



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. 8

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

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
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Church Website: www.sjl.org

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "Oh My God, Let Me Not Be Put to Shame" *Psalm 25 & Mark 1:9-15*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: **418 ~ 948** ~ [Baptism (Late): **595,601**] ~ **422 ~ 657 ~ 718**

Adult Bell Choir: (*Early*) "Here I Am Lord"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We invite you to celebrate God's love as we pray to a Heavenly Father who cares for us, and as we hear His powerful Word to us. 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

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ 1st Service: Landon Willeman, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ 2nd Service: Bailey Johnson & Tyne Rosebrock, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Jerry & Nancy Short, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Denny Bockelman, Jeff Buchhop, David Myles, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kathy Badenhop, Sandy VonDeylen, Mary Rettig, *Altar Guild* ✠

BAPTISM TODAY – This morning we rejoice to witness the baptism of

Gabriel Andrew Damman, infant son of Andy & Brianne Damman.

Gabriel was born on February 2, 2015 at St. Luke's Hospital in

Maumee, Ohio. His baptismal sponsors are Chad Damman and Florin

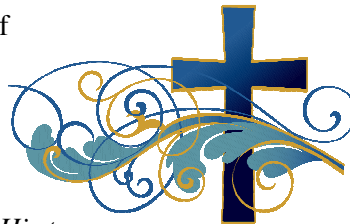
& Brenda Damman. Gabriel's grandparents are Al & Kathy Damman,

Linda Arreguin, and David & Anabel Arreguin. "See this wonder in the

making: God Himself this child is taking As a Lamb safe in His keeping, His to

be, awake or sleeping." May the good work God begins this day in Gabriel be brought to

completion on the day of Jesus Christ!



In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM 1:00 PM	Early Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Annual Church Cleaning Co-chair meeting Late Worship Service 4-H Meetings (<i>All 3 clubs</i>)
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Grades 7&8; Offering: " <i>Hearts For Jesus</i> " Exercise Class in gym Board of Elders; Technology Committee Meeting
Wed.	5:30 PM 5:45 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Lenten Supper (<i>serving until 6:30 PM</i>) Junior Confirmation Class (<i>5:45 – 6:45 PM</i>) Adult Bell Choir 2nd Lenten Service Offering: <i>LYF Servant Event</i> Acolytes: <i>Emily Bostelman</i> Greeters: <i>Scott & Kim VanValkenburg</i> Ushers: <i>Denny Bockelman, Jeff Buchhop, David Myles</i> Altar Guild: <i>Kathy Badenhop, Sandy VonDeylen, Mary Rettig</i> Grades 7&8 Bell Choir: " <i>When I Survey</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 in gym Women's Lenten Bible Study
Sun.	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM	Early Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Communion Service
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. James Strawn, St. James Lutheran, Archbold</i>

WORSHIP SURVEY IN NEWSLETTER – This week members should receive a newsletter in which the elders have included a survey about how best to schedule worship, along with a few other worship-related items. Please fill this out and return it to the box in the narthex marked for this purpose.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS – The Sunday School material for March/April/May 2015 has arrived. Please pick yours up in the church office at your convenience

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING – The list of the people for this year's annual church cleaning are available on the narthex table. 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. **There will be a co-chair meeting today at 9:30 AM.** Please plan to attend if at all possible. Thank you!

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
- ❖ *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, Marvin Gruenhagen, Joel Stier, Pastor Doug DeWitt, Larry Mahnke, Elmer Badenhop, and Annetta Homan* dealing with health issues at this time
- ❖ *Rosemary Hoeffel* (Christa Bickel's mother), currently on the liver transplant list at University of Michigan Hospital – Ann Arbor
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman*, currently at The Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Walter Delventhal*, at Fulton Manor in hospice for declining heart and lung health issues

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES!

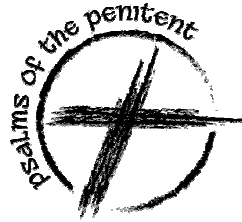
While the young ones are in Sunday School, you can be growing in faith too!

- **“THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS”** – This book is a fascinating look by C.S. Lewis into the devil's cunning and deception. In **Letter #25** Screwtape says that because humans are themselves changeable, they do not like the “same old thing,” even in religion. Their need for novelty is a useful tool used by hell to promote heresies and to draw people away from the unchanging Truth. Once again, the devils have success through corrupting language. Something "unchanged" is no longer admired for its steadfastness, but Satan twists our thoughts to consider it “stagnant.” Join Pastor Niermann in the north end of the fellowship hall for this intriguing study. Don't worry if you've missed sessions or 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 be 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.

MITE BOXES – If you attended the Jan. 27th Ladies of Freedom meeting and were unable to get a new mite box, they are now available on the narthex table. Pick yours up today! For those who did not attend the meeting but would like to support the mission work of the district LWML, you can still pick up a mite box. The next turn in date for mite boxes will be Tues., April 28th at the Ladies of Freedom meeting or the Sunday prior to that meeting, Apr. 26th on the narthex table. Once you turn in your mite box, be sure to pick up a new one from the narthex table and start filling it for the next quarter's collection. These mites always go to a good cause...mission work!

Centen News & Events –

- **Midweek Services** this year will focus on “The Psalms of the Penitent.” Each week we’ll look at a different Psalm through which God’s people express their sorrow over sin and their vibrant hope in God. **Join us each Wednesday evening during Lent at 7:00 p.m.** The theme for this Wednesday evening is, “Blessed are the Penitent?” based on *Psalm 32*. The offering that evening will support the LYF Servant Event.
- **Men’s Lenten Bible Breakfast** will meet each Thursday morning during Lent from 6:30-7:30 a.m. at Hill’s Family Restaurant in Napoleon for a Lenten Bible breakfast. Breakfast costs \$6.00, which includes the tip. Join us for good food and fellowship, and for growth together in the Word of God! To prepare, please read *1 Timothy, chapter 1*.
- **Women’s Lenten Bible Study** will meet each Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room next to the pastor’s office. This year we’ll be finishing the study of Revelation that we began last year. No need to sign up, just show up --- and we’ll grow together in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.



L.Y.F.

Get out the word! Besides a possible mission trip/servant event to New York this June, there is another exciting possibility of a fellowship and spiritual growth retreat along with youth from St. James, Burlington to southern Colorado/northern New Mexico. Imagine exploring the ancient ruins of the Pueblo people at Chaco Canyon, or hiking up to their cliff dwellings at Mesa Verda, then growing together in faith around a campfire in the evening. You have **got** to join us for our **next LYF meeting on Sun., March 8th** as we discuss plans. Put it on your calendar for 4:30 p.m.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 2/15/15	\$6,440.00	\$42.00	\$448.00

ATTENDANCE: 2/15/15 – 8:15 Service: 85; 10:30 Service: 109

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE: \$782.00 to the Local Lutheran Hour; Attendance: 131

DEAF MISSION & MINISTRY SUNDAY – Sunday, March 15th

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for this special COMBINED SERVICE. Sunday, March 15th is **Mission Sunday 2015** at St. John, featuring deaf mission and ministry. On that day we will experience worship just as it is experienced in a deaf congregation. **Tyler Walworth**, who completed his vicarage last year in deaf ministry and is currently a fourth-year seminarian, will both speak and sign the worship service that day, and teach us some sign-language as well. We are also trying to reach out to the deaf community in our area to invite them to this special service. Afterwards, Tyler will have the Bible Class time to explain more about deaf ministries.

- **Please note there will be one combined service that day. The schedule will be: Worship, 9:30 a.m., Sunday School and Bible Class, 10:45-11:30 a.m.**

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.

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.

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 as of 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.*

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2015-16 school year. 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.

SUNNY D LABELS – Throughout the school year please continue to save labels from *Sunny D* drinks. Classrooms that save 20 *SunnyD* labels earn 20 FREE books. Here's how it works.

COLLECT *SunnyD* UPC labels from these eligible products: 1, 2, or 3 liter bottles; 16 oz., 48 oz., 64 oz., 96 oz., or 128 oz. bottles; 6.75 oz.- 6, 8, or 24 pack outer wraps; 6.75 oz.-12 pack cardboard case; 11.3 oz.-6 or 24 pack outer wraps; 12 oz.-12 or 24 pack cans outer wraps. **SEND** the UPC labels to the school office at any time.

PRAYER CALENDAR NOTE: Please be aware that if you would like your wedding anniversaries printed on the prayer calendars, you will have to post them each year. Just list them on the blank calendars posted on the bulletin board in the narthex throughout the year. Thank you!

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*.

COLLECTING STAMPS: The LWML is collecting stamps “For Missions.” A box is on the table in the narthex. Here is what you do: Cut the stamps from the envelopes allowing ¼ inch margin or more around the stamp. The stamp may not be damaged and the perforations around the stamp must be perfect. You need not trim the stamp; we have someone who trims and sorts the stamps. Do not remove stamps from envelopes, albums, and older postcards. An “old” postcard is usually from 1930 or before. The most valuable stamps are commemorative, foreign, and stamp denominations larger than 46 cents. It only makes sense that you purchase and use commemorative stamps for your personal mailing. When purchasing stamps, ask the post office staff for commemorative stamps. Colorful and large stamps are desirable. Collecting stamps is an easy way to participate in a mission project sponsored by the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League.

4-H CLUB ORGANIZATION: The Gerald Busy Fingers, Cloverbuds, and Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Clubs will be having their 4-H meetings today 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).

AREA EVENTS:

- **SOUP & PIE DINNER** – St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wauseon. Sun., Mar. 1st serving from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!
- **PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST** – Ridgeville Volunteer Fire Dept. Sun., Mar. 1st serving from 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Carryout available. See flyer!
- **SOUP & PIE LUNCHEON** – The Lutheran Home – Napoleon, Sun., Mar. 15th serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!
- **SAVE THE DATE!** The St. John’s Ladies’ Night Out will be held again this year on Thurs., Mar. 26th. More information to follow...stay tuned!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

The only thing some people give up for Lent is their New Year’s resolution.

“Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us.” (Eph. 5:2)