



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

February 15, 2015

VOL. 80

NO. 7

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

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TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Sermon & Text:

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 413 ~ 978 ~ 416 ~ 434 ~ [Communion: 415, 422, 704] ~ 417

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 have no church home of your own, we invite you to join the St. John family.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘ 1st Service: Mitchell Kruse & Brady Gerken, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ 2nd Service: Cally Bialorucki & Maggie Weller, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ The Niermann Family, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Denny Bockelman, Jeff Buchhop, David Myles, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Badenhop, Sandy VonDeylen, Mary Rettig, *Altar Guild* ✘

MOURNING THE LOSS: On Saturday, Feb. 7th, *Edwin Rosebrock*, 86, passed away at The Orchards of Northcrest, Napoleon. Edwin's funeral was held here on Wed., Feb. 11th at 2:00 PM, and burial was in the St. John Cemetery. Please keep Annetta and the Rosebrock Family in your thoughts and prayers at this time.

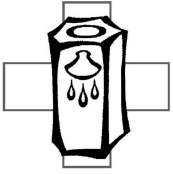
LADIES QUILTING PARTY is planned for all day Monday, Feb. 16. There will be blanket knotting for those that do not wish to quilt. We will start at 9:00 AM. All ladies of the congregation are invited. You can come and stay all day or just part of the day; whatever fits your schedule.

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 11:00AM 1:00 PM	Early Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Communion Service Chicken Pie Dinner at the Ridgeville Legion NWOLL Basketball Tournament Championship Games here at St. John
Mon.	9:00 AM	NO SCHOOL in observance of President's Day Ladies All Day Quilting and Blanket Knotting
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Napoleon Public Library (Gr. K-8) Exercise Class in gym Building Committee Meeting
Wed.	5:45 PM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Jr. Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM) Lenten Supper (<i>Noodle soup, hotdogs, coldcuts, chips; serving until 6:30 PM</i>) Ash Wednesday Service Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class in gym Bible Study w/Vicar Shoaff
Fri.		Bill Gibson Tourney @ Trinity – Toledo (Gr. 4-6 Boys and Girls)
Sat.		Bill Gibson Tourney @ Trinity – Toledo (Gr. 4-6 Boys and Girls)
Sun.	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM 1:00 PM	Early Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Worship Service 4-H Meetings (<i>All 3 clubs</i>)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Theodore Rellstab</i> , St. John Lutheran, Holgate

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, Larry Mahnke, Elmer Badenhop, and Annetta Homan* 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
- ❖ *Walter Delventhal*, hospitalized this past week for heart and lung health issues



BAPTISM TODAY – This morning we rejoice with **Seth Handy** as he is baptized into Christ in a private rite after the late service. Seth is the fiancée of *Kacie Hodson*. They are planning a wedding for May 16th this year. May the good work that is begun by God this day at the baptismal font be carried on to completion on the day of Jesus Christ.

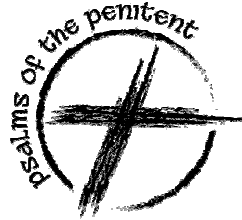
SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES!

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 this Wednesday!

- **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. for this Communion service.** 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 this Thursday, 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!
- **This year’s Lenten Devotional booklets** are available on the narthex table. Pick up your copy!



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!

THANK YOU: *Dale & Dorinda Damman* would like to thank everyone for their cards and prayers given them during the sudden loss of Dorinda's mother, Doris. God Bless, *Dale & Dorinda*

DEAF MISSION & MINISTRY SUNDAY – Sunday, March 15th

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for this special COMBINED SERVICE. Sunday, March 15th is **Mission Sunday 2015** at St. John, featuring deaf mission and ministry. On that day we will experience worship just as it is experienced in a deaf congregation. **Tyler Walworth**, who completed his vicarage last year in deaf ministry and is currently a fourth-year seminarian, will both speak and sign the worship service that day, and teach us some sign-language as well. We are also trying to reach out to the deaf community in our area to invite them to this special service. Afterwards, Tyler will have the Bible Class time to explain more about deaf ministries.

- **Please note there will be one combined service that day. The schedule will be: Worship, 9:30 a.m., Sunday School and Bible Class, 10:45-11:30 a.m.**

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.

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*.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 2/08/15	\$9,396.00	\$227.00	\$888.00

ATTENDANCE: 2/08/15 – 8:15 Service: 151; 10:30 Service: 132

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.

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING – The list of the people for this year’s annual church cleaning are printed in today’s bulletin. 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. **There will be a co-chair meeting on Sun., Feb. 22 at 9:30 AM.** Please plan to attend if at all possible. Thank you!

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.

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 as of 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.*

SUNNY D LABELS – Throughout the school year please continue to save labels from *Sunny D* drinks. Classrooms that save 20 *SunnyD* labels earn 20 FREE books. Here’s how it works.

COLLECT *SunnyD* UPC labels from these eligible products: 1, 2, or 3 liter bottles; 16 oz., 48 oz., 64 oz., 96 oz., or 128 oz. bottles; 6.75 oz.- 6, 8, or 24 pack outer wraps; 6.75 oz.-12 pack cardboard case; 11.3 oz.-6 or 24 pack outer wraps; 12 oz.-12 or 24 pack cans outer wraps. **SEND** the UPC labels to the school office at any time.

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. 22 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).

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

He Loves Me. He Loves Me. He Loves Me...There is no NOT!

“Christ loved us and gave himself up for us.” (Eph. 5:2)

2015 ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING LIST

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING will be broken out into three groups. The top two names in each group will be the co-chairmen. If you are elderly and would like your name removed from the annual cleaning list, please let your chairmen know as soon as possible. Thanks to all of you for giving your time and effort to this yearly project.

GROUP 1: *Denny/Kathy Behnfeldt, *Lester/Dianne Behnfeldt, Josh/Margo Behnfeldt, Mark Behnfeldt, Micah Behnfeldt, Mike/Shelly Behnfeldt, Randy Behnfeldt, Rick Behnfeldt, Darrel Behrmann, Joe/Heidi Bialorucki, Brian/Lori Bickel, Nate/Christa Bickel, Shorty/Mabel Bischoff, Brad/Lisa Bockelman, Darrel/Barb Bockelman, Dennis/Rhonda Bockelman, Scott Bockelman, Mike/Jeanette Bostelman, Ryan/Renee Bostelman, Lisa Brown, Jeff/Sara Buchhop, Jo Buchhop, Arlene Carrick, Gabby Stiriz, Greg Carrick (38)

GROUP 2: *Alan/Kathy Damman, *Carey/Sharon Damman, Bobby/Kara Cowell, Aaron/Ashley Crall, Andy/Bree Damman, Barry Damman, Chad Damman, Dale/Dorinda Damman, Dan/Kim Damman, Dave/Teresa Damman, Delbert/Marian Damman, Denny/Deb Damman, Derek/Stephanie Damman, Kayla Damman, Marietta Damman, Nick Damman, Randy/Sandy Damman, Scott/Andrea Damman, Steve/Dawn Dickmann, Abby Dietrich, (34) Chelsea Mouch, Doug/Sandy Dietrich, Mark Dietrich, Mike/Amy Dietrich, Mike/Cheryl Dietrich, Ron Dietrich (43)

GROUP 3: *Craig/Anissa Drewes, *Peter/Karen Gerken, Laroy Dishop, Jaclyn Dishop, Madelyn Dishop, Deb Durham, Josh Elling, Kara Elling, Mark/Brenda Elling, Mike Elling, Rich/Bev Elling, Bonnie Etchison, Kelli Etchison, David Fitzenreiter, Jason/Zoe Foor, Bethann Gerken, Larry/Krista Gerken, Randy/Liza Gerken, Stan/Cathy Gerken, Zach Gerken, Ron/Karen Germann, Scott Germann, Jeff/Deb Gillen, Nancy Glaser, Alan/Lori Gruenhagen, Alex Gruenhagen, John/Karen Gruenhagen, Steve/Kathy Gruenhagen (41)

GROUP 1: Narthex, Room under steps of the Narthex, Balcony (including storage rooms), Church itself, Room in front of sanctuary on east side, Entrance area floor

GROUP 2: Cry Room, Pastor's Office, Conference room by church, Furnace room, Restrooms, (Includes Pastor's restroom), hallways (up to double doors),
(Storage Room by Cry Room will be cleaned by Food Pantry Coordinators)

GROUP 3: Fellowship Hall, Storage Room off of Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Storage room west of the Kitchen.