



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

March 15, 2015

VOL. 80

NO. 11

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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School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 419-966-6160  
Church Website: www.sjl.org

### FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Guest Worship Leader: *Mr. Tyler Walworth*  
Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting Three (LSB pg. 184)*  
Hymns: **744 ~ 571 ~** (Communion: **566, 702**) **~ 837**  
Adult Choir: "One Bread, One Body"

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**WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS** *Welcome to every member, friend, and visitor. You have entered this church, not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. May you who enter here find rest, forgiveness, and strength. May your worship here enable you to see your Savior more clearly, love Him more dearly, follow Him more nearly, and serve Him more sincerely. 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.*

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### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Anna Gerken & Cally Bialorucki, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Alan & Kathy Damman, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Carey Damman, Craig Drewes, Scott VanValkenburg, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Linda Riefers, Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff, *Altar Guild* ✠

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are placed today to the Glory of God in honor of *Dorothy Gerken's* 81<sup>st</sup> birthday which is today, March 15<sup>th</sup>. These are being placed by her family. Happy Birthday to you, Dorothy, and may you have many more!

**GROWING FAMILY:** Congratulations to *Derek & Stephanie Damman* as they announce the arrival of their little girl, *Laney Marie*, on Monday, Mar. 9<sup>th</sup> at Defiance Regional Medical Center. Steph and Laney are doing fine, and siblings *Brayden* and *Emma*, are eager to be "big helpers" for mom and dad in taking care of Laney. Grandparents *Denny & Deb Damman* will be waiting their turn to help out with the new bundle of joy too!

**In God's House This Week**Online church calendar: [www.DynaCal.com/sjl](http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl)

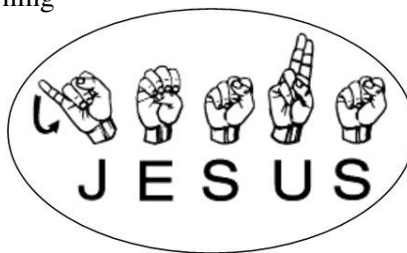
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	9:30 AM 10:45AM	Combined Communion Service – Mission Festival Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; “Time To Spare”
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Napoleon Public Library ( <i>Gr. K-8</i> ) Exercise Class Building Committee Meeting
Wed.	5:30 PM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM    8:00 PM	Lenten Supper ( <i>servicing until 6:30 PM</i> ) Junior Confirmation Class ( <i>5:45 – 6:45 PM</i> ) <b>5<sup>th</sup> Lenten Service</b> Offering: <i>Good Shepherd Church for Deaf - Toledo</i> Acolytes: <i>Brooks Behnfeldt</i> Greeters: <i>Marietta Damman &amp; Arlene Wallace</i> Ushers: <i>Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling</i> Altar Guild: <i>Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman</i> Adult Choir: “When You Prayed Beneath the Trees” Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Men’s Lenten Bible Study at Hill’s Restaurant Exercise Class Bible Study w/Vicar Shoaff
Fri.		End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Grading Period
Sun.	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM 4:30 PM	Early Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; “Time To Spare” Late Worship Service St. John Athletic Banquet ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Charles Kramer, St. Paul Lutheran, Napoleon</i>

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Marian Fitzenreiter, Donald Landry, Norma Damman, and Esther Schroeder*
- ❖ *Pauline Dishop, Marie Damman, and Delora Winkelman*, 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, Elmer Badenhop, and Renetta 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
- ❖ *Dick Mahnke*, recuperating following surgery this past week at Fulton Co. Health Ctr.

## Mission Sunday Notes

- **GUEST PREACHER & WORSHIP LEADER** – This morning we welcome to St. John **MR. TYLER WALWORTH**. Tyler was raised in the greater Kansas City, Missouri area. He attended Messiah Lutheran School in Independence, and Lutheran High School in Kansas City, where his desire to become a pastor was cultivated. He attended Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska and earned a Bachelor's degree in Communications. There he met Kelsey, and they were married on May 15, 2011 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She is also a product of the Lutheran school system, and has a Bachelor's Degree in teaching with a emphasis on early childhood education, as well as a certification to teach in the LCMS. Tyler is now a fourth year seminarian at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne.
- **TODAY'S SERVICE** will be the familiar Divine Service from the old hymnal, but both spoken and signed in American Sign Language. Certain parts of the service that require the pastor will be interpreted, and the rest of the service will be conducted as it would be in a deaf congregation, with Mr. Walworth both speaking and signing.
- **TODAY'S OFFERING** – As has been our custom on Mission Sunday's in the past, all loose offerings as well as envelope offerings not specifically designated, and a door offering, will be given away for the mission and ministry efforts of the *Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society (ELMS)*.
- **EPHPHATHA LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY** – This Society is officially recognized by the LC-MS. Its purpose is to establish outreach ministry to the Deaf and hard of hearing in the United States and internationally...
  - By establishing Lutheran congregations of Deaf and Hard of Hearing;
  - By establishing education resources specifically suited for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing;
  - By encouraging participation from LCMS congregations & service organizations for outreach to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing;
  - By publishing and distributing Deaf ministry resources, information, training and support.
- **BIBLE STUDY** this morning will be conducted by Tyler Walworth as he shares more with us about deaf missions and ministry. Join us in the fellowship hall, have a cup of coffee, and let's learn together about this interesting and exciting ministry.



<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 3/08/15	\$8,698.00	\$187.00	\$328.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 3/08/15 – 8:15 Service: 116; 10:30 Service: 145

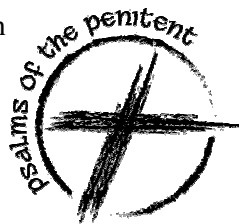
**4<sup>TH</sup> LENTEN SERVICE:** \$907.00 to the Worship For Shut-ins Broadcast; Attendance: 148

**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.

**WOMEN OF FREEDOM MEETING:** The next Women of Freedom meeting will be held on Tues., March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. The speakers will be *Dan & Deb Wachtman*, and they will talk to us about the *Bread From Heaven* Food Pantry and its incredible service to the local community. Feel free to bring along a food item to donate to the pantry. As always, these meetings are open to any women in the congregation. Hope to see many of you there!

### 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, “**The Afflicted Penitent Hopes in the Eternal Lord**” based on *Psalm 102*. The offering will support Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Toledo, where Lowell Petzoldt’s brother, *Rev. Shirrel Petzoldt*, is pastor.
- **Men’s Lenten Bible Breakfast** will meet each Thursday morning during Lent from 6:30-7:30 a.m. 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 4*.
- **Women’s Lenten Bible Study** will now meet on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room next to the pastor’s office (**note date change**). 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.
- **Midweek Lenten Suppers** are being hosted by the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students (first three) and the LYF members (last three) to raise funds for their various activities such as class trips and youth gatherings. This week’s menu: ***Beef Vegetable Barley Soup, hotdog, chips, dessert, and beverage***. Thrivent will be providing matching funds for these suppers. Please join us!
- **Easter Flowers** will be offered again this year. Just like last year there are various flowers to pick from. Order forms are on the narthex table. Drop your order form and payment to **St. John Lutheran Church** into the container at the narthex table or return to the church office. **Order deadline is Wed., Mar. 18<sup>th</sup>**.
- **Easter Breakfast sign up** – The Women of Freedom and the 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



**CHURCH CLEANING GROUP #3:** We are planning on cleaning on Fri., March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. If most of us can make it, we should be finished Friday night. If not, we will plan to finish up on Sat., Mar. 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 8:00 AM. Please bring a bucket and some rags if you can. Otherwise, everything else will be provided. Contact Peter Gerken at 567-454-0088 with any questions. Hope to see you on the 20<sup>th</sup>. *Peter Gerken & Craig Drewes*

**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. Thank you!

**LADIES NIGHT OUT:** The Ladies Night Out fundraiser for the “Right Hand of Fellowship” gift matching campaign being hosted by the Stewardship Board will be held on Thurs., Mar. 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:30 PM in the fellowship hall. **RSVP by next Sun., March 22<sup>nd</sup>!**

NOTE: There will be a silent auction going on throughout the event, just like last year. Prior to the Ladies’ Night Out event, any silent auction items may be dropped off by the marked table in the narthex. Questions about the silent auction can be directed to *Karen Norden (419-267-3477)*, *Kim VanValkenburg (419-579-0437)*, or *Jackie Ripke (419-267-5574)*.

**RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP FUNDRAISER:** The Stewardship Board is offering “for sale” the Ultimate Cloth® as a fundraiser. These are a MiraFiber® technology cloth that cleans with water only. More effective than harsh cleaning chemicals and soaps. Contact *Karen Norden (419-267-3477)* for more information and pricing. This will be an on-going fundraiser for the Right Hand of Fellowship gift matching campaign.

**EASTER EDIBLES!** The Stewardship Board is organizing an Easter fundraiser for the Right Hand of Fellowship Gift Matching campaign. The Easter Edibles Shop will be open on Sunday, Mar. 29<sup>th</sup> after each of the Early and Late Services that day.

Here is how it will work. You can make a freewill donation and receive a small or large gift box, after which you will go to tables, set up in the hallway and pick out any of the baked goods to fill your box with Christmas goodies. All money raised will be given (*and matched*) toward the Right Hand of Fellowship campaign – Fellowship Hall debt reduction.

Stop by on March 29<sup>th</sup> and let us brighten your Easter with a handpicked box of Easter edibles! Any questions about this fundraiser should be directed to *Karen Norden (419-267-3477)* or *Kim VanValkenburg (419-519-0437)*.

**EASTER EDIBLES DONATIONS** – Get your mixers going and heat your ovens up!!! Start making plans to whip up your favorite Easter cookies, candies, or other recipes to donate to the Easter Edibles Shop on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. We would ask that you bring your items in Ziploc bags, cellophane, or disposable tins with a minimum of 2 dozen pieces per package. Someone will be at the church on Sat., March 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 PM if you would like to drop your items off early. Otherwise, please have them to the church by 8:30 AM on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

**LYF – GET OUT THE WORD!** It’s official – in June we’re going to be joining the youth of St. James, Burlington on a camping expedition to the great sand dunes of southern Colorado.

We’ll be crossing into northern New Mexico as well to see some amazing places. 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. Information and a registration form will be sent out soon, so please consider it and get ready for a fantastic nine days of fun, fellowship, exploration and spiritual growth!



**TERRIFIC TALENTS:** The previously held Musical Extravaganza is now being referred to as the Terrific Talents of St. John School. This event is scheduled for Sunday, April 12 at 2:00 PM and will be held in the gym here at St. John. Every St. John student will be performing in some way or another. The emphasis is on fun and showing off the many talents our students have!

**THANK YOU** to everyone involved in the Gr. 3-5 Boys and Girls Round Robin Tournament that St. John hosted on February 28<sup>th</sup>. A very special “thanks” to *Doug Willeman* for coordinating this “fun” day. Also thanks to *Kirk & Jody Meller, Nathan Meller, Landon Willeman, Mike Myers, and Kyle Showman* for running the clock. Thank you to our referees: *Brett Wesche, Mike Bostelman, Pat McColley, Blake Miller, Dennis Showman, Eric Riefers, Todd Wachtman, and Brad Rosebrook*. A huge “thank you” to all those who donated the grilling meat and to those who helped with concessions and clean-up throughout the day! The real winner of the tournament was the *Bread From Heaven* Food Pantry here at St. John. There were over 1,700 food items donated by all the participating teams. GREAT JOB!!!

**ATHLETIC BANQUET:** The St. John Athletic Banquet is scheduled for Sun., March 22<sup>nd</sup> 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!

**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.

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

**FATHER/DAUGHTER DANCE INVITATION:** The St. Paul Lutheran School PTL is hosting a Father/Daughter Dance on Sat., March 28th from 6:30-8:00 PM in the St. Paul gym. They are extending an invitation to our school to attend. Tickets will be \$15 a couple and \$5 for each additional person (*for those dads who are lucky enough to have more than one daughter*). Uncles, Grandparents, and special friends are welcome if dad is not able to attend. **Checks should be made payable to St. Paul PTL.** Tickets will be sold at the door. *NOTE: If you have many interested family members, please let Joyce know so we can contact St. Paul to prepare them regarding refreshments and picture frames.* Hope some St John families consider joining the fun on the 28<sup>th</sup>!

**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*.

**INTERESTED IN A CHURCH PROFESSION? WE'D LIKE TO HELP!** Recently a number of young people from St. John have pursued educational goals to prepare them for full-time service as teachers and pastors. If you are interested in a church profession (*as a pastor, deaconess, teacher, lay minister, or a Director of Christian Education, Christian Outreach, Parish Music, or Family Life Ministry*), our congregation would like to support you by offering a tuition gift. An application for this gift is available online --- type **[www.sjl.org/student\\_gift\\_app.pdf](http://www.sjl.org/student_gift_app.pdf)** into your browser (*there is no link*) and fill out the application. Deadline for fall enrollment is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**WOMEN OF FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIPS:** Here is another opportunity to encourage and help young people prepare for service to the church as pastors, teachers, lay workers, deaconesses, and parish workers. \$500 per year Women of Freedom Scholarships are available to any young person attending one of our synodical schools. Simply contact any Women of Freedom member for more details about this.

**OHIO ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN:** The Ohio Division OGT is located in the north end of the Culligan Water Conditioning building on Independence Drive in Napoleon. Someone is usually there to receive items on the first Tuesday of the month from 9:00-11:00 AM. If you need to drop off items at another time, please contact *Nancy Helmke* (419-758-3539), *Diann Meyer-Grieser* (419-267-3485), *Vicki Grieser* (419-445-2986), or *Harold Behrmann* (419-598-8311) and they will be happy to meet you and open the facility to receive your donations! Thank you!

**AREA EVENTS:**

- **SOUP & PIE LUNCHEON** – The Lutheran Home – Napoleon, today with serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!
- **SOUP CHALLENGE** – Hope Services Soup Challenge will be held on Thurs., Mar. 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 PM in the Filling Home Gym located at N160 St. Rt. 108, Nap. See flyer!

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**Spring is when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of slush.**

*As winter comes, as winter must, We breathe our last, return to dust;  
Still held in Christ, our souls take wing And trust the promise of the spring.*

*LSB 595:4*



Mandy Grace '12

ministry-to-children.com