

St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

March 7, 2021

VOL. 86 NO. 10
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 IN LENT

9:00 a.m. Worship and 10:30 a.m. All Ohio Tournament Service – See printed Service Folder

Guest Preacher: Rev. Gary Bernath, Retired
Hymns: **871 ~ 429** ~ “Teach Us, Jesus, How to Serve”, ~
[Communion: **629,973,425**] ~ “Sent to Serve”

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS *“God himself is present. Let us now adore him, and with awe appear before him.”
The High and Holy One comes to his people, granting peace and strength to every yearning heart. 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 are visiting with us, know that we are honored to welcome you. Please register your attendance by filling out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop in the baskets at the door as you leave today.*



SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠
- ✠ Denny Von Deylen, Dan Wiechers, Dave Badenhop, Jerry Short, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karen Germann, Mary Kossow, Diana Kruse, *Altar Guild* ✠

GONE TOO SOON! On Wed., Feb. 24, 2021, our sister in Christ, Sharon Badenhop, 63, passed away suddenly at St. V’s Hospital in Toledo. Sharon’s funeral was held here at St. John on Tues., March 2nd at 1:00 PM. Sharon was laid to rest in St. John Lutheran Cemetery. Please continue to keep Dean, Stefanie (Jerry) Hilvers, Lori (John) Linebaugh, and Brian (Rebecca Bruner), along with Sharon’s grandchildren, her parents, and siblings in your daily prayers as endure this difficult time.

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 10:30AM 1:00 PM	Communion Service All-Ohio Tournament Service w/communion All-Ohio Tournament Championship Games
Tue.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Church Council Meeting
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>National Youth Gathering</i> Ushers: <i>Dennis Showman, Dave Von Deylen, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling</i> Altar Guild: <i>Karen Germann, Mary Kossow, Diana Kruse</i>
Sun.	2:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:30AM	Daylight Saving Time begins Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.-Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Stephen Niermann, St. John Lutheran – Napoleon</i>

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: *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
- ❖ *Norma Damman*, recuperating at Genacross Lutheran Home after a recent fall
- ❖ *Renetta Homan*, who transitioned to Genacross Lutheran Home this past week



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 14, 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!**

WELCOME ALL OHIO PARTICIPANTS – It is our privilege and joy to welcome brothers and sisters in Christ from across the state of Ohio who are here today for the **2021 All Ohio Lutheran Basketball Tournament**. The following schools have teams playing in the tournament this year:

Bethany, Parma St. Paul, Napoleon
St. Paul, Westlake St. John, Marysville
St. John, Freedom



Congratulations to all the players and coaches for your accomplishments this season, and best of luck to the teams competing in the championship games today beginning at 1:00 pm.

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 at the tables in the narthex after the service. Please feel free to take (and deliver) any family member directories so they can enjoy this directory too. The committee cannot begin to thank you for your patience thru this experience. They hope you like the finished product.

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 RESUME NEXT SUNDAY (Mar. 14)**
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)

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.

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 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.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 02/28/21	\$7,662.00	\$125.00	\$225.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 122

THURSDAY LENTEN #2 SERVICE: \$530.00 – Good Shepherd Church – Toledo; Attendance: 66

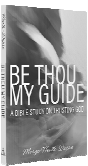
REMAINING LENT MIDWEEK SERVICES ON THURSDAYS – Please remember that our Lenten services this year **will be held on Thursday evenings** and not on Wednesdays.

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 11th at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room next to Pastor's study.** Masks will be required when entering and leaving the building.



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.

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!

CHOICE DOLLARS TO DESIGNATE: Great news for Thrivent Financial members. There are still 2020 Thrivent Choice Dollars that have not been designated by members of our congregation. Even though it’s 2021, your 2020 dollars can still be designated until March 31, 2021. Not sure if you have Choice Dollars to designate? Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to determine your Choice Dollars amount. Or you can call Doug Kossow or Tyler Kossow at the Thrivent office in Ridgeville Corners at 419-267-0113 to find out!

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.

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!

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.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT: 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 are now 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. 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.

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.**

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!

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!

CHURCH LIBRARY – The church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary, is growing to contain a lot of excellent books that will edify your faith. The books in this library have been screened to assure that they are true to the Word of God and can be trusted to be theologically sound. Please check out the selection. To borrow a book, just take it with you, and then return it to the basket when you've finished reading.

SWISS STEAK DINNER: The Ridgeville American Legion is hosting a **Drive-Thru Swiss Steak Dinner on Sun., March 14th** with serving from 11:00 AM until sold out. On the menu: Swiss Steak, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Corn, Roll, Dessert. This will be held at the Legion Hall on County Road 19. The cost is \$10. Hope to see you there!

✘ ✘ ✘

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil – there's no point to it.

"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Everything is meaningless." (Eccl 1:2)



Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane.