



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

February 12, 2023

VOL. 88

NO. 7

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

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "Teach Us The Gospel - Again" *1 Corinthians 3:1-9*

Order of Service: *Service of Prayer & Preaching LSB pg. 260*

Hymns: **704** ~ *Psalm 119:1-8* ~ **561** ~ **707** ~ **837**

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 blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it into the baskets at the doors as you leave today.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Garrison Kruse, Nolan Bickel, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dave Myles, Dennis Bockelman, Tim Badenhop, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kaylee Buchhop, Karan Niebergall, Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, *Altar Guild* ✠

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY – Everyone knows the Fifth Commandment, right? That's simple. "You shall not murder." Baby stuff! But do we really know it like we think we do? The disciples needed a little review in today's Gospel. So do we, for the meaning of God's Words are always deeper and more pervasive than we may think.

When it comes to matters of the Christian faith, we never know it all or outgrow it. Martin Luther commented about those who would read the catechism once and then throw it in a corner as if they had already mastered it. Yet even he, its author with all of his advanced academic degrees, knew he needed to study God's Word over and over again. So too with the cross of Jesus. We never outgrow our need for its message. We never exhaust its meaning for faith and life. We never move beyond the cross to "better things." God's Word doesn't change, but we do. New challenges, new situations in life call for new insight and continuous instruction in living beneath the cross as disciples of the Crucified.

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:30AM 1:30 PM	Worship Service w/Communion following <i>Java Joy</i> ; Sunday School; “ <i>The Lamp</i> ” Voters’ Meeting 4-H Meeting – Gerald Busy Fingers & Cloverbuds
Tues.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM)
Fri.	-Sun.	B-Ball: NWOLL Tournament at Trinity – Toledo (<i>runs thru Sunday</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM TBD	Communion Service Sunday School; “ <i>The Lamp</i> ”; Adult Bible Class NWOLL Tournament Championship Games @ Trinity – Toledo

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*
- ❖ *Alan Gruenhagen, Sue Hurst and Dave Crandall*, health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *Denny Damman*, for recent back surgery

VOTERS’ MEETING – The first Voters’ meeting of 2023 is today after the worship service. Items on the agenda to date are: 1) Annual school report; 2) Audit Committee report; 3) Endowment Fund distribution; 4) Status of 7th & 8th Grade.

This morning, voters will consider the matter of reinstating the 7/8 Grade for the coming academic year. To prepare for this discussion, please pick up a printout of notes and a proposed resolution from a joint meeting of Church Council representatives, and School Board and Staff members. Copies are available on the table in the narthex.

JAVA JOY IS BACK! – 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 it’s time to bring **Java Joy** back to St. John, and today is the day! We thank our hosts today, the **Women of Freedom**, for this service of love to us all! Please stop out in the front hallway and grab a cup of Joe and a little bite to eat. Take some time with one another to greet, chat and encourage. Most of all, let’s enjoy the fellowship God has given us as His body of believers.



- **Would you, or a group of you, or perhaps your church organization, please consider hosting?** Sign up in the narthex! Hosting Guidelines are available right next to the sign-up sheet. Hosting **Java Joy** need not 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. **The Java Joy coordinator is Char Weber.** Please contact her at 419-906-0208 with questions

LYF SUPER BOWL SUB SALE – TODAY, the LYF are distributing their Super Bowl subs. **These were pre-order only.** Subs will be available for pick up after church until 11 AM down by the kitchen. Payment is due at the time of pick up. Checks can be made out to St. John LYF. Thanks to everyone who supported our sub sale this year!



LENTEN SUPPERS COMING SOON!!! With the Lenten season this year comes Lenten Suppers each Wednesday prior to the worship service. Suppers will begin at 5:30 PM and serving will stop around 6:30 PM to allow for cleanup and for the hosts to attend worship. These will be freewill meals and will be hosted by LYF and/or Church Council. Anyone else wishing to host a meal should contact the church office. Thank you!



LENTEN MIDWEEK TEASER – Lent begins in 10 days on February 22, Ash Wednesday. Pastor Niermann is planning a midweek Lent series about the *mostly* good kings of Judah. ***We'll start each midweek Lenten Service with a hymn sing.***

So, what do you know about King Uzziah? He's the king who died the same year Isaiah saw the vision of the "Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up." (Isa. 6:1) What led to his death is instructive for us. Though he was beloved as Judah's king, his hubris got the best of him when he presumed to burn incense in the temple, a task reserved for the priests whom God set aside for this holy duty. Uzziah's pride was his downfall, and ultimately brought about the end of his reign and even death. If only the king had heeded the proverb of his royal predecessor, "When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom." (Prov. 11:12)

Thankfully, we have a better King by far, who knew His place in the Father's plan for our salvation, and humbly fulfilled His role for us – all the way to the cross! All hail, our Servant-King Jesus! This year our Lenten midweek series is titled:

"CHRONICLES OF THE (mostly) GOOD KINGS OF JUDAH."

They fell short. King Jesus does not!

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 2/05/23	\$10,636.00	\$202.00	\$478.00

ATTENDANCE – Sunday: 153

LWML – Please pick up the LWML Ode publication for Spring 2023 in the tract rack in the narthex today. These are available to all women of the church and always seem to have very interesting and well written articles in them. Pick up your copy today!

LADIES. . . Come on along. . . Time to lend your hands to help at the Grain Train on our 'Service Day'. **Tuesday, February 21st**. All are invited to join the group at **11:30 am** for a **Dutch Treat** lunch at **Sweet Dreams-Ice Cream** (formerly Johnson's Ice Cream Shoppe) after which we will proceed to the **Grain Train** – or you can just meet us at the Grain Train (located on the east side of the Culligan building) at 1:00 p.m. We will wrap up by 2:30 p.m. We guarantee no hard labor . . . only good fellowship! Sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex.

MISSION SUNDAY – NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday, February 19 is Transfiguration Sunday and will also be a Mission Sunday as we welcome 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!

- Rev. Rahn’s sermon: “A Sure Word Worth Sharing”
- Rev. Rahn will also have a presentation during the Bible study hour to bring us up to speed on all the exciting projects and progress of *LHF*.

SCHOOL BOARD POSITION: St. John Lutheran Church is seeking an individual who would be interested in filling the final spot on the School Board. This individual would begin their duties on School Board as of July 1, 2023. If you would be interested in serving on the Board, please contact Pastor Niermann, Randy Rosebrock, or Cheryl Sausser.

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 ASAP.**

2022 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – The 2022 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 Financial Trustee, *Jerry Langenhop* at 419-966-3473.

TIME TO UPDATE OUR DIRECTORY: There are many addresses and phone numbers in the Annual Report directory that need updated. If you (and/or your adult children) have address changes; or if you have eliminated your land line telephone and only have cell phone numbers, **please call or email** the church office at 419-598-8961 or email jwiechers@sjl.org with updated information. It will be very helpful to have current addresses on file. Thank you!

WE NEED YOU!! Enjoy spending time with children in an after school setting? Looking for a part time job for a few hours a week? Then we have the job for you! Mrs. Susan Dickes has decided to retire due to health concerns and that leaves us very short staffed for Freedom Flock. We are looking for employees to work Monday- Friday from 3 pm to 6 pm. Number of days can be flexible depending on how many are hired. Responsibilities are monitoring children, helping students with homework as needed, playing with children and taking them outside. Applicants must be 18 years old and willing to obtain fingerprinting. Please reach out to Miss Tracy Germann at tgermann@sjl.org or call the school (419-598-8702). This is a great chance for any seniors to complete their community service hours.

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. Registration is now opened up to the public, 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 or 4 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.

ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES: You may begin ordering SCRIP. 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.**

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.

ST. JOHN WEBSITE: Did you know you can listen to *Pastor Niermann's* sermons on the internet? Just click on "St. John YouTube Channel" or "Worship Service Resources" on the Home Page. There is also a "For Kids" tab which allows you to listen to previous Children's Sermons at St. John.

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.

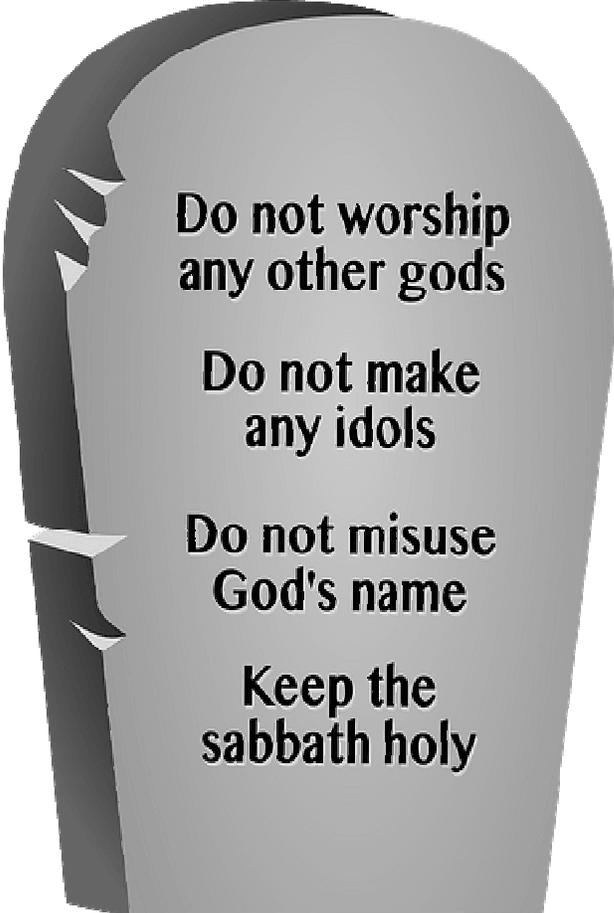
CHICKEN PIE DINNER – The Ridgeville American Legion Post #454 will host their annual Chicken Pie Dinner on Sun., Feb. 19 with serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

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Food For Thought...

Nothing is more contagious than a bad example. *-French Proverb*
"My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent." (Prov. 1:10)

TEN COMMANDMENTS



**Do not worship
any other gods**

**Do not make
any idols**

**Do not misuse
God's name**

**Keep the
sabbath holy**



**Honour your
father & mother**

Do not murder

**Do not commit
adultery**

Do not steal

Do not lie

Do not covet