



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom  
*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

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NO. 7

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

## SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "Skins" Mark 1:40-45

Order of Service: *Service of Prayer and Preaching* – LSB pg. 260

Hymns: 528 ~ 550 ~ 849 ~ 846

Children's Choir: Grades 5-8 sing "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" and  
"Lord, Teach Me to Pray"

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### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*The Psalmist wrote: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the House of the Lord.'" We are happy to have you with us, whether someone invited you or you came by yourself. We are glad to share this House of the Lord with you. If you are visiting, please fill out a blue pew card from the rack in front of you and hand it to the usher as you leave this morning and introduce yourself to our pastor.*

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

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Jade Lange & Abigail Weller, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Lois Arps & Evelyn Rohrs, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Badenhop, Sandy VonDeylen, Mary Rettig, *Altar Guild* ✘

**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!

**HOLY COMMUNION** will be offered this morning following the worship service. Those who wish to attend should fill out a card from the pew rack in front of you and give it to the usher as you leave your pew this morning. Return immediately to the front pews in the sanctuary.

<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	Worship Service w/Communion following service <i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; “ <i>Time To Spare</i> ” NWOLL Basketball Tournament Championship games
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Niermann; Offering: “Hearts For Jesus” Exercise Class in gym Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 7:00 PM	Junior Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM) Adult Choir Practice ( <i>note time change</i> )
Thurs.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class in gym Adult Information Class (7:00 – 8:15 PM)
Sat.	9:00 AM	Gr. 3-5 Round Robin Basketball Tournament ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15AM 11:00AM 1:00 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; “ <i>Time To Spare</i> ”; Sunday School Chicken Pie Dinner at the Ridgeville Legion ( <i>see bulletin note</i> ) Parent & Alumni Basketball Games ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Mon.- Sat.	7:20 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. David Goehmann</i> , St. Luke Lutheran, Wauseon

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

- Our Homebound Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Marian Fitzenreiter, Joann Miller, Norm Fitzenreiter, Helen Norden, and Don Dickmann* as they are dealing with ongoing health issues
- Servicemen Justin Atkinson, Kyle Elling, and Jason Rohrs*
- Dave Meyer*, as he continues his battle with cancer
- Bob Ludeman*, who is under hospice care at home
- Bev Elling*, recuperating at home now following surgery
- Sue Landry*, at Twin Rivers Nursing Home, Defiance temporarily
- Dorothy Ruetz*, residing at The Lutheran Home – Alpine Village

**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.

**Java Joy TODAY** since it's the second Sunday of the month. Be sure to stop out in the front hallway this morning for some refreshments and fellowship. Our hosts today are the ***Randy & LouAnn Rosebrock Family*** and ***Rodney & Jackie Rosebrock Family***, and we thank them for this service of love to us all!



- ***WOULD YOU CONSIDER HOSTING JAVA JOY?*** *Hosting does not have to be expensive – you are welcome to reimburse some or 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!*

**GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL** – This morning we welcome to St. John *Mr. Rick Buehrer* who is representing the Gideons International. This association of Christian business and professional men are dedicated to saving the lost through personal witnessing and the distribution of God's Word in more than 190 countries around the world. Mr. Buehrer will speak for a few moments at the end of today's service to share with us the nature and the scope of this global outreach. There is also a bulletin insert to inform us how we can support their work. Welcome to St. John, Mr. Buehrer!

**2011 CHURCH ANNUAL** is available on the desk and table in the narthex. Pick up your copy today!

**DEVELOPING A BOARD OF ELDERS** – The voters recently adopted revised bylaws for the office of the Elder. Now the Stewardship Board and pastor have begun the process of identifying prospective Elders for our congregation 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.

<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 2/05/12	\$8,192.00	\$102.00	\$897.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 2/05/12 –236      *Lutheran World Relief* - \$10.00

**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.

**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!!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS** – The Sunday School material for March/April/May 2012 has arrived. Please pick yours up in the church office at your convenience.

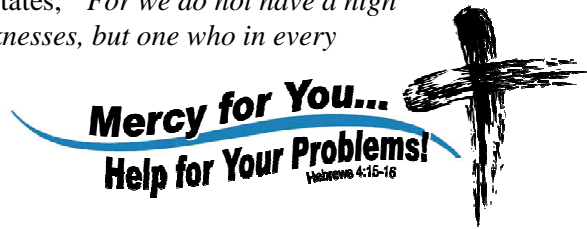
**HELP US DEVELOP A NEW WEBSITE!** Plans are underway for the complete redesign of our church's website, with the professional design help of *Tyson Damman*. Before the project gets underway, we would like ideas and input from the congregation as to what you would like to see in the new website. If you have any thoughts on the subject, please pick up the appropriate form in the narthex and fill it out, letting us know what kinds of information, links or pages would be most useful and helpful to you.



**GRADES 3&4** – Students in Grades 3&4 will be singing with the Adult Choir for a song on the first Sunday of March (4<sup>th</sup>). We would like them to practice with the Adult Choir immediately after church on Sun., Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> and Sun., Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> for about 10-15 minutes. They will then be dismissed to go to their Sunday School class.

**LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22** – Ten days from now 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)



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. <b>Passover Seder and Communion</b>	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!

**THE LUTHERAN JOURNAL** – We have received copies of The Lutheran Journal that have some nice stories and poems in it. Pick up a copy today from the table in the narthex.

**WOMEN'S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY** – The first Lenten Bible Study will be on Monday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM in the Conference Room. All ladies of our church are invited to participate in this six-week Bible Study. If enough interest is shown, we may host evening Bible Studies on those same Mondays beginning at 7 PM. Please sign up at the table in the narthex or call *Linda Meyer* at 419-592-8953 should you have any questions.

**MEN'S LENTEN BIBLE BREAKFAST** – Again this year we encourage the men of our congregation to join us on Thursdays during Lent for breakfast and Bible Study. This will begin on Thurs., Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> at Hill's Family Restaurant from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. Cost is \$6.00, which includes the tip. To give us an idea how many people the restaurant needs to prepare for, please sign up for this Bible Study in the narthex. Join us this year, and get your Thursdays started right with good food, great fellowship, and God's Word!



**FREEDOM'S FLOCK DIRECTOR:** We received word last week that Christa Bickel, director of Freedom's Flock will be resigning at the end of this school year. She and Nate are expecting their third child and thus her decision to resign. We thank Christa for all the time she has given to the start up of the after school care program and wish her and Nate only the best with their growing family.

We are now in search of a director to replace Christa next August when school begins again. Anyone interested in this paid position should contact a school board member, Miss Rettig, or call the school office.

### *Lenten Band and Choral Concert*

- **HOSTING NEEDED** for 100 youth and chaperons
- **CURRENTLY: 24** are hosted --- still need hosts for 76



**The SYMPHONIC BAND AND GOLDEN VOICE TOUR of Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw, Michigan is coming!** 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 and His cross
- **Forty-instrument band and fifty-voice choir!**
- **Potluck Dinner** for them at 5:30 p.m.; **Concert 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.**

Most important is identifying host families. **Please, if you have any spare beds or bedrooms, would you consider welcoming these ambassadors of Christ into your home?** A host sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Thank you!

**CHICKEN PIE DINNER** – The Ridgeville American Legion Post #454 will host their annual Chicken Pie Dinner on Sun., Feb. 19 with serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

### **DIAKONIA: MERCY AND SERVICE --- FOOD PANTRY**

The Stewardship Board has been thinking about ministries of mercy here at St. John, and would like to begin developing a food pantry. There are no firm plans yet, but we would like to identify a few people with merciful hearts who could work together to develop a pantry. Everything is up for discussion – how food is supplied and distributed, who should benefit, what policies should govern it, etc. This will be one practical way we can honor our Lord who said, “*I was hungry and you gave me food.*” (Matt. 25:36) If you would like to help launch such a ministry, please speak with a member of the Stewardship Board --- *Dan Wachtman, Brad Bockelman, Sharon Damman, or Mike Myers.*



**PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT** – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2012-13 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** 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 29<sup>th</sup>.** 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.*

**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: *The Lutheran Study Bible; Lutheran Service Book; Luther’s Small Catechism; Treasury of Daily Prayer; Book of Prayer; Reading the Psalms with Luther; Book of Concord; Law and Gospel; The Lutheran Difference.* These range in price from \$7.99 to \$36.99, however, the 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.

**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.