



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

February 1, 2015

VOL. 80

NO. 5

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Mr. Reed Shoaff, Vicar
Miss Mary K. Rettig, Principal

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FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "A Prophet Like - but Greater Than - Moses" *Deuteronomy 18:15-20*

Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting 1*

Hymns: 902 ~ "This Is the Feast" ~ 541 ~ [Communion: 826, stz.1, 629,634] ~

"Thank the Lord" ~ 406, 5 stanzas

Adult Choir: (Early) "Amazing Grace" and "It Is Well With My Soul"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to St. John Church. We thank God for this time together! We pray that the grace of God will heal your hurts; that the strength of God will give you courage to face the work before you; and that the peace of God will keep you secure and steady in Christ Jesus. 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

- ✧ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✧ 1st Service: David Maassel & Colin Johnson, *Acolytes* ✧
- ✧ 2nd Service: Katelyn Drewes & Anna Gerken, *Acolytes* ✧
- ✧ David & Sara Myles, *Greeters* ✧
- ✧ Richard Elling & Harold Behrmann, *Visitation* ✧
- ✧ Denny Bockelman, Jeff Buchhop, David Myles, *Ushers* ✧
- ✧ Kathy Badenhop, Sandy VonDeylen, Mary Rettig, *Altar Guild* ✧

CHURCH NEWSLETTER EXTENSION – Submission deadline is extended to Tues., Feb. 3!

We are now collecting articles and information for the next church newsletter. Submissions are encouraged from all groups at St. John, including Archives, Women of Freedom, Boosters, PTL, etc.

2014 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – There are still several reports that need to be turned in. The

officers of the different organizations are asked to write up a summary of the year's activities along with a financial report if there is one. If you need your offering contribution information prior to the distribution of the Annual Report, please call Financial Trustee, *Jerry Langenhop*, at 419-598-8151.

Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers ASAP.

In God's House This WeekOnline church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM	Early Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Communion Service
Mon.	5:30 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:30 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls vs. St. John-Defiance (A)
Tue.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM 5:30 PM	Exercise Class Stewardship Board Meeting B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:45 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs. St. Mary's Catholic (H)
Wed.	10:20AM 6:15 PM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM	Late Start-up (<i>Teacher In-service at 9:15 AM</i>) Jr. Confirmation Class (<i>6:15 – 7:30 PM</i>) St. John School Open House & Registration (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>) Adult Hand Bell practice School Board Meeting; Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant Exercise Class Bible Study w/ <i>Vicar Shoaff</i> ; B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. Liberty Center (A)
Sun.	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM 1:00 PM	Early Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Worship Service 4-H Meetings (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Marian Fitzenreiter, Donald Landry, and Norma Damman*
- ❖ *Pauline Dishop and Marie Damman*, residing at The Lutheran Home, Napoleon
- ❖ *Magdalena Volkman*, residing at Heartland Nursing Home, Wauseon
- ❖ *Anna Brodman and Marian Buchhop* residing at Country View Haven
- ❖ *Edwin Rosebrock*, residing at The Orchards of Northcrest, Napoleon
- ❖ *Helen Norden*, residing at Greenbriar Assisted Living, Birmingham, AL
- ❖ Servicemen and women, *Justin Atkinson, Kyle Elling, Jason Rohrs, Emily Niermann, and Connor Gerken*
- ❖ *Casen Lawrence*, as he has had on-going seizures resulting in hospitalization
- ❖ *Yvonne Volkman and Marvin Gruenhagen* dealing with health issues
- ❖ *Joel Stier*, diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma and currently undergoing chemotherapy
- ❖ *Rosemary Hoeffel* (Christa Bickel's mother), currently on the liver transplant list at University of Michigan Hospital – Ann Arbor
- ❖ *Pastor DeWitt and Larry Mahnke*, both dealing with health issues at this time
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman*, at The Lutheran Home for rehabilitation for 2-3 weeks
- ❖ *Edwin Rosebrock*, at Toledo Hospital with health concerns
- ❖ *Elmer Badenhop*, at Henry County Hospital's Swing Bed facility following back surgery
- ❖ *Ron & Elaine Hesterman*, mourning the loss of Ron's brother, Willie, this past week

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES!

While the young ones are in Sunday School, you can be growing in faith too!

- **“THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS”** – This book is a fascinating look by C.S. Lewis into the devil’s cunning and deception, and it just gets better and better. In **Letter #22** Screwtape acknowledges all of the pleasures God has given us in this world as His good gift, and says that it is their job to twist and pervert those pleasures so they can be used to hell’s advantage. Join Pastor Niermann in the north end of the fellowship hall for this intriguing study, and you will gain an advantage as you fight the good fight of faith. Don’t worry if you’ve not attended before – each letter is a Bible study unto itself.
- **“MARRIAGE BY GOD’S DESIGN”** – “The commitment to love and be faithful to one's spouse-for better, for worse, in sickness and in health- is not a pledge to keep the same feelings. It is a pledge to do certain things, to voluntary conduct." Today we will considering the question, "What is true love?" Is it just a feeling?...or is there more to it? Join Vicar Shoaff in the fellowship hall as we look to God's Word and the example of Christ to understand what "true love" really is.

L.Y.F.

Get out the word! We’re meeting **NEXT SUNDAY** (Feb. 8) for some pizza, fellowship and fun, and to discuss a full agenda of ideas and future plans. We’ll meet at 4:30 p.m., so be sure to spread the word!

2014 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – The 2014 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 Report. 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 *Jerry Langenhop*, at 419-598-8151.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER OPENINGS – There are openings for Sunday School teachers in Grades 1 & 2 (two needed) and Preschool (one needed) at this time. The ability to teach is a gift that many possess, although it may come more readily for some. Most of us, given the opportunity, can excel if we are dedicated to the Christian belief. There are usually two teachers per classroom and they teach every other month. Sunday School runs September thru May, from approximately 9:30 – 10:15 AM. What better way to put your talents to good use here at St. John. Give it some thought and contact Sunday School Supt. *Brenda Kruse* Sunday mornings to let her know your intent. Thank you!

145th ANNIVERSARY PICTORIAL DIRECTORY – Phase II

- **GROUP AND ACTIVITY PICTURES** – We need every group in the church and school to submit pictures for the ministry pages of our directory. If you lead or chair a group or committee, please pick up the envelope for your group and use it to gather pictures you’d like to see on the ministry pages.
- **IF YOU COULDN’T SCHEDULE A SESSION**, there are two options for you;
 1. Schedule an appointment at another church in the area. St. John Catholic Church, Defiance is the closest. Their picture dates are Feb. 19-21 and Feb. 23-28. Call Tammy at Universal Church Directories (1-888-742-5823) to schedule this.
 2. Submit your own photograph for inclusion. Place it in an envelope with your name and put in the box in the narthex. **There is a \$10 cost to submit your own picture.** Please include your payment when you turn in your envelope.

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST – Men, join us this Thursday morning, Feb. 5 for breakfast and Bible Study. We meet at **6:30 a.m. at Hill's Family Restaurant** in Napoleon. It's great food, great fellowship, and a great way to start your day. It's GRRRRRR-EAT!

LADIES QUILTING PARTY is planned for all day Monday, Feb. 16. There will be blanket knotting for those that do not wish to quilt. We will start at 9:00 AM. All ladies of the congregation are invited. You can come and stay all day or just part of the day; whatever fits your schedule.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 1/25/15	\$6,042.00	\$92.00	\$316.00

ATTENDANCE: 1/25/15 – 8:15 Service: 145; 10:30 Service: 122

YOUTH DIRECTOR POSITION AVAILABLE - We are presently seeking candidates for our Youth Director. This is a part-time paid position. The Youth Director, with guidance and assistance from the Vicar and Pastor, promotes and leads the LYF youth ministry in our congregation. This position involves a monthly meeting, and planning and implementing various youth activities throughout the year. If you would like to apply for this position, please speak with *Vicar Shoaff* or *Pastor Niermann*.

PTL MEETING: The next PTL Meeting will be held on Mon., Feb. 9th at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall. Soup & Pie results as well as other business at hand will be discussed. Please plan to attend!

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE is planned for grade levels PS-8 on Wed., February 4th, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM, for families who would like to come and look at our school and discuss the possibility of sending their child(ren) here for their education. If anyone in the congregation might know of prospective students for Grades PS-8, please be sure to pass this information on to them. There will also be refreshments.

GRADES 3-5 ROUND ROBIN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT will be held here on Sat., February 28th. This is a one day boys & girls tournament. Volunteer referees and scoreboard help are needed. We are also looking for families to donate beef patties for the concession stand that day.

Admission/entry fee will be a non-perishable food item to be donated to the St. John *Bread From Heaven* Food Pantry. The food item donations will be a competition among the participating teams. Boxes will be set up by team designation and the team with the most items donated will be declared the "winner" of the tournament. Contact *Doug Willeman* at 419-261-1372 with questions.

4-H CLUB ORGANIZATION: The Gerald Busy Fingers, Cloverbuds, and Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Clubs will be having their first 4-H meetings on Sun., Feb. 8 beginning 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*, *Kaylee Wentworth*, *Jennifer Gerken*, *Stefanie Hilvers*, or *Tim Bower* (Gerald Busy Fingers) and *Pat Wiemken* (Freedom Royal Farmers).

KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY CHANGES for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2015! The K-clinic will be held on Thursday, March 26th 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 March 26th. **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 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 2014 (*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.

'BREAD FROM HEAVEN' – A note to St. John members needing food assistance – 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 made at any time. Monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your offering envelope). Food donations for our pantry can be dropped off in the box by the Archives display cases. **Food items especially needed at this time are: spaghetti sauce, mac n' cheese, cream of mushroom soup, tomato soup, saltines & any crackers, and hamburger helper.** Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated. Thank you so much! As we learned in the meaning of the Fifth Commandment, "*We should fear and love God that we...help and support our neighbor in every physical need.*" (*Small Catechism*)

ST. JOHN CHURCH LIBRARY – Stop in and check out the growing number of books available in the church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary. 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. To borrow a book, just take it with you, then return it to the basket when you've finished reading. A complete list of the books in the church's library can be found by clicking on the "Book Inventory" link on the library page of our church's website. <http://www.sjl.org/library.html>

CHURCH HISTORY BOOKS – If at any time during the year you need a gift for a current or former member of St. John, why not consider one of our Church History Books. This book is full of interesting facts about St. John's and is available in the church office at a cost of \$12.00.

CHICKEN PIE DINNER – The Ridgeville American Legion Post #454 will host their annual Chicken Pie Dinner on Sun., Feb. 15 with serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

The Baptismal Font – God's Superbowl.

"He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5)