



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

March 5, 2023

VOL. 88

NO. 10

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

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "What We Need to Know" *John 3:1-17*

Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting Four --- LSB pg. 203*

Hymns: 555 ~ 571 ~ (Communion: 637, 426, 761) ~ 971 (printed)

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to every member, friend, and visitor. You have entered this church, not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. May you who enter here find rest, forgiveness, and strength. 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 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. Please come back again!



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Garrison Kruse, Nolan Bickel, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, Dave Badenhop, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Pat Maassel, Kathy Behnfeldt, Anita Badenhop, *Altar Guild* ✠

GONE TOO SOON! On Saturday, February 25th, *Darrel Bockelman*, 76, passed away at his home. Darrel's funeral was held at St. John Lutheran Church on Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 11:00 AM. Committal service for Darrel was held following the funeral service at St. John Lutheran Cemetery. Darrel's kindness and "words of wisdom" will truly be missed by many that knew him. We continue to pray for God's peace for *Barb, Brad (Lisa) Bockelman, Michelle Bockelman, and Brooke (Derek) Lowery*; and Darrel's extended family.

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING – The list of the people for this year's annual church cleaning are listed in today's bulletin (back page) and also available on the narthex table. If you feel you are not physically able to help with the cleaning for whatever reason, let your co-chair know and we'll make a note of that. Thank you!

In God's House This Week

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:30 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" 4-H Meetings: Gerald Busy Fingers and Cloverbuds
Tues.	8:35 AM 9:30 AM 6:00 PM	School Chapel Field Trip – Grades K-6 to Genacross Lutheran Home School Board Meeting
Wed.	5:30 PM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM	Lenten Supper Jr. High Confirmation Class (until 6:45 PM) Lenten Service; Offering: Youth Gathering / Conferences Acolyte: Evelyn Szabo 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
Fri.		NO SCHOOL due to Teacher In-Service
Sun.	2:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:20AM	Daylight Saving Time begins Worship Service w/Communion following Java Joy; Sunday School; "The Lamp"; 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
- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: Leona Durham and Elaine Mahnke,
- ❖ Military: Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Carmon, Jared Dishop, Jordan Lange
- ❖ Alan Gruenhagen, Sue Hurst and Dave Crandall, health concerns related to cancer

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME: Spring is on its way and that means get ready to turn your clocks ahead. This happens next Sunday, March 12th at 2:00 AM. ☺

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS: It's time again to order your Easter flowers. We are now taking orders for the various flowers to purchase "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone special in your life. Yellow order forms are inserted in today's bulletin and are also available on the narthex table. Drop your order form and payment (to **St. John Lutheran Church**) into the container on the narthex table or return it to the church office. **Order deadline is Wed., March 15th.** Don't wait till the last minute! No later orders can be taken.

JAVA JOY – Next Sunday! Java Joy is back on the second Sunday of each month. It's a great opportunity to take time with one another to greet, chat, and encourage, and to enjoy the fellowship God has given us as His church.

Thank you to those who have signed up to host. **If you, a group of you, or perhaps your church organization, would like to host, please sign up in the narthex!** Hosting Guidelines are available. Hosting Java Joy need not cost you anything – money from the kitty is available to cover expenses. The donation box will be on the table each time to replenish the kitty.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE STUDY

We have been discussing a phenomenon in our Western civilization called ‘Cultural Marxism,’ a.k.a ‘Woke-ism.’ This movement poses a significant challenge to the church, as Scriptural values come to be regarded as hostile to the culture. Just this week came news of an Arizona school board member who opposed hiring teachers with biblical values because they make her feel unsafe.



As this kind of thinking becomes more and more dominate in the culture, the church in America will be challenged as never before. But we know the One who governs the creation with all authority in heaven and on earth, and is working everything for good to His Church. Come on down to the fellowship hall – **the coffee is on** – and join us this morning for our Sunday study...

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

ST. JOHN SCHOLARSHIP: With the decision made to reinstate 7th and 8th grade here at St. John, I have had alumni of the school reach out to me. They are offering a scholarship of \$500 for any current sixth grade students that re-enroll at St. John for their 7th grade year. We are very grateful to have supportive alumni here at St. John, whose mission is focused on growing His kingdom. If you know of anyone who is interested in St. John, have them call the school at 419-598-8702 or email me, Tracy Germann at tgermann@sjl.org.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 2/26/23	\$6,215.00	\$330.00	\$230.00

ATTENDANCE – Sunday: 173

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE: Church Vocation Student Fund - \$682.00 Attendance: 69

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!**

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.*



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 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:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Offering</u>
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>

To prepare for our second midweek Lent service, read **2 Chronicles, chapters 17-19**, about Judah’s ‘good’ King Jehoshaphat and his alliance with Israel’s King Ahab that turned into a complete disaster for Judah. Jehoshaphat 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: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes w/gravy, Hotdog, Vegetable, Dessert, and Drink.*

Other groups are encouraged to host a meal by contacting the church office. Thank you!

DESSERTS FOR SUPPERS: Anyone willing and able to donate desserts for the Lenten Suppers is asked to do so. We could use about 4 desserts each week and a sign-up sheet is on the narthex table. Please join us for some delicious food each Wednesday before going to the Lenten Services. Thanks for taking the time to help out.

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

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.

“YUMMY” FUNDRAISER: The “Yummy” Fundraiser is underway!! This fundraiser will run thru Tues., March 7th. 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 Please remit payment when placing your order.
- ▶ All items will be delivered FROZEN on Tues., March 21st, 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.

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 **7th & 8th 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.

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.

PANCAKE-SAUSAGE BREAKFAST – Today the Ridgeville Township Fire & Rescue is hosting their Pancake-Sausage breakfast until 1:00PM at the Ridgeville American Legion Hall. Carryout or Dine in. Free will donation!

✘ ✘ ✘

Food For Thought...

Jesus: “I love you to the cross and back!”

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” (1 John 4:10)

2023 ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING LIST

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING will be broken out into three groups. The top two names in each group will be the co-chairmen. If you would like your name removed from the annual cleaning list, please let your chairmen know as soon as possible. Thanks to all of you for giving your time!

GROUP 1: *Co-chair Brad & Lisa Bockelman, *Co-chair Dennis & Rhonda Bockelman, Caleb Bockelman, Scott Bockelman, Megan Bostelman, Ryan & Renee Bostelman, Jeff & Sara Buchhop, Matthew Buchhop, Jon & Elaine Buenger, Michael & Sam Cohrs, Bobby & Kara Cowell, Aaron & Ashley Crall, Carey & Sharon Damman, Dale & Dorinda Damman, Dan Damman, Dave & Teresa Damman, Denny & Deb Damman, Derek & Stephanie Damman, Jessica Damman, Lucas Damman, Marietta Damman

GROUP 2: *Co-chair Doug & Sandy Dietrich, *Co-chair Mike & Cheryl Dietrich, Steve & Dawn Dickmann, Jacob Dickmann, Cameron Dickmann, Cassandra Dickmann, Lucas Dickmann, Mike & Amy Dietrich, Taylor Dietrich, Jared Dishop, Abby Doctor, Josh Elling, Mark & Brenda Elling, Mike Elling, Rich & Beverly Elling, David Fitzenreiter, Aden Foor, Jason & Zoe Foor, Bethann Gerken, Brady Gerken, Gavin Gerken, Larry & Krista Gerken, Peter & Karen Gerken Randy & Liza Gerken, Stan & Cathy Gerken, Zach Gerken

GROUP 3: *Co-chair Juergen & Cheri Goertz, *Co-chair Nancy Glaser, Karen Germann, Tracy Germann, Scott Germann, Alan & Lori Gruenhagen, John & Karen Gruenhagen, Luke Gruenhagen, Steve & Kathy Gruenhagen, Joe Hesterman, Ron & Elaine Hesterman, Todd & Chris Hesterman, Tim & Renee Hodson, Dale & Rose Hoffman, Jim & Nancy Hogrefe, Jeremy & Kristyn Honemann, Joe & Krista Howard, Anne Irving, Kayla Jackman, Dave & Diane Johnson, Tim & Karen Johnston, Donna Joost

GROUP 1: Narthex, Storage Room under Balcony, Balcony (including upper storage rooms), Church itself, Room in front of sanctuary on east side, Entrance area floors

GROUP 2: Cry Room, Pastor's Office, Conference room by church, Furnace room, Restrooms, (Includes Pastor's restroom), hallways (up to metal double doors),
(Storage Room by Cry Room will be cleaned by Food Pantry Coordinators)

GROUP 3: Fellowship Hall, Storage Room off of Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, Storage room off of the Kitchen.