



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

February 20, 2022

VOL. 87

NO. 8

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Service: See printed Service Folder
Sermon: "In Joseph's Shoes" *Genesis 45:8*
Hymns: **814 ~ 719 ~ [Communion: 771, 620, 793] ~ 651 ~ 411**

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. If you do not have a local church home, we extend a warm invitation to you to become a part of our church family. Please 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

- ✧ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✧ Addison Naveau, Peyton Naveau, *Acolytes* ✧
- ✧ Denny Bockelman, Tim Badenhop, Dave Myles, *Ushers* ✧
- ✧ Kaylee Buchhop, Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, Karan Niebergall, *Altar Guild* ✧

ADULT BIBLE STUDY THIS MORNING

Provoking Proverbs • Eighth Commandment

Mark Twain once said, "A lie can travel around the world and back again while the truth is lacing up its boots." His observation speaks to the great destruction the tongue is capable of doing to our neighbor. In fact, the **Eighth Commandment of our God is perhaps one of the most difficult for us to master.** As St. James says, we use our tongues both to praise God and to tear down our fellow human beings whom God made in His image. The tongue *"is a restless evil,"* he writes! (*James 3:8*)



Join us this morning as the *Proverbs provoke us* to tame our tongues, and to use them to build up one another. **Each session is a study unto itself, so don't feel like you shouldn't come if you weren't there for previous sessions.** Bible Study is a wonderful time of growth in God's Word and of Christian fellowship. **Oh, and we have coffee too!**

| In God's House This Week | | Online church calendar: https://74058984.view-events.com |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Date | Time | Activities |
| Today | 9:00AM 10:20AM | Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "Lamp" Youth Group |
| Mon. | 9:00 AM | NO SCHOOL – President's Day observed Ladies All Day Blanket Knotting (see bulletin note) |
| Tues. | 8:35 AM | School Chapel |
| Wed. | 6:15 PM | Jr High Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>) |
| Sun. | 9:00AM 10:20AM | Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "Lamp" Youth Group |
| Mon.- Sat. | 7:30 AM | Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM |

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:

- ❖ *Melba Elling, Lorna Von Deylen, Norma Damman, Evelyn Rohrs*, at Genacross – Napoleon
- ❖ *Ruth Mahnke*, at Assisted Living – Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Hildegard Behrmann*, at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ *Military: Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Jared Dishop, Jordan Lange*
- ❖ *Esther Layton, Florence Jones, Robin Showman, Sue Hurst, Eileen Fitzenreiter*, and *Don Lawrence*, for health concerns relating to cancer
- ❖ Those recovering from struggles related to Covid, especially Denny Damman and Linda Meyer
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, at Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky, and recently diagnosed with lung cancer
- ❖ *Bill Von Deylen*, recuperating at home now after his recent hospitalization
- ❖ *Eric & Faith Wiechers*, on the birth of their daughter, Davis Anna Wiechers, on Mon., Feb. 14th at Defiance Promedica Women's Center

BIRTHING NEWS:

- ♥ Congratulations to *Scott & Megan (Badenhop) Bostelman* on the birth of their little boy, **Brooks Monroe**, on Tues., Feb. 15th at Henry County Hospital, Napoleon. Mother and baby are doing very well and big brother, Beau will soon have a farming buddy to play with. We know grandparents, Neil & Anita Badenhop and Rod & Jeri Bostelman will be making many visits to sneak in lots and lots of hugs. Congrats to Scott & Megan!
- ♥ And more congratulations for *Michael & Sam Cohrs*, as they welcome a new daughter, **Peyton Pamela**, into their family. Peyton was born at Defiance Promedica Women's Center on Wed., Feb. 16th. Peyton was then transferred to Toledo Children's Hospital for precautionary measures, is doing much better, and could be home by now. Sam has been discharged, is doing well, and enjoying lots of "cuddle time" with Peyton. Big brother, Axel, is excited to have a new sister; and grandparents, Randy & Lou Ann Rosebrock will be making the short drive on SR108 to give hugs to their newest grandbaby. Congrats to the Cohrs family!

THANK YOU to my sisters and brothers in Christ for all of your expressions of concern, your assurances of prayer, and your cards these past few weeks. I thank God for all of you! I am feeling good, and with a new lease on life, I am eager to continue serving among you. God be praised for each new day that He gives us! *Pastor Niermann*



SPECIAL MUSICAL OFFERING NEXT SUNDAY – Next Sunday as we commemorate the *Transfiguration of Our Lord*, it will be our joy and pleasure to welcome professional violinist, **Mrs. Morgan Maassel**, to St. John. Morgan is the wife of Skyler Maassel, and the daughter-in-law of Mike & Tana Maassel. Morgan and Skyler reside in Nashville, TN.

BAPTISM NEXT SUNDAY – Next Sunday we will rejoice to witness the baptism of **Mack Robert Buchhop**, infant son of *Nathan & Kaylee (Wentworth) Buchhop*. Join this couple in celebrating the new birth of their son into the family of God!

LEND A HAND! The February 21st *Women of Freedom* meeting will be held at Quilter's Hide-Away, on South Perry St., Napoleon beginning at 9:00 AM. The agenda will be a short devotion, tying blankets and a pizza lunch. All Freedom ladies are welcome to enjoy a morning of good company while helping fill a need. (Please mask if not fully vaccinated.)

ARCHIVES DISPLAY: The Archives Committee has a new display up with the pictures of the students and teachers for the school year 2021-2022. This display includes both of the preschool classes too. Be sure to stop down the side hallway and check it out.



TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY is next Sunday! This Sunday, which highlights the divine glory of Christ, is the culmination of the Epiphany season, but also the transition to the Lenten season. From the Mount of Transfiguration Jesus makes His way resolutely to Jerusalem, like a lamb to the slaughter. Join us next Sunday as we “Consider Jesus,” who is worthy of more glory than Moses, who stood on the mountain with Jesus.

THANK YOU to *Larry Mahnke* and *Dean Maassel* for their efforts this winter in keeping the church and school parking lot cleared of snow. They donate their time and equipment to get this job done after each snowfall. This year's snowfall has been sparse until recently, but even when there is a dusting; they are here bright and early clearing the lot. Great job guys! Thank you for your service!

2021 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – The 2021 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, *Jerry Langenhop* at 419-598-8151.

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.

Lent Midweek 2022

Ash Wednesday is just 10 days from now, and it's time for God's people to review and rehearse anew the story of our salvation in the passion, suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior. Lenten midweek services will be held each Wednesday during Lent at 7:00 p.m.



PLACES OF THE PASSION

Our midweek Lenten theme this year is, "**Places of the Passion.**" This worship and sermon series will take us to places like Bethany, the House of Simon the leper, the Courtyard, the Judgment Hall, Calvary and the open tomb, as we walk with Jesus all the way! **Here is the schedule of our Lenten midweek services:**

WEEKLY THEME

OFFERING

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| • Ash Wed.: Jerusalem - Eye of the Storm <i>Imposition of Ashes, Holy Communion</i> | St. John Church Vocation Students |
| • Lent 2: Bethany – House of Fragrance | Good Shepherd Lutheran for the Deaf |
| • Lent 3: Mount of Olives – Singing Slopes | Filling Home of Mercy, Napoleon |
| • Lent 4: Gethsemane – Garden Goat Rope | National Youth Gathering |
| • Lent 5: The Courtyard – Galleria of Guilt | Worship Anew TV program |
| • Lent 6: Judgment Hall – Forum for Freedom | Lutheran Hour Broadcast |

Lenten Midweek services are on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. starting Ash Wednesday, March 2nd



Each midweek Lenten service (with the exception of Ash Wednesday) will begin with a hymn sing. We will sing stanzas of hymns selected by the congregation. Think ahead of hymns you would like to sing (that don't include *Alleluia*'s), and be prepared to offer your suggestions at these services.

LENTEN MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST

Each Thursday during the Lenten season, the men will gather at 6:30 a.m. in the north fellowship hall for breakfast and a half-hour Bible study. The topic of this study is yet to be decided.

So often Christians think of Lent as a time to give up something in honor of the Lord who gave up His life for us. But even as Jesus took up His cross, Lent is also a great time to take up something new in our journey of faith, and to commit to a new path that brings us closer to

the Savior. Committing yourself to Bible study is an excellent way to do this. (Home devotions would be another excellent way.) Please consider joining us each Thursday during Lent as we nourish our bodies with breakfast, and our souls with God's Word.

EAGLE NEWS : The Eagle News is available on the narthex table today and also online via FastDirect Communication.



| <u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u> | Home Fund | Synod & Missions | Building Fund |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------|
| Weekly Need | \$9,792.78 | \$500.00 | \$961.54 |
| Rec'd 2/13/22 | \$8,568.00 | \$230.00 | \$588.00 |

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 182

MEMORIALS for *John Damman*: \$1,055 – St. John Endowment fund;
\$94 – St. John Endowment Fund (School Account)

BUY A BRICK? Want to buy a brick for the Youth Center yet? We will be placing another order for more name plates to be printed sometime at the end of February. Now would be a good time to fill out an order form if you want to be added to the order. Forms are available in the tract rack by the narthex table. There are still plenty of bricks left to put your name (*or your family name*) on one.

LENTEN DEVOTIONS FROM L.H.M. – Lutheran Hour Ministries has made available their 2022 Lenten Devotions, on the theme, "Suffering Servant." These devotions show Christ walking with us. Taking on our humanity, the Savior enters a world hostile toward God and blackened by sin. Stepping into our darkness, Jesus was "the light of men." Bearing our punishment, He was lifted up on the cross, and there he died, rising three days later in resurrection victory. Several booklets have been printed and are available on the narthex table. Pick up your copy and make these devotions part of your daily household routine during this Lenten season!

WHY LUTHERAN SCHOOLS – STRENGTHENING CONGREGATIONS: Lutheran schools equip children to become Christian leaders in the congregation. The school also involves young parents in congregation activities more than in congregations without schools. These young parents frequently become new leaders of the congregation. Students are encouraged to become future pastors and teachers, ensuring an ongoing supply of church workers.

2021 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – It's time to start getting ready for the 2021 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. 27.**

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.

PRESCHOOL:

- **ENROLLMENT APPLICATIONS:** The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2022-23 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, so be sure to register soon.** There is a non-refundable \$30 fee that must accompany your registration paperwork.
- **TUITION** – School Board approved rates for the 2022-2023 school year at their Jan. 4th meeting. The cost for PS4/5-yr class will be \$250/month; and for the PS3-yr class \$100/month.

ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES: You may begin ordering SCRIP again. Please turn those orders in on Wednesdays, with payment to *St. John School PTL Scrip*. The gift cards will be sent home the following week on Tuesday or Wednesday. 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.**

POSITION OPENINGS: St. John Lutheran School is asking for your help as we are seeking names for consideration for the Principal position and the 7th & 8th Grade Teacher position for the 2022-2023 school year. Pastor Kramer (Principal) and Pat Kramer (Grade 7&8 Teacher) will both be leaving us at the end of the current 2021-2022 school year. Requirements for the jobs are: Must have a Bachelor degree in education, obtain a background check, supply three references, and adhere to the St. John Lutheran Church and School religious beliefs. If you have names please call the school office at 419-598-8702. Interested persons can also mail a resume' to St. John Lutheran School, 16035 County Road U, Napoleon, OH 43545.

OHIO DISTRICT NEWS: The Lutheran Church – Ohio District wants to share some news with you. A Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) has been established in the Ohio District. Later this year, donations of up to \$750 will be able to be made into the SGO. That money will then go to the Lutheran School of the donor's choice. That money will be used as scholarship money at the school designated by the donor. The donor will then be able to receive a tax credit for the full amount they donated (up to \$750), directly on their Ohio State Tax return. This is exciting news! As more information becomes available, in the months ahead, we will share it with all of you.

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. **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.

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!

PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST – hosted by the Ridgeville Township Fire & Rescue will be held on Sun., March 6th from 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the Ridgeville American Legion Hall. This will be a drive-thru only! Proceeds to benefit fire & rescue equipment. Freewill donation.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

On the narrow path, the traffic is always one way.

"Narrow is the road that leads to life and only a few find it." Matt 7:14