



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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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

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Sermon & Text: "The Bible, Our Mount of Transfiguration" *2 Peter 1:16-21*

Order of Service: See printed service folder

Hymns: [Baptism: **593**, stz.1-3; **593**, stz.4] ~ **413** ~ [Communion: **414**, **415**, **416**] ~ **417**

Adult Choir: "Seek Ye First" and "Come Find Forgiveness"



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✦ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✦ Lydia Schroeder & Lexi Woods, *Acolytes* ✦
- ✦ Peter & Karen Gerken, *Greeters* ✦
- ✦ Harold Behrmann & Richard Elling, *Visitation* ✦
- ✦ Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke, *Ushers* ✦
- ✦ Kathy Badenhop, Sandy VonDeylen, Mary Rettig, *Altar Guild* ✦

BAPTISMS THIS MORNING – We rejoice this morning as two infants are presented for Holy Baptism into the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- **Brayton Nicholas Kruse**, infant son of *Nick & Yajaira Kruse*, will be baptized during the service this morning. *Brayton* was born on Dec. 28, 2013 at the Henry County Hospital. His baptismal sponsors are *Kim Woods* (Nick's sister) and *Tori Baker* (a friend). His grandparents are *Vern & Diana Kruse, Ruben & Carmen Cruz*.
- **Mason Edward Flory**, infant son of *Jessie Flory* and *Greg Gerken* will be baptized in a private ceremony following worship. *Mason* was born on Dec. 22, 2013 at the Defiance Regional Medical Center. His sponsors are *Justin Flory* (Jessie's brother), *Josh & Kelli Retcher* (Jessie's cousin), *Ben Gerken*, and *Nathan Gerken* (Greg's brothers). His grandparents are *Tom & Cheri Yeager, Dennis & Lynette Gerken*, and *Jason & Trisha Flory*.



May the good work that is begun this day in the lives of these children be brought to completion on the day of Jesus Christ!

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	Communion Service Sunday School; <i>"Time To Spare"</i> 4-H Meetings (<i>All 3 clubs</i>)
Tue.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Stewardship Board Meeting Spelling Bee at Liberty Center Schools
Wed.	10:20AM 5:45 PM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Late Start-Up due to Staff Meeting at 9:00 AM Junior Confirmation Class (5:45 – 6:45 PM) Lenten Supper (<i>servicing until 6:40 PM</i>) Ash Wednesday Lenten Service Offering: <i>Worship for Shut-Ins</i> Acolytes: <i>Brady Gerken & Mitchell Kruse</i> Greeters: <i>Ron & Elaine Hesterman</i> Ushers: <i>Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke</i> Altar Guild: <i>Kathy Badenhop, Sandy VonDeylen, Mary Rettig</i> Adult Bell Choir: <i>"O Sacred Head"</i> Adult Choir: <i>"Remember You Are Dust"</i> Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Lenten Bible Study at Hill's Restaurant Exercise Class School Board Meeting
Fri.	7:00 PM	All-Ohio Basketball Tournament here at St. John
Sat.	9:00 AM	All-Ohio Basketball Tournament here at St. John
Sun.	 9:00 AM 10:15AM 10:30AM	 *****Daylight Saving Time begins***** Worship Service w/Communion following service <i>Java Joy</i> Fellowship in hallway All-Ohio Tournament Worship Service
Mon.- Sat.	7:20 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Donald Luhring, St. John Lutheran, Defiance</i>

REVISED SCHEDULE NEXT SUNDAY – Because we are hosting the All Ohio Basketball Tournament next weekend, we will be offering a second worship and cancelling Bible Study. The schedule for next Sunday is as follows:

- 9:00 am** **Regular Sunday service at the regular time**
- 10:30 am** **Special Tournament Service**, focusing on the theme for National Lutheran Schools Week.




2013 ANNUAL REPORT should be ready to be put together on Saturday, March 1st. We are asking **all the members of last year's council** and anyone else interested to please come and help us assemble this. If we have enough volunteers, it only takes about an hour. We plan to start at 9:00 AM. Thanks to anyone who can help us out.

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 *Anna 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*, now recovering at the Lutheran Home in Napoleon
- Arnold Bischoff*, who has been hospitalized at UTMC

“HEARTS FOR JESUS” COIN FOLDERS: February was “*Hearts for Jesus*” month. This year our “Hearts For Jesus” dollars will go to the Wounded Warrior Project, a very worthwhile cause. We will collect these coin folders today.

LENT MIDWEEK 2014		
Join us each Wednesday evening during Lent as we dig deep into the Lord's Prayer to discover the blessings and comfort that Christ built in that prayer for those who pray and understand it rightly. The schedule for services is as follows:		
Day	Theme	Offering
3/5 Ash Wed.	“Our Father who art in heaven.”	Worship for Shut-ins broadcast
3/12	“Hallowed be Thy name”	Issues, Etc. broadcast
3/19	“Thy kingdom come”	Church Vocation Students, Good Neighbor Fund
3/26	“Thy will be done”	Concordia, Ann Arbor
4/2	“Give us this day our daily bread”	Good Shepherd Deaf Church, Toledo
4/9	“Forgive us our trespasses”	Summer Mission Trip
4/17 M. Thr.	“Lead us not into temptation”	Youth Mission Trip/Servant Event
4/18 G. Fri.	“Deliver us from evil”	Undesignated gifts to Synod & Missions
Each Wednesday evening the youth will host Lenten suppers for you. Weeks 1, 3 & 5 will be hosted by grades 5-7 to support their class trip. Weeks 2, 4 & 6 will be hosted by the LYF to support their next trip to the National Youth Gathering. The first week's Lenten Supper menu is: <i>Julie's noodle soup, turkey or ham sandwich w/cheese, hotdogs, chips, dessert, and drink.</i> Serving times are 5:30-6:40 p.m. Thrivent Financial will also be matching funds from these freewill suppers in support of our youth.		



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 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 the form in the narthex, and we’ll get in touch to get everyone organized. Thank you!

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING – The list of the people for this year’s annual church cleaning are printed and on the table in the narthex. Also, if you feel you are not physically able to help with the cleaning for whatever reason, let your co-chair know and we’ll make a note of that. The co-chair of your group will be contacting you with dates and times.

<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 2/23/14	\$6,601.00	\$113.00	\$443.00

ATTENDANCE: 2/23/14 – 292

COMMUNED in February: 364 members; 5 guests



WOMEN’S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY will be held again this year. We will begin on Tues., March 4th at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM, both in the conference room. The Bible Study is called “The Revelation of Jesus Christ.” Please sign up on the sheet at the narthex table.

MEN’S LENTEN BIBLE BREAKFAST – Join us, men, on Thursday mornings during Lent for breakfast and Bible study. **Starting this week we’ll gather each Thursday at 6:30 a.m. at Hill’s Restaurant in Napoleon.** These morning studies will be a continuation of the previous

evening’s worship and sermon as we dig deeper into the Lord’s Prayer and discover there the riches of God’s grace. It’s a great way to start your day – breakfast, fellowship, and the Bread of Life!

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*.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2014-15 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.



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*.

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.*

DD MONTH: March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. This year's theme is "Ability at Work" and encourages people to look beyond an individual's disability and picture that person's potential, seeing the individual's unique capabilities and abilities. Please take the time to get to know someone with a disability and what he or she has to offer. We thank you for your support of the people we serve in our community. For more information, call HOPE Services at 419-599-2892 or 419-278-3050. We also invite you to a Soup Challenge which is open to the public. This will be held on Mon., March 3rd from 5-7 p.m. at the Filling Home Gymnasium, N160 St.Rt. 108, Napoleon.

ST. JOHN SCRIP: SCRIP orders can still be placed once a month on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. The next "turn in date" for SCRIP orders is Wed., Mar. 12th. These cards will be available the first part of that next week. Contact *Karen Gerken* at 567-454-0087 with any questions about Scrip.

4-H CLUB ORGANIZATION: The Gerald Busy Fingers, Cloverbuds, and Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Clubs will be having their next meeting today at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

AREA EVENTS:

- **SOUP & PIE DINNER** – St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wauseon, today with serving from 11:15 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!
- **PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST** – Ridgeville Volunteer Fire Dept., today with serving from 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Carryout available. See flyer!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Two Great Truths: 1) There is a God, and 2) you're not Him!

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding." (Prov. 3:5)

