



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 Co. Rd. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom
Worship • Stewardship • Mission

March 30, 2014

VOL. 79

NO. 13

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "I See" *Isaiah 42:14-21*
Order of Service: See printed service folder
Hymns: 411 ~ 423, st.1, 3 ~ 849 ~ 958 ~ 744

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS *Welcome in the name of the Lord. We pray that through this time of stillness and song, prayer and proclamation, you may experience the Spirit of God at work in your life. 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* ✘ David Maassel & Cameron Dickmann, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ The Niermann Family, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Jim & Linda Meyer, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Karan Niebergall, Kaylee & Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, *Altar Guild* ✘

Engage Bible Study/Movie Series

PHONE. Nobody likes to receive bad news. Especially when the news is painful, when we are forced to suffer a loss. In this world, grief is a part of our human experience, and grief is everywhere. Alone, we may feel like we cannot recover. What if someone knew about grief firsthand, someone who had died and had lived to tell about it? What if there really is a light at the end of the tunnel? Would knowing that everything really will be okay in the end change how you live right now? Would that be something you would want to share with someone else? **Please join us this morning for a cup of coffee and our movie, titled 'PHONE.'**



In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:15AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Tue.	9:00 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Ladies Lenten Bible Study (<i>also at 7:00 PM</i>) Stewardship Board & School Board Meetings
Wed.	10:20AM 5:30 PM 5:45 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Late Start-Up due to Teacher In-Service at 9:00 AM Lenten Supper (<i>servicing until 6:40 PM</i>) Junior Confirmation Class (<i>5:45 – 6:45 PM</i>) Adult Bell Choir Practice 5th Lenten Service Offering: <i>Good Shepherd Church for the Deaf - Toledo</i> Acolytes: <i>Cally Bialorucki & Anna Gerken</i> Greeters: <i>Bob & Diane Norden</i> Ushers: <i>Al Damman, Andy Damman, Tim Hodson</i> Altar Guild: <i>Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short</i> Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM	Men's Lenten Bible Study at Hill's Restaurant Exercise Class
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15AM 11:15AM 1:00 PM 4:30 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Confirmation Planning Meeting 4-H Meetings Athletic Banquet
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 & 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
- 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 on-going seizures resulting in hospitalization
- Florence Jones*, recuperating at the Lutheran Home in Napoleon
- Cheri Atkinson*, as she grieves the loss of her father, *Donald Freeman*, on March 17. His funeral service was held on Sat., March 22nd

HOME WITH THE LORD: *Arnold Bischoff*, 85, passed away peacefully on Fri., March 21st at Golden Living Center – Northcrest. Arnold’s funeral was held at St. John on Mon., March 24th at 1:30 PM. He was laid to rest in St. John Lutheran Cemetery. Please keep Arnold’s family in your prayers.

NEW CHANCEL HANDRAIL – Next Sunday for the first time, the new handrail will be in place on the steps up to the chancel. This should make it much easier and safer for people to come forward for Holy Communion. We thank *Mr. Carey Damman* for fabricating this handrail for us – his handiwork will be a blessing to many for a long time to come!

TWO SERVICE 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

<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 3/23/14	\$7,109.00	\$220.50	\$540.50

ATTENDANCE: 3/23/14 – 243

4TH LENT SERVICE: *Concordia University – Ann Arbor* - \$778.00 Attendance: 123

PREPARATIONS FOR THE VICAR – It won’t be long until we welcome a Vicar into our midst, probably mid-August. To get ready for his ministry among us, there are number of things we need to get accomplished.

1. **Office** - A temporary partition wall will section off about 8 ft. of the room currently used for quilting.
2. **Apartment** – We need to locate an unfurnished apartment (*preferably two bedrooms to accommodate a few children*) in or near Napoleon. Once we know who our Vicar is and his situation, we will have time to pull some items together if necessary to furnish what he will need. Please speak with *Pastor Niermann* if you know of any apartments that would be suitable for a Vicar and can be occupied starting August 1.
3. **Support** – Together we all need to get used to the idea of a second church staff member and what that means for the finances. Along with exciting possibilities come additional responsibilities, and we pray that everyone will be forthcoming in their financial and prayer support for a Vicar’s ministry among us.



OLD THEOLOGY, NEW TECHNOLOGY...Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor *Todd Wilken*. This week’s topics include: A Lutheran Army Chaplain & the Trial of the Nazis, The Big Bang Theory, Jesus Heals a Blind Man, The Annunciation of Our Lord and more. You can listen on-demand at www.issuesetc.org.

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 revised 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	"Hallowed be Thy name"	Church Vocation Students, Good Neighbor Fund
3/26	"Thy kingdom come"	Concordia, Ann Arbor
4/2	"Thy will be done"	Good Shepherd Deaf Church, Toledo
4/9	"Give us this day our daily bread"	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: *Deb Durham's Broccoli Cheese 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 – Order deadline is today!** This year we are offering the various flowers as we did last Easter. Order forms are on the narthex table. Drop your order and payment in the container on the narthex table or at the church office.
- **EASTER BREAKFAST:** The LWML and LYF are once again hosting an Easter Breakfast to be served between the two services on Easter morning (8:00-9:15 AM). The menu is: *Scrambled eggs and ham, French bread, coffee cake, doughnuts, rolls, cookies, coffee and juice.* A lot of help for donations is needed. **You may sign up on the chart in the narthex to donate items.** All are welcome to help with preparation and serving. We will be meeting at 9:00 AM on Saturday, April 19th to prepare food. All donations need to be at the church prior to that time (*except the baked goods*). Matching funds from Thrivent Financial will also be received.

LWML SPRING RALLY – St. John Lutheran Church, Corner of St. Rt. 6 & 66, Stryker, is hosting this year's Spring Rally on **Sat., April 5th** beginning at 9:00 AM. Registration begins at 8:30 AM. The speaker this year is *Pat Bilow*, LWML gift planning counselor. There will be a video presentation from *Gary Thies* about Mission Central. See flyer!

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!

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. ***Our first meeting will be Monday, April 7.***

LADIES AID MEETINGS: Our next meeting will be on **Thurs., Apr. 10th** at 7:00 PM. Our speaker will be *Eileen Fitzenreiter* with the LCMS Foundation. The "History of Gerald" presentation with speakers, Russ & Marlene Patterson, is scheduled for the Thurs., May 8th meeting at 7:00 PM. Please mark your calendars for this. Men and women invited to the May meeting!



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*. ***Our first meeting will be Monday, April 14.***

LWML MEETING: How are your LWML *Mite-y Socks* looking? Don't forget to keep dropping your dimes into them each month! Socks are still available on the narthex table so pick up your *Mite-y Sock* today!

Pick up a copy of the Quarterlies from the table in the narthex. Our next LWML Meeting will be on **Tues., April 22nd** starting at 7:00 PM. All ladies welcome to attend!

LADIES NIGHT OUT: The Stewardship Board is looking to host a Ladies Night Out fundraiser for the fellowship hall debt reduction. The proposed date is **Mon., May 5th**. More details to come, but be sure to put this date on your calendars for the time being.

S.T.O.P. PENNY DRIVE – The PTL Spring Penny Drive at St. John School begins Mon., March 31st and runs thru Fri., May 9th. Save those pennies and give them to one of our students or turn your pennies in at the school office. Mr. Petzoldt will be monitoring the weekly results this spring. Remember to **Save Those Old Pennies!**

SCHOOL MUSICAL – If you are interested in helping sew costumes for the Spring Musical, “Oklahoma,” please contact *Bonnie Niermann* via the school office (419-598-8702) or at home (419-598-8181). Also, please note that as of tomorrow, March 31st, the gym will be closed to all extra-curricular activities due to stage set up taking place. The gym will be off limits through Fri., May 16th.

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.

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: The K-clinic will be held on Tuesday, April 1st with an afternoon session at 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. *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.*

BATTLE OF THE SCHOOLS – ELECTRONIC RECYCLING FUNDRAISER: This annual fundraiser is scheduled for Sat. April 5th from 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM at each of the Henry County high schools. Be sure to support this fundraiser and bring your unused electronics – that means anything with a power cord, to Napoleon High School (*student parking lot*) on April 5th. Please, no TV’s or large appliances can be accepted. Any questions can be directed to 419-256-7343.

DD MONTH: March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. This year’s theme is “Ability at Work” and encourages people to look beyond an individual’s disability and picture that person’s potential, seeing the individual’s unique capabilities and abilities. For more information, call HOPE Services at 419-599-2892 or 419-278-3050.

4-H MEETINGS – All three 4-H Clubs meet Sun., April 6th at 1:00 PM here at St. John School.

SOUP & PIE DINNER: St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wauseon, will hold their Soup & Pie Dinner today with serving from 11:15 AM – 1:00 PM. See revised flyer!

✂ ✂ ✂

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Don’t give up on God! Moses was once a basket-case too!

“You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.” (Psa. 73:24)