



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

March 15, 2020

VOL. 85 NO. 11

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

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School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339  
Church Website: [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)

### THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "Proof By Comparison" *Romans 5:1-8*  
Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting Five (LSB pg 213)*  
Hymns: **699 ~ 563 ~ 953** ~ (Communion: **430, 609**) ~ **423**

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### 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.*

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

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Brooks Behnfeldt & Ian Rosebrook, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Larry & Pat Mahnke, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, David Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Mary Kay Rettig, Sandy Von Deylen, Kathy Badenhop, *Altar Guild* ✘

### FLOWERS TODAY:

- ♥ Today marks the 86<sup>th</sup> birthday of Dorothy Gerken. The altar flowers have been placed in her honor by her family. Please keep Dorothy in your prayers or send her a card, as she is currently residing at Genacross Lutheran Home, 1036 S. Perry St., Napoleon, OH 43545. Happy Birthday Dorothy!
- ♥ The flowers on the piano this morning are placed in loving memory of Tom Rettig, who departed for his heavenly home 40 years ago on March 19, 1980, by his daughter, Mary Kay.

**A PAVED ROAD TO HEAVEN:** Eldor Gruenhagen, 89, completed his journey in life and was called home on Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at Genacross Lutheran Home, Napoleon. Eldor's funeral was held at St. John on Sat., March 14, 2020 at 11:00 AM. He was laid to rest in the St. John Cemetery following the funeral service. Many prayers go out to wife, Rosie; children, Marlene, Linda, Steve, Ken, Michael, Steve, and Deb, along with their spouses, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

**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	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM	<b>Communion Service</b> Special Voters' Meeting; Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Tue.	7:00 PM	Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	5:45 PM 6:00 PM <b>7:00 PM</b>  8:00 PM	<b>Cancelled – Lenten Supper – Cancelled</b> Midweek Confirmation Class (5:45 – 6:45 PM) Adult Bell Practice <b>Midweek Lenten Service; Offering: National Youth Gathering</b> Acolytes: <i>Brooklyn Bostelman &amp; Tayah Homan</i> Greeters: <i>Marilyn Meyer &amp; Arlene Wallace</i> Ushers: <i>David Von Deylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Richard Elling</i> Altar Guild: <i>Mary Kay Rettig, Sandy Von Deylen, Kathy Badenhop</i> Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 10:00AM	Men's Lenten Bible Breakfast ( <i>see bulletin note</i> ) Women's Lenten Bible Study ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Fri.		3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Grading Period ends
Sun.	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM 1:00 PM 4:30 PM	<b>Worship Service</b> Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" 4-H Meetings Sr High LYF
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Kurt Mews</i> , St. John Lutheran, Defiance

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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, and Lester Rabe*
- ❖ *Dorothy Gerken, Melba Elling, and Lorna Von Deylen*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs and Arlene Gerken*, at Assisted Living – Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Harold Behrmann*, at Fulton Manor – Wauseon
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Armed Services: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Willie Joost*, recovering well from skin graft surgery for burns on his leg
- ❖ *Dale VonDeylen*, brother of Deb Durham and Dave VonDeylen, who is undergoing tests for cancer at the OSU hospital

**CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE AT ST. JOHN** - Please be sure to read the document being handed out this morning about our response to the current health emergency. Also, be sure to "LIKE" and "FOLLOW" our Facebook page to keep current with any updates.

**SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING:** There will be a Special Voters' Meeting today after the worship service in the sanctuary. The item of business will be to recommend issuing a call to Mrs. Haley (*Gruenhagen*) O'Neil to become our 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for next school year.



**CONFIRMATION PLANNING MEETING NEXT SUNDAY** – Attention 8<sup>th</sup> graders and parents, next Sunday after the Sunday School hour we will meet in the 7-8 classroom to make our plans for Confirmation Sunday on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. It’s important that everyone be present!

**ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING** – The list of the people for this year’s annual church cleaning is available on the narthex table. If you are on the list and 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!

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 03/08/20	\$5,771.00	\$114.00	\$140.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 154

**3<sup>RD</sup> LENTEN SERVICE:** \$789.00 – Filling Home - Napoleon; Attendance: 108

## *Lent Midweek 2020*

Have you ever seen a tree sprout again after it was cut down? That image is a picture of the hope that is always ours in Christ, even in the worst of circumstances. It’s amazing that Job was able to see this hope in the deep darkness of his extreme trials, but there it is for our comfort and encouragement.

Martin Luther asserted that the book of “*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 it becomes less like an eel and more like a loving companion through life’s dark valleys.



Lent Midweek Service IV - Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Theme: “It Is Enough” (Job 14:1-14)

Offering: National Youth Gathering Assistance for SJLC Youth

To Prepare: Job 14:1-14 and consider the following questions:

- 1) It is part of our sinful nature to look for hope in all the wrong places. How do you self-medicate when you are hurting?
- 2) Why does Job say that there is hope for a tree?
- 3) If there is hope for a tree, then there is hope for me! What does this hope look like in your life?

## **BIBLE STUDIES DURING LENT!**

- **“WHO AM I? WHAT AM I DOING HERE?”**

(Sunday mornings during Lent)

These are the big questions that eventually confront everyone, and they do not go away with time. People try to quell the nagging of these questions with distractions and with rationalizations, but the questions refuse to go away; they demand an answer.

**God has the answers!** This six-session, video-based Bible study will be conducted on the six Sundays of Lent after worship. This morning we go back to the beginning to find out what God says about who we are. Join us as we grow closer to Jesus and to each other in the study of God’s precious Word.

- **“JOB” - MEN’S BREAKFAST STUDY (Thursday mornings during Lent)**

Each Thursday during Lent, we will gather in the fellowship hall at 6:30AM for breakfast and for a Bible study that coordinates with the midweek Lenten theme on *The Book of Job*. It’s a stomach-delighting, soul-nourishing way to start your day! Please join us!

- **“WHATEVER” - WOMEN’S LENTEN STUDY (Thursday mornings during Lent)**

In the culture, we use the word “whatever” in a very dismissive way, as if to say we just don’t care about things. St. Paul, however, uses that word in his letter to the *Philippians* to draw attention to the things we should care about the most – whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, etc. (Phil. 4:8)

Join us for a women’s Lenten Bible study titled, “*Whatever: Keeping Your Heart in Tune With Whatever Life Brings.*” **This study will be Thursday mornings during Lent, from 10:00-11:15AM** (we may not go the full time, but we’ll never go past 11:15). Meet in the north fellowship hall. Our study leader is Nancy Nemoyer, an LC-MS commissioned deaconess and former director of the deaconess program at Concordia University, Chicago.



**WOMEN OF FREEDOM MEETING:** The next Women of Freedom meeting will be held on Tues., March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Come join us and help serve the Lord here at St. John. Hope to see you there!

NOTE: The LWML Quarterly Odes are also available on the narthex table.

**EASTER FLOWER ORDERS:** Order deadline is Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. We are now taking orders for the various flowers to purchase “in memory of” or “in honor of” someone special in your life. Orchid 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. Don’t wait till the last minute! No late orders can be taken!

**REV. GEORGE MAASSEL MEMORIAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH GRANTS** – This is a reminder that a number of years back, the family of Rev. Maassel gave a gift to the congregation, which we subsequently decided to use as grants for any church organization planning an event that has local community outreach as a focus. If you’re organization is planning something that is related to community outreach and has the specific intent of inviting non-members and following up on them, please consider applying for one of these grants. An information page and application is available on the documents area of our website, [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org).

**EAGLE NEWS**: The Eagle News publication will be available today as you leave the service. It is also available online via FastDirect. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnfreedom/>, click on “Links” at the top of the page, then click on “Eagle News-March” in the “Everybody” column.

**ATHLETIC BANQUET**: The St. John Athletic Banquet will be on **Sun., May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30 PM** beginning with a potluck meal. The Boosters will be providing the meat and drinks, so please bring a side dish to share.

**NEXT UP...VBS VOLUNTEERS** – Very soon we will begin the process of signing up volunteers for Vacation Bible School 2020. As in years past, we will need ‘Story Tellers’ to tell the day’s Bible story and to teach its lesson, aids to help the students memorize Bible verses, a craft coordinator and helpers, a snack coordinator and helpers, and an activities coordinator and helpers. We will also need some youth volunteers to help as guides to help groups of students get where they need to be, and to be general helpers. **Watch for the sign-up list soon!**



**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!

**ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES**: SCRIP order forms are available on Fast Direct and also on the narthex table. 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](mailto:honemann@embarqmail.com).**

**ENROLLMENT FOR PRESCHOOL**: 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.

**KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY** for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2020! The St. John K-clinic will be held on Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.*

**KINDERGARTEN HALF DAY!** Please note that on Tues., March 31<sup>st</sup> (*the day of the K-garten Clinic*), the Kindergarten class will dismiss at 11:30 AM. Please make pick up arrangements at that time for your child on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Thank you!

**POSITIONS TO FILL:**

- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **JANITOR:** St. John Lutheran School is seeking a part time janitor for the 2020-2021 school year. This position requires working on Mon, Wed, Fri, or as needed to maintain a well-kept, sanitary facility. A list of janitor duties is available upon request from the school office. If you are interested or would like further information about the position please contact the school office at 419-598-8702.

**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!**

**CHURCH HISTORY BOOKS** – If at any time during the year you need a gift for a current or former member of St. John, why not consider one of our Church History Books. This book is full of interesting facts about St. John's and is available in the church office at a cost of \$12.00.

**PTL COOKBOOKS** – The “Recipes and Remembrances” cookbooks from PTL are still available for purchase. They have a very nice collection of great recipes in them and would make a neat gift for that “hard to buy” family member or friend. This is a PTL fundraiser and the cookbooks are available in the school office. The cost is \$10.00. If writing a check, please make it payable to: *St. John PTL*. We hope you enjoy it! Thank you for supporting the PTL!

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**Arguing with a fool shows there are two.**

*“Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself.” Prov. 26:4*