



# 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

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School: 419-598-8702 Home: 419-966-6160  
Church Website: [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)

## THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "I'm Thirsty! Are You?" *John 4:5-26*

Order of Service: *See printed service folder*

Hymns: **684 ~ 418 ~ 855 ~ 763**

Adult Bell Choir: "Trust and Obey"

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**WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS** *We invite you to celebrate God's love as we pray to a Heavenly Father who cares for us, and as we hear His powerful Word to us. May God richly bless your worship today! 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.*

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

- ✦ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✦ Alex Knepley & Alex Stevens, *Acolytes* ✦
- ✦ Dave & Sara Myles, *Greeters* ✦
- ✦ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✦
- ✦ Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke, *Ushers* ✦
- ✦ Karan Niebergall, Kaylee & Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, *Altar Guild* ✦

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are placed in celebration of the 57<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of *Richard & Elaine Mahnke* today, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Dick and Elaine are very thankful for their family and their health over these 57 years. We wish Dick and Elaine many more years of health and happiness in the years to come. Congratulations!

**PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS** for the next quarter, *April, May, June*, are on the desk in the narthex. There are also large print booklets available for anybody to pick up.

**2013 CHURCH ANNUAL** is available on the desk and table in the narthex. Pick up your copy today! If there are any corrections to be made, please contact Joyce in the office.

<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 11:30AM 1:00 PM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Potato Bar Meal ( <i>bring a dessert</i> ) 4-H Meetings
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Gr. 1&2; Offering: Fort Wayne Seminary Food Bank Exercise Class Ladies Lenten Bible Study Board of Elders Meeting; Ladies Lenten Bible Study
Wed.	5:30 PM 5:45 PM 6:00 PM <b>7:00 PM</b>       8:00 PM	Lenten Supper ( <i>serving until 6:40 PM</i> ) Junior Confirmation Class ( <i>5:45 – 6:45 PM</i> ) Adult Bell Choir Practice <b>4<sup>th</sup> Lenten Service</b> Offering: <i>Concordia University – Ann Arbor</i> Acolytes: <i>Conner Bialorucki &amp; Mitchell Kruse</i> Greeters: <i>Don &amp; Karan Niebergall</i> Ushers: <i>Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling</i> Altar Guild: <i>Karan Niebergall, Kaylee &amp; Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs</i> Adult Choir: "There Is a Green Hill Far Away" and "Abide with Me" Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 11:30AM	Men's Lenten Bible Study at Hill's Restaurant Exercise Class Gr. 7&8 Girls' Basketball players depart for the National Lutheran Basketball Tournament in Valparaiso, IN ( <i>this runs thru Sunday</i> )
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Mon.- Sat.	7:20 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Willie Stottlemyer, St. Stephen Lutheran, Defiance</i>

**THANK YOU:** *Donald Dickmann* would like to thank everyone for the many cards, prayers, and visits on his behalf while he was convalescing at Golden Living Center – Northcrest. A special thanks to *Pastor Niermann* for his visits and prayers too. Don continues to make progress at home now and looks forward to coming back to church soon. Thanks again!

**NEW SUNDAY SCHEDULE BEGINS THE SUNDAY AFTER EASTER**

Beginning Sunday, April 27 (the Sunday after Easter) we will have a new morning schedule that includes two worship services with Sunday School between. The new schedule will be:

- 8:15 a.m.      Early Service
- 9:30 a.m.      Sunday School / *Time to Spare* / Bible Study (*45 minutes*)
- 10:30 a.m.     Late Service

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

- Our Homebound Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Marian Fitzenteiter, 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*, recuperating at the Lutheran Home in Napoleon
- Arnold Bischoff*, now under hospice care at Golden Living Center - Northcrest

**Engage Bible Study/Movie Series**

**RUST.** Almost nothing is immune to its corrosive power. Left unchecked, it will eat away until nothing left. Typically, to show the process down, people apply layers and layers of coating until only a shell remains. **GUILT.** What’s the best way to deal with it?



What if there was a surefire way of addressing guilt’s corrosive power, yet be not just patched up but totally renewed in the process? Is that something that you would want for you life? Is that something needed by someone you know and care about? **Please join us this morning for a cup of coffee and our movie, titled ‘RUST.’**

<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 3/16/14	\$7,227.00	\$255.50	\$798.50

**ATTENDANCE:** 3/16/14 – 254      *Issues, Etc.* - \$1,220.00

**3<sup>RD</sup> LENT SERVICE:** *Church Vocation Student/Good Neighbor Fund* - \$824.00    *Attendance:* 142

**LWML SPRING RALLY** – St. John Lutheran Church, Corner of St. Rt. 6 & 66, Stryker, is hosting this year’s Spring Rally on **Sat., April 5<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 AM.** Registration begins at 8:30 AM. The speaker this year is *Pat Bilow*, LWML gift planning counselor. There will be a video presentation from *Gary Thies* about Mission Central. See flyer!

**LWML MEETING:** How are your LWML *Mite-y Socks* looking? Don’t forget to keep dropping your dimes into them each month! Socks are still available on the narthex table so pick up your *Mite-y Sock* today!

Pick up a copy of the Quarterlies from the table in the narthex. Our next LWML Meeting will be on **Tues., April 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 7:00 PM.** All ladies welcome to attend!

## 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 revised 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	Cancelled due to weather	
3/19	"Hallowed be Thy name"	Church Vocation Students, Good Neighbor Fund
<b>3/26</b>	<b>"Thy kingdom come"</b>	<b>Concordia, Ann Arbor</b>
4/2	"Thy will be done"	Good Shepherd Deaf Church, Toledo
4/9	"Give us this day our daily bread"	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

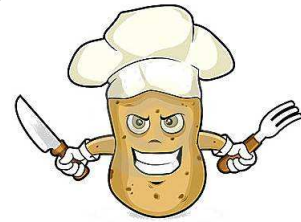
### OTHER LENTEN NOTES – Please take note of the following:

- **MIDWEEK LENTEN SUPPERS** are served each Wednesday during Lent, 5:30-6:40 p.m. 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. This week's menu: *Dan & Deb Wachtman's Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Hot Vegetable, Roll, Dessert and Drink. Thrivent Financial* will be matching funds from the freewill offerings collected.
- **WOMEN'S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY** meets Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the conference room. Our Bible Study is called "The Revelation of Jesus Christ." Join us!
- **MEN'S LENTEN BIBLE BREAKFAST** meets on Thursdays during Lent 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!
- **EASTER FLOWERS** – This year we are offering the various flowers as we did last Easter. **Order forms are on the narthex table.** Drop your order and payment in the container on the narthex table or at the church office. **Order deadline is Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.**
- **EASTER BREAKFAST:** The LWML and LYF are once again hosting an Easter Breakfast to be served between the two services on Easter morning (8:00-9:15 AM). The menu is: *Scrambled eggs and ham, French bread, coffee cake, doughnuts, rolls, cookies, coffee and juice.* A lot of help for donations is needed. **You may sign up on the chart in the narthex to donate items.** All are welcome to help with preparation and serving. We will be meeting at 9:00 AM on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> to prepare food. All donations need to be at the church prior to that time (*except the baked goods*). Matching funds from Thrivent Financial will also be received.



**POTATO BAR TODAY** – Join us this morning at 11:30 a.m. for a potato bar meal in the fellowship hall. There will be all kinds of toppings for your large baked potato, as well as salads (and for those who don't care for a potato, hotdogs will be available).

- **Bring your dessert if you've prepared one, or come without one!** In either case, Styrofoam containers will be available for \$5 that you can load up with your favorite desserts to take home. Mmmm, does that sound good!



A free will offering and dessert proceeds will be matched by the “Right Hand of Fellowship” gift matching campaign for the fellowship hall renovation. Come have a spud with us for a good cause!

**RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP GIFT MATCH** – The first match from the anonymous gift given for the fellowship hall renovation has been received in the amount of \$37,938. This matches



the gifts everyone gave so generously in the final quarter of 2013. Your gifts combined with this match have put a dent of nearly \$80,000 in the debt for the fellowship hall renovation. We encourage everyone to remember this campaign throughout the year – there is still \$37,062 of matching money at the *LCMS Foundation* waiting for our matching gifts. Use the special offering envelopes you received, or include a gift with your regular envelope. **Can we retire this debt by the end of the year? WHY NOT?**

**LADIES AID MEETING SPEAKER RESCHEDULED:** The speakers, Russ & Marlene Patterson, scheduled for the March Ladies Aid meeting have been rescheduled for Thurs., May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Please mark your calendars for this “History of Gerald” presentation. Men and women invited!

**LADIES NIGHT OUT:** The Stewardship Board is looking to host a Ladies Night Out fundraiser for the fellowship hall debt reduction. The proposed date is Mon., May 5<sup>th</sup>. More details to come, but be sure to put this date on your calendars for the time being.



**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*.

**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 145<sup>th</sup> 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*.

**INTERESTED IN A CHURCH PROFESSION? WE'D LIKE TO HELP!** Recently a number of young people from St. John have pursued educational goals to prepare them for full-time service as teachers and pastors. If you are interested in a church profession (*as a pastor, deaconess, teacher, lay minister, or a Director of Christian Education, Christian Outreach, Parish Music, or Family Life Ministry*), our congregation would like to support you by offering a tuition gift. An application for this gift is available online --- type **www.sjl.org/student\_gift\_app.pdf** into your browser (*there is no link*) and fill out the application. Deadline for fall enrollment is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT** – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2014-15 school year for 3-yr olds only. **NOTE: The 4/5-yr. old class is full and we have started a “waiting list.”** If interested in enrolling your child, contact the school office at 419-598-8702 to request an enrollment packet and/or turn in their registration form.

**KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY CHANGES** for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2014! Letters were mailed to families recently. The K-clinic will be held on Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>. **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.*

**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!

**BATTLE OF THE SCHOOLS – ELECTRONIC RECYCLING FUNDRAISER:** This annual fundraiser is scheduled for Sat. April 5<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM at each of the Henry County high schools. Be sure to support this fundraiser and bring your unused electronics – that means anything with a power cord, to Napoleon High School (*student parking lot*) on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Please, no TV's or large appliances can be accepted. Any questions can be directed to 419-256-7343.

**4-H MEETINGS** – All three 4-H Clubs meet today at 1:00 PM here at St. John School.

**SOUP & PIE DINNER:** St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wauseon, has rescheduled their Soup & Pie Dinner to Sun., March 30<sup>th</sup> with serving from 11:15 AM – 1:00 PM. See revised flyer!

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

***Need a lifeguard? Ours walks on water!***

*"But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one."  
(2 Thess. 3:3)*