



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

February 28, 2021

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SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "With Purpose, On Purpose" *Mark 8:27-38*
Order of Service: *See printed Order of Service*
Hymns: [Baptisms: Borning Cry, 744] ~ 688 ~ 784

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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘
- ✘ Tim Badenhop, Dave Myles, Denny Bockelman, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Karen Lulfs, Kaylee Buchhop, Ronda Wentworth, Karan Niebergall, *Altar Guild* ✘

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND – This morning we rejoice with two families who are celebrating the baptisms of their small children.

- **Blair Lynn Call** is the infant daughter of AJ & Kara (*Elling*) Call, was baptized yesterday morning in a family gathering ceremony. Blair was born on February 26 in Oregon, Ohio. Her baptismal sponsors are Josh & Kristina Elling. Her grandparents are Mark & Brenda Elling, Grayling & Michelle Call, and Deneen Dilworth.
- **Lennon Ann Myles** and **Breckyn Layna Myles**, twin daughters of Jordan & Allison Myles, are being baptized this morning in our worship gathering. They were born on December 18 at the Toledo Hospital. Their baptismal sponsors are Kipp & McKenzie (*Myles*) McCann. Their grandparents are Dave & Sara Myles, James Grooms and Susan Totter.

Through baptism God is beginning a good work in these children. We pray that His work may come to completion through the faithful nurturing of their Christian faith in the home and family, and in the church, that these children would be saved for the heavenly kingdom along with all of Christ's baptized, believing followers.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Tue.	8:35 AM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	School Chapel School Board Meeting Stewardship Board Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class
Thurs.	6:30 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM	Men's Lenten Bible Study Breakfast Women's Lenten Bible Study (<i>see bulletin note</i>) Lenten Worship Service; Offering: <i>Filling Home – Napoleon Campus</i> Ushers: <i>Denny Von Deylen, Dan Wiechers, Dave Badenhop, Jerry Short</i> Altar Guild: <i>Karen Germann, Mary Kossow, Diana Kruse</i>
Fri.--	Sun.	All Ohio Basketball Tournament here at St. John - Freedom
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:30AM	Communion Service All-Ohio Tournament Service
Mon.-Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Dale Kern</i> , Retired, St. John Lutheran – Stryker

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: *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*, and *Jared Dishop*
- ❖ *Phyllis Silveus*, *Sue Hurst*, *Rev. Logan Scheiwe*, *Eileen Fitzenreiter*, and *Patty Badenhop*, for health concerns relating to cancer
- ❖ *Crew Gerken*, born prematurely and in the NICU at Riverside Hospital, Columbus
- ❖ *Clara Meyer*, home and recuperating from her recent fall
- ❖ *Norma Damman*, recuperating at Genacross Lutheran Home after a recent fall
- ❖ *Dean Badenhop and his family*, as they grieve the sudden passing of Dean's wife, Sharon. May God surround them with His grace, and we with our love and support! Sharon's funeral will be held here on Tues., March 2nd at 1:00 PM.

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.

BIRTHING NEWS:

- ♥ Congratulations to *Brandon & Kayla Jackman* on the birth of their little boy, **Connor Michael**, on Fri., Feb. 19th at Fulton County Health Center, Wauseon. Mother and baby are doing very good and are adjusting to new little baby sounds in their house. Big sister, Kenlee, is very excited to be able to help out...and we know grandparents Dave & Teresa Damman will be making many trips across the section to sneak in lots and lots of hugs. Congrats!
- ♥ And more congratulations go out to *Ben & Michelle Weddelman*, as they welcome little **Henry William** into their family. Henry arrived safe and sound on Mon., Feb. 22nd at Defiance ProMedica Hospital. Mother and baby are doing very good and will have lots and lots of help at home with siblings Ryan, Lucy, and Kate. Grandparents Randy & Lou Ann Rosebrock are looking forward to many hugs and kisses from all the Weddelman grandchildren. Congrats!

PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES ARE HERE! Yes, you read that correctly!!! Those of you who had your pictures taken or if you submitted photos to be put into the directory can pick up your copy with your name on it at the table in the narthex after the service. They are laid out alphabetically. The committee cannot begin to thank everyone of you for your patience thru this experience. They hope you like the finished product.

NEXT SUNDAY - EXTRA WORSHIP SERVICE

WITH GUESTS OF THE ALL-OHIO TOURNAMENT

Next weekend, March 5-7, our school is hosting the annual *All-Ohio Basketball Tournament* that brings together Lutheran schools from across Ohio for a weekend of competition and fellowship. **That Sunday, March 7, we will have a special second worship service at 10:30 a.m.** so that we can invite all of our tournament guests who are in town to join us in worship at either of the services. **So next Sunday, let's give our guests a warm and hearty St. John welcome!**



NEW FACILITY NAME – As of last Sunday at our voters' meeting, the old school has received a new name that reflects its new use for ministry. That new name is...

St. John Youth & Family Center

The youth will have primary use of the entire building, but the east room will also be available for family events **IF** they do not conflict with anything the youth have scheduled. The east room is equipped with tables and chairs and a large TV and sound bar with internet connectivity. Soon there should be a serving counter in the east room as well.

Thanks again to everyone who has donated for this project or lent a hand to perform actual work. It is a tremendous blessing to be able to provide this long-needed facility for our youth especially. Stay tuned for information about a dedication sometime later when the weather turns warmer and the exterior of the building is complete.

MY DEVOTIONS for March, April, and May are available this Sunday on the desk in the back of the church. Pick up your copy today! If you know of someone who would enjoy these, take one for them.

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING – Not to disappoint anyone again, but the Annual Church Cleaning will not be held at this time. Stay tuned for a possible summer time cleaning schedule to be arranged depending on where things are at with Covid by that time.

NEW ARCHIVES DISPLAY: The Archives Committee has a new display with pictures of the students and teachers of St. John School for the 2020-2021 school year. Also, in the spirit of the basketball tournament season, the committee has displayed programs from the National Lutheran Tournament from the years 1990, 1998 and 1999. There are familiar names listed whose children are currently playing on the St. John basketball teams. Sending a big “Thank You” to Tom Von Deylen for his donation of old tournament programs and scorebooks to the Archives Committee.

Sunday School Has Restarted

Because of Covid-19 it's been a long time since the children have gathered on a regular basis for Sunday School, but last Sunday we got it up and running again.



- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** for the children meets in the fellowship hall. 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.
- **'THE LAMP' YOUTH BIBLE STUDY** meets on Sunday mornings in the *Youth and Family Center* across the road. Youth may head over after worship to join Sharon Damman for the study of God's Word together as we apply His Word to our lives in this day and age. Please join us! "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and light unto my path." *Psa 119:105*
- **ADULT BIBLE STUDY WILL NOT MEET THIS MORNING!** Because of the special tournament service next Sunday, we didn't want to start a new Bible study one Sunday and have to pause the very next Sunday. **Adult Sunday Bible class will therefore resume on Sunday, March 14 in the sanctuary!**

Our new study is titled, **"PROVOKING PROVERBS."** If you learned a proverb from your parents, such as, "A chain is only as strong as its weakest link," 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)

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 02/21/21	\$9,900.00	\$185.00	\$865.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – N/A; Sunday – 141

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE: \$882.00 – Church Vocation Students; Attendance: 70

Lent Midweek 2021

“Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster” (Joel 2:13). God’s invitation and promise finds its fullness in Jesus Christ, who personified and accomplishes all that God declares. Follow different events during the Passion, specifically focusing on the people that followed Christ, to see how God calls His people to return to Him.



WEEKLY THEME

- Ash Wednesday: Call to Return
- Lent 2: Return to Prayer
- **Lent 3: Return from Betrayal**
- Lent 4: Return from False Witness
- Lent 5: Return from Denial
- Lent 6: Return from the Kingdom of God
- Maundy Thursday: Return to the Table
- Good Friday: Return to the Church
- Easter Sunrise: Return and See

OFFERING DESIGNATIONS

St. John Church Vocation Students
Good Shepherd Lutheran for the Deaf
Filling Home of Mercy, Napoleon
National Youth Gathering
Lutheran Hour Broadcast
Worship Anew TV program
Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty
Home Fund
Home Fund

Lenten Midweek services are on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Lent Bible Study Opportunities for Men and Women

- **MEN'S LENTEN BIBLE BREAKFAST** – Each Thursday during Lent the men are invited to join us for a breakfast Bible study at 6:30 a.m. We gather in the fellowship hall for one hour, which should give you give time to get on your way with whatever your day may hold. It's a great way to commemorate Lent, to enjoy fellowship, to grow in God's Word, and to enjoy a really good breakfast! **Please join us!**



- **WOMEN'S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY** – Join your sisters in Christ each Thursday morning during Lent for our Bible study, “**Be Thou My Guide.**” We’ll look at the examples of biblical figures who work on growing their trust in the Lord. From Moses to Mary, we look at their circumstances and responses to learn how to stand firm and draw close to Jesus. **Join us this Thurs., March 4th at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room next to Pastor’s study.** Masks will be required when entering and leaving the building.



LENTEN DEVOTIONS FROM L.H.M. – Lutheran Hour Ministries has made available their 2021 Lenten Devotions, on the theme, "The Mark of Love." In these devotions we read of Jesus’ unwavering love for mankind. Sent by the Father, His Son’s mission and ministry was to call us “out of darkness into His marvelous light.” This God has done through His Son. He took our sin and sorrow to the cross of Calvary, and rising on the third day, crowns all believers with the gift of forgiveness and eternal life. Several booklets have been printed (some in large print) and are available on the narthex table. Pick up your copy and make these devotions part of your daily household routine!

PLUMBING PARTS NEEDED IN TEXAS

– The Texas District of the LC-MS reports that after the recent deep-freeze in Texas, homes and churches are in need of plumbing supplies especially, or monetary donations to help pay for repairs. If you would like to make a gift, you may do so online at <http://txlcms.org/donate>. 100% of funds received will bless the ministries and churches in need. **Another option is to actually send plumbing supplies.** A list of needed supplies and the address for the warehouse where they will be stored are available on an informational sheet located on the table in the narthex. Thank you for anything you can do to help.



BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR LUTHERAN HOUR

MINISTRY (LHM) – LHM would like to have an ambassador in each congregation. The task is simple and rewarding for both the ambassador and the congregation. It involves...

- ...reading a monthly email about new product and program information, and sharing the information with the congregation;
- ...participation in an annual virtual training event from wherever you are;
- ...possibly leading congregational activities such as book clubs, “Gospel Adventure Groups,” Bible studies, etc.



When you sign up to become an Ambassador, you will receive a welcome package with some unique gifts to help keep you connected to LHM. Please speak with Pastor Niermann if you are interested.

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.

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!

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.

LWML NOTE: The LWML Zone President is asking for donations of washable markers and coloring books to be taken to the National Convention from the Ohio LWML District. One of the service events at the Convention is to pack school kits. The coloring books are for younger children. Anyone wishing to donate items may place them in the designated collection container that is placed in the narthex.

ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES: You may begin ordering SCRIP. Order forms are available on the narthex table and also in the “School Info” rack outside the office. Please turn those orders in on Wednesdays, with payment to *St. John School PTL Scrip Program*. The gift cards will be sent home the following week on Tuesday. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

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 have opened the registration up to the public as of Feb. 2, 2021. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration. The School Board approved rates for the 2021-2022 school year are: 3-yr old Preschool - \$80/month; 4/5-yr old Preschool - \$210/month.

ALTAR FLOWERS: For anyone wishing to place flowers on the altar or piano for a certain Sunday worship, please sign up on the “Flower Calendar” posted in the narthex. Then about two weeks before that date, please contact *Mabel Bischoff* at 419-598-8757. **NOTE:** **The price for flowers through the Women of Freedom is \$21.00.** Please make checks payable to Women of Freedom. Remember that it is your responsibility to call Mabel either way; if you would like the Women of Freedom to order the flowers or if you are going to take care of ordering the flowers yourself. This will alleviate any confusion.

DRIVE-THRU PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST: The Ridgeville Township Fire & Rescue will be hosting their annual Pancake & Sausage Breakfast on Sun., March 7th with serving from 7:00AM to 1:00PM. **This will be a “drive-thru only” breakfast** and will be held at the Ridgeville American Legion. It will be free will donation, with proceeds towards fire and rescue Equipment.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

This too shall pass. It may pass like a kidney stone, but it *will* pass!

“My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” (Exodus 33:14)