



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

January 25, 2015

VOL. 80

NO. 4

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Mr. Reed Shoaff, Vicar
Miss Mary K. Rettig, Principal

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THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "Go To Nineveh" *Jonah 3:1-10*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: 573 ~ 717 ~ 985 ~ 560, sts.1, 4 ~ 839 ~ 857 ~ 810

Children's Choir: (*Late Service*) *Grades K-4 Children sing "Make Me A Servant"*

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to St. John Church! "I sought the Lord and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears" (Ps. 34:4). Let us seek the Lord together this day.

Let us offer up our fears and doubts, that we may go forth strengthened and empowered for another week. If you are visiting us today, know that we are

honored by your presence. 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

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ 1st Service: Brady Gerken & Landon Willeman, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ 2nd Service: Emily Bostelman & Bailey Johnson, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Clara Meyer & Phyllis Silveus, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham, *Altar Guild* ✘

VOTERS' MEETING TODAY BETWEEN SERVICES – The voters will meet in the fellowship hall for the first assembly of the new year. The following items are on the agenda: 1) Annual school report; 2) Audit Committee report; 3) Endowment Fund distributions approval; 4) Thursday evening worship services May thru October.

L.Y.F.

Get out the word! We're meeting TODAY for some pizza, fellowship and fun, and to discuss a full agenda of ideas and future plans. We'll meet at 4:30 p.m., so be sure to spread the word!

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM 4:30 PM	<i>National Lutheran Schools Week (Sunday through Saturday)</i> Early Worship Service Voters' Meeting ; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Worship Service LYF Meeting in the fellowship hall
Mon.	5:30 PM 5:30 PM	Bread From Heaven Food Pantry distribution B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:45 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs. BG Christian (A)
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Kindergarten; Offering: Filling Home – Napoleon Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. Monclova Christian (H) Ladies of Freedom Inaugural Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>); Board of Elders
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM) Adult Hand Bell Practice Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 5:30 PM	Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys; 6:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. Monclova Christian (H)
Sun.	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM	Early Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Communion Service
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Dale Kern</i> , retired, St. John Lutheran – Stryker

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Marian Fitzenreiter, Donald Landry, and Norma Damman*
- ❖ *Pauline Dishop and Marie Damman*, residing at The Lutheran Home, Napoleon
- ❖ *Magdalena Volkman*, residing at Heartland Nursing Home, Wauseon
- ❖ *Anna Brodman and Marian Buchhop* residing at Country View Haven
- ❖ *Edwin Rosebrock*, residing at The Orchards of Northcrest, Napoleon
- ❖ *Helen Norden*, residing at Greenbriar Assisted Living, Birmingham, AL
- ❖ Servicemen and women, *Justin Atkinson, Kyle Elling, Jason Rohrs, Emily Niermann*, and *Connor Gerken*
- ❖ *Casen Lawrence*, as he has had on-going seizures resulting in hospitalization
- ❖ *Yvonne Volkman and Marvin Gruenhagen* dealing with health issues
- ❖ *Joel Stier*, diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma and currently undergoing chemotherapy
- ❖ *Rosemary Hoeffel* (Christa Bickel's mother), currently on the liver transplant list at University of Michigan Hospital – Ann Arbor
- ❖ *Pastor DeWitt and Larry Mahnke*, both dealing with health issues at this time
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman*, at The Lutheran Home for rehabilitation for 2-3 weeks
- ❖ *Dale & Dorinda Damman*, as they mourn the passing of *Doris Russell* (Dorinda's mother)

2014 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – The 2014 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 Report. 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 *Jerry Langenhop*, at 419-598-8151.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER OPENINGS – There are openings for Sunday School teachers in Grades 1 & 2 (two needed) and Preschool (one needed) at this time. The ability to teach is a gift that many possess, although it may come more readily for some. Most of us, given the opportunity, can excel if we are dedicated to the Christian belief. There are usually two teachers per classroom and they teach every other month. Sunday School runs September thru May, from approximately 9:30 – 10:15 AM. What better way to put your talents to good use here at St. John. Give it some thought and contact Sunday School Supt. *Brenda Kruse* Sunday mornings to let her know your intent. Thank you!

145th ANNIVERSARY PICTORIAL DIRECTORY – The Next Phase

Thank you to all the families and individuals who got your picture taken for our new directory.

Now we enter the design phase of our directory. Please take note...

- **GROUP AND ACTIVITY PICTURES** – We need every group in the church and school to submit pictures for the ministry pages of our directory. If you lead or chair a group or committee, please pick up the envelope for your group and use it to gather pictures you'd like to see on the ministry pages.
- **IF YOU COULDN'T SCHEDULE A SESSION**, there are two options for you;
 1. Schedule an appointment at another church in the area. St. John Catholic Church, Defiance is the closest. Their picture dates are Feb. 19-21 and Feb. 23-28. Call Tammy at Universal Church Directories (1-888-742-5823) to schedule this.
 2. Submit your own photograph for inclusion. Place it in an envelope with your name and put in the box in the narthex.

YOUTH DIRECTOR POSITION AVAILABLE - We are presently seeking candidates for our Youth Director. This is a part-time paid position. The Youth Director, with guidance and assistance from the Vicar and Pastor, promotes and leads the LYF youth ministry in our congregation. This position involves a monthly meeting, and planning and implementing various youth activities throughout the year. If you would like to apply for this position, please speak with *Vicar Shoaff* or *Pastor Niermann*.

CHURCH NEWSLETTER – We are now collecting articles and information for the next church newsletter. Submissions are encouraged from all groups at St. John, including Archives, Women of Freedom, Boosters, PTL, etc. **Submission deadline is today!**

ISSUES ETC. – Your comprehensive source for news, information and truth...Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. This week's topics include: Roe v. Wade, The Movie "Into the Woods," Jesus Calls Matthew, Abraham's Wife Sarah and more. You can listen on-demand at www.issuesetc.org.

RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP GIFTS IN 2014 – Thanks to the creativity of the Stewardship Board and the generosity of God’s people, we made significant progress last year in matching the \$75,000 gift that was given to our congregation for the fellowship hall project. A total of **\$59,375.50** has been raised and matched and applied to the fellowship hall renovation debt. Additional gifts in the last quarter of 2014 total **\$11,393.00**, which brings the grand total to **\$70,768.50**. We are just \$4,231.50 short of matching that gift. We thank God for everyone who has supported and participated in this capital campaign. Stay tuned for more opportunities to put this debt behind us. Additional offering envelopes for ***Right Hand of Fellowship*** are available in the narthex (*ignore the 2014 year printed on them*), or you can use your regular envelope and mark it for ***Right Hand of Fellowship***.



NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK is January 25-31. This year’s theme is ***Standing in Christ, serving others: MERCY FOREVER.***

On Thursday, January 22nd, Mr. Dave Kleck from WNDH Radio came out to St. John. He taped five-30 second radio spots produced by a student from each K thru 8 classroom. These radio spots will be aired on WNDH Radio 103.1 FM throughout this week.

On Monday, January 26, Mr. Kleck will come back and audio tape an activity that each classroom will be doing for National Lutheran Schools Week. This also includes preschool (Four and Five Year Old). These radio spots will be aired on WNDH radio 103.1 FM on Wed., Jan. 28th.

2014 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – There are still several reports that need to be turned in. 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, *Jerry Langenhop*, at 419-598-8151. **Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers ASAP.**

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 1/18/15	\$9,467.00	\$492.00	\$540.00

ATTENDANCE: 1/18/15 – 8:15 Service: 157; 10:30 Service: 142

MITES & WOMEN OF FREEDOM – The first meeting of the newly formed St. John Women of Freedom will be held Tues., Jan. 27, 2015 at 7:00 PM. Extra program booklets for 2015 are also available for anyone interested in joining or if you just want to learn more about the Women of Freedom. Hope to see some new faces at the January meeting!

The Quarterlies and Odes can also be picked up at the narthex table.

Also to be noted is that the Women of Freedom will be continuing the Mite-y Socks program in 2015. These are tiny little baby socks, with instructions attached, that you can fill with coins throughout the year. \$7.80 is the goal or more, if you wish. 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!

PTL MEETING: The next PTL Meeting will be held on Mon., Feb. 9th at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall. Soup & Pie results as well as other business at hand will be discussed. Please plan to attend!

THANK YOU FROM SOUP & PIE COMMITTEE – The Soup & Pie Tri-Chairs would like to thank everyone for their support of the Annual Soup & Pie Dinner. Thanks to everyone who donated salads, desserts, and any other food items in order to make this fundraiser a success. We had a great turnout! Also thanks to the committee workers, especially *Amy Rosebrook* and *Karen Gerken*, for all your teamwork and extra help offered. There were some new faces on the committee this year and we appreciate everyone's effort. *Signed: Kirk & Jody Meller, Jeremy & Kristyn Honemann, and Doug & Robin Norden*

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE is planned for grade levels PS-8 on Wed., February 4th, 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.

EAGLE NEWS : The Eagle News publication is now available online via FastDirect Communication. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnfreedom/>, click on "Links" at the top of the page, then click on "Eagle News - January" in the "Everybody" column. There will still be printed copies available on the narthex table for those parishioners without computer access. Enjoy!

ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES: Beginning January 2015, SCRIP orders can still be placed. **The next "turn in date" for SCRIP orders is Wed., Jan. 28th.** These cards will be available the first part of that next week. *SIDE NOTE:* Kohl's has a bonus buy for next week. The percentage is normally 3.74%, but next week it is 6.74%. This would be a good time to buy Kohl's gift cards or to pay off your credit card balance. Contact *Karen Gerken* at 567-454-0087 with any questions about Scrip.

IF YOU'RE EVER IN A PINCH and could use a little help, the *Good Neighbor Fund* is there to assist you too! Please don't be bashful about asking – everything is strictly confidential. Just give Pastor Niermann a call, and we'll see what we can do!

PRAYER CALENDAR NOTE: Please be aware that if you would like your wedding anniversaries printed on the prayer calendars, you will have to post them each year. Just list them on the blank calendars posted on the bulletin board in the narthex throughout the year. Thank you!

USE OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL – If you would like to use the Fellowship Hall for any occasion or would like to borrow tables or chairs, on a certain date this year, **please contact the church/school office at 419-598-8961 or 419-598-8702.** In addition to calling the office, you may want to check the online church calendar at <http://www.dynacal.com/sjl/>.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

A foul mouth is evidence of a polluted soul.

"What comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person." (Matt. 15:18)