



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

February 9, 2014

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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](http://www.sjl.org)

### **FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

Sermon & Text: "An Acceptable Day" *Isaiah 58:3-9a*

Order of Service: *Service of Prayer and Preaching (LSB pg. 260)*

Hymns: 825 ~ "The Fast" ~ 782

Children's Choir: *Gr. 7&8 Bell Choir ring "Hear Our Prayer" and "Father Give Thy Benediction"*

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### **WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS**

The Psalmist wrote: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the House of the Lord.'" We are happy to have you with us, whether someone invited you or you came by yourself. We are glad to share this House of the Lord with you. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to our pastor and by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you. Simply pass it to the center aisle during the offering this morning. Thank you!

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

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Mitchell Kruse & Brady Gerken, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Alan & Kathy Damman, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Carey Damman, Craig Drewes, Scott VanValkenburg, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham, *Altar Guild* ✠

### **Engage Bible Study/Movie Series**

**ROPE.** Ever felt like you were at the end of your rope? What if that rope was suspended 160 feet over the Niagara River, and you were walking on it? All of us experience scary situations in which we need someone to help us, someone we can trust. But trust comes at a high price, a price so high that some people are unwilling to pay it. In short, in order to trust, we must give up control. Imagine there was someone whom we could trust not only for the little things in life, but also for the big things. How would that influence the choices we make? How would that affect how we deal with relationships when the trust has been broken?



**Please join us this morning for a cup of coffee and our next movie, titled 'ROPE.'** When you're at the end of yours, Someone is there whom you really can trust!

In God's House This Week		Online church calendar: <a href="http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl">www.DynaCal.com/sjl</a>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:15AM 1:00 PM	Worship Service w/Communion following <i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; “ <i>Time To Spare</i> ” 4-H Meetings ( <i>See bulletin note</i> )
Mon.	7:00 PM	PTL Meeting
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Niermann; Offering: “Hearts For Jesus” Exercise Class in gym Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 6:45 PM	Jr. Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM) <b>Rescheduled</b> – St. John School Open House & Registration ( <i>until 7:30 PM</i> ) Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM	Exercise Class in gym
Fri.	5:00 PM	NWOLL Basketball Tournament at Trinity - Toledo
Sat.	9:00 AM	NWOLL Basketball Tournament at Trinity - Toledo
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15AM 1:00 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; “ <i>Time To Spare</i> ” NWOLL Basketball Tournament Championship games @ Trinity
Mon.- Sat.	7:20 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Stephen Niermann</i> , St. John Lutheran, Napoleon

**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
- Casen Lawrence*, as he has had seizures resulting in hospitalization
- Florence Jones*, hospitalized this past week in Toledo with an infection

**Java Joy TODAY** since it's the second Sunday of the month. Be sure to stop out in the front hallway this morning for some refreshments and fellowship. Our hosts today are ***Ron & Elaine Hesterman*** and ***Todd & Chris Hesterman***, and we thank them for this service of love to us all!



- ***WOULD YOU CONSIDER HOSTING JAVA JOY?*** Remember, you are welcome to reimburse some or all of your expenses, if you wish, from the ‘kitty’ – so please don't let that hold you back. There is a sign up sheet and guidelines in the narthex for all the second Sundays of 2014.

**HOLY COMMUNION** will be offered this morning following the worship service. Those who wish to attend should fill out a card from the pew rack in front of you and give it to the usher as you leave your pew this morning. Return immediately to the front pews in the sanctuary.

**GIDEON'S INTERNATIONAL** – This morning *Mr. Mic Sobleck* is with us from the *Gideon's International* to speak about this vibrant and ongoing ministry. The *Gideons International* is an association of Christian business and professional men who are dedicated to saving the lost through personal witnessing and the distribution of God's Word in more than 190 countries around the world. This organization started distributing the Word of God in 1908. Today, there are more than 300,000 members in more than 190 countries across the globe. These dedicated individuals give their time and money to make it possible for others to learn about the love of God by giving them access to His Word. They have placed or distributed more than 1.8 billion Bibles and New Testaments around the world . . . and counting. *This morning we will receive a door offering in support of this ministry.*



**A HUGE THANK YOU** goes out to *Larry Mahnke, Loren Maassel, and Dean Maassel* for their diligence this winter in keeping the church and school parking lot cleared of snow. They all three donate their time and equipment to get this massive job done after each snowfall. No matter if it snows 1 inch or 10 inches, the lot is always cleared when school buses arrive each day, or when church services begin. Thank you for being willing servants here at St. John!

**CHURCH WEBSITE UPDATED:** If you have been trying to view the church bulletin, calendar, or listen to a sermon over the past few months, and have been unsuccessful, we have good news. The website should be fixed now! So log onto [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org) and give it a try again! Please let us know if you are still experiencing problems, so we can help you out.

**PLANNING MEETING FOR TWO SERVICES** – **Thursday, Feb. 20, 7:00 p.m.**

The voters have elected to move to a new Sunday morning schedule: **8:15, Early Service / 9:30-10:15, Sunday School / 10:30-Late Service.** To make our plans for these services, we are calling together everybody involved in the Sunday morning routines, including the following:

**Church Deacons**  
**Musical Leaders**  
**Ushers**  
**Greeters**

**Altar Guild Members**  
**Sunday School Staff**  
**Java Joy Schedulers**  
**Other Interested Parties**

For the time being we are planning to begin the new schedule on the Sunday after Easter, April 27. Please join us in the north room of the fellowship hall as we discuss together all the issues related to making this change!

**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.

**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 145<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition of a congregational portrait directory. Would you consider serving on a committee to make these plans? Please indicate your willingness by speaking with congregational president *Craig Drewes*.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	<b><u>Home Fund</u></b>	<b><u>Synod &amp; Missions</u></b>	<b><u>Building Fund</u></b>
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 2/02/14	\$9,419.00	\$515.50	\$632.50

**ATTENDANCE:** 2/02/14 – 245

**LADIES QUILTING PARTY** is planned for all day Monday, Feb. 17. 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.



**SANCTUARY STAINED GLASS EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE** – After discussion through the years, council moved 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*.

**Lutheran Hour Ministries presents...**

**MISSION U - 202: THE OUTREACH-MINDED CHURCH - RURAL AND SMALL TOWN**

Mission U (U is for ‘University’) is an effort by *Lutheran Hour Ministries* to provide practical, educational workshops on many topics of benefit to local congregations. In MU-202 we will look at our church's outreach culture, focus on assimilation from guest to member, inventory our congregational assets, and focus on vision and mission. Each participating congregation is asked to gather at least four people to send to MU-202 because this workshop emphasizes internal growth of a unique congregation.

MU-202 is being hosted by *Emmaus Lutheran Church* in Wauseon on Saturday, February 22, 2014. The workshop will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with registration at 8:30 a.m. *Stacey Stender* will be the presenter. There is no fee for the workshop. Coffee and donuts will be provided at registration, and lunch will be provided at noon. Please speak with Pastor Niermann this week if you’re interested in attending with him.

**NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK** – If you missed the WNDH 103.1 radio spots that the students taped for NLSW, they can be heard by going to the [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org) website, scrolling down to the Lutheran School’s Week Messages, and clicking on any of the 7 messages shown. They are also linked to the “Kids Page” on the website.

**PTL MEETING:** The next PTL Meeting will be held on Mon., Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall. Soup & Pie results as well as other business at hand will be discussed. Plan to attend!

**SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE RESCHEDULED:** is planned for grade levels PS-8 on Wed., February 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 furnished by the School Board.

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

**SPIRIT PACKAGES** – You can still order spirit wear! Print the order form off FastDirect and turn it in to the school office ASAP. If we get enough additional orders, we can place another order.

**KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY CHANGES** for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2014! The K-clinic will be held on Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> with afternoon sessions. If numbers warrant, the clinic sessions will be at 12:30 PM and 1:45 PM. There WILL BE Kindergarten class until 11:30 AM on April 1<sup>st</sup>. **Napoleon Area Schools and St. John Lutheran have changed the eligibility date for entering Kindergarten beginning with the 2014-15 school year. The new eligibility is: A child must be five years old on or before August 1, 2014 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 2013 (*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.*

**SUNNY D LABELS** – Throughout the school year please continue to save labels from *Sunny D* drinks. Classrooms that save 20 *SunnyD* labels earn 20 FREE books. Here’s how it works. **COLLECT** *SunnyD* UPC labels from these eligible products: 1, 2, or 3 liter bottles; 16 oz., 48 oz., 64 oz., 96 oz., or 128 oz. bottles; 6.75 oz.- 6, 8, or 24 pack outer wraps; 6.75 oz.-12 pack cardboard case; 11.3 oz.-6 or 24 pack outer wraps; 12 oz.-12 or 24 pack cans outer wraps. **SEND** the UPC labels to the school office at any time.

**4-H CLUB ORGANIZATION:** The Gerald Busy Fingers, Cloverbuds, and Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Clubs will be having their first 4-H meetings today beginning at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. 4-H membership is open to anyone in Gr.3 – to age 19 and Cloverbuds is open to anyone in Gr.K-2. For more information about joining 4-H or the Cloverbuds please contact any of the following Advisors: *Bethann Gerken, Becky Michaelis, Stefanie Hilvers, or Kaylee Wentworth* (for Gerald Busy Fingers); *Heather Bostelman, Jennifer Gerken, or Tim Bowers* (for Cloverbuds); and *Pat Wiemken or Brian Badenhop* (for Freedom Royal Farmers).

**ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOL & YOUNG ADULTS:** Join us in the Cry Room after church each Sunday for Bible Study, fellowship, and snacks. Feed your soul and your body to start your week out right! Looking forward to having you join us each week! *Sharon Damman*

**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.

**USE OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL** – If you would like to use the Fellowship Hall for any occasion or would like to borrow tables or chairs, on a certain date this year, **please contact the church/school office at 419-598-8961 or 419-598-8702.** In addition to calling the office, you may want to check the online church calendar at <http://www.dynacal.com/sjl/>.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** For anyone wishing to place flowers on the altar for Sunday worship, please contact *Mabel Bischoff* at 419-598-8757. Remember that it is your responsibility to call Mabel either way; if you would like the Ladies Aid to order the flowers or if you are going to take care of ordering the flowers yourself. This will alleviate any confusion.

**LABELS FOR EDUCATION** (*formerly Campbell's Labels for Ed*): Our school collects labels all year long. **Labels For Education have expanded and now include UPC labels from Post Cereals, BIC, Pop-Secret, and several others.** For a complete listing of sponsors go to [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com). These labels earn points for St. John to be redeemed for many school supplies. **NOTE: Please turn in your Labels For Education and Box Tops For Education labels in separate Ziploc bags or envelopes. Do not combine them.** Thank you!

**BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION, AND POP TABS:** Our school also collects *Box Tops For Education*, and aluminum pop tabs all year long. *Box Tops For Education* is an ongoing PTL fundraiser earning 10¢ per box top for the PTL. They too have expanded their sponsors, so be sure to check over your grocery items carefully so you don't miss any box tops. The pop tabs collected all go to support the Ronald McDonald House in Toledo. There are collection boxes in the school office for each of these. **NOTE: Please turn in your Labels For Education and Box Tops For Education labels in separate Ziploc bags or envelopes. Do not combine them.** Thank you!

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

**CHICKEN PIE DINNER** – 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. See flyer!

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

***"What you do speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say."***

*~ Ralph Waldo Emerson ~*

*"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." (1 John 3:18)*