



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

March 11, 2018

VOL. 83

NO. 10

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "Snakes on a Plain" *Numbers 21:4-9*

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

Hymns: **837 ~ 571 ~ 702**

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

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Addyson Speiser & Macee Speiser, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dan & Joyce Wiechers, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Dave Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Linda Riefers, Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff, *Altar Guild* ✠



THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed in memory of the 1-year anniversary of the passing of *Marie Damman* on Mon., March 12th. These are placed by the family in remembrance of Marie. Please keep the entire Damman Family in your thoughts and prayers as they remember their mother, grandmother, and great grandmother at this time of year.

NEW PARENTS: *Brian & Melissa* (Michaelis) *Allen* became proud, first-time parents on Monday, March 5th when their daughter, **Sophia Evelyn**, was born at Defiance Regional Medical Center. All are doing well and at home getting adjusted to a new routine. Sophia will be certain to get lots and lots of hugs from grandparents, Wayne & Becky Michaelis too. Congratulations to Brian & Melissa!

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 <i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; “The Lamp” Jr. High LYF Meeting
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by Pastor Kramer; Offering: <i>Ft. Wayne Seminary Food Bank</i> Exercise Class Church Council Meeting
Wed.	5:45 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Junior Confirmation Class (5:45 – 6:45 PM) Adult Bell practice 5th Lenten Service ; Offering: <i>Prison Ministry</i> Gr. 3&4 will sing “Now the Light Has Gone Away” Acolytes: <i>Aliina Lange & Kaelyn Gerken</i> Greeters: <i>Lois Arps & Linda Riefers</i> Ushers: <i>Carey Damman, Scott VanValkenburg</i> Altar Guild: <i>Linda Riefers, Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff</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.		End of 3 rd Quarter Grading Period
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:30 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; “The Lamp” Sr High LYF Meeting
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Logan Scheiwe</i> , St. Paul Lutheran – Napoleon

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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, Willie Gerken*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman* and *Marian Buchhop*, 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
- ❖ *Don Badenhop*, recuperating at home following his hospitalization at St. Luke’s
- ❖ *Dorothy Gerken*, returned to The Lutheran Home and recuperating nicely

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.

SYMPATHIES EXPRESSED FOR:

- ❖ *Pastor & Bonnie Niermann* at the passing of Bonnie's mother, Marilyn Nicol, on Thurs., March 1st. Mrs. Nicol's funeral was held at St. John Lutheran Church, Marysville, OH on Tuesday, March 6th.
- ❖ *The Family of Vernon Tietje*. Vernon passed away on Tues., March 6th at the Heritage Nursing Home, Findlay. Vernon's funeral was held at the Hartley-Hanneman Funeral Home, McComb on Sat., March 10th. Vernon was buried in our St. John Cemetery.

A 'THANK YOU' NOTE FROM THE NIERMANNNS - We want to thank everyone for your prayers and words of concern during the past few weeks as our mother and mother-in-law approached the end of her race, and for all your expressions of sympathy now that she has finished the course and received her crown of righteousness. Thank you to the staff of St. John for the beautiful plant and flower arrangement, and to the congregation for the wind chimes. These tokens of your love and concern remind us of the precious gift we have in the fellowship of Christ's body and in the mutual encouragement of the saints. We thank God for each and every one of you!

JAVA JOY TODAY! It's the second Sunday of the month, and that means **Java Joy** following the service. Take a little time to enjoy a bite to eat and some fellowship. A table is set up in the front hallway. Your gifts to the "kitty" help keep **Java Joy** alive and going. We thank *Dan & Deb Wachtman* for hosting Java Joy for March. (NOTE: In order for everyone to enjoy the food items, we ask that you only take 2 items when going through the line.) Thank you!



Interested in being a **Java Joy** host? Please sign up on the table in the narthex. Don't let finances stop you – you are welcome to reimburse your expenses from the kitty if you wish.

ROMANS ~ Sunday Adult Bible Study

What does it mean to be “called to belong to Christ”? That is what Paul said of himself, and it's a reality for us as well. But what does it really imply for us as the people of God sanctified in Christ? A hint of an answer is provided us in the word “holy” which Paul also applies to us. Then shortly after this Paul gets to the theme of his letter: *“I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.”* *Romans 1:16*



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!

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING – The list of the people for this year's annual church cleaning are available on the narthex table. Thank you!

WHY LUTHERAN SCHOOLS? *Nurturing Faith:* Faith is nurtured by daily proclamation of the Gospel, teaching children the Word of God and how to read and understand that Word on their own, and by modeling and challenging students to live the Christian faith.

EASTER BREAKFAST SIGN UP – The Women of Freedom 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 *Linda Riefers* at 419-267-3366.

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: *Baked Potato Bar with various toppings, Corn, Dessert, and Drink.* Serving time is 5:30-6:30 p.m. Some dinners are a Thrivent Action Team Event.

Lent 2018 at St. John

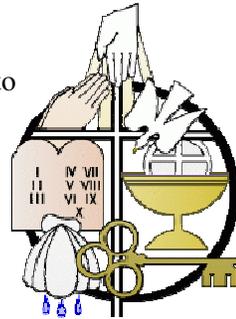
This year for Lent, instead of **giving up** something, how about **taking up** the discipline of worship and Bible study for the nurturing of your faith. Consider the opportunities below.

LENT MIDWEEK SERVICES – “The Catechism in Six Parts”

Midweek Lent Services at 7:00 p.m.

Because it's probably been awhile since you last picked up your Small Catechism and read it, our Lenten midweek series is planned and designed to review this gem of Christian instruction and to refresh us in our faith. The series is titled, “**The Catechism in Six Parts.**” Luther never outgrew the Small Catechism, and neither do you. Be sure to join us each Wednesday evening!

This Wednesday evening we will be reflecting on the **THE OFFICE OF THE KEYS AND CONFESSION.** To prepare yourself, read ahead of time the introduction, read this part of the Small Catechism prior to our worship.



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. We will be covering the full Armor of God and watch an interesting DVD with each lesson. We will be meeting weekly on Thursdays at 7 PM. Anyone interested in coming can pick up a book in the Conference room and review the material if you 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.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 03/04/17	\$7,566.00	\$333.00	\$612.00

ATTENDANCE: 175

4TH LENTEN SERVICE: \$576.00 – *Lutheran Heritage Society*; Attendance: 101

UPDATE DIRECTORY: There have been several people that have contacted the office with their changes and updates. Keep up the good work! It is very helpful to have current addresses and phone numbers on file. Contact the office with your changes. Thank you!

WOMEN OF FREEDOM MEETING: The next Women of Freedom meeting will be held on Tues., March 20th at 7:00 PM. As always, these meetings are open to any women in the congregation. Hope to see some of you there!

LWML SPRING RALLY - The Women of Freedom are invited to the Napoleon Zone Spring Rally to be held at the Trinity Center at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon, on Saturday, April 14th with registration/breakfast at 8:30 AM and the program from 9-11:30 AM. See additional information in today's bulletin insert.

 **St. John Lutheran Church & School presents "Parenting the Love and Logic Way,"** a parenting program designed by the Love and Logic Institute. This program is great for parents as well as educators, grandparents, or anyone who works with children. Participants will learn how to...

- Avoid un-winnable power-struggles and arguments
- Stay calm when your kids do incredibly upsetting things
- Set enforceable limits
- Avoid enabling and being empowering
- Help your kids learn from mistakes rather than repeating them
- Raise kids who are family members rather than dictators

And much more! This parenting program is designed to give you practical skills that can be used immediately! There will be a total of four Sunday afternoon sessions (April 8,15,22,29), from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. in our fellowship hall. Cost is \$15 per couple for the workbook. Session facilitator is Faith Wiechers, daughter-in-law of Dan & Joyce Wiechers. **Sign up now in the narthex! Invite a friend.**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PLANS – Initial planning has begun for VBS. We are considering returning to a morning VBS program this year to try to avoid all of the busyness of family schedules on summer evenings. While we are not yet signing up staff, it would be helpful to know that there are people who can be present to teach and help with crafts, snacks, and recreation. If you are inclined to help with a morning VBS, please speak with this year's VBS director, Mary Rettig.

HISTORIC, AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN RADIO... You can listen to Lutheran experts teach on topics like: Apostolic Succession, 5th Century Missionary to Ireland Saint Patrick, The Lord's Supper, 2 Samuel and more. **Issues, Etc.** is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio and hosted by Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen live or on-demand at www.issuesetc.org.

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.*

CLASS TRIP FUNDRAISER: The 7th & 8th Graders are selling Shirley's Popcorn as a fundraiser for their class trip to Washington, D.C. in early June. This is very good quality gourmet popcorn and was sold as a fundraiser last year also. Please contact any 7th or 8th grade student to place your order. The fundraiser ends on Fri., March 16th.

POSITION OPENINGS: St. John Lutheran School is seeking individuals for the following positions for the 2018-19 school year: 1) **Jr High Science Teacher** for 4 hours per week. Must have a teaching license and a background check; 2) **Computer Teacher** for Grades K-8 for 4 hours per week. Must have a teaching license and a background check; 3) **Freedom Flock Aide** (*After school care*) for 12-15 hours per week from 3 – 6 PM. Must have a background check. Interested applicants should contact the school office at 419-598-8702. Thank you!

ATHLETIC BANQUET: The St. John Athletic Banquet is scheduled for **Sun., April 8th at 4:30 PM** with a potluck meal. The Boosters will be providing the meat and drinks, so please bring a side dish to share. Honorees will be all St. John athletes (Gr. 4-8), the Mini-Eagles (Gr. 1-3), and the cheerleaders.

3-YR OLD PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION: 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. **The 4/5 year old class is currently full for the 2018-19 school year, and we have started a waiting list.** There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration form.

MINI RELAY FOR LIFE EVENT – Join us for the FIRST Henry County Mini Relay For Life hosted by today's youth, tomorrow's leaders. This event is geared towards the YOUTH of our counties and is an idea that was sparked from area pastors and youth leaders to encourage youth of all ages and youth groups to form teams and join us on this fun-filled day! Lunch will be provided. There will be an informational meeting held at a later date. This Mini Relay For Life event will be held on Sat., April 28th from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1075 Glenwood Ave., Napoleon. For more information or to get involved you can contact Sue Gerken at suegerken@bright.net.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

The best vitamin for a Christian is B-1

"I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called." (Eph. 4:1)