



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom
Worship • Stewardship • Mission

March 9, 2014

VOL. 79

NO. 10

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

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

- **9:00 a.m. Worship Service** – *Morning Prayer* (LSB page 235)
Sermon & Text: “*Witness Always*” 1 John 5:6-12
Hymns: **825** ~ “I Love To Tell the Story” (*sub for Benedictus*) ~ **528**
- **10:30 a.m. All-Ohio Tournament Service** – *Printed order of service*
Sermon & Text: “*Witness Always*” 1 John 5:6-12
Hymns: **817**, *sts. 1,3,5-7* ~ **825** ~ “I Love To Tell the Story” ~ **528**
Children’s Choirs: *Grades K-8 sing* “Sharing the Caring Christ”;
Grades 7&8 ring “There is a Balm in Gilead”

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 do not have a local church home, we extend a warm invitation to you to become a part of our church family. Simply fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and pass it to the center aisle during the offering this morning.



SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- 1st Service: ✠ Katelyn Drewes & Cameron Dickmann, *Acolytes* ✠
 2nd Service: ✠ Conner Bialorucki & Brady Gerken, *Acolytes* ✠
 ✠ Todd & Chris Hesterman, *Greeters* ✠
 ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠
 ✠ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✠
 ✠ Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke, *Ushers* ✠
 ✠ Kathy Badenhop, Sandy VonDeylen, Mary Rettig, *Altar Guild* ✠

HOLY COMMUNION will be offered this morning following the 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.

In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:15AM 10:30AM 1:00 PM	Worship Service w/Communion following service <i>Java Joy</i> Fellowship in hallway All-Ohio Tournament Worship Service All-Ohio Tournament Championship games
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by <i>Pastor Niermann</i> ; Offering: <i>Ft. Wayne Seminary Food Bank</i> Exercise Class Church Council Meeting
Wed.	5:45 PM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Junior Confirmation Class (5:45 – 6:45 PM) Lenten Supper (<i>serving until 6:40 PM</i>) Adult Bell Choir Practice 2nd Lenten Service Offering: <i>Issues Etc.</i> Acolytes: <i>Cally Bialorucki & Lexi Woods</i> Greeters: <i>Elmer & Pat Maassel</i> Ushers: <i>Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke</i> Altar Guild: <i>Kathy Badenhop, Sandy VonDeylen, Mary Rettig</i> Children's Chime Choir: "Abide With Me" Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Lenten Bible Study at Hill's Restaurant Exercise Class Ladies Aid Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Mon.- Sat.	7:20 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Keith Witte</i> , St. Paul Lutheran, Liberty Center

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 *Anna Brodman*, residing at Country View Haven
- Don Dickmann*, residing at Golden Living Center - Northcrest
- Helen Norden*, residing at Greenbriar Assisted Living, Birmingham, AL
- Servicemen and women*, Justin Atkinson, Kyle Elling, Jason Rohrs, and Emily Niermann
- 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

WELCOME ALL OHIO PARTICIPANTS – It is our privilege and joy to welcome brothers and sisters in Christ from across the state of Ohio who are here today for the **2014 All Ohio Lutheran Basketball Tournament**. The following congregation/schools have teams playing in the tournament this year:



Messiah, Fairview Park	St. Paul, Napoleon
St. John, South Euclid	Royal Redeemer, North Royalton
Our Shepherd, Painesville	St. John Nottingham, Cleveland
St. John, Marysville	Bethany, Parma
St. Paul, Westlake	St. John, Freedom

Congratulations to all the players and coaches for your accomplishments this season, and best of luck to the teams that will be heading to the LBAA National Tournament later this month!



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 *Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, Delbert & Marian Damman, Dan & Deb Wachtman, and Steve & Kathy Gruenhagen* for hosting Java Joy today.

(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.

2013 CHURCH ANNUAL is available on the desk and table in the narthex. Thanks to everyone for your patience as we have now completed this report. And many thanks to those of you who helped collate this big report. If there are any corrections to be made, please contact Joyce in the office.

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 3/02/14	\$7,844.00	\$205.50	\$655.50

ATTENDANCE: 3/02/14 – 212

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE: Worship for Shut-Ins - \$927.00; Attendance - 166

LADIES AID MEETING: *Come one, come all – young & old, men & women!* The next Ladies Aid meeting will be held on Thurs., March 13th at 7:00 PM. The speakers will be *Russ & Marlene Patterson*, and they will give a presentation on the "History of Gerald, Ohio." This should prove to be a very interesting and informative meeting for everyone. Hope to see many of you there!

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:

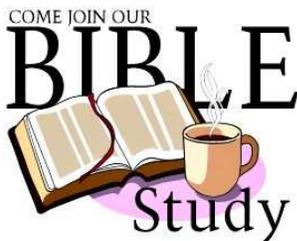


OUR FATHER,
*who art in
heaven*

Lent Midweek 2014

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 7&8 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.



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's at 6:30 a.m. at Hill's Restaurant during Lent for breakfast and Bible study. 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!

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.

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 speak with congregational president *Craig Drewes*.

LWML ANNUAL PRAYER BREAKFAST will be held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Wauseon, on Sat., March 22nd at 9:00 AM. Those of you interested in attending, please contact *Lois Rosebrock* at 419-598-8248.



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.*

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.

ATHLETIC BANQUET: The St. John Athletic Banquet is scheduled for Sun., April 6th at 4:30 PM with a potluck meal. Honorees will be all St. John athletes (Gr. 4-8), the Mini-Eagles (Gr.1-3), as well as Senior High School athletes who graduated from St. John School and have participated in an organized sport all four years of high school. Everyone welcome!

PTL COOKBOOKS – The "Recipes and Remembrances" cookbooks from PTL are still available for purchase. They have a very nice collection of great recipes in them and would make a neat gift for that "hard to buy" family member or friend. This is a PTL fundraiser and the cookbooks are available on the table in the side hall. The cost is \$10.00. If writing a check, please make it payable to: *St. John PTL*. We hope you enjoy it! Thank you for supporting the PTL!

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.

OHIO ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN: The Ohio Division OGT is located in the north end of the Culligan Water Conditioning building on Independence Drive in Napoleon. Someone is usually there to receive items on the first Tuesday of the month from 9:00-11:00 AM. If you need to drop off items at another time, please contact *Nancy Helmke* (419-758-3539), *Diann Meyer-Grieser* (419-267-3485), *Vicki Grieser* (419-445-2986), or *Harold Behrmann* (419-598-8311) and they will be happy to meet you and open the facility to receive your donations! PLEASE do not drop off items at the warehouse when it is closed. Thank you!

“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!

PROJECT CONNECT – There are many free booklets in the rack in the narthex. Be sure to check for some good reading. Some titles are: “*Why Do Bad Things Happen To Me,*” “*Has God Abandoned Me,*” “*Dealing with Depression,*” “*Coping with Cancer,*” “*Who Is Jesus,*” “*Just Stress?*”, “*Overcoming A Painful Childhood,*” “*Where’s God in All of This?*”, “*Why Should I go to Church?*” and many more. These booklets are furnished through the Lutheran Hour Ministries.

LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT – How You Can Help? If you have used **prescription or nonprescription** glasses or sunglasses in your drawers, desks, or closets, you can donate them now! Children's glasses are especially needed. Both plastic and metal frames are accepted. There is a box on the table in the narthex for the collection of these used glasses.

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.

SOUP & PIE DINNERS:

- St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wauseon, rescheduled to Sun., March 30th with serving from 11:15 AM – 1:00 PM.
- Lutheran Home – Napoleon Auxiliary, serving today from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

It won't snow forever, but Christ will most definitely reign forever!

"But of the Son He says, 'Thy throne O God, is forever and ever.'" (Heb. 1:8)