



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

February 16 2020

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NO. 7

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

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "First Be Reconciled" *Matthew 5:21-26*

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 843 ~ 394, *stz. 1,5* [Communion: 629, 628] ~ 763

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. 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.*



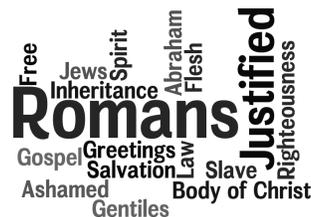
SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Brooks Behnfeldt & Ian Rosebrook, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Tom & Sandy Von Deylen, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Denny Bockelman, Tim Badenhop, Dave Myles, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Ronda & Kaylee Wentworth, Karan Niebergall, Karen Lulfs, *Altar Guild* ✘

THANK YOU to *Larry Mahnke* and *Dean Maassel* for their efforts this winter in keeping the church and school parking lot cleared of snow. They donate their time and equipment to get this job done after each snowfall. This year's snowfall has been "here and there," but even when there is a dusting; they are here bright and early clearing the lot. Great job guys! Thank you for your service at St. John!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – ROMANS 15

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. 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!



In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 11:00AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Ridgeville Legion Chicken Pie Dinner (<i>serving until 1PM</i>)
Mon.	9:00 AM 4:30 PM	NO SCHOOL – President's Day observed Ladies Blanket Knotting and Quilting (<i>see bulletin note</i>) Jr High LYF Meeting (<i>until 6:00 PM</i>)
Tue.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class Adult Bell Practice Adult Choir Practice
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:00 PM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" 4-H Meetings (<i>All 3 clubs</i>)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Willie Stottlemyer, St. Stephen Lutheran – Defiance</i>

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*, with various health issues
- ❖ *Arlene Gerken*, at Genacross Lutheran Home due to a fall taken at her home
- ❖ *Harold Behrmann*, at Fulton Manor – Wauseon for rehab following his recent hospitalization
- ❖ *Reldon "Shorty" Bischoff*, at home receiving hospice care
- ❖ *Willie Joost*, who suffered third-degree burns on the back of his leg
- ❖ *Brooke Bostelman and grandparents Roger & Shirley Bostelman*, recovering in hospitals after receiving severe injuries in a car accident
- ❖ *Joyce Martis and family*, grieving the passing of Rev. Alvin Martis, who died in Christ this past Wednesday evening

JR HIGH LYF (RESCHEDULED): The Jr High LYF will be meeting on Mon., Feb. 17th from 4:30 – 6:00 PM due to the cancellation last Sunday.

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).

NEW STAINED GLASS WINDOW #10 – Please take note of the newly installed stained glass window, depicting a scene from the Gospel of John, chapter 8, the adulterous woman and the mercy of her Savior. A page with a description of this window is available in the narthex.

LADIES BLANKET KNOTTING OR QUILTING is planned for all day Monday, Feb. 17. Got cabin fever? Come and join us! There will be blanket knotting for those that do not wish to quilt. We will start at 9:00 AM. All ladies of the congregation are invited. You can come and stay all day or just part of the day; whatever fits your schedule. Hope to see you tomorrow!

Lent Midweek 2020

One of the Bible's greatest wisdom books is *The Book of Job*. In our midweek services this Lent we will explore this magnificent composition that is among the greatest literature of all time. Readings at home and nine sermons will help us dig deeply into Job's central message.

We all suffer—personally and privately. A husband loses a job. A child gets divorced. A diagnosis stuns. A parent dies. And now, thanks to the media, we are able to see and experience more of the world's catastrophes and suffering. We need the *Book of Job*, now, more than ever.

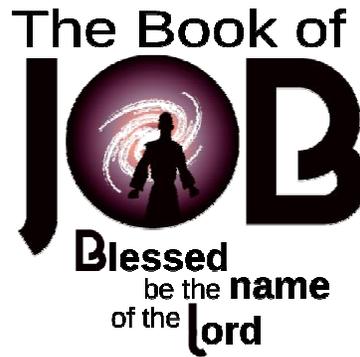
Martin Luther asserted that "Job is magnificent and sublime as no book of Scripture." Others have called this book "the Shakespeare of the Bible." The early Christian scholar Jerome called *The Book of Job* an "eel," since the more one tries to contain it, the more slippery it becomes! The purpose of our Lenten emphasis is to learn how to apply *The Book of Job* to our lives so that the book becomes less like an eel and more like a loving companion through life's dark valleys.

Preaching plans are as follows:

- Ash Wednesday: Flying Blind (Job 1:1–12)
- Lent 2: Sweet Surrender (Job 1:13–21)
- Lent 3: Learning to Lament (Job 3:1–26)
- Lent 4: It Is Enough (Job 14:1–14)
- Lent 5: Understanding How It All Works Together (Job 23:1–17)
- Lent 6: God Speaks in the Storm (Job 38:1–11)
- Maundy Thursday: On Earth Is Not His Equal! (Job 41:20–34)
- Good Friday: Tearing Down the Spite House (Job 42:7–9)
- Easter Sunrise: I Know That My Redeemer Lives! (Job 19:23–26)

Job's most famous statement appears in 19:25, "I know that my Redeemer lives." Christ is alive, having conquered death and the grave. His grace is enough. His love brings comfort and healing. And this Lent these gifts come to us through *The Book of Job*.

Lent begins Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26 ♦ Worship at 7:00 p.m.



MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS DURING LENT – Beginning Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, the midweek confirmation class will meet from **5:45 to 6:45 p.m.**, dismissing in time for students and families to attend the midweek Lenten service.

COMMIT TO SOMETHING NEW FOR LENT – ATTEND

BIBLE STUDY! Often during the season of Lent, Christians will give up something – desserts, sweets, screen time, etc. – as a reminder that Christ gave up His life for us. This is a fine devotional practice. **But you should also consider committing to something new for Lent**, as a reminder of the commitment Christ made to go to the cross for us! And what could be a better, more salutary, commitment than to attend a Bible study during these weeks? In the spirit of St. Paul who wrote, “*I want to know Christ*” (Phil 3:1), join us! Lent Bible study options are:



- **“WHO AM I? WHAT AM I DOING HERE?” (Sunday mornings during Lent)**

These are the big questions that eventually confront everyone, and they do not go away with time. People try to quell the nagging of these questions with distractions and with rationalizations, but the questions refuse to go away; they demand an answer.

God has the answers! This six-session, video-based Bible study will be conducted on the six Sundays of Lent after worship, led by Pastor Niermann. Join us as we grow closer to Jesus and to each other in the study of God’s precious Word.

- **“JOB” - MEN’S BREAKFAST STUDY (Thursday mornings during Lent)**

Each Thursday during Lent we will gather in the fellowship hall at 6:30AM for breakfast and for a Bible study that coordinates with the midweek Lenten theme on *The Book of Job*. It’s a stomach-delighting, soul-nourishing way to start your day!

- **“WHATEVER” - WOMEN’S LENTEN STUDY (Thursday mornings during Lent)**

In the culture, we use the word “whatever” as a very dismissive way, as if to say we just don’t care about things. St. Paul, however, uses that word in his letter to the *Philippians* to draw attention to the things we should care about the most – whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, etc. (Phil. 4:8)

Join us for a women’s Lenten Bible study titled, “*Whatever: Keeping Your Heart in Tune With Whatever Life Brings.*” **This study will be Thursday mornings during Lent, starting the day after Ash Wednesday (Feb. 27), 10:00-11:15AM** (we may not go the full time, but we’ll never go past 11:15). Meet in the north fellowship hall. Our study leader is Nancy Nemoyer, an LC-MS commissioned deaconess and former director of the deaconess program at Concordia University, Chicago.

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 ASAP.**

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 2/09/20	\$7,625.03	\$147.00	\$119.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 2/09/20 – 225

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.

VBS DIRECTOR NEEDED – It’s time to begin making plans for our 2020 VBS, and the first step is to identify a director. The VBS Director’s job is to work with the pastor in planning a daily schedule, recruiting a staff, attending planning meetings, and assisting as needed especially in areas of publicity, enrollment and registration. If God is tugging at you to serve the children in this way, please speak with Pastor Niermann, and we’ll start the planning.



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. Preschool registration is now open to the public, so be sure to register soon. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration.
- **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.

UPCOMING EVENT: **Ridgeville Twp Volunteer Fire Dept** will host their annual Pancake & Sausage Breakfast on Sun., March 1 from 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

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.

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.

KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2020! The St. John K-clinic will be held on Tuesday, March 31st 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 September 30th 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 2019 (*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.*

THRIVENT EDUCATIONAL EVENT – On Wed., March 4, 2020 at 11:30 AM, Thrivent is hosting and 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-cauldermwoh2020.eventbrite.com.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Everybody makes mistakes. That's why we keep having political elections!

“Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.” Psa 146:3