



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

April 12, 2015

VOL. 80

NO. 15

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 OF EASTER

Sermon & Text: "Locked In For Fear – Sent Out to Witness" *John 20:19-31*

Order of Service: *Service of Prayer and Preaching (LSB pg. 260)*

Hymns: 475 ~ 467 ~ 466

\*\*\*\*\*

### A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest this morning, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. 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.*

\*\*\*\*\*



### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘ 1<sup>st</sup> Service: Landon Willeman & Brady Gerken, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: Bailey Johnson & Lydia Babcock, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Clara Meyer & Phyllis Silveus, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Lois Rosebrock, Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow, *Altar Guild* ✘

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are placed today in celebration of the 45<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of *Denny & Kathy Behnfeldt* by their children, Mark, Larry & Krista, Josh & Margo, Micah & Jessica and the grandchildren. Denny & Kathy were married on April 11, 1970. Congratulations to the Behnfeldt's and may God bless them with many more years together!

**PEACEFUL SLEEP:** *Esther Schroeder*, 96, passed away very peacefully on Thurs., April 9, 2015 at CHP Inpatient Hospice Center, Defiance. Esther's funeral service will be held today, April 12, 2015 at 3:30 PM with burial to follow in the St. John Cemetery. Please keep Esther's daughters, *Linda Schroeder* and *Eunice Thierry* in your prayers as they grieve the loss of their mother.

**In God's House This Week** *Online church calendar: [www.DynaCal.com/sjl](http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl)*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM 11:30AM 2:00 PM	Early Worship Service with Communion following Sunday School; Adult Bible Class; "Time To Spare" Late Worship Service 2015 Confirmation Class and Parents Meeting Terrific Talents of St. John ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Mon.	7:00 PM	PTL Meeting
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Niermann; Offering – Lutheran Home, Napoleon Exercise class Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 M 7:30 PM	Gr. 1&2 begin ITBS testing ( <i>daily thru Wed., Apr. 22</i> ) Jr. Hi. Confirmation Class Adult Bell Choir practice Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise class Bible Study w/Vicar Shoaff
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
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: Rev.

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Marian Fitzenreiter, Donald Landry, and Norma Damman*
- ❖ *Pauline Dishop, Marie Damman, and Delora Winkelman*, 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*, hospitalized in Texas dealing with major issues relating to her cancer
- ❖ *Rosie Gruenhagen and Renetta Homan*, at home recuperating
- ❖ *Henry Gerken*, for back surgery at Toledo Hospital this past week

**A CARING THANKS:** "Thank you very much for the cards and prayers during my recent surgery, recuperation and rehabilitation. Your care and concern was greatly appreciated. Thanks again!"

Signed, *Dick Mahnke*

**2015 CONFIRMATION CLASS AND PARENTS** will meet for a brief planning meeting **today at 11:30 a.m.** following the late service. Packets of information, dates and times will be distributed.

**Java Joy TODAY!** It's the second Sunday of the month! Be sure to stop out in the front hallway this morning for some refreshments and fellowship. Our hosts today are **Brad & Sarah Rosebrock** and **Rodney & Jackie Rosebrock**, and we thank them for this service of love to us all!



- **WOULD YOU CONSIDER HOSTING JAVA JOY?** *Hosting 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 2015. Please sign up, and pick up the sheet of guidelines from the table. Thank you!*

**THE LADIES OF FREEDOM** – would like to thank those who came and supported the Easter Breakfast, to those who so generously donated food items, and to the LYF members for your help throughout the morning. It was greatly appreciated! Thank you once again!



**EASTER THANK YOU** – This morning we extend a big word of thanks to everyone who helped make Easter day such a joyous celebration in the Lord. We give thanks to God for the musicians and choirs; for the deacons, ushers and altar guild members; for the acolytes, crucifers, and banner bearers; for those who provided, prepared and served our Easter breakfast; for those who donated flowers to beautify God's house; and for all the behind-the-scenes people who labored so faithfully as servants of our Risen Savior and of His people. **Thank you to each and every one of you! Well done, good and faithful servants!**

**THANK YOU:** The Easter Edibles fundraiser for the "Right Hand of Fellowship" gift matching campaign was very successful. Thanks to everyone for donating baked goods, and to those who stopped by and handpicked their box of edibles to enjoy over the Easter break. Your generosity will help further the debt reduction for the fellowship hall renovations!

## **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 #28** Screwtape ironically encourages Wormwood to preserve the life of his 'patient' as long as he can, because developing worldliness in him takes time. 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 consider 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.

**TERRIFIC TALENTS:** The previously held Musical Extravaganza is now being referred to as the Terrific Talents of St. John School. **This event is scheduled for today at 2:00 PM and will be held in the gym here at St. John. Due to the Schroeder funeral, there will be no refreshments served.** Many St. John students will be performing in some way or another. The emphasis is on fun and showing off the many talents our students have!

**2014 ANNUAL REPORT** should be ready to be put together on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. We are asking **all members of last year's council**, and anyone else interested, to please come and help us assemble this. If we have enough volunteers, it only takes about an hour. Thanks to anyone who can help us out. Thank you for your patience in waiting for this year's copy to be produced.

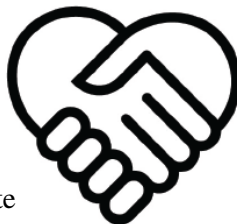
**CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY REPORT** – Recently the congregation was surveyed on matters related to worship at St. John. This morning a report on the results of that survey is available in the narthex on the table. Please pick up a copy.

**VOTERS' MEETING** – The voters will assemble **next Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>** between services. On the agenda: 1) Call of a 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher; 2) Consideration of the worship survey results.

**NEW BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY!** – *“The Book of James: Epistle of Straw or Apostle of Faith?”* Vicar Shoaff will be leading an in-depth Bible study on the much neglected and poorly understood Letter of James. Martin Luther once wrote, “We should throw the Epistle of James out...for it doesn't amount to much. It contains not a syllable about Christ. Not once does it mention Christ, except at the beginning.” Through our study we will come to see, as Luther himself came to see, that this is certainly not true. This Epistle, written by James, the son of Mary and Joseph, the half-brother of Jesus, the apostle chosen by the resurrected Lord, bishop of Jerusalem, recognized leader of the early church, and the one who wanted to be remembered as a servant of Christ is *absolutely* rich in bringing Christ to its hearers. The Bible study will meet in the **north end of the fellowship hall** every **Tuesday**, beginning **April 21<sup>st</sup>**, from **10:00AM-11:15AM**.

**NEW ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE!** St. John now has a Facebook Page. Here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnFreedomTownship>. Please “like” your church's page!

**SERVICE OPPORTUNITY: HUMAN CARE** – The idea has been suggested, and the elders have approved, that we form a group of folks within our congregation to tend to matters of human care within the body of Christ. As members of Christ's body, we are called to take care of each other. A lot of that is already taking place informally among members, but it would be this group's task to stay tuned in to what's going on in people's lives and to coordinate human care efforts if circumstances call for it. The possibilities are endless! It's a great opportunity for retirees or for those who want to serve but not necessarily as elected officers. Please think and pray about this. **Are you the one to take a ministry of caring under your wings?**



**QUARTERLIES & ODES:** The Quarterlies and Odes for the Women of Freedom are ready to be picked up from the table in the narthex. Our next meeting will be Tues., April 28th at 7:00 PM. Our speaker will be *Ron Meyer* to tell us about his trip to Haiti. Save all your old eye glasses and bring them to the meeting. *Mite-y Socks* are still available on the narthex table!

**SPRING RALLY** - The Women of Freedom are invited to a Spring Rally to be held at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wauseon, on Saturday, April 18th with registration and breakfast at 8:30 AM and the program from 9-11:30 AM. The speaker is *Carolyn Brinkley* and she will speak on the CTS Military Project. The collection is for three offerings: CTS Military Project, Mite Offering, and the Napoleon Zone Treasury (*we are sending a delegate to the LWML National Convention.*) See flyer on the bulletin board in the back of the church.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 4/05/15	\$6,609.00	\$5,553.00	\$543.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 4/05/15 – Early Service: 191; Late Service: 303

**GOOD FRIDAY TENNEBRAE:** *Concordia Univ. – Ann Arbor* - \$1,191.00; Attendance: 185

**UPCOMING MARRIAGE RETREAT!** *Growing Together: From the Breakfast Table to Kissing Goodnight:* St. John, St. Luke (*Wauseon*), and St. Paul (*Liberty Center*) Lutheran Churches will be hosting a marriage retreat at the LIAL Renewal Center in the beautiful Oak Openings region! For \$15, each couple will enjoy a wine and appetizer night, breakfast, a catered lunch, as well as a full day growing together in their relationships with each other and with their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The *Growing Together* Marriage Retreat is open to all married and engaged couples. The dates for the marriage retreat are June 12th (*starting at 6:00PM*) through June 13 (*ending at 4:00PM*). More info will follow. (Facebook Event Page: <http://tinyurl.com/growingtogethermarriage>)

**LYF – GET OUT THE WORD!** It's official – in June we're going to be joining the youth of St. James, Burlington on a camping expedition to the great sand dunes of southern Colorado. We'll be crossing into northern New Mexico as well to see some amazing places. 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. Information and a registration form will be sent out soon, so please consider it and get ready for a fantastic nine days of fun, fellowship, exploration and spiritual growth!



**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.

**LUTHERAN WITNESS RENEWAL** – It's time to renew your subscription to the Lutheran Witness for this year. To subscribe or renew your subscription, **simply place \$17.00 in an envelope**, along with your name and address, and place it in the Sunday collection plate or bring it down to the church office. **Deadline for subscriptions is May 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**WHERE CHRISTIANITY MEETS CULTURE**...Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: Religious Liberty, Fascism, Liberal Tolerance, Same-Sex Marriage and more. You can listen at your convenience at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org).

**GRANDPARENT'S DAY**: A reminder that Grandparent's Day at St. John School for Grades K-8 will be held on **Friday, May 8** from 12:30 - 3:00 PM. *Lunch is not included.*

**S.T.O.P. PENNY DRIVE** – The PTL Spring Penny Drive at St. John School has begun. This will run thru Fri., May 8<sup>th</sup>. The classroom collecting the most pennies will be treated to a pizza party. All other classrooms will get an ice cream party. Save those pennies and give them to one of our students or turn your pennies in at the school office. **NOTE: Since starting this fundraiser in October 1992, the PTL has now raised \$15,950.20 for the school.** Save Those **Old Pennies!**

**MURRAY INTL. ADOPTION FUNDRAISER MEAL** – Harlan's Chicken Carryout Meal on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the Napoleon Church of the Nazarene. See flyer!

**BATTLE OF THE SCHOOLS – ELECTRONIC RECYCLING FUNDRAISER**: This annual fundraiser is scheduled for Sat. April 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM at each of the Henry County high schools. Be sure to support this fundraiser and bring your unused electronics – that means anything with a power cord, to Napoleon High School (*student parking lot*) on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Please, no TV's or large appliances can be accepted. Any questions can be directed to 419-256-7343.

**4-H MEETINGS** – The Gerald Busy Fingers 4-H Club, the Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Club (Grades 3-12), and the Cloverbuds (Grades K-2) will be having their next meeting Sun., Apr. 19 at 1:00 PM at St. John Lutheran School.

**HOSPICE BAZAAR**: The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Hospice of Henry Co. Bazaar will be held on Thurs., May 14 at the Napoleon American Legion. All live auction donations must be received by May 1<sup>st</sup>. They are accepting donations of silent auction items, handmade wooden items, craft or needlework items or baked goods and pies for the day of the bazaar. See flyer for all the details!

✂ ✂ ✂

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**Easter – It's not about the bunny; it's about the Lamb.**

*"Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Rev. 7:10)*