

# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

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NO. 7

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor  
Mr. Aaron Yaeger, Vicar  
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

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Church Website: [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)

### FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "The Lord Is My Refuge" *Psalm 91*

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

Hymns: 716 ~ 727 ~ 424 (sub for Benedictus) ~ 521

Children's Chime Choir: *Grades 5&6 play "My Lord, What a Morning"*

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### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*Welcome to every member, friend, and visitor. You have entered this church, not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. May you who enter here find rest, forgiveness, and strength. May your worship here enable you to see your Savior more clearly, love Him more dearly, follow Him more nearly, and serve Him more sincerely. If you have no church home of your own, we invite you to join the St. John family.*

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### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Colin Johnson & Aden Foor, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Esther Layton & Phyllis Silveus, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Denny Bockelman, Jeff Buchhop, Dave Myles, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham, *Altar Guild* ✠

**THANK YOU:** I would like to thank the members of St. John Lutheran Church who came to the reception on January 31. Your friendship and friendliness have made Pat and I feel welcome to our new church family. Thank you also to the St. John Board of Education who furnished and served the reception after the installation service.

May God bless St. John Church & School as together we "Lift High the Cross."

*Signed, Pastor Kramer, Principal*

***LifeLight* Bible Study** is not scheduled to meet this week. Our study of the Holy Trinity is scheduled next for Monday evening and Tuesday morning, February 22-23. Join us then as we consider the revelation of the Trinity in the New Testament.

**In God's House This Week**

Online church calendar: [www.DynaCal.com/sjl](http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:00 PM	<b>Worship Service w/Communion following</b> <i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" NWOLL Tourney Championships at St. Paul - Napoleon
Mon.	9:00 AM 4:30 PM	NO SCHOOL – President's Day observed All Day Quilting and Blanket Knotting Party ( <i>see bulletin note</i> ) Jr. High LYF Meeting ( <i>until 6:30 PM</i> )
Tue.	9:00 AM	Exercise Class
Wed.	5:30 PM 5:45 PM <b>7:00 PM</b>      8:00 PM	Lenten Supper ( <i>erving until 6:30 PM</i> ) Junior Confirmation Class (5:45 – 6:45 PM) <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Lenten Service;</b> Offering: <i>Local Lutheran Hour Ministries</i> Acolytes: <i>Brooks Behnfeldt &amp; Aden Foor</i> Greeters: <i>Dave &amp; Sara Myles</i> Ushers: <i>Denny Bockelman, Jeff Buchhop, Dave Myles</i> Altar Guild: <i>Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham</i> Chime Choir: <i>Gr. 5&amp;6 play "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"</i> Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 10:30AM 5:30 PM	Exercise Class Women's Lenten Bible Study ( <i>and again tonight at 7:00 PM</i> ) B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls; 6:30 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys @ Monclova Christian
Sat.	TBA	Gr. 4-6 Boys Basketball Tournament at Liberty Center
Sun.	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM 11:00AM 1:00 PM 4:30 PM	<b>Communion Service</b> Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Chicken Pie Dinner at the Ridgeville Legion 4-H Meetings ( <i>all 3 clubs</i> ) Sr. High LYF Meeting ( <i>until 6:30 PM</i> )
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Theodore Rellstab</i> , St. John Lutheran – Holgate

**GIDEON'S SPEAKER TODAY** – This morning we welcome **Mr. Dan Chambers** to St. John. He is representing the Gideon's International, and will speak for a few minutes at the end of our worship about their ongoing ministry in the distribution of God's Word. The Gideon's International is an association of Christian business and professional men and their wives dedicated to telling people about Jesus through personal sharing and by providing Bibles and New Testaments. Thank you, Mr. Chambers, for being with us today.



**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.

**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 *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Kyle Elling, Emily Schroeder, and Connor Gerken*
- ❖ *Delores Badenhop*, recuperating at The Lutheran Home following her surgery
- ❖ *David Niebergall*, now in hospice care for his failing health due to cancer
- ❖ *Hannah Dietrich*, as she studys in Spain for college requirements
- ❖ *Simon Robeson*, rehabbing at University of Michigan Hospital
- ❖ *Sarah VerMeulen*, for outpatient surgery on Wed., Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> at Defiance

**Java Joy TODAY!** Be sure to stop out in the front hallway this morning for some refreshments and fellowship. Our hosts today are ***Mike & Amy Dietrich and Todd & Tina Wachtman***, and we thank them for this service of love to us all!

- ***WOULD YOU CONSIDER HOSTING JAVA JOY?*** *Hosting does not have to be expensive – you are welcome to reimburse some or all of your expenses, if you wish, from the ‘kitty’ – so please don’t let that hold you back. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for all the second Sundays of the year. Please sign up, and pick up the sheet of guidelines from the table. Thank you!*



**BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES TODAY**

- **Leviticus** – Pastor Niermann will resume the study of this ancient book of the Israelites as we take a look at the various sacrifices God commanded Israel to make in the tabernacle, and how these pointed forward to the coming of Christ. We’ll meet in the north fellowship hall.
- **Marriage and Family** – Vicar Yaeger will lead a Bible Study in the south fellowship hall, especially for our Sunday School parents and anyone else interested. We’ll look at such topics as: Foundations of Marriage and Family in Creation; Biblical Intimacy, Exercising Faith and Love, More Than Romance, and Leaving a Legacy for the family.

**2015 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS** – The 2015 offering envelope contribution totals (green sheets) are available this morning on the table in the narthex. These will also be printed in the Church Annual Report. We hope this helps those members in need of this information for tax purposes. If you have any questions on your yearly contributions, please call *Kathy Behnfeldt* at 419-598-8682.

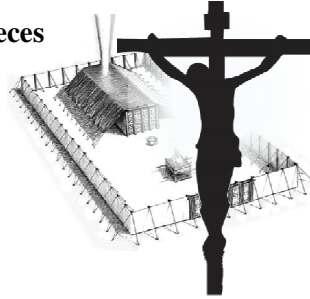
**ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING** – The list of the people for this year’s annual church cleaning are inserted in today’s bulletin. Also, if you feel you are not physically able to help with the cleaning for whatever reason, let your co-chair know and we’ll make a note of that. **There will be a co-chair meeting today in the Conference Room after the worship service.** Please plan to attend if at all possible. Thank you!

**CHOICE DOLLARS TO DESIGNATE:** Great news from our local Thrivent Rep. Doug Kossow! There are 2015 Thrivent Choice Dollars (*a very sizable amount*) that have not been designated by members of our congregation. Even though it's 2016, these 2015 dollars can still be designated until March 31, 2016. Today, Doug & Mary Kossow will have a table set up in the side hallway to assist those Thrivent members to designate their Choice Dollars to the church, school, or preschool.

Not sure if you have Choice Dollars to designate? Stop by their table to find out! If you are not able to stop that day, you can call Doug's office in Ridgeville Corners at 419-267-0113 to designate your dollars. Thank you!

### *Midweek Lenten Services* - Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

This year our midweek Lenten theme is, **“Tabernacle – Putting the Pieces Together.”** It will be a fascinating look at ancient Israel's first mobile house of worship and how it was set up to permit God's people to approach Him. We'll be taking a closer look at the...



- **BRONZE ALTAR (2/17)** “Our approach begins with sacrifice”
- **Laver (2/24)** “We need to be washed as we approach”
- **Curtains (3/2)** “We approach under cover”
- **Lampstand (3/9)** “We must have light to see”
- **Altar on Incense (3/16)** “We approach in blood-bought prayer.”
- **Table of Showbread (Maundy Thr)** “We approach eating the Bread of the Presence”
- **Ark of the Covenant (Good Friday)** “We finally reach the Most Holy Place”

As we put together all these pieces, a clear picture will emerge of our Lord and Savior who “tabernacled” among us in human flesh, that He might take our place in death and secure for us eternal life. Join us for worship each Wednesday during Lent at 7:00 p.m.

**Each Wednesday evening, the LYF will be hosting a Lenten Supper in the fellowship hall.**

Your free-will donations will help them go to New Orleans this summer to the National Youth Gathering. Supper starts at 5:30. *This week's menu includes: Vegetable soup, hotdogs, deli meats & cheese, chips, dessert, and drinks.*

**Sr. LYF STICKY BUNS FUNDRAISER:** **Selling Next Sunday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>!!!** 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 in your bulletin and on the narthex table that we are asking you to fill out so that we can assure that we have enough for Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup>. 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!

**LYF NEWS:** LYF events at church are: *Mon., Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 6:00 PM Jr. High LYF Meeting*  
*Sun., Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> from 4:30 – 6:00 PM Sr. High LYF Meeting*

**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. If you are interested in helping, please contact Sarah Bartok at [sbartok@sjl.org](mailto:sbartok@sjl.org) or call her through the church office at 419-598-8961.

**WOMEN OF FREEDOM LENTEN BIBLE STUDY:** A women's Lenten Bible Study – “Overflowing Abundance,” is being held 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.

**EASTER FLOWER ORDERS:** We are now taking orders for various flowers to purchase “in memory of” or “in honor of” someone special in your life. Order forms are on the narthex table. Drop your order form and payment to **St. John Lutheran Church** into the container at the narthex table or return to the church office. **Order deadline is Monday, Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>.**

**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.**

**YOUR COMPREHENSIVE SOURCE FOR NEWS, INFORMATION & TRUTH...Issues, Etc.** is a radio talk show hosted by *LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken* and produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. This week's topics include: Cohabitation, The Temptation of Jesus, Christianity & the Arts, The Movie "Hail, Caesar!", The Apostle Matthias and more. You can listen on-demand at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org) and on the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 2/07/16	\$8,209.00	\$1,543.00	\$625.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 2/07/16 Service: 255

**GRADES 3-5 ROUND ROBIN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT** will be held here on Sat., March 12<sup>th</sup> with the first games starting at 9:00 AM. This is a one day boys' & girls' tournament. Volunteer referees and scoreboard help are needed for this tournament.

In years past, members have been gracious enough to donate beef or sausage patties for the concession stand for this tournament. If anyone is interested in donating a few packages of beef or pork for the tournament this year, please contact a booster officer (*Amy Rosebrook, Becky Michaelis, Jody Meller, or Krista Behnfeldt*). Deadline for donating beef or pork is Sat., March 5<sup>th</sup>, in order to give the booster officers an idea of how much they will need to purchase.

Admission/entry fee will be a non-perishable food item to be donated to the St. John *Bread From Heaven* Food Pantry. The food item donations will be a competition among the participating teams. Boxes will be set up by team designation and the team with the most items donated will be declared the “winner” of the tournament. Contact *Doug Willeman* at 419-261-1372 with questions.

**ST. JOHN CHURCH LIBRARY** – Stop in and check out the growing number of books available in the church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary. To borrow a book, just take it with you, and then return it to the basket when you've finished reading. A complete list of the books can be found by clicking on the "Book Inventory" link on the library page of our church's website.

**RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP FUNDRAISER:** The Stewardship Board is offering “for sale” the Ultimate Cloth® as a fundraiser. These are a MiraFiber® technology cloth that cleans with water only. See Karen Norden (419-267-3477) for more information and pricing. This will be an on-going fundraiser for the Right Hand of Fellowship gift matching campaign.

**SUNNY D LABELS** – Throughout the school year please continue to save labels from *Sunny D* drinks. Classrooms that save 20 *SunnyD* labels earn 20 FREE books. **COLLECT *SunnyD* UPC labels** from these eligible products: 1, 2, or 3 liter bottles; 16 oz., 48 oz., 64 oz., 96 oz., or 128 oz. bottles; 6.75 oz.- 6, 8, or 24 pack outer wraps; 6.75 oz.-12 pack cardboard case; 11.3 oz.-6 or 24 pack outer wraps; 12 oz.-12 or 24 pack cans outer wraps. **SEND UPC labels** to the school office any time.

**Vacation Bible School 2016** – Believe it or not, it’s time to think about VBS. This year the theme of the CPH curriculum is one that we know a thing or two about in these parts – “Barnyard Roundup – Jesus Gathers His People Together.” At this time we would like to identify a VBS director (or maybe co-directors) to work with Pastor in making some of the initial plans. Please speak with Pastor Niermann if you are interested in serving the children in this way.



**KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY CHANGES** for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2016! The K-clinic will be held on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 12:45 PM. There WILL BE Kindergarten class until 11:30 AM on April 12<sup>th</sup>. **Napoleon Area Schools and St. John Lutheran changed the eligibility date for entering Kindergarten beginning with 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 2015 (*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.*

**4-H CLUB ORGANIZATION:** The Gerald Busy Fingers and Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Clubs along with the Cloverbuds will be having their next meeting on Sun., Feb. 21 at 1:00 PM at St. John Lutheran Church & School. 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.

**CHICKEN PIE DINNER** – The Ridgeville American Legion Post #454 will host their annual Chicken Pie Dinner on Sun., Feb. 21 with serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

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### FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

The only thing some people give up for Lent is their New Year’s resolution.

*“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.  
The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Matt. 26:41)*