



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

February 23 2020

VOL. 85

NO. 8

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](http://www.sjl.org)

### THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Sermon & Text: "Life on the Mountain - but HOW?" *Exodus 24:8-18*

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 413 ~ 873 ~ 802 ~ 417

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### 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. May God richly bless your worship today! If you do not have a local church home, we extend a warm invitation to you to become a part of our church family. Fill out a blue pew card from the rack in front of you and hand it to the usher as you leave this morning.*

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### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Tayah Homan & Brooklyn Bostelman, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dan & Deb Wachtman, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Denny Bockelman, Tim Badenhop, Dave Myles, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Ronda & Kaylee Wentworth, Karan Niebergall, Karen Lulfs, *Altar Guild* ✠

**CALLED HOME** – On Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020, *Reldon "Shorty" Bischoff*, 80, passed away at Defiance Inpatient Hospice Center. A memorial service for Shorty will be held on Sat., Feb. 29<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM at St. John. Please keep his wife, Mabel, and family in your prayers as they mourn their loss.

**A SINCERE THANK YOU** – The family of Willie Gerken would like to thank everyone for their cards, prayers, visits, and support at the recent passing of Willie. A special thanks to Pastor Niermann for his comforting visits and encouragement during this difficult time. Thank you to the ladies of the church for preparing and serving the delicious funeral luncheon also. Everything done was greatly appreciated by the family.

**"THE LAMP"**: Youth Sunday School held in the Cry Room is cancelled today.

**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	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM 1:00 PM	<b>Worship Service</b> Pancake Sausage Breakfast; Adult Bible Class; Sunday School 4-H Meetings ( <i>All 3 clubs</i> )
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	<b>8:35 AM</b> 7:00 PM	<b>School Chapel</b> led by Camp Lutherhaven Shepherd Committee
Wed.	<b>8:35 AM</b> 5:30 PM 5:45 PM 6:00 PM <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday Chapel</b> Lenten Supper ( <i>see bulletin note</i> ) Midweek Confirmation Class (5:45 – 6:45 PM) Adult Bell Practice <b>Ash Wednesday Service</b> ; Offering: <i>Church Vocation Students</i> Acolytes: <i>Devin Dietrich &amp; Jared Lange</i> Greeters: <i>Dan &amp; Joyce Wiechers</i> Ushers: <i>Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop</i> Altar Guild: <i>Karan Niebergall, Kaylee &amp; Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs</i>
Thurs.	6:30 AM 10:00AM	Men's Lenten Bible Breakfast ( <i>see bulletin note</i> ) Women's Lenten Bible Study ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Sun.	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM	<b>Communion Service</b> Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"

**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 and Arlene Gerken*, at Assisted Living – Genacross Lutheran Home, Napoleon
- ❖ *Harold Behrmann*, at Fulton Manor – Wauseon for rehab following his recent hospitalization
- ❖ *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
- ❖ *Willie Joost*, who will have surgery on Tuesday for skin grafts on the burns on his leg
- ❖ *Brooke Bostelman and grandparents Roger & Shirley Bostelman*, recovering in hospitals after receiving severe injuries in a car accident

**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 as we conclude our study of Romans, and let us grow together in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior!

**PANCAKE/SAUSAGE BREAKFAST TODAY:** The 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students are hosting a delicious Pancake & Sausage Breakfast in the fellowship hall today 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 Class Trip.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS** – The Sunday School material for March/April/May 2020 has arrived. Please pick your material up from S.S. Superintendent *Stephanie Damman*.

**OLD SCHOOL WALK-THROUGH THIS MORNING** – Quite a few people have been asking about progress at the old school building, so we are opening it up this morning so that everyone can have a chance to see for themselves. **After worship you can head over to the old school building for a quick tour.** Please enter through the front doors that face Road U. A temporary sidewalk will be in place to avoid tracking dirt into the building. Thank you again to everyone who has supported this project. There are still plenty of bricks that can be purchased – please read about that in this bulletin under the heading, “**Old School Renovation Brochures.**”



**JAVA JOY SIGN UP** – Java Joy on the second Sunday of each month is a wonderful time of fellowship for us, but we need hosts to make it happen. **Hosting Java Joy does not need to cost you anything – you are free to reimburse your expenses from the Java Joy kitty.** So please don't hesitate to sign up! A list of host duties is available on the table in the narthex next to the sign-up list. Thank you for serving in this way!

## *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.

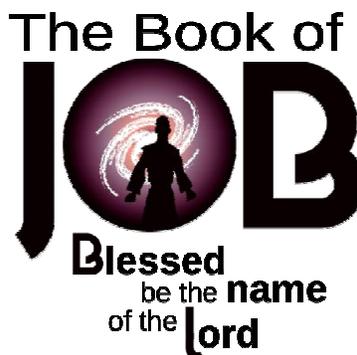
Martin Luther asserted that “Job is magnificent and sublime as no book of Scripture.” Others have called this book “the Shakespeare of the Bible.” The early Christian scholar Jerome called *The Book of Job* an “eel,” since the more one tries to contain it, the more slippery it becomes! The purpose of 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.

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*.

Ash Wednesday Worship: this Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Theme: “Flying Blind” (Job 1:1-12)

To Prepare: Read Job, chapter 1



**MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS DURING LENT** – Starting this Wednesday, **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.

**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 the Youth Center. This week's Lenten Supper menu is: *Spaghetti, Bread, Salad, 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.

**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.

**THE LWML QUARTERLY ODES** are available today in the tract rack by the narthex table.

**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!

**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!**

**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!



<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 2/16/20	\$9,050.00	\$72.00	\$570.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Sunday – 2/16/20 – 194

**ABOUT LUTHERAN SCHOOLS –CONGREGATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY:** As the school reaches many segments of the community, the parents who come to the school begin to inquire about the sponsoring congregation. Members frequently ask each other, "Does this congregation have a school?" But non-member school parents frequently ask the school, "Does this school have a church?" The congregation becomes better known in the community because of the school parents, and the school's marketing efforts.

**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 Niemann, and we'll start the planning.

**ENROLLMENT FOR PRESCHOOL:** 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.

I ♥  
VBS

## **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. Any questions, call the school office at 419-598-8702, or 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.

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

**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.

**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](http://tmn-cauldernwoh2020.eventbrite.com).

**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.

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**Feed your faith, and your fears will starve to death.**

*“I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.” Psa 34:4*