



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

February 19, 2023

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NO. 8

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

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### **THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**

Guest Preacher: *Rev. Robert Rahn*, Lutheran Heritage Foundation (*Mission Sunday*)

Sermon & Text: "A Sure Word Worth Sharing" 2 Peter 1:16-21

Order of Service: *See Printed Service Folder*

Hymns: 413 ~ 905 ~ 582 ~ [Communion: 404, 537, 873] ~ 417

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### **WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS**

*We invite you to celebrate God's love as we pray to a Heavenly Father who cares for us. If you are visiting today, please fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it into the baskets at the doors as you leave today. We extend a warm invitation to come back again!*

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### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Alex Wachtman, Evelyn Szabo, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Dave Myles, Dennis Bockelman, Tim Badenhop, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kaylee Buchhop, Karan Niebergall, Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, *Altar Guild* ✘

**PIANO FLOWERS:** Piano flowers are placed today marking what would have been the one-year birthday of William McCarthy this past Friday, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>. Loved and dearly missed by Mommy and Daddy, sister Maclyn, Papa Todd, Nana Chris, Papa Tim, Nana Karen, and their extended families.

**TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY** brings the Epiphany season to a close. It caps off the revelation that Jesus truly is the Son of God, as the Father Himself had declared at His baptism and now declares once again (*Gospel, Matt. 17:5*). In today's Psalm the Father declares His Son as King who rules with a mighty scepter to bring judgment, anger, and wrath on those who take refuge in themselves (*Ps 2:6, 9*).

***Transfiguration Sunday*** is the transition from Epiphany to Lent. Epiphany manifests the glory of Christ as God's Son, whereas Lent calls us to repentant faith that looks to its only hope in Jesus Christ! Faith's confidence is grounded in the revelation of Jesus' divine nature at His transfiguration, which "confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah" (*Collect*). Their testimony assures us that the future promise is trustworthy concerning our "inheritance in heaven." Worshiping God's Son as Lord is good and salutary for "*the glory due his name*" (*Gradual*).

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM 1:30 PM	<b>Communion Service</b> Adult Bible Study; <i>"The Lamp"</i> NWOLL Tournament Championship Games @ Trinity – Toledo
Mon.		<b>NO SCHOOL</b> – President's Day observed
Tues.	<b>8:35 AM</b> 11:30AM	<b>School Chapel</b> Women of Freedom Servant Event ( <i>see bulletin note for full details</i> )
Wed.	<b>8:35 AM</b> 5:30 PM 5:45 PM <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday School Chapel</b> Lenten Supper ( <i>see printed menu in bulletin</i> ) Jr. High Confirmation Class ( <i>until 6:45 PM</i> ) <b>Ash Wednesday Service</b> ; Offering: <i>Church Vocation Student Tuition</i> Acolyte: Nolan Bickel Ushers: Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel, Carey Damman Altar Guild: Kaylee Buchhop, Karan Niebergall, Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs
Thurs.	6:30 AM	Men's Lenten Bible Study Breakfast
Sun.	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM	<b>Worship Service</b> 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*
- ❖ *Alan Gruenhagen, Sue Hurst and Dave Crandall*, health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *Darrel Bockelman*, diagnosed with cancer and receiving home hospice care as they also consider treatment options. May God strengthen both Darrel and Barb for the journey ahead and give them His peace!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** is cancelled for today. Hope to see everyone back next Sunday!

**THANK YOU:** Thank you for your prayers, cards, and calls during my recent back surgery and recovery. I appreciate your thoughtfulness. Blessings to all of you!" *Denny Damman*

**THANKS:** The Women of Freedom would like to thank everyone who donated baked goods last Sunday for Java Joy. There were lots and lots of goodies to pick from. Thanks again!

**Bible Study**



**MEN'S LENT BIBLE BREAKFAST – THURSDAYS DURING LENT**

Men's Bible Breakfast will be meeting at 6:30 a.m. each Thursday morning during the season of Lent. Please join us for a breakfast of good food and a good word from God! The best part of waking up is a delicious breakfast, great fellowship, and the Word of God!

**MY DEVOTION BOOKLETS** for the quarter of March, April, and May are available on the desk in the narthex.

## MISSION SUNDAY TODAY

This morning we welcome back to St. John **Rev. Robert Rahn**, from *The Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF)*. It is the mission of *LHF* to translate, publish, and distribute books that are Bible-based, Christ-centered and Reformation-driven. Around the world, in more than 100 languages, *LHF* is providing everything from children's Bible story books, to catechisms, to theological texts for training church workers, all at no cost to those who receive them. Faith comes by hearing God's Word (Rom. 10:17), and God's Word is coming to many thousands through the work of *LHF*. In thankfulness and support of Rev. Rahn and the mission of *LHF*, a door offering will be taken this morning as you leave the sanctuary.



**LUTHERAN  
HERITAGE  
FOUNDATION**

**Rev. Robert Rahn** is the founder of *LHF* and still its most ardent ambassador. You may recall that Rev. Rahn was last here at St. John in October of our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year to receive our year-long anniversary thank offering for *LHF*. He is the author of the book, "*Jesus Never Fails*," about the path God laid out for his life, from his childhood in rural Minnesota through 50+ years of ministry in the *LCMS*. **We welcome Rev. Rahn and his wife Donna to St. John.** He will be our preacher this morning and will also conduct Bible class to fill us in on what's happening these days at *LHF*. He will also lead our school chapel service this coming Tuesday. Be sure to stop out in the narthex to view the *LHF* display, and join us after worship in the fellowship hall where you can meet Rev. & Donna Rahn.

**LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES** – Lent begins this week on Ash Wednesday. Pastor Niermann is planning a midweek Lent series about the *mostly* good kings of Judah. ***We'll start each midweek Lenten Service with a hymn sing.*** The schedule for Lent is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Offering</u>
<b>Feb. 22</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday: "King David–Count on It!"</b>	<b><i>Church Vocation Student Tuition</i></b>
Mar. 1	"King Asa – Blood Money"	<i>Good Shepherd Lutheran for Deaf</i>
Mar. 8	"King Jehoshaphat – Strange Bedfellows"	<i>Youth Gathering/Conferences</i>
Mar. 15	"King Joash – Cleaning House"	<i>Worship Anew</i>
Mar. 22	"King Uzziah – Know Thyself"	<i>Lutheran Hour Broadcast</i>
Mar. 29	"King Josiah – Our Last Hope"	<i>Sufficient Grace Ministries</i>

Each week we will post in the bulletin a suggested Scripture reading to help you prepare for the coming Wednesday's Lent service. To prepare for Ash Wednesday, read *1 Chronicles, chapter 21*, about David's census and the altar he built. He was a (*mostly*) good king, but far from perfect. Thankfully, we have a better King by far, whose reign was established in perfect love on His throne, the cross! Join us each Wednesday evening for the...

**"CHRONICLES OF THE (*mostly*) GOOD KINGS OF JUDAH."  
They fell short. King Jesus does not!**



**LENTEN SUPPERS:** Each Wednesday evening, the LYF or Church Council will be hosting a Lenten Supper in the fellowship hall. Your free-will donations will benefit the LYF and also help finance the sanctuary lighting project. Suppers start at 5:30. *This week's menu includes: Baked Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Vegetable, and Drink.*

Any other group wishing to host a meal should contact the church office. Thank you!

**LENTEN DEVOTIONS** are available today on the narthex table. This year's booklet titled "Man of Sorrows, People of Joy" will have each of us learn how God through Jesus reconciled the world to Himself (*see 2 Corinthians 5:19*). These devotions are furnished through Lutheran Hour Ministries.

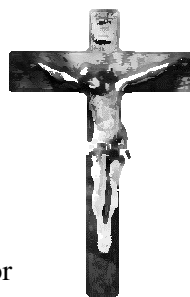
<b>FINANCIAL FACTS:</b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 2/12/23	\$8,427.00	\$410.00	\$440.00

ATTENDANCE – Sunday: 193



**OFFERINGS AT THE SACNUTUARY DOORS** – It was clear from a poll at the Voters' Meeting last Sunday that most people prefer passing the offering plates, but it was suggested that we also offer people the opportunity, if they prefer, to leave their offerings in the narthex prior to the service. The council discussed it further and came up with the idea of using the baskets at the sanctuary doors for this purpose. So we're going to try it! **If you prefer, you may leave your offering in the basket as you enter the sanctuary for worship. The ushers will add your offering to the plate offerings, so that all of our offerings may be brought forward to the altar together.** *After worship the same baskets will be used to gather the Rite of Fellowship cards at the doors as usual.*

**PLANS FOR AN ALTAR CRUCIFIX** – Plans are currently underway to acquire a crucifix for the altar, to stand between the two altar candles. A crucifix is a cross upon which the corpus, the body of Christ, is affixed. The crucifix has long been a part of Lutheran piety, as a visual representation of the core message of our faith – "Christ, and Him crucified." (*1 Cor. 2:2*) To learn more about the crucifix, the pastor will provide an explanatory document soon, to be available in the narthex.



The plan is to have the cross portion of the crucifix built by a congregational member, and to order the corpus from carvers in Europe who specialize in this kind of artwork. We don't know the cost exactly yet, but a donor has offered to provide this for the congregation, but would also like to give everyone the opportunity, if desired, to be part of this special project. Starting next Sunday, and throughout Lent, the resin crucifix that pastor normally has in his study will be on the altar so that you can get a feel for its visual impact. Also during Lent a receptacle will be placed in the narthex to receive any of your gifts toward this project.

**ISSUES, ETC...**SOLID, SERIOUS, SUBSTANTIVE! This week's topics include: The Season of Lent, The Hymn "From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee," The Movie "Living," Witnessing to Homosexuals and more. Listen at [issuesetc.org](http://issuesetc.org), the mobile app or your favorite podcast provider.

**LWML** – Please pick up the LWML Ode publication for Spring 2023 in the tract rack in the narthex today. These are available to all women of the church and always have very interesting articles.

**LADIES... Come along** to lend your helping hands at the Grain Train for our 'Service Day' on **Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**. All are invited to first join the group at **11:30 am** for a **Dutch Treat** lunch at **Sweet Dreams-Ice Cream** (*formerly Johnson's Ice Cream Shoppe*) after which we will proceed to the **Grain Train** – or you can just meet us at the Grain Train (*located on the east side of the Culligan building*) at 1:00 p.m. We will wrap up by 2:30 p.m. We guarantee no hard labor . . . only good fellowship! Sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex.

**CHOICE DOLLARS TO DESIGNATE:** It's that time of year again to direct your 2022 "Choice Dollars." You have until March 31, 2023 to designate your 2022 Choice Dollars. There appears to be a sizable amount that has not been designated by Thrivent members of our congregation. You may be getting a phone call from Mary Kossow with the Thrivent Office in Ridgeville Corners to help direct your Choice Dollars before the end of March. Thrivent associates are now able to process your dollars online, so no signed form is needed. If you have not received a call from Mary and think you may have 2022 Choice Dollars, simply call the Ridgeville Thrivent Office at 419-267-0113 and they will be glad to check for you! Thank You!

**POSITION OPENINGS:** St. John Lutheran School is seeking names for filling the position of **Kindergarten Teacher** and **7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher for the 2023-2024 school year**. Requirements for the positions 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](mailto:tgermann@sjl.org).

**SCHOOL BOARD POSITION:** St. John Lutheran Church is seeking an individual who would be interested in filling the final spot on the School Board. This individual would begin their duties on School Board as of July 1, 2023. If you would be interested in serving on the Board, please contact Pastor Niermann, Randy Rosebrock, or Cheryl Sausser.

**2022 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS** – The 2022 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 Financial Trustee, *Jerry Langenhop* at 419-966-3473.

**“YUMMY” FUNDRAISER:** The “Yummy” Fundraiser is back!! St. John School is having this fundraiser which begins on Tues. Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>. This fundraiser is thru Stoller Fundraising again, and will conclude on Tues., March 7<sup>th</sup>. We did very well last year selling the Butter Braid pastries, Amish pretzels, Mrs. Fields cookies, and Joyful Traditions cake rolls! Each one of these items is absolutely delicious! Ask anyone that purchased them last school year. See the insert in today's bulletin for more information. The “Yummy” coordinator this year is Brittany Pescara.

- ▶ Let's get everyone to participate in ordering these delicious goodies! Orders can be made on paper forms available in the narthex, or you can order online at [bit.ly/stjohnchurchmember](https://bit.ly/stjohnchurchmember). Please remit payment when placing your order.
- ▶ All items will be delivered FROZEN on Tues., March 21<sup>st</sup>, and will be available for pick up between 2:30 and 4:30 PM.
- ▶ THANK YOU for helping make this fundraiser benefit our school! Proceeds will be used to help enhance special classes such as: Gym, Music, Art, and STEM.

**EXTRA YEARBOOKS:** We are offering some excess yearbooks to anyone who would like to have a copy (or two), free of charge. These are from the following school years: 2018-2019 (4 copies), 2019-2020 (4 copies), and 2020-2021 (21 copies). These will be available by the Archives display. Enjoy!

**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. Registration is now opened up to the public, 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 or 4 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.

**PRESCHOOL & SCHOOL GRANDPARENTS' DAY AND SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR** – St. John School will again be combining the School and Preschool Grandparents' Day on the same day this school year. They are also coordinating it with PTL's Scholastic Book Fair. A lot of help is needed, so contact the school office if you would like to help. Here is the Grandparents' Day schedule:

**Preschool 4/5-year old** Grandparents Day is on **Thurs., April 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:00- 11:00 AM.**

**Grades K-6 School** Grandparents' Day is on **Thurs., April 27<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 – 3:00 PM**

**Preschool 3-year old** Grandparents' Day is on **Fri., April 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-11:00 AM.**

**A REMINDER:** If you are the LAST person to leave the building at the end of the day or after a meeting, etc., please make sure that the hallway and restroom lights are turned off and that the main entry doors (*where the buzzer is located*) are closed. With a tight budget, every little bit of electrical savings will benefit the church and closing the doors assures the safety of the building. Thank you!

**WATER TESTER:** We are still in search of a water system tester for the church/school, to replace Ken Griffith. Ken has been our water tester for several years and expressed a few years ago that he would like to step down. So we are asking again if there is someone within the congregation or in the area who may be interested in taking over this job. Please contact the church office (419-598-8961) if interested. This is a paid position.

**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!

**AREA EVENTS:**

- CHICKEN PIE DINNER** – The Ridgeville American Legion Post #454 is hosting their annual Chicken Pie Dinner today with serving from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM.
- PANCAKE-SAUSAGE BREAKFAST** – The Ridgeville Township Fire & Rescue will be hosting this breakfast on Sun., March 5<sup>th</sup> with serving from 7AM – 1PM at the Ridgeville American Legion Hall. Carryout or Dine in. Free will donation! See flyer!

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**Food For Thought...**

**The man is richest whose pleasures are cheapest.** –Henry David Thoreau

*“But godliness with contentment is great gain.” (1 Timothy 6:6)*