



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

March 29, 2015

VOL. 80

NO. 13

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

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
Cell: 785-477-2344
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 419-966-6160
Church Website: www.sjl.org

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

Sermon & Text: "God Rides Upon a Donkey" *John 12:12-43*

Order of Service: *See printed Service folder*

Hymns: **442 ~ 944 ~ 335 ~ 441 ~ 438**

Adult Bell Choir: *(Both services)* "Behold the King Comes"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome in the name of the Lord. We pray that through this time of stillness and song, prayer and proclamation, you may experience the Spirit of God at work in your life. 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

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ 1st Service: David Maassel, *Acolyte* ✘
- ✘ 2nd Service: Brooks Behnfeldt & Colin Johnson, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Maggie Weller, *Crucifer* ✘
- ✘ Ron & Elaine Hesterman, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Jim & Linda Meyer, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Carey Damman, Craig Drewes, Scott VanValkenburg, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman, *Altar Guild* ✘

BIBLE STUDY THIS MORNING – In pastor's absence today, only the vicar will be conducting his Bible study, "Marriage by God's Design." Both Bible studies will resume on the Sunday after Easter.

THANK YOU – Thank you to everyone who supported our youth by attending the mid-week Lenten suppers. Your faithfulness and generosity are truly appreciated, and will help make it possible for the youth of St. John to see many new things and to explore new avenues of service to our God!

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 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>)
Tue.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Board of Elders
Wed.	10:20AM 6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM	Late Start-up due to Teacher In-service at 9:00 AM Jr. Hi. Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 p.m.</i>) Adult Bell Choir practice Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Lenten Bible Study at Hill's Restaurant Exercise Class Maundy Thursday Service Offering: <i>Lutheran Heritage Foundation</i> Acolytes: <i>Cally Bialorucki & Anna Gerken</i> Greeters: <i>Todd & Chris Hesterman</i> Ushers: <i>Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke</i> Altar Guild: <i>Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman</i> Adult Bell Choir: "Gethsemane's Prayer" and "Let Us Break Bread"
Fri.	7:00 PM	Good Friday Tenebrae Service Offering: <i>Concordia – Ann Arbor</i> Acolytes: <i>Emily Bostelman & Cally Bialorucki</i> Greeters: <i>Elmer & Pat Maassel</i> Ushers: <i>Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke</i> Altar Guild: <i>Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman</i> Adult Choir: "When You Prayed Beneath the Trees" and "There, On Calvary"
Sat.	9:00 AM	Set up and prepare food for Easter Breakfast
Sun.	7:00 AM 8:00 AM 9:30 AM	Easter Sunrise Service; Offering: <i>Synod & Missions Fund (both services)</i> Fellowship Breakfast for everyone – Freewill Offering! (Till 9:15 AM) Easter Festival Service with Communion
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. David Goehmann, St. Luke Lutheran, Wauseon</i>

TODAY IS EASTER EDIBLES SUNDAY! The Easter Edibles Shop will be open on today after each of the Early and Late Services. Stop by and let us brighten your Easter with a handpicked box of Easter Edibles! ► 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.

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 and Renetta Homan*, dealing with health issues at this time
- ❖ *Dick Mahnke*, recuperating at home following surgery
- ❖ *Rosie Gruenhagen*, at Fulton County Health Ctr this past week for knee surgery
- ❖ *Shorty Bischoff*, hospitalized this past week for health issues

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.* **Items still needed for Easter Breakfast are grapes, ham, and orange juice.** You may sign up on the chart in the narthex to donate. 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.

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 (Today)

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! ~



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.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 3/22/15	\$5,049.00	\$357.00	\$363.00

ATTENDANCE: 3/22/15 – Early Service: 142; Late Service: 101

COMMUNED in March: 393 members and 10 guests

6TH LENTEN SERVICE: \$870.00 to the Lutheran Braille Workers; Attendance: 117

QUARTERLIES & ODES: The Quarterlies and Odes for the Women of Freedom are ready to be picked up from the table in the narthex. Our next meeting will be Tues., April 28th at 7:00 PM. Our speaker will be *Ron Meyer* to tell us about his trip to Haiti. Save all your old eye glasses and bring them to the meeting.

IF YOU'RE EVER IN A PINCH and could use a little help, the *Good Neighbor Fund* is there to assist you too! Please don't be bashful about asking – everything is strictly confidential. Just give Pastor Niermann a call, and we'll see what we can do!

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!



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 into your browser (*there is no link*) and fill out the application. Deadline for fall enrollment is June 1st.

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.

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. If you would like to apply for this position, please speak with *Vicar Shoaff* or *Pastor Niermann*.

ALTAR FLOWERS: For anyone wishing to place flowers on the altar for Sunday worship, please contact *Mabel Bischoff* at 419-598-8757. Remember that it is your responsibility to call Mabel either way; if you would like the Ladies Aid to order the flowers or if you are going to take care of ordering the flowers yourself. This will alleviate any confusion.

S.T.O.P. PENNY DRIVE – The PTL Spring Penny Drive at St. John School begins Tues., April 7th and runs thru Fri., May 8th. Save those pennies and give them to one of our students or turn your pennies in at the school office. Mr. Petzoldt will be monitoring the weekly results this spring. Remember to **Save Those Old Pennies!**

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!

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!

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 **today at 1:00 PM** here at St. John School.

BATTLE OF THE SCHOOLS – ELECTRONIC RECYCLING FUNDRAISER: This annual fundraiser is scheduled for Sat. April 18th from 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM at each of the Henry County high schools. Be sure to support this fundraiser and bring your unused electronics – that means anything with a power cord, to Napoleon High School (*student parking lot*) on April 18th. Please, no TV’s or large appliances can be accepted. Any questions can be directed to 419-256-7343.

✂ ✂ ✂

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

**Today, many years ago, He came in humility on a donkey;
On the last day He will come again in glory on the clouds.**

*“Look, he is coming with the clouds,” and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him.”
(Revelation 1:7)*

“Blessed is the king
who comes



in the
name
of the **Lord!**”

L u k e 1 9 : 3 8