



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

March 8, 2015

VOL. 80

NO. 10

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

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THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "The Foolishness of God" *1 Corinthians 1:18-31*

Order of Service: Matins (LSB pg. 219)

Hymns: 581, stz. 1-5, stz. 6-12

Children's Bell Choir: *Gr. 7&8 ring* "What Wondrous Love Is This"

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

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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ 1st Service: Landon Willeman, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ 2nd Service: Katelyn Drewes, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dan & Joyce Wiechers, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Carey Damman, Craig Drewes, Scott VanValkenburg, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Linda Riefers, Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff, *Altar Guild* ✠

PIANO FLOWERS today are placed in honor of the 80th birthday of *Marietta Damman*. Marietta's birthday is today, March 8, 2015. Praising God for the many years of joy given to Marietta and praying she has many more. Happy Birthday Marietta!

NEW PARENTS: We congratulate *Ben & Michelle* (Rosebrock) *Weddelman* on the March 4th arrival of their son, *Ryan Albert*, at Defiance Regional Medical Center. Mother and son are both doing fine. Ryan's proud grandparents are *Randy & LouAnn Rosebrock* and *Mark & Teresa Weddelman*. Congratulations to Ben & Michelle on their bundle of joy!

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 1:00 PM 4:30 PM	Worship Service w/Communion following service <i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Worship Service 4-H Meeting LYF Meeting
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by <i>Pastor Niermann</i> ; Offering: <i>Ft. Wayne Seminary Food Bank</i> Exercise Class Church Council Meeting
Wed.	5:45 PM 5:45PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Lenten Supper (<i>erving until 6:30 PM</i>) Junior Confirmation Class (5:45 – 6:45 PM) 4th Lenten Service Offering: <i>Worship for Shut-ins Broadcasts</i> Acolytes: <i>Maggie Weller & Cally Bialorucki</i> Greeters: <i>Lois Arps and Evelyn Rohrs</i> Ushers: <i>Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling</i> Altar Guild: <i>Linda Riefers, Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff</i> Children's Choir: "My Faith Looks Trustingly" Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 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
Sun.	9:30 AM 10:45AM	Combined Communion Service – Mission Festival Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Keith Witte</i> , St. Paul Lutheran, Liberty Center

BAPTISM THIS MORNING – We rejoice today with *Josh & Margo Behnfeldt* as they present their infant daughter, **Carly Ann**, for Holy Baptism. *Carly* was born on February 4th at the Henry County Hospital. Her big brothers are Clayton (10) and Brooks (8). *Carly's* baptismal sponsors are *Larry Gerken (Josh's brother-in-law)* and *Jordan Cordes (Margo's brother)*. Her grandparents are Dennis & Kathy Behnfeldt, Don & Kim Cordes, and Joyce & Mike Reinbolt. Today *Carly* becomes a member of God's own family. May God keep her and her loved ones strong in faith to life everlasting in His eternal dwellings!



A PIECE OF HISTORY NOW IN HEAVEN: We mourn the loss of *Walter Delventhal*, 89, on Sun., March 1, 2015, at Fulton Manor, Wauseon. *Walter's* funeral was held here at St. John Lutheran Church on Fri., Mar. 6, 2015 at 1:30 PM and burial followed the service in St. John's Cemetery. Many will miss the history *Walter* could share about the church and school. Please pray for strength for *Lucia, Nancy, Jane, Joyce, Mary*, and their families as they grieve the sudden loss of *Walter*.

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
- ❖ *Esther Schroeder*, recently hospitalized at Fulton Co. Health Ctr., but now at home

HOLY COMMUNION will be offered this morning following the 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.



JAVA JOY TODAY! It's the second Sunday of the month, and that means **Java Joy** after worship. Take a little time to enjoy a bite to eat and some fellowship. A table is set up in the front hallway. Your gifts to the "kitty" help keep **Java Joy** alive and going. We thank *Larry & Krista Gerken* and *Matt & Shawna Schroeder* for hosting Java Joy today. (*NOTE: In order for everyone to enjoy the food items, we ask*

that you only take 2 items when going through the line.) Thank you!

Be a **Java Joy** host! Every second Sunday of the month we aim to have this time of fellowship. If you would like to host one of these, please sign up on the table in the narthex. Don't let finances stop you – you are welcome to reimburse your expenses from the kitty if you wish.

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 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.**

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 at our **LYF meeting TODAY at 4:30 p.m.** Join us for pizza, growth, planning and fun!



THANK YOU! Grades 6-8 students would like to thank everyone for supporting our three Lenten Suppers. A special thank you to *Mrs. Bonnie Niermann*, *Mrs. Marian Damman*, and *Mrs. Nancy Hogrefe* for making our soups, the Women of Freedom for their delicious desserts (*March 4*), and all our parents for their desserts and kitchen help.

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 3/01/15	\$9,411.96	\$917.00	\$428.00

ATTENDANCE: 3/01/15 – 8:15 Service: 153; 10:30 Service: 76

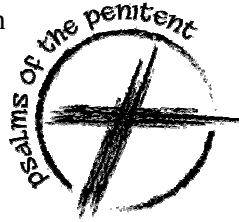
3RD LENTEN SERVICE: \$784.00 to the Church Vocation Students; Attendance: 141

WOMEN OF FREEDOM MEETING: The next Women of Freedom meeting will be held on Tues., March 17th at 7:00 PM. The speakers will be *Dan & Deb Wachtman*, and they will talk to us about the *Bread From Heaven* Food Pantry and its incredible service to the local community. As always, these meetings are open to any women in the congregation. Hope to see many of you there!

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.

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 Penitent Prays for a Pure Heart**” based on *Psalm 51*. The offering will support the broadcast of the “Worship for Shut-ins” program.
- **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 3*.
- **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: Wild rice and mushroom 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** – The Women of Freedom and the 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 Sat., April 4th 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.



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!

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

EASTER EDIBLES! The Stewardship Board is organizing an Easter fundraiser for the Right Hand of Fellowship Gift Matching campaign. The Easter Edibles Shop will be open on Sunday, Mar. 29th after each of the Early and Late Services that day.

Here is how it will work. You can make a freewill donation and receive a small or large gift box, after which you will go to tables, set up in the hallway and pick out any of the baked goods to fill your box with Christmas goodies. All money raised will be given (*and matched*) toward the Right Hand of Fellowship campaign – Fellowship Hall debt reduction.

Stop by on March 29th and let us brighten your Easter with a handpicked box of Easter edibles! Any questions about this fundraiser should be directed to *Karen Norden* (419-267-3477) or *Kim VanValkenburg* (419-519-0437).

EASTER EDIBLES DONATIONS – Get your mixers going and heat your ovens up!!! Start making plans to whip up your favorite Easter cookies, candies, or other recipes to donate to the Easter Edibles Shop on Sunday, March 29th. We would ask that you bring your items in Ziploc bags, cellophane, or disposable tins with a minimum of 2 dozen pieces per package. Someone will be at the church on Sat., March 28th from 6:00 – 8:00 PM if you would like to drop your items off early. Otherwise, please have them to the church by 8:30 AM on Sunday, March 29th.

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.

ATHLETIC BANQUET: The St. John Athletic Banquet is scheduled for Sun., March 22nd 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!

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.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Life without God, like an unsharpened pencil, has no point.

“Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.” (Eccl.1:2)