



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

February 2, 2020

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NO. 5

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

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

Sermon & Text: "Forty Days After Christmas" *Luke 2:22-32*
Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting Three (LSB pg. 184)*
Hymns: **901 ~ 519** ~ (Communion: **971, 981, 624**) ~ **643**
Adult Choir: "Held In His Mighty Arms" and "Hear Us, O Father"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

The Psalmist wrote: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the House of the Lord.'" We are happy to have you with us, whether someone invited you or you came by yourself. We are glad to share this House of the Lord with you. 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 this morning. Thank you!

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Colton Kruse & Trenton Kruse, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Bob & Diane Norden, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Denny Bockelman, Tim Badenhop, Dave Myles, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Ronda & Kaylee Wentworth, Karan Niebergall, Karen Lulfs, *Altar Guild* ✠



CALLED HOME – On Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020, *Wilfred "Willie" Gerken*, 90, passed away at Genacross Lutheran Home, Napoleon. Willie's funeral service will take place at St. John today at 2:00 PM. Burial will follow in the St. John Cemetery. Please keep his wife, Arlene, and children, Sandy (Tom), Stan (Cathy), Sara (David), and Scott (Lori) in your daily prayers as they mourn their loss.

A VOTERS' MEETING is scheduled for Sunday, February 9, 2020 after worship in the fellowship hall. On the agenda will be 1) the St. John Endowment fund and requested uses; 2) the Annual School Report; 3) Audit Committee Report; 4) Old School/Youth Center Update; 5) Update on commercial property gifted to St. John Church; 6) Youth Center donations to date; 7) Approval of a Youth Center financing option presented at the Nov. 3rd meeting.

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 2:00 PM 6:00 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Funeral Service for Wilfred "Willie" Gerken Super Bowl Party at Miss Bartok's house (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.	4:30 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys; 5:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Girls; 7:00 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs Ohio Eagles
Tue.	8:35 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	School Chapel B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:15 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs Monclova Christian School Board Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM 7:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class St. John Registration Open House for Preschool thru Grade 8 (<i>see note</i>) Adult Bell Practice Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 5:00 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast in fellowship hall B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:15 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys @ BG Christian
Sat.	10:00AM 11:15AM	B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls vs Monclova Christian B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys vs Tinora
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service w/Communion following Voters' Meeting; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM

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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, and Lester Rabe*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Dorothy Gerken, Melba Elling, Eldor Gruenhagen, and Lorna Von Deylen*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs*, recuperating back at Assisted Living – Genacross Lutheran Home, Napoleon
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Armed Services: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Rose Leonard, Florence Jones, Ruth Mahnke, Cheryl Yaw, Harold Behrmann, and Denny Behnfeldt*, with various health issues at this time
- ❖ *Arlene Gerken*, at Genacross Lutheran Home due to a fall taken at her home
- ❖ *Rev. Alvin Martis*, fighting cancer and under hospice care

2019 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – The 2019 individual offering totals (green sheets) are available on the narthex table. 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 past Financial Trustee, *Cheryl Dietrich* at 419-592-9792).

2019 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – It's time to start getting your reports ready for the 2019 Church Annual. The secretaries and treasurers of the different organizations are asked to write up a summary of the year's activities along with a financial report if there is one. **Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers by Fri., Feb. 14.**

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – ROMANS 14

As we come to the end of the *Letter to the Romans*, St. Paul gets very practical in dealing with our life together in Christ's congregation. Specifically, he addresses how people often judge one another in matters in which we are actually free. Those who are strong in Christian faith are tempted to despise those weaker in faith for their lack of understanding, while those who are weak in faith are tempted to judge their fellow Christians who exercise Christian freedom. Join us this morning for Bible Study as we explore how Paul deals with these things, and let us grow together in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior!



MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST will meet this Thursday, Feb. 6, as we continue our study, "Monumental Mountaintops." In the Bible, many of the important parts of our salvation story on various mountaintops, and these are "mountaintop" teachings of our faith that we need to know. **Join us this Thursday IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL at 6:30 a.m.** 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 walk with Jesus!

SUPER BOWL SUB SALE TODAY! Stop and pick up your order today after church until 11 AM. There are very few extras available, so if you still want to purchase subs, you may do so until they are gone. Each sub costs \$4.00 (or a 3 for \$10 deal). **Checks can be made out to St. John LYF.** Thank you for supporting our Sr. High LYF!



SR. HIGH LYF: Come one; come all to the Super Bowl Party 2020 at Miss Bartok's home today from 6:00 PM – your curfew. Bring snacks and be ready to root for your favorite team! Not into football??? There will be other games and activities going on as well. Hope to see you later today!

THANK YOU FROM SOUP & PIE COMMITTEE – The Soup & Pie Committee would like to thank everyone for their support of the Annual Soup & Pie Dinner. Thanks to everyone who donated salads, desserts, and any other food items in order to make this fundraiser a success. We had a great turnout! Also thanks to the committee workers for all your teamwork and extra help offered. There were some new faces on the committee this year and we appreciate everyone's effort.

(Signed: Bob & Katie Morrison, John & Elizabeth Ruffer, Brad & Amy Rosebrook, Tri-chairs)

TAKE A STAINED GLASS CROSS PENDANT – On the table in the narthex is a box with stained glass cross pendants that are yours for the taking. These were made by our Vacation Bible School students last June, with the help of Sue Hurst. They made more than enough, and would love you to take one home. Some are made from pieces of the old stained glass, others from scraps of the new stained glass.

WHY LUTHERAN SCHOOLS? Valued 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 a high value on children, God's beloved little ones.



WINTER PARKING LOT ASSISTANCE – If you are able-bodied and sure-footed, please consider serving God’s people by coming a little early on those Sundays when the winter weather is a bit dicey, to help park cars for those who come to the carport, and/or to go outside and give an arm to assist those who need help walking across the parking lot. No need to sign up – just show up a little early to lend a helping hand. Thank you!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 1/26/19	\$8,817.00	\$60.00	\$420.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 1/26/19 – 289

OLD SCHOOL RENOVATION BROCHURES – Recently the *Old School Renovation Finance Committee* sent out a mailing to St. John Lutheran Church members and to SJLS Alumni with an informational brochure about the Old School renovation, and the opportunity to participate in this project through monetary gifts. If you would expect to have received this mailing but for some reason did not, please accept our apology (nothing is perfect in this world), and pick up one of these brochures in the narthex. **Thank you to everyone for your gifts and donations to this project!**

CHURCH COUNCIL / ELDERS / STEWARDSHIP BOARD

‘BUILT ON THE ROCK’ SEMINAR with Ted Kober

TODAY IS THE DEADLINE FOR SIGNING UP!

On Saturday, February 8, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM at St. John, Defiance, Mr. Ted Kober will be presenting his material, **“Built on the Rock: The Healthy Congregation.”** Ted Kober is an LCMS layman who has done extensive work on what constitutes a healthy congregation, and the information he has to share is invaluable for us. It cannot be overstressed how important this seminar will be for us. Lunch is provided for free, and we are working to cover the cost of the seminar workbook (\$5.95 per participant) with funds from a ‘Rev. Maassel Memorial Outreach Grant.’ **TODAY is the deadline for signing up.** Please make the commitment to attend, and get registered by signing up in the narthex.

PRESCHOOL:

- **ENROLLMENT** – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2020-21 school year. 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. We will be opening the registration up to the public as of February 4th. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration form.
- **TUITION** – Prior to Christmas Break, letters were sent to all Preschool families regarding an increase in tuition for the 2020-2021 school year. Here are the School Board approved rates as of the October 2019 Board meeting: 3-yr old Preschool - \$80/month; 4/5-yr old Preschool - \$200/month. It has been several years since a tuition increase has been made, and in order for the program to remain self-funded, this increase will need to be implemented beginning with the 2020-2021 school year.

POSITIONS TO FILL:

- ▶ **TEACHER GR. 3&4:** St. John Lutheran School is seeking applications for a dynamic third and fourth grade teacher for the 2020-21 school year. Requirements are a Bachelor degree in education, a background check, 3 references, and subscribing to the St. John Lutheran Church and School religious beliefs. If you have questions please call the school office at 419-598-8702. Applicants can mail a resume' to St. John Lutheran School, 16035 County Road U, Napoleon, OH 43545.
- ▶ **TEACHER AID:** St. John Lutheran School is seeking to fill the position for a teacher aid. The applicant must have a high school diploma, be willing to have a background check, be able to help tutor individuals and groups of classroom students, and monitor the students at recess times. In addition the individual should adhere to the teachings and religious beliefs of the Lutheran church. If interested please send or drop off your resume at the school office.
- ▶ **PRESCHOOL LEAD TEACHER:** St. John Lutheran Preschool is seeking a Lead Teacher for the 2020-2021 school year. This individual must have a high school diploma, have experience in teaching an early childhood program, and be subject to a background check. If interested please send or drop off your resume' to Pastor Kramer in the office.

ST. JOHN REGISTRATION OPEN HOUSE – An **Open House** is planned for grade levels (PS-8) at St. John School on Wednesday evening, **February 5th, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM**, for families who would like to come and look at our school and discuss the possibility of sending their child/children here for their education. There will also be refreshments. If anyone in the congregation might know of a prospective student for Grades PS-8, please be sure to pass this information to them.

PANCAKE/SAUSAGE BREAKFAST: On Sun., Feb. 23rd, the 7th & 8th Grade students will be hosting a delicious Pancake & Sausage Breakfast in the fellowship hall for everyone to enjoy. They will begin serving after the church service until noon. The proceeds from this breakfast will be put towards their 2020 Class Trip to St. Louis. This is a Thrivent Action Team Event. Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast, along with some good fellowship...and support the 7&8 Grade Trip.

ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES: You may begin ordering SCRIP. Order forms are available on the narthex table and also in the "School Info" rack outside the office. Please turn those orders in on Wednesdays, with payment to *St. John School PTL Scrip Program*. The gift cards will be sent home the following week on Tuesday. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

2020 NATIONAL LUTHERAN ANNUAL – We are taking orders for the 2020 Lutheran Annual. It has the current addresses, phone numbers, emails, and websites of LCMS churches, pastors, teachers, etc. all over the United States. Call the church office to order your copy. **Deadline is Mon., Feb. 3rd.**

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!

HELP US KEEP UPDATED RECORDS – With the advent of cell phones, keeping current contact information is an issue for every organization these days, including the church. When people move or get a new phone number, they often don't think to update that information with us, often leaving us with no way to contact them for ministry related matters. So please, if you move or get a new phone number, contact the church office or make a note of it on the *Rite of Fellowship Card* and help us keep our records as up-to-date as possible.

THRIVENT EDUCATIONAL EVENT – On Wed., March 4, 2020 at 11:30 AM, Thrivent is hosting an event called “Social Security: Money Left on the Table” with *Jim Caulder*, a Social Security expert. This will be held at The Emporium at One Thirty (across from the Armory & Events Center), Napoleon. Lunch will be served. There are a limited number of seats, so invite a friend and register at tmn-cauldernwoh2020.eventbrite.com.

GERALD HISTORY BOOKS – If you didn't get one yet, you can still do so. Stop in at the church office to purchase your copy for \$10 or you can also send \$12 to Robert L. Stockman, 1218 Spoonbill Landing Circle, Bradenton, FL 34209, and he will mail your copy to you via USPS.

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!

STAMP COLLECTING: The LWML is collecting “Stamps For Missions.” Here is what you do: Cut the stamps from the envelopes allowing ¼ inch margin or more around the stamp. The stamp may not be damaged and the perforations around the stamp must be perfect. Regular stamps are no longer accepted. You need not trim the stamp; we have someone who trims and sorts the stamps. Do not remove stamps from envelopes, albums, and older postcards. An “old” postcard is usually from 1930 or before. The most valuable stamps are commemorative and foreign. Collecting stamps is an easy way to participate in a mission project sponsored by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. A yellow box is on the table in the narthex.

LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT – How You Can Help? If you have used **prescription or nonprescription** glasses or sunglasses in your drawers, desks, or closets, you can donate them now! Children's glasses are especially needed. Both plastic and metal frames are accepted. There is a box under the table in the narthex for the collection of these used glasses.

4-H CLUBS: The Gerald Busy Fingers, Cloverbuds, and Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Clubs will have their first 4-H meetings on Sun., Feb. 9 starting at 1:00 PM at St. John Lutheran School. We will be meeting in the cafeteria. We would like to meet with the parents briefly at 1:00. New members are always welcome!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

The world crowns success, but God crowns faithfulness.

“It is required of stewards that they be found faithful.” 1 Cor 4:2