



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

February 8, 2015

VOL. 80

NO. 6

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Mr. Reed Shoaff, Vicar
Miss Mary K. Rettig, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
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Church Website: www.sjl.org

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "On Eagle's Wing" *Isaiah 40:21-31*

Order of Service: *Service of Prayer and Preaching – LSB 260*

Hymns: *Early: 684 ~ 727 ~ 797*

Hymns: *Late: (Baptism: 593, 605; 1) ~ 727 ~ 797*

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

The Psalmist wrote: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the House of the Lord.'" We are happy to have you with us, whether someone invited you or you came by yourself. We are glad to share this House of the Lord with you. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to our pastor and by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you. Simply pass it to the center aisle during the offering this morning. Thank you!



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘
- ✘ 1st Service: Landon Willeman & Caleb Bockelman, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ 2nd Service: Brooks Behnfeldt, *Acolyte* ✘
- ✘ Don & Karan Niebergall, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Denny Bockelman, Jeff Buchhop, David Myles, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Badenhop, Sandy VonDeylen, Mary Rettig, *Altar Guild* ✘

HOLY COMMUNION will be offered this morning following the worship 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.

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 WeekOnline church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM 1:00 PM 4:30 PM	Early Worship Service with Communion following Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Worship Service 4-H Meetings (<i>see bulletin note</i>) LYF Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.	7:00 PM 5:30 PM	PTL Meeting B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys; 6:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. Monclova Christian (A)
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Niermann; Offering – <i>Hearts For Jesus</i> Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:30 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs. St. Pat's-Bryan (A) Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM	Jr. Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM) RESCHEDULED St. John School Open House & Registr.(until 7:30 PM) Adult Hand Bell practice School Board Meeting; Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM	Exercise Class
Fri.	4:30 PM	NWOLL Basketball Tournament here at St. John - Freedom
Sat.	9:00 AM	NWOLL Basketball Tournament here at St. John - Freedom
Sun.	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM 1:00 PM	Early Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Communion Service NWOLL Basketball Tournament Championship Games here at St. John
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Stephen Niermann</i> , St. John Lutheran, Napoleon

A BUNDLE OF JOY: *Andy & Bree Damman* are proud to announce the birth of their son, *Gabriel Andrew*, on Monday, Feb. 2nd at St. Luke's Hospital, Maumee. Bree and Gabriel are doing fine, and big sisters Clara and Delana are going to be the "best" at helping mom and dad with their new brother. Grandparents *Al & Kathy Damman* are sure to enjoy this new addition to their family too!

THINKING PINK: Congratulations to *Josh & Margo Behnfeltdt* as they announce the arrival of their little girl, *Carly Ann*, on Wednesday, Feb. 4th at Henry County Hospital. Margo and Carly are doing fine, and big brothers Clay and Brooks, can't wait to help mom and dad out with a bottle or two for Carly. Grandparents *Denny & Kathy Behnfeltdt* will be waiting with open arms to help out too!

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to *Larry Mahnke, Loren Maassel, and Dean Maassel* for their diligence this winter in keeping the church and school parking lot cleared of snow. They all three donate their time and equipment to get this massive job done after each snowfall. No matter if it snows 1 inch or 10 inches, the lot is always cleared when school buses arrive each day, or when church services begin. Thank you for being willing servants here at St. John!

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
- ❖ *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, Marvin Gruenhagen, Joel Stier, Pastor Doug DeWitt, and Larry Mahnke*, dealing with health issues at this time
- ❖ *Rosemary Hoeffel* (Christa Bickel's mother), currently on the liver transplant list at University of Michigan Hospital – Ann Arbor
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman*, currently at The Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Edwin Rosebrock*, at The Orchards of Northcrest and in failing health
- ❖ *Elmer Badenhop*, at Henry County Hospital's Swing Bed facility following back surgery
- ❖ *Camden Meyer* (Jim & Linda Meyer's grandson), hospitalized with a ruptured appendix

BAPTISMS TODAY – This morning we rejoice as three children are brought to the Kingdom of God in the washing of Holy Baptism.

- **ALEXANDER JOEL STIER**, infant son of *Joel & Nicole* (VonDeylen) *Stier* will be baptized in the late service. Alexander was born on December 22, 2014 at Community Hospital in Bryan, Ohio. His sponsors are *Adam VonDeylen* (Nicole's brother) and *Jessica* (Nicole's cousin) & *Jason Wyse*. His grandparents are *Denny & Diane VonDeylen, Diance Benroth, and Fred & Maria Stier*.
- **BRYSTOL KAY and KIPTON LESTER LEE STIRIZ** will be baptized in a private ceremony after the late service. Brystol and Kipton are the children of *Derrick & Gabrielle* (Carrick) *Stiriz*. Brystol was born on August 8, 2013; Kipton was born on October 7, 2014 – both at the Fulton County Health Center in Wauseon, Ohio. Sponsors for Brystol are *March Schuette* and *Chelsea Wiley*; for Kipton, *John Rupp* and *Jennifer Leininger*. Grandparents are *Arlene Carrick, and Andrew & LuAnn Carrick, Jeff & Cathy Stiriz*.



Let us rejoice this day as these children are washed in baptismal water and their names are written in the Lamb's book of life! May the good work begun today be carried on to completion on the day of Jesus Christ!

Java Joy TODAY: Be sure to stop out in the front hallway this morning for some refreshments and fellowship. Our hosts today are **Todd & Chris Hesterman, Doug & Mary Kossow, and Dan & Joyce Wiechers**, and we thank them for their service.



- **WOULD YOU CONSIDER HOSTING JAVA JOY?** Remember, you are welcome to reimburse some or all of your expenses, if you wish, from the 'kitty' – so please don't let that hold you back. There is a sign-up sheet and guidelines in the narthex for all the second Sundays of 2015.

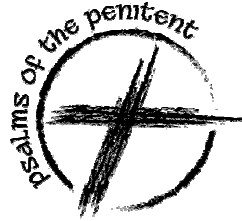
SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES!

While the young ones are in Sunday School, you can be growing in faith too!

- “**THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS**” – This book is a fascinating look by C.S. Lewis into the devil’s cunning and deception, and it just gets better and better. In **Letter #23** Screwtape seeks to twist the Christian faith itself into a mere quest for the “historical Jesus” or as a means toward a political end such a social justice. Does that ever sound familiar?! Join Pastor Niermann in the north end of the fellowship hall for this intriguing study, and you will gain an advantage as you fight the good fight of faith. Don’t worry if you’ve not attended before – each letter is a Bible study unto itself.
- “**MARRIAGE BY GOD’S DESIGN**” – “The commitment to love and be faithful to one’s spouse for better, for worse, in sickness and in health- is not a pledge to keep the same feelings. It is a pledge to do certain things, to voluntary conduct.” Today we will considering the question, “What is true love?” Is it just a feeling?...or is there more to it? Join Vicar Shoaff in the fellowship hall as we look to God’s Word and the example of Christ to understand what “true love” really is.

Centen News & Events – Ash Wednesday is in 10 days!

- **Midweek Services** this year will focus on “The Psalms of the Penitent.” Each week we’ll look at a different Psalm through which God’s people express their sorrow over sin and their vibrant hope in God. Join us each Wednesday evening during Lent at 7:00 p.m. The theme for Ash Wednesday is, “What Is It to Be Penitent?” based on *Psalm 6*. The offering that evening will support the local broadcast of the Lutheran Hour.
- **Men’s Lenten Bible Breakfast** will meet each Thursday during Lent. Starting on February 19, the men are invited to join us from 6:30-7:30 a.m. Hill’s Family Restaurant in Napoleon for a Lenten Bible breakfast. Breakfast costs \$6.00, which includes the tip. Join us for good food and fellowship and for growth together in the Word of God!



NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK – If you missed the WNDH 103.1 radio spots that the students taped for NLSW, they can be heard by going to the www.sjl.org website, scroll down on the right side to the Lutheran School’s Week Messages, and clicking on any of the messages shown. We would like to thank students, *Brycen Bostelman* (Kindergarten); *Brooklyn Bostelman* (Gr. 1&2); *Logan Honemann* (Gr. 3&4); *Ella Griffith and Levi Trausch* (Gr. 5&6); and *Nathan Meller* (Gr. 7&8) for taking the time to compose these messages in support of Lutheran Schools Week. We also thank *Dave Kleck* from WNDH radio for conducting the various broadcasts here at the school.

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*.

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!

RESCHEDULED – ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE is planned for grade levels PS-8 on Wed., February 11th, 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.

145th ANNIVERSARY PICTORIAL DIRECTORY – Phase II

- **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. **There is a \$10 cost to submit your own picture.** Please include your payment when you turn in your envelope.

MITE BOXES – If you attended the Jan. 27th Ladies of Freedom meeting and were unable to get a new mite box, they are now available on the narthex table. Pick yours up today! For those who did not attend the meeting but would like to support the mission work of the district LWML, you can still pick up a mite box. The next turn in date for mite boxes will be Tues., April 28th at the Ladies of Freedom meeting or the Sunday prior to that meeting, Apr. 26th on the narthex table. Once you turn in your mite box, be sure to pick up a new one from the narthex table and start filling it for the next quarter's collection. These mites always go to a good cause...mission work!

LADIES QUILTING PARTY is planned for all day Monday, Feb. 16. 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.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 2/01/15	\$7,018.00	\$102.00	\$578.00

ATTENDANCE: 2/01/15 – 8:15 Service: 98; 10:30 Service: 51

COMMUNED in *January*: 396 members; 4 guests

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.

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!

GRADES 3-5 ROUND ROBIN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT will be held here on Sat., February 28th. This is a one day boys & girls tournament. Volunteer referees and scoreboard help are needed. We are also looking for families to donate beef patties for the concession stand that day.

Admission/entry fee will be a non-perishable food item to be donated to the St. John *Bread From Heaven* Food Pantry. The food item donations will be a competition among the participating teams. Boxes will be set up by team designation and the team with the most items donated will be declared the “winner” of the tournament. Contact *Doug Willeman* at 419-261-1372 with questions.

4-H CLUB ORGANIZATION: The Gerald Busy Fingers, Cloverbuds, and Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Clubs will be having their first 4-H meetings on Sun., Feb. 8 beginning 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, Kaylee Wentworth, Jennifer Gerken, Stefanie Hilvers, or Tim Bower* (Gerald Busy Fingers) and *Pat Wiemken* (Freedom Royal Farmers).

KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY CHANGES for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2015! The K-clinic will be held on Thursday, March 26th 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 March 26th. **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 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 2014 (*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.*

CHICKEN PIE DINNER – The Ridgeville American Legion Post #454 will host their annual Chicken Pie Dinner on Sun., Feb. 15 with serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Tomorrow is often the busiest day of the week.

“Make the best use of the time, because the days are evil.” (Eph. 5:16)