



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

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

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### THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "An Answer to Prayer" *Ezekiel 33:7-20*

Order of Service: Matins (LSB pg. 219)

Hymns: **850 ~ 861 ~ 707 ~ 941** (*Te Deum*) ~ **609**

Jr Hi Bell Choir: "Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed"

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### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*Welcome! We are here at the Savior's invitation; therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, receiving mercy and finding grace to help in every time of need. If you have no church of your own, we invite you to make this your home church. If you are a visitor, please 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**

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Devin Dietrich & Emersyn Gerken, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Tom & Sandy Von Deylen, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Ted Ripke, Bob Norden, Elmer Maassel, Denny Behnfeldt, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✠

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are placed in celebration of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Dick & Elaine Mahnke, which was yesterday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Congratulations to the Mahnke's and we wish you many more happy years together!

**EASTER FLOWER ORDERS ARE DUE TOMORROW:** We are taking orders for various flowers to purchase "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone special in your life. Yellow order forms 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 tomorrow!** No late orders can be taken.

**In God's House This Week**

*Online church calendar: [www.DynaCal.com/sjl](http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl)*

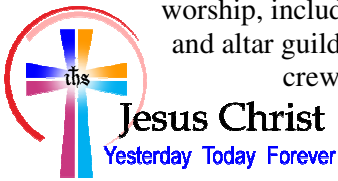
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:00 PM 4:30 PM	<b>Worship Service</b> Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" 4-H Meetings St. John Athletic Banquet
Mon.	5:30 PM 7:00 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution Adult Instruction Class
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:30 AM 1:00 PM 7:00 PM	<b>School Chapel</b> Women's Lenten Bible Study Kindergarten Clinic Shepherd Committee followed by Board of Elders meeting at 7:30 PM
Wed.	5:30 PM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Lenten Supper Junior Confirmation Class (5:45 – 6:45 PM) <b>4<sup>th</sup> Lenten Service</b> ; Offering: <i>National Youth Gathering Group</i> Acolytes: <i>Devin Dietrich &amp; Brooks Behnfeldt</i> Greeters: <i>Jerry &amp; Nancy Short</i> Ushers: <i>Dave Von Deylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling</i> Altar Guild: <i>Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short</i> Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast Women's Lenten Bible Study
Sat.		Jr High LYF Tool Time at Concordia University – Ann Arbor, MI
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	<b>Worship Service</b> Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: Rev. Lee Genter, Christ Our Savior Lutheran – Defiance

**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*
- ❖ *Darrel Bockelman,* who is recovering at Fulton Manor, Wauseon, from a recent hospitalization
- ❖ *Ron Hesterman, Shirley Sonnenberg, Phyllis Silveus, Linda Schroeder, and Tonya Whitman,* who are dealing with health issues at this time
- ❖ *Don Dickmann,* hospitalized at Henry County Hospital this week with breathing issues
- ❖ *Eldor Gruenhagen,* hospitalized this past week with shortness of breath
- ❖ *Ron Dietrich,* having hip replacement on March 29<sup>th</sup> at Henry County Hospital

**GROUP #3 ANNUAL CLEANING:** This group will be cleaning the Fellowship Hall area of the church building on Thurs., April 4<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 PM. Please bring buckets and rags. Thank you!

**ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION THANKS** – Thank you to everyone who helped make part two of our anniversary celebration last Sunday such a success. Thank you to everyone who assisted in worship, including organist, acolytes, banner and cross bearers, church deacons, ushers, and altar guilders. Thanks also to the Women of Freedom and the Fellowship Hall setup crew for getting everything ready for the congregational meal, and to everyone who attended the meal and brought all of that delicious food. With Rev. Dr. Rosebrock, the Kantorei, and Rev. Kern as our guests, it was a celebration we will not soon forget. Thank you, all!



**FOOD PANTRY THANKS:** The recent St. John Food Pantry Tourney was a success. The amount of items collected for the food pantry was 2,901. Concessions brought in over \$1,000. The concession money will be used to purchase new basketballs, a basketball rack, maintenance in the gym, and update banners. The AD and athletic boosters would like to thank all who donated their time to make the tourney run smoothly, and to Clubhouse Pizza in Napoleon for giving us discounted prices on pizzas.

**CONFIRMATION 2019 PLANNING** – Next Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, the confirmation class of 2019 and their parents will meet after the Sunday School hour to make plans for confirmation Sunday on May 19<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in the 7-8 grade classroom.

**ATHLETIC BANQUET:** The St. John Athletic Banquet is **today 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.

**PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS** for the next quarter, *April, May, June*, are on the desk in the narthex. There are also large print booklets available for anybody to pick up.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 03/17/19	\$9,708.00	\$371.00	\$666.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 306

**3<sup>RD</sup> LENTEN SERVICE:** \$742.00 – Filling Home - Napoleon; Attendance: 77

**DECLARING TO YOU THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD...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 teachings include: The Book of Zephaniah, Jesus Is Rejected at Nazareth, The Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Coveting and more. You can listen live or at your convenience at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org) and on the LPR mobile app.

**REV. GEORGE MAASSEL MEMORIAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH GRANTS** – This is a reminder that a number of years back, the family of Rev. Maassel gave a gift to the congregation, which we subsequently decided to use as grants for any church organization planning an event that has local community outreach as a focus. If you're organization is planning such an event and has the specific intent of inviting non-members and following up on them, please consider applying for one of these grants. An information page and application is available on our website, [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org).

# LENT

**LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES** --- 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
<b>Midweek 4 (3/27)</b>	<b>"Remember the Covenant"</b>	<b>National Youth Gathering Group</b>
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"	150th 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: *Chicken Noodle Soup, Salad, Bread, Fruit, Dessert, and Drink*. Serving time is 5:30-6:30 p.m. Some of these dinners are a Thrivent Action Team Event. Any congregation member 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 at 9:30 AM and Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM during Lent. This is open to all women of the church. Please come and join us!

**MEN'S LENTEN BIBLE BREAKFAST** will be meeting each Thursday during Lent as we study "Monumental Mountaintops" in the Bible, and all the important parts of our salvation story that happened in Scripture on various mountaintops. **This Thursday IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL 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, and to further enhance your Lenten walk with Jesus!

**LWML SPRING RALLY** - The Women of Freedom are invited to the Napoleon Zone Spring Rally to be held at Zion Lutheran Church, Ridgeville Corners, on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> with registration and continental breakfast at 8:30 AM and the program following from 9-11:30 AM. The guest speaker will be *Rev. Dr. Carl Rockrohr*, the newly installed pastor at Zion. The theme this year is "A Time to Serve." See pink flyer inserted in today's bulletin.

**CHURCH HISTORY BOOKS** - If at any time during the year you need a gift for a current or former member of St. John, why not consider one of our Church History Books. This book is full of interesting facts about St. John's and is available in the church office at a cost of \$12.00.

**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!

**INTERESTED IN A CHURCH PROFESSION? WE'D LIKE TO HELP!** Recently a number of young people from St. John have pursued educational goals to prepare them for full-time service as teachers and pastors. If you are interested in a church profession (*as a pastor, deaconess, teacher, lay minister, or a Director of Christian Education, Christian Outreach, Parish Music, or Family Life Ministry*), our congregation would like to support you by offering a tuition gift. An application for this gift is available online --- type **[www.sjl.org/student\\_gift\\_app.pdf](http://www.sjl.org/student_gift_app.pdf)** into your browser (*there is no link*) and fill out the application. Deadline for fall enrollment is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**WOMEN OF FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIPS:** Here is another opportunity to encourage and help young people prepare for service to the church as pastors, teachers, lay workers, deaconesses, and parish workers. \$500 per year Women of Freedom Scholarships are available to any young person attending one of our synodical schools. Simply contact any Women of Freedom member for more details about this.

**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.

**PTL FUNDRAISER:** The *Profitable Solutions* Liquid Laundry Detergent & Fabric Softener Fundraiser sponsored by the PTL is coming Mon., April 8<sup>th</sup> thru Fri., April 26<sup>th</sup>. This fundraiser involves selling bulk laundry detergent (including pods!), softener, scent booster, dish soap, dishwasher pods and trash bags! All products are comparable to name brands. You will be receiving 42% more detergent (350-500 loads!) for the same price you'd pay in store!

Order forms will be available as we approach the kickoff date. Please direct any questions to Amy Kramer at 419-297-6998!

**SCHOOL CHAPEL SPECIAL GUEST** – This Tuesday, March 26, the students of St. John will welcome to chapel Miss **Monica Ochola**, who will be speaking about a mission effort in Kenya called "Hope for the Destitute." This multifaceted organization seeks to address the needs of widows and orphans through home care, schooling, catechism seminars, and farming. Miss Ochola will focus especially on the Lutheran Academy that is providing a Christian education for orphaned or destitute children. Everyone is welcome to join us for chapel to hear more about this ministry. Miss Ochola is the daughter of *Rev. Joseph Ochola Omolo*, the presiding Bishop of our LC-MS partner church in Kenya, The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya.

**ARE YOU A WOODWORKER?** We are looking for someone to help with a building project in the Preschool classroom. It would involve building two identical shelving units to store the larger toys and games that are used in preschool. All materials would be provided as we will be applying for a Thrivent Action Team. Your talent of working with wood is what we are seeking. Please contact Joyce in the office or Miss Valerie in Preschool if interested in taking this on. There is a diagram of what we are looking for in the school office. Many, many thanks!

**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.

**KINDERGARTEN HALF DAY!** Please note that on March 26<sup>th</sup> (*the day of the Clinic*), Kindergarten will dismiss at 11:30 AM. Please make pick up arrangements at that time for your child that day.

**KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY** for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2019! The St. John K-clinic will be held on Tuesday, March 26<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 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.*



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2019** has been scheduled for the week of June 3-7 (Monday to Friday) from 9:00 AM until noon . Our theme this year is **“Miraculous Mission: Jesus Saves the World.”** Sometimes we talk about superheroes saving the world, but they are only make-believe. Only the Son of God can actually do this work! It is Him whom we worship and about whom we will be learning in our VBS.

Very soon we will begin recruiting staff for our VBS. For the time being, please look at your calendar and pray about taking a VBS position this year. There is no one more precious to Jesus than His little ones, and there is no work more important than to teach them the love of Jesus! Will you join us in this vital ministry to His children? If so, please speak with this year's VBS director Karen Riefers.

**ST. JOHN SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE:** Please "like" and "share" our Facebook page which is a great way to share lessons going on in the classroom, special student recognitions, important events, and announcements. The link is <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnlutherschoolnapoleon/>

**GRANDPARENT'S DAY:** A reminder that Grandparent's Day at St. John School for Grades K-8 will be held on **Friday, May 3** from 12:30 - 3:00 PM. *Lunch is not included.*



**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**Need a lifeguard? Ours walks on water!**

*“The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?” (Hebrews 13:6)*