



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

March 1, 2015

VOL. 80

NO. 9

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

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
Cell: 785-477-2344
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 419-966-6160
Church Website: www.sjl.org

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "The Wonderful "Whiles" of God" *Romans 5:6-10*

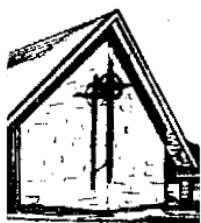
Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting Four (LSB pg. 203)*

Hymns: **430 ~ 437** ~ (Communion: **634, 611**) ~ **763**

Adult Choir: (*Early*) "Amazing Grace" and "It Is Well with My Soul"

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. Fill out a blue pew card from the rack in front of you and hand it to the usher as you leave this morning.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ 1st Service: David Maassel & Brady Gerken, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ 2nd Service: Maggie Weller & Tyne Rosebrock, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Tom & Sandy VonDeylen, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Harold Behrmann & Rich Elling, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Carey Damman, Craig Drewes, Scott VanValkenburg, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Linda Riefers, Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff, *Altar Guild* ✘

WORSHIP SURVEY IN NEWSLETTER – This past week members should receive a newsletter in which the elders have included a survey about how best to schedule worship, along with a few other worship-related items. Please fill this out and return it to the box in the narthex marked for this purpose.

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING – The list of the people for this year's annual church cleaning are available on the narthex table. 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. Thank you!

| In God's House This Week | | <i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i> |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Date | Time | Activities |
| Today | 8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM | Early Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Communion Service |
| Tue. | 9:00 AM 7:00 PM | Exercise Class in gym Board of Elders; Technology Committee Meeting |
| Wed. | 10:20AM 5:45 PM 5:45PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM | Late Start-Up due to Staff Meeting at 9:00 AM Lenten Supper (<i>servicing until 6:30 PM</i>) Junior Confirmation Class (5:45 – 6:45 PM) Adult Bell Choir 3rd Lenten Service Offering: <i>Church Vocation Students</i> Acolytes: <i>Lydia Babcock</i> Greeters: <i>Dan & Deb Wachtman</i> Ushers: <i>Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling</i> Altar Guild: <i>Linda Riefers, Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff</i> Grades 5&6 Chime Choir: "Sing My Tongue" Adult Choir Practice |
| Thurs. | 6:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM | Men's Lenten Bible Study at Hill's Restaurant Exercise Class in gym Women's Lenten Bible Study; Bible Study w/Vicar Shoaff |
| Sun. | 8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM 4:30 PM | *****Daylight Saving Time begins***** Worship Service w/Communion following service <i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Worship Service LYF Meeting |
| Mon.- Sat. | 7:30 AM | Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Donald Luhring</i> , St. John Lutheran, Defiance |

L.Y.F.

Get out the word! Besides a possible mission trip/servant event to New York this June, there is another exciting possibility of a fellowship and spiritual growth retreat along with youth from St. James, Burlington to southern Colorado/northern New Mexico. Imagine exploring the ancient ruins of the Pueblo people at Chaco Canyon, or hiking up to their cliff dwellings at Mesa Verda, then growing together in faith around a campfire in the evening. You have *got* to join us for our **next LYF meeting on Sun., March 8th** as we discuss plans. Put it on your calendar for 4:30 p.m.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS: Spring is on its way...hopefully! That means we need to get ready to turn our clocks ahead on Sunday, March 8th at 2:00 AM. ☺

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, 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*, at Fulton Manor in hospice for declining heart and lung health issues
- ❖ *Esther Schroeder*, recently hospitalized at Fulton Co. Health Ctr., but now at home
- ❖ *Angie Behnfeldt*, dealing with health issues relating to a collapsed lung

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. In **Letter #26** Screwtape ironically encourages the seeds of “unselfishness” to be sown in people's lives – but as always, when hell speaks of “unselfishness,” you know there is a devilish twist that will ultimately destroy us. Join Pastor Niermann in the north end of the fellowship hall for this intriguing study. Don't worry if you've missed sessions or 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 be 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.

DEAF MISSION & MINISTRY SUNDAY – Sunday, March 15th

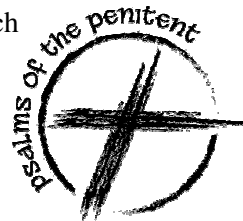
MARK YOUR CALENDAR for this special COMBINED SERVICE. Sunday, March 15th is **Mission Sunday 2015** at St. John, featuring deaf mission and ministry. On that day we will experience worship just as it is experienced in a deaf congregation. **Tyler Walworth**, who completed his vicarage last year in deaf 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.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS – The Sunday School material for March/April/May 2015 has arrived. Please pick yours up in the church office at your convenience.

Centen News & Events –

- **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 this Wednesday evening is, “**The Discipline of the Penitent**” based on *Psalm 38*. The offering will help defray educational expenses for our people who are preparing for careers in service to the church.
- **Men’s Lenten Bible Breakfast** will meet each Thursday morning during Lent 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! To prepare, please read *1 Timothy, chapter 2*.
- **Women’s Lenten Bible Study** will meet each Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room next to the pastor’s office. This year we’ll be finishing the study of Revelation that we began last year. No need to sign up, just show up --- and we’ll grow together in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.
- **Midweek Lenten Suppers** are being hosted by the 7th & 8th Grade students (first three) and the LYF members (last three) to raise funds for their various activities such as class trips and youth gatherings. This week’s menu is: Marian’s vegetable beef soup or California blend cream soup, hotdog, cold cut sandwich, chips, dessert, beverage. Thrivent will be providing matching funds for these suppers. Please show your support!
- **Easter Flowers** will be offered again this year. Just like last year there are various flowers to pick from. Order forms are in today’s bulletin. Drop your order form and payment to **St. John Lutheran Church** into the container at the narthex table or return to the church office. **Order deadline is Wed., Mar. 18th.**
- **Easter Breakfast sign up** – Keep an eye out on the narthex table for the Easter Breakfast sign-up sheet. Should be coming out soon! Thrivent is also providing matching funds for this event.



| FINANCIAL FACTS: | Home Fund | Synod & Missions | Building Fund |
|-------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------|
| Weekly Need | \$9,792.78 | \$500.00 | \$961.54 |
| Rec’d 2/22/15 | \$6,394.00 | \$412.00 | \$428.00 |

ATTENDANCE: 2/22/15 – 8:15 Service: 183; 10:30 Service: 92

2ND LENTEN SERVICE: \$872.00 to the LYF Servant Event; Attendance: 151

COMMUNED in February: 333 members; 2 guests

RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP FUNDRAISER: The Stewardship Board is offering “for sale” the Ultimate Cloth® as a fundraiser. These are a MiraFiber® technology cloth that cleans with water only. More effective than harsh cleaning chemicals and soaps. Contact *Karen Norden* (419-267-3477) for more information and pricing. This will be an on-going fundraiser for the Right Hand of Fellowship gift matching campaign.

WELCOME AND THANK YOU! We would like to welcome *Miss Sarah Bartok* as the 5th and 6th Grade long-term substitute teacher here at St. John. Miss Bartok will be with us through the end of the school year. She is a December 2014 graduate of Concordia University – Ann Arbor and lives in Monroe, MI. *Mrs. Arlene Wallace* has graciously offered to house Miss Bartok during the school week, and we cannot thank her enough for that.

We would also like to “THANK” *Mrs. Kelly Sonnenberg* for serving as the 5th and 6th Grade sub since Christmas. Mrs. Sonnenberg’s last day was Fri., Feb. 20th. She is now subbing back at Anthony Wayne Schools again. You will be missed Mrs. Sonnenberg!

PRINCIPAL CALL UPDATE – Mr. Rick Schneider has declined our Call to be our principal and 7th & 8th Grade Teacher.

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** you can 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.

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.*

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2015-16 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.

CHURCH LIBRARY – The church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary, is growing to contain a lot of excellent books that will edify your faith. The books in this library have been screened to assure that they are true to the Word of God and can be trusted to be theologically sound. Please check out the selection. To borrow a book, just take it with you, then return it to the basket when you’ve finished reading.

WOULD YOU HOST A JAVA JOY? Every second Sunday of the month, we seek hosts for Java Joy, a time of refreshment and fellowship between services. Hosting Java Joy does not have to be expensive – 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 in the narthex for all the second Sundays of the year. Please sign up, and pick up the sheet of guidelines from the table. Thank you!



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!

'BREAD FROM HEAVEN' – A note to St. John members needing food assistance – If you could use food assistance from our food pantry, please speak with *Pastor Niermann*. We are required by the *Northwestern Ohio Food Bank* to keep a record with your name, but pastor will keep your record separate and absolutely confidential.

Contributions can be made at any time. Monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your offering envelope). Food donations for our pantry can be dropped off in the box by the Archives display cases. **Food items especially needed at this time are: spaghetti sauce, mac n' cheese, cream of mushroom soup, tomato soup, saltines & any crackers, and hamburger helper.** Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated. Thank you so much! As we learned in the meaning of the Fifth Commandment, “*We should fear and love God that we...help and support our neighbor in every physical need.*” (*Small Catechism*)

4-H CLUB ORGANIZATION: The Gerald Busy Fingers, Cloverbuds, and Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Clubs will be having their next meeting on Sunday, Mar. 8th at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

AREA EVENTS:

- **SOUP & PIE DINNER** – St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wauseon. Today with serving from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!
- **PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST** – Ridgeville Volunteer Fire Dept. Today with serving from 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Carryout available. See flyer!
- **SOUP & PIE LUNCHEON** – The Lutheran Home – Napoleon, Sun., Mar. 15th serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!
- **SAVE THE DATE!** The St. John's Ladies' Night Out will be held again this year on Thurs., Mar. 26th. More information to follow...stay tuned!

✘ ✘ ✘

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

A.S.A.P. – Always Say A Prayer

“Pray without ceasing.” (1 Thess. 5:17)