



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

February 28, 2016

VOL. 81

NO. 9

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Mr. Aaron Yaeger, Vicar
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
Cell: 989-607-4566
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339
Church Website: www.sjl.org

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "Repentance – Coming Home to Jesus" *Luke 13:1-9*

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: **609**, stz.1-4 ~ **609**, stz.5-7 ~ **614**, stz.1-6 ~ **614**, stz.7-8 ~ **955** ~ **919**

Children's Choir: Gr. K-8 sing "God Gives His People Strength"

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* ✘ Madison Bostelman & Bailey Johnson, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Jerry & Nancy Short, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Denny Bockelman, Jeff Buchhop, Dave Myles, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham, *Altar Guild* ✘

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed in memory of *Walter Delventhal*, who passed away one year ago on March 1st. We keep Lucia and the Delventhal Family in our thoughts and prayers at this time of remembrance for them.

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!



In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Mon.	7:00 PM	Trinity <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study
Tue.	9:00 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Trinity <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study Stewardship Board and School Board Meetings
Wed.	10:20AM 5:30 PM 5:45 PM 6:15 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Late Start-Up due to Staff Meeting at 8:30 AM Lenten Supper (<i>erving until 6:30 PM</i>) Junior Confirmation Class (<i>5:45 – 6:45 PM</i>) Adult Bell practice 4th Lenten Service Offering: 2016 <i>National Youth Gathering, New Orleans</i> Acolytes: <i>Brooks Behnfeldt & Landon Willeman</i> Greeters: <i>Bob & Diane Norden</i> Ushers: <i>Carey Damman, Scott VanValkenburg, Craig Drewes</i> Altar Guild: <i>Kathy Badenhop, Sandy VonDeylen, Mary Rettig</i> Adult Bell Choir: "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross" Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM	Men's Lenten Bible Study at Hill's Restaurant Exercise Class Women's Lenten Bible Study (<i>and again tonight at 7:00 PM</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:00 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" 4-H Meetings (<i>All 3 Clubs</i>)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Donald Luhring, St. John Lutheran, Defiance</i>

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Norma Damman, Don Dickmann, and Lucia Delventhal*
- ❖ *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
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Orchards of Northcrest - Napoleon
- ❖ *Helen Norden*, residing at Greenbriar Assisted Living in Birmingham, AL
- ❖ Servicemen and women, *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Kyle Elling, Emily Schroeder, and Connor Gerken*
- ❖ *Delores Badenhop*, recuperating at The Lutheran Home following her surgery
- ❖ *David Niebergall*, now in hospice care for his failing health due to cancer
- ❖ *Hannah Dietrich*, as she studies in Spain for college requirements

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS – The Sunday School material for March/April/May 2016 has arrived. Please pick yours up from S.S. Superintendent Sarah Rosebrock at your convenience.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES TODAY

- **Leviticus** – Pastor Niermann will resume the study of this ancient book of the Israelites as we take a look at the various sacrifices God commanded Israel to make in the tabernacle, and how these pointed forward to the coming of Christ. We'll meet in the north fellowship hall.
- **Marriage and Family** – Vicar Yaeger will lead a Bible Study in the south fellowship hall, especially for our Sunday School parents and anyone else interested. We'll look at such topics as: Foundations of Marriage and Family in Creation; Biblical Intimacy, Exercising Faith and Love, More Than Romance, and Leaving a Legacy for the family.

CHOICE DOLLARS TO DESIGNATE: Today again, *Doug & Mary Kossow* will have a table set up in the side hallway to assist those Thrivent members to designate their Choice Dollars to the church, school, or preschool. You have until March 31, 2016 to designate your 2015 Choice Dollars and there is a very sizable amount that has not been designated by members of our congregation.

Not sure if you have Choice Dollars to designate? Stop by their table to find out! If you are not able to stop today, you can call Doug's office in Ridgeville Corners at 419-267-0113.

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS: **Order deadline is TOMORROW!!!!** We are now taking orders for various flowers to purchase "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone special in your life. Order forms are on the narthex table. Drop your order form and payment to **St. John Lutheran Church** into the container at the narthex table or return to the church office.

ARCHIVES DISPLAY – The Archives Display has been changed and is now highlighting the 2015-2016 school pictures of the students and staff of St. John Lutheran School. Also featured is our new Principal, Rev. Charles Kramer. Please stop down and check them out at your leisure.

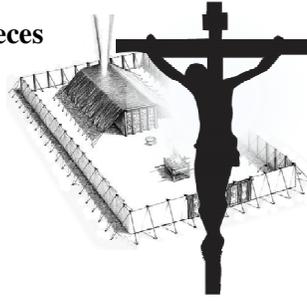
LENTEN BIBLE STUDIES – During the season of Lent there are extra opportunities to delve into God's Word and to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ. Be sure to take advantage of these, and join us!

- **Men's Lenten Bible Breakfast** meets each Thursday morning during Lent at 6:30 a.m. at Hill's Restaurant in Napoleon. Each week we take a look at the Scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday. Cost of breakfast is \$7.00 (includes tip). God's Word is free to all!
- **Women's Lenten Bible Study** – "Overflowing Abundance," is being held on Thursdays at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM during the Lenten season. All ladies invited! We will be digging into the scripture to see a compelling picture of our compassionate Savior.

ALTAR FLOWERS: For anyone wishing to place flowers on the altar for Sunday worship, please contact *Mabel Bischoff* at 419-598-8757. **NOTE:** **The price for flowers through the Women of Freedom has increased to \$21.00.** Please make checks payable to Women of Freedom. Remember that it is your responsibility to call Mabel either way; if you would like the Women of Freedom to order the flowers or if you are going to take care of ordering the flowers yourself.

Midweek Lenten Services - Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

This year our midweek Lenten theme is, “**Tabernacle – Putting the Pieces Together.**” It will be a fascinating look at ancient Israel’s first mobile house of worship and how it was set up to permit God’s people to approach Him. We’ll be taking a closer look at the...



- Bronze Altar (2/17) “Our approach begins with sacrifice”
- Laver (2/24) “We need to be washed as we approach”
- **CURTAINS (3/2) “We approach under cover”**
- **Lampstand (3/9) “We must have light to see”**
- **Altar on Incense (3/16) “We approach in blood-bought prayer.”**
- **Table of Showbread (Maundy Thr) “We approach eating the Bread of the Presence”**
- **Ark of the Covenant (Good Friday) “We finally reach the Most Holy Place”**

As we put together all these pieces, a clear picture will emerge of our Lord and Savior who “tabernacled” among us in human flesh, that He might take our place in death and secure for us eternal life. Join us for worship each Wednesday during Lent at 7:00 p.m.

Each Wednesday evening, the LYF will be hosting a Lenten Supper in the fellowship hall. Your free-will donations will help them go to New Orleans this summer to the National Youth Gathering. Supper starts at 5:30. *This week’s menu includes: Chicken noodle soup, hotdogs, deli meats & cheese, chips, dessert, and drinks.*

2015 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – The 2015 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 *Kathy Behnfeldt* at 419-598-8682.

LifeLight Bible Study –The Holy Trinity

We have seen how the doctrine of the Holy Trinity is revealed to us in part in the Old Testament, and more clearly in the New Testament. Yet the Word of God has not entirely quelled the controversies that have arisen around this fundamental doctrine of our faith. In the ancient church, as in our own day, people try to comprehend the mystery of the Trinity instead of simply receiving and believing it as an article of faith. The result is always error and false teaching. Join us as we take a look at some of the controversy surrounding the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, that you may be prepared to bear witness to the truth of God’s Word.



LifeLight Bible study meets this week on Monday, Feb. 29th at 7:00 p.m, and again on Tuesday, March 1st at 10:00 a.m. The schedule for the next few weeks is Feb. 22-23, and again the following week, Feb. 29 and March 1.

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!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 2/21/16	\$5,642.00	\$130.00	\$367.00

ATTENDANCE: 2/21/16 Service: 226

MEMORIALS for *Marian Fitzenreiter*: \$1,095.00 – St. John Endowment Fund

2ND LENTEN SERVICE (2/17/16): *Local Lutheran Hour Ministries* - \$719.00; Attendance: 130

Vacation Bible School 2016 – Believe it or not, it's time to think about VBS.

This year the theme of the CPH curriculum is one that we know a thing or two about in these parts – “Barnyard Roundup – Jesus Gathers His People Together.” At this time we would like to identify a VBS director (or maybe co-directors) to work with Pastor in making some of the initial plans. Please speak with Pastor Niermann if you are interested in serving the children in this way.



KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY CHANGES for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2016! The K-clinic will be held on Tuesday, April 12th beginning at 12:45 PM. There WILL BE Kindergarten class until 11:30 AM on April 12th. **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 2015 (*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 2016-17 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.

GRADES 3-5 ROUND ROBIN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT will be held here on Sat., March 12th with the first game starting at 9:00 AM. This is a one day boys' & girls' tournament. Volunteer referees and scoreboard help are needed for this tournament.

In years past, members have been gracious enough to donate beef or sausage patties for the concession stand for this tournament. If anyone is interested in donating packages of beef or pork for the tournament this year, please contact a booster officer (*Amy Rosebrook, Becky Michaelis, Jody Meller, or Krista Behnfeldt*). Deadline for donating beef or pork is Sat., March 5th, in order to give the officers an idea of how much they will need to purchase.

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.

SILENT AUCTION HOSTED BY THE BOOSTERS: The Athletic Boosters are hosting a silent auction for the booster popcorn machine. They are purchasing a new machine. So, here is the information you will need in order to make a wise decision on your bid amount:

1. Bids will be closed on Sun., April 10th (*the Athletic Banquet*).
2. There are boxes located in the back of the church and in the school office for the bids.
3. Individuals should put their name, phone number, and bid amount on the bid tickets (*located beside the boxes*). The highest bidder will be announced and contacted at the Athletic Banquet.
4. We want to point out that the machine is being sold as is and no warranty provided! It has been used during the current basketball season.
5. There is a minimum bid of \$50 being placed on the machine.
6. The proceeds will benefit the school athletic programs.
7. Individuals can contact any booster officer if they have questions: *Becky Michaelis, Krista Gerken, Jody Meller, or Amy Rosebrook.*

ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES: You may begin ordering SCRIP again. Please turn those orders in on Wednesdays, with payment to *St. John School PTL Scrip Program*. The gift cards will be sent home the following week on Tuesday. Payment must accompany orders. **Questions can be directed to Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

PTL COOKBOOKS – The “Recipes and Remembrances” cookbooks from PTL are still available for purchase. They have a very nice collection of great recipes in them and would make a neat gift for that “hard to buy” family member or friend. This is a PTL fundraiser and cookbooks are available on the table in the side hall. The cost is \$10.00. If writing a check, please make it payable to: *St. John PTL*. We hope you enjoy it! Thank you for supporting the PTL!

4-H CLUB MEETINGS: The Gerald Busy Fingers and Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Clubs along with the Cloverbuds will be having their next meeting March 6th at 1:00 PM at St. John School.

AREA EVENTS:

- **ST. MARTIN’S LUTHERAN CHURCH** – to host the Junior Choral Society tonight at 7:00 PM at their church located at 203 S. Defiance St., Archbold, OH. This is part of their church’s 150th Anniversary celebration.
- **SOUP & PIE DINNER** – St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wauseon. Sun., Mar. 6th serving from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!
- **PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST** – Ridgeville Volunteer Fire Dept. Sun., Mar. 6th serving from 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Carryout available. See flyer!
- **SOUP & PIE LUNCHEON** – The Napoleon Lutheran Home, Sun., Mar. 13th serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. This is also a Thrivent Action Team event. See flyer!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Peace is resting in the certainty that God knows best.

*“In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.”
(Psalm 4:8)*