



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

January 10, 2016

VOL. 81

NO. 2

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Mr. Aaron Yaeger, Vicar
Miss Mary K. Rettig, Interim Principal

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

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "The Baptism of Jesus" *Luke 3:15-22*

Order of Service: *Morning Prayer (LSB pg. 235)*

Hymns: *596 ~ 404 ~ 599*

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest this morning, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to our pastor and by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you. Simply pass it to the center aisle during the offering this morning. Thank you!



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Bailey Johnson & Emily Bostelman, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Marietta Damman & Arlene Wallace, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Richard Elling, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman, *Altar Guild* ✠

WE MOURN THE PASSING

of *Marian Fitzenreiter*, 89, this past Tues., Jan. 5, 2016 at her home. Marian received Christian burial on Friday, Jan. 8, 2016, here at St. John. Her body was laid to rest in the St. John Lutheran Cemetery. May God comfort the entire Fitzenreiter family by the victory of Christ over death and the grave!

VOTERS' MEETING

– The first voters' meeting of the new year will be held two weeks from today on January 24th in the Sanctuary after the worship service (*to accommodate the Soup & Pie Dinner taking place that day in the fellowship hall*). Items are on the agenda to date are: 1) Annual school report; 2) Audit Committee report; 3) Endowment Fund distributions approval.

In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Mon.	5:30 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:30 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys @ St. Pats-Bryan
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Niermann; Offering – <i>Filling Home - Napoleon</i> Exercise Class Tuesday Bible Study B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls; 6:30 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys @ St. John-Def. Church Council Meeting
Wed.	9:00 AM	Hearing Checks for Gr. PS3 Jr. High Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM) Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM	Exercise Class; Hearing Checks for PS4/5, K, Gr.1,3,5
Fri.		End of 2 nd Quarter Grading Period
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Lee Genter</i> , Christ Our Savior Lutheran, Defiance

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Norma Damman, Don Dickmann, and Lucia Delventhal*
- ❖ *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
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Orchards of Northcrest - Napoleon
- ❖ *Helen Norden*, residing at Greenbriar Assisted Living in Birmingham, AL
- ❖ Servicemen and women *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Kyle Elling, Emily Schroeder, and Connor Gerken*
- ❖ *Delores Badenhop*, recuperating at The Lutheran Home following her surgery
- ❖ *Simon Robeson*, showing some improvement; moved to OSU for extensive physical rehab
- ❖ *David Niebergall*, now in hospice care for his failing health due to cancer
- ❖ *Dan Wiechers Family*, as they mourn the loss of Dan's mother, Carmen, this past week

HOLY COMMUNION will be offered this morning following the Early Worship service. Those who wish to attend should fill out a card from the pew rack in front of you and give it to the usher as you leave your pew this morning. Return immediately to the front pews in the sanctuary.

2015 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – It's time to start getting your reports ready for the 2015 Church Annual. The officers of the different organizations are asked to write up a summary of the year's activities along with a financial report if there is one. If you need your offering contribution information prior to the distribution of the Annual Report, please call Financial Trustee, *Kathy Behnfeldt*, at 419-598-8682. **Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers by Fri., Jan. 29.**

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS – Today we give thanks to God for the service of those whose terms of office are now ending and for those who are being newly installed.

Officers to be installed today are: **President** – *Bob Norden*; **Vice President** – *Tom VonDeylen*; **Treasurer** – *Cathy Gerken*; **Financial Trustee** – *Kathy Gruenhagen*; **Elder** – *David Damman, Jerry Short*; **Stewardship Board** – *Cheryl Sausser, Nate Bickel*; **Board of Education** (installed to take office in July 2016) – *Derek Damman, Jenelle Hesterman*; **Secretary** – *Lori Bickel*; **Church Deacon** – *David Badenhop*; **Trustees** – *Scott Speiser, Dennis Showman*; **Sunday School Supt.** – *Sarah Rosebrock*; **Asst. Sunday School Supt.** – *Zoe Foor*; **Cemetery Board** – *Logan Kossow, Clay Badenhop, Joe Hesterman, Todd Kruse (1-year term to fill a vacancy)*; **Cemetery Sexton** – *Ben Kruse*.



JAVA JOY TODAY! It's the second Sunday of the month, and that means **Java Joy** following the service. Take a little time to enjoy a bite to eat and some fellowship. A table is set up in the front hallway. Your gifts to the "kitty" help keep **Java Joy** alive and going. We thank *Dave & Jane VonDeylen* for hosting Java Joy for January. (NOTE: In order for everyone to enjoy the food items, we ask that you only take 2 items when going through the line.) Thank you!

Interested in being a **Java Joy** host? Please sign up on the table in the narthex. Don't let finances stop you – you are welcome to reimburse your expenses from the kitty if you wish.

Leviticus – Life in the Blood

New Bible Study begins this morning with Pastor Niermann. *Leviticus* has been a hot topic of discussion these days. Christians point to it as evidence of God's attitude about homosexuality, but the LGBT community accuses us of cherry-picking laws to suit our agenda while ignoring other laws like the one that forbids the trimming of a man's beard. On the other hand, many who reject what *Leviticus* says about homosexuality quickly appeal to this same book to bolster their position on immigration.



What is this book really about? Can an ancient Hebrew worship manual have any bearing upon our modern lives? Or is there more to this book that first meets the eye? Join us in the fellowship hall starting this morning as we delve into *Leviticus* and discover together the treasures of God's Word!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 1/03/16	\$9,718.00	\$168.00	\$843.00

ATTENDANCE: 1/03/16 Service: 248

REVISED 12/27/15: Home Fund - \$9,718.00; Synod - \$1,110.00; Building Fund - \$1,308.00

NEW GREETER (yellow) AND ALTAR GUILD (pink) SCHEDULES: The 2016 Greeter and Altar Guild schedules are available and can be picked up on the narthex table. Usher schedules are in the making and will be available soon. Thanks again to all who are willing to be of service to the Lord through St. John. You are a blessing to us all!

A NEW YEAR, A NEW WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

Starting this Monday evening and Tuesday morning, Vicar Yaeger will offer a new Bible study titled, “**Triune God.**”

Have you ever wondered what the bible actually says about the Trinity? Do Christians worship three 'Gods,' as *Muslims* and *Jehovah's Witnesses* sometimes accuse? Why do we have the creeds? Can't I just believe the Bible? Is there a good way to symbolize the Trinity? Is the Trinity revealed in the Old Testament? How does our understanding of the Trinity help us understand our own salvation? Join us for our study of our Triune God.

This study is from the *LifeLight* series published by CPH. It is excellent material, and you will “know your stuff” when you're done. This study invites you to read your Bible at home in preparation for each session. Even if you didn't sign up, it's not too late to join us. Just come to one of the sessions, and we'll see to it that you get some materials. Let us together “grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 3:18)

Study sessions are **Monday evenings, 7-8:15pm**, or **Tuesday mornings, 10-11:15am**. The first sessions will be on January 11th and 12th.



MITES & WOMEN OF FREEDOM – The next meeting of the St. John Women of FREEDOM will be held Tues., Jan. 19, 2016 at 7:00 PM. This will be a Missions Meeting so everyone should bring their Mite Box if you have one. Our Mission Meetings are for the months of January, April, July, and September. February is our Quilt and Blanket Knotting Party and August there is no meeting. All ladies of St. John are invited to come to our meetings.

Be sure to pick up a copy of the Quarterly and Odes (*they are put together*) from the table in the back of the church.

Also to be noted is that the Women of Freedom will be continuing the Mite-y Socks program in 2016. These are tiny little baby socks, with instructions attached, that you can fill with coins (*dimes*) throughout the year. \$7.80 is the goal or more, if you wish. These *Mite-y Socks* are a means for all of us to help out the LWML Mite program in a big way with very little effort. Pick up your 2016 sock today!

DONATIONS FOR SOUP & PIE DINNER – The PTL Soup & Pie Committee are asking for donations for the Salad and Dessert Bars. A sign-up sheet is placed on the table in the narthex. Thanks to everyone for taking time to support the PTL through your donations of salads, desserts, or cupcakes. We look forward to another successful Soup & Pie Dinner on January 24th!



SOUP & PIE DINNER – The annual PTL Soup & Pie Dinner will be held on Sun., Jan. 24, 2016, with serving from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, in the fellowship hall. On the menu will be Chili Soup, Noodle Soup, Hot Dogs, Sloppy Joes, a Salad and Dessert Bar, and Beverages. After the Dinner you can stay and enjoy watching some basketball games as all four of our school teams will be playing St. Paul Lutheran –Napoleon.

SR. LYF STICKY BUNS FUNDRAISER: **Selling Next Sunday, Jan. 17th!!!** The sticky buns fundraiser is back! This fundraiser is to help our Sr. High LYF raise money for their trip to the National Youth Gathering this July. There are pre-order sheets on the narthex table that we are asking you to fill out in advance so that we can assure that we have enough for Sunday the 17th. Once your pre-order sheet is filled out, you may drop it into the box that will be labeled "Sticky Bun Pre-Orders." If you forget to fill out a pre-order sheet, that's okay! We will have extras available on those Sundays as well. Thank you for supporting St. John's LYF!

2016 LUTHERAN ANNUAL – We are now taking orders for the 2015 Lutheran Annual. It will give you the current addresses, phone numbers, emails, and websites of churches, pastors, teachers, etc. Call the church office to order your copy. Deadline is Fri., Jan. 29th.

THE FLOWER CALENDAR for 2016 is posted inside the sliding door showcase in the narthex. If you wish to sign up for a certain Sunday to place flowers on the altar or the piano, sign your name on that Sunday and then about two weeks before that date, call *Mabel Bischoff* at 419-598-8757 to let her know if you are getting your own flowers or if you want the Women of Freedom to take care of them.

NOTE: **The price for the flowers through the Women of Freedom increased to \$21.00.** Please remember that it is your responsibility to contact *Mabel Bischoff*. Also, please contact the church office with the information for the bulletin before Wednesday of the week you are placing the flowers in church. This will insure that you are not forgotten or overlooked.

LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BULLETINS are available today on the table in the narthex. The Children's Bulletins are coordinated with the Bible texts for each Sunday, and provide activities that tie in with the weekly themes. Pick one up today for your child.

PROJECT CONNECT – There are many free booklets in the rack in the narthex. Be sure to check for some good reading. Some titles are: "*Why Do Bad Things Happen To Me,*" "*Has God Abandoned Me,*" "*Dealing with Depression,*" "*Coping with Cancer,*" "*Who Is Jesus,*" "*Just Stress?*", "*Overcoming A Painful Childhood,*" "*Where's God in All of This?*", "*Why Should I go to Church?*" and many more. These booklets are furnished through the Lutheran Hour Ministries.

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.

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EPIPHANY FACTS...

The three so-called kings that visited Jesus (Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar) represent Europe, Arabia and Africa respectively.

"Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn." (Isa. 60:3)

When they saw the star, they were
overjoyed. Matthew 2:10



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