



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom
Worship • Stewardship • Mission

February 23, 2014

VOL. 79

NO. 8

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "Holy Is as Holy Does" *Leviticus 19:2*

Order of Service: *See printed Order of Service*

Hymns: 940 ~ 507 ~ 581 ~ 845

Adult Bell Choir: "Sunday School Songs"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We invite you to celebrate God's love as we pray to a Heavenly Father who cares for us, and as we hear His powerful Word to us. 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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Jacob Gillen & Alex Knepley, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Rich & Bev Elling, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagaen, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Carey Damman, Craig Drewes, Scott VanValkenburg, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham, *Altar Guild* ✠

Engage Bible Study/Movie Series

CONVOY. Why do bad things happen to good people? Why do they happen at all? Is there some meaning or purpose to events, especially those that are out of our control? If we believe in God, inevitably He comes into the question. What is His role in all this? Is there more going on beneath the tragedy, beneath the pain?



If good could come out of suffering, would that change our perspective about certain events and how we deal with them? Would it change the perspectives of those we care about? **Please join us this morning for a cup of coffee and our movie, titled 'CONVOY.'**

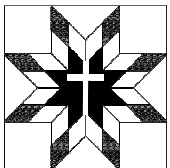
In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 1:00 PM 4:30 PM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" 4-H Meetings (All 3 clubs) LYF Meeting in Miss Rettig's classroom
Mon.	5:30 PM	Bread From Heaven Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Grades 5&6; Offering: "Hearts For Jesus" Exercise Class in gym Board of Elders
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:45 PM 7:45 PM	Jr. Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM) Adult Hand Bell practice Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM	Exercise Class in gym
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 1:00 PM	Communion Service Sunday School; "Time To Spare" 4-H Meetings (All 3 clubs)
Mon.- Sat.	7:20 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: Rev. James Strawn, St. James Lutheran, Archbold

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*, dealing with and recovering from an infection
- Arnold Bischoff*, hospitalized at UTMC for tests on his lungs



CRAFTY LADIES – The quilts you see draped over the pews this morning were lovingly made by the **St. John Ladies Aid**. The blankets will be donated to needy families in the area, to our Church Shut-Ins, and to the Ridgeville Legion Shut-ins. If you have new fabric that can be used for blankets or would like to help sew or knot blankets, contact *Nancy Hogrefe* or any Ladies Aid member. Thanks ladies for all your time and effort put into these lovely blankets.

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY – Next Sunday we make the transition from Epiphany into Lent as we go with Jesus, Peter, James and John to the mountain top. There our Lord is transfigured and reveals His true glory, as St. John reported, “... *we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*” (*John 1:14*) On this day we say farewell to the “Alleluia,” reserving that word of praise for Easter and the celebration of Christ’s resurrection. Be sure to be in God’s House next Sunday and every Sunday as we grow together in grace, in the knowledge of the Lord, and in our mutual love as members of Christ’s body!

LENT MIDWEEK 2014

“Our Father, Who Art In Heaven”

Luther once wrote, “The Lord’s Prayer is the greatest martyr on earth. . . . Everybody tortures and abuses it; few take comfort and joy in its proper use.” Instead, Luther says, it is “prattled and chattered so irreverently.” And thus it is the true Lenten prayer.

Of course the abuse heaped on the Lord’s Prayer is not cursing, spitting, and driving nails. Instead, the abuse is prattling and chattering through the prayer while never understanding that the Lord’s Prayer is the true Lenten prayer because it’s all about the cross of Jesus!

Join us on Wednesday evenings during the Lenten season as we study this prayer of prayers, so that when we say “Amen,” (“Yes, yes, it shall be so”), we can confidently claim its promises and comfort, which are ours only through Christ the crucified!

- **Our first midweek Lenten service is Ash Wednesday, March 5th at 7:00 p.m.**
- **The youth will be serving Lenten Suppers each Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.**



OUR FATHER,
*who art in
heaven*

Lent Midweek 2014

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING – The list of the people for this year’s annual church cleaning are printed in today’s bulletin. There are additional copies on the table in the narthex. Also, if you 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. The co-chair of your group will be contacting you with more details.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS – The Sunday School material for March/April/May 2014 has arrived. Please pick yours up in the church office at your convenience.



PARKING LOT ASSISTANTS – With the parking lot as icy and treacherous as it has been a few Sunday’s this winter, the Stewardship Board is looking into providing valet parking especially for the elderly or for anyone who is fearful of slipping or falling. In the meantime, we like to recruit some people to serve as ***Parking Lot Assistants***. They would arrive on winter Sunday mornings by 8:15 to 8:30 and be prepared to assist people in getting from their cars into the church. If you are sure footed and could help in this way, please sign the form in the narthex, and we’ll get in touch to get everyone organized. Thank you!

“HEARTS FOR JESUS” COIN FOLDERS: February is “*Hearts for Jesus*” month and we as a School and Sunday School collect offerings throughout the month for this cause. Coin folders were sent home for Sunday School students to gather up all their loose change around the house. This year our “Hearts For Jesus” dollars will go to the Wounded Warrior Project, a very worthwhile cause. We will collect these coin folders on Tues., Feb. 25 and also on Sun., Mar. 2.

<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 2/16/14	\$7,482.00	\$347.50	\$905.50

ATTENDANCE: 2/16/14 – 292

WOMEN'S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY will be held again this year. We will begin on Tues., March 4th at 10:00 AM in the conference room. More information to be posted soon. Please plan to join us!



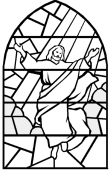
MEN'S LENTEN BIBLE BREAKFAST – Join us, men, on Thursday mornings during Lent for breakfast and Bible study. **We'll gather each Thursday at 6:30 a.m. at Hill's Restaurant in Napoleon.** These morning studies will be a continuation of the previous evening's worship and sermon as we dig deeper into the Lord's Prayer and discover there the riches of God's grace. It's a great way to start your day – breakfast, fellowship, and the Bread of Life!

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 by speaking with congregational president *Craig Drewes*.

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.

2013 ANNUAL REPORT should be ready to be put together on Saturday, March 1st. We are asking **all the members of last year's council** and anyone else interested to please come and help us assemble this. If we have enough volunteers, it only takes about an hour. We plan to start at 9:00 AM. Thanks to anyone who can help us out.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2014-15 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.



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*.

'BREAD FROM HEAVEN' – 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 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 peaches, pears, pineapple, cereal, macaroni & cheese, jelly, spaghetti's, tuna, and canned chicken are desperately needed.** Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated.

KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY CHANGES for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2014! The K-clinic will be held on Tuesday, April 1st 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 1st. **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.*

4-H CLUB ORGANIZATION: The Gerald Busy Fingers, Cloverbuds, and Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Clubs will be having their next 4-H meetings on Sun., Feb. 22nd 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).

AREA EVENTS:

- **SOUP & PIE DINNER** – St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wauseon. Sun., Mar. 2nd serving from 11:15 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!
- **PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST** – Ridgeville Volunteer Fire Dept. Sun., Mar. 2nd serving from 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Carryout available. See flyer!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Been taken for granted? Imagine how God feels.

“Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?” (Romans 6:1-2)

2014 ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING LIST

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING will be broken out into three groups. The top two names in each group will be the co-chairmen. If you are elderly and would like your name removed from the annual cleaning list, please let your chairmen know as soon as possible. Thanks to all of you for giving your time and effort to this yearly project.

GROUP 1: *Lowell/Renee Petzoldt, *Bob/Karen Riefers, Steve/Judy Okuly, Jill Okuly, Jason Okuly, Andrea Oyer, Lester/Janice Rabe, Mary Rettig, Eric Riefers, Kevin Riefers, Ted/Jackie Ripke, Dave Rohrs, Rod/Lisa Rohrs, Tom/Genny Rohrs, Brad/Sarah Rosebrock, Carlton/Jamie Rosebrock, Dave/Karen Rosebrock, Jim/Danette Rosebrock, Kailee Rosebrock, Randy/LouAnn Rosebrock, Michelle Rosebrock, Rodney/Jackie Rosebrock, Walter/Lois Rosebrock, Brad/Amy Rosebrock (39)

GROUP 2: *Larry/Cheryl Sausser, *Kirk/Tara Sausser, Kolby Sausser, Linda Schroeder, Matt/Shawna Schroeder, Jerry/Nancy Short, Dennis/Robin Showman, Marlene Showman, Karen Sonnenberg, Angie Sonnenberg, LeRoy Sonnenberg, Roger/Shirley Sonnenberg, Chris/Beth Speiser, Scott/Kylie Speiser, Jason/Kim Stevens, Joel/Nicole Stier, Scott/Kim VanValkenburg, Sarah VerMeulen, Dan Volkman, Adam VonDeylen, Denny/Diane VonDeylen, Dave/Jane VonDeylen, Joe VonDeylen, Josh VonDeylen, Kristie VonDeylen, Tom/Sandy VonDeylen, Kylee Staup (41)

GROUP 3: *Eric/Teresa Weller, *Dan/Joyce Wiechers, Dan/Deb Wachtman, Todd Wachtman, Arlene Wallace, Royal/Teresa Ward, Robert/Ronda Wentworth, Eric Wiechers, Marc Wiechers, Karen Wiechers, Wes Wiechers, Doug/Cathy Willeman, David Williams, Tom Williams, Derek/Kortney Williams, Kirk/Kim Woods, Cherie Yeager, Cheri Atkinson, Rob/Valerie Scheffert, Dean/Sharon Badenhop, Stefanie Hilvers, Neil/Anita Badenhop, Clay Badenhop, David Badenhop, Elmer Badenhop, Glenn/Kathy Badenhop, Greg Badenhop, Megan Badenhop, Tim Badenhop (41)

GROUP 1: Narthex, Room under steps of the Narthex, Balcony (including storage rooms), Church itself, Room in front of sanctuary on east side, Entrance area floor

GROUP 2: Cry Room, Pastor's Office, Conference room by church, Furnace room, Restrooms, (Includes Pastor's restroom), hallways (up to double doors),
(Storage Room by Cry Room will be cleaned by Food Pantry Coordinators)

GROUP 3: Fellowship Hall, Storage Room off of Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Storage room west of the Kitchen.