



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

February 11, 2018

VOL. 83

NO. 6

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

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

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder
Hymns: 413 ~ 414 ~ 537, stz.1,4 ~ 416 ~ 955 ~ 415 ~ 417
Adult Choir: "Seek Ye First" and "Beautiful Savior"

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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Ashton Niese & Gavin Gerken, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Larry & Pat Mahnke, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✘
- ✘ Tom Von Deylen, Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Roger Lulfs, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Badenhop, Sandy Von Deylen, Mary Rettig, *Altar Guild* ✘

VOTERS' MEETING – The first Voters' meeting of 2018 will be on Sun., Feb. 25th after the worship service. Items are on the agenda to date are: 1) Annual school report; 2) Audit Committee report; 3) Endowment Fund distributions approval; 4) Old School. Please mark your calendar!

NEW STAINED GLASS WINDOW – You may have noticed by now that the third stained glass window has been installed depicting Jesus as the one declared by John the Baptist to be "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29) You'll notice the baptismal shell, dove and water droplets symbolizing Jesus' baptism when, according to the testimony of John, "the Spirit descended from heaven like a dove and remained on Him." (John 1:32) We thank God for the gift of this beautiful window. Our plan is to have a grand dedication of all the stained glass windows in connection with the 150th anniversary celebration next year.

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:00 PM 4:30 PM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Meeting Jr High LYF
Mon.	7:00 PM	PTL Meeting
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Niermann; Offering: Hearts For Jesus Exercise Class Church Council Meeting
Wed.	1:00 PM 5:30 PM 5:45 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Lenten Service (with Communion) Lenten Supper (<i>erving until 6:30 PM</i>) Junior Confirmation Class (<i>5:45 – 6:45 PM</i>) Adult Bell practice Ash Wednesday Lenten Service (with Communion) Offering: <i>Church Vocation Students</i> Acolytes: <i>Karter Behnfeldt & Kaleb Woods</i> Greeters: <i>Dave & Sara Myles</i> Ushers: <i>Tom Von Deylen, Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Roger Lulfs</i> Altar Guild: <i>Kathy Badenhop, Sandy Von Deylen, Mary Rettig</i> Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM 6:30 PM	Exercise Class League Playoff Game: Gr. 7&8 Boys vs. Trinity – Toledo @ Monclova
Fri. - Sun.	- Sun.	B-Ball: NWOLL Tournament at Trinity – Toledo (<i>runs thru Sunday</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 11:00AM 1:00 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Chicken Pie Dinner at the Ridgeville Legion NWOLL Tournament Championship Games here at St. John
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Theodore Rellstab</i> , St. John Lutheran – Holgate

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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, and Dorothy Gerken*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Lucia Delventhal*, at Fulton Manor, Wauseon
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs, Delores Badenhop, and Melba Elling*, in Assisted Living at The Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Armed Services: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Ezekiel Damman*, and *Alicia Maassel*, dealing with health issues at this time
- ❖ *Pat Kramer*, recuperating and doing very well following her surgery

NEW USHER (blue) SCHEDULES: The 2018 Usher schedules are now available and can be picked up on the narthex table. Thanks again for stepping up to volunteer!

SUPER BOWL SUB THANK YOU: The Sr High Youth would like to thank everyone who bought Super Bowl subs last Sunday. We had fun making them and appreciate your support in buying them. Hope to see some of you at our upcoming LYF sponsored Lenten Suppers too.

NEW ADULT STUDY BEGINS TODAY

Romans

The year is 1515. Luther, as a young monk, sits in a room at the top of a monastery tower studying late into the night when and he was about to stumble upon a verse in Paul's letter to the Romans (1:16-17) that would not only change his life, but the entire world. Later, Luther wrote of this 'tower experience': "All at once I felt that I had been born again and entered into paradise itself through open gates. Immediately I saw the whole of Scripture in a different light. This phrase of Paul ("the justice of God") was for me the very gate of paradise."

Because this Bible book had such a profound impact on Martin Luther, it is only fitting in this 500th Reformation Anniversary year that we should take up the study of Romans in our midst and consider God's Word to us through this amazing letter of St. Paul. Join us, that the light of God's Word may shine upon you!



LENTEN SUPPERS: Each Wednesday evening the youth will host Lenten suppers for you. Weeks 1, 2, 4, & 5 will be hosted by grades 6 -8 to support their class trip to Washington DC in 2018. Weeks 3 & 6 will be hosted by the LYF to support their next trip to the 2019 National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. This week's Lenten Supper menu is: *Chicken Breast, Hotdog or Sloppy Joe Sandwich, Vegetable, Potatoes, Dessert, and Drink*. Serving times are 5:30-6:30 p.m. Some of these dinners are a Thrivent Action Team Event.

MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION DURING LENT – During the season of Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14), the midweek confirmation class will meet from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. The regular class schedule will resume on the Wednesday of Holy Week, March 28th.

2017 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – The 2017 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 *Alan Damman* at 419-598-8425.

FINANCIAL FACTS:

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 02/04/17	\$5,344.00	\$124.00	\$420.00

ATTENDANCE: 184

COMMUNED in January: 335 members; 6 guests

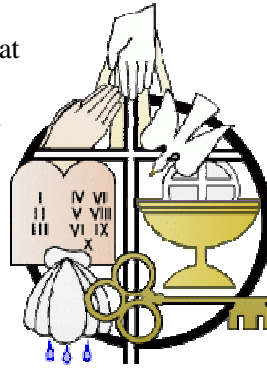
Lent 2018 at St. John

This year for Lent, instead of **giving up** something, how about **taking up** the discipline of worship and Bible study for the nurturing of your faith. Consider the opportunities below.

LENT MIDWEEK SERVICES – “The Catechism in Six Parts”

When you were confirmed, your pastor probably reminded you that Confirmation is not the end of your Christian instruction, but just the beginning. Even Martin Luther, who wrote the Small Catechism, said, “*I must still read and study the catechism daily, and yet I cannot master it as I wish, but must remain a child and a pupil of the catechism – and also I do so gladly.*” Currently the pastors in our circuit are studying the Large Catechism together.

But honestly, when was the last time you read the Catechism, or pondered its words? If it’s been a while, our Lenten midweek series – “**The Catechism in Six Parts**” – is just for you! Starting this Wednesday, join us each Wednesday evening during Lent as we refresh our hearts and minds in the teachings of the Catechism. **Lenten services begin at 7:00 p.m. and last approximately 45 minutes.**



- If you can dig out your catechism, do so, and challenge yourself to read it throughout this Lenten season in coordination with our midweek Lenten schedule.
- If you’d like to purchase a Small Catechism for \$14.00, please see Joyce in the office.
- Or, links for the Catechism online will be posted each week on our website, sjl.org.

ASH WEDNESDAY, TWO SERVICES – This Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, there will be two worship services, so that everyone has the opportunity to attend. Both services will include the celebration of the Lord’s Supper, and an offering will be taken for *Church Vocation Students*.

1:00 pm Combined service for the congregation and SJLS students

7:00 pm The regular Ash Wednesday evening service

MEN’S LENTEN BIBLE BREAKFAST – “Confession”

Starting this Thursday, join us each Thursday morning during Lent for breakfast and Bible study. Our six-week study will probe *Confession and Absolution* as given to us in the Lord’s Prayer, in the Divine Service, in words of repentance and forgiveness spoken between Christian brothers and sisters, and in that often overlooked gift of private Confession and Absolution. The goal is to deepen our understanding of Absolution as the comfort Christ alone provides when the devil terrorizes us, tempting us to believe his lie that there is no forgiveness of us.

Breakfast will be each Thursday morning from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m., sometimes at Hill’s Restaurant in Napoleon (cost \$7.00) and sometimes here in our fellowship hall. Watch the schedule, and take up the study of God’s Word this Lenten season.

WOMEN’S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: A women’s Lenten Bible Study – “Your Strong Suit” by Donna Pyle is being planned for Tuesday mornings at 10, and Thursday evenings at 7, during the Lenten season. This will begin on Tues., Feb. 13th at 10 AM and on Thurs., Feb. 15th at 7 PM. This is open to all women of the church. Sign up at the table in the narthex.

CELEBRATING
150
YEARS

THE PLANNING HAS BEGUN, but we still need more people involved. The Anniversary Planning Committee is asking that there be representatives on the committee from the Women of Freedom, the Sunday School, the School, the Archives Committee, and the LYF. We like to have everyone involved in planning for this jubilee anniversary. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 26th when we will be discussing an anniversary theme. Please speak with Pastor Niermann about joining this committee, and plan on attending.

2017 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – It's time to start getting your reports ready for the 2017 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. **Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers by Fri., Feb. 9.**

LADIES BLANKET KNOTTING OR QUILTING is planned for all day Monday, Feb. 19. 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. Hope to see you on Feb. 19th!

WHERE CHRISTIANITY MEETS CULTURE... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: The Early Warning Signs of Fascism, Western Civilization: Bane or Blessing?, Dave Ramsey & Financial Peace University, Late Term Abortions and more. You can listen live or on-demand at www.issuesetc.org and on the LPR mobile app.

SCRIP ORDER FORMS: 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.**

REGISTER FOR PRESCHOOL NOW! The 4/5 year old class is currently full for the 2018-19 school year, and we will be starting a waiting list for that age level. **Please call the school office to get your name on the 4/5 year old list as soon as possible.** The 3 year old class still has openings. 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. We will be opening the registration up to the public as of February 1st. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration form.

PTL MEETING: The next PTL Meeting will be held on Mon., Feb. 12th at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall. Soup & Pie results as well as other business at hand will be discussed. Please plan to attend and support the school!

KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2018! The K-clinic will be held on Tuesday, March 27th beginning at 1:00 PM. **Napoleon Area Schools and St. John Lutheran School's eligibility date for entering Kindergarten is that 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 2017 (*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.*

GRADES 3-5 ROUND ROBIN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT will be held here on Sat., March 10th with the first game starting at 9:00 AM. This is a one day boys' & girls' tournament. Volunteer referees and scoreboard help are needed. 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.

ATHLETIC BANQUET: The St. John Athletic Banquet is scheduled for **Sun., April 8th 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!

4-H: The Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Club will have their first 4-H meeting on Sunday, February 11 starting at 1:00 pm at St. John Lutheran Church. We will be meeting in the gym. We would like to meet with the parents briefly at 1:00. New members are always welcome!

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!

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.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

“Remember, you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

“So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.” (Psa. 90:12)