



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom
Worship • Stewardship • Mission

April 13, 2014

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NO. 15

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

PALM SUNDAY

Sermon & Text: "Save Us!" *John 12:12-19*

Order of Service: *See printed Service folder*

Hymns: 442 ♦ 444 ♦ 422 ♦ 440 ♦ 443 ♦ 438 ♦ 441

Children's Choir: *Gr. 7&8 Bell Choir ring "Amazing Grace"*

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS *On this day, long ago, our Lord entered Jerusalem to glad shouts of "Hosanna!" On the threshold of Holy Week, we invite you to share with us this foretaste of His final triumph. Welcome to our celebration. 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* ✘ Alex Knepley & Bady Gerken, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Tom & Sandy VonDeylen, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✘

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 **Neil & Anita Badenhop** and **Bill & Janet VonDeylen**, and we thank them for this service of love to us all!



- **WOULD YOU CONSIDER HOSTING JAVA JOY?** *Hosting does not have to be expensive – 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 in the narthex for all the second Sundays of 2014. Please sign up, and pick up the sheet of guidelines from the table. Thank you!*

| In God's House This Week | | <i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i> |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Date | Time | Activities |
| Today | 9:00 AM 10:15AM 11:20AM | Palm Sunday Worship Service w/Communion following <i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Confirmands/Parents Planning Meeting |
| Mon. | 7:00 PM | Stained Glass Exploratory Committee; PTL Meeting |
| Tue. | 8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM | Napoleon Public Library (Gr. K-8) Exercise Class Ladies Lenten Bible Study (<i>also at 7:00 PM</i>) Building Committee Meeting |
| Wed. | 6:15 PM | Jr. Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM) |
| Thurs. | 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM | Adult Bell Practice Maundy Thursday Service w/Communion Offering: <i>St. John Youth Mission Trip/Servant Event</i> Acolytes: <i>Jacob Gillen & Abigail Weller</i> Greeters: <i>Dan & Deb Wachtman</i> Ushers: <i>Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers</i> Altar Guild: <i>Linda Riefers, Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff</i> Adult Bell Choir: " <i>Gethsemane's Prayer</i> " and " <i>It Is Well With My Soul</i> " Adult Choir Practice |
| Fri. | 7:00 PM | <i>NO SCHOOL – Easter Break</i> Good Friday Tenebrae Worship Service Offering: <i>Filling Home of Mercy/The Lutheran Home</i> Acolyte: <i>Brady Gerken & Aaron Bostelman</i> Greeters: <i>Dan & Joyce Wiechers</i> Ushers: <i>Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers</i> Altar Guild: <i>Linda Riefers, Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff</i> Adult Choir: " <i>There, on Calvary</i> " |
| Sat. | 9:00 AM | Set up for Easter Breakfast |
| Sun. | 7:00 AM 8:00 AM 9:30 AM | Easter Sunrise Service Easter Breakfast Easter Festival Service with Communion |
| Mon.- Sat. | 7:20 AM | Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Mark DeLassus</i> , St. John Lutheran, Sherwood |

NEW SUNDAY SCHEDULE BEGINS SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

Beginning Sunday, April 27 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

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
- Eldor Gruenhagen*, hospitalized this week at Fulton County Health Center
- Aaron & Ashley Crall*, celebrating the birth of their little boy this week at Henry Co. Hospital

NEW SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES

The Means of Grace – (*This study is intended to fill in a little time as we prepare for our next bigger study, “The Screwtape Letters” - see below*). God seems to have a fondness for doing His greatest work through the most ordinary means – with mud He healed the blind; with a word from His mouth He raised the dead; with wood and nails He redeemed the world. And now with water, bread and wine He comes to us, simply but powerfully. Join us beginning this morning!

The Screwtape Letters – In this classic book by C.S. Lewis we meet Screwtape, a fictitious devil with vast experience in the art of temptation. In a series of 31 letters, he teaches his craft to an apprentice devil by the name of Wormwood. It is a fascinating and eye-opening look into the craftiness of our enemy as he works tirelessly to draw us away from our Savior.



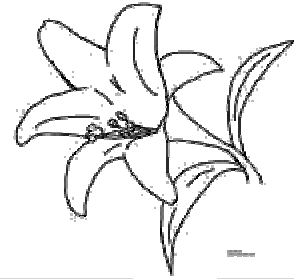
This Bible study will be modeled as a book club. Everyone is encouraged to purchase a copy of this book (used copies are available on Amazon.com for a few dollars). Each week we will read a few of the letters, then come together on Sundays to discuss what we’ve read, and to compare it with God’s Word. This is a classic piece of literature that every Christian ought to read. Get your copy ordered, and we’ll begin this study in a month or so. Watch for details.

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.

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.)

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| 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. |



OTHER LENTEN NOTES – Please take note of the following:

- **WOMEN’S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY** will meet **this Tuesday for the final Lenten Bible Study 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** will gather **one more time this Lent on Maundy Thursday morning at 6:30 a.m. at Hill’s Restaurant in Napoleon.** These morning studies are 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.

TALK RADIO FOR HOLY WEEK – This week, tune in to “Issues, Etc.” to hear daily discussion about all the events of that first Holy Week when Jesus made His way to the cross. You will gain rich insights through discussions about *the Upper Room, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Trials of Jesus, the Passion of Christ according to Isaiah, the hymn, “My Song is Love Unknown,” and the Seven Words of Christ from the Cross.* Find out more information and listen at www.issuesetc.org.



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.***

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!***

| <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 4/06/14 | \$8,696.00 | \$158.00 | \$658.00 |

ATTENDANCE: 4/06/14 – 257

6TH LENT SERVICE: *Summer Mission Trip* - \$813.00 Attendance: 151



CHURCH LIBRARY – The church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary, is growing to contain a lot of excellent books that will edify your faith. The books in this library have been screened to assure that they are true to the Word of God and can be trusted to be theologically sound. Please check out the selection. To borrow a book, just take it with you, then return it to the basket when you’ve finished reading.

IS IT TIME FOR A ST. JOHN GARAGE SALE? The idea came up at Church Council about having a combined garage sale. We haven’t done this for a number of years, and we all have accumulated ‘stuff’ that we could do without, so the timing seems right. Since the mats are already in the gym for the school musical, we thought a June date would be good. **However, we need someone to take a leadership role and assemble a team to coordinate this effort.** If you would like to step into this role, please speak with *Pastor Niermann* or president *Craig Drewes*.

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.

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!

LADIES NIGHT OUT: The Stewardship Board is hosting a Ladies Night Out fundraiser for the “Right Hand of Fellowship” gift matching campaign. This will be held on Mon., May 5th from 6:00-8:30 PM in the fellowship hall. This will be a fun-filled evening for all the ladies to enjoy! Invitations will be mailed very soon! Sign up to come on the signup sheet at the narthex table.

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 comes additional responsibilities, and we pray that everyone will be forthcoming in their financial and prayer support for a Vicar's ministry among us.

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS need to be turned in to the office by Wednesday of each week in order to be included in the Sunday bulletin. Please make a note of this. Thank you!

OHIO ACHIEVEMENT ASSESSMENTS & ITBS – We will be administering the OAA tests (Gr. 3-8) on April 23-25 and the ITBS tests (Gr. 1&2) from April 16-25. Please be aware of these dates and refrain from setting up appointments on these dates.

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!***

GRANDPARENT'S DAY: A reminder that Grandparent's Day at St. John School for Grades K-8 will be held on **Friday, May 9** from 12:30 - 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.**

EASTER EGG HUNT: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Liberty Center, is hosting a Meet the Easter Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt on Sat., April 19th. See flyer on bulletin board for more details.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

We are not Dairy Queen... but, we have great Sundays!

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" (Psa. 122:1)