



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

February 21, 2016

VOL. 81

NO. 8

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

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181  
Cell: 989-607-4566  
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339  
Church Website: [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)

### SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting 4 (LSB pg. 203)*

Hymns: 579 ~ 708 ~ [Communion: 438, 666, 692] ~ 725

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**WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS** We invite you to celebrate God's love as we pray to a Heavenly Father who cares for us, and as we hear His powerful Word to us. 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.

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

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Madison Bostelman & Lydia Babcock, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Don & Karan Niebergall, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Denny Bockelman, Jeff Buchhop, Dave Myles, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham, *Altar Guild* ✘

### 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.

ARCHIVES DISPLAY – The Archives Display has been changed and is now highlighting the 2015-2016 school pictures of the students and staff of St. John Lutheran School. Also featured is our new Principal, Rev. Charles Kramer. Please stop down and check them out at your leisure.

**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 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.	5:30 PM 7:00 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution Trinity <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Gr. 7&8; Offering: <i>Hearts for Jesus</i> Exercise Class Trinity <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys @ BG Christian Board of Elders
Wed.	5:30 PM 5:45 PM 6:15 PM <b>7:00 PM</b>    8:00 PM	Lenten Supper ( <i>serving until 6:30 PM</i> ) Junior Confirmation Class ( <i>5:45 – 6:45 PM</i> ) Adult Bell practice <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Lenten Service</b> ; Offering: <i>Church Vocation Student</i> Acolytes: <i>Caleb Bockelman &amp; Brooks Behnfeldt</i> Greeters: <i>The Niermann Family</i> Ushers: <i>Denny Bockelman, Jeff Buchhop, Dave Myles</i> Altar Guild: <i>Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham</i> Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 10:00AM	Exercise Class Women's Lenten Bible Study ( <i>and again tonight at 7:00 PM</i> )
Sun.	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM	<b>Worship Service</b> Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. James Strawn</i> , St. James Lutheran, Archbold

**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 studies in Spain for college requirements
- ❖ *Simon Robeson*, rehabbing at University of Michigan Hospital
- ❖ *Sarah VerMeulen and Larry Mahnke*, for outpatient shoulder surgery this past week

**SR. LYF STICKY BUNS FUNDRAISER:** **Selling TODAY!!!** This fundraiser is to help our Sr. High LYF raise money for their trip to the National Youth Gathering this July. If you forget to fill out a pre-order sheet, that's okay! We will have extras available. Thank you for your support!

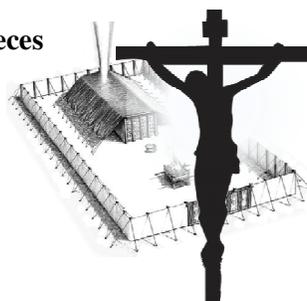
**LENTEN BIBLE STUDIES** – During the season of Lent there are extra opportunities to delve into God's Word and to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ. Be sure to take advantage of these, and join us!

- **Men's Lenten Bible Breakfast** meets each Thursday morning during Lent at 6:30 a.m. at Hill's Restaurant in Napoleon. Each week we take a look at the Scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday. Cost of breakfast is \$6.50 (includes tip). God's Word is free to all!
- **Women's Lenten Bible Study** – "Overflowing Abundance," is being held on Thursdays at 10:00 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.

**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.

### **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 Wednesdays 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: Mostacholi, French bread, hotdogs, chips, dessert, and drinks.*

**ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING** – The list of the people for this year's annual church cleaning are available on the narthex table. 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. Thank you!

## LifeLight Bible Study –The Holy Trinity

Having explored the revelation of the Holy Trinity in the Old Testament, we come now to the fuller revelation of Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the New Testament, as for example when Jesus instituted Christian baptism in the names of the three Persons of our God. Does any of this make sense to our rational mind? No! But God transcends our limited capacities of reason and intellect, and is beyond our comprehension. But as Mary Poppins said, “That’s as it should be.” Join us as we dig into the Old Testament to discover God’s revelation of Himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



**LifeLight** Bible study meets on Monday evenings at 7:00 PM and Tuesday mornings at 10:00 AM. The schedule for the next few weeks is Feb. 22-23, Feb. 29 and March 1.

**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>.**

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 2/14/16	\$9,545.00	\$335.00	\$195.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 2/14/16 Service: 257

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE (2/10/16):** *Worship For Shut-Ins* - \$770.00; Attendance: 150

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** For anyone wishing to place flowers on the altar for Sunday worship, please contact *Mabel Bischoff* at 419-598-8757. **NOTE: The price for flowers through the Women of Freedom has increased to \$21.00.** Please make checks payable to Women of Freedom. Remember that it is your responsibility to call Mabel either way; if you would like the Women of Freedom to order the flowers or if you are going to take care of ordering the flowers yourself.

**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.**

**ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOL & YOUNG ADULTS:** Join us in the Cry Room after church each Sunday for Bible Study, fellowship, and snacks. Feed your soul and your body to start your week out right! Looking forward to having you join us each week! *Sharon Damman*

**PRAYER CALENDAR NOTE:** Please be aware that if you would like your wedding anniversaries printed on the prayer calendars, you will have to post them each year. Just list them on the blank calendars posted on the bulletin board in the narthex throughout the year. Thank you!

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 4-6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE BOY'S B-BALL TEAM:**

GOOOOO EAGLES!!!!!! Congratulations to the boys' basketball players and coaches for winning their 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade NWOL League Tournament bracket this past weekend at St. Paul's. You played with a lot of confidence and determination! There were a lot of proud parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, etc. cheering on the Eagles!

**GRADES 3-5 ROUND ROBIN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT** will be held here on Sat., March 12<sup>th</sup> with the first game 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 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 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.

**SILENT AUCTION HOSTED BY THE BOOSTERS:** The Athletic Boosters are hosting a silent auction for the booster popcorn machine. They are purchasing a new machine. So, here is the information you will need in order to make a wise decision on your bid amount:

1. Bids will be closed on Sun., April 10<sup>th</sup> (*the Athletic Banquet*).
2. There are boxes located in the back of the church and in the school office for the bids.
3. Individuals should put their name, phone number, and bid amount on the bid tickets (*located beside the boxes*). The highest bidder will be announced and contacted at the Athletic Banquet.
4. We want to point out that the machine is being sold as is and no warranty provided! It has been used during the current basketball season.
5. There is a minimum bid of \$50 being placed on the machine.
6. The proceeds will benefit the school athletic programs.
7. Individuals can contact any booster officer if they have questions: *Becky Michaelis, Krista Gerken, Jody Meller, or Amy Rosebrook*.

**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.



**4-H CLUB MEETINGS:** The Gerald Busy Fingers and Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Clubs along with the Cloverbuds will be having their meeting today at 1:00 PM at St. John School.

**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>. **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.*

**PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT** – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2016-17 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.

**ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES:** You may begin ordering SCRIP again. Please turn those orders in on Wednesdays, with payment to *St. John School PTL Scrip Program*. The gift cards will be sent home the following week on Tuesday. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

**DID YOU KNOW?** The free Pepperidge Farm bread, cookies, and crackers available on Sundays down by the gym lobby have the “Labels For Education” UPC codes on the wrappers. Be sure to clip them off and bring them to the school/church office at your convenience.

**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!

#### **AREA EVENTS:**

- **ST. MARTIN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH** – to host the Junior Choral Society on Sun., Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at their church located at 203 S. Defiance St., Archbold, OH. This is part of their church's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.
- **SOUP & PIE DINNER** – St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wauseon. Sun., Mar. 6<sup>th</sup> serving from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!
- **PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST** – Ridgeville Volunteer Fire Dept. Sun., Mar. 6<sup>th</sup> serving from 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Carryout available. See flyer!

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#### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

The Bible is the breakfast of champions.

*“Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you.”*

*(Psa. 143:8)*