lord’s Supper; etc.* This new resource pulls together 50 such topics, summarizes them, and provides references to resolutions of past church conventions that address these matters.



If we order together (six or more copies) we can get a \$2.00 price break, bringing the price down to \$6.99 per copy. If you’d like a copy, please sign up in the narthex and leave your payment there. We’ll wait till the week after Easter to place the order.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	<u>Home Fund</u>	<u>Synod & Missions</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>
Weekly Need	\$9,617.04	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 2/28/10	\$7,303.00	\$166.00	\$531.00

ATTENDANCE: 2/28/10 – 329

LENTEN SERVICE 3/03/10: *Local Lutheran Hour Broadcast* - \$809.00 Attendance: 138

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN IN-GATHERING FOR HAITI – Our St. John LWML, in cooperation with the *Orphan Grain Train*, are organizing an in-gathering of items for the people of Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake that devastated their country. We’re looking for the following items:

- Hand or Bath Towel (dark colors recommended)
- Face Cloths
- Bath-size bar of soap, wrapped
- Toothbrushes and Toothpaste
- Sturdy Comb and/or Hair Brush
- Small pack of tissues



Donate these items separately, or create a complete kit by combining one of each of these items. Items or kits can then be dropped off here at church in the appropriate boxes. We will be collecting these items throughout Lent --- deadline is Sunday, April 18 (two weeks after Easter).

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2010-11 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.

KINDERGARTEN CLINIC – Mark your calendars for April 22nd! The clinic sessions will be at 12:45 PM and 2:00 PM that day. Items needed: An original and/or certified copy of their birth certificate; a physical dated after August 2009; immunization records; Social Security number; child custody documents if applicable; and the baptism date/baptismal certificate, or dedication date. **NOTE: If your child is enrolled in our Preschool program, we already have the items listed above and you will not need to bring them the day of the clinic.**

SCHOOL JANITOR POSITION OPENING: We are now accepting resumes from anyone interested in applying for the position of School Janitor. This position will be available as of July 1, 2010. Please drop off or mail a resume to the School Office, in care of School Board. Deadline for consideration for this opening is April 1, 2010.

ATHLETIC BANQUET – Make a note that the Athletic Banquet is scheduled for Sun., March 28th at 4:30 PM.

BASKETBALL – **Sat., March 13** – Gr. 4 & 5 Girls' and Boys' Tournament at St. John – Freedom. Volunteers are needed for the scoreboard, to referee, and grillers for the hot dogs & hamburgers. Give *Doug Willeman* a call at 419-261-1372 or email him at dougwilleman@yahoo.com if you are able to help out on Sat., Mar. 13th.

4-H MEETINGS – The Gerald Busy Fingers and Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Clubs (Grades 3-12) and the Cloverbuds (Grades K-2) will be having their next meeting today at 1:00 PM at St. John Lutheran School. Any questions can be directed to *Bethann Gerken* (Gerald Busy Fingers), *Amy Zirkle* (Freedom Royal Farmers), or *Heather Bostelman* (Cloverbuds).

RIDGEVILLE TWP. FIRE DEPARTMENT BREAKFAST – Today is the Annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast sponsored by the Ridgeville Twp. Fire Department, with serving from 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the Ridgeville Legion. Carry outs available!

SOUP & PIE DINNER: St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Wauseon, is hosting a Soup & Pie Dinner today with serving from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM. A freewill offering will benefit the Youth Group's trip to the National Youth Gathering.

BAKED CUBE STEAK DINNER – St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon Township, is hosting a Swiss Steak Dinner on Sunday, March 14th serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. See the flyer on the bulletin board in the narthex.

SOUP & PIE BENEFIT DINNER: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Liberty Center, is hosting a Soup & Pie Benefit Dinner for Wayne Pittman and his family on Sunday, March 14 with serving from 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM. See the flyer on the bulletin board. There will be Thrivent Matching Funds.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

“For where God built a church, there the devil would also build a chapel.” *Martin Luther*
“...his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat.” (Matt. 13:25)