



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

March 31, 2019

VOL. 84

NO. 13

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 OF LENT

Sermon & Text: "Outside the Party" *Luke 15:25-32*
Order of Service: See printed Service Folder
Hymns: **686** ~ [Baptism: Borning Cry, **588**] ~ **915** ~ **528**
Adult Bell Choir: "Sweet Hour of Prayer"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest this morning, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to our pastor and by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you. Simply pass it to the center aisle during the offering or register your name in the Guest Book in the Narthex.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Kaelyn Gerken, *Acolyte* ✠
- ✠ Dan & Deb Wachtman, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✠



THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed in celebration of the 92nd Birthday of John Damman by his family. John celebrates his actual birthday today, so be sure to wish him a "happy birthday" as you leave church today. Congratulations John and we wish you a blessed day and year!

BAPTISM THIS MORNING – Today we rejoice with Eric & Kayleigh Riefers as they present their infant son, **Rhett Eric**, for Holy Baptism. Rhett was born on February 10 at the Henry County Hospital. Witnessing his baptism today are Katie Scharr, Lauren Schuller, and Justin Flory. Rhett's grandparents are Bob & Karen Riefers, Tom & Judy Maggert, and Mike & Debbie Schuller. We rejoice with this family as *Rhett* is born again of water and the Spirit, and pray that the faith that is kindled in him would be nurtured, that *Rhett* would grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor 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	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.	7:00 PM	Adult Instruction Class
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:30 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Women's Lenten Bible Study School Board Meeting (NO Stewardship Board Meeting)
Wed.	5:30 PM 6:15 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Lenten Supper Junior Confirmation Class (5:45 – 6:45 PM) 5th Lenten Service ; Offering: <i>Lutheran Hour Broadcast</i> Acolytes: <i>Karter Behnfeldt & Karleigh Sonnenberg</i> Greeters: <i>Dan & Joyce Wiechers</i> Ushers: <i>Dennis Bockelman, David Myles, Tim Badenhop</i> Altar Guild: <i>Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short</i> Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Lenten Bible Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall Group #3 Cleaning Group – Fellowship Hall area (<i>bring buckets & rags</i>) Women's Lenten Bible Study
Sat.	8:30 AM	LWML Spring Rally (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 11:15AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Confirmation Planning Meeting
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Donald Luhring</i> , St. John 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 recuperating at Fulton Manor, Wauseon
- ❖ *Ron Hesterman, Shirley Sonnenberg, Phyllis Silveus, Eldor Gruenhagen, Shorty Bischoff,* and *Tonya Whitman,* who are dealing with health issues at this time
- ❖ *Don Dickmann,* hospitalized at Henry County Hospital
- ❖ *Ron Dietrich,* at Henry County Hospital following hip replacement
- ❖ *Carey Damman,* following knee replacement at Fulton County Health Center

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.

CONFIRMATION 2019 PLANNING RESCHEDULED – Because there are a number of confirmands at *Tool Time* this morning, the planning meeting for Confirmation Sunday has been rescheduled for next Sun., April 7, after Sun. School at 11:15. We will meet in the 7-8 grade classroom.

2018 CHURCH'S ANNUAL REPORT: There are about 60 copies available on the desk and table in the narthex following the service today. There will be more printed and available next Sunday. Thanks to everyone for your information submitted to be included in this report.

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
Midweek 4 (3/27)	“Remember the Covenant”	National Youth Gathering Group
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: *Baked Potato Bar w/toppings, Salad, 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!

SUPPORT THE YOUTH GROUP: Dairy Queen in Napoleon will be hosting a fundraiser on Mon., April 8th from 4-7PM, for St. John & St. Luke LYF members going to the National Youth Gathering this summer. 20% of purchases during these three hours will be donated to both of these youth groups. Mark your calendars and come out and support them on April 8th! There’s always room for ice cream!!

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, coffeecake, doughnuts, sweet rolls, cookies, coffee and juice.* A lot of help with donations is needed. Please sign up on the chart in the narthex to donate items. Any refrigerated or bakery items in stay-fresh containers can be brought to the church on Saturday morning. All items need to be at the church prior to 8:00 AM Easter morning. Sign-up to HELP with preparation and serving. Any questions can be directed to *Pat Mahnke* at 419-598-8382 or *Marian Damman* at 419-598-8462.



PALM SUNDAY IS TWO WEEKS FROM TODAY – On that morning we invite all the children to gather before worship in the fellowship hall to participate in the Procession of Palms at the beginning of the service. Parents, please have them there 10 minutes before the service so they can be organized and instructed.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 03/24/19	\$6,047.00	\$226.00	\$442.00

ATTENDANCE: 223

4TH LENTEN SERVICE: \$775.00 – National Youth Gathering Group; Attendance: 91

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 6th 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 is “A Time to Serve.”

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL STAFF RECRUIEMENT

It's time to bring together a staff of teachers and other helpers for our VBS, which is scheduled for **June 3-7 from 9:00 AM - 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! He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the whole world, and through whom God has reconciled the world to Himself!



In the bulletin this morning, please take note of the VBS Staff Recruitment form and review the positions that we need to fill, and please consider signing up. 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, speak with this year's VBS director *Karen Riefers*.

HAWKS & ST. JOHN SCHOOL: On Sat., April 13th, Hawks Pizza in Napoleon will be donating 10% of their total sales that day to St. John School. This is a community fundraising event they have chosen us to participate in with them. You may even see some St. John staff on hand that day as you drive thru and pick up your orders. Call Hawks at 419-599-1946 to place your order. You may also go to their website at hawkspizza.com.

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 something that is related to community outreach 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 the documents area of our website, www.sjl.org.

PTL FUNDRAISER: The *Profitable Solutions* Liquid Laundry Detergent & Fabric Softener Fundraiser sponsored by the PTL is coming Mon., April 8th thru Fri., April 26th. 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!

ST. JOHN SCRIP: Scrip orders will be received on Wednesdays, ordered on Fridays and delivered on the following Tuesday. Order forms are posted on FastDirect under 'Links,' titled SCRIP Order Forms and SCRIP Program Info, there are also hard copies on the table in the narthex and in the 'School Info' rack outside the office. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to the SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

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.

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.*

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.

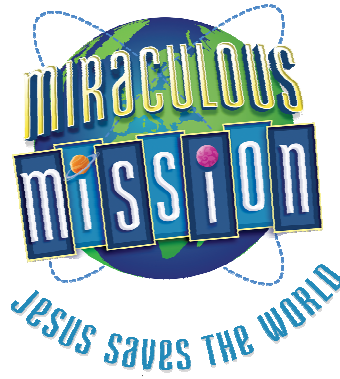
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Dogs are smarter than some people; they wag their tails, not their tongues!

"Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit." (Psa 34:13)

V.B.S. 2019 Staff Recruitment



VBS is Mornings, June 3-7

9:00 to 12:00 noon

Please indicate how you'd like to help!

Lead Help

Openings & Closings - assist Pastor

Five Rotation Sites Starry Night Story-telling (tell the Bible stories in creative ways)

Observation Station Bible Challenge (students memorize verses)

Wonderful Creation Crafts (hands-on fun for everyone)

Blastoff Games (lead fun games and activities)

Galaxy Snacks (prepare and serve creative treats & snacks)

2 Preschool Groups (a special class for the littlest ones)

Group Guide (*get your small student group where they need to be, and assist as needed at the five rotation sites – a great position for youth or adults*)

Decorating Team Member (*there are lots of things we can do to decorate!*)

Registration Coordinator (*gather student registrations and make name badges*)

Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please circle the mornings you *can* be present during the week:

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

First staff meeting – Thursday, April 11 ♦ 6:30 p.m.

High School Seniors can apply the time they serve in our VBS to their community service hours.