



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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NO. 9

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

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting One (LSB pg 151)
Hymns: **418 ~ 656 ~ (Communion: 440, 632, 562) ~ 718**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to every member, friend, and visitor. You have entered this church, not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. May you who enter here find rest, forgiveness, and strength. May your worship here enable you to see your Savior more clearly, love Him more dearly, follow Him more nearly, and serve Him more sincerely. 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

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘ Emersyn Gerken & Landen Kruse, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Lois Arps & Linda Riefers, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, David Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Mary Kay Rettig, Sandy Von Deylen, Kathy Badenhop, *Altar Guild* ✘

7TH & 8TH GRADE THANKS: The 7th & 8th Grade students say “thank you” for supporting their pancake & sausage breakfast last Sunday. They were grateful to see so many people attend. They are planning to host another breakfast in the next month or so. The proceeds from these breakfasts will be put towards their 2020 Class Trip to St. Louis.

MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS DURING LENT is meeting Wednesdays from **5:45 to 6:45 p.m.**, dismissing in time for students and families to attend the midweek Lenten service.

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*.

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Tue.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel led by Grades 5&6 School Board & Stewardship Meetings
Wed.	5:30 PM 5:45 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Lenten Supper (<i>see bulletin note</i>) Midweek Confirmation Class (5:45 – 6:45 PM) Adult Bell Practice Midweek Lenten Service ; Offering: <i>Good Shepherd Church – Toledo</i> Acolytes: <i>Emersyn Gerken & Cal Bickel</i> Greeters: <i>Richard & Bev Elling</i> Ushers: <i>Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, David Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen</i> Altar Guild: <i>Mary Kay Rettig, Sandy Von Deylen, Kathy Badenhop</i> Adult Choir Practice
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>)
Fri.--	Sun.	All Ohio Basketball Tournament in Cleveland
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:00 PM	Worship Service with Communion following Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" 4-H Meetings
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Donald Luhring, St. John 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 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*, recovering from skin graft surgery for burns on his leg
- ❖ *Brooke Bostelman and grandparents Roger & Shirley Bostelman*, recovering in hospitals after receiving severe injuries in a car accident
- ❖ *AJ & Kara (Elling) Call*, on the birth of a daughter, Blair Lynn, on Wed., Feb. 26th



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS NEXT WEEKEND! Why can't we spring forward an hour on Friday afternoon instead? But reality is reality, and the government says that Daylight Saving Time this year begins **next Sunday morning, March 8, at 2:00 a.m.** So be sure to set those clocks forward an hour before you go to bed, and let's put a positive spin on this – **at least springing forward one hour gets us one hour closer to being together in God's house!**

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING – The list of the people for this year’s annual church cleaning are listed on the blue insert in today’s bulletin. Extra copies are also available on the narthex table. If you are on the list and feel you are not physically able to help with the cleaning for whatever reason, let your co-chair know and we’ll make a note of that. Thank you!

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 2/23/20	\$7,696.50	\$369.00	\$340.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 2/23/20 – 192

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE: \$932.00 – Church Vocation Students; Attendance: 104

Lent Midweek 2020

Can you imagine losing everything you have in the span of a single day – your business and livelihood and your family? One day you’re cruising along and life is good, and the next day everything is wiped out.

How would you feel about God if that happened to you? What would you say to God? Could you be as graceful in tragedy as was God’s servant Job?

Martin Luther asserted that the book of “*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 it becomes less like an eel and more like a loving companion through life’s dark valleys.

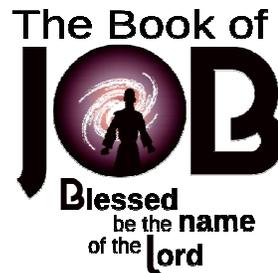
Lent Midweek Service II - Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Theme: “Sweet Surrender” (Job 1:13-22)

Offering: Good Shepherd Church for the Deaf, Toledo

To Prepare: Read Job 1:13-22 and consider the following questions:

- 1) Can you relate with Job’s catastrophes? How so?
- 2) What is the first thing Job did when he learned about his tragedies?
- 3) Why did Job bless God’s name? What name of God gives you courage and strength in your trials? Will you bless that name?



LENTEN SUPPERS: Each Wednesday the 6th thru 8th graders will host Lenten suppers. The students will be raising funds in support of their class trip to St. Louis in June of 2020. This week’s Lenten Supper menu is: *Baked Potato Bar, 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.

BIBLE STUDIES DURING LENT! 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, starting next Sunday. **This morning we go back to the beginning to find out what God says about who we are.** 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, **starting this Thursday**, 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! Please join us!

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

In the culture, we use the word “whatever” is 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 this Thursday (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.

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!



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 Niemann a call, and we’ll see what we can do!

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS: We are now taking orders for the various flowers to purchase “in memory of” or “in honor of” someone special in your life. Orchid order forms are inserted in today’s bulletin and are also 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 Monday, March 16th.** Don’t wait till the last minute! No late orders can be taken!

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!

NEXT, VBS VOLUNTEERS – Very soon we will begin the process of signing up volunteers for Vacation Bible School 2020. As in years past, we will need ‘Story Tellers’ to tell the day’s Bible story and to teach its lesson, aids to help the students memorize Bible verses, a craft coordinator and helpers, a snack coordinator and helpers, and an activities coordinator and helpers. We will also need some youth volunteers to help as guides to help groups of students get where they need to be, and to be general helpers. **Watch for the sign-up list soon!**



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.

POSITIONS TO FILL:

- ▶ **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 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.*

GRADES 3-5 ROUND ROBIN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT will be held here on Sat., March 14th with the first game starting at 9:00 AM. This is a one day boys & girls tournament hosted by St. John to benefit the *Bread From Heaven* Food Pantry here at St. John. As this tournament is benefiting the food pantry, volunteers from the congregation as well as the school are asked to sign up to help out that day. Concessions, referees and scoreboard help are always needed. Contact *Brad Rosebrook* at 419-966-3099 with questions.

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.**

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.

PTL COOKBOOKS – The "Recipes and Remembrances" cookbooks from PTL are still available for purchase. They have a very nice collection of great recipes in them and would make a neat gift for that "hard to buy" family member or friend. This is a PTL fundraiser and the cookbooks are available in the school office. The cost is \$10.00. If writing a check, please make it payable to: *St. John PTL*. We hope you enjoy it! Thank you for supporting the PTL!

AREA EVENTS:

- **PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST** – Ridgeville Volunteer Fire Dept., today with serving until 1:00 PM. Carryout available. See flyer!
- **SOUP & PIE LUNCHEON** – Genacross Lutheran – Napoleon Campus, Sun., Mar. 15th serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. See flyer!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

There will be no crown-bearers in heaven who were not cross-bearers on earth.

"Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:27