



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom
Worship • Stewardship • Mission

January 26, 2014

VOL. 79

NO. 4

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Miss Mary K. Rettig, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
School: 419-598-8702 Home: 419-966-6160
Church Website: www.sjl.org

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: **873 ~ 412 ~ 914 ~ 411**

Children's Choir: *Gr. K-4 sing "An Epiphany Hymn"*

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS *Welcome to St. John Church! "I sought the Lord and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears" (Ps. 34:4). Let us seek the Lord together this day. Let us offer up our fears and doubts, that we may go forth strengthened and empowered for another week. If you are visiting us today, know that we are honored by your presence. 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.*



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Anna Gerken & Cally Bialorucki, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Dan & Joyce Wiechers, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman, *Altar Guild* ✘

Engage Bible Study/Movie Series

Jesus told teaching stories, or parables, about regular people and everyday things that His disciples would be familiar with. But He did so to reveal deep, spiritual insights about them and their world in order to lead them into great truth about Him.



Likewise, the real stories you'll encounter in the **Engage** Bible study will challenge the way you think and may even question the way you feel, but with a profound purpose. Through short movies, Bible study and discussion, you'll learn more about yourself, those around you, and the profound love God has for you through His Son.

Please join us this morning for a cup of coffee and our first movie, titled 'KINGS.' Loneliness is a big problem in people's lives, and just being with other people or in a crowd is not necessarily the cure. Happily for us, our Savior has a cure. Join us!

In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 4:30 PM	<i>National Lutheran Schools Week (Sunday through Saturday)</i> Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" LYF Meeting
Mon.	5:00 PM 5:30 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:15 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. Monclova (A) <i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Kindergarten; Offering: Filling Home – Napoleon 4/5 Preschool to Napoleon Public Library Exercise Class in gym B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys; 6:15 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. St.Pats-Bryan (H) Board of Elders LWML Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:45 PM 7:45 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM) Adult Hand Bell Practice Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 5:00 PM 5:00 PM	Exercise Class B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:15 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. BG Christian (A) B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys; 6:15 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. Monclova (A)
Sat.	10:30 AM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 11:45 AM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs. Solomon-Woodville (A)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Mon.- Sat.	7:20 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Dale Kern</i> , Retired, St. John Lutheran, Stryker

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

- Our Homebound Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Marian Fitzenreiter, and Donald Landry* dealing with various health issues
- Pauline Dishop* and *Marie Damman*, residing at The Lutheran Home
- Magdalena Volkman*, residing at Heartland Nursing Home, Wauseon
- Lucy Rosebrock*, residing at GlennPark of Defiance
- Marian Buchhop* and *Annalou Brodman*, residing at Country View Haven
- Helen Norden*, residing at Greenbriar Assisted Living, Birmingham, AL
- Sue Landry*, recuperating at Twin Rivers Nursing Home, Defiance, after hospitalization
- Servicemen and women*, Justin Atkinson, Kyle Elling, Jason Rohrs, and Emily Niermann
- Arnold Bischoff* and *Don Dickmann*, recovering at Golden Living Center – Northcrest
- Edwin Rosebrock*, at home dealing with health issues at this time

LOST & FOUND ITEM: If you were a hostess for the "Advent By Candlelight" in December and are missing two black table linens, they are on the coat racks by the gym. Please stop by and pick them up at your convenience.

THE 2013 CHURCH ANNUAL – There are still a handful of reports that have not been turned in by the respective officers or coaches. *Please have them turned in as soon as possible.* Also if there are any address and phone number changes, please let *Joyce Wiechers* know ASAP. Thank you to those who have already turned in your reports.

2013 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – The 2013 offering envelope contribution totals (green sheets) are available this morning on the table in the narthex. These will also be printed in the Church Annual. We hope this helps those members in need of this information for tax purposes. If you have any questions on your yearly contributions, please call *Karen Rosebrock*, at 419-592-1150.

LWML MEETING: Our next LWML Meeting will be on Tues., January 28th starting at 7:00 PM. There will be a Bible Study based on Psalm 145 which can be found in the Quarterly located on the narthex table. Pick up a copy and come to the meeting. All women of the congregation are invited.

2014 IS AN ANNIVERSARY YEAR FOR ST. JOHN! 145 years ago, in August of 1869, our congregation was founded. We are planning to celebrate this anniversary on August 17 of this year. In addition, we want to prepare a 145th Anniversary edition of a congregational portrait directory. Would you consider serving on a committee to make these plans? Please indicate your willingness at today's voters' meeting or speak with congregational president *Craig Drewes*.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	<u>Home Fund</u>	<u>Synod & Missions</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 1/19/14	\$8,562.00	\$178.00	\$578.00

ATTENDANCE: 1/19/14 – 275

COMMUNED in December: 470 members; 9 guests



SANCTUARY STAINED GLASS EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE – After discussion through the years, the council moved last Tuesday evening to assemble an exploratory committee to look into the possibility of installing stained glass windows in the sanctuary. The committee's task would be to explore various stained glass options and costs, and report its findings to the voters. If you would like to serve on this committee, please speak with congregational president *Craig Drewes* or *Pastor Niermann*.

ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT – **Exciting news!** Last Sunday the voters distributed for ministry over \$38,000 generated in 2013 by the *St. John Endowment Fund*. The gifts that have been given to this fund over the years are adding up to make a real difference. ***If you have not yet included the St. John Endowment Fund in your estate plans, please consider doing so.*** *If you don't already have an estate planner, Eileen Fitzenreiter is always willing to assist you. You may also speak with Dave VonDeylen, our endowment fund administrator, for further guidance.*

GREETER (yellow), ALTAR GUILD (pink), AND USHER (blue) SCHEDULES: The 2014 Greeter, Altar Guild, and Usher schedules are ready to be picked up from the table in the narthex. Thank you to all who have volunteered to serve on these teams – you are a blessing to us all!

NEW KEY SYSTEM BEGINNING IN FEBRUARY – Beginning Feb. 1st the new electronic lock/key system will be turned on. This system has been installed for the security of our students. It's going to take some getting used to for everyone, so please remember --- patience is a virtue! Here's what you need to know about the system.



- Old keys will no longer function, except in the narthex entry doors at the carport.
- Firewall doors from the church to the school will also be electronically locked.
- New electronic key fobs will permit access only during certain hours as programmed.
- Only staff key fobs will work during school hours. All others must enter the school through the gym entrance and use the buzzer system.
- Service people and organizations will receive keys fobs programmed for certain hours.
- Any member who needs a key fob will be able to acquire one for \$5.00 in the church office. Users need to be aware that their key activity will be logged by the computer.

SUPERBOWL PARTY NEXT SUNDAY – “It’s not complicated,” the AT&T commercials say. “Bigger is better.” The Superbowl on a 15-foot screen is better than the Superbowl on a 50-inch screen! That’s one reason you’ll want to join us for our first annual **St. John Superbowl Party** next Sunday, February 2nd at 6:00 PM. We’re going to clear out the north end of the fellowship hall so you can bring your favorite lawn or folding chair and watch the game with your friends from church! And if you’re only moderately interested in the game, the other end of the fellowship hall will be set up for fun and socializing --- please bring decks of cards or your favorite board games. It’s fun for all!

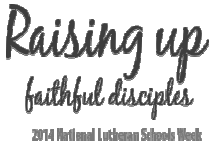


- **SNACK POTLUCK** – no Superbowl Party is complete without snacks, so we’re planning a “Snack Potluck.” Bring a snack to share, and remember there are plenty of outlets for plugging in crock pots, etc.
- **BEVERAGES & CONCESSIONS** – The LYF youth in partnership with the boosters is planning to have beverages and limited concessions, including popcorn; proceeds to the LYF.
- **FOR THE CHILDREN** – If the kids aren’t interested in the Superbowl, don’t let that keep you away. The LYF is planning a movie for them and some gym activities.

THANK YOU FROM SOUP & PIE COMMITTEE – The Soup & Pie Committee would like to thank everyone for their support of the Annual Soup & Pie Dinner. Thanks to everyone who donated salads, desserts, and any other food items in order to make this fundraiser a success. We had a great turnout! Also thanks to the committee workers for all your teamwork and good help. There were some new faces on the committee this year and we appreciate everyone’s effort. Great Job!



(Signed: Mike & Jeannette Bostelman, Ryan & Renee Bostelman, Greg & Lisa Brown, Tri-chairs)



NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK – This is being celebrated January 26 – February 1! The theme is *Witness Always: Raising up faithful disciples*. Lutheran schools throughout the LCMS will be celebrating this week with various activities in their classrooms highlighting the quality education that takes place within each school facility. At St. John, teachers will be using special devotions in their

classrooms and several students will tape radio spots on WNDH 103.1 to be aired that week, Tuesday thru Saturday. The Preschoolers and Grades 3 & 4 will be traveling to the Lutheran Home sometime in the future for a friendly visit with the residents there also. We will have live broadcasts by WNDH from St. John School on Thurs., January 30th between 9:30 – 11:30 AM. Be sure to tune in!

FREEDOM'S FLOCK NOTE: We are pleased to announce that *Karen Riefers* is the new Director of Freedom's Flock After Care Program. She will also remain as the Aide. We thank Christa Bickel for her time and dedication to get this program implemented at St. John and wish her the best as she moves on in her endeavors.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE is planned for grade levels PS-8 on Wed., 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(ren) here for their education. If anyone in the congregation might know of prospective students for Grades PS-8, please be sure to pass this information on to them. There will also be refreshments provided by the School Board.

ST. JOHN SCRIP: Beginning January 2014, SCRIP orders will be placed once a month on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. The next "turn in date" for SCRIP orders is Wed., Feb. 12th. These cards will be available the first part of that next week. Contact *Karen Gerken* at 567-454-0087 with any questions about Scrip.

'BREAD FROM HEAVEN' – Contributions can be given at any time: monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your envelope), and **food gifts such as canned fruit (peaches, pears, pineapple), cereal, mac & cheese, jelly, spaghetti's, tuna, and canned chicken are desperately needed.** Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated. Food items can be placed in the box near the archives display.

PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST: The Napoleon Fire & Rescue Association invites you to their Annual Pancake & Sausage Breakfast at the fire station on Sun., Feb. 9th with serving from 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer on bulletin board for more info!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Down in the mouth? Maybe it's time for a faith lift.

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." (Rom. 15:13)*

*Heaven and earth shall pass away:
but my Words shall not pass away.*

~ Mark 13:31

