



# 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. 2

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

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

## THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Sermon & Text: "Is It Safe to Go Into the Water?" *Matthew 3:13-17*

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

Hymns: *599 ~ 601 ~ 404 ~ 405*

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### A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest this morning, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to our pastor and by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you. Simply pass it to the center aisle during the offering this morning. Thank you!*

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

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Brady Gerken & Alex Stevens, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Tom & Sandy VonDeylen, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman, *Altar Guild* ✘

## Engage Bible Study/Movie Series

Jesus told teaching stories, or parables, about regular people and everyday things that His disciples would be familiar with. But He did so to reveal deep, spiritual insights about them and their world in order to lead them into great truth about Him.



Likewise, the real stories you'll encounter in the **Engage** Bible study will challenge the way you think and may even question the way you feel, but with a profound purpose. Through short movies, Bible study and discussion, you'll learn more about yourself, those around you, and the profound love God has for you through His Son.

**Please join us this morning for a cup of coffee and our first movie, titled 'KINGS.'** Loneliness is a big problem in people's lives, and just being with other people or in a crowd is not necessarily the cure. Happily for us, our Savior has a cure. Join us.

<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	Worship Service w/Communion following service <i>Java Joy</i> ; Sunday School; “ <i>Time To Spare</i> ”; Adult Bible Study
Mon.	5:00 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:15 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. BG Christian (H)
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Niermann; Offering – <i>Filling Home - Napoleon</i> Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:15 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. Trinity-Toledo (H) Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:45 PM 7:00 PM 7:45 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM) Adult Hand Bell Practice Township Zoning Meeting in fellowship hall Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 5:00 PM 5:00 PM	Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys; 6:15 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. BG Christian (A) B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:15 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. St. Mary’s Catholic (H)
Fri.		End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter Grading Period
Sat.	10:30AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:45 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs. Solomon-Woodville (H)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15AM 10:30AM 1:00 PM	Communion Service Voters’ Meeting; Sunday School; “ <i>Time To Spare</i> ” PTL Soup & Pie Dinner ( <i>serving until 1:00 PM</i> ) B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 2:15 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys; 3:30 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls; 4:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. St. Paul - Napoleon (H)
Mon.- Sat.	7:20 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Mark DeLassus</i> , St. John Lutheran, Sherwood

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

- Our Homebound Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Marian Fitzenreiter, and Donald & Sue Landry* dealing with various health issues
- 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
- Marian Buchhop* and *Annalou Brodman*, residing at Country View Haven
- Helen Norden*, residing at Greenbriar Assisted Living, Birmingham, AL
- Servicemen and women*, Justin Atkinson, Kyle Elling, Jason Rohrs, and Emily Niermann
- Arnold Bischoff*, recovering at Golden Living Center – Northcrest, Napoleon
- Don Dickmann*, recovering from pneumonia at Golden Living Center – Northcrest, Napoleon

**NEW GREETER (yellow), ALTAR GUILD (pink), AND USHER (blue) SCHEDULES:** The 2014 Greeter, Altar Guild, and Usher schedules are ready to be picked up from the table in the narthex. Thank you to all who have volunteered to serve on these teams – you are a blessing to us all! If you are still interested in serving God’s people here at St. John in a way that is much needed and appreciated, please contact the church office.



**JAVA JOY TODAY!** It's the second Sunday of the month, and that means **Java Joy** after worship. Take a little time to enjoy a bite to eat and some fellowship. A table is set up in the front hallway. Your gifts to the "kitty" help keep **Java Joy** alive and going. We thank *Lois Arps, Evelyn Rohrs, & Phyllis Silveus* for hosting Java Joy for January. (*NOTE: In order for everyone to enjoy the food items, we ask that you only take 2 items when going through the line.*) Thank you!

Be a **Java Joy** host! Every second Sunday of the month we aim to have this time of fellowship. If you would like to host one of these, please sign up on the table in the narthex. Don't let finances stop you – you are welcome to reimburse your expenses from the kitty if you wish.

**NEXT VOTERS' ASSEMBLY** will be held on Sunday, January 19 in the sanctuary during the Sunday School hour. Agenda items tentatively include: 1) Endowment Fund Report and Distributions; 2) Audit Committee Report; 3) Principal's School Report.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	<u>Home Fund</u>	<u>Synod &amp; Missions</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 1/05/14	\$7,249.09	\$85.50	\$490.50

**ATTENDANCE:** 1/05/14 – 217

**RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP GIFT MATCH REPORT**

During the final quarter of the church year, the challenge was placed before us to match as much as we possibly could of the \$75,000 gift that was given for renovating the fellowship hall. **The Finance Deacons report that \$37,938.68 was given for the first phase of this campaign.** Combined with the gift of \$75,000, we will be able to slash our debt from this project by more than half – thanks be to God!



This gift matching campaign continues into the New Year. Each set of offering envelopes included four special envelopes for this purpose. Use them when you wish, and we'll pray that by the end of 2014 this debt will be mostly retired.

**2013 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT** – It's time to start getting your reports ready for the 2013 Church Annual. The officers of the different organizations are asked to write up a summary of the year's activities along with a financial report if there is one. If you need your offering contribution information prior to the distribution of the Annual Report, please call Financial Trustee, *Karen Rosebrock*, at 419-592-1150. **Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers by Tues., Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

**THE FLOWER CALENDAR** for 2014 is posted inside the sliding door showcase 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. You may order your own flowers or go through the Ladies Aid. The price for the flowers through the Ladies Aid is \$20.00. Please remember that it is your responsibility to contact *Mabel Bischoff* to let her know if you are getting your own flowers or if you want the Ladies Aid to take care of them. 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.

**LADIES AID MEETING RESCHEDULED** for Thurs., Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Our speaker will be *Eileen Fitzenreiter* with the LCMS Foundation. All women invited to attend. Hope you can make it!

**SOUP & PIE COMMITTEE** – The annual PTL Soup & Pie Dinner will be held on Sun., Jan. 19, 2014, with serving from 10:30 AM to 1:00 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.



This year's committee members are: *Ryan & Renee Bostelman* (Tri-chair), *Mike & Jeannette Bostelman* (Tri-chair), *Greg & Lisa Brown* (Tri-chair), *Brad & Lisa Bockelman*, *Jeff & Sara Buchhop*, *Scott & Andrea Damman*, *Jason & Zoe Foor*, *Kale & Francisca Franklin*, *Larry & Krista Gerken*, *Pete & Karen Gerken*, *Jeff & Deb Gillen*, *Charles & Sunday Griffith*, and *Ken & Mandy Griffith*. As the dinner gets closer, the committee members will be contacted by one of the chairmen with more details.

**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, or cupcakes. We look forward to another successful Soup & Pie Dinner on January 19<sup>th</sup>!

**BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION UPDATE:** PTL recently received a check from *BoxTops for Education* for about \$546 as a result of box tops submitted from earlier this school year. PTL will submit again at the end of the school year and as you can see, these “little” box tops really add up to \$\$’s for PTL. ***NOTE: Please turn in your Labels For Education and Box Tops For Education labels in separate Ziploc bags or envelopes. Do not combine them.*** Thank you!

**MITES & LWML MEETING:** It is 2014...and the LWML *Mite-y Socks* are back! These are tiny little baby socks, with instructions attached, that you can fill with coins (*dimes*) throughout the year. They are available on the narthex table. These *Mite-y Socks* are a means for all of us to help out the LWML Mite program in a big way with very little effort. Pick up your sock today!

Our next LWML Meeting will be on Tues., January 28<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:00 PM. Pick up a copy of the Quarterly and Odes from the table in the narthex.

**2014 LUTHERAN ANNUAL** – We are now taking orders for the 2014 Lutheran Annual. It will give you the current addresses, phone numbers, emails, and websites of churches, pastors, teachers, etc. Cost is \$24.00 each. Call the church office to order your copy. Deadline is Fri., Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>.

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE** is planned for grade levels PS-8 on Wed., February 5<sup>th</sup>, 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(ren) here for their education. If anyone in the congregation might know of prospective students for Grades PS-8, please be sure to pass this information on to them. There will also be refreshments.

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

***“Sometimes the dreams that come true are the dreams you never even knew you had.”***

*~ Alice Sebold ~*

*“In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ.” (Eph. 1:15)*