



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

April 2, 2017

VOL. 82

NO. 14

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "The Cost of Living" *John 11:1-45*

Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting Three (LSB pg. 184)*

Hymns: "Give Me Jesus" ~ 552 ~ (Communion: 430, 741) ~ 548

Adult Choir: "Hear Us, O Father" and "When You Prayed Beneath the Trees"

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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘ Madison Bostelman & Ashton Niese, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Larry & Pat Mahnke, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Richard Elling & Harold Behrmann, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Carey Damman, Craig Drewes, Scott VanValkenburg, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow, *Altar Guild* ✘

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed in celebration of the 90th birthday of John Damman by his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. John's actual birthday was on Fri., March 31st. Happy Birthday John! God's blessings to you with many more years of health and happiness!

HEARTFELT THANKS: We would like to thank Pastor Niermann for his many visits and kind words over the years and, most recently, at the passing of our mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Marie Damman. Thank you to Sharon Damman as organist and to Pete Gerken for the solo he sang at mom's funeral. It was beautiful! Also, many thanks to Vicar Keller and everyone else who visited mom over the years and kept her in your prayers. *The Family of Marie Damman*

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 11:15AM 4:30 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Confirmation Planning Meeting St. John Athletic Banquet
Mon.	10:00AM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Women's Lenten Bible Study Adult Instruction Class <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by <i>Pastor Niermann</i> Exercise Class <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study School Board and Stewardship Board Meetings
Wed.	10:20AM 5:30 PM 5:45 PM 6:15 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Late Start-Up due to Teacher In-Service at 8:30 AM Lenten Supper (<i>erving until 6:30 PM</i>) Junior Confirmation Class (<i>5:45 – 6:45 PM</i>) Adult Bell Practice Lenten Service (<i>Rev. Lee Genter – Our Savior Lutheran - Defiance</i>) Offering: <i>Lutheran Heritage Foundation</i> Acolytes: <i>Aden Foor & Kaleb Woods</i> Greeters: <i>Dave & Sara Myles</i> Ushers: <i>Carey Damman, Craig Drewes, Scott VanValkenburg</i> Altar Guild: <i>Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow</i> Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Lenten Bible Study at Hill's Restaurant Exercise Class Group 1 Annual Cleaning Women's Lenten Bible Study
Fri.	5:30 PM	Open Volleyball in gym
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Sr. High LYF
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Jeff Corder</i> , St. John Lutheran – Stryker

Life's Big Questions, God Big Answers – Sunday Bible Study

In light of what much of the scientific community believes about human origins and evolution, Christians are often called upon to defend the doctrine of Creation by the Word and the hand of God. It is a key front in the battle to defend the Word of God, and we need to be equipped to give an answer for the hope that we have. 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.

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*
- ❖ *Delores Badenhop*, in Assisted Living 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
- ❖ *Maxton Howard*, for health issues related to his vision
- ❖ *Norma Damman and John Damman*, at the passing of brother-in-law, Virgil Brackman this past week. Virgil & Marianne (*Damman*) Brackman live in the State of Florida.

GROUP 1 CHURCH CLEANING – If you are in Group 1 (*the sanctuary and narthex*) you will be cleaning on Thurs., April 6 starting at 4:00 PM. Please bring buckets and rags. See you then!

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.

THANK YOU – CHOICE DOLLARS: A big “THANK YOU” to everyone that designated their Choice Dollars for Thrivent this past week. We had a big push and even bigger results. Great Job!

LifeLight BIBLE STUDY meet this Monday evening and Tuesday morning.

The Parables of Jesus – God has shown us great mercy through Jesus Christ, His Son, our Lord. In Jesus, our sins are forgiven and our God provides for all our needs and gives us eternal life. This week we see that, as people who have received God's mercy, we are also to extend this mercy to others.

CONFIRMATION PLANNING MEETING – Pastor Niermann will meet with the confirmation class of 2017 and their parents **today after Sunday School at 11:15 a.m.** We will go over plans for confirmation, including information about an after-school retreat covering the Lord's Supper in the catechism, a confirmation theme, plans for photography, etc.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 03/26/17	\$8,050.00	\$74.00	\$506.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday (03/26/17) Service: 237

3-29-17 LENTEN SERVICE: \$854.00 –*Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch;* Attendance: 148

COMMUNED in March: 241 members; 6 guests

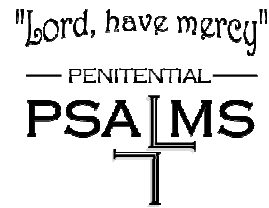
EASTER BREAKFAST SIGN UP – The Women of Freedom and the LYF are once again hosting an Easter Breakfast to be served between the two services on Easter morning (8:00-9:15 AM). The menu is: *Egg Casseroles, French bread, fresh fruit, coffee cake, doughnuts, cinnamon rolls, cookies, coffee and juice.* A lot of help with donations is needed. You may sign up on the chart in the narthex to donate items. All items need to be at the church prior to 8:00 AM. All are welcome to help with preparation and serving. Any questions can be directed to *Nancy Glaser* at 419-598-8432.

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 6, the same Psalm Pastor Genter 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: *Baked Potato Bar with various toppings, Hotdogs, Chips, Dessert, and Drink.* Serving times are 5:30-6:30 p.m. These 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>
Apr 5	Rev. Genter, Christ Our Savior, Defiance	Psalm 6	Lutheran Heritage Foundation

✂ PREPARE THIS WEEK by reading and praying Psalm 6 ✂

LWML QUARTERLIES: The Quarterlies for the Women of Freedom are ready to be picked up from the table in the narthex. Our next meeting will be Tues., April 18th at 7:00 PM.

PTL MEETING will be held on Mon., April 10th at 7:00 PM. School parents are invited to attend these meetings at any time. We look forward to seeing new faces at the April 10th meeting.

“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.”



Holy Week at St. John



Holy week begins next Sunday on Palm Sunday. Please be sure to take note of all the worship opportunities and make it a priority to be in God's house as we walk with Jesus into Jerusalem, to the upper room to share in His Supper, then to the garden and the cross, and finally to the open tomb. May God bless our Holy Week journey!

4/9 **Palm Sunday, 9:00am**

Children's Procession. Have your child come to the fellowship hall for palms and instructions.

4/13 **Maundy Thursday, 7:00pm**

Come to the upper room, sit with Jesus, and receive the gifts of His very own body and blood!

4/14 **Good Friday, 7:00pm**

This service of darkness celebrates the greatest act of love this world has ever seen; Christ dies for us!

4/16 **Easter Sunrise, 7:00am**

He is risen indeed!

Easter Breakfast, 8:00am

Come and share breakfast and fellowship

Easter Festival, 9:30am

The celebration continues; different sermon & service, and the celebration of the Feast of Victory!



SUMMER MISSION TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS – SIGN-UP NOW!

We are planning 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. Informational leaflets about this trip and its costs are available in the narthex next to a sign-up sheet. The cost to you will be very minimal thanks to many offerings and gifts received in support of those who go. **Now the only question is, "WHO WILL GO?"** May God lead many of us to say, "Here am I, Lord; send me!"

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Staff sign-up

Yep, it's time to think about putting together a team for a summer Vacation Bible School. **VBS is scheduled for the evenings of June 4-8** (Sunday to Thursday). No one has stepped forward yet to be a director, but we will take a leap of faith and begin signing up staff members. If you would like to serve the children of our congregation as a VBS staff member, please fill out the form enclosed in today's bulletin and return it to the narthex. Please think and pray about this, as you consider the words of Jesus, "*Let the children come unto me, and do not forbid them!*"



ATHLETIC BANQUET TODAY! The St. John Athletic Banquet is scheduled for **4:30 PM today**, 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!

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!

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.

GRANDPARENT'S DAY: A reminder that Grandparent's Day at St. John School for Grades K-8 will be held on **Friday, May 5** from 12:30 - 3:00 PM. *Lunch is not included.*

FRIDAY NIGHT VOLLEYBALL & FELLOWSHIP: Every Friday night until further notice, there will be open volleyball in the gym for anyone wishing to come and get a little exercise and enjoy some fellowship with one another. The time will be 5:30 – 8:30 PM and you can come anytime and any week that fits your schedule. Some weeks the time will fluctuate due to previously scheduled events, so if you contact Amy Dietrich at 419-966-7345 she will put you into a group text and let you know of the time each Friday. This is nothing organized, just “pick up” teams based on whoever shows up. Hope to see you in the gym!

LWML SPRING RALLY - The Women of Freedom are invited to the Napoleon Zone Spring Rally to be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Liberty Center, on Saturday, April 29th with registration/breakfast at 8:30 AM and the program from 9-11:30 AM. The guest speakers will be presenting a program about the “Families Serving Families” mission work at St. Paul – Liberty Center. The collection will go to support their purchase of basic home improvement tools, work gloves, trash bags, bottled water, Menard's or Lowe's gift cards.

✘ ✘ ✘

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

“Let your trials make you better, not bitter!”

“For You have tried us, O God; You have refined us as silver is refined.” (Psa 66:10)