



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 419-270-8863
Church Website: www.sjl.org

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon & Text: "Alien Invader" Isaiah 9:1-4 (Children: "Breaking Bad Things")

Order of Service: *Matins LSB pg. 219*

Hymns: 873 ~ 839 ~ 411

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to St. John Church! "I sought the Lord and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears" (Ps. 34:4). Let us seek the Lord together this day. Let us offer up our fears and doubts, that we may go forth strengthened and empowered for another week. If you are visiting us today, know that we are honored by your presence. Simply fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Brice Baumert, Zeb Kramer, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dave Von Deylen, Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow, Karen Germann, *Altar Guild* ✠

THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY – The land where the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali settled was repeatedly overrun by the armies of other nations. It was the invasion route into the Promised Land, the route for conquerors God allowed to punish errant Israel. But another "alien" would come one day on another mission: Isaiah used the land as a metaphor for our Lord's coming to begin a new rule in our hearts. He would be as light in the darkness and joy in the harvest. His coming to save us by going to the cross was so different that it seemed to be folly. Yet, to those who came to know our Lord personally, like the disciples in today's Gospel, there was no question but that they would follow this man. Today's worship is an opportunity to rejoice over the light, joy, and salvation Christ brought from heaven to this dark, sad, and fallen world.

BOARD OF ELDERS MEETING THIS WEEK – The Elders of St. John will be meeting this Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the cry room.

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	◆ ◆ National Lutheran Schools Week ◆ ◆ Worship Service Sunday School; <i>"The Lamp"</i> ; Adult Bible Class
Mon.	5:30 PM 5:00 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution B-ball: Gr 4-6 Boys <u>ONLY</u> vs St. John – Defiance (H)
Tues.	8:35 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	School Chapel B-ball: Gr 4-6 Girls; 6:00 PM Gr 4-6 Boys @ BG Christian Board of Elders
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	National Lutheran Schools Sunday Service Sunday School; <i>"The Lamp"</i> ; Adult Bible Class

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

- ❖ *Melba Elling, Lorna Von Deylen, Norma Damman*, at Genacross – Napoleon
- ❖ *Lawrence Behrmann*, at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ *Military: Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Niermann, Jared Dishop, Jordan Lange*
- ❖ *Sue Hurst and Dave Crandall*, health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *Kathy Behnfeldt*, recuperating at home from recent hip surgery
- ❖ *Denny Damman*, for successful back surgery this past week

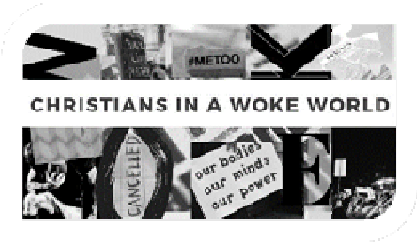
THANK YOU! Thank you for your prayers, cards, and calls during my recent heart ablation procedure. Your kindness meant so very much to me. The surgeon feels that the ablation was successful. Thank you God! *Diane Meyer*

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE STUDY

We have been discussing a phenomenon in our Western civilization called ‘Cultural Marxism,’ a.k.a ‘Woke-ism.’

We’ve all heard the term *‘political correctness’ (P.C.)*. Did you know that P.C. came into use among Communists in the 1930’s as a semi-humorous reminder that ‘the party line’ is to be treated as the ‘truth’ that ranks above actual truth? And now it’s back! Perhaps you remember the Ohio State professor who ran afoul of P.C. When Covid restrictions had divided our nation, he wrote that the game of football could help bring us together. For voicing what seems like a simple truth, the professor was accused by the P.C. crowd of racism and white supremacy. While he may have been correct, he was not *politically correct*, and was therefore forced to apologize – or be ‘cancelled.’ Can you figure out his great sin? Such is life in the world of ‘woke-ism’ where we are never quite certain what’s true. By contrast, truth that God gives to us is true whether we like it or not, whether it is politically correct or not. Join us for our Sunday study...

Christians in a Woke World - A Call to Courage, Confession and LOVE



NLSW- MAKING DISCIPLES FOR LIFE: January 23-27 is a week to celebrate Lutheran Schools. As a congregation that supports a Lutheran School, we will join Lutheran Schools across the nation to celebrate the many blessings we are fortunate enough to have at St. John. We thank God that we have the opportunity to not only share academic knowledge with the children and families we serve, but also to share the amazing love of Jesus. Throughout the week we have many special days planned.

Monday: “Making **Children** Disciples for Life”-We will celebrate our baptismal birthdays.

Tuesday: “Making **Families** Disciples for Life”-We will celebrate our families.

Wednesday: “Making Disciples for Life in the **Church**”-We will celebrate the history of our church and school.

Thursday: “Celebrating **Disciplers** Who are Making Disciples for Life”- We will celebrate those who make a difference by joining with St. Paul students, to make blankets for an organization called, Phil’s Friends.

Friday: “Making disciples of **All Nations** for Life”-We will celebrate all people by heading to Genacross and singing songs for the residents.

An interesting fact about Lutheran Schools... Schools in The LCMS serve children from early childhood programs through grade 12 in over 1,800 schools nationwide and internationally. Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod schools foster education!

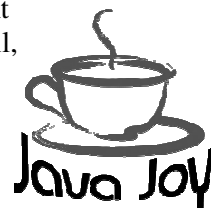
“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” Matthew 28: 18-20

**Making
Disciples
for Life** 

**NATIONAL LUTHERAN
SCHOOLS WEEK 2023**

MATTHEW 28:18-20

Let’s do JAVA JOY again! – It’s been a while since we shared **Java Joy** together. It was Covid that put the kibosh on our coffee clutch each second Sunday. The council, however, decided at its last meeting that it’s time to bring **Java Joy** back to St. John. **Would you, or a group of you, or perhaps your church organization, please consider hosting?** If we had six regular host groups, for example, each would host just twice per year. And the more the merrier!



Here’s what you need to know.

- **Java Joy** will be held after worship on the second Sunday of each month, starting Feb. 12.
- A sign-up sheet for the rest of the year is in the narthex.
- Hosting Guidelines are available right next to the sign-up sheet to answer your questions about what is involved when you host.
- Hosting **Java Joy** does not need to cost you anything – money from the Java Joy kitty is available for you to cover expenses.

2022 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – It’s time to start getting your reports ready for the 2022 Church Annual. The secretaries of the different organizations are asked to write up a summary of the year’s activities and treasurers should submit their financial report for their organization. If you need your offering contribution information prior to the distribution of the Annual Report, please call Financial Trustee, *Jerry Langenhop*, at 419-966-3473. **Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers by Tues., Jan. 31.**

ARCHIVES DISPLAY: The Archives Display has been changed and is now highlighting the 2022-2023 school pictures of the students and staff of St. John Lutheran School. Please stop down and check them out at your leisure.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 1/15/23	\$8,913.95	\$420.00	\$215.00

ATTENDANCE – Sunday: 150

LOST AND FOUND: There are several jackets and coats that have accumulated over the past months in the side coat room off the narthex. Please check to see if anything belongs to you. These items will be donated to the Orphan Grain Train if they are not claimed by Sun., Feb. 5th.

MISSION SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 19

Sunday, February 19 is Transfiguration Sunday and will also be a Mission Sunday as we receive our special guest preacher, **Rev. Robert Rahn**, from the *Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF)*. You may recall that Rev. Rahn was last here at St. John at the end of our 150th anniversary year to receive our year-long anniversary thank offering in support of *LHF* for their work in translating, publishing and distributing Bible-based, Christ-centered, Reformation-driven books around the world. It will be our pleasure to welcome him back. Mark it on your calendar!



LENTEN MIDWEEK TEASER – Today is only the Third Sunday of Epiphany, but Pastor Niermann is already making plans for Lent, which starts four weeks from this Wednesday. *So, what do you know about the Kings of Judah?* David, for example, was not Israel's first king, but he is regarded as its best and greatest king. Yet even he disgraced God's name and Israel's throne with egregious sins. In the end, however, David knew to turn to the mercy of God. If nothing else, David points us to the

greatness of God's grace, which is ours through David's greater Son, King Jesus. Our Lenten midweek series this year is titled, "**CHRONICLES OF THE (mostly) GOOD KINGS OF JUDAH.**" **They fell short. King Jesus does not!**

2023 USHER (blue) & ALTAR GUILD (pink) SCHEDULES: The 2023 Usher & Altar Guild schedules are available today and can be picked up on the narthex table. Thanks again to all who are willing to be of service to the Lord through St. John. You are a blessing!

ST. JOHN OPEN HOUSE REGISTRATION – An **Open House** is planned for grade levels PS-8 at St. John School on Wed., Feb. 8th, from 6:30 – 7:30 PM. This Open House is for families who would like to come and look at our school and discuss the possibility of sending their child(ren) to St. John for their education and to grow their faith. If anyone in the school and/or congregation might know of prospective students for Grades PS-8, be sure to pass this information on to them.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT – St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for the 2023-24 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. We will be opening the registration up to the public as of Feb. 3, 2023, so be sure to register soon. Current preschool students must complete new registration forms if they will be returning next school year. **NOTE:** The child must be 3, 4, or 5 years old by September 30 of the year applying for preschool. The child must be completely toilet trained. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration paperwork.

POSITION OPENING: St. John Lutheran School is seeking names for filling the position of Kindergarten Teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. Requirements for the position are: Must have a Bachelor's degree in education, obtain a background check, supply three references, and adhere to the St. John Lutheran Church & School religious beliefs. If you know of anyone interested, please call the school office or reach out to Miss Germann at tgermann@sjl.org.

FREEDOM FLOCK HELP: The Freedom Flock After School Program is looking for a person(s) to be an aide with our after school program a few days each week. It would be for three hours or less from 3 – 6 PM, (*depending how soon all the children are picked up*). This person must be 18 years old, have a high school diploma, and be willing to be FBI/BCI background checked. If you are interested, please contact the school office at 419-598-8702. This is a great chance for any high school seniors to complete their community service hours for the year.

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 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.**

COUNCIL MINUTES – This is just a reminder that council meeting minutes are not published until they are approved a month later. If you would like to read about the most recent council meeting, an unofficial and unapproved copy of the minutes is available for viewing in the church office, usually within a week after the meeting.

COLLECTING STAMPS: The LWML is collecting stamps “For Missions.” A box is on the table in the narthex. Here is what you do: Cut the stamps from the envelopes allowing ¼ inch margin or more around the stamp. The stamp may not be damaged and the perforations around the stamp must be perfect. You need not trim the stamp; we have someone who trims and sorts the stamps. Do not remove stamps from envelopes, albums, and older postcards. An “old” postcard is usually from 1930 or before. The most valuable stamps are commemorative, foreign, and stamp denominations larger than 46 cents. When purchasing stamps, ask the post office staff for commemorative stamps. Colorful and large stamps are desirable. Collecting stamps is an easy way to participate in a mission project sponsored by the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League.

‘BREAD FROM HEAVEN’ – A note to St. John members needing food assistance – If you could use food assistance from our food pantry, please speak with *Pastor Niermann*. We are required by the *Northwestern Ohio Food Bank* to keep a record with your name, but pastor will keep your record separate and absolutely confidential.

Contributions can be made at any time. Monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your offering envelope). Food donations for our pantry can be dropped off in the box by the Archives display cases. **Food items especially needed at this time are: cereal, saltines or any crackers, and soup.** Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated. Thank you so much! As we learned in the meaning of the Fifth Commandment, “*We should fear and love God that we...help and support our neighbor in every physical need.*” (*Small Catechism*)

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!

LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN’S ACTIVITY BULLETINS are available today on the table in the narthex. The Children’s Bulletins are coordinated with the Bible texts for each Sunday, and provide activities that tie in with the weekly themes. Pick one up today for your child.

HEARING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE: If hearing in worship has been a problem for you, pick up one of the receiver units for our hearing assistance system. An usher will assist you and you’ll hear much more clearly. (*Also, please let us know how the system is working for you.*)

For those who use the hearing assistance system regularly and for the sake of hygiene, we ask that you claim one of the ear buds as your own and keep it with you in your purse, pocket, etc. Bring it with you when you come to church, and simply plug it into one of the receivers. At the end of the service, unplug the ear bud to take with you until the next time.

WORSHIP ANEW: Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. produces a weekly, 30-minute Lutheran broadcast worship service called *Worship Anew* (*formerly Worship For Shut-Ins*). Each service includes music, scripture readings, prayers, and a pastor delivering a message that is designed to feel one-on-one to the viewer. For over 50+ years, the ministry’s dedicated staff and supporters have touched the lives of countless viewers around the world. They look forward to the continuation and expansion of this ministry in the years to come. Lutheran Ministries Media would like to thank you for your prayers and support of God’s work through *Worship Anew*. Broadcasts can be viewed every Sunday on: *Toledo’s WTVG (CW) Channel 13.2 at 10:30 AM.*

SWISS STEAK DINNER: The Ridgeville American Legion is hosting a Swiss Steak Dinner on Sun., Jan. 29th at the Legion Hall, with serving from 11 a.m. until gone. The cost is \$12. The menu is: Swiss steak, mashed potatoes w/gravy, green beans, and dinner roll.

✘ ✘ ✘

Food For Thought...

Spoiler alert – God Wins!

“With God we will gain the victory, and he will trample down our enemies.” (Psalm 108:13)