



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom  
Worship • Stewardship • Mission

February 5, 2012

VOL. 77

NO. 6

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](http://www.sjl.org)

## **FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

Sermon & Text: *“Prime Directive or Great Commission”* Matthew 28:18-20

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

Hymns: 500 ~ 830 ~ (Communion: 409, 620, 831) ~ 832

Adult Choir: *“Amazing Grace”* and *“Let Us Break Bread Together”*

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## **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; and that the peace of God will keep you secure and steady in Christ Jesus. Fill out a blue pew card from the rack in front of you and hand it to the usher as you leave the church this morning and introduce yourself to our pastor.

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## **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Matthew Buchhop & Chase Gruenhagen, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Dan & Joyce Wiechers, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Harold Behrmann & Richard Elling, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Badenhop, Sandy VonDeylen, Mary Rettig, *Altar Guild* ✘

## **TODAY IS LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES SUNDAY**

If you love this ministry of the Word and wish to support it with a gift, special envelopes have been inserted into the bulletin for that purpose. You are also encouraged to learn more about this ministry by visiting the *Lutheran Hour Ministries* website at [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org).

**LUTHERAN  
HOUR  
MINISTRIES  
Sunday 2012**

**2011 CHURCH ANNUAL** is available today. Thank you to everyone who helped assemble it. If there are any corrections to be made in the membership pages, contact Joyce in the office.

**THANK YOU** – Don & Marian Dickmann would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, visits, church service tapes, and food donations during their recent recuperations from falling in their garage. Thank you to *Pastor Niermann* for his comforting visits during these past several months. We truly appreciate everything everyone has done for us. God's Blessings!

<b>In God's House This Week</b>		<i>Online church calendar: <a href="http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl">www.DynaCal.com/sjl</a></i>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	9:00 AM 10:15AM 1:00 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; “ <i>Time To Spare</i> ” 4-H Meetings
Mon.	5:00 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:15 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. St. Pats-Bryan (A)
Tue.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class in gym School Board & Stewardship Board Meetings
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:45 PM 7:45 PM	Jr. Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM) Adult Hand Bell practice Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class in gym Adult Information Class (7:00 – 8:15 PM)
Fri.	5:00 PM	NWOLL Basketball Tournament here at St. John-Freedom
Sat.	9:00 AM	NWOLL Basketball Tournament here at St. John-Freedom
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15AM 1:00 PM	Worship Service w/Communion following service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; “ <i>Time To Spare</i> ” NWOLL Basketball Tournament Championship games
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:

- Henry Huner*, residing at Golden Living Center–Northcrest
- Pauline Dishop* and *Marie Damman*, residing at The Lutheran Home
- Magdalena Volkman*, residing at Heartland Nursing Home, Wauseon
- Lucy Rosebrock*, residing at GlennPark of Defiance
- Servicemen Justin Atkinson, Kyle Elling, and Jason Rohrs*
- Dave Meyer*, at home as he continues his battle with cancer
- Bob Ludeman*, who is under hospice care at home
- Bev Elling*, at Henry County Hospital Rehab following hip surgery
- Sue Landry*, at Twin Rivers Nursing Home, Defiance temporarily

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** is currently engaged in a study titled **THE UNEXPLAINED – *Miracles, Mysteries and More.*** Currently we are considering the subject of demons and demonic influences in our lives and world. These fallen angels, Satan’s minions, are numerous and powerful and bent on the destruction of all that God holds dear – especially *you!* How do we gain the victory over them? Join us for Bible Class each Sunday as we grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus. There’s no good reason not to come! Come on down to the fellowship hall, pour yourself a cup of ‘Joe,’ enjoy some fellowship, and prepare to expand the horizons of your faith!

**LEFTOVER DISHES:** With the recent PTL Soup & Pie Dinner there are a few dishes that have been unclaimed in the kitchen. Check your cupboards and if you’re missing one, stop in at the kitchen to claim it at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

**WINTER CHURCH NEWSLETTER** – Attention all church committees, officers, organizations, and members. Do you have information or news of interest for the entire congregation at St. John? Then consider writing a short article for the next Church Newsletter. **The deadline for submissions is February 6th.** Please help keep our congregation informed and thank you for your input.

**LADIES QUILTING PARTY** is planned for all day Monday, Feb. 20. There will be blanket knotting for those that do not wish to quilt. We will start at 9:00 AM. All ladies of the congregation are invited. You can come and stay all day or just part of the day; whatever fits your schedule.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	<b><u>Home Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Synod &amp; Missions</u></b>	<b><u>Building Fund</u></b>
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 1/29/12	\$5,004.00	\$322.00	\$499.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 1/29/12 –221

**DEVELOPING A BOARD OF ELDERS** – Last Sunday the voters adopted revised bylaws for the office of the Elder. Now the Stewardship Board and pastor will begin the process of identifying prospective Elders for our congregation, up to twelve men who are qualified, able and willing to serve God's people. A larger, stronger board of Elders will be of tremendous help to the pastor in initiating and following through on ministries that for too long have not received the attention they need. Through the years, it is also our goal that the men who cycle in and out of this office will become stronger, better-equipped spiritual leaders in our church and in their own homes, spurring us on to growth in grace, in the knowledge of Christ, and in our witness to Him. Please be praying about this process in the weeks and months ahead.

**MITE-Y SOCKS for LWML:** The LWML needs your help to collect extra MITES for missions. Please pick up a *MITE-Y SOCK* (with directions attached) to fill with dimes during the course of the year. You will be returning the socks in December, so stay tuned for more information on this later in the year. Thank you from LWML!!

**DARE TO READ LIKE A LUTHERAN!** *Concordia Publishing House* has assembled what it is calling "The Essential Lutheran Library," nine books that every Lutheran should have in their home. They can be purchased individually or as a package. The titles include: (**Sale Price/Regular Price**)

- The Lutheran Study Bible (**\$36.99/\$54.99**) – ESV Bible with excellent study notes
- Lutheran Service Book (**\$23.00**) – The hymnal we use in worship
- Luther's Small Catechism (**\$11.99**) – The essentials of our Christian faith
- Treasury of Daily Prayer (**\$29.99/\$49.99**) – Prayer and devotional resources for busy people
- Book of Prayer (**\$9.99/\$12.99**) – Beloved prayers for nearly every occasion of life
- Reading the Psalms with Luther (**\$7.99/\$16.99**) – Fantastic insights into the Psalms
- Book of Concord (**\$19.99/\$31.99**) – The confessional writings of our church
- Law and Gospel (**\$19.99/\$29.99**) – Eye-opening insights into God's main messages to us
- The Lutheran Difference (**\$19.99/\$29.99**) – Understanding why we believe what we believe

Package Price for all nine books is **\$174.99/\$261.42** (plus shipping). If you'd like to order the package or any combination of these books, please use the sign-up form in the narthex. We will take orders through the end of February.

**LENTEN BAND AND CHORAL CONCERT** – The *SYMPHONIC BAND AND GOLDEN VOICE TOUR* of Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw, Michigan is coming our way. We are privileged to host this sacred concert as our midweek Lenten service on **Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**. Here are some of the details:

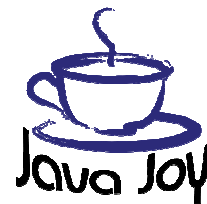
- Concert theme is **“Reign of Love”** – Lenten reflections on Christ who, for the love of us all, was crowned with thorns and enthroned upon a cross.
- **Concert features VLHS’s forty-instrument band and fifty-voice choir** – nearly 100 people in all are traveling with this tour!
- At 5:30 p.m. we will have a **dinner** for them.
- **Concert is at 7:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary.
- **Students will be hosted in our homes** and sent on their way the following morning.



Seldom do we get to experience the Word of God through such a rich and powerful medium as a band and large chorus. **Please mark this special evening on your calendar – we need everyone’s help and involvement to feed and host these students, and to fill God’s house.**

At this time the most important step for us is to identify host families. **Please, if you have any spare beds or bedrooms, would you consider welcoming these ambassadors of Christ into your home?** Students will be assigned to their hosts in pairs. A host sign-up sheet is now ready to go in the narthex. Thank you!

**WOULD YOU HOST A JAVA JOY?** Every second Sunday of the month, we seek hosts for **Java Joy**, a time of refreshment and fellowship after worship. Hosting **Java Joy** does not have to be expensive – you are welcome to reimburse some of all of your expenses, if you wish, from the ‘kitty’ – so please don’t let that hold you back. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex for all the second Sundays of 2012. Please sign up, and pick up the sheet of guidelines from the table. Thank you!



**KINDERGARTEN CLINIC** for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2012 will be held on Thurs., March 29<sup>th</sup>! The clinic sessions will be at 12:45 PM and 2:00 PM (if needed). **There will be no Kindergarten class on March 29th.** Items needed for the clinic are: An original and/or certified copy of their birth certificate; a physical dated after August 2011; 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.*

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Letter to God from Kris: **“Dear God, who draws the lines around the countries?”**

*“Through [Abraham’s] offspring **all nations** on earth will be blessed.” (Gen. 22:18)*

*“Therefore go and make disciples of **all nations.**” (Matt. 28:19)*

**LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES WITNESSING WORKSHOP** - Jesus said, “*You shall be my witnesses;*” to which many Christians respond, “*But how?*” How about attending a witnessing workshop hosted at St. John, Defiance on Saturday, Feb. 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.! This workshop is presented all across the LC-MS by Lutheran Hour Ministries “MISSION U SCHOOL OF WITNESSING.” The title of this workshop is ***Witnessing Methods: Seven Styles of Faith Sharing***. The workshop and lunch are provided at **no cost to attendees**. This is a great opportunity for us to share in our Lord's mission together. Pastor Niermann is planning to attend this workshop and would like to fill his van for the trip to Defiance. If your witnessing skills could use a little boost, join him! We need to know a head count by this Saturday, so please speak with Pastor Niermann or call the church office soon!



**NW OHIO LEAGUE TOURNAMENT – FRI.-SUN., FEBRUARY 10-12:**

- Volunteers are still needed for the tournament. Contact *Karen Riefers* to sign up as soon as possible. We are asking **all** parents of basketball players and cheerleaders to sign up.

**SPIRIT WEEK AND PEP RALLY** – Here is the agenda for Spirit Week: ***Mon., Feb. 6*** – Crazy Hair/Hat Day; ***Tues., Feb. 7*** – Crayon Day; ***Wed., Feb. 8*** – Mismatch Day; ***Thurs., Feb. 9*** – Sports Team Day; ***Fri., Feb. 10*** – “Eagle Day” (Blue/White). In addition on Friday, Feb. 10 – Spirit Week concludes with a Pep Rally at 2:30 PM in the gym. This will get the Eagle players and fans “fired up” for the NWOLL Tournament here at St. John. This is open to students in Grades K-8 and parents are encouraged to be part of the fun! GO EAGLES!!!

**PARENT & ALUMNI BASKETBALL GAME(S):** It’s time to start thinking about another fun day of St. John Alumni and Parent(s) basketball games this year. The date is Sun., Feb. 19, with game times at 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, and 4:00 PM. **This will be open to alumni, player’s parents, or congregation members (you must be 18 years of age or older).** *Doug Willeman* is spearheading this event. If interested in participating give him a call at 419-261-1372.

**GRADES 3-5 ROUND ROBIN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT** will be held here on Saturday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>. This is a one day boys’ & girls’ tournament. Volunteer referees and scoreboard help are still needed for this tournament. Admission/entry fee will be a non-perishable food item to be donated to a local food pantry. The food item donations will be a competition among the participating teams. Boxes will be set up by team designation and the team with the most items donated will be declared the “winner” of the tournament. Contact *Doug Willeman* at 419-261-1372 with questions.

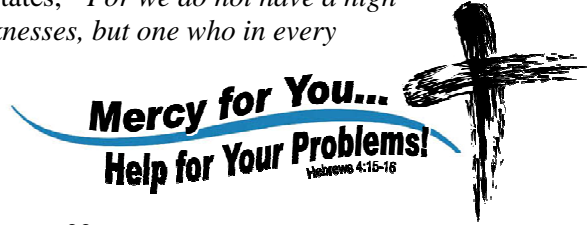
**4-H ORGANIZATION: The Gerald Busy Fingers & The Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Clubs** will be having their organizational meetings on Sun., Feb. 5, 2012 beginning at 1:00 PM at St. John Lutheran Church (Fellowship Hall). If anyone is interested in joining 4-H but unable to attend this meeting please contact Advisors: *Bethann Gerken, Becky Michaelis, or Stefanie Badenhop* (for Gerald Busy Fingers) and *Amy Zirkle, Brian Badenhop, or Pat Wiemken* (for Freedom Royal Farmers).

**4-H Cloverbuds Program** – The Cloverbuds will not be meeting on Sun., Feb. 5. For information contact *Heather Bostelman* at 419-335-1219 or *Jennifer Gerken* at 419-758-3585.

**ARCHIVES DISPLAY:** The Archives Committee has put up a new display. The display is a tribute to the history of the Walther League and LYF. We have pictures, play programs, annual reports, annual banquet programs and much more. If you have a chance, stop by and check it out.

**LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22** – Two and a half weeks from today we begin the observance of Lent in our lives and congregation. Please take note of the following:

- **OUR MIDWEEK LENTEN THEME** is ***Mercy for You, Help for Your Problems.*** We all have problems in life, issues that we deal with that conflict with the life of the spirit. But we are not alone in our struggles. Our Lenten theme verse states, “*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*” (Heb. 4:15-16)



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|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. The Problem of Temptation               | February 22                          |
| 2. The Problem of Worry                    | February 29                          |
| 3. The Problem of Depression               | March 7 ( <i>Rev. Gary Bernath</i> ) |
| 4. The Problem of Anger                    | March 14                             |
| 5. <b>Lenten Band &amp; Choral Concert</b> | March 21 ( <i>See announcement</i> ) |
| 6. The Problem of Resentment               | March 28                             |
| 7. The Problem of Defection                | April 5 ( <i>Maundy Thursday</i> )   |
| 8. The Problem of Death                    | April 6 ( <i>Good Friday</i> )       |

- **MIDWEEK SERVICES HYMN-SING** (*except Ash Wednesday*). Begin thinking about favorite hymns that you may like to suggest and sing.
- **MIDWEEK LENTEN SUPPERS** will be available for you to enjoy throughout the season of Lent, hosted by the LYF and by Gr. 6-8 students. The proceeds from your free-will offerings will support our LYF as they make plans to go to the 2013 LCMS Youth Gathering in San Antonio and the 7 & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders class trip. Join us each Wednesday at 6 p.m. for food, fellowship, and worship.
- **FOR YOUR PERSONAL LENTEN JOURNEY**, try something a little different this year. If you're accustomed to *giving up something* for Lent, how about also *taking on something* for Lent. Take it upon yourself to begin a habit of daily devotions and Bible reading; to attend Sunday Bible Class or one of the special Lenten Bible studies; to make weekly visits to people in the nursing homes; to work at reconciling a fractured relationship; to reach out to a member who hasn't been in worship for awhile. Take on something in your life that helps a neighbor, nourishes faith, edifies the church, and honors the One who died for you. Talk it over with your family, and have a blessed Lenten journey this year!

**WINTER SOUP & PIE LUNCHEON** – The Lutheran Nursing & Rehab Center Auxiliary invites our congregation to its annual winter Soup and Pie Luncheon on Sunday, Feb. 5, serving from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Multi Purpose Room at Alpine Village. The menu will include *Vegetable Soup, Chili Soup, Hot Dogs, Chicken Sandwiches, Pie, and Beverages.* A freewill offering will be accepted.