



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

March 3, 2019

VOL. 84

NO. 9

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 OF OUR LORD

Sermon & Text: "God's Promises at the Edge of Life and Death" *Deut. 34:1-12*

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: **415 ~ 414 ~** [Communion: **680, 537, 700**] ~ **417**

Adult Choir: "Be Thou My Vision", "Seek Ye First"

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

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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Macee Speiser & Addyson Speiser, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Esther Layton & Linda Meyer, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Ted Ripke, Bob Norden, Elmer Maassel, Denny Behnfeldt, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Mary Kay Rettig, Sandy Von Deylen, Kathy Badenhop, *Altar Guild* ✠

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)



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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.	7:00 PM 7:00 PM	PTL Meeting – rescheduled Adult Instruction Classes
Tue.	8:35 AM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Chapel led Grades 5&6 Church Cleaning Group #2 (work night) School Board & Stewardship Board Meetings
Wed.	5:45 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Junior Confirmation Class (5:45 – 6:45 PM) Ash Wednesday Service; Offering: <i>Church Vocation Students</i> Acolytes: <i>Landen Kruse & Colton Kruse</i> Greeters: <i>Larry & Pat Mahnke</i> Ushers: <i>Ted Ripke, Bob Norden, Elmer Maassel, Denny Behnfeldt</i> Altar Guild: <i>Kathy Badenhop, Sandy Von Deylen, Mary Kay Rettig</i> Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast Women's Lenten Bible Study (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Sat.	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Basketball Tournament
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:00 PM	Worship Service w/communion following Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" 4-H Meetings
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Jacob Stuenkel, St. Peter Lutheran – Florida</i>

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*
- ❖ *Phyllis Silveus,* who underwent surgery at Toledo Hospital recently and is recovering at home
- ❖ *Darrel Bockelman,* who is recovering at Fulton Manor, Wauseon, from a recent hospitalization
- ❖ *School Cook Tonya Whitman,* continuing to deal with her severe and incapacitating headaches
- ❖ *Ron Hesterman,* who underwent open-heart surgery recently at Toledo
- ❖ *Arlene Gruenhagen,* who underwent back surgery this past Thursday
- ❖ *Shirley Sonnenberg,* recuperating at home from recent knee replacement surgery

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING – The list of the people for this year's annual church cleaning are 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!



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS ON SUN., MAR. 10TH – Don’t walk into church next Sunday during the last hymn! Before you go to bed on Saturday evening, **SPRING YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR**. Darker mornings and brighter, longer evenings are an early sign of the coming spring!

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS – The Sunday School material for March/April/May 2019 is available. Please pick your material up from S.S. Superintendent *Kelly Sonnenberg*.



ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS – “I Have Good News For You” is an adult Christian instruction class that began last Monday evening. 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. It’s not too late to join us – we just one lesson in at this time!**

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 02/24/19	\$6,303.00	\$96.00	\$199.00

ATTENDANCE: 205



MEN’S BIBLE BREAKFAST will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall this Thursday at 6:30 a.m. Join us for an amazing breakfast and for the study of God’s Word. It’s a great way to start the day! Currently we are engaged in a study called “Monumental Mountaintops,” a look at all the important parts of our salvation story that took place in Scripture on the mountaintops.

ABOUT LUTHERAN SCHOOLS –CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: When the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod was formed, it became a requirement of Synodical membership that congregations would provide Christian education for their children. This was before public schools were available and before Sunday schools were popular. Thus a congregation was expected to operate a Lutheran School if it was to become a member of the Synod. The Great Commission was not given only to parents, but all members of the church. A current proverb, “it takes a village,” reminds congregations that it is their corporate responsibility to provide a Christian education for the children of the congregation.

LENT & EASTER:

LENT BEGINS ONE WEEKS 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 this **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"	National Youth Gathering
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

LENTEN SUPPERS: Each Wednesday evening the youth will host Lenten suppers for you. Grades 6-8 hosting in support of their class trip in 2020 and the LYF in support of their trip to the 2019 National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. This week's Lenten Supper menu is: *Hot Chicken Sandwich, Hotdogs, Chips, Dessert, and Drink*. Serving time is 5:30-6:30 p.m. Some of these dinners are a Thrivent Action Team Event. Anyone interested in donating a dessert for these suppers, can drop off their dessert at the church prior to 5:00 PM.

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.

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 Monday, March 25th**. Don't wait till the last minute. No late orders can be taken.

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!

CHOICE DOLLARS TO DESIGNATE: Great news from our local Thrivent Rep. Doug Kossow! There are 2018 Thrivent Choice Dollars (*a very sizable amount*) that have not been designated by members of our congregation. Even though it's 2019, your 2018 dollars can still be designated until March 31, 2019. Next Sunday, 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.

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – Save the Date!!! VBS will be held again this year. The dates are Mon. – Thurs., June 3–7, 2019 from 9:00 AM until noon. If you are inclined to help with a morning VBS, please speak with this year's VBS director Karen Riefers.

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

150th Anniversary Notes

OUR NEXT ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY is just two 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 service begins at 10:00 AM (*note time change*).

- **The Kantorei men's chorus from our Fort Wayne seminary** will be our musical guests.
- **A congregational potluck meal and program will follow at 11:30 AM.** Meat, beverages, and table service will be provided. Please bring a dish or two to share. Rev. Dale Kern will be on hand as one of our early pastors



Seminary Kantorei

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.

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.

GRADES 2-3 GIRLS BASKETBALL PRACTICE for the Food Pantry Tournament will be on Thursdays from 3:30- 5:00 PM, beginning on Feb. 27th. Anyone interested in playing, please come to these practices.

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. Contact *Brad Rosebrook* at 419-966-3099 with questions.

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!

AREA EVENTS:

- **SOUP & PIE DINNER** – St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wauseon, today with serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!
- **PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST** – Ridgeville Volunteer Fire Dept., today with serving until 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!

✂ ✂ ✂

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Not all loud speakers are necessarily hooked up!

“Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD.” (Jer. 23:16)