



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

March 22, 2015

VOL. 80

NO. 12

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "Aaron and Melchizedek - The Best of Both" *Hebrews 5:1-10*

Order of Service: *See printed Service folder*

Hymns: **430 ~ 944 ~ 435**, stz.1-2 ~ **529 ~ 857**

Children's Choir: (*Early*) *Grades K-4 sing "My Faith Looks Trustingly"*

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: Caleb Bockelman & Mitchell Kruse, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ 2nd Service: Lydia Babcock & Bailey Johnson, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Richard & Bev Elling, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Carey Damman, Craig Drewes, Scott VanValkenburg, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman, *Altar Guild* ✠

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. 26th from 6:00-8:30 PM in the fellowship hall. **RSVP by today!**

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)*.

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	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.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Gr. 1&2; Offering: <i>Fort Wayne Seminary Food Bank</i> Exercise Class Ladies of Freedom Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Wed.	5:30 PM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Lenten Supper (<i>serving until 6:30 PM</i>) Junior Confirmation Class (5:45 – 6:45 PM) 6th Lenten Service Offering: <i>Lutheran Braille Workers</i> Acolytes: <i>Emily Bostelman & Katelyn Drewes</i> Greeters: <i>Peter & Karen Gerken</i> Ushers: <i>Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke</i> Altar Guild: <i>Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman</i> Gr. 5-8 Children's Choir: "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:35 AM 9:00 AM 6:30 PM	Men's Lenten Bible Study at Hill's Restaurant Exercise Class Ladies Night Out (<i>Right Hand of Fellowship fundraiser</i>)
Sun.	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM 1:00 PM	(Palm Sunday) Early Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" (Palm Sunday) Late Worship Service 4-H Meetings (<i>All three clubs</i>)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Willie Stottlemeyer, St. Stephen Lutheran, Defiance</i>

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 3/15/15	\$6,040.00	\$1,417.00	\$733.00

RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP campaign - \$5,050.00 (Mission Sunday)

EPHPHATHA LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY (ELMS) - \$1,245.00 (Mission Sunday)

ATTENDANCE: 3/15/15 – 229

5TH LENTEN SERVICE: \$630.00 to the Good Shepherd Deaf - Toledo; Attendance: 112

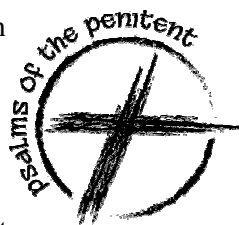
PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS for the next quarter, *April, May, June*, are on the desk in the narthex. There are also large print booklets available for anybody to pick up.

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 at home following surgery

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 for the final Lenten Service at 7:00 p.m.** The theme for Wednesday evening is, “**The Afflicted Penitent Waits Patiently for Lord**” based on *Psalm 130*. The offering will support *The Lutheran Braille Society*.
- **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 5*.
- **Women’s Lenten Bible Study** will now meet on Monday, March 23rd 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 7th & 8th 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: ***Golden Garden Soup, cold cuts & cheese, hotdog, chips, dessert, and beverage***. Thrivent will be providing matching funds for these suppers.
- **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 4th 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.



Palm Sunday Children's Procession – Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, and we invite and encourage the children of the congregation to participate in a procession of palms and children's message to begin each service. The children will assemble in the fellowship hall before each service to receive their palm branches as well as a few instructions.

HOLY WEEK AT ST. JOHN

Next Sunday we embark on a Holy Week journey with Jesus from His triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the upper room with His disciples, and ultimately to the cross and the open tomb. Be sure to join us for the entire journey, as we prepare ourselves for the high feast of Easter!

Palm Sunday (3/29)

8:15 and 10:30 a.m. – Worship schedule as usual

Maundy Thursday (4/2)

7:00 p.m. - Service with Holy Communion

Good Friday (4/3)

7:00 p.m. – Tenebrae Service marking the death of Christ

EASTER SUNDAY (4/5)

7:00 a.m. – Easter Sunrise Service

8:00 a.m. – Easter Fellowship Breakfast

9:30 a.m. – Easter Festival Service with Holy Communion

~ Entirely different services and sermons – join us for the full celebration! ~



THANK YOU: We would like to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, visits, and condolences shared with us during Walter's short illness and then recent passing. Even though he will be greatly missed, we know he is in a far better place. Thank you also to *Pastor Niermann* and *Vicar Shoaff* for your comforting visits at Fulton Manor. They always put a smile on Walt's face. And thank you to the Women of Freedom for the delicious luncheon served at the funeral. Blessings, *The Family of Walter Delventhal*

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!



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. 29th 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 Easter goodies. All money raised will be given (*and matched*) toward the Right Hand of Fellowship campaign – Fellowship Hall debt reduction.

Stop by on March 29th 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 29th. 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 28th 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 29th.

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!

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

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 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.*

EAGLE NEWS : The Eagle News publication will be passed out today as you leave the services. It is also available online via FastDirect. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnfreedom/>, click on “Links” at the top of the page, then click on “Eagle News-March” in the “Everybody” column. Enjoy!

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!

ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOL & YOUNG ADULTS: Join us in the Cry Room after church each Sunday for Bible Study, fellowship, and snacks. Feed your soul and your body to start your week out right! Looking forward to having you join us each week! *Sharon Damman*

YOUTH DIRECTOR POSITION AVAILABLE - We are presently seeking candidates for our Youth Director. This is a part-time paid position, to begin on December 1st. 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.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR – The Lutheran Hour Ministries can be heard on several radio stations in our area. They cover many interesting topics relevant to today’s issues. Broadcasts can be heard Sundays on: Holland’s WPOS 102.3 at 7:00 AM; Archbold’s WMTR 96.1 at 7:30 AM; Defiance’s WONW (AM)1280 at 10:30 AM; Napoleon’s WNDH 103.1 at 12:00 PM.

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 28th!

MURRAY INTL. ADOPTION FUNDRAISER MEAL – Harlan’s Chicken Carryout Meal on Sunday, April 12th from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the Napoleon Church of the Nazarene. See flyer!

4-H MEETINGS – All three 4-H Clubs meet Sun., Mar. 29 at 1:00 PM here at St. John School.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Sin: It seemed like a good idea at the time.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”(Psa. 51:10)