



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

March 19, 2017

VOL. 82

NO. 12

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

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School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339
Church Website: www.sjl.org

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "The Water of Life" *Exodus 17:1-7*
Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting 4 (LSB pg. 203)*
Hymns: 761 ~ 849 ~ [Communion: 686,597,618] ~ 918
Adult Choir: "Room At the Cross" and "We Bow Down"

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* ✠ Madison Bostelman & Ashton Niese, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Marietta Damman & Arlene Wallace, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman, *Altar Guild* ✠

HOME IN HEAVEN: On Sunday, March 12th, *Marie Damman*, 92, passed away at Genacross Lutheran Home in Napoleon where she had been a resident for several years. Marie's funeral was held at St. John on Friday, March 17th at 1:00 PM, with burial following at St. John's cemetery. We grieve with Randy & Sandy Damman, Larry & Cheryl Sausser, and Dave & Teresa Damman at this time of loss for them. May they draw comfort knowing she is at rest.

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.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Group 2 Cleaning Crew meeting in the kitchen Sr. High LYF
Mon.	10:00AM 7:00 PM	Women's Lenten Bible Study Adult Instructional Class
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by <i>Pastor Kramer</i> Exercise Class Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	5:30 PM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Lenten Supper (<i>serving until 6:30 PM</i>) Junior Confirmation Class (<i>5:45 – 6:45 PM</i>) Lenten Service (<i>Rev. Stephen Niermann</i>) Offering: <i>Lutheran Hour Ministries / Worship for Shut-ins</i> Acolytes: <i>Aden Foor & Zak Schroeder</i> Greeters: <i>Rich & Bev Elling</i> Ushers: <i>Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke</i> Altar Guild: <i>Diane VonDeylen, Lou Ann Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman</i> Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 1:00 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Lenten Bible Study at Hill's Restaurant Exercise Class Kindergarten Clinic Women's Lenten Bible Study
Fri.	5:30 PM	Open Volleyball in gym
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Willie Stottlemyer</i> – St. Stephen Lutheran, Defiance

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Lucia Delventhal, Renetta Homan, and Florence Fitzenreiter*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, and Anna Brodman*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *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 therapy at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Annetta Rosebrock, Evelyn Rohrs, and Shirley Sonnenberg*, all dealing with health issues
- ❖ *Richard Wagner* (Renee Petzoldt's father), receiving radiation and chemo treatments

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

LifeLight BIBLE STUDY does not meet this week. We will meet again next week, Monday evening and Tuesday morning, as we study together lesson 5, "Keeping Faith." **It's never too late to join, so please consider attending with us!**

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 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 26th.**

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!

TEAM 2 ANNUAL CLEANING MEETING: There will be a brief meeting today immediately after church in the kitchen for the Group 2 Cleaning Crew. We would like to check on possible cleaning dates for the group. We won't keep you long!

"HERE AM I, SEND ME!" The Stewardship Board is seeking candidates to fill a vacancy as an Assistant Sunday School Superintendent. If you would like to serve in this office, please speak with Pastor Niermann ASAP.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM MEETING: The next Women of Freedom meeting will be held on Tues., March 21st at 7:00 PM. Deb Wachtman will be giving an update on the progress of the food pantry. These meetings are open to any women in the congregation. Hope to see some of you there!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 03/12/17	\$7,146.00	\$100.00	\$305.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday (03/12/17) Service: 202

3-08-17 LENTEN SERVICE: \$588.00 – *Church Vocational Students; Attendance: 114*

3-15-17 LENTEN SERVICE: \$800.00 – *Mission Trip – New Orleans (June 2017); Attendance: 121*



SUMMER MISSION TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS (SEE INSERT)

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

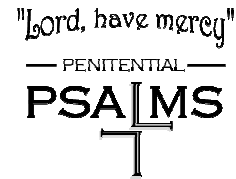
the community through **Camp Restore**, which is a Recognized Service Organization in our Synod. Please contact Vicar Keller if you are interested in signing up for this mission trip.

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!** Each Thursday morning during Lent all men are invited to join us for our Lenten Bible Breakfasts at Hill’s Restaurant in Napoleon. We gather at 6:30 AM for one hour. **This week we will be digging deeper into Psalm 38, the same Psalm Pastor Niermann 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. All ladies invited! We hope you can join us on either day to learn more about your “spiritual gift.”

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. This week’s Lenten Supper menu is: *Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Dessert, and Drink.* Serving times are 5:30-6:30 p.m. Some of these dinners are a Thrivent Action Team Event.

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 remaining schedule is as follows:



<u>DATE</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Mar 22	Rev. Stephen Niermann	Psalm 38	Luth. Hour/Worship for Shut-ins
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 38** ✧

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. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

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.** If you would like to serve the children in this way, please speak with Pastor Niermann 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!*”

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

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN! Pastor Niermann is teaching a new adult instruction class, each Monday evening, 7:00-8:15 p.m. The course covers the basics of the Christian faith that every Christian ought to know at a minimum.

This is 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 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!



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.

KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY CHANGES for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2017! The K-clinic will be held on Thursday, March 23rd beginning at 1:00 PM. There WILL BE Kindergarten class until 11:30 AM on March 23rd. **Napoleon Area Schools and St. John Lutheran changed the eligibility date for entering Kindergarten beginning with the 2014-15 school year. 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 2016 (*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.*

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. A special thanks to the Boosters, AD Brad Rosebrook, Mr. Petzoldt, Miss Bartok, and the volunteer refs for all of their amazing help on Saturday, and for set up on Friday night. The *Bread From Heaven* Food Pantry turns out to be the winner each year and this year a record total of 2,960 items were brought in for the food pantry. Great job! And an added plus was the St. John Eagle boys and girls teams were undefeated!

BASKETBALL FUN! On Sat., April 29th 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 5th – 8th 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!

BASKETBALL FUN...AND TALENT TOO! During half time of the games on Sat., April 29th, we will be having a student talent show. Please encourage your child to participate! It can be instrumental, singing, tumbling, dance or art work. There are a lot of talented children in our school and we would like to showcase these talents. All talent submissions will have to be turned in to *Karan Niebergall* no later than Thurs., April 13. Thank you!

ATHLETIC BANQUET: The St. John Athletic Banquet is scheduled for **Sun., April 2nd 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!

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.

SHOWCASE OF THE ARTS: The students in K-8 participated in the Toledo Symphony's Showcase of the Arts program. Students listened to selected music (*this year's theme was Water Music*) and then could respond to the music in art, music, and writing. The work is then judged school wide. We are sending 15 pieces on to Toledo for further judging. Those earning blue ribbons and rosettes (*best of class*) in Toledo will be on display this spring at Imagination Station. Thank you to our judges: *Pastor Niermann, Pastor Kramer, Mrs. DeWit, and Mrs. Miller.*

Congratulations to the following students: In writing: *Emersyn Gerken*; In Art: *Ty Morrison, Layla Hagerman, Dakota Szabo, Brooklyn Bostelman, Brooks Behnfeldt, Ada Griffith, Logan Honemann, Ella Rosebrook, Clay Behnfeldt, Gavin Gerken, Symara Hagerman, Madison Bostelman, Hope Buchhop, Ella Griffith*

AREA EVENTS:

- **MUSICAL PASSION PLAY:** Cleveland Performing Arts Ministries' musical Passion play "Tetéléstai" will be presented at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1075 Glenwood Ave., Napoleon on **March 24, 25, and 26 at 8:00 PM both Friday and Saturday, and 2:00 PM on Sunday.** This is a great way to prepare for the Holy Days of the Easter season. See flyer on bulletin board for much more information.
- **MADALYN'S MISSION TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA** – Madalyn Short will be going on a mission trip to South Africa in May and June 2017. St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wauseon is hosting a luncheon for her on Sun., March 26 from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM. This is a Thrivent Action Team Event. See flyer and consider helping Madalyn raise money for her trip.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Marriage is three parts love and seven parts forgiveness.

"Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." (Col. 3:13)