



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 Co. Rd. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

April 6, 2014

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NO. 14

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

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Church Website: www.sjl.org

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "Living 'In the Spirit' In the Flesh" *Romans 8:1-11*

Order of Service: *Divine Service Setting Four – LSB pg. 203*

Hymns: 548 ~ "Look on Me With Pity, Lord" ~ (Communion: 910, 685, 634) ~ 819; 1,4,5

Adult Choir: "The Old Rugged Cross" and "Here, O My Lord"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life." Our Savior invites us to His table, a table of love that has been prepared for us. Jesus, our Savior, lived, died and lives again for each one of us. Let us worship our God today and praise Him for His love. 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!



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Brady Gerken & Mitchell Kruse, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Jerry & Nancy Short, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Harold Behrmann & Richard Elling, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✘

Engage Bible Study/Movie Series

HOSE. Something breaks down in your life and you have to make do with a substitute, a quick fix. Happens all the time, right? The problem is, all too often we get so used to the quick fix that we never move on to a permanent solution. We become comfortable. It's working, right? Well, sort of ... but we're not any happier. Do you think it's time to turn away from the quick fixes in your life? What if someone gave us the reason – the ability – to move on? Wouldn't that be something to be happy about? Know anyone else in your life who might need deliverance? **Please join us this morning for a cup of coffee and our movie, titled 'HOSE.'**



In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	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
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Niermann; Offering: <i>Lutheran Home - Napoleon</i> Exercise Class Ladies Lenten Bible Study (<i>also at 7:00 PM</i>) Church Council Meeting
Wed.	5:30 PM 5:45 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Lenten Supper (<i>serving until 6:40 PM</i>) Junior Confirmation Class (<i>5:45 – 6:45 PM</i>) Adult Bell Choir Practice 6th Lenten Service Offering: <i>Summer Mission Trip</i> Acolytes: <i>Cameron Dickmann & Katelyn Drewes</i> Greeters: <i>Scott & Kim VanValkenburg</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 7:00 PM	Men's Lenten Bible Study at Hill's Restaurant Exercise Class Ladies Aid Meeting
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15AM 11:20AM	Palm Sunday Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Confirmands/Parents Planning Meeting
Mon.- Sat.	7:20 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Joshua Schmidt, St. John Lutheran, Defiance</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
- 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 home following a pacemaker implant
- Norma Damman*, rehabbing at Henry County Hospital following a fractured hip

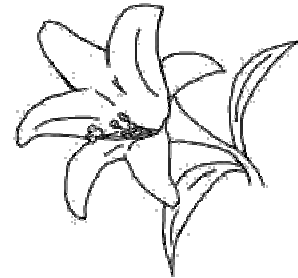


CHILDREN – PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION – Next Sunday is Palm Sunday the beginning of our Holy Week commemoration. The children of the congregation (*and any friends they may like to invite*) are invited to join next Sunday in a procession of palms to begin our Palm Sunday worship service. The children will meet in the fellowship hall prior to the service to receive their palms and any instructions.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

“Let us ever walk with Jesus,” especially this upcoming holy week. He made the long, sad and painful journey to Calvary for us – let us go with Him every step of the way that our hearts may be prepared properly for the joyous celebration of His resurrection! (Evening services at 7:00 p.m.)

April 13 Palm Sunday
17 Maundy Thursday (Communion)
18 Good Friday Tenebrae Service
20 **EASTER Sunrise Service** - 7:00 a.m.
Fellowship Breakfast - 8:00 a.m.
EASTER Festival Service (Communion) – 9:30 a.m.



ANNUAL CLEANING GROUP #2: We will be meeting to clean our area of the building on Mon. and Tues., Apr. 7&8 at 5:00 PM. Please bring a bucket and rags when you come. Thank you!

NEW CHANCEL HANDRAIL – Today 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

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 21 – please note the change!***

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!

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:



Day	Theme	Offering
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. The final week’s menu: *Hot Chicken Sandwich, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Tossed Salad, 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 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 Sat., 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.



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.***

AT THE CHURCH LIBRARY: New materials have been added to our church library. Many books have been added including, “Christian Ethics in the Workplace”, “The Mother of the Reformation, the Amazing Life and Story of Katharine Luther”, and “5 Things You Can Do to Appreciate Science and Love the Bible”. New audio and video materials are also available. Finally, new books for children such as “The Real Story of the Flood” and “A Few Who Dared to Trust God” are ready to be checked out. These and all new materials for the church library have been reviewed by Pastor Niermann and are found on the top right shelf in the library bookcase. The library is self serve and is located in the hallway just east of the sanctuary. If you would like assistance finding a book please call *Darrel Behrmann* at 598-8252.

ATHLETIC BANQUET: The St. John Athletic Banquet is scheduled for **today** 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!

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.

<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 3/30/14	\$5,859.00	\$340.50	\$567.50

ATTENDANCE: 3/30/14 – 237

COMMUNED in March: 328 members; 20 guests

5TH LENT SERVICE: *Good Shepherd Church for the Deaf* - \$619.00 Attendance: 107

LWML MEETING: *Mite-y Socks* are still available on the narthex table so pick up your *Mite-y Sock* today! Pick up a copy of your 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!

RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP PROGRESS – Through the first quarter of 2014, our matching gifts for the Right Hand of Fellowship Campaign and fellowship hall renovation totaled \$3,326, bringing the grand total so far to \$41,264.68. This includes gifts given by envelope and at special functions the Stewardship Board has planned for this campaign. Thank you to everyone for your support as we retire this debt. The new fellowship hall has already proven to be a real blessing, and with the arrival of a vicar, we will be able to utilize it even more for ministry. To give a gift, you can use the special envelopes that were provided with your offering envelopes, or just include it in your regular offering envelope and make a notation.

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 has begun. This will run thru Fri., May 9th. The classroom collecting the most pennies will be treated to a pizza party. All other classrooms will get an ice cream party. Save those pennies and give them to one of our students or turn your pennies in at the school office. **NOTE: *Since starting this fundraiser in October 1992, the PTL has now raised \$15,639.06 for the school.*** 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 the gym is now closed to all extra-curricular activities due to stage set up taking place. The gym will be off limits at least through Fri., May 16th.

GRANDPARENT’S DAY: Just a reminder that Grandparent’s Day at St. John School for Grades K-8 will be held on Friday, May 9 beginning at 12:30 PM and running until 3:00 PM. *Lunch is not included.*

MEMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE: Thrivent’s Annual Appreciation Event will be held on Sat., Apr. 26th from 4-8 p.m. at the Bavarian Haus, Deshler. Come for fellowship, food, and fun!!! Contact *Jean Cohrs*, (419-599-8280 or email: church.henrycounty@gmail.com) by Apr. 16th to RSVP.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN BENEFIT - The Ohio Division Orphan Grain Train is sponsoring a Drive-thru Beef Brisket Dinner on Sun., May 4th at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1075 Glenwood Ave., Napoleon, from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM (*or until they run out*). This is a freewill donation with matching funds from Thrivent Financial.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Many people use "Duct Tape" to fix everything.....God used nails!

“...through [Christ] to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.” (Col. 1:20)