



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

March 26, 2017

VOL. 82

NO. 13

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

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### FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "I'll Take Grace" *John 9:1-41*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: **697 ~ 841 ~ 955 ~ 979**

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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. 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**

- ✧ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✧ Taylor Dietrich & Aden Foor, *Acolytes* ✧
- ✧ Elmer & Pat Maassel, *Greeters* ✧
- ✧ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✧
- ✧ Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke, *Ushers* ✧
- ✧ Diane VonDeylen, LouAnn Rosebrock, Jeannette Bostelman, *Altar Guild* ✧

### FLOWERS TODAY:

- ❖ Altar flowers are placed in celebration of the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of Arlene Wallace by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Arlene's actual birthday is on Tues., March 28th. Happy Birthday Arlene! May God bless you with many more years of celebration!
- ❖ Piano flowers are placed today in honor of the 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Dick & Elaine Mahnke, which was on Thurs., March 23<sup>rd</sup>. God's blessings as you celebrate 60 years together and we all wish you many more. Congratulations Dick & Elaine!

<b>In God's House This Week</b>		<i>Online church calendar: <a href="http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl">www.DynaCal.com/sjl</a></i>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare"
Mon.	10:00AM 5:00 PM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	Women's Lenten Bible Study Group 2 Annual Cleaning <i>Bread from Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution Adult Instructional Class
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 9:30 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by <i>Ohio Dist. Supt. Travis Grulke</i> ; Offering: <i>Ft. Wayne Seminary Food Bank</i> Exercise Class Field Trip to St. Augustine to see preview performance of "Honk" Shepherd Committee followed by Board of Elders
Wed.	5:30 PM 5:45 PM 6:15 PM 7:00 PM  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>Lenten Service</b> ( <i>Rev. Jeff Corder – St. John, Stryker</i> ) Offering: <i>Good Shepherd for the Deaf - Toledo</i> Sunday School Children's Choir: "Zacchaeus" Acolytes: <i>Taylor Dietrich &amp; Hannah Wachtman</i> Greeters: <i>Esther Layton &amp; Phyllis Silveus</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.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Lenten Bible Study at Hill's Restaurant Exercise Class Women's Lenten Bible Study
Fri.	5:30 PM	Open Volleyball in gym
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 11:15AM 4:30 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Confirmation Planning Meeting St. John Athletic Banquet
Mon.-Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Lucia Delventhal, Renetta Homan, and Florence Fitzenreiter*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, and Anna Brodman*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Servicemen, *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, and Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Delores Badenhop*, receiving therapy at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Annetta Rosebrock, Evelyn Rohrs, and Shirley Sonnenberg*, all dealing with health issues
- ❖ *Richard Wagner* (Renee Petzoldt's father), receiving radiation and chemo treatments
- ❖ *Maxton Howard*, for testing at Cincinnati Children's Hospital

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

**PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS** for the next quarter, *April, May, June*, are on the desk in the narthex. There are also large print booklets available for anybody to pick up.

**EASTER FLOWER ORDERS: DEADLINE IS TODAY!** Still taking orders for various Easter 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.

**CHOICE DOLLARS TO DESIGNATE:** 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. You have until March 31, 2017 to designate your 2016 Choice Dollars and there is a sizable amount that has not been designated by members of our congregation.

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

**EAGLE NEWS** : The Eagle News publication is being passed out today. Extra copies are available on the narthex table. It is also available online via FastDirect. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnfreedom/>, click on “Links” at the top of the page, then click on “Eagle News-March” in the “Everybody” column. Enjoy!

## **LifeLight BIBLE STUDY meet this Monday evening and Tuesday morning.**

**The Parables of Jesus** - We know that we are saved by faith alone, and that this is done through the working of the Holy Spirit. And what means does the Spirit use to create and sustain this faith? Of course, it is through the Word and Sacraments. This week, we hear the words of Jesus admonish us through parables to build our lives upon him, to constantly hear his word, and to pray with faith that our God hears and answers every one of our prayers.

**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!

**EASTER BREAKFAST SIGN UP** – The Women of Freedom and the LYF are once again hosting an Easter Breakfast to be served between the two services on Easter morning (8:00-9:15 AM). The menu is: *Egg Casseroles, French bread, fresh fruit, coffee cake, doughnuts, cinnamon rolls, cookies, coffee and juice*. A lot of help with donations is needed. You may sign up on the chart in the narthex to donate items. All items need to be at the church prior to 8:00 AM. All are welcome to help with preparation and serving. Any questions can be directed to *Nancy Glaser* at 419-598-8432. This is a Thrivent Action Team event.

**CONFIRMATION PLANNING MEETING** – Pastor Niermann will meet with the confirmation class of 2017 and their parents **next Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:15 a.m.** (after Bible Class and Sunday School). We will go over plans for confirmation, including information about an after-school retreat covering the Lord's Supper in the catechism, a confirmation theme, plans for photography, etc.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 03/19/17	\$7,879.00	\$61.00	\$284.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Sunday (03/19/17) Service: 208

**3-22-17 LENTEN SERVICE:** \$547.00 – *Luth. Hour Broadcast/Worship for Shut-Ins; Atnd: 122*

**MEMORIALS** given for *Vernon Kruse*: \$3,200.00 – St. John Lutheran Church



### **SUMMER MISSION TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS** **SIGN-UP HAS BEGUN**

We are planning 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. Informational leaflets about this trip and its costs are available in the narthex next to a sign-up sheet. The cost to you will be very minimal thanks to many offerings and gifts received in support of those who go. **Now the only question is, "WHO WILL GO?"** May God lead many of us to respond, "Here am I, Lord; send me!"

**DAILY EXERCISE FOR THE CHRISTIAN MIND...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: Martin Luther on Liberty & Free Speech, A Strategy for Christians Living in a Post-Christian Nation, The Augsburg Confession, Law & Gospel, Peter Denies Jesus and more. You can listen at your convenience at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org) and on the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

**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.**

### **"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."

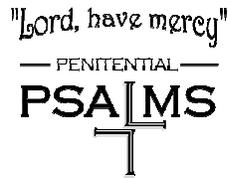


**LENTEN BIBLE STUDIES** – During the season of Lent we are offering extra opportunities for you to delve into God’s Word and to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ. Why not come and join us!

- **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 143, the same Psalm Pastor Corder 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.”

**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. This week’s Lenten Supper menu is: *Sloppy Joe Sandwich, Hotdogs, Chips, Dessert, and Drink.* Serving times are 5:30-6:30 p.m. Some of these dinners are 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>Psalm</u>	<u>Offering</u>
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 143** ✧

**ATHLETIC BANQUET:** The St. John Athletic Banquet is scheduled for **Sun., April 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 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!

**BASKETBALL FUN...AND TALENT TOO!** During half time of the games on Sat., April 29<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a student talent show. Please encourage your child to participate! It can be instrumental, singing, tumbling, dance or art work. There are a lot of talented children in our school and we would like to showcase these talents. All talent submissions will have to be turned in to *Karan Niebergall* no later than Thurs., April 13. Thank you!

## 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.** If you would like to serve the children in this way, please speak with Pastor Niermann 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!"*

**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.

**MYSTERY READER:** Is there a Mystery Reader among us???? Please send Kindergarten Teacher, Mrs. Niermann an email at [bniermann@sjl.org](mailto:bniermann@sjl.org) if you would like to be a "mystery reader". We have already had several mystery readers which proved very exciting for the kindergarteners. They are thoroughly enjoying all visitors and the cool books being read to them.

**GRANDPARENT'S DAY:** A reminder that Grandparent's Day at St. John School for Grades K-8 will be held on **Friday, May 5** from 12:30 - 3:00 PM. *Lunch is not included.*

**FRIDAY NIGHT VOLLEYBALL & FELLOWSHIP:** Every Friday night until further notice, there will be open volleyball in the gym for anyone wishing to come and get a little exercise and enjoy some fellowship with one another. The time will be 5:30 – 8:30 PM and you can come anytime and any week that fits your schedule. Some weeks the time will fluctuate due to previously scheduled events, so if you contact Amy Dietrich at 419-966-7345 she will put you into a group text and let you know of the time each Friday. This is nothing organized, just "pick up" teams based on whoever shows up. Hope to see you in the gym!

**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:**

- **MADALYN'S MISSION TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA** – Madalyn Short will be going on a mission trip to South Africa in May and June 2017. St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wauseon is hosting a luncheon for her on Sun., March 26 from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM. This is a Thrivent Action Team Event. See flyer and consider helping Madalyn raise money for her trip.

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

**"You are not irredeemable!" -Jesus**

*"The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost." (1 Tim 1:15)*