



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

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NO. 9

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Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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### FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "Life Back in the Water" *Genesis 3:8-9*

Order of Service: Matins --- LSB pg. 210

Hymns: 561 ~ 562 ~ 941 ~ 656

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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, and as we hear His powerful Word to us. May God richly bless your worship today! 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 a blue pew card from the rack in front of you and drop it in the baskets by the doors as you leave today.*

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

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Maddox Oyer, Cayden Ruffer, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Dave Myles, Dennis Bockelman, Tim Badenhop, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kaylee Buchhop, Karan Niebergall, Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, *Altar Guild* ✘

### OFFERINGS AT THE SANCTUARY DOORS

– It was clear from a poll at the February Voters' Meeting 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 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 as usual.*



### COMBINED ELDERS & STEWARDSHIP BOARD MEETING

– This Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm the Elders and Stewardship Board will hold a joint meeting to begin discussions about revising our church polity and structure.

## In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: <https://74058984.view-events.com>

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	<b>Worship Service</b> Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tues.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	<b>School Chapel</b> Combined Stewardship--Board of Elders Meeting
Wed.	5:30 PM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM	Lenten Supper Jr. High Confirmation Class (until 6:45 PM) <b>Lenten Service; Offering: Good Shepherd Church for the Deaf</b> Acolyte: Cayden Ruffer Ushers: Dave Myles, Dennis Bockelman, Tim Badenhop Altar Guild: Pat Maassel, Kathy Behnfeldt, Anita Badenhop
Thurs.	6:30 AM	Men's Lenten Bible Study Breakfast
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:30 PM	<b>Communion Service</b> Sunday School; "The Lamp"; Adult Bible Class Gerald Busy Fingers and Cloverbuds 4-H Meetings

### **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 Carmon, 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!
- ❖ *Cheryl Yaw*, for a heart procedure this past Thursday

### **CONGRATS TO THE 4-6<sup>th</sup> GRADE GIRLS' B-BALL TEAM:** GOOOOO EAGLES!!!!!!

Congratulations to the 4-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' team and coaches for winning the NWOLL Tournament last weekend at Trinity – Toledo. The Lady Eagles are still flying high in northwest Ohio! It was great to see both of our boys and girls teams representing St. John School so well by playing hard and showing good sportsmanship. Great Job Eagles!

### **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.** We are engaging in a study titled, "The Bible on Trial" which asks whether or not the Bible is reliable. The verdict we reach is crucial for us personally, since the Bible is the foundation of our Christian hope, the assurance of our eternal salvation, and the light by which we live. It is also crucial for us to be

able to answer others when they express doubts about the Bible, and whether they can trust it. The best part of waking up is a delicious breakfast, great fellowship, and the Word of God! **Please join us!**

**MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS** is meeting each Wednesday during Lent from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., dismissing in time for the midweek Lenten service at 7:00.

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

**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.

**LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES** are being held each Wednesday evening during the Lenten season at 7:00 p.m.. *We will start each midweek Service with a hymn sing.* The schedule for Lent is as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Offering</b>
<b>Mar. 1</b>	<b>"King Asa – Blood Money"</b>	<b>Good Shepherd Church for the Deaf</b>
Mar. 8	"King Jehoshaphat – Strange Bedfellows"	Youth Gathering/Conferences
Mar. 15	"King Joash – Cleaning House"	Worship Anew
Mar. 22	"King Uzziah – Know Thyself"	Lutheran Hour Broadcast
Mar. 29	"King Josiah – Our Last Hope"	Sufficient Grace Ministries

To prepare for our second midweek Lent service, read **2 Chronicles, chapters 14 & 16**, about Judah's good King Asa and the money he took from the temple treasury to instigate a war between Syrian and Judah's rival, the northern kingdom of Israel. 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: Beef & Noodles, Mashed Potatoes w/gravy, Hotdog, Vegetable, Dessert, and Drink.* **Anyone wishing to donate a dessert may do so by signing up at the narthex table.**

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

**SACRED MUSIC FOR THE SEASON OF LENT...** "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," "In the Cross of Christ I Glory," "My Song Is Love Unknown," "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth." You can listen to sacred music for the Lenten season 24/7 at [lutheranpublicradio.org](http://lutheranpublicradio.org), TuneIn, Amazon Echo, Google Home, Apple HomePod and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

**LWML QUARTERLIES & ODES** – Please pick up the LWML Quarterly magazine and 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.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 2/19/23	\$11,687.00	\$525.00	\$380.00

ATTENDANCE – Sunday: 148

**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, and historically has adorned the vast majority of Lutheran churches and altars. Martin Luther himself loved the crucifix for its visual representation of the core message of our faith – *“Christ, and Him crucified.” (1 Cor. 2:2)*



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 today, and throughout the season of 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.

**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 underway!! This fundraiser will run thru Tues., March 7<sup>th</sup>. Order forms are available by the display in the narthex. The “Yummy” coordinator this year is Brittany Pescara. Please contact her thru FastDirect with any questions.

- ▶ Let’s get everyone to participate in ordering these delicious baked goods! Orders can be taken on paper forms available on the narthex table, or you can order online at [bit.ly/stjohnchurchmember](http://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 at the end of the school day.
- ▶ 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 extra copies 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 PTL will again be combining the School and Preschool Grandparents’ Day on the same day this school year. They are also coordinating it with the Scholastic Book Fair. A lot of help is needed, so contact the school office if you would like to help. This is the 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 has expressed a few years ago that he would like to step down. We are seeking 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!

**ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES:** You may begin ordering SCRIP. 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.**

**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.

**ST. JOHN WEBSITE:** Did you know you can listen to *Pastor Niermann's* sermons on the internet? Just click on "St. John YouTube Channel" or "Worship Service Resources" on the Home Page. There is also a "For Kids" tab which allows you to listen to previous Children's Sermons at St. John.

**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.

**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.

**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 life we live is the lesson we teach.**

*"Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity."  
(Titus 2:7)*