



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

March 5, 2017

VOL. 82

NO. 10

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor  
Mr. M. Brent Keller, Vicar  
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181  
Cell: 940-390-3065  
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339  
Church Website: [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)

### FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "Tale of Two Destinies"

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: 657 ~ [Baptism: Borning Cry, 601] ~ 562 ~ 949 ~ [Communion: 727, 561, 424] ~ 569

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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 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.*

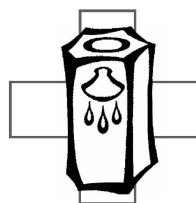
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### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Aden Foor & Clara Damman, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Tom & Sandy VonDeylen, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Richard Elling & Harold Behrmann, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman, *Altar Guild* ✠

**BAPTISM TODAY** – This morning we rejoice with **Blake & Brittni Miller** as their present their infant son, **Damion Blake**, for Holy Baptism. **Damion** was born on November 15, 2016 at the Fulton County Health Center in Wauseon. His baptismal sponsors are Ben & Tiffany Pedroza. **Damion's** grandparents are Steve & Linda Miller, Monnie Holman, and Bill Snodgrass. Let us join in prayer that what God begins today in this child by Baptism He would also bring to completion on the day of Jesus Christ. **Congratulations to this family on your day of rejoicing!**



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME:** Spring is on its way and that means get ready to turn your clocks ahead. This happens next Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 AM. ☺

**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<br>10:20AM<br>11:15AM                           | <b>Communion Service</b><br>Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"<br>Mission Trip Meeting in the fellowship hall  |
| Mon.          | 10:00AM<br>7:00 PM<br>7:00 PM                           | Women's Lenten Bible Study<br><i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study<br>Adult Instruction Class begins  |
| Tue.          | 8:35 AM<br>9:00 AM<br>10:00AM<br>7:00 PM                | Chapel led by <i>Pastor Niermann</i><br>Exercise Class<br><i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study<br>Stewardship Board & School Board Meetings   |
| Wed.          | 5:30 PM<br>5:45 PM<br>6:15 PM<br>7:00 PM<br><br>8:00 PM | Lenten Supper ( <i>erving until 6:30 PM</i> )<br>Junior Confirmation Class (5:45 – 6:45 PM)<br>Adult Bell Choir Practice<br><b>Lenten Service</b> ; Offering: <i>Church Vocation Students</i><br>Acolytes: <i>Ashton Niese &amp; Gavin Gerken</i><br>Greeters: <i>Dan &amp; Deb Wachtman</i><br>Ushers: <i>Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke</i><br>Altar Guild: <i>Diane VonDeylen, Lou Ann Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman</i><br>Adult Choir Practice |
| Thurs.        | 6:30 AM<br>9:00 AM<br>7:00 PM                           | Men's Lenten Bible Study here at church<br>Exercise Class<br>Women's Lenten Bible Study; Stained Glass Window Committee Meeting   |
| Fri.          | 5:30 PM   | Open Volleyball ( <i>until 8:30 PM</i> )  |
| Sat.          | 9:00 AM   | Gr. 3-5 Boys & Girls Round Robin Basketball Tourney here at St. John  |
| Sun.          | 9:00 AM<br>10:20AM<br>4:30 PM                           | * * DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS * *<br><b>Worship Service w/Communion following</b><br><i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"<br>Jr. Hi LYF Meeting ( <i>until 6:00 PM</i> )   |
| Mon.-<br>Sat. | 7:30 AM   | Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM<br>Speaker: <i>Rev. Keith Witte</i> , St. Paul Lutheran – Liberty Center  |

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Lucia Delventhal, Renetta Homan, and Florence Fitzenreiter*
- ❖ *Marie Damman, Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, and Anna Brodman*, at The Lutheran Home, Napoleon
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Servicemen, *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, and Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Casen Lawrence*, for seizure activity he has been experiencing
- ❖ *Delores Badenhop*, receiving physical therapy at the Lutheran Home, Napoleon
- ❖ *Annetta Rosebrock, Evelyn Rohrs, and Shirley Sonnenberg*, all dealing with health issues

**NEW BEGINNING:** Congratulations to *Marc & Alex Wiechers* on the birth of their first child, *Marshal James*, on Sun., Feb. 26 at Henry County Hospital. Alex and Marshal are home and doing very well. Grandparents Dan & Joyce Wiechers will be sure to sneak lots of hugs from him too.

**EASTER FLOWER ORDERS:** We are now taking orders for various flowers to purchase “in memory of” or “in honor of” someone special in your life. Lilac order forms are included in today’s bulletin and extra copies are available 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. **Order deadline is Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** – The Sunday School material for March/April/May 2017 has arrived.

**ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING** – The list of the people for this year’s annual church cleaning are printed and available on the narthex table. If you feel you are not physically able to help with the cleaning for whatever reason, let your co-chair know and we’ll make a note of that. Thank you!

**2016 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS** – The 2016 offering envelope contribution totals (green sheets) are available on the table in the narthex. If you have questions on your yearly contributions, please call *Sara Myles* at 419-966-1335.

### **Life’s Big Questions, God Big Answers – Sunday Bible Study**

At the beginning of all apologetics is the question of the Bible’s reliability and authority, which many people doubt and call into question. Currently we are considering the question of whether science supports the Bible. This question looms large in the minds of many people, and we need to be equipped to answer it. Please join us during the Sunday School hour as we grow in grace and in the knowledge of God’s Holy Word, and in our own ability to defend the Christian faith.



### **SUMMER MISSION TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS INFORMATION MEETING TODAY!**

We are in the planning stages for a summer mission trip to New Orleans. The area has not fully recovered from the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and has been hit by severe storms and floods since then, including multiple devastating tornadoes recently. We would like to serve

our neighbors in New Orleans this summer by lending our time and gifts to the community through *Camp Restore*, which is a Recognized Service Organization in our Synod. **Please join us this morning for an informational meeting after Sunday School and Bible Class so that we can learn all about plans and costs and begin to assemble a St. John team.**

**LifeLight BIBLE STUDY** meets this week, Monday (7pm) and Tuesday (10am)

Our study resumes this week where we will focus on how God's grace to us in Christ is most radical. For example, sheep are supposed to obey their shepherd. Yet, our Good Shepherd, despite our disobedience, actually dies for us [his lost sheep] to redeem us. God accepts nothing from us but our sin. It is this sin which he graciously forgives through his death on the cross.

**“HERE AM I, SEND ME!”** The Stewardship Board is seeking candidates to fill the position of Assistant Sunday School Superintendent. If you would like to serve in this position, please speak with Pastor Niermann ASAP.

**“I HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU” – Adult Christian Instruction**

Pastor Niermann is gearing up to begin a new adult instruction class, starting tomorrow, Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The course covers the basics of the Christian faith that every Christian ought to know at a minimum. **This will be a membership course for those wishing to join our congregation**, but it is also intended for those who are simply curious about what we believe, teach and confess, as well as for current members who want a “refresher.”



**An informational brochure is available in the narthex for more information, or for you to give to someone else you would like to invite.** Spread the word, and let's take the fullest advantage of this opportunity to tell others the good news of Christ!

**HELP WITH SERVICE SLIDES** – We are currently recruiting people to help with worship slides by taking charge of the “presentation clicker” and advancing the slides during worship services. Once we've identified some people, we will set up a training session to teach everyone how to perform this task. If you are interested in serving in this way, please speak with Dan Wachtman or Pastor Niermann.

**THE CONSTITUTION OF OUR CONGREGATION** has recently undergone some updating. Copies of the most recent version are available for you upon request to Joyce in the church office. She will give you either a paper copy, or send it to you as an email attachment.

| <b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b> | Home Fund  | Synod & Missions | Building Fund |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------|
| Weekly Need                    | \$9,792.78 | \$500.00         | \$961.54      |
| Rec'd 02/26/17                 | \$6,022.00 | \$236.00         | \$485.00      |

**ATTENDANCE:** Sunday (02/26/17) Service: 245

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE:** *Concordia University – Ann Arbor* - \$844.00; Attendance: 155

**PRESCHOOL POSITION OPENINGS:** St. John Preschool currently has an opening for a paid Preschool Aide position, one day per week (on Tuesdays), from 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM. This job will run thru the end of May 2017. We are also taking resumes for our Preschool Teacher position for the 2017-2018 school year. Please contact the school office if you would be interested in either of these positions. Thank you!

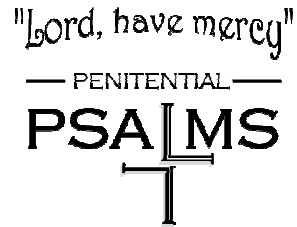
**PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT** – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2017-18 school year. Anyone interested in enrolling your child in our preschool program should contact the school office at 419-598-8702 to request an enrollment packet and/or turn in their registration form.

**LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS** are available on the narthex table today. These are furnished complimentary from Lutheran Indian Ministries. Pick up your copy today.

**LENTEN SUPPERS:** Each Wednesday evening the youth will host Lenten suppers for you. Weeks 1, 3, 5, & 6 will be hosted by grades 6 & 7 to support their class trip to Washington DC in 2018. Weeks 2 & 4 will be hosted by the LYF to support their next trip to the National Youth Gathering. The next week's Lenten Supper menu is: *Hot Chicken Sandwich, Hotdogs, Chips, Dessert, and Drink.* Serving times are 5:30-6:30 p.m. *Thrivent Financial* will also be matching funds from these freewill suppers in support of our youth.

**LENT MIDWEEK SERVICES 2017 –**

This year we are in for a special treat as pastors from sister congregations in our area participate in a preaching round robin. The midweek theme this year is “**Lord, Have Mercy; The Penitential Psalms.**” The schedule is as follows:



| <b><u>DATE</u></b> | <b><u>Pastor</u></b>                         | <b><u>Pslam</u></b> | <b><u>Offering</u></b>          |
|--------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Mar 8</b>       | <b>Rev. Jim Strawn, St James, Burlington</b> | <b>Psalm 130</b>    | <b>Church Vocation Students</b> |
| Mar 15             | Rev. Keith Witte, St Paul, Liberty Center    | Psalm 32            | New Orleans Mission Trip        |
| Mar 22             | Rev. Stephen Niermann                        | Psalm 38            | Luth. Hour/Worship for Shutins  |
| Mar 29             | Rev. Jeff Corder, St John, Stryker           | Psalm 143           | Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch       |
| Apr 5              | Rev. Lee Genter, Christ Our Savior, Defiance | Palm 6              | Lutheran Heritage Foundation    |

✧ **PREPARE THIS WEEK by reading and praying Psalm 130** ✧

**LENTEN BIBLE STUDIES** – During the season of Lent we are offering extra opportunities for you 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 at church this week)!** On Thursday morning (March 9<sup>th</sup>) at 6:30 a.m. we will gather for breakfast at church since Hill’s Restaurant will be closed. **We will be digging deeper into Psalm 130, the same Psalm Rev. Strawn will have preached about the evening before in our midweek service.** By praying these Psalms in preparation, and by attending midweek services and our Thursday morning Bible studies, you will become very familiar with these gems of Scripture.
- **Women’s Lenten Bible Study** – “Gifts Chosen for You,” is being held on Mondays at 10:00 AM and Thursdays at 7:00 PM during the Lenten season. The first sessions begin on Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. All ladies invited! We hope you can join us on either day to learn more about your “spiritual gift.”

**ATHLETIC BANQUET (date changed):** The St. John Athletic Banquet is scheduled for **Sun., April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:30 PM** with a potluck meal. This year the Boosters will be providing the meat and drinks, so if you plan to come, please bring a side dish or two to share. Honorees will be all St. John athletes (Gr. 4-8), the Mini-Eagles (Gr. 1-3), and the cheerleaders. Everyone welcome!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL -- Director needed



Yep, it's time to think about putting together a team for a summer Vacation Bible School. **Most importantly we need to identify a Director**, so that will be our focus for the next few weeks. If you would like to serve the children of our congregation in this way, please speak with Pastor Niermann right away so that we can begin to take the next steps to assemble a VBS team. Please think and pray about this, as you consider the words of Jesus, *"Let the children come unto me, and do not forbid them!"*

### **CONGRATS TO THE 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> BOYS' B-BALL TEAM: GOOOOO EAGLES!!!!**

Congratulations to the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys' basketball players and coaches for winning their game at St. John Marysville this past weekend. This victory now qualified them to play in the State Tournament this weekend (March 3-5) at Cleveland Lutheran High School West. The Eagles are still flying high in northwest Ohio! Great job and Good Luck!

**GRADES 3-5 ROUND ROBIN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT** will be held here on Sat., March 11<sup>th</sup> with the first game starting at 9:00 AM. This is a one day boys' & girls' tournament. Volunteer referees and scoreboard help are needed. Contact *Brad Rosebrook* at 419-966-3099 with questions.

**BASKETBALL FUN!** On Sat., April 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM there will be a Student vs. Staff/Coaches Basketball game held here in our gym. The student team will consist of 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> students, and the Staff/Coaches team will consist of...well, you know who. So plan to come and have some fun! Tell your family, friends, and church members too!

**SHIRLEY'S POPCORN FUNDRAISER:** Grades 6 and 7 are conducting this fundraiser to help fund their 2018 Class Trip to Washington DC. Shirley's Popcorn Fundraiser will run until Tues., March 7<sup>th</sup>. Orders will be delivered later in March (Mar. 21-28). Be sure to get your orders placed if you are approached by a student. Any questions, please call the school office.

### **AREA EVENTS:**

- **SOUP & PIE DINNER** – St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wauseon. Today, Mar.5<sup>th</sup> serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!
- **PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST** – Ridgeville Volunteer Fire Dept. - Today serving from 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Carryout available. See flyer!
- **SOUP & PIE LUNCHEON** – Genacross Lutheran Services, Sun., Mar. 12<sup>th</sup> 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...**

#### **Cars aren't the only thing recalled by their maker!**

*"Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live." (John 5:25)*