



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

March 20, 2016

VOL. 81

NO. 12

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

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SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

Sermon & Text: "Process to Glory" *John 12:12-19*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: **443 ~ 341**, stz.1 ~ **442 ~ 438**, stz. 1,2 ~ [Communion: **560, 837, 444**] ~ **441**

Adult Bell Choir: "Behold, The King Comes"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome in the name of the Lord. We pray that through this time of stillness and song, prayer and proclamation, you may experience the Spirit of God at work in your life. 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. 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* ✠ Lydia Babcock & Maggie Weller, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Marietta Damman & Arlene Wallace, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✠

BRAND NEW FAMILY: We welcome *Jarrett Dean Allen*, newborn son of *Andrew & Jessica (Weller) Allen* on Tuesday, March 15th at Fulton County Health Center. Mother and son are doing fine and adjusting to life at home. Grandparents Eric & Teresa Weller and great-grandparents Marvin & Arlene Gruenhagen are sure to give lots of hugs and kisses to little Jarrett. Congrats to the Allens!

EASTER ANTHEM WITH CHILDREN – All children (Gr. K-8) are invited to sing an Easter anthem with the adult choir on Easter morning during the sunrise service at 7:00 AM. If your child(ren) is planning to sing, please be at the church to practice on Easter morning at 6:30 AM.

In God's House This Week *Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl*

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 12:00PM	Palm Sunday Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; “Time To Spare”; Sticky Buns LYF Fundraiser Gym is now closed to allow setup for the Spring Musical
Mon.	7:00 PM	Trinity <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM	Chapel led by Camp Lutherhaven; Offering: <i>Ft Wayne Sem. Food Bank</i> Exercise Class Trinity <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr. Hi. Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 p.m.</i>)
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	**** <i>End of 3rd Quarter Grading Period</i> **** Men’s Lenten Bible Study at Hill’s Restaurant Exercise Class Maundy Thursday Service Offering: <i>Lutheran Home Chapel Services</i> Acolytes: <i>Hope Buchhop & Anna Gerken</i> Greeters: <i>Rich & Bev Elling</i> Ushers: <i>Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke</i> Altar Guild: <i>Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short</i> Adult Bell Choir: “Gethsemane’s Prayer” and “Abide With Me”
Fri.	7:00 PM	**** <i>NO SCHOOL due to Easter Break</i> **** Good Friday Tenebrae Service Offering: <i>Home Fund</i> Acolytes: <i>Colin Johnson & Bailey Johnson</i> Greeters: <i>Peter & Karen Gerken</i> Ushers: <i>Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke</i> Altar Guild: <i>Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short</i> Adult Choir: “Look At Him” and “When I Survey”
Sat.	9:00 AM	Set up for Easter Breakfast
Sun.	7:00 AM 8:00AM 9:30 AM	Easter Sunrise Service ; Offering: <i>Synod & Missions Fund (both services)</i> Fellowship Breakfast for everyone – Freewill Offering! (Till 9:15 AM) Easter Festival Service with Communion
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Willie Stottlemeyer, St. Stephen Lutheran, Defiance</i>

A SPECIAL VOTERS’ MEETING has been scheduled by the church council for **Sunday, April 3rd** 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).

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*
- ❖ *Betty Ashbaugh* (Clara Meyer's daughter), for health issues as she awaits future hip replacement surgery
- ❖ *Donna Kurtz* (daughter of Don & Delores Badenhop), recuperating at The Lutheran Home from her Feb. 26th car accident

MEN'S LENTEN BIBLE BREAKFAST will meet again this Thursday morning 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!

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP – The co-chairmen for all three groups of annual church cleaning would like to thank everyone who helped with this year's cleaning. We appreciate you taking time out of your very busy schedules to help with this annual project. All three groups had good turnouts, good fellowship, a little bit of fun...AND everything looks great!

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 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.

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 26th 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.

SR. LYF STICKY BUNS FUNDRAISER: Selling TODAY!!! This fundraiser is to help our Sr. High LYF raise money for their trip to the National Youth Gathering this July. If you forget to fill out a pre-order sheet, that's okay! We will have extras available. Thank you for your support!

Holy Week at St. John

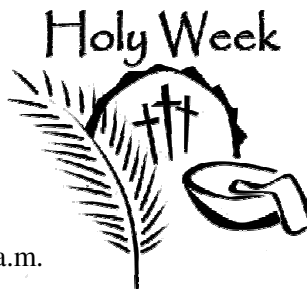
Holy Week begins today with the procession of palms, and reaches its apex the next Sunday as we celebrate our Lord's resurrection. Join us as we follow Jesus to the upper room, the garden, the cross, and the open tomb!

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.



PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS for the next quarter, *April, May, June*, are on the desk in the narthex. There are also large print booklets available for anybody to pick up.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 3/13/16	\$7,006.00	\$123.00	\$493.00

ATTENDANCE: 3/13/16 Service: 224

5TH LENTEN SERVICE (3/09/16): Concordia – Ann Arbor - \$813.00; Attendance: 157

LifeLight Bible Study –The Holy Trinity

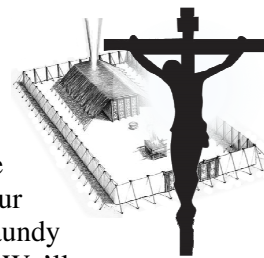
We have seen how the doctrine of the Holy Trinity is revealed to us in part in the Old Testament, and more clearly in the New Testament. Yet the Word of God has not entirely quelled the controversies that have arisen around this fundamental doctrine of our faith. In the ancient church, as in our own 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 Mondays (7 p.m.) and Tuesdays (10 a.m.) on the first, second and fourth weeks of each month. We will meet this week on Monday and Tuesday, then on April 4-5, 11-12, and 25-26.



Lenten Services - This year our midweek Lenten theme,

“**Tabernacle,**” has offered us 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. In its every detail, the tabernacle has pointed us to Jesus as the One, and only one, through whom we may approach our Father in heaven. Our Lenten tour of the tabernacle reaches its climax this week as we gather on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday to commemorate our Lord’s Supper and Passion. We’ll take a look at the...



- **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”
- **ALSO A SPECIAL “THANK YOU”** to everyone who supported our youth by attending the mid-week Lenten suppers. Your faithfulness and generosity are truly appreciated, and will help make it possible for the youth of St. John to go to New Orleans to the National Youth Gathering.

“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!

THANK YOU: A “BIG” thank you to everyone involved in the St. John Gr. 3-5 Boys and Girls Round Robin Tournament hosted this past weekend. Thank you, *Connor Bialorucki* and *Caleb Franz* for being our lead officials and also for *Bryan Short* and *Todd Wachtman* for officiating. Thanks to *Hannah Wachtman*, *Ella Griffith*, *Lily Wagner*, *Taylor Dietrich*, and *Madison Bostelman* for running the score board. Thank you also to *Todd and Brenda Kruse*, *Larry & Krista Gerken*, *Patty Bockelman*, *Dan & Joyce Wiechers*, *Denny & Kathy Behnfeldt*, and *Josh & Margo Behnfeldt* who donated the grilling meat, and to those who helped with the concessions and clean up throughout the day. And also our grill masters *Ryan Bostelman*, *Kirk Meller*, *Jason Foor*, and *Larry Gerken*. The real winner of the tournament was the *Bread From Heaven* Food Pantry here at St. John. There were over 1,927 food items donated by all the participating teams. GREAT JOB!!!

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.

EAGLE NEWS : The Eagle News publication will be passed out today as you leave the services. It is also available online via FastDirect. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnsfreedom/>, click on “Links” at the top of the page, then click on “Eagle News-March” in the “Everybody” column. Enjoy!

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*SM 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!

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. Please speak with Pastor Niermann if you are interested.

K-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. 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.**

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 10th.
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.*

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

God promises a safe landing, but not a calm voyage.

“Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.” (Acts 14:22)