



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

March 6, 2016

VOL. 81

NO. 10

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

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
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FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "The First Song of Isaiah" *Isaiah 12:1-6*

Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting One (pg. 151)*

Hymns: **915** ~ (Communion: **686, 625, 427**) ~ **571**

Adult Choir: "The First Song of Isaiah"

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

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Maggie Weller & Tyne Rosebrock, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Tom & Sandy VonDeylen, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Harold Behrmann & Richard Elling, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kathy Badenhop, Sandy VonDeylen, Mary Rettig, *Altar Guild* ✠

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. We have also studied some of the controversies surrounding this doctrine. Next up, we take a good look at what the Scriptures say about the essence and the persons of God. 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, March 7th at 7:00 p.m, and again on Tuesday, March 8th at 10:00 a.m. For the remainder of March, **LifeLight** will meet again on the 21st & 22nd.

In God's House This WeekOnline church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	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.	7:00 PM	Trinity <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by <i>Pastor Niermann</i> ; Offering: <i>Ft. Wayne Seminary Food Bank</i> Exercise Class Trinity <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study Church Council Meeting
Wed.	5:30 PM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 AM	Lenten Supper (<i>erving until 6:30 PM</i>) Junior Confirmation Class (<i>5:45 – 6:45 PM</i>) 5th Lenten Service Offering: <i>2016 National Youth Gathering, New Orleans</i> Acolytes: <i>Lydia Babcock & Caleb Bockelman</i> Greeters: <i>Dan & Deb Wachtman</i> Ushers: <i>Carey Damman, Scott VanValkenburg, Craig Drewes</i> Altar Guild: <i>Kathy Badenhop, Sandy VonDeylen, Mary Rettig</i> Children's Choir: Gr. K-8 sing "Now the Light has Gone Away" 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>)
Sat.	9:00 AM	Gr. 3-5 Boys & Girls Round Robin Basketball Tourney here at St. John
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:00 PM 4:30 PM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" 4-H Meetings (<i>All 3 Clubs</i>) Jr. Hi LYF Meeting (<i>until 6:00 PM</i>)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Keith Witte</i> , St. Paul Lutheran – Liberty Center

LYF MEETING: The Jr. Hi LYF will be meeting on Sun., March 13th at 4:30 PM here at St. John.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME: Spring is on its way and that means get ready to turn your clocks ahead. This happens next Sunday, March 13th at 2:00 AM. ☺

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

GROUP #2 ANNUAL CLEANING which is headed by Jerry & Lori Langenhop and Dean & Jennifer Maassel, will be cleaning their assigned area on Thurs., March 17 beginning at 10:00 AM. Please bring buckets and rags. If you are not able to make that date and would still like to help at your convenience, please call either Jerry at 419-598-8151 or Dean at 419-579-6739 and an area will be assigned to you.

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
- ❖ *The Family of David Niebergall*, who passed away last Tuesday morning. David was a nephew to Don & Karan Niebergall
- ❖ *Betty Ashbaugh* (Clara Meyer's daughter), for serious health issues as she awaits future hip replacement surgery
- ❖ *Randy Vocke*, giving thanks to God that he was recently declared cancer-free

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES THIS MORNING

- **Leviticus** – This ancient book is filled with laws regulating the religious and civil life of God's people, Israel. Though many of the regulations no longer apply in this time of Christ, they greatly enrich our understanding of Christ. Now our study moves on to regulations for the priesthood, which help us further understand the role of Christ as the one mediator between God and man. Join Pastor Niermann each Sunday 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 is leading 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.

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. Why not come 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.

FINANCIAL FACTS:

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 2/28/16	\$8,422.00	\$78.00	\$478.00

ATTENDANCE: 2/28/16 Service: 289

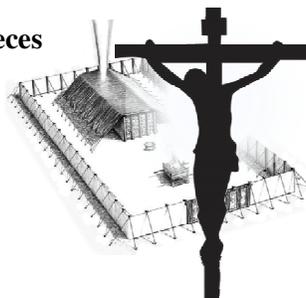
3RD LENTEN SERVICE (2/24/16): *Church Vocation Student* - \$504.00; Attendance: 84

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.

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: Baked Potato Bar, hotdogs, 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.

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!

EAGLE NEWS : The Eagle News publication will be available on the narthex table. It is also available online via FastDirect. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnfreedom/>, click on “Links” at the top of the page, then click on “Eagle News-February” in the “Everybody” column.

‘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. 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*)

INTERESTED IN A CHURCH PROFESSION? WE’D LIKE TO HELP! Recently a number of young people from St. John have pursued educational goals to prepare them for full-time service as teachers and pastors. If you are interested in a church profession (*as a pastor, deaconess, teacher, lay minister, or a Director of Christian Education, Christian Outreach, Parish Music, or Family Life Ministry*), our congregation would like to support you by offering a tuition gift. An application for this gift is available online --- type **www.sjl.org/student_gift_app.pdf** into your browser (*there is no link*) and fill out the application. Deadline for fall enrollment is June 1st.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIPS: Here is another opportunity to encourage and help young people prepare for service to the church as pastors, teachers, lay workers, deaconesses, and parish workers. \$500 per year Women of Freedom Scholarships are available to any young person attending one of our synodical schools. Simply contact any Women of Freedom member for more details about this.

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

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 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...

“God loves you, and I’m trying.” –*John Sohl*

“*Make every effort to add to your faith ... mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.*”
(2 Peter 1:5-7)