



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

April 19, 2015

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NO. 16

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Mr. Reed Shoaff, Vicar
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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon & Text: "Lesson from a Leaper" *Acts 3:11-12*
Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting Four (LSB pg. 203)*
Hymns: **825 ~ 483** (Communion: **910, 633**) ~ **484**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life." Our Savior invites us to His table, a table of love that has been prepared for us. Jesus, our Savior, lived, died and lives again for each one of us. Let us worship our God today and praise Him for His love. If you are a visitor today, please fill out a blue pew card from the rack in front of you and hand it to the usher as you leave the church this morning.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ 1st Service: Anna Gerken & Tyne Rosebrock, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ 2nd Service: Cally Bialorucki & Maggie Weller, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Dave & Sara Myles, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Lois Rosebrock, Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow, *Altar Guild* ✘

NEW BIRTH: *Joe & Kara VonDeylen* are very proud to announce the birth of their son, Logan David, on Tues., April 14, 2015 at Toledo Hospital. Mother and child are doing fine and getting settled in at home. Grandparents *Dave & Jane VonDeylen* will be enjoying him as well. Congrats!

2014 CHURCH ANNUAL is available on the desk and table in the narthex. Thanks to everyone for your information submitted to be included in this report. And many thanks to those of you who helped collate this big report. If there are any corrections to be made, please contact Joyce in the office. Thank you also for your patience in waiting for this year's copy to be produced.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM 1:00 PM 4:30 PM	Early Worship Service Voters' Meeting; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Late Worship Service 4-H Meetings LYF Meeting
Mon.	8:30 AM	ITBS Testing for Grades 1&2 (<i>wraps up on Wed., Apr. 22</i>)
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:15AM 7:00 PM	Napoleon Public Library (<i>Gr. K-8</i>) Exercise Class Bible Study w/Vicar Shoaff Building Committee Meeting
Wed.	8:30 AM 6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM	OAA Testing for Gr. 3 (<i>Reading</i>) Junior Confirmation Class (<i>6:15 – 7:30 PM</i>) Adult Hand Bell Practice Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM	Exercise Class in gym
Sun.	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM 1:00 PM	Early Worship Service Sunday School; Adult Bible Class; "Time To Spare" Late Worship Service 4-H Meetings
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Joshua Schmidt</i> , St. John Lutheran, Defiance

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Marian Fitzenreiter, Donald Landry, and Norma Damman*
- ❖ *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
- ❖ *Yvonne Volkman*, hospitalized in Texas dealing with major issues relating to her cancer
- ❖ *Rosie Gruenhagen and Renetta Homan*, at home recuperating
- ❖ *Henry Gerken*, continuing recuperation at home now for back surgery

VOTERS' MEETING – The voters will assemble **today between services**. On the agenda: 1) Call of a 5th & 6th grade teacher; 2) Consideration of the worship survey results.

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY REPORT – Recently the congregation was surveyed on matters related to worship at St. John. This morning a report on the results of that survey is available in the narthex on the table. Please pick up a copy.

NEW BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY! – “*The Book of James: Epistle of Straw or Apostle of Faith?*” Vicar Shoaff will be leading an in-depth Bible study on the much neglected and poorly understood Letter of James. Martin Luther once wrote, “We should throw the Epistle of James out...for it doesn’t amount to much. It contains not a syllable about Christ. Not once does it mention Christ, except at the beginning.” Through our study we will come to see, as Luther himself came to see, that this is certainly not true. This Epistle, written by James, the son of Mary and Joseph, the half-brother of Jesus, the apostle chosen by the resurrected Lord, bishop of Jerusalem, recognized leader of the early church, and the one who wanted to be remembered as a servant of Christ is *absolutely* rich in bringing Christ to its hearers. The Bible study will meet in the **north end** of the **fellowship hall** every **Tuesday**, beginning **April 21st**, from **10:00AM-11:15AM**.

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES BEGIN SOON - Starting on Thursday, May 7th, the option of a Thursday evening service will be available. Each Thursday through October, worship will begin at 7:00 p.m. We will begin in the sanctuary and move to the north end of the fellowship hall when school is recessed for the summer. Holy Communion will be celebrated on the Thursday's prior to the regular Communion Sundays.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE! St. John now has a Facebook Page. Here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnFreedomTownship>. Please “like” your church's page!

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. *Mite-y Socks* are still available on the narthex table!

LUTHERAN WITNESS RENEWAL – It’s time to renew your subscription to the Lutheran Witness for this year. To subscribe or renew your subscription, **simply place \$17.00 in an envelope**, along with your name and address, and place it in the Sunday collection plate or bring it down to the church office. **Deadline for subscriptions is May 17th**.

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-April” in the “Everybody” column. Enjoy!

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.

RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP GIFT MATCHING - Good news! As of the first quarter of 2015, the congregation has matched in full the \$75,000 gift that was anonymously given to encourage our matching gifts. This was accomplished in about a year and a half. We still need approximately \$14,000 to retire the debt for the fellowship hall and new boilers. The RHoF campaign will continue toward that goal, although those gifts will no longer be matched. This is a time to give thanks to God for the generosity of the anonymous gift and of all His people, and for the leadership of the Stewardship Board in planning and implementing the RHoF matching and capital campaign.



<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 4/12/15	\$7,937.00	\$242.00	\$623.00

ATTENDANCE: 4/12/15 – Early Service: 140; Late Service: 119

GRANDPARENT'S DAY: A reminder that Grandparent's Day at St. John School for Grades K-8 will be held on **Friday, May 8** from 12:30 - 3:00 PM. *Lunch is not included.*

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY: HUMAN CARE – The idea has been suggested, and the elders have approved, that we form a group of folks within our congregation to tend to matters of human care within the body of Christ. As members of Christ's body, we are called to take care of each other. A lot of that is already taking place informally among members, but it would be this group's task to stay tuned in to what's going on in people's lives and to coordinate human care efforts if circumstances call for it. The possibilities are endless! It's a great opportunity for retirees or for those who want to serve but not necessarily as elected officers. Please think and pray about this. **Are you the one to take a ministry of caring under your wings?**

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, hiking up to their cliff dwellings at Mesa Verda, or exploring the Black Canyon - then growing together in faith around a campfire in the evening. Information and a registration form has been mailed out, so please consider it and get ready for a fantastic nine days of fun, fellowship, exploration and spiritual growth!

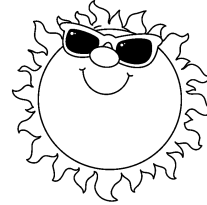


LYF meets this afternoon at 4:30 p.m.

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!

COMING UP THIS SUMMER – It never hurts to mark your calendars early, so here are a few dates to consider for the summer of 2015.

- **June 12-13 (Fri-Sat) --- Marriage Retreat** coordinated by St. John along with St. Paul, Liberty Center and St. Luke, Wauseon. Theme: “Growing Together, from the Breakfast Table to Kissing Goodnight.” Location is the beautiful *Lial Renewal Center* at Oak Openings. Cost is \$15 per couple for the retreat, plus various lodging options for an overnight stay. More information included in today’s bulletin!
- **June 15-23 (Mon-Tue) --- Youth Retreat to the Great Sand Dunes of southern Colorado.** All youth of LYF age, including those from this year’s confirmation class, are eligible to attend. This trip is being coordinated with the youth of St. James, Burlington.
- **June 28 (Sun) --- Fellowship on the Fairways** – first annual SJL golf outing at White Pines. Scramble starts with a 1:30 p.m. shotgun. Cost is \$35, includes golf, cart, meal and prizes. This is a fund raiser for the *Right Hand of Fellowship* campaign.
- **August 23 (Sun) --- Outdoor Worship Service** at 10:30 a.m., followed by a fellowship meal (meat provided) and an auction to raise funds for the Right Hand of Fellowship campaign. Begin thinking about items you can provide for the auction.



4-H MEETINGS – The Gerald Busy Fingers 4-H Club, the Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Club (Grades 3-12), and the Cloverbuds (Grades K-2) will be having their meeting today at 1:00 PM at St. John Lutheran School, and also next Sunday same time and place.

OHIO ACHIEVEMENT ASSESSMENTS (OAA) & ITBS – We will be administering the OAA Reading test (Gr. 3 only) on Wed., April 22 and the ITBS tests (Gr. 1&2) from April 15-22. Please be aware of these dates and refrain from setting up doctor/dentist appointments on these dates. It is very difficult to test your child after the main testing has been done. Thank you!

S.T.O.P. PENNY DRIVE – The PTL Spring Penny Drive at St. John School has begun and runs thru Fri., May 8th. The classroom collecting the most pennies will be treated to a pizza party. All other classrooms will get an ice cream party. 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. **NOTE: Since this fundraiser started in October 1992, the PTL has raised \$15,950 for the school.** Remember to Save Those Old Pennies!

THANK YOU! Recently the Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grade, and 3rd & 4th Grade classrooms each received 20 children’s books from the Sunny D Book Spree for sending in just 20 Sunny D Labels per classroom. Thanks to everyone who saved labels for us! The books are wonderful! Please keep saving those Sunny D labels so each classroom can participate in the Sunny D Book Spree next Fall.

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.

'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, cereal, mac n' cheese, 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*)

BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION, AND POP TABS: Our school also collects *Box Tops For Education*, and aluminum pop tabs all year long. *Box Tops For Education* is an ongoing PTL fundraiser earning 10¢ per box top for the PTL. They too have expanded their sponsors, so be sure to check over your grocery items carefully so you don't miss any box tops. The pop tabs collected all go to support the Ronald McDonald House in Toledo. There are collection boxes in the school office for each of these. **NOTE: Please turn in your Labels For Education and Box Tops For Education labels in separate Ziploc bags or envelopes. Do not combine them.** Thank you!

A GREAT MOTHER'S DAY GIFT – The "Recipes and Remembrances" cookbooks from PTL would surely make Mom smile. They have a very nice collection of great recipes in them. This is a PTL fundraiser and the cookbooks are available today in the hallway by the drinking fountain. The cost is \$10.00. If writing a check, please make it payable to: *St. John PTL*. We hope you enjoy making all the "goodies" in this cookbook. Thank you for supporting the PTL!

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.

HOSPICE BAZAAR: The 9th Annual Hospice of Henry Co. Bazaar will be held on Thurs., May 14 at the Napoleon American Legion. All live auction donations must be received by May 1st. They are accepting donations of silent auction items, handmade wooden items, craft or needlework items or baked goods and pies for the day of the bazaar. See flyer for all the details!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

He is risen! Meet Him each Sunday right here!

"Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!'" (John 20:26)