



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

February 24, 2019

VOL. 84

NO. 8

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "Giving Love" *Luke 6:27-38*

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: **844** ~ [Baptism: *Borning Cry, 588*] ~ **857** ~ **706** ~ **842**

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. May God richly bless your worship today! If you do not have a local church home, we extend a warm invitation to you to become a part of our church family. Fill out a blue pew card from the rack in front of you and hand it to the usher as you leave this morning.

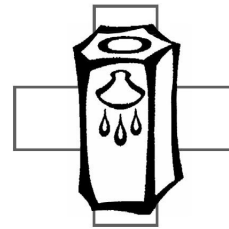


SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Addyson Speiser & Karter Behnfeldt, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Elmer & Pat Maassel, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karen Lulfs, Kaylee Wentworth, Ronda Wentworth, Karan Niebergall, *Altar Guild* ✠

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed in celebrations of the baptism today of Beau Bockelman. They are placed by his grandparents, Dennis & Rhonda Bockelman and Edward & Renee Ackerman.

BAPTISM THIS MORNING – We rejoice this morning with **Chris & Amber Bockelman** as they present their infant son, **Beau Edward**, for Holy Baptism. Witnessing *Beau's* baptism today are Chris and Amber's friends, **Kacey Mason** and **Jake Kos**. *Beau's* grandparents are Dennis & Rhonda Bockelman and Edward & Renee Ackerman. We congratulate this family on this joyful occasion, and most of all pray that what God begins in *Beau* today at the baptismal font He will bring to completion on the day of Jesus Christ!



In God's House This Week *Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl*

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:20AM 1:00 PM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" LYF Sticky Bun Fundraiser 4-H Meetings – Freedom Royal Farmers/Gerald Busy Fingers/Cloverbuds
Mon.	5:30 PM 7:00 PM	Bread From Heaven Food Pantry distribution Adult Instruction Classes
Tue.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led Grades 5&6 Shepherd Committee Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class
Fri.- Sun.		All Ohio Lutheran Basketball Tournament
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion / Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: Rev. Kleino, St. Paul Lutheran – Liberty Center

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

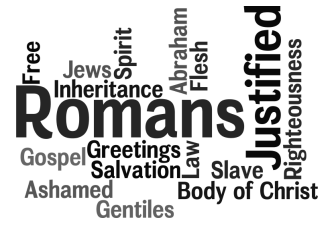
- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, and Willie Gerken*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, Dorothy Gerken, and Lawrence Langenhop,* at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs and Melba Elling,* in Assisted Living at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Donald Landry,* residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Armed Services: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, Shorty Bischoff, Susan Nye, and Don Dickmann,* for health concerns at this time
- ❖ *Phyllis Silveus,* who underwent surgery at Toledo Hospital recently and is recovering at home
- ❖ *Darrel Bockelman,* who continues to be hospitalized at St. V's – Toledo
- ❖ *School Cook Tonya Whitman,* continuing to deal with her severe and incapacitating headaches
- ❖ *Ron Hesterman,* who underwent open-heart surgery at the Toledo Hospital
- ❖ *Arlene Gruenhagen,* for back surgery at St. Luke's Hospital on Thurs., Feb 28th

STICKY BUNS TODAY!!! The LYF will be selling their famous sticky buns today immediately after the worship service. Be sure to stop by and purchase some of the goodies. The money raised will go toward the National Youth Gathering to Minneapolis this summer.

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING – The list of the people for this year's annual church cleaning are listed on the blue insert in today's bulletin. Extra copies are also available on the narthex table. If you are on the list and 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!

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS – The Sunday School material for March/April/May 2018 has arrived. Please pick your material up from S.S. Superintendent *Kelly Sonnenberg*.

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY – They say about adoption, “Adopting one child won’t change the world: but for that child, the world will change.” This is certainly true when we consider that every Christian has also been adopted by the heavenly Father. That changes everything for us. But what exactly does it mean to be adopted? **Please join us this morning in the fellowship hall for this study of God’s Word as we turn to the second part of Romans chapter 8. It’s never too late to sit in with us and to learn!** “How blest are those who hear the Word of God and put it into practice.” (Luke 11:28)



2018 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – The 2018 individual offering 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 contribution information, please call Financial Trustee, *Kathy Gruenhagen* at 419-335-9173.



ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS – “I Have Good News For You” is an adult Christian instruction class that will begin this week on Monday, Feb. 25th. Classes will be conducted from 7:00-8:15 each Monday evening. This is a membership class for those who wish to join our church, but taking the class does not oblige anyone to join. It’s also a great refresher course for our current members. **If you invite someone, consider joining them for the class as a mentor and encouragers in the faith.**

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 02/17/19	\$8,605.00	\$199.00	\$412.00

ATTENDANCE: 234

150th Anniversary Notes

OUR NEXT ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY is just three weeks from today, on Sunday Mar. 17th

Our theme for the day is: “**Jesus Christ – YESTERDAY.**” Our guest preacher will be a son of our congregation, **Rev. Dr. Matthew Rosebrock.**

- **The Kantorei men’s chorus from our Fort Wayne seminary** will be our musical guests.
- **A meal and program will follow.** Rev. Dale Kern will be on hand as one of our early pastors



Seminary Kantorei

THE LWML QUARTERLY ODES are available today on the narthex table.

WOMEN'S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: "Balance" is the topic for the Women's Lenten Bible Study this year. We will be meeting on Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings during Lent. The first Tuesday Bible Study will begin on March 12th at 9:30 AM, and will conclude on Tues., April 16th. The first Thursday Bible Study will begin on March 7th at 7:00 PM, and will conclude on Thurs., April 11th. This is open to all women of the church. Please sign up at the table in the narthex or just come to whichever session fits your schedule.

LENT BEGINS ONE WEEK FROM WEDNESDAY

It's a late Lent and Easter this year! Hopefully that means better weather so everyone can make it to our midweek Lenten services, starting on **Ash Wednesday, March 6th**.

Our midweek theme this year is: **A Lent To Remember**. We will be looking at the many ways Scripture uses the word 'remember.' Be sure to set these evenings aside for worship as we walk with Jesus to His cross so that we can also celebrate Easter together with fullness of joy! The Midweek Lenten schedule is as follows:



<u>DATE</u>	<u>THEME</u>	<u>OFFERING</u>
Ash Wed (3/6)	"Remember Dust"	Church Vocation Students
Midweek 2 (3/13)	"Remember Wondrous Works"	Good Shepherd Deaf Church
Midweek 3 (3/20)	"Remember Jesus' Words"	Filling Home of Mercy, Napoleon
Midweek 4 (3/27)	"Remember the Covenant"	POBLO Muslim Outreach
Midweek 5 (4/3)	"Remember Sins No More"	Lutheran Hour Broadcast
Midweek 6 (4/10)	"Remember Steadfast Love"	Bethesda Lutheran Homes
Maundy Thr (4/18)	"In Remembrance of Me"	150 th Anniv. Mission Offering
Good Friday (4/19)	"Remember Me"	Home Fund

ABOUT LUTHERAN SCHOOLS – VALUE BY CONGREGATIONS: Lutheran schools require a considerable investment of prayers, energy, money and staff. Such an investment by a congregation clearly demonstrates to the community that it places high value on children, God's beloved little ones.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION: St. John Lutheran Preschool is in full swing. The 4/5 year old class is close to full and the 3 year old class still has plenty of openings. Anyone interested in enrolling your child in our preschool program should contact the school office at 419-598-8702. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration form.

LUNCH HELP: As we do not know when Miss Tonya will be returning as our school cook, we would like to ask if there is anyone out there interested in helping with a meal or two over the next several weeks. This meal can be very basic. The students are not particular. Suggestions are: Hot chicken or hot beef over mashed potatoes or noodles or as a sandwich, sloppy joes, hotdogs, pizza, spaghetti, etc. We would reimburse you for the cost of the meal you prepared. If you think you may be interested, please give Joyce a call in the office at 419-598-8702 to set up a date. There are usually between 45-55 students that eat every day.

PTL RE-SCHEDULED MEETING: The re-scheduled PTL meeting will be on Mon., March 4th at 7:00 PM. Soup & Pie results will be given, and funding for Outdoor Ed will be discussed. Please plan to attend!

KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2019! The St. John K-clinic will be held on Tuesday, March 26th 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 2018 (*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 will be on **Sun., March 24th at 4:30 PM** beginning 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. Special guests will be high school senior athletes who will share their experience with academics and athletics at the high school level. Come and enjoy some great fellowship!

GRADES 3-5 ROUND ROBIN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT will be held here on Sat., March 9th 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.

MYSTERY READER: Is there a Mystery Reader among us???? Please send Kindergarten Teacher, Mrs. Niermann an email at bniermann@sjl.org if you would like to be a "mystery reader". We have already had a few mystery readers which proved very exciting for the kindergarteners. There are also forms available on the narthex table to sign up. Complete the form and drop in the box provided or bring your form to the school office.

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!

MORE GERALD HISTORY BOOKS – We received another case of books. If you didn't get one yet, you can still do so. Stop in at the church office to purchase your copy for \$12. If at any time during the year you need a gift for a current or former member of St. John, why not consider this history book about the development of Gerald? This book is full of interesting facts about Gerald, Freedom Township, and St. John Church. Get your copy today!

FOLLOW OUR CHURCH ON FACEBOOK – Our new Facebook page will become a source of information about our 150th Anniversary year, as well as a place where members and school alumni will be encouraged to share memories of the past. The first of many historical pictures has been posted there for you to enjoy and discuss. Please be sure to ‘like’ and ‘share’ these posts so that we can reach the broadest possible audience. Let’s build a good Facebook following, especially as we approach the 150th Anniversary celebration.



If you aren’t following our church yet on Facebook, just search for “St. John Lutheran, Napoleon” and you’ll see us in this list with a profile picture of the outside front of the sanctuary. Be sure to share the page with your friends, and (Our school also has a Facebook page; find and follow it!)



BE A JAVA JOY HOST! Every second Sunday of the month after the service, we aim to have a time of fellowship with coffee, juice and snacks called **Java Joy**. If you would like to host one of these, please sign up in the narthex. Don’t let finances stop you – you are welcome to reimburse your expenses from the kitty if you wish.

PREMIER CONFERENCE FOR LUTHERAN LAITY... You're invited to attend the Issues, Etc. "Making the Case" Conference Friday, June 7 and Saturday, June 8 at Concordia University Chicago. Topics include: Secular Progressivism, Christian Joy, The Lord's Supper, The Hippocratic Oath and Conservatism. Speakers include: Matt Harrison, Ross Douthat, Hans Fiene, Wesley Smith, Will Weedon and Aaron Wolf. Early bird registration is \$115 and includes three meals. For more information, visit www.issuesetc.org or call (618) 223-8385.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR – The Lutheran Hour Ministries can be heard on a few radio stations in our area. They cover many topics relevant to today’s issues. Broadcasts can be heard Sundays on: Archbold’s WMTR 96.1 at 7:30 AM; **Napoleon’s WNDH 103.1 at 9:00 AM.**

4-H NEWS: The Freedom Royal Farmers, Gerald Busy Fingers, and Cloverbuds 4-H Clubs will have meetings today starting at 1:00 PM at St. John Lutheran Church.

AREA EVENTS:

- **SOUP & PIE DINNER** – St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wauseon, on Sun., Mar. 3rd serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!
- **PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST** – Ridgeville Volunteer Fire Dept., Sun., Mar. 3rd serving from 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Carryout available. See flyer!
- **SOUP & PIE LUNCHEON** – Genacross Lutheran – Napoleon Campus, Sun., Mar. 10th serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

The Forecast: God reigns, and the Son shines!

“He [Jesus] is the radiance of [God’s] glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.” (Heb. 1:3)

2019 ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING LIST

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING will be broken out into three groups. The top two names in each group will be the co-chairmen. If you are elderly and would like your name removed from the annual cleaning list, please let your chairmen know as soon as possible. Thanks to all of you for giving your time and effort to this yearly project.

GROUP 1: *Ben Kruse, *Todd & Brenda Kruse, Doug & Mary Kossow, Tyler Kossow, Logan Kossow, Kurtis & Amy Kramer, Rev. Charles & Pat Kramer, Karen Kruse, Diana Kruse, Eldon & Sherrie Kruse, Nick & Yajaira Kruse, Todd & Kathy Kruse, Andy Lange, Jerry & Deb Lange, Colten Lange, Jade Lange, Jerry & Lori Langenhop, Kailee Leonard, Roger & Karen Lulfs, Alicia Maassel, Dean & Jennifer Maassel, Elmer & Pat Maassel, Jeff Maassel, Jon Maassel, Joyce Maassel (37)

GROUP 2: *Wayne & Becky Michaelis, *Steve & Linda Miller, David & Sue Mahnke, Dick & Elaine Mahnke, Larry & Pat Mahnke, Ruth Mahnke, Jenelle McCarthy, Diane Meyer, Linda Meyer, Marilyn Meyer, Kendra Michaelis, Sierra Michaelis, Blake & Brittni Miller, Katie Miller, Tyler Moll, Dave & Sara Myles, Jake & Marlea Myles, Jordan Myles, McKenzie Myles, Andrew & Aimee Naveau, Don & Karan Niebergall (31)

GROUP 3: *Bob & Diane Norden, *Terry & Karen Norden, Rev. Stephen & Bonnie Niermann, Adam & Cori Niese, Doug & Robin Norden, Grace Norden, Kyle Norden, Phil & Laurie Norden, Jason Okuly, Judy Okuly, Andrea Oyer, Lowell & Renee Petzoldt, Lester & Janice Rabe, Mary Rettig, Bob & Karen Riefers, Eric & Kayleigh Riefers, Kevin Riefers, Linda Riefers, Ted & Jacki Ripke, David Rohrs, Jared Rohrs, John Rohrs, Rod & Lisa Rohrs, Tom & Genny Rohrs, Brad & Sarah Rosebrock, David & Karen Rosebrock, Jim & Danette Rosebrock (43)

GROUP 1: Narthex, Room under steps of the Narthex, Balcony (including storage rooms), Church itself, Room in front of sanctuary on east side, Entrance area floor

GROUP 2: Cry Room, Pastor's Office, Conference room by church, Furnace room, Restrooms, (Includes Pastor's restroom), hallways (up to double doors),
(Storage Room by Cry Room will be cleaned by Food Pantry Coordinators)

GROUP 3: Fellowship Hall, Storage Room off of Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Storage room west of the Kitchen.