



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom
Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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NO. 11

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

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "The Gospel in a Scallop Shell" *John 3:1-17*

Order of Service: *Divine Service Setting Three*, (Page184)

Hymns: **605** ~ "Born in Darkness, Lord, We Wander" ~ [Communion: **571, 588, 423**] ~ **601**

Children's Choir: *Grades K-4 sing "Go to Dark Gethsemane"*

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 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

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘ Jacob Gillen & Alex Stevens, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Steve & Linda Miller, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Badenhop, Sandy VonDeylen, Mary Rettig, *Altar Guild* ✘

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed today to the Glory of God in honor of *Dorothy Gerken's* 80th birthday which was yesterday, March 15th. These are being placed by her family and great grand-daughter, Mia. Happy Birthday Dorothy, and may you have many more!

PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS for the next quarter, *April, May, June*, are on the desk in the narthex. There are also large print booklets available for anybody to pick up.

2013 CHURCH ANNUAL is available on the desk and table in the narthex. Pick up your copy today! If there are any corrections to be made, please contact Joyce in the office.

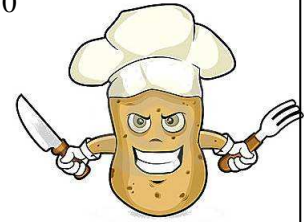
In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:15AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Napoleon Public Library (<i>Gr. K-8</i>) Exercise Class; Ladies Lenten Bible Study in Cry Room Ladies Lenten Bible Study in Cry Room Building Committee Meeting
Wed.	5:30 PM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Lenten Supper (<i>servicing until 6:40 PM</i>) Junior Confirmation Class (<i>5:45 – 6:45 PM</i>) 3rd Lenten Service Offering: <i>Vocation Student/Good Neighbor Fund</i> Acolytes: <i>Katelyn Drewes & Anna Gerken</i> Greeters: <i>Clara Meyer & Phyllis Silveus</i> Ushers: <i>Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling</i> Altar Guild: <i>Karan Niebergall, Kaylee & Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs</i> Grades 5-8 Choir: "The King of Glory" Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM	Men's Lenten Bible Study at Hill's Restaurant Exercise Class
Fri.		End of 3 rd Quarter Grading Period
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15AM 1:00 PM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" 4-H Meetings
Mon.- Sat.	7:20 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Charles Kramer, St. Paul Lutheran, Napoleon</i>

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

- Our Homebound Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Marian Fitzenreiter, and Donald & Sue 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 *Anna Brodman*, residing at Country View Haven
- Don Dickmann*, residing at Golden Living Center - Northcrest
- Helen Norden*, residing at Greenbriar Assisted Living, Birmingham, AL
- Servicemen and women*, Justin Atkinson, Kyle Elling, Jason Rohrs, and Emily Niermann
- Edwin Rosebrock*, at home dealing with health issues at this time
- Casen Lawrence*, as he has had seizures resulting in hospitalization
- Florence Jones*, now recuperating at the Lutheran Home in Napoleon
- Arnold Bischoff*, who remains hospitalized at UTMC

POTATO BAR NEXT SUNDAY – Join us next Sunday, March 23, at 11:30 a.m. for a potato bar meal in the fellowship hall. There will be all kinds of toppings for your large baked potato, as well as salads (and for those who don't care for a potato, hotdogs will be available).

- **BRING A DESSERT to share!** Styrofoam containers will be available for \$5 that you can load up with your favorite desserts to take home. Mmmm, does that sound good!



A free will offering and dessert proceeds will be matched by the “Right Hand of Fellowship” gift matching campaign for the fellowship hall renovation. Come have a spud with us for a good cause!

RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP GIFT MATCH – The first match from the anonymous gift given for the fellowship hall renovation has been received in the amount of \$37,938. This matches



the gifts everyone gave so generously in the final quarter of 2013. Your gifts combined with this match have put a dent of nearly \$80,000 in the debt for the fellowship hall renovation. We encourage everyone to remember this campaign throughout the year – there is still \$37,062 of matching money at the *LCMS Foundation* waiting for our matching gifts. Use the special offering envelopes you received, or include a gift with your regular envelope. **Can we retire this debt by the end of the year? WHY NOT?**

LWML ANNUAL PRAYER BREAKFAST will be held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Wauseon, on Sat., March 22nd at 9:00 AM. Those of you interested in attending, please contact *Lois Rosebrock* at 419-598-8248.

<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 3/09/14	\$8,684.00	\$150.50	\$372.50

ATTENDANCE: 3/09/14 – 1st Service: 145; 2nd Service: 294

2ND LENTEN SERVICE: Cancelled due to snowy weather

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE SOURCE FOR INFORMATION, TEACHING & TRUTH...Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show hosted by LCMS Pastor *Todd Wilken* and produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. This week's topics include: The TV Series “Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey,” Saint Patrick, Biblical Archeology, Jesus & the Samaritan Woman and more. You can listen at your convenience at www.issuesetc.org.

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING – The list of the people for this year's annual church cleaning are printed and 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 dates and times.

LENT MIDWEEK 2014

Join us each Wednesday evening during Lent as we dig deep into the Lord's Prayer to discover the blessings and comfort that Christ built in that prayer for those who pray and understand it rightly. The schedule for services is as follows:



OUR FATHER,
*who art in
heaven*

Lent Midweek 2014

Day	Theme	Offering
3/5 Ash Wed.	"Our Father who art in heaven."	Worship for Shut-ins broadcast
3/12	Cancelled due to weather	
3/19	"Thy kingdom come"	Church Vocation Students, Good Neighbor Fund
3/26	"Thy will be done"	Concordia, Ann Arbor
4/2	"Give us this day our daily bread"	Good Shepherd Deaf Church, Toledo
4/9	"Forgive us our trespasses"	Summer Mission Trip
4/17 M. Thr.	"Lead us not into temptation"	Youth Mission Trip/Servant Event
4/18 G. Fri.	"Deliver us from evil"	Undesignated gifts to Synod & Missions

OTHER LENTEN NOTES – Please take note of the following:

- **MIDWEEK LENTEN SUPPERS** are served each Wednesday during Lent, 5:30-6:40 p.m. Weeks 1, 3 & 5 will be hosted by Grades 5-7 to support their class trip. Weeks 2, 4, & 6 will be hosted by the LYF to support their next trip to the National Youth Gathering. This week's menu: *Marian's Vegetable Soup, Turkey or Ham Sandwich, Hot Dogs, Chips, Dessert and Drink.* **Thrivent Financial** will be matching funds from the freewill offerings collected.
- **WOMEN'S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY** meets Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the conference room. Our Bible Study is called "The Revelation of Jesus Christ." Join us!
- **MEN'S LENTEN BIBLE BREAKFAST** meets on Thursdays during Lent 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!
- **EASTER FLOWERS** – This year we are offering the various flowers as we did last Easter. **Order forms are in today's bulletin.** Drop your order and payment in the container on the narthex table or at the church office. **Order deadline is Sunday, March 30th.**
- **EASTER BREAKFAST FOOD SIGN-UP** – Keep an eye out in the narthex for the Easter Breakfast sign up form. Should be coming soon!



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 speak with congregational president *Craig Drewes*.

NEW SUNDAY SCHEDULE BEGINS THE SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

Beginning Sunday, April 27 (the Sunday after Easter) we will have a new morning schedule that includes two worship services with Sunday School between. The new schedule will be:

8:15 a.m. Early Service
9:30 a.m. Sunday School / *Time to Spare* / Bible Study (45 minutes)
10:30 a.m. Late Service



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*.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2014-15 school year for 3-yr olds only. **NOTE: The 4/5-yr. old class is full and we have started a “waiting list.”** 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.

KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY CHANGES for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2014! Letters were mailed to families this past week. 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 MEETINGS – The Gerald Busy Fingers, Cloverbuds, and Freedom Royal Farmer's 4-H Clubs will have their next meetings on Sun., March 23rd at 1:00 PM here at St. John School.

THANK YOU to everyone (*concession workers, hall monitors, clock keepers, camera operators, ticket takers, floaters, etc.*) who helped with the All-Ohio Tournament this past weekend. The tournament ran smoothly with everyone's help and we received many compliments for the hospitality shown throughout the weekend. A **BIG** thanks to *Pastor, Al Damman, Dan Wachtman, Todd Wachtman, and Vince's TV and Appliance* for hooking up the TV and projector in the fellowship hall and troubleshooting all the electronics this weekend. Again, thank you to everyone who helped set up, run and clean up after the Tournament. Signed, *Jason Foor*, Athletic Director

ATHLETIC BANQUET: The St. John Athletic Banquet is scheduled for Sun., April 6th at 4:30 PM with a potluck meal. Honorees will be all St. John athletes (Gr. 4-8), the Mini-Eagles (Gr. 1-3), as well as Senior High School athletes who graduated from St. John School and have participated in an organized sport all four years of high school. Everyone welcome!

INTERESTED IN A CHURCH PROFESSION? WE'D LIKE TO HELP! Recently a number of young people from St. John have pursued educational goals to prepare them for full-time service as teachers and pastors. If you are interested in a church profession (*as a pastor, deaconess, teacher, lay minister, or a Director of Christian Education, Christian Outreach, Parish Music, or Family Life Ministry*), our congregation would like to support you by offering a tuition gift. An application for this gift is available online --- type **www.sjl.org/student_gift_app.pdf** into your browser (*there is no link*) and fill out the application. Deadline for fall enrollment is June 1st.

LADIES AID SCHOLARSHIPS: Here is another opportunity to encourage and help young people prepare for service to the church as pastors, teachers, lay workers, deaconesses, and parish workers. \$500 per year Ladies Aid Scholarships are available to any young person attending one of our synodical schools. Simply contact any Ladies Aid member for more details about this.

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. These labels earn points for St. John for school supplies.

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!

EXERCISE CLASS: Need to work off a few pounds or just want to exercise your heart? St. John hosts an exercise class in the gym. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-10 AM and the cost is \$5 per class (pay as you come). This is a light aerobics and strengthening program. (If you have your own weights, bring them with you.) Please contact *Nancy Glaser* (419-598-8432) with any questions.

SOUP & PIE DINNER: St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wauseon, has rescheduled their Soup & Pie Dinner to Sun., March 30th with serving from 11:15 AM – 1:00 PM. See revised flyer!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Make full use of your church's ATM – Atonement, Truth, Mercy.

*"Every good and perfect gift is from above,
coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights." (James 1:17)*