



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

February 9, 2020

VOL. 85

NO. 6

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

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "Light Living" *Matthew 5:14-16*

Order of Service: Morning Prayer (LSB pg. 235)

Hymns: 825 ~ 578 ~ 704

Adult Bell Choir: "How Great Thou Art"

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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Jack Buchhop & Parker Woods, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Jerry & Nancy Short, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Denny Bockelman, Tim Badenhop, Dave Myles, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Ronda & Kaylee Wentworth, Karan Niebergall, Karen Lulfs, *Altar Guild* ✘

NEW BIRTH: Congratulations to *Scott & Megan Bostelman* on the birth of their first child, a son, **Beau William**. Beau was born at Henry County Hospital on Thurs., Jan. 30th. Megan and Beau, (and Scott too) are all home and doing well. Grandparents, Neil & Anita Badenhop, are pretty happy to have another little farmer in the family. Congrats, again, Scott & Megan! Enjoy him!

VOTERS' MEETING TODAY after worship in the fellowship hall. On the agenda will be 1) the St. John Endowment fund and requested uses; 2) the Annual School Report; 3) Audit Committee Report; 4) Old School/Youth Center Update; 5) Update on commercial property gifted to St. John Church; 6) Youth Center donations to date; 7) Approval on a Youth Center financing option presented at the Nov. 3rd meeting.

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:00 PM 4:30 PM	Worship Service w/Communion following Voters' Meeting; Sunday School; "The Lamp" 4-H: Freedom Royal Farmers, Gerald Busy Fingers, Cloverbuds Jr High LYF Meeting (<i>until 6:00 PM</i>)
Mon.	7:00 PM	PTL Meeting
Tue.	8:35 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	School Chapel led by Kindergarten B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:15 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs Solomon – Woodville Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class Adult Bell Practice Call Committee Meeting Adult Choir Practice
Fri. - Sun.		B-Ball: NWOLL Tournament at Trinity – Toledo (<i>runs thru Sunday</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:00 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" NWOLL Tournament Championship Games at Trinity – Toledo
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: Rev. Carl Rockrohr, Zion Lutheran – Ridgeville Corners

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

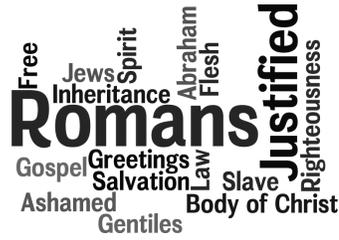
- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, and Lester Rabe*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Dorothy Gerken, Melba Elling, Eldor Gruenhagen, and Lorna Von Deylen*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs*, recuperating back at Assisted Living – Genacross Lutheran Home, Napoleon
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing 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, Cheryl Yaw, and Denny Behnfeldt*, with various health issues at this time
- ❖ *Arlene Gerken*, at Genacross Lutheran Home due to a fall taken at her home
- ❖ *Harold Behrmann*, at Fulton Manor – Wauseon for rehab following his recent hospitalization
- ❖ *Shorty Bischoff*, at home receiving hospice care
- ❖ *Rev. Alvin Martis*, fighting cancer under hospice care

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).

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.**

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!



NEW STAINED GLASS WINDOW #10 – Please take note of the newly installed stained glass window, depicting a scene from the Gospel of John, chapter 8, the adulterous woman and the mercy of her Savior. Read more about it in the insert in today's bulletin.

SUB SANDWICH THANK YOU: The Sr/Jr High Youth would like to thank those who purchased subs for the Super Bowl. The youth made over 225 subs. Once again, thank you for supporting our youth! Hope to see some of you at our upcoming LYF sponsored Lenten Suppers too.

WHY LUTHERAN SCHOOLS? Seeking the Lost: Lutheran schools, which enroll children from all parts of the community, provide new and varied opportunities for evangelism by the congregation and its staff. These opportunities are not available in any other way. That's why Lutheran schools are considered the most effective agencies in congregational evangelism and why pastors of growing congregations with schools in nearly every case, identify the school as the congregation's most effective outreach agency. 85% of the fastest growing congregations in the Synod operate schools.

THANKS TO EVERYONE for making National Lutheran Schools Week such a fun week! Each day was filled with an activity for the entire school to enjoy. Thank you to the teachers and staff for all your efforts. The week ended with the students going to Genacross Lutheran Home, Napoleon, singing songs, and distributing homemade greeting cards to the residents. The reaction from the residents told all of us how important these simple acts of kindness mean to them. Their faces lit up when they received their cards and some even sang along with our songs.

Making the fleece blankets was another fun project. Thank you to Thrivent Action Team for providing some of the funding for this project. We were able to make 17 blankets to be given to Phil's Friends organization. They give these blankets to cancer patients receiving chemo or radiation therapy all over the United States. We are also still collecting small tissue packets, travel-size toothpaste, toothbrushes, lip balm, hats, etc. to be sent to Phil's Friends on Tuesday, Feb. 25th. There is a box in the cafeteria to put your donated items into. Thank you for any and all donations you send in.

WHERE CHRISTIANITY MEETS CULTURE...Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: Defending Boyhood, The Academy Awards, The Death of Education, Rebuilding Institutions and more. You can listen live or on-demand at issuesetc.org and on the LPR mobile app.

LADIES BLANKET KNOTTING OR QUILTING is planned for all day Monday, Feb. 17. Got cabin fever? Come and join us! There will be blanket knotting for those that do not wish to quilt. We will start at 9:00 AM. All ladies of the congregation are invited. You can come and stay all day or just part of the day; whatever fits your schedule. Hope to see you on Feb. 17th!

MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS DURING LENT – Beginning Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, the midweek confirmation class will meet from **5:45 to 6:45 p.m.**, dismissing in time for students and families to attend the midweek Lenten service.

Lent Midweek 2020

One of the Bible's greatest wisdom books is *The Book of Job*. In our midweek services this Lent we will explore this magnificent composition that is among the greatest literature of all time. Readings at home and nine sermons will help us dig deeply into Job's central message.

We all suffer—personally and privately. A husband loses a job. A child gets divorced. A diagnosis stuns. A parent dies. And now, thanks to the media, we are able to see and experience more of the world's catastrophes and suffering. We need the *Book of Job*, now, more than ever.

Martin Luther asserted that "Job is magnificent and sublime as no book of Scripture." Others have called this book "the Shakespeare of the Bible." The early Christian scholar Jerome called *The Book of Job* an "eel," since the more one tries to contain it, the more slippery it becomes! The purpose of our Lenten emphasis is to learn how to apply *The Book of Job* to our lives so that the book becomes less like an eel and more like a loving companion through life's dark valleys.

Preaching plans are as follows:

- Ash Wednesday: Flying Blind (Job 1:1–12)
- Lent 2: Sweet Surrender (Job 1:13–21)
- Lent 3: Learning to Lament (Job 3:1–26)
- Lent 4: It Is Enough (Job 14:1–14)
- Lent 5: Understanding How It All Works Together (Job 23:1–17)
- Lent 6: God Speaks in the Storm (Job 38:1–11)
- Maundy Thursday: On Earth Is Not His Equal! (Job 41:20–34)
- Good Friday: Tearing Down the Spite House (Job 42:7–9)
- Easter Sunrise: I Know That My Redeemer Lives! (Job 19:23–26)

Job's most famous statement appears in 19:25, "I know that my Redeemer lives." Christ is alive, having conquered death and the grave. His grace is enough. His love brings comfort and healing. And this Lent these gifts come to us through *The Book of Job*.

Lent begins Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26 ♦ Worship at 7:00 p.m.



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!



<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 2/02/20	\$7,143.00	\$245.00	\$625.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 2/02/20 – 198



VBS DIRECTOR NEEDED – It’s time to begin making plans for our 2020 VBS, and the first step is to identify a director. The VBS Director’s job is to work with the pastor in planning a daily schedule, recruiting a staff, attending planning meetings, and assisting as needed especially in areas of publicity, enrollment and registration. If God is tugging at you to serve the children in this way, please speak with Pastor Niermann, and we’ll start the planning.

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!**

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. Preschool registration is now open to the public, so be sure to register soon. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration.
- **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.

4-H CLUBS: The Gerald Busy Fingers, Cloverbuds, and Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Clubs will have their first 4-H meetings today 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!

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 LEAD TEACHER:** St. John Lutheran Preschool is seeking a Lead Teacher for the 2020-2021 school year. This individual must have a high school diploma, have experience in teaching an early childhood program, and be subject to a background check. If interested please send or drop off your resume' to Pastor Kramer in the office.

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.

KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2020! The St. John K-clinic will be held on Tuesday, March 31st beginning at 1:00 PM. **Napoleon Area Schools and St. John Lutheran School's eligibility date for entering Kindergarten is that a child must be five years old on or before September 30th 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 2019 (*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.*

AREA EVENTS:

- **The Ridgeville American Legion Post 454** will host their annual Chicken Pie Dinner on Sun., Feb. 16 with serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM.
- **Ridgeville Twp Volunteer Fire Dept** will host their annual Pancake & Sausage Breakfast on Sun., March 1 from 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

If you would be heaven-bound, you must first be heaven-born.

“Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.’” John 3:5