



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

March 13, 2016

VOL. 81

NO. 11

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

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### FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "A Parable That Makes No Sense" *Luke 20:9-20*

Order of Service: Matins (LSB pg. 219)

Hymns: 429 ~ 430 ~ 420

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### **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 have no church home of your own, we invite you to join the St. John 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.*

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

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Madison Bostelman & Tyne Rosebrock, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Dan & Joyce Wiechers, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Badenhop, Sandy VonDeylen, Mary Rettig, *Altar Guild* ✘

**NOW IN HEAVEN:** We mourn the loss of *Helen Norden*, 96, at Greenbrier Assisted Living in Birmingham, AL, on Sun., March 6, 2016. Helen's funeral was held at Rodenberger Funeral Home, Napoleon, on Sat., Mar. 12, 2016 at 12:00 PM and committal followed in St. John's Cemetery. Many will miss the kind and gentle nature Helen had about her. We pray for Lee Roy & Marsha Norden, and Lyman & Cathy Norden, and their families as they grieve the sudden loss of their mother.

**LifeLight Bible Studies** are not schedule to meet this week. We meet on the first, second and fourth weeks of the month. Our next dates for this study are Monday and Tuesday, March 21 & 22.

## 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	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:00 PM 4:30 PM	<b>Worship Service w/Communion following</b> <i>Java Joy</i> ; 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> )
Tue.	7:00 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Primary Election Voting Exercise Class Women of Freedom Meeting; Constitutional Review Meeting
Wed.	5:30 PM 5:45 PM <b>7:00 PM</b>     8:00 PM	Lenten Supper ( <i>serving until 6:30 PM</i> ) Junior Confirmation Class ( <i>5:45 – 6:45 PM</i> ) <b>6<sup>th</sup> Lenten Service</b> Offering: <i>Lutheran World Relief</i> Acolytes: <i>Brooks Behnfeldt &amp; Landon Willeman</i> Greeters: <i>Lois Arps &amp; Evelyn Rohrs</i> Ushers: <i>Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke</i> Altar Guild: <i>Kathy Badenhop, Sandy VonDeylen, Mary Rettig</i> 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.	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM	<b>Communion Service</b> Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"; Sticky Buns LYF Fundraiser
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Logan Scheiwe</i> , St. Paul Lutheran – Napoleon

### 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
- ❖ Servicemen and women, *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Kyle Elling, Emily Schroeder, and Connor Gerken*
- ❖ *Delores Badenhop*, recuperating at home now
- ❖ *Betty Ashbaugh* (Clara Meyer's daughter), for serious health issues as she awaits future hip replacement surgery
- ❖ *Stan & Ruth Moll*, grieving the loss of their great-granddaughter, Emma Hintz, this past week
- ❖ *Randy Vocke*, giving thanks to God that he was recently declared cancer-free
- ❖ *Donna Kurtz* (daughter of Don & Delores Badenhop), recuperating at The Lutheran Home from her Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> car accident

**SINCERE THANKS!** We would like to thank everyone for their kind words and prayers during Delores' recovery. We would especially like to thank Pastor and Vicar for their visits and prayers – and Pastor for his musical entertainment – it brought so much joy to many! Thank you to all the elders for visiting and bringing the bulletin and CD each week. We also appreciate the concern for our daughter, Donna Kurtz. *Signed – Don and Delores Badenhop*

**Java Joy TODAY!** Be sure to stop out in the front hallway this morning for some refreshments and fellowship. Our hosts today are the **Scott & Kim Van Valkenburg** and **Denny & Rhonda Bockelman**, 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 the year. Please sign up, and pick up the sheet of guidelines from the table. Thank you!*

**BLANKET DISPLAY TODAY:** As you can see, many variations of blankets that have been sewn and/or quilted by the ladies of our congregation are on display today. There are a lot of hours put into each blanket. After today's service, these blankets will be donated to the following organizations or people: Large blankets will be donated to the Grain Train effort; Medium blankets will be donated to Fulton County Furniture & Household Assistance; Small blankets will be donated to our Shut-Ins and also to the Ridgeville Legion and Auxiliary Shut-Ins. Thank you ladies for the wonderful display!

#### **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 to study this ancient book of the Israelites and 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.

**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, fresh fruit, coffee cake, doughnuts, cinnamon 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., March 26<sup>th</sup> to prepare food. All donations need to be at the church prior to that time (*except the baked goods*). Any questions can be directed to *Karan Niebergall* at 419-598-8251. This is a Thrivent Action Team event.

**WOMEN OF FREEDOM MEETING:** The next Women of Freedom meeting will be held on Tues., March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. As always, these meetings are open to any women in the congregation. Hope to see some of you there!

**A SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING** has been scheduled by the church council for **Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>** immediately after the worship service. The purpose is to discuss two large projects: 1) the stained glass window project, which has received a significant gift from the estate of Juanita Thorpe (*Pastor Maassel's daughter*); and 2) the paving of the parking lot (*copies of the quote are available in the narthex*).

### **HOLY WEEK & EASTER SPECIAL NOTES FOR CHILDREN**

- **PALM SUNDAY CHILDREN'S PROCESSION** – Next Sunday is Palm Sunday! If you would like your child to be part of the procession at the beginning of the service, please get them to the fellowship hall a little early so that we can give them palm branches and instructions.
- **SINGING WITH THE CHOIR ON EASTER SUNDAY** – All children (Gr. K-8) are invited to practice an Easter anthem with the adult choir on Wed., Mar. 16<sup>th</sup> (following the Lenten Service). They will be singing this with the Adult Choir in the Easter Sunrise service on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 AM. Please come to this practice if you plan to be at the sunrise service.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 3/06/16	\$9,161.00	\$283.00	\$350.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 3/06/16 Service: 232

**COMMUNED in January:** 388 members; 2 guests

**COMMUNED in February:** 436 members; 4 guests

**4<sup>TH</sup> LENTEN SERVICE (3/02/16):** National Youth Gathering – LYF - \$649.00; Attendance: 91

**Sr. LYF STICKY BUNS FUNDRAISER:** **Selling Next Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>!!!** The sticky buns fundraiser is back! This fundraiser is to help our Sr. High LYF raise money for their trip to the National Youth Gathering this July. There are pre-order sheets in your bulletin and on the narthex table that we are asking you to fill out so that we can assure that we have enough for next Sunday. Once your pre-order sheet is filled out, you may drop it into the basket that will be labeled "Sticky Bun Pre-Orders." If you forget to fill out a pre-order sheet, that's okay! We will have extras available on those Sundays as well. Thank you for supporting St. John's LYF!

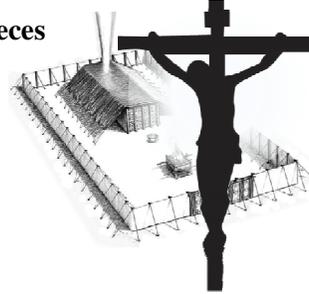
**"HUNDREDS" FUNDRAISER:** During the month of March, the Sr. High LYF is conducting another fundraiser for our trip to the National Youth Gathering. In the back of the church you will find envelopes with numbers from 1-100. We are asking you to pick one of these envelopes and donate the amount that is listed on the front. Please fill out the paper that is inside the envelope because we would like to thank you for your donation. You can return your envelope back to the church throughout the month of March. Just look for the big Kraft envelope that says "SJL Sr. High LYF" or you can return it to the church office throughout the month. Questions? Email Sarah Bartok at sbartok@sjl.org or you can call the church office. Thank you so much for supporting LYF!

**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.

### ***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 beginning at 5:30 PM.** Your free-will donations will help them go to New Orleans this summer to the National Youth Gathering. *This week’s menu includes: Sloppy Joes, hotdogs, chips, dessert, and drinks.*

**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.

**LABELS FOR EDUCATION ENDING** – We have some sad news. In the past few years participation in *Labels for Education* has declined and as a result, Campbell has come to the very difficult decision to wind down the LFE program. The good news is nothing changes this program year. There will be changes for next year’s program starting August 1, 2016. We will continue to support American kids through our *Grand Stand for Schools*<sup>SM</sup> sweepstakes and our community efforts which we annually contribute \$70 million in food and funding to tackle obesity and hunger amongst our country’s most vulnerable families.

Please continue to collect and turn in your “labels for education” points until we are given a cutoff deadline. More info to follow!

## *Holy Week at St. John*

Holy Week begins next Sunday, March 20, with the procession of palms, and reaches its apex the following Sunday as we celebrate our Lord's resurrection. Join us as we follow Jesus to the upper room, the garden, the cross, and the open tomb!

- 3/20 **Palm Sunday** – regular morning service at 9:00 a.m.  
3/24 **Maundy Thursday** – worship at 7:00 p.m.  
Tabernacle: The Table of the Bread of Presence  
3/25 **Good Friday** – Tenebrae service at 7:00 p.m.  
Tabernacle: The Ark of the Covenant  
3/27 **Easter Sunday** Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m.  
Easter Fellowship Breakfast at 8:00 a.m.  
Easter Festival Service at 9:30 a.m.



**VOLUNTEER CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR** - We are seeking a volunteer to direct a children's choir that includes all the children of St. John. Rehearsals would be each Sunday morning after Sunday School opening and prior to Sunday School classes (*taking the time we've been devoting this last quarter to crafts*). Anthems would be sung in worship one Sunday each month, with a few additional Sundays as planned with the pastor. Please speak with Pastor Niermann if you are interested in directing this choir.

**K-CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY CHANGES** for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2016! The K-clinic will be held on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 12:45 PM. There WILL BE Kindergarten class until 11:30 AM on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Letters were mailed this past week. If you did not receive a letter and would like to enroll, please contact the school office as soon as possible. **The eligibility is: A child must be 5 yrs old on or before Aug. 1 to enroll in Kindergarten.**

**PTL MEETING DATE:** Please be aware that the next PTL meeting has been changed to Mon., April 4<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00 PM. This will be a business meeting. We would enjoy seeing new faces at the meeting.

**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 at the Athletic Banquet on Sun., April 10<sup>th</sup>.
2. Bids can be turned at the school office.
3. Individuals should put their name, phone number, and bid amount on the bid tickets. 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.*