



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

February 16, 2014

VOL. 79

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: "Choices" *Deuteronomy 30:15-20*
Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting 5 (LSB pg. 213)*
Hymns: 908 ~ 953 ~ (**Communion: 605, 626, 645**) ~ 698
Children's Choir: *Grades K-4 sing "Sharing the Caring Christ"*

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to every member, friend, and visitor. You have entered this church, not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. May you who enter here find rest, forgiveness, and strength. May your worship here enable you to see your Savior more clearly, love Him more dearly, follow Him more nearly, and serve Him more sincerely. If you have no church home of your own, we invite you to join the St. John family.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘ Aaron Bostelman & Conner Bialorucki, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Arlene Wallace & Marietta Damman, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Carey Damman, Craig Drewes, Scott VanValkenburg, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham, *Altar Guild* ✘

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed in memory of the 4th Anniversary of the passing of *Earl Elling* on February 16th (today) by his family. Please keep Melba and her family in your thoughts and prayers at this time of year.



PARKING LOT ASSISTANTS – With the parking lot as icy and treacherous as it has been a few Sunday's this winter, the Stewardship Board is looking into providing valet parking especially for the elderly or for anyone who is fearful of slipping or falling. In the meantime, we would like to recruit some people to serve as ***Parking Lot Assistants***. They would arrive on winter Sunday mornings by 8:15 to 8:30 and be prepared to assist people in getting from their cars into the church. If you are sure footed and could help in this way, please sign up in the narthex, and we'll get in touch to get everyone organized.

| In God's House This Week | | <i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i> |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Date | Time | Activities |
| Today | 9:00 AM 10:15AM 11:00AM 2:00 PM | Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; “ <i>Time To Spare</i> ” Chicken Pie Dinner at the Ridgeville Legion NWOLL Basketball Tournament Championship games @ Trinity |
| Mon. | 9:00 AM | NO SCHOOL in observance of President’s Day Ladies All Day Quilting and Blanket Knotting |
| Tue. | 8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM | Napoleon Public Library (<i>Gr. K-8</i>) Exercise Class in gym Building Committee Meeting |
| Wed. | 6:15 PM 7:00 PM | Jr. Confirmation Class (<i>6:15 – 7:30 PM</i>) Adult Choir practice |
| Thurs. | 9:00 AM 5:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM | Exercise Class in gym B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys; 6:15 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. BG Christian (H) B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:15 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. Monclova (A) Planning Meeting for Two Sunday Services |
| Sat. | 9:00 AM | <i>Mission U: Small Town & Rural Missions</i> at Emmaus Lutheran, Wauseon B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys Tournament at Liberty Center |
| Sun. | 9:00 AM 10:15AM 1:00 PM 4:30 PM | Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; “ <i>Time To Spare</i> ” 4-H Meetings (<i>All 3 clubs</i>) LYF Meeting in <i>Miss Rettig’s</i> classroom |
| Mon.- Sat. | 7:20 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:

- Our Homebound Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Marian Fitzenreiter, and Donald 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
- Sue Landry*, recuperating at Twin Rivers Nursing Home, Defiance, after hospitalization
- Servicemen and women*, Justin Atkinson, Kyle Elling, Jason Rohrs, and Emily Niermann
- Arnold Bischoff* and *Don Dickmann*, recovering at Golden Living Center – Northcrest
- Edwin Rosebrock*, at home dealing with health issues at this time
- Casen Lawrence*, as he has had seizures resulting in hospitalization
- Florence Jones*, still hospitalized in Toledo with an infection

Engage Bible Study/Movie Series

MILLION. It seems like society is suffering from ‘truth decay.’ A lot of people simply believe whatever they want. After all, truth is relative --- what’s true for me isn’t necessarily true for you, right? Well, perhaps not. Just because someone believes

that she’s a millionaire doesn’t make it so. Just how do we go about separating truth from opinion, facts from feelings? And in really important matters, like where we’ll spend eternity, is there some way we can know that what we believe is real, that what we believe is Truth with a capital ‘T’? How would that knowledge transform our lives? How would it impact the lives of others around us?

Please join us this morning for a cup of coffee and our first movie, titled ‘MILLION.’



2013 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – The 2013 offering envelope contribution totals (green sheets) are available this morning on the table in the narthex. These will also be printed in the Church Annual. We hope this helps those members in need of this information for tax purposes. If you have any questions on your yearly contributions, please call *Karen Rosebrock*, at 419-592-1150.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS – The Sunday School material for March/April/May 2014 has arrived. Please pick yours up in the church office at your convenience.

2014 IS AN ANNIVERSARY YEAR FOR ST. JOHN! 145 years ago, in August of 1869, our congregation was founded. We are planning to celebrate this anniversary on August 17 of this year. In addition, we want to prepare a 145th Anniversary edition of a congregational portrait directory. Would you consider serving on a committee to make these plans? Please indicate your willingness by speaking with congregational president *Craig Drewes*.

| <u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u> | <u>Home Fund</u> | <u>Synod & Missions</u> | <u>Building Fund</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Weekly Need | \$9,792.78 | \$500.00 | \$961.54 |
| Rec'd 2/09/14 | \$6,115.00 | \$163.00 | \$1,546.00 |

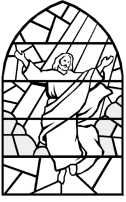
ATTENDANCE: 2/09/14 – 224

COMMUNED in January: 329 members; 4 guests

CHURCH WEBSITE UPDATED: If you have been trying to view the church bulletin, calendar, or listen to a sermon over the past few months, and have been unsuccessful, we have good news. The website should be fixed now! So log onto www.sjl.org and give it a try again! Please let us know if you are still experiencing problems, so we can help you out.

LADIES QUILTING PARTY is planned for all day Monday, Feb. 17. 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.

WOMEN’S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY will be held again this year. We will begin on Tues., March 4th at 10:00 AM in the conference room. More information to be posted soon. Please plan to join us!



SANCTUARY STAINED GLASS EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE – After discussion through the years, council moved to assemble an exploratory committee to look into the possibility of installing stained glass windows in the sanctuary. The committee’s task would be to explore various stained glass options and costs, and report its findings to the voters. If you would like to serve on this committee, please speak with congregational president *Craig Drewes* or *Pastor Niermann*.

“HEARTS FOR JESUS” COIN FOLDERS: February is “*Hearts for Jesus*” month and we as a School and Sunday School collect offerings throughout the month for this cause. Coin folders are being sent home today for Sunday School students to gather up all their loose change around the house. This year our “Hearts For Jesus” dollars will go to the Wounded Warrior Project, a very worthwhile cause. We will collect these coin folders on Tues., Feb. 25 and also on Sun., Mar. 2.

PLANNING MEETING FOR TWO SERVICES – **Thursday, Feb. 20, 7:00 p.m.**

The voters have elected to move to a new Sunday morning schedule: **8:15, Early Service / 9:30-10:15, Sunday School / 10:30-Late Service**. To make our plans for these services, we are calling together everybody involved in the Sunday morning routines, including the following:

**Church Deacons
Musical Leaders
Ushers
Greeters**

**Altar Guild Members
Sunday School Staff
Java Joy Schedulers
Other Interested Parties**

For the time being we are planning to begin the new schedule on the Sunday after Easter, April 27. Please join us in the north room of the fellowship hall as we discuss together all the issues related to making this change!

ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOL & YOUNG ADULTS: Join us in the Cry Room after church each Sunday for Bible Study, fellowship, and snacks. Feed your soul and your body to start your week out right! Looking forward to having you join us each week! *Sharon Damman*

LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN’S ACTIVITY BULLETINS are available today on the table in the narthex. The Children’s Bulletins are coordinated with the Bible texts for each Sunday, and provide activities that tie in with the weekly themes. Pick one up today for your child.

‘BREAD FROM HEAVEN’ – A note to St. John members needing food assistance – If you could use food assistance from our food pantry, please speak with *Pastor Niermann*. We are required by the *Northwestern Ohio Food Bank* to keep a record with your name, but pastor will keep your record separate and absolutely confidential.

Contributions can be given at any time: monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your envelope), and **food gifts such as canned peaches, pears, pineapple, cereal, macaroni & cheese, jelly, spaghetti’s, tuna, and canned chicken are desperately needed**. Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated. Food items can be placed in the box near the archives display.

Lutheran Hour Ministries presents...

MISSION U - 202: THE OUTREACH-MINDED CHURCH - RURAL AND SMALL TOWN

Mission U (U is for 'University) is an effort by *Lutheran Hour Ministries* to provide practical, educational workshops on many topics of benefit to local congregations. In MU-202 we will look at our church's outreach culture, focus on assimilation from guest to member, inventory our congregational assets, and focus on vision and mission. Each participating congregation is asked to gather at least four people to send to MU-202 because this workshop emphasizes internal growth of a unique congregation.

MU-202 is being hosted by *Emmaus Lutheran Church* in Wauseon this Saturday, February 22, 2014. The workshop will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with registration at 8:30 a.m. **Stacey Stender** will be the presenter. There is no fee for the workshop. Coffee and donuts will be provided at registration, and lunch will be provided at noon. ***Please speak with Pastor Niermann TODAY if you're interested in attending with him.***

KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY CHANGES for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2014! The K-clinic will be held on Tuesday, April 1st with afternoon sessions. If numbers warrant, the clinic sessions will be at 12:30 PM and 1:45 PM. There WILL BE Kindergarten class until 11:30 AM on April 1st. **Napoleon Area Schools and St. John Lutheran have changed the eligibility date for entering Kindergarten beginning with the 2014-15 school year. The new eligibility is: A child must be five years old on or before August 1, 2014 to enroll in Kindergarten.** Items needed for our St. John clinic are: An original and/or certified copy of their birth certificate; a physical dated after August 2013 (*if available*); 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.***

4-H CLUB ORGANIZATION: The Gerald Busy Fingers, Cloverbuds, and Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Clubs will be having their next 4-H meetings on Sun., Feb. 22nd at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. 4-H membership is open to anyone in Gr.3 – to age 19 and Cloverbuds is open to anyone in Gr.K-2. For more information about joining 4-H or the Cloverbuds please contact any of the following Advisors: *Bethann Gerken, Becky Michaelis, Stefanie Hilvers, or Kaylee Wentworth* (for Gerald Busy Fingers); *Heather Bostelman, Jennifer Gerken, or Tim Bowers* (for Cloverbuds); and *Pat Wiemken or Brian Badenhop* (for Freedom Royal Farmers).

AREA EVENTS:

- **CHICKEN PIE DINNER** – The Ridgeville American Legion Post #454 will host their annual Chicken Pie Dinner today with serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM.
- **LUNCH AT SPENGLER'S:** Super Saints Relay for Life Team from St. Paul Lutheran, Napoleon Township, is hosting lunch at Spengler's in downtown Napoleon on Sun., Feb. 23rd. See flyer with all details! You must have a reservation to attend! Call 419-758-3522. Thanks!
- **SOUP & PIE DINNER** – St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wauseon. Sun., Mar. 2nd serving from 11:15 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!
- **PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST** – Ridgeville Volunteer Fire Dept. Sun., Mar. 2nd serving from 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Carryout available. See flyer!

COUNCIL MINUTES – This is just a reminder that council meeting minutes are not published until they are approved a month later. If you would like to read about the most recent council meeting, an unofficial and unapproved copy of the minutes is available for viewing in the church office, usually within a week after the meeting.

SUNNY D LABELS – Throughout the school year please continue to save labels from *Sunny D* drinks. Classrooms that save 20 *SunnyD* labels earn 20 FREE books. Here's how it works.

COLLECT *SunnyD* UPC labels from these eligible products: 1, 2, or 3 liter bottles; 16 oz., 48 oz., 64 oz., 96 oz., or 128 oz. bottles; 6.75 oz.- 6, 8, or 24 pack outer wraps; 6.75 oz.-12 pack cardboard case; 11.3 oz.-6 or 24 pack outer wraps; 12 oz.-12 or 24 pack cans outer wraps. **SEND** the UPC labels to the school office at any time.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR – The Lutheran Hour Ministries can be heard on several radio stations in our area. They cover many interesting topics relevant to today's issues. Broadcasts can be heard Sundays on: Holland's WPOS 102.3 at 7:00 AM; Archbold's WMTR 96.1 at 7:30 AM; Defiance's WONW (AM)1280 at 10:30 AM; Napoleon's WNDH 103.1 at 12:00 PM.

“WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS”: “Worship for Shut-Ins” has joined the WLMB-TV40 line up again. If you have a relative or friend who is homebound, hospitalized, or recovering from a recent surgery, you may suggest this 30-minute LCMS worship service to them. So tune in to WLMB-TV40 on Sundays at 6:30 AM (*note time change*) and get your Sunday started off right!

COLLECTING STAMPS: The LWML is collecting stamps “For Missions.” A box is on the table in the narthex. Here is what you do: Cut the stamps from the envelopes allowing ¼ inch margin or more around the stamp. The stamp may not be damaged and the perforations around the stamp must be perfect. You need not trim the stamp; we have someone who trims and sorts the stamps. Do not remove stamps from envelopes, albums, and older postcards. An “old” postcard is usually from 1930 or before. The most valuable stamps are commemorative, foreign, and stamp denominations larger than 46 cents. It only makes sense that you purchase and use commemorative stamps for your personal mailing. When purchasing stamps, ask the post office staff for commemorative stamps. Colorful and large stamps are desirable. Collecting stamps is an easy way to participate in a mission project sponsored by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

SENDING YOU A NOTE...You are invited to dine with us at the Henry County Senior Center. For those folks age 60+, you may not know that we serve meals daily at 11:45 AM Monday – Friday. Please RSVP for the meal or stop in to enjoy the Salad Bar. Suggested donation for seniors is \$3.00, for guests under 60, \$5.75. Contact Sandy Schlosser, Senior Nutrition Manager, at 419-599-0033 with any questions or information about this program.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

This day is brought to you by Jesus.

“He makes His sun rise; His mercies are new every morning.” (Matt. 5:45 & Lam. 3:22)