



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

March 8, 2020

VOL. 85

NO. 10

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

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "God's Promise, Our Hope" *Genesis 12:1-9*

Order of Service: *Morning Prayer (LSB pg. 235)*

Hymns: 798 ~ 732 ~ 918 (*sub for canticle*) ~ 794

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* ✘ Jack Buchhop & Devin Dietrich, *Acolytes* ✘
 ✘ Linda Meyer & Deb Durham, *Greeters* ✘
- ✘ Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, David Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Mary Kay Rettig, Sandy Von Deylen, Kathy Badenhop, *Altar Guild* ✘

A LIFELONG JOURNEY COMPLETED: Delora Winkelman, 99, was peacefully called home late Sunday, March 1st at Genacross Lutheran Home, Napoleon. Delora was the oldest member of St. John. Delora's funeral service was held on Sat., March 7, 2020 at 11:00 AM here at St. John. Burial was made in St. John Lutheran Cemetery following the service. Prayers go out to Delora's three daughters, Jane, Lois, and Joyce, along with their families.

THANK YOU ALL! I would like to thank everyone for the cards sent, the visits, and the prayers given during Shorty's illness and then passing. A special thanks to Pastor Niermann for the visits made to comfort Shorty. Thank you also to the Women of Freedom for preparing and serving the luncheon following the service. God's Blessing, *Mabel Btschoff*

In God's House This Week *Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl*

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:00 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" 4-H Meetings
Tue.	8:35 AM 12:35PM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Energy Agents Assembly in the gym Henry County Spelling Bee @ Holgate; Church Council Meeting
Wed.	5:00 PM 5:45 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Lenten Supper; NOTE time change to 5 PM (<i>see bulletin note</i>) Midweek Confirmation Class (5:45 – 6:45 PM) Adult Bell Practice Midweek Lenten Service ; Offering: <i>Filling Home – Napoleon Campus</i> Acolytes: <i>Parker Woods & Tayah Homan</i> Greeters: <i>Elmer & Pat Maassel</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>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Special Voters' Meeting; Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Lee Genter</i> , Christ Our Savior Lutheran – Defiance

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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, and Lester Rabe*
- ❖ *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
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Armed Services: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Willie Joost*, recovering from skin graft surgery for burns on his leg
- ❖ *Dale VonDeylen*, brother of Deb Durham and Dave VonDeylen, who is undergoing tests for cancer at the OSU hospital

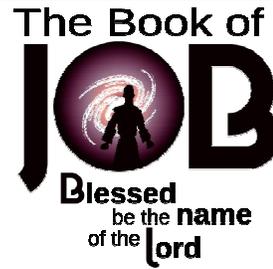
SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING: There will be a Special Voters' Meeting next Sun., March 15 after the worship service in the sanctuary. The only item of business will be to recommend issuing a call to Mrs. Haley (Gruenhagen) O'Neil to become our 3rd & 4th grade teacher for next school year.

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING – The list of the people for this year's annual church cleaning is 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!

Lent Midweek 2020

After all the tragedies that befell him in rapid succession, Job comes to the point in the third chapter where he curses the day of his birth and wishes he had never been born. “Why, why, why?” Job cries out. And can we fault the man for feeling this way? Have you ever felt that way?

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 III - Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Theme: “Learning to Lament” (Job 3:1-26)

Offering: Filling Home of Mercy, Napoleon

To Prepare: Read Job 3:1–26 and consider the following questions:

- 1) Five times in chapter three Job cries out “Why?” How can you relate?
- 2) Say what you will about this chapter, but at least Job let’s God know his feelings. How is this an important step towards healing?
- 3) Job laments, “What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me” (Job 3:25). What was Job’s greatest fear? What is your greatest fear? How will God help you if your fears, like Job’s, become facts?

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: *Chicken Pie, Salad, Bread, Dessert, and Drink*. Serving time is 5:00-6:30 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.

CHOICE DOLLARS TO DESIGNATE: Great news from our local Thrivent Rep. Doug Kossow! There are 2019 Thrivent Choice Dollars (*a sizable amount*) that have not been designated by members of our congregation. Even though it's 2020, your 2019 dollars can still be designated until March 31, 2020. **TODAY** Thrivent Reps Doug & Tyler Kossow will have a table set up in the side hallway to assist those Thrivent members to designate their Choice Dollars to the church, school, or preschool.

Not sure if you have Choice Dollars to designate? Stop by to find out! If you are not able to stop, you can call the Thrivent office in Ridgeville Corners at 419-267-0113 to designate your dollars.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM MEETING: The next Women of Freedom meeting will be held on Tues., March 17th at 7:00 PM. Come join us and help serve the Lord here at St. John. Hope to see of you there! NOTE: The LWML Quarterly Odes are also available on the narthex table.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 03/01/20	\$8,323.50	\$179.00	\$575.00

ATTENDANCE: 210

2ND LENTEN SERVICE: \$851.00 – Good Shepherd Church for Deaf; Attendance: 100

MEMORIALS for *Willie Gerken*: \$3,495.00 to St. John Lutheran Church – Home Fund; \$90.00 to St. John Endowment Fund; \$50.00 to St. John School Library

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, 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, 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.

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!

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS: Order deadline is Monday, March 16th. 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 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. Don’t wait till the last minute! No late orders can be taken!

NEXT UP...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!**



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.

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!**

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.

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.*

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.
- ▶ **JANITOR:** St. John Lutheran School is seeking a part time janitor for the 2020-2021 school year. This position requires working on Mon, Wed, Fri, or as needed to maintain a well-kept, sanitary facility. A list of janitor duties is available upon request from the school office. If you are interested or would like further information about the position please contact the school office at 419-598-8702.

KINDERGARTEN HALF DAY! Please note that on Tues., March 31st (*the day of the K-garten Clinic*), the Kindergarten class will dismiss at 11:30 AM. Please make pick up arrangements at that time for your child on March 31st. Thank you!

GRADES 3-5 ROUND ROBIN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT has been cancelled due to lack of participating teams.

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!

SAVE THE DATE: St. John School will once again be participating in the **Hawks Pizza & Drive Thru Community Days fundraiser. The date is Sat., April 18, 2020.** 10% of that entire day's food sales will be donated back to St. John School. We were a part of this fundraiser last year and were given the opportunity again. We thank Hawks Pizza for thinking of us again. Plan you day around pizza, subs, pasta, salads, etc.

AREA EVENTS:

- **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...

To err is human, 'tis true, but it can be overdone.

“No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.” 1 John 3:9