



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

January 26, 2020

VOL. 85

NO. 4

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339
Church Website: www.sjl.org

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: 839 ~ 412 ~ 856 ~ 411

Jr High Bell Choir: "What Wondrous Love Is This"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We invite you to celebrate God's love as we pray to a Heavenly Father who cares for us, and as we hear His powerful Word to us. 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. Fill out a blue pew card from the rack in front of you and hand it to the usher as you leave this morning.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Cal Bickel & Trenton Kruse, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Bonnie Niermann & Cheryl Yaw, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Rich Elling, Dean Badenhop, Dennis Showman, Dave Von Deylen, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Lou Ann Rosebrock, Diane Von Deylen, *Altar Guild* ✘

ADULT BIBLE STUDY is cancelled for today because of the Soup-n-Pie Dinner in the fellowship hall. We resume our study of Romans 14 next Sunday after worship.

SOUP & PIE LUNCHEON – The annual PTL Soup & Pie Luncheon is today with serving from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, in the fellowship hall. On the menu is *Chili Soup, Noodle Soup, Hot Dogs, Sloppy Joes, a Salad and Dessert Bar, and Beverage*. After the Dinner you can stay and enjoy watching some basketball games as all four of our school teams will be playing St. Paul Lutheran.

A VOTERS' MEETING is scheduled for Sunday, February 9, 2020 after worship in the fellowship hall. On the agenda will be 1) a report on the St. John Endowment fund; 2) the Annual School Report; 3) Audit Committee Report; 4) Old School Update.

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

| Date | Time | Activities |
|---------------|--|--|
| Today | 9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:30AM 1:00 PM | <p>◆ ◆ National Lutheran Schools Week ◆ ◆</p> <p>Worship Service Sunday School; "The Lamp" PTL Soup & Pie Luncheon B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 2:15 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys; 3:30 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls; 4:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs St. Paul – Napoleon</p> |
| Mon. | 5:30 PM | <i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution |
| Tue. | 8:35 AM 4:30 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM | <p>Chapel led by Kevin Creutz, Supt. Ohio District Lutheran Schools B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys vs St. John – Defiance B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys vs Tinora "Consecrated Stewards" Information Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>)</p> |
| Wed. | 6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:15 PM | <p>Midweek Confirmation Class Adult Bell Practice Adult Choir Practice</p> |
| Fri. | 5:00 PM | B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Teams vs Senedot Stripes |
| Sat. | 5:00 PM | Sr High LYF making Super Bowl Subs |
| Sun. | 9:00 AM 10:20AM 6:00 PM | <p>Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Super Bowl Party at Miss Bartok's house</p> |
| Mon.- Sat. | 7:30 AM | <p>Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: Rev. Logan Schiewe, St. Paul Lutheran – Napoleon</p> |

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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, and Lester Rabe*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Dorothy Gerken, Melba Elling, Eldor Gruenhagen, and Lorna Von Deylen,* at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Donald Landry,* residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Armed Services: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Rose Leonard, Florence Jones, Ruth Mahnke, and Harvey Russell,* with various health issues
- ❖ *Willie & Arlene Gerken,* at Genacross Lutheran Home due to a fall taken by Arlene, and Willie's need for mobility assistance
- ❖ *Cheryl Yaw,* recuperating at home after recent hospitalization
- ❖ *Harold Behrmann,* hospitalized this past week at UTMC
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs,* hospitalized at Henry County Hospital this past week
- ❖ *Denny Behnfeldt,* recuperating from shoulder replacement surgery this past week

2019 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – The 2019 individual offering totals (green sheets) are available on the narthex table. These will also be printed in the Church Annual Report. We hope this helps those members in need of this information for tax purposes. If you have any questions on your yearly contribution information, please call past Financial Trustee, *Cheryl Dietrich* at 419-592-9792).

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – ROMANS 14

As we come to the end of the *Letter to the Romans*, St. Paul gets very practical in dealing with our life together in Christ's congregation. Specifically, he addresses how people often judge one another in matters in which we are actually free. Those who are strong in Christian faith are tempted to despise those weaker in faith for their lack of understanding, while those who are weak in faith are tempted to judge their fellow Christians who exercise Christian freedom. Join us this morning for Bible Study as we explore how Paul deals with these things, and let us grow together in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior!



NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK: NLSW is scheduled for Jan. 26 – Feb. 1, 2020.

National Lutheran Schools Week provides the network of 1,950 LCMS preschools, elementary schools and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work in Lutheran schools. In this, Lutheran schools thank God for the opportunity to provide excellent academic preparation for the children they serve and for the opportunity to share Jesus' amazing love with students and their families. National Lutheran Schools Week gives schools the ability to proclaim these great blessings within the communities they serve. Lutheran schools are amazing incubators for faithful witness of God's love through Christ by teachers and students alike. "Joy:Fully Lutheran" is the theme for the 2020 National Lutheran Schools Week celebration. The associated scripture verse is 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 which says: *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it."*



WINTER PARKING LOT ASSISTANCE – If you are able-bodied and sure-footed, please consider serving God's people by coming a little early on those Sundays when the winter weather is a bit dicey, to help park cars for those who come to the carport, and/or to go outside and give an arm to assist those who need help walking across the parking lot. No need to sign up – just show up a little early to lend a helping hand. Thank you!

CABINETS FOR SALE: There are two old cabinets that have been moved out of the old school, and taken to Denny & Diane Von Deylen's building. We are going to give them to someone or auction them off to the highest bidder tomorrow, Mon., Jan. 27th at 6:00 PM. If interested, there are pictures of each one on the narthex table. Any further questions, please call Diane Von Deylen at 419-966-0527.

OLD SCHOOL RENOVATION BROCHURES – Recently the *Old School Renovation Finance Committee* sent out a mailing to St. John Lutheran Church members and to SJLS Alumni with an informational brochure about the Old School renovation, and the opportunity to participate in this project through monetary gifts. If you would expect to have received this mailing but for some reason did not, please accept our apology (nothing is perfect in this world), and pick up one of these brochures in the narthex. **Thank you to everyone for your gifts and donations to this project!**

WHY LUTHERAN SCHOOLS? Strengthening Communities: Every community needs students who are academically qualified and have learned to practice appropriate morality and respect. Since Lutheran schools accept students from all parts of the community, they can have a strong effect on the community itself.

| <u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u> | Home Fund | Synod & Missions | Building Fund |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------|
| Weekly Need | \$9,792.78 | \$500.00 | \$961.54 |
| Rec'd 1/19/19 | \$6,831.00 | \$179.00 | \$525.00 |

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 1/19/19 – 178

2019 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – It's time to start getting your reports ready for the 2019 Church Annual. The secretaries and treasurers of the different organizations are asked to write up a summary of the year's activities along with a financial report if there is one. **Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers by Fri., Feb. 14.**

CHURCH COUNCIL / ELDERS / STEWARDSHIP BOARD

Special Announcement for Combined Meetings

This is notice of two special meetings in the near future at which we are calling for the combined presence and participation of our church council, board of Elders, and Stewardship Board. Please try to make these a priority!

1. 'CONSECRATED STEWARDS' INFORMATION MEETING

Tuesday January 28, 7:00 p.m. in the north fellowship hall

The Stewardship Board is calling for a combined meeting with the Council and Elders to learn about a possible program of ministry for our congregation called '**Consecrated Stewards.**'

Our guest presenters will be **Lisa Janik**, Ohio District Vice President for the *Lutheran Church Extension Fund*, and **Rev. Peter Marcis**, Regional Facilitator for the northwest region of the Ohio District. Please mark your calendar and plan to be present for this important meeting for our congregation.

2. 'BUILT ON THE ROCK' SEMINAR with Ted Kober

Saturday, February 8, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM at St. John, Defiance

Pastor Niermann has spoken briefly with both the Elders and Stewardship Board about Ted Kober's presentation at the last Ohio District Pastor's Conference on his material, '**Built On the Rock: The Healthy Congregation.**' Ted Kober is an LCMS layman who has done extensive work on what constitutes a healthy congregation, and the information he has to share is invaluable for us. It cannot be overstressed how important this seminar will be for us. Lunch is provided for free, and we are working to cover the cost of the seminar workbook (\$5.95 per participant) with funds from a 'Rev. Maassel Memorial Outreach Grant.' **There is a registration for this seminar – deadline is Sunday, Feb. 2nd.** Please make the commitment to attend, and get registered by signing up in the narthex.

LYF SUPER BOWL SUB SALE – Deadline to order is Mon., Jan. 27th. On Sun., Feb. 2nd, we will be selling Super Bowl subs to help raise money for our youth group. Each sub will cost \$4.00 (or a 3 for \$10 deal) and will contain salami, bologna, ham, white cheese, and yellow cheese on a 6” bun. To place an order, please fill out the pre-order form on the narthex table and place it in the basket or bring it to the church office by Mon., January 27th. Orders can also be made from the link on the St. John Church Facebook page. Subs will be available for pick up after church on Sun., Feb. 2nd until 11am. Payment will be due at the time of pick up. **Make checks payable to St. John LYF.**

POSITIONS TO FILL:

- ▶ **TEACHER GR. 3&4:** St. John Lutheran School is seeking applications for a dynamic third and fourth grade teacher for the 2020-21 school year. Requirements are a Bachelor degree in education, a background check, 3 references, and subscribing to the St. John Lutheran Church and School religious beliefs. If you have questions please call the school office at 419-598-8702. Applicants can mail a resume’ to St. John Lutheran School, 16035 County Road U, Napoleon, OH 43545.
- ▶ **TEACHER AID:** St. John Lutheran School is seeking to fill the position for a teacher aid. The applicant must have a high school diploma, be willing to have a background check, be able to help tutor individuals and groups of classroom students, and monitor the students at recess times. In addition the individual should adhere to the teachings and religious beliefs of the Lutheran church. If interested please send or drop off your resume at the school office.

PRESCHOOL:

- **ENROLLMENT** – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2020-21 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. We will be opening the registration up to the public as of February 4th. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration form.
- **TUITION** – Prior to Christmas Break, letters were sent to all Preschool families regarding an increase in tuition for the 2020-2021 school year. Here are the School Board approved rates as of the October 2019 Board meeting: 3-yr old Preschool - \$80/month; 4/5-yr old Preschool - \$200/month. It has been several years since a tuition increase has been made, and in order for the program to remain self-funded, this increase will need to be implemented beginning with the 2020-2021 school year.

ST. JOHN REGISTRATION OPEN HOUSE – An **Open House** is planned for grade levels (PS-8) at St. John School for Wednesday evening, **February 5th, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM**, for families who would like to come and look at our school and discuss the possibility of sending their child/children here for their education. There will also be refreshments. If anyone in the congregation might know of a prospective student for Grades PS-8, please be sure to pass this information to them.

PANCAKE/SAUSAGE BREAKFAST: On Sun., Feb. 23rd, the 7th & 8th Grade students will be hosting a delicious Pancake & Sausage Breakfast in the fellowship hall for everyone to enjoy. They will begin serving after the church service until noon. The proceeds from this breakfast will be put towards their 2020 Class Trip to St. Louis. This is a Thrivent Action Team Event. Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast, along with some good fellowship...and support the 7&8 Grade Trip.

ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES: You may begin ordering SCRIP. Order forms are available on Fast Direct and also in the “School Info” rack outside the office. 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.**

2020 NATIONAL LUTHERAN ANNUAL – We are taking orders for the 2020 Lutheran Annual. It has the current addresses, phone numbers, emails, and websites of LCMS churches, pastors, teachers, etc. all over the United States. Call the church office to order your copy. Deadline is Mon., Feb. 3rd.

HELP US KEEP UPDATED RECORDS – With the advent of cell phones, keeping current contact information is an issue for every organization these days, including the church. When people move or get a new phone number, they often don’t think to update that information with us, often leaving us with no way to contact them for ministry related matters. So please, if you move or get a new phone number, contact the church office or make a note of it on the *Rite of Fellowship Card* and help us keep our records as up-to-date as possible.

USE OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL – If you would like to use the Fellowship Hall for any occasion, on a certain date in this upcoming year, **please contact the church/school office at 419-598-8961 or 419-598-8702**. In addition to calling the office, you may want to check the online master calendar at <http://www.dynacal.com/sjl/> (*you can also link to it from www.sjl.org*).

STAMP COLLECTING: The LWML is collecting “Stamps For Missions.” Here is what you do: Cut the stamps from the envelopes allowing ¼ inch margin or more around the stamp. The stamp may not be damaged and the perforations around the stamp must be perfect. Regular stamps are no longer accepted. You need not trim the stamp; we have someone who trims and sorts the stamps. Do not remove stamps from envelopes, albums, and older postcards. An “old” postcard is usually from 1930 or before. The most valuable stamps are commemorative and foreign. Collecting stamps is an easy way to participate in a mission project sponsored by the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League. A yellow box is on the table in the narthex.

IF YOU’RE EVER IN A PINCH and could use a little help, the *Good Neighbor Fund* is there to assist you too! Please don’t be bashful about asking – everything is strictly confidential. Just give Pastor Niermann a call, and we’ll see what we can do!

4-H NEWS: The Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Club will have their first 4-H meeting on Sun., Feb. 9 starting at 1:00 PM at St. John Lutheran School. We will be meeting in the cafeteria. We would like to meet with the parents briefly at 1:00. New members are always welcome!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

The man who has a high opinion of himself is usually a poor judge.

*“Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought,
but rather think of yourself with sober judgment.” Romans 12:3*