



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

March 12, 2017

VOL. 82

NO. 11

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

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

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "Born How" *John 3:1-17*

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

Hymns: "There Is a Redeemer" (LSB 971) ~ 596 ~ 929 (Canticle) ~ 571

Children's Chime Choir: *Gr. 5&6 play "A Time for Prayer"*

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. 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.

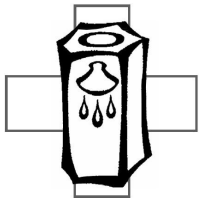


SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Aden Foor & Hannah Wachtman, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dan & Joyce Wiechers, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman, *Altar Guild* ✠

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

are provided by Bob & Karen Riefers and are placed in recognition of the **BAPTISMS YESTERDAY**, March 11th, for: **Bailey Bost** (age 21) and **Emersyn Layne Riefers** (Kevin's daughter born on 1/22/17), and **Kayleigh Riefers** (Eric's wife) and **Briceton Scott Baumert** (age 8). We thank God for the new birth from above of Water and Spirit, and pray that the good work God has begun by this washing may be brought to completion on the day of Jesus Christ. We rejoice today with the Riefers' Family!



In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Jr. High LYF
Mon.	10:00AM 7:00 PM	Women's Lenten Bible Study Adult Instructional Class; <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM 3:30 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by <i>Vicar Keller</i> Exercise Class <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study Archives Committee Meeting Church Council Meeting
Wed.	5:30 PM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Lenten Supper (<i>erving until 6:30 PM</i>) Junior Confirmation Class (5:45 – 6:45 PM) Lenten Service (<i>Rev. Keith Witte, St. Paul – Liberty Center</i>) Offering: <i>Congregational Mission Trip – New Orleans</i> Acolytes: <i>Taylor Dietrich & Clay Behnfeldt</i> Greeters: <i>Lois Arps & Evelyn Rohrs</i> Ushers: <i>Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke</i> Altar Guild: <i>Diane VonDeylen, Lou Ann Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman</i> Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Women's Lenten Bible Study
Fri.	5:30 PM	End of 3 rd Quarter Grading Period Open Volleyball in the gym
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Sr. High LYF
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Logan Scheiwe, St. Paul Lutheran - Napoleon</i>

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Lucia Delventhal, Renetta Homan, and Florence Fitzenreiter*
- ❖ *Marie Damman, Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, and Anna Brodman*, at The Lutheran Home, Napoleon
- ❖ *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
- ❖ *Annetta Rosebrock, Evelyn Rohrs, and Shirley Sonnenberg*, all dealing with health issues
- ❖ *Richard Wagner* (Renee Petzoldt's father), receiving radiation and chemo treatments

Java Joy TODAY! Be sure to stop out in the front hallway this morning for some refreshments and fellowship. Our hosts today are *Denny & Diane VonDeylen, Dan & Joyce Wiechers, and Henry & Dorothy Gerken*, 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! Thank you!*

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE MEETING this Tues., March 14th at 3:30 PM in the Conference Room.

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. Lilac order forms are available 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 Sunday, March 26th.**

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING – The list of the people for this year’s annual church cleaning are printed and available on the narthex table. 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!

2016 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – The 2016 offering envelope contribution totals (green sheets) are available on the table in the narthex. If you have questions on your yearly contributions, please call *Sara Myles* at 419-966-1335.

“HERE AM I, SEND ME!” The Stewardship Board is seeking candidates to fill a vacancy as an Assistant Sunday School Superintendent. If you would like to serve in this office, please speak with Pastor Niermann ASAP.



SUMMER MISSION TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS

INFORMATION MEETING TODAY DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL

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 devastating tornadoes recently. 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.

LifeLight BIBLE STUDY meets this week, Monday (7pm) and Tuesday (10am)

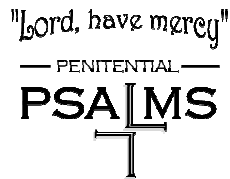
Our study continues this week as we look at the Lost and Found parables of Luke 15. These beloved parables each have a unique feature, but all point to the radical grace of our God. Come and see how our Lord seeks our lost sinners and justifies them and us.

Join us this week on Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. and again on Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. Choose the session that works best for you, and join us --- *even if you didn't sign up! It's not too late!*

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS are available on the narthex table today. These are furnished complimentary from Lutheran Indian Ministries. Pick up your copy today.

LENTEN SUPPERS: Each Wednesday evening the youth will host Lenten suppers for you. Weeks 1, 3, 5, & 6 will be hosted by grades 6 & 7 to support their class trip to Washington DC in 2018. Weeks 2 & 4 will be hosted by the LYF to support their next trip to the National Youth Gathering. The next week's Lenten Supper menu is: *Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Dessert, and Drink.* Serving times are 5:30-6:30 p.m. This is a Thrivent Action Team Event.

LENT MIDWEEK SERVICES 2017 – 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 remaining schedule is as follows:



<u>DATE</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Pslam</u>	<u>Offering</u>
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 Shutins
Mar 29	Rev. Jeff Corder, St John, Stryker	Psalm 143	Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch
Apr 5	Rev. Lee Genter, Christ Our Savior, Defiance	Palm 6	Lutheran Heritage Foundation

✂ **PREPARE THIS WEEK by reading and praying Psalm 32** ✂

LENTEN BIBLE STUDIES – During the season of Lent we are offering extra opportunities for you to delve into God's Word and to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ. Why not come and join us!

- **Men's Lenten Bible Breakfast!** Each Thursday morning during Lent all men are invited to join us for our Lenten Bible Breakfasts at Hill's Restaurant in Napoleon. We gather at 6:30 AM for one hour. **This week we will be digging deeper into Psalm 32, the same Psalm Rev. Keith Witte will have preached about the evening before in our midweek service.** By praying these Psalms in preparation, and by attending midweek services and our Thursday morning Bible studies, you will become very familiar with these gems of Scripture.
- **Women's Lenten Bible Study** – "Gifts Chosen for You," is being held on Mondays at 10:00 AM and Thursdays at 7:00 PM during the Lenten season. All ladies invited! We hope you can join us on either day to learn more about your "spiritual gift."

WOMEN OF FREEDOM MEETING: The next Women of Freedom meeting will be held on Tues., March 21st at 7:00 PM. As always, these meetings are open to any women in the congregation. Hope to see some of you there!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 03/05/17	\$9,389.00	\$130.00	\$1,215.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday (03/05/17) Service: 183

COMMUNED in February: 338 members; 6 guests

PRESCHOOL POSITION: St. John Preschool currently has an opening for a paid Preschool Teacher position for the 2017-2018 school year. Please contact the school office if you would be interested in this position. Thank you!

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.

“I HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU” – Adult Christian Instruction

IT’S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN! Pastor Niermann is teaching a new adult instruction class, each Monday evening, 7:00-8:15 p.m. The course covers the basics of the Christian faith that every Christian ought to know at a minimum. **This is 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. Spread the word, and let’s take the fullest advantage of this opportunity to tell others the good news of Christ!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL -- Director needed



Yep, it’s time to think about putting together a team for a summer Vacation Bible School. **Most importantly we need to identify a Director,** so that will be our focus for the next few weeks. If you would like to serve the children of our congregation in this way, please speak with Pastor Niermann right away so that we can begin to take the next steps to assemble a VBS team. Please think and pray about this, as you consider the words of Jesus, *“Let the children come unto me, and do not forbid them!”*

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.*

ATHLETIC BANQUET: The St. John Athletic Banquet is scheduled for **Sun., April 2nd 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!

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!

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.**

FACEBOOK PAGE: Please "like" and "share" our Facebook page which is a great way to share lessons going on in the classroom, special student recognitions, important events, and announcements. The link is <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnlutherschoolnapoleon/>

WOMEN OF FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIPS: Here is another opportunity to encourage and help young people prepare for service to the church as pastors, teachers, lay workers, deaconesses, and parish workers. \$500 per year Women of Freedom Scholarships are available to any young person attending one of our synodical schools. Simply contact any Women of Freedom member.

AREA EVENTS:

- **SOUP & PIE LUNCHEON** – Genacross Lutheran Services, with **servng today from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**. This is also a Thrivent Action Team event. See flyer on bulletin board!
- **HEARTFELT CONVERSATIONS AS WE AGE:** Genacross Lutheran Services is hosting this informational meeting on **Thurs., March 16th at 4:00 PM** in the Alpine Village Activity Room. See flyer on bulletin board!
- **MISSION “U”** – This outreach training workshop to be held at Zion Lutheran Church, Ridgeville Corners, OH, on **Sat., March 18th from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**. See flyer!
- **MUSICAL PASSION PLAY:** Cleveland Performing Arts Ministries’ musical Passion play “Tetélestai” will be presented at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1075 Glenwood Ave., Napoleon on **March 24, 25, and 26 at 8:00 PM both Friday and Saturday, and 2:00 PM on Sunday**. This is a great way to prepare for the Holy Days of the Easter season. See flyer on bulletin board for much more information.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Don't be like a button that's always "popping off" at the worst moment.

“Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.” (Prov. 29:20)