



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

January 31, 2016

VOL. 81

NO. 5

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor

Mr. Aaron Yaeger, Vicar

Miss Mary K. Rettig, Interim Principal

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FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "Words" *Jeremiah 1:4-10 and Luke 4:31-44*

Order of Service: *Service of Prayer & Preaching (LSB pg. 260)*

Hymns: 394 ~ 842 ~ 541 ~ 867, stz. 1,3-5 ~ 533

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to St. John Church. We thank God for this time together! We pray that the grace of God will heal your hurts; that the strength of God will give you courage to face the work before you; and that the peace of God will keep you secure and steady in Christ Jesus. 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

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘ Landon Willeman & Maggie Weller, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Todd & Chris Hesterman, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Jim & Linda Meyer, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Dave VonDeylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Richard Elling, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman, *Altar Guild* ✘

ADULT BIBLE CLASS is cancelled today for the reception in the fellowship hall for the Kramers. Next Sunday we will dedicate the Adult Bible Class time to a presentation by *Rev. Edward Naumann* about his work in South Asia. More details are elsewhere in today's bulletin.

THANK YOU FROM SOUP & PIE COMMITTEE – The Soup & Pie Committee would like to thank everyone for their support of the Annual Soup & Pie Dinner. Thanks to everyone who donated salads, desserts, and any other food items in order to make this fundraiser a success. We had a great turnout! Also thanks to the committee workers for all your teamwork and extra help offered. There were some new faces on the committee this year and we appreciate everyone's effort. (*Signed: Eric & Teresa Weller, Blake & Brittni Miller, and Nate & Christa Bickel, Tri-chairs*)

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM	Worship Service w/Installation of Pastor Kramer as Principal/7&8 Grade Teacher
	10:20AM	Welcome reception for <i>Pastor Kramer</i> ; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Mon.	7:00 PM	Trinity LifeLight Bible Study
Tue.	9:00 AM	Exercise Class
	10:00AM	Trinity LifeLight Bible Study
	7:00 PM	School Board & Stewardship Board Meetings
Wed.	10:20AM	Late Start-up (<i>Teacher In-service at 8:30 AM</i>)
	6:15 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30</i>)
	7:00 PM	Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant
	9:00 AM	Exercise Class
Sun.	9:00 AM	Communion Service
	10:20AM	Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
	1:00 PM	4-H Meetings (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Eric Moquin</i> , St. John Lutheran – Sherwood

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
- ❖ *Hannah Dietrich*, as she is studying in Spain for college requirements
- ❖ *Dick Mahnke*, recuperating at home from knee replacement
- ❖ *Lucia Delventhal*, hospitalized and now at home again for stroke related issues

UPDATE ON REV. ROSEBROCK: Today, January 31st at Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Byron, IL, Pastor Matthew Rosebrock is being installed as pastor. Pastor Rosebrock and his family have relocated to the Chicago area from California and are looking forward to a new start at a newly formed church. Dave & Karen Rosebrock are pretty happy that Matt and his family are closer to home (Ohio) too.

Installation of Rev. Charles Kramer

It is our great joy and privilege this morning to install **Rev. Charles Kramer** as principal and teacher in our school, and to receive him and his wife, Pat, into our midst.

Pastor Charles Kramer was born and raised in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He attended St. Paul Lutheran elementary school and Concordia Lutheran High School. For his secondary education he attended Concordia College in Ann Arbor, Michigan and Concordia College in Seward, Nebraska from which he graduated in 1976. As a new graduate he was assigned to teach at Immanuel Lutheran School in Gaylord, MN where he served until 1976. He also served as a Lutheran school teacher at Zion Lutheran in Independence, KS ('76-'81), Memorial Lutheran in Cleveland, OH ('81-'89), and St. Paul Lutheran in Napoleon, OH ('89-'99).



In 1999 Rev. Kramer entered the seminary at Fort Wayne to study for the pastoral ministry, and graduated in 2002. He was called by St. Paul Lutheran, Napoleon where he served as a pastor until 2014.

Pastor Kramer is married to wife Pat and they have three children: Karl (Jessica), Kurtis (Amy), and Sarah. They also have six grandchildren: Constance, Zebediah, Adalia, Matthew, Zechariah, and Zacchaeus.

Following worship this morning there will be a reception in the fellowship hall (*during the Sunday School hour*) where we will welcome the Kramers and get to know them in a more informal atmosphere. We are excited to bring Rev. Kramer on board, and pray God's richest blessings upon his leadership in our school.

LifeLight Bible Study –The Holy Trinity

After exploring the *natural knowledge* of God last week, this week we consider the *Christian knowledge* of God that is revealed to us in Scripture. What we know about God from Scripture is so much more than what nature can teach us, and the news for us is very good indeed! **You are still more than welcome to join us, even if you missed the first session.** It's a great time for fellowship and growth in God's Word!

LifeLight Bible study meets on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m, and Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. The schedule for the coming month is as follows: February 1-2, 8-9, and 22-23.



WOMEN OF FREEDOM LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: A women's Lenten Bible Study – "Overflowing Abundance," is being planned on Thursdays at 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM during the Lenten season. All ladies invited! We will be digging into the scripture to see a compelling picture of our compassionate Savior. Please join us beginning Feb. 11th! Sign up at the table in the narthex.

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST – Men, join us this Thursday morning, Feb. 4 for breakfast and Bible Study. We meet at **6:30 a.m. at Hill's Family Restaurant** in Napoleon. It's great food, great fellowship, and a great way to start your day. It's GRRRRRR-EAT!

LADIES QUILTING PARTY is planned for all day Monday, Feb. 15. There will be blanket knotting for those that do not wish to quilt. We will start at 9:00 AM. All ladies of the congregation are invited. You can come and stay all day or just part of the day; whatever fits your schedule.

MISSION SUNDAY – Next Sunday!

Next Sunday, Feb. 7th, our worship will focus on missions, with **Rev. Edward Naumann** as our special mission speaker and guest. *Rev. Naumann* has been serving as an LCMS missionary in south Asia (India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, etc.). Partnering with the LCMS, he is working to fill a desperate need for pastors in that region of the world by establishing a Lutheran seminary in Nagercoil, India. Pastors will be trained there not only from India, but also from all the other Lutheran synods in South Asia.



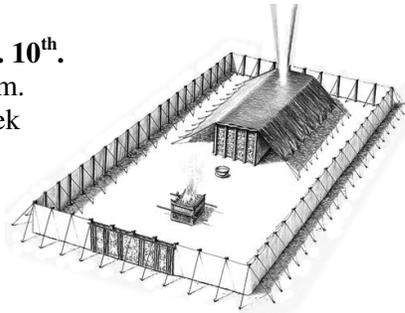
It's an exciting opportunity for us to learn about what God is doing in other parts of the world and to lend our support. During the Sunday School hour, *Rev. Naumann* will share in greater detail what he is doing. Be sure to join us for our Mission Sunday. A special door offering will be received after the service to support *Rev. Naumann*.

- **HOUSING FOR REV. NAUMANN** – If you can host Rev. Naumann in your home the night of Saturday, Feb. 6th (*he will be traveling without his family*) please speak with Pastor Niermann. Thank you in advance for your Christian hospitality!

***Lent Midweek 2016:* Tabernacle – Shadows of Christ**

Lent begins just 10 days from now on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10th. Each Wednesday evening there will be a Lenten Supper at 5:30 p.m. hosted by the LYF, followed by worship at 7:00 p.m. The midweek confirmation class will meet from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. on those Wednesdays.

This year's theme for midweek Lenten services is, **"Tabernacle – Shadows of Christ."** The tabernacle was ancient Israel's mobile temple, where the priests offered sacrifices and prayed on behalf of the people. In the tabernacle's innermost room was the Ark of the Covenant and its lid, the Mercy Seat of God. Every aspect of that tabernacle was a shadow of Christ. In other words, what the tabernacle was to Israel, Christ is to His people, and then some! Join us each week as we explore this fascinating structure that was Israel's place of worship for so many years. During the six weeks of Lent and Holy Week, we'll explore the Brazen Altar (where the sacrifices were made), the Laver (where the priests washed for service), the Table of the Showbread, the Candelabra, the Altar of Incense (where the priests offered prayer), and the Ark of the Covenant. Join us each week as our exploration of the tabernacle points us to Jesus, God's Lamb of sacrifice for us!



NEW SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: MARRIAGE AND FAMILY – Here’s a great way to kick off Valentine’s Day this year – join a new Bible study about marriage and family! It’s starting up this February 14th, which also happens to be a Sunday this year.

What is marriage? Is it merely a civil agreement between two (or more) adults? Is it simply about people who love each other? What is a Christian to say in the midst of a culture so tolerant of a diversity of views?

As Lutherans interact with other Christians, we often struggle to explain our beliefs and practices. We’ve memorized the Catechism—though that was probably a long time ago for many of us. When confronted with other teachings, we may find it difficult to clearly state our faith. Based on God’s Word, as faithfully reflected in the Lutheran Confessions, this study will help you to state clearly what God says about marriage and family. God instituted marriage and family, and the Scriptures are full of implications for us today. **Come join our study of Marriage and Family with Vicar Yaeger on Sundays beginning February 14.**

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 1/24/16	\$7,708.00	\$280.00	\$685.00

ATTENDANCE: 1/24/16 Service: 286

MEMORIALS for *Roger Mahnke* were: St. John Endowment Fund - \$96.00;
St. John Church Memorial Fund - \$1,343.00

LENTEN SUPPERS – SOUPS NEEDED! Do you have a famous soup recipe? Sr. LYF is looking for anyone who would like to help us with soups for Lenten suppers this season by preparing your favorite soup recipe. Last year, the soups were a big hit and we want to continue it again this year. We are looking to do either one or two different soups each week. If you are interested in helping, please contact Sarah Bartok at sbartok@sjl.org or call her through the church office at 419-598-8961.

SR. HIGH LYF SUPER BOWL SUB SALE! It’s that time of year again! Super Bowl Sunday is quickly approaching and it’s time to get ready for the “big game.” Why not help out our Sr. High LYF as well? On Sun., Feb. 7th, we will be selling Super Bowl subs to help raise money for our trip to the National Youth Gathering. Each sub will cost \$3.00 and will contain Cotto Salami, bologna, ham, white cheese, and yellow cheese. To place your order, please fill out a pre-order form and place it in the basket at the back of the church or bring it to the church office by February 2nd. Subs will be available for pick up after church on February 7th. Payment will be due at the time of pick up. **Checks can be made out to St. John LYF.** Thank you for supporting our Sr. High LYF!



LYF: Come one, come all to the Super Bowl Party 2016 at *Carey & Sharon Damman’s* on Feb. 7th from 6:00 PM – your curfew. Bring snacks and be ready to root for your favorite team!

Not into football??? There will be other games and activities going on as well. Carey needs help with splitting wood... Hope to see you on the 7th!

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 ASAP.**

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE is planned for grade levels PS-8 on Wed., February 3rd, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM, for families who would like to come and look at our school and discuss the possibility of sending their child(ren) here for their education. If anyone in the congregation might know of prospective students for Grades PS-8, please be sure to pass this information on to them. There will also be refreshments.

PTL MEETING: The next PTL Meeting will be held on Mon., Feb. 8th at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall. Soup & Pie results as well as other business at hand will be discussed. Please plan to attend!

EAGLE NEWS: The Eagle News publication is available today and also online via FastDirect Communication. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnsfreedom/>, click on "Links" at the top of the page, then click on "Eagle News - January" in the "Everybody" column. There will still be printed copies available on the narthex table for parishioners to enjoy!

4-H CLUB ORGANIZATION: The Gerald Busy Fingers and Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Clubs along with the Cloverbuds will be having their first 4-H meeting for 2016 on Sun., Feb. 7 at 1:00 PM at St. John Lutheran Church & School. Returning members please watch your emails for more information. If you are interested in joining 4-H or the Cloverbud Program, please contact one of the Advisors of these groups. Gerald Busy Fingers Advisors are Bethann Gerken, Becky Michaelis, Stefanie Hilvers, and Kaylee Wentworth. Freedom Royal Farmers Advisors are Pat Wiemken and Amanda Podach. Cloverbud Advisors are Tim Bower and Jennifer Gerken.

ST. MARTIN'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT SERIES presents...*Adrian Chamber Brass* today at 3:30 PM at St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 203 S. Defiance Street, Archbold, OH. This seven piece brass ensemble was founded in 1972 and performs throughout Northwest Ohio and Southern Michigan. They perform a wide range of repertoire from classical to show tunes. Steve Basselman, organist at St. Martin's, will join them for a couple selections for brass and organ. The concert is free and made possible through the generous donations of the members of St. Martin's in celebration of the congregation's 150th anniversary.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Don't give up. Moses was once a basket case.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (Rom. 8:28)