



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 419-270-8863
Church Website: www.sjl.org

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "What Are You Seeking?" *John 1:35-42a*
Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting One, LSB pg. 151*
Hymns: **424 ~ 554 ~ (Communion: 632, 550, 730) ~ 704**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to St. John Church. We thank God for this time together! We pray that the grace of God will heal your hurts; that the strength of God will give you courage to face the work before you; that the power of God will prepare your way; and that the peace of God will keep you secure and steady in Christ Jesus. If you are a visitor, please introduce yourself to our pastor and fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it into the baskets as you leave the sanctuary today.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Alex Wachtman, Evelyn Szabo, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dave Von Deylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow, Karen Germann, *Altar Guild* ✠



THE BAPTISM OF CHARLI BADENHOP – Yesterday morning, on Saturday, Jan. 14, Logan & Emma Badenhop presented their infant daughter, ***Charli Grey Badenhop***, for Holy Baptism (on the one-year anniversary of her brother Tripp's baptism). **Charli** was born on September 18, 2022 at St. Charles Hospital in Oregon, Ohio. Her baptismal sponsors are Jordan & Alli Myles. Charli's grandparents are Tim & Chris Badenhop, Greg & Josie Kuhlman, and Amy Grooms. We thank God for the salvation and new life in Christ that He gives in this Sacrament, and pray that the good work God has begun in Charli would be brought to completion on the day of Jesus Christ. **Congratulations to the Badenhops at this time of rejoicing!**

2023 USHER (blue) & ALTAR GUILD (pink) SCHEDULES: The 2023 Usher & Altar Guild schedules are available today and can be picked up on the narthex table. Thanks again to all who are willing to be of service to the Lord through St. John. You are a blessing!

In God's House This Week		Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Sunday School; "The Lamp"; Adult Bible Class
Mon.	7:00 PM	NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Freedom Township Trustee's & Zoning Board Meeting
Tues.	8:35 AM 4:30 PM	School Chapel B-ball: Gr 4-6 Girls; 5:30 PM Gr 4-6 Boys vs St. Paul – Napoleon (H)
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM)
Thurs.	6:30 AM 5:30 PM	Men's Bible Study Breakfast B-ball: Gr 4-6 Girls; 6:30 PM Gr 4-6 Boys @ Trinity – Toledo
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	♦ ♦ National Lutheran Schools Week ♦ ♦ Worship Service Sunday School; "The Lamp"; Adult Bible Class

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

- ❖ *Melba Elling, Lorna Von Deylen, Norma Damman*, at Genacross – Napoleon
- ❖ *Lawrence Behrmann*, at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ *Military: Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Niermann, Jared Dishop, Jordan Lange*
- ❖ *Sue Hurst and Dave Crandall*, health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *Kathy Behnfeldt*, recuperating at home from recent hip surgery
- ❖ *Denny Damman*, for successful back surgery this past week

SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY – When Jesus asked His two potential disciples what they were seeking, it was a most important question. People look for power and importance for themselves, relief from certain circumstances, and a host of other agenda items. But our Lord came with one overarching goal: He was needed as light for this dark world (as Isaiah wrote) and the only one who could take away the sin of the world (as John the Baptist announced). After seeking Christ's help in our sinful condition, we hear that other great question, "Who do you say that I am?"—and when each of us answers it, then, as Paul told the Church in Corinth, we have all the spiritual gifts we need to ask those around us, "What are you seeking?"

MISSION SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 19

Sunday, February 19 is Transfiguration Sunday and will also be a Mission Sunday as we receive our special guest preacher, **Rev. Robert Rahn**, from *The Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF)*. You may recall that Rev. Rahn was last here at St. John at the end of our 150th anniversary year to receive our year-long anniversary thank offering in support of *LHF* for their work in translating, publishing and distributing Bible-based, Christ-centered, Reformation-driven books around the world. It will be our pleasure to welcome him back. Mark it on your calendar!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 1/08/23	\$8,540.00	\$117.00	\$468.00

ATTENDANCE – Sunday: 153

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE STUDY

We have been discussing a phenomenon in our Western civilization called ‘Cultural Marxism,’ a.k.a ‘Woke-ism.’ A basic tenant of *Cultural Marxism* is that achieving equity (equal social outcomes) is the only way to bring about peace in the human family, and that the primary obstacles to equity are the traditional power structures, institutions and social norms that give privilege to certain groups and oppress others. The solution, therefore, is a social revolution that tears down these structures, institutions and norms to create an equitable (and peaceful) society. Or so it is hoped.

As we all know, a disease cannot be correctly treated if not correctly diagnosed. We all know there is something wrong with society, but do *Cultural Marxists* correctly diagnose the problem, and propose the correct treatment? Or is there a deeper problem that they are missing? Join us for our Sunday study...

Christians in a Woke World - A Call to Courage, Confession and LOVE



Let's do JAVA JOY again! – It's been a while since we shared **Java Joy** together. It was Covid that put the kibosh on our coffee clutch each second Sunday. The council, however, decided at its meeting last Tuesday that it's time to bring **Java Joy** back to St. John. **Would you, or a group of you, or perhaps your church organization, please consider hosting?** If we had six regular host groups, for example, each would host just twice per year. And the more the merrier!



Here's what you need to know.

- **Java Joy** will be held after worship on the second Sunday of each month, starting Feb. 12.
- A sign-up sheet for the rest of the year is in the narthex.
- Hosting Guidelines are available right next to the sign-up sheet to answer your questions about what is involved when you host.
- Hosting **Java Joy** does not need to cost you anything – money from the Java Joy kitty is available for you to cover expenses. The donation box will be on the table each time to replenish the kitty.

One other thing – it would be nice to identify one individual as our Java Joy coordinator to keep an eye on the schedule, remind hosts and host groups of their upcoming service, oversee the kitty, and such. If you would be interested, please speak with Pastor Niermann or Dan Wachtman, our congregational president. Thank you for serving in this way. And welcome back, **Java Joy!**

PREMIER CONFERENCE FOR LUTHERAN LAITY... You're invited to attend the 2023 Issues, Etc. "Making the Case" Conference Friday, June 16 and Saturday, June 17 at Concordia University Chicago. Speakers include: LCMS President Matthew Harrison, Mollie Hemingway of Fox News, Mark Hemingway of RealClear Investigations, Kyle Mann of The Babylon Bee, Pastor Peter Bender of the Concordia Catechetical Academy, San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone and Pastor Will Weedon of The Word of the Lord Endures Forever. Early bird registration is \$140 and includes three meals. Reduced room rates, including on-campus dorms, are available. For more information, visit issuesetc.org or call (618) 223-8385.

2022 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – It's time to start getting your reports ready for the 2022 Church Annual. The secretaries of the different organizations are asked to write up a summary of the year's activities and treasurers should submit their financial report for their organization. If you need your offering contribution information prior to the distribution of the Annual Report, please call Financial Trustee, *Jerry Langenhop*, at 419-966-3473. **Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers by Tues., Jan. 31.**

LENTEN MIDWEEK TEASER – Today is only the Second Sunday of Epiphany, but Pastor Niermann is already making plans for Lent, which starts five weeks from this Wednesday. *So, what do you know about the Kings of Judah?* Many of them were evil. Some of them were regarded as good. But the word 'good' has to be qualified, because even the best of Judah's kings were sinners. So our Lenten midweek series this year is titled, "**Chronicles of the (mostly) Good Kings of Judah.**" They fell short. King Jesus does not!



2023 Midweek Lenten Worship Series



NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

As a congregation that supports a Lutheran School, we will be joining sister schools and congregations across the nation to celebrate *National Lutheran Schools Week*, January 23-27. In celebration of

National Lutheran Schools Week, St. John will be holding various activities at school that include live broadcasts on the local radio station, WNDH 103.1, dress-up days, an online mission trip to India, traveling to St. Paul Lutheran School for a servant event for Phil's Friends, and a few other fun activities.

Then on Sunday, January 29, it's *National Lutheran Schools Sunday*. Using this year's NLSW theme, *Making Disciples for Life*, we will make Lutheran Schools and our school in particular, a special emphasis. Wonderful plans are being made for that day, so stay tuned for more information.

An interesting fact about Lutheran Schools...We foster education! Schools in The LCMS serve children in early childhood programs through grade 12 in over 1,800 schools nationwide and internationally.

Bible Study



MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY – Join us bright and early this

Thursday, Jan. 19th at 6:30 AM in the North End Fellowship Hall. It's a great way to start your day! Good food, good friends, and a good Word from God!

COUNCIL MINUTES – This is just a reminder that council meeting minutes are not published until they are approved a month later. If you would like to read about the most recent council meeting, an unofficial and unapproved copy of the minutes is available for viewing in the church office, usually within a week after the meeting.

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 OPEN HOUSE REGISTRATION – An **Open House** is planned for grade levels PS-8 at St. John School on Wed., Feb. 8th, from 6:30 – 7:30 PM. This Open House is for families who would like to come and look at our school and discuss the possibility of sending their child(ren) to St. John for their education and to grow their faith. If anyone in the school and/or congregation might know of prospective students for Grades PS-8, be sure to pass this information on to them.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT – St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for the 2023-24 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 Feb. 3, 2023, so be sure to register soon. Current preschool students must complete new registration forms if they will be returning next school year. **NOTE:** The child must be 3, 4, or 5 years old by September 30 of the year applying for preschool. The child must be completely toilet trained. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration paperwork.

POSITION OPENING: St. John Lutheran School is seeking names for filling the position of Kindergarten Teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. Requirements for the position are: Must have a Bachelor's degree in education, obtain a background check, supply three references, and adhere to the St. John Lutheran Church & School religious beliefs. If you know of anyone interested, please call the school office or reach out to Miss Germann at tgermann@sjl.org.

FREEDOM FLOCK HELP: The Freedom Flock After School Program is looking for a person(s) to be an aide with our after school program a few days each week. It would be for three hours or less from 3 – 6 PM, (*depending how soon all the children are picked up*). This person must be 18 years old, have a high school diploma, and be willing to be FBI/BCI background checked. If you are interested, please contact the school office at 419-598-8702. This is a great chance for any high school seniors to complete their community service hours for the year.

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.**

COLLECTING STAMPS: The LWML is collecting stamps “For Missions.” A box is on the table in the narthex. 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. 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, foreign, and stamp denominations larger than 46 cents. When purchasing stamps, ask the post office staff for commemorative stamps. Colorful and large stamps are desirable. Collecting stamps is an easy way to participate in a mission project sponsored by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

‘BREAD FROM HEAVEN’ – A note to St. John members needing food assistance – If you could use food assistance from our food pantry, please speak with *Pastor Niermann*. We are required by the *Northwestern Ohio Food Bank* to keep a record with your name, but pastor will keep your record separate and absolutely confidential.

Contributions can be made at any time. Monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your offering envelope). Food donations for our pantry can be dropped off in the box by the Archives display cases. **Food items especially needed at this time are: cereal, saltines or any crackers, and soup.** Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated. Thank you so much! As we learned in the meaning of the Fifth Commandment, “*We should fear and love God that we...help and support our neighbor in every physical need.*” (*Small Catechism*)

LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN’S ACTIVITY BULLETINS are available today on the table in the narthex. The Children’s Bulletins are coordinated with the Bible texts for each Sunday, and provide activities that tie in with the weekly themes. Pick one up today for your child.

HEARING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE: If hearing in worship has been a problem for you, pick up one of the receiver units for our hearing assistance system. An usher will assist you and you’ll hear much more clearly. (*Also, please let us know how the system is working for you.*)

For those who use the hearing assistance system regularly and for the sake of hygiene, we ask that you claim one of the ear buds as your own and keep it with you in your purse, pocket, etc. Bring it with you when you come to church, and simply plug it into one of the receivers. At the end of the service, unplug the ear bud to take with you until the next time.

WORSHIP ANEW: Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. produces a weekly, 30-minute Lutheran broadcast worship service called *Worship Anew* (*formerly Worship For Shut-Ins*). Each service includes music, scripture readings, prayers, and a pastor delivering a message that is designed to feel one-on-one to the viewer. For over 50+ years, the ministry’s dedicated staff and supporters have touched the lives of countless viewers around the world. They look forward to the continuation and expansion of this ministry in the years to come. Lutheran Ministries Media would like to thank you for your prayers and support of God’s work through *Worship Anew*. Broadcasts can be viewed every Sunday on: *Toledo’s WTVG (CW) Channel 13.2 at 10:30 AM.*

LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT – How You Can Help? If you have used prescription or nonprescription glasses or sunglasses in your drawers, desk, or closet, you can donate them now! Children’s glasses are especially needed. Both plastic and metal frames are accepted. There is a box under the narthex table for the collection of these used glasses.

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Food For Thought...

If God brings you to it, He’ll bring you through it.

“But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.” (Job 23:10)