



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

February 19, 2017

VOL. 82

NO. 8

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Mr. M. Brent Keller, Vicar
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
Cell: 940-390-3065
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339
Church Website: www.sjl.org

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "Yes, He Means What He Says" *Matthew 5:38-48*

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

Hymns: 843 ~ (Communion: 706, 619, 851) ~ 845

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.*



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Taylor Dietrich & Clay Behnfeldt, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Don & Karan Niebergall, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Delbert & Marian Damman, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham, *Altar Guild* ✠

VOTERS' MEETING – The first voters' meeting of 2017 will be held on Sun., Feb. 26th after the worship service. Agenda items are: 1) Annual school report; 2) Audit Committee report; 3) Endowment Fund distributions approval; 4) Stained Glass Windows update; 5) Parking Lot Re-paving consideration; 6) School Board By-laws changes (*see note in today's bulletin*); 7) Update on long term absence policy; 8) Consideration of hiring a full time teacher. Please plan on attending!

2016 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – The 2016 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 *Sara Myles* at 419-966-1335.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 11:00AM 1:30 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Chicken Pie Dinner at the Ridgeville Legion NWOLL Tournament Championship Games @ Trinity – Toledo
Mon.	9:00 AM	NO SCHOOL due to President's Day observance Ladies Blanket Knotting (<i>see bulletin note for location</i>)
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM	Chapel led by Pastor Kramer Exercise Class
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:45 PM 7:30 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>) Adult Bell Choir Practice Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM	Exercise Class
Sat.	TBD	LC Boys' Basketball Tournament
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Voters' Meeting; 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: *Norma Damman, Lucia Delventhal, Renetta Homan, Stan Moll, and Florence Fitzenreiter*
- ❖ *Marie Damman, Delora Winkelman, and Marian Buchhop* at The Lutheran Home, Napoleon
- ❖ *Anna Brodman* residing at Country View Haven
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Servicemen, *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, and Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Casen Lawrence*, for seizure activity he has been experiencing
- ❖ *Delores Badenhop*, receiving physical therapy at the Lutheran Home, Napoleon
- ❖ *Teresa Weller*, for outpatient foot surgery this past Thursday
- ❖ *Annetta Rosebrock, Evelyn Rohrs, and Shirley Sonnenberg*, all dealing with health issues

LifeLight BIBLE STUDY does not meet this week.

We will meet again on Monday and Tuesday of next week as we continue our study of the Lord's parables. Join us at either time – Mondays at 7:00 pm or Tuesdays at 10:00 am.

Life's Big Questions, God Big Answers – Sunday Bible Study

At the beginning of all apologetics is the question of the Bible's reliability and authority, which many people doubt and call into question. Currently we are considering the question of whether science supports the Bible. This question looms large in the minds of many people, and we need to be equipped to answer it. Please join us during the Sunday School hour as we grow in grace and in the knowledge of God's Holy Word, and in our own ability to defend the Christian faith.

LADIES BLANKET TYING PARTY is planned for Monday, Feb. 20 at 9:00 AM. We will be tying blankets (no quilting). A change this year is that the ladies will meet at the home of Jane Greene. Jane's home is at the east edge of Ridgeville on US Route 6. It's the red brick ranch home directly across from St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Come for a while or spend the day. The ladies of Bethlehem Lutheran Church on the Ridge will be joining us. A light lunch will be provided. All ladies welcome, just bring your 'yarn' needle and scissors. Looking forward to seeing you Feb. 20th!

OHIO DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO ST. JOHN - Rev. Terry Cripe, our District President, is visiting our congregation on Monday, Feb. 27 from 7-9:00 pm. Congregational visits are part of the District President's regular responsibilities. That evening he will share a presentation with us packed with good information about our community and ministry, and about ways for us to move forward into the future. He will challenge us, inspire us, and encourage us. Everyone is invited to attend, but in particular we need a good showing from our congregational leadership (school staff, Church Council, Elders, Stewardship and Education Boards, etc.) Please mark your calendar for the President's Visit, one week from tomorrow.

THE CONSTITUTION OF OUR CONGREGATION has recently undergone some updating. Copies of the most recent version are available for you upon request to Joyce in the church office. She will give you either a paper copy, or send it to you as an email attachment.

- **A NEW BYLAW AMENDMENT** being proposed by the Church Council is available in the narthex for your consideration. Its intent is to clarify the School Board's lines of accountability to the congregation in hiring for the school ministry. We will take up this proposed bylaw at the Voters' Assembly next Sunday.

"I HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU" – Adult Christian Instruction

Pastor Niermann is gearing up to begin a new Monday evening adult instruction class, starting on Monday, March 6th at 7:00 p.m. The course covers the basics of the Christian faith that every Christian ought to know at a minimum. **This will be a membership course for those wishing to join our congregation**, but it is also intended for those who are simply curious about what we believe, teach and confess, as well as for current members who want a "refresher."

An informational brochure is available in the narthex for more information, or for you to give to someone else you would like to invite. Or use the card enclosed in today's bulletin to invite someone. Spread the word, and let's take the fullest advantage of this opportunity to tell others the good news of Christ!



"HERE AM I, SEND ME!" St. John Lutheran Church is seeking an individual who would be interested in filling a vacancy on the School Board, due to the relocation of Board member, Jenelle McCarthy to Pennsylvania. This individual would fill the remaining portion of Jenelle's term of 2 ½ years. If you would be interested in serving on the Board, please contact Pastor Niermann ASAP.

EXPERT GUESTS, EXPANSIVE TOPICS, EXTOLLING CHRIST...Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: Alpha Females & Marriage, The Drive to Abolish Differences Between Men & Women, Contraception & the Future of the Family, First Century Pastor & Martyr Polycarp, Jesus & Zacchaeus, and more. You can listen to what you want when you want at www.issuesetc.org and on the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: A women's Lenten Bible Study – "Gifts Chosen For You," is being planned for Monday mornings and Thursday evenings during the Lenten season (approx. 4-5 weeks). This Bible Study will focus on our "spiritual gifts." Sign up at the table in the narthex and be watching the bulletin for further information. *NOTE: The days and times are subject to change based on the group's preferences.*

2016 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – Keep up the good work of getting your reports ready for the 2016 Church Annual. The secretaries 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, Sara Myles, at 419-966-1335. **Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers ASAP.**

TIME TO UPDATE OUR DIRECTORY: There are many addresses and phone numbers in the Annual Report directory that need updated. If you (and/or your adult children) have address changes; or if you have eliminated your land line telephone and only have cell phone numbers, **please call or email** the church office at 419-598-8961 or email jwiechers@sjl.org with updated information. It will be very helpful to have current addresses on file when we do our mailings. Thank you!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 02/12/17	\$7,717.00	\$169.00	\$257.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday (02/12/17) Service: 259

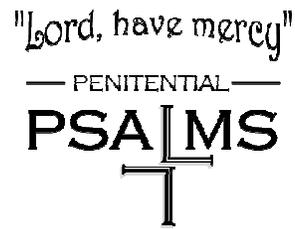


SUMMER MISSION TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS - We are in the planning stages for a summer mission trip to New Orleans. The area has not fully recovered from the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and has been hit by severe storms and floods since then, including multiple tornadoes this past week. We would like to serve our neighbors in New Orleans this summer by lending our time and gifts to the community through *Camp Restore*, which is a Recognized Service Organization in our Synod. **Please join us for an informational meeting on March 5th in the Fellowship Hall after Sunday School!**

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ST. JOHN SCRIP: Order forms are included in today's bulletin. 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.**

LENT MIDWEEK SERVICES 2017 – Lent begins Ash Wednesday, March 1st (one week from Wednesday). This year we are in for a special treat as pastors from sister congregations in our area participate in a preaching round robin. The midweek theme this year is **“Lord, Have Mercy; The Penitential Psalms.”** The schedule is as follows:



<u>DATE</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Pslam</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Mar 1	Rev. Stephen Niermann	Psalm 52	Concordia University, Ann Arbor
Mar 8	Rev. Jim Strawn, St James, Burlington	Psalm 130	Church Vocation Students
Mar 15	Rev. Keith Witte, St Paul, Liberty Center	Psalm 32	New Orleans Mission Trip
Mar 22	Rev. Stephen Niermann	Psalm 38	Luth. Hour/Worship for Shut-ins
Mar 29	Rev. Jeff Corder, St John, Stryker	Psalm 143	Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch
Apr 5	Rev. Lee Genter, Christ Our Savior, Defiance	Psalm 6	Lutheran Heritage Foundation

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!

HELP WITH SERVICE SLIDES – In the new year we’d like to recruit some people to help with worship slides by taking charge of the “presentation clicker” and advancing the slides during worship services. Once we’ve identified some people, we will set up a training session to teach everyone how to perform this task. If you are interested in serving in this way, please speak with Dan Wachtman or Pastor Niermann.

ATHLETIC BANQUET: The St. John Athletic Banquet is scheduled for Sun., March 26th at 4:30 PM with a potluck meal. This year the Boosters will be providing the meat and drinks, so if you plan to come, please bring a side dish or two to share. Honorees will be all St. John athletes (Gr. 4-8), the Mini-Eagles (Gr. 1-3), and the cheerleaders. Everyone welcome!

GRADES 3-5 ROUND ROBIN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT will be held here on Sat., March 11th 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.

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 *Brad Rosebrook* at 419-966-3099 with questions.

BASKETBALL FUN! On Sat., April 29th at 1:30 PM there will be a Student vs. Staff/Coaches Basketball game held here in our gym. The student team will consist of 5th – 8th students, and the Staff/Coaches team will consist of...well, you know who. So plan to come and have some fun! Tell your family, friends, and church members too! NOTE: There will be oxygen tanks provided for the staff participants. ☺

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2017-18 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.

KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY CHANGES for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2017! The K-clinic will be held on Thursday, March 23rd beginning at 1:00 PM. There WILL BE Kindergarten class until 11:30 AM on March 23rd. **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 2016 (*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.*

ALTAR FLOWERS: For anyone wishing to place flowers on the altar for Sunday worship, please contact *Mabel Bischoff* at 419-598-8757. **The price for flowers through the Women of Freedom is \$21.00.** Please make checks payable to St. John 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.

COLLECTING OLD BIBLES: This year our school will be working on a service project. We would ask that you look around your homes for any unused Bibles. What next, you ask? Bring them in to the office and St. John School will donate them to Orphan Grain Train. Orphan Grain Train will then distribute them to individuals and families that have had their homes destroyed by hurricane, tornado, or flood. Often times these people have nothing left in their homes. Giving them a Bible that you don't need is one way that we can reach out to families that are suffering a loss. This will be ongoing for the school year, so keep them coming and tell your extended families too.

AREA EVENTS:

- **CHICKEN PIE DINNER** hosted by the Ridgeville American Legion & Auxiliary today with serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM.
- **SOUP & PIE DINNER** – St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wauseon. Sun., Mar. 5th serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!
- **PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST** – Ridgeville Volunteer Fire Dept. Sun., Mar. 5th serving from 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Carryout available. See flyer!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

The Ten Commandments are not multiple choice.

“For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.” (James 2:10)