



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

January 24, 2021

VOL. 86 NO. 4
Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339
Church Website: www.sjl.org

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon Title & Text: "Hold Lightly the Things of This World?" *1 Corinthians 7:29-35*

Order of Service: Matins (*LSB pg. 219*)

Hymns: 732 ~ 730 ~ 941 ~ 839

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. Simply fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the basket in the narthex as you leave.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠

✠ Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, Dave Von Deylen, Dennis Showman, *Ushers* ✠

✠ Diane Von Deylen, Lou Ann Rosebrock, *Altar Guild* ✠



PTL SOUP & PIE DINNER (cancelled) – The PTL Soup & Pie Dinner scheduled for today had to be cancelled this year. PTL is working on coming up with an alternate menu for a future drive-thru meal they will plan to offer. Please keep watching the bulletin for future information.

2020 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – The 2020 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, *Mary Kossow* at 419-599-0011.

COVID-19 MEASURES – The two most important things we can do to prevent the spread of viruses are 1) social distancing, and 2) wearing a mask when entering and exiting the building, and when singing or speaking. Masks can be removed during longer periods of listening, such as Scripture readings, sermon, prayers, etc.

In God's House This Week *Online church calendar: <https://74058984.view-events.com>*

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 4:00 PM	♦ ♦ National Lutheran Schools Week ♦ ♦ Worship Service Jr/Sr High LYF Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	8:35 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	School Chapel led by <i>Kevin Creutz</i> , Supt. Ohio District Lutheran Schools B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls; 6:00 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys @ Monclova Christian Shepherd Committee Board of Elders
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship
Sat.	12:00PM 12:00PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 1:00 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys; 2:00 PM Gr. 4-6 Girls @ St. Mary's – Edgerton Gr. 7&8 Co-ed Team @ Put-In-Bay
Sun.	9:00 AM	Worship Service
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Willie Stottlemyer</i> , St. Stephen Lutheran – Defiance

FOR THOSE LISTENING FROM THE PARKING LOT

Pick up your bulletin and service by driving through the carport before worship

You can give your offering to the deacon at the same time

Tune your FM radio to 87.7

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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, and Annetta Rosebrock*
- ❖ *Melba Elling and Lorna Von Deylen*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs and Ruth Mahnke*, at Assisted Living – Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Harold Behrmann*, at Fulton Manor, Wauseon
- ❖ *Donald Badenhop*, at Vancrest Nursing Care Facility, Holgate
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Armed Services: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, Seth Handy, Jared Dishop*
- ❖ *Sue Hurst, Rev. Logan Scheiwe, Sharon Badenhop, and Phyllis Silveus*, for issues related to cancer
- ❖ *Marian Dickmann*, recuperating at home after a recent fall
- ❖ *Crew Gerken*, born prematurely and in the NICU at Riverside Hospital, Columbus
- ❖ *Rev. Robert Nemoyer*, at Indian Meadows – Wauseon (*formerly Heartland*) for rehab
- ❖ *Peter Gerken*, who will be having prostate surgery on *Tues., Jan.26 at Parkview–Ft Wayne, IN*

VOTERS' MEETING is scheduled for Sunday, February 21, 2021 after worship in the fellowship hall. On the agenda will be: 1) Report on the St. John Endowment fund; 2) Annual School Report; 3) Audit Committee Report.

SCRIPTURES THIS DAY – Third Sunday after Epiphany

The Scriptures for the Third Sunday after the Epiphany build on Jesus calling Philip and Nathanael (*John 1:43–51*) last week to His calling Simon, Andrew, James, and John. This is the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry, but already He is calling the men who will continue and complete His work. The concept of the call is a powerful connection between this *Gospel* lesson and the *Old Testament Reading* from Jonah. We read, "Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, 'Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you'" (*Jonah 3:1–2*). When the Ninevites hear God's call to repentance through Jonah, they put on sackcloth and ashes and weep in repentance, and "God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it" (3:10). In *Epistle* we hear the call of Christ's Apostle to undivided loyalty to the Lord. These are always God's ultimate intentions when He calls us to repentance—whether through Jonah, John the Baptist, Paul, Jesus himself, or pastors whom Christ continues to call to His ministry today.

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK: Jan. 25 – Jan. 29, 2021

Next Sunday we will celebrate *National Lutheran Schools Sunday* with the national theme this year, "**Sent to Serve**," inspired by our theme verse, "*Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*" (*Matt 20:28*) Join us this week in prayer for our school ministry and for all who teach, learn and serve within these walls.

National Lutheran Schools Week provides the network of 1,900 LCMS preschools, elementary schools and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work in Lutheran schools. In this, Lutheran schools thank God for the opportunity to provide excellent academic preparation for the children they serve and for the opportunity to share Jesus' amazing love with students and their families. National Lutheran Schools Week gives schools the ability to proclaim these great blessings within the communities they serve. Lutheran schools are amazing incubators for the faithful witness of God's love through Christ by teachers and students alike.



NLSW ACTIVITIES: In celebration of National Lutheran Schools Week, Dave Kleck from WNDH radio station will be recording radio spots from students at St. John on Thurs., Jan. 21st. Students will tell why they like attending St. John Lutheran School. These will be broadcast over WNDH 103.1 FM during Nat'l Lutheran Schools Week (Jan. 25-29).

2020 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – It's time to start getting ready for the 2020 Annual Report. The various organization secretaries are asked to write up a summary of the year's activities and the treasurers of the different organizations are asked to submit their yearly financial report. **Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers by Sun., Feb. 28.**

Also, if you've moved, eliminated your landline phone, or have a new phone number, contact the church office or make a note of it on a *Rite of Fellowship Card* and drop it in one of the baskets in the narthex to help us keep our records as up-to-date as possible.

MORE COPIES OF MY DEVOTIONS for December, January, and February are available on the desk in the back of the church. Pick up your copy today!

Countdown to Sunday School

Because of Covid-19 it's been a long time since the children and adults of St. John have gathered on a regular basis for Sunday morning Christian education. **However, plans are in place to resume both Sunday School and Adult Bible Study in February.**



- **FOUR WEEKS TO SUNDAY SCHOOL!** We will kick off Sunday School on **Sunday, February 21st** in the fellowship hall with a **JUNIOR JAVA JOY for the returning students**. There will be snacks and drinks, all commercially packaged for safety. As in the schools, students will wear masks and maintain social distancing. We will begin the session with a combined opening during which we will begin practicing a song or hymn for worship later on. We will then split into two groups, grades K-3 and 4-6 for our first lesson on the Creation.
- **FOUR WEEKS TO 'THE LAMP' YOUTH BIBLE CLASS!** Also on **February 21st** the youth will gather again for a Sunday study. We will be blessed to gather in our new youth facility across the road. Join us, and invite a friend!
- **FIVE WEEKS TO ADULT BIBLE CLASS!** Because of the Voters' Meeting on 21st, this class will resume the following **Sunday on February 28th**. We will meet in the sanctuary for the time being. Our new study is titled, "**PROVOKING PROVERBS.**" If you learned a proverb from your parents, such as, "Two wrongs don't make a right," and still remember it, you understand the power of a proverb to stick in the mind and to impact our lives. The Bible **PROVERBS** are the same – pithy, memorable and often fun little sayings of wisdom that we can apply to our walk with Christ. We'll find all kinds of Proverbs to help us keep God's commands and to take "every thought captive" to Christ, (2 Cor. 10:5) like this proverb: "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." (4:23)

A Lenten FAST from something that distracts you from God is a great spiritual exercise, but a Lenten FEAST on the Word of God is another great way to commemorate Lent. Your life of faith will definitely be enriched in Sunday School and Bible study. JOIN US, PLEASE!

MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS RETURNS TO THE 7-8 GRADE CLASSROOM. Class is conducted each Wednesday evening from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. Parents can drop off their students at the double doors closest to the classroom.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 01/17/21	\$7,448.00	\$115.00	\$530.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 36; Sunday – 126

MEMORIALS for *Lester Rabe* (adjusted amount): SJL Endowment - \$2,225

THREE WAYS TO GIVE YOUR REGULAR OFFERING

- Deposit your offering in the narthex when you come to worship, or if you're listening to the FM broadcast, give your offering to the usher or deacon when they hand you your bulletin.
- Use the '**Give Now**' online giving page – a link (the blue button) is on our website.
- Mail your offering to the church.

LYF SUPER BOWL SUB SALE! It's that time of year again! Why not help out the church's Youth Group as well? On Sunday, February 7th, they will be selling Super Bowl subs to help raise money for their trip to the National Youth Gathering in 2022. Each sub costs \$3.00 (*or 4 for \$10.00*) and will contain salami, bologna, ham, white cheese, and yellow cheese on a 6" sub bun. To place your order, please fill out a pre-order form (inserted in today's bulletin) and place it in the basket at the back of the church or bring it to the church office by Monday, February 1st. Orders can also be made on the link on the St. John Church Facebook page. Subs will be available for pick up after church on February 7th until 11 AM via a drive-thru pick up similar to what was done for the Ice Cream Social. Payment will be due at the time of pick up. Checks made out to St. John LYF. Thank you for supporting our LYF!

LYF MEETING (date changed): The LYF will be getting together today at 4:00 PM. As of now, the plan is to meet in the new Youth Center. We will be talking/brainstorming about more ideas for our area as well as have a small Bible Study. We will also be discussing the Super Bowl Sub Sale for this year. This meeting is for both Jr. High (*6th-8th grade*) and Sr. High (*9th-college*) youth. Please keep in mind that if Henry County is still considered a "Level 3" (red) according to the Health Department, we will not be meeting in person but will meet on Zoom instead. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Miss Bartok.



VBS PLANNING TO BEGIN – Yes, it's time to start thinking about *Vacation Bible School* for this year. VBS has been tentatively scheduled for June 7-11. The first order of business is to identify and **VBS DIRECTOR** to help lead the way in this ministry to our children. If you would be interested in serving the little ones in this way, please speak with Pastor Niermann.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE – HELP WITH SANCTUARY TECHNOLOGY

- **Have you got a 'knack' for technology? Have you ever considered that 'knack' to be a gift of God that can be used in service to Him and His people?** We could use some help in worship with the sound board and with video recordings and uploading.
- And while we're at it, **we could also use some volunteers to help as "slide clickers" to advance worship slides during services.** This task does not require any technical skills, just the ability to press a button on a remote control.

Please think and pray about it, and get the word out, and we'll begin signing up people soon, and will then provide training. These are wonderful ways to serve!

OPTIONS FOR HOLY COMMUNION DURING COVID - During this time of pandemic, we are making Holy Communion available in the following ways:

- **Thursday evening Communion services** prior to first and third Sundays
- **First and Third Sundays each month** – in the Sanctuary, and drive-thru after the service
- **Second Sundays** – after the service in the sanctuary



Drive-thru Communion is on the first and third Sundays for those who have participated in the Divine Service from the parking lot.

ST. JOHN REGISTRATION OPEN HOUSE – An **Open House** is planned for grade levels (PS-8) at St. John School for Wednesday evening, **February 3rd, 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. If anyone in the congregation might know of prospective students for Grades PS-8, be sure to pass this information to them.

PRESCHOOL:

- **ENROLLMENT FOR PRESCHOOL:** The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2021-22 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. We will be opening the registration up to the public as of Feb. 2, 2021, so be sure to register soon. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration.
- **TUITION** – Here are the School Board approved rates for the 2021-2022 school year:
3-yr old Preschool - \$80/month; 4/5-yr old Preschool - \$210/month.

OFFERING BOXES – Be sure to only use your 2021 envelopes. Please discard your 2020 envelopes to save confusion for the Finance Trustees. If you did not receive a 2021 box of envelopes but would like one, please contact *Jerry Langenhop* (419-598-8151).

NEW ALTAR GUILD (pink) & USHER (blue) SCHEDULES: The 2021 Altar Guild and Usher Schedules are available and can be picked up at the narthex table. Thanks again to all who are willing to be of service to the Lord through St. John. You are a blessing!

WOMEN OF FREEDOM PROGRAM BOOKLETS – The Program Booklets for 2021 are on the narthex table. Pick yours up today! Be sure to check to see what month you are on for serving.

LWML: All women of the church are considered members of the LWML – active or inactive. The Ohio District Edition (ODEs) containing news pertaining to our area can be picked up on the table at the rear of church. Editions of the LWML Quarterly are available in the rack.

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.

USE OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL – If you would like to use the Fellowship Hall for any occasion, **please contact the church/school office at 419-598-8961 or 419-598-8702**. In addition to calling the office, you may want to check the online master calendar at <https://74058984.view-events.com> (*you can also link to it from www.sjl.org*).

✘ ✘ ✘

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

There are two essentials to happiness: someone to love and something to do.

“Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.” (John 14:21)