



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

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VOL. 83

NO. 7

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](http://www.sjl.org)

### FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "Trials and/or Gifts" *James 1:12-18*  
Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting Three (LSB pg. 184)*  
Hymns: **418 ~ 657 ~** (Communion: **424, 547, 809**) ~ **655**

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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* ✠ Macee Speiser & Addyson Speiser, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Don & Karan Niebergall, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Delbert & Marian Damman, *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 next Sunday 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; 5) 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Report.

**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 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration next year.

**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 1:30 PM	<b>Communion Service</b> Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Chicken Pie Dinner at the Ridgeville Legion NWOLL Tournament Championship Games here at St. John
Mon.	9:00 AM	NO SCHOOL – President's Day observed Ladies Blanket Knotting & Quilting ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 5:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Kramer; Offering: "Hearts For Jesus" Exercise Class Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:00 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys; 7:00 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs Holy Cross
Wed.	5:45 PM 6:00 PM <b>7:00 PM</b>       8:00 PM	Junior Confirmation Class (5:45 – 6:45 PM) Adult Bell practice <b>Lenten Service;</b> Offering: <i>Good Shepherd Church for the Deaf</i> Acolytes: <i>Kaelyn Gerken &amp; Claire Wachtman</i> Adult Choir: "Lamb of God" and "May the Lord Bless You" Greeters: <i>Bonnie Niermann &amp; Cheryl Yaw</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.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Lenten Bible Breakfast Exercise Class Women's Lenten Bible Study ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Fri.	6:00 PM	Sr High LYF Circuit Youth Lock-In ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	<b>Worship Service</b> Voters' Meeting; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
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:

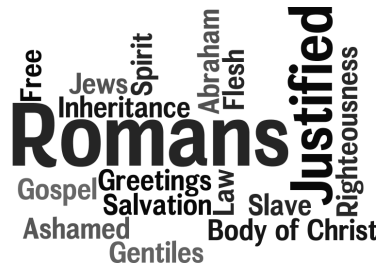
- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, Willie Gerken*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, and Dorothy Gerken*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Lucia Delventhal*, at Fulton Manor, Wauseon
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs, Delores Badenhop, and Melba Elling*, in Assisted Living at The Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Donald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

**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. Yellow order forms are included in today's bulletin and extra copies 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 Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.** The order will be placed 8 AM on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Don't wait till the last minute. No late orders will be taken.

**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.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY - 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!

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 02/11/17	\$5,487.00	\$111.00	\$119.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 138

**ASH WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICE:** \$885 – Church Vocation Students; Attendance: 55/126

**MEMORIALS for Jim Meyer:** St. John Lutheran Memorial Fund - \$2,325; St. John Endowment Fund – School Account - \$76; Fairlawn Haven Memory Care Unit - \$100; Donate Life - \$200

**MEMORIALS for Gary Nye:** St. John Lutheran Memorial Fund - \$430

**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. 19<sup>th</sup>!

**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: *Roast Beef, Pork Chops, Hotdog, Green Beans, Potatoes, Dessert, and Drink*. Serving times are 5:30-6:30 p.m. Some of these dinners are a Thrivent Action Team Event.

**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!

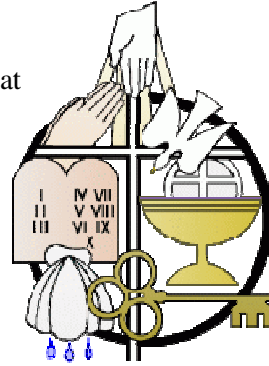
## Lent 2018 at St. John

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”**

**Midweek Lenten services begin at 7:00 p.m.**

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.*” 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!



This Wednesday we will be reflecting on the **TEN COMMANDMENTS**. To prepare yourself, read the Commandments and their meanings ahead of time, as well as the question and answer section of the Small Catechism.

### **MEN’S LENTEN BIBLE BREAKFAST – “Confession”**

**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.

**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:** “Your Strong Suit” by Donna Pyle is the topic for the Women’s Lenten Bible Study this year. Please note that we will not be meeting on Tues., Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM. We will, however, be meeting on Thurs., Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 PM. Anyone interested in coming can pick up a book in the Conference room and review Lesson 2 if they would like or you can just come and join in. This is an awesome study and the speaker is very interesting and funny! This is open to all women of the church.

**SR. HIGH LYF LOCK-IN** – Calling all high school youth! St. John will be hosting a Sr. High Lock-In for our area churches. The lock-in will begin at 6:00 PM on Fri., Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> and end the next morning at 8:00 AM. Pizza and other snacks will be served. Students from Concordia-Ann Arbor will also be joining us. The cost for the lock-in is \$5. Friends are welcome to attend! Youth may bring a change of clothes, tennis shoes, pillows, and blankets. Hope to see you next Friday!

**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 ASAP.**

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 26<sup>th</sup> when we will be discussing an anniversary theme. Please speak with Pastor Niermann about joining this committee.

**SCRIP ORDER FORMS**: Please turn your SCRIP 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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup>. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration form.

**KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY** for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2018! The K-clinic will be held on Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> 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 10<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. 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 8<sup>th</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!

**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!

**COLLECTING STAMPS:** The LWML is collecting stamps “For Missions.” A box is on the table in the narthex. Here is what you do: Cut the stamps from the envelopes allowing ¼ inch margin or more around the stamp. The stamp may not be damaged and the perforations around the stamp must be perfect. You need not trim the stamp; we have someone who trims and sorts the stamps. Do not remove stamps from envelopes, albums, and older postcards. An “old” postcard is usually from 1930 or before. The most valuable stamps are commemorative, foreign, and stamp denominations larger than 46 cents. It only makes sense that you purchase and use commemorative stamps for your personal mailing. When purchasing stamps, ask the post office for commemorative stamps. Colorful and large stamps are desirable. Collecting stamps is an easy way to participate in a mission project sponsored by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

**PROJECT CONNECT** – There are many free booklets in the rack in the narthex. Be sure to check for some good reading. Some titles are: “*Why Do Bad Things Happen To Me,*” “*Has God Abandoned Me,*” “*Dealing with Depression,*” “*Coping with Cancer,*” “*Who Is Jesus,*” “*Just Stress?*”, “*Overcoming A Painful Childhood,*” “*Where's God in All of This?*”, “*Why Should I go to Church?*” and many more. These booklets are furnished through the Lutheran Hour Ministries.

**HEARING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE:** If hearing in worship has been a problem for you, pick up one of the receiver units for our hearing assistance system. An usher will assist you and you'll hear much more clearly. (*Also, please let us know how the system is working for you.*)

For those who use the hearing assistance system regularly and for the sake of hygiene, we ask that you claim one of the ear buds as your own and keep it with you in your purse, pocket, etc. Bring it with you when you come to church, and simply plug it into one the receivers. At the end of the service, unplug the ear bud to take with you until the next time.

**AREA EVENTS:**

- **CHICKEN PIE DINNER** hosted by the Ridgeville American Legion & Auxiliary today with serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!
- **SOUP & PIE DINNER** – St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wauseon. Sun., Mar. 4<sup>th</sup> serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!
- **PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST** – Ridgeville Volunteer Fire Dept., Sun., Mar. 4<sup>th</sup> serving from 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Carryout available. See flyer!

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**“Liberty is not the power of doing what we like, but the right to do what we ought.”** ~Lord Acton  
“*All things are lawful,*” but not all things are helpful. “*All things are lawful,*” but not all things build up.”  
(1 Cor. 10:23)