



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. 11

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Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 419-270-8863
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THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "What a Difference a Moment Can Make!" *John 4:5-30, 39-42*

Children's Message: "Living Water"

Order of Service: *Morning Prayer --- LSB pg. 235*

Hymns: "Sweet the Moments" ~ **609:1,4-7 ~ 855 ~ 936 ~ 849**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome in the name of the Lord. We pray that through this time of stillness and song, prayer and proclamation, you may experience the Spirit of God at work in your life. 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 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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘ Peyton Naveau, Addison Naveau, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, Dave Badenhop, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Pat Maassel, Kathy Behnfeldt, Anita Badenhop, *Altar Guild* ✘

Java Joy TODAY! We hope you can stop out in the front hallway after worship and spend a little time with one another while enjoying a cup of coffee and a delicious treat or two. Thank you to our Java Joy hosts today, Nancy Nemoyer and Bonnie Niermann.



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 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.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM MEETING: The next Women of Freedom meeting will be held on Tues., March 21st at 7:00 PM. As always, these meetings are open to any women in the congregation. Hope to see some of you there!

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service w/Communion following <i>Java Joy</i> ; Sunday School; <i>"The Lamp"</i> ; Adult Bible Class
Tues.	8:35 AM 9:30 AM 6:00 PM	School Chapel Rescheduled Field Trip – Grades K-6 to Genacross Lutheran Home Church Council Meeting
Wed.	5:30 PM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM	Easter Flower orders due today Lenten Supper Jr. High Confirmation Class (<i>until 6:45 PM</i>) Lenten Service ; Offering: <i>Worship Anew</i> Acolyte: Zeb Kramer Ushers: Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, Dave Badenhop Altar Guild: Pat Maassel, Kathy Behnfeldt, Anita Badenhop
Thurs.	6:30 AM	Men's Lenten Bible Study Breakfast
Fri.		End of 3 rd Quarter Grading Period
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:00 PM	Communion Service Sunday School; <i>"The Lamp"</i> ; Adult Bible Class LYF – Jr High @ 4:00pm; High School @ 5:00pm

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
- ❖ *Hildegard (Kate) Ludeman*, took a fall at home this week and was hospitalized at St. V's for a few days. Following successful hip surgery, she experienced some complications and has now been moved to Defiance Inpatient Hospice Care for comfort.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE STUDY

We have been discussing a phenomenon in our Western civilization called 'Cultural Marxism,' a.k.a 'Woke-ism.' Have you heard about "intersectionality?" It's a way of measuring how oppressed a person is by the number of oppressed groups they belong to. In the world of 'woke' your "intersectionality score" determines the amount of power you have in society, your moral authority, and whether or not you should be held responsible for your actions. There are actually websites that will calculate your "intersectionality score."



Thankfully our Savior does not measure our value by woke human categories. He loves us all, and He loves us without measure! 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

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 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.

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES are being held each Wednesday evening during the Lenten season at 7:00 p.m. *Each service starts with a hymn sing.* The remaining midweek schedule is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Mar. 15	"King Joash – Cleaning House"	Worship Anew
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 fourth midweek Lent service, read **2 Chronicles, chapter 24**, about Judah's 'good' King Joash and his efforts to cleanse and repair the temple after it had been defiled by the family of wicked Athaliah. Yet like all of these kings, Joash was far from perfect, and took place in the killing of God's spokesman, Zechariah. But judgment came swiftly. Another king, another let-down. 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: Hamburger and Hotdogs, Chips, Baked Beans, 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.

LYF MEETINGS: The Jr High and High School LYF members will be having their next meeting on **Sun., March 19th.** The Jr High will meet at 4:00 PM followed by the High School at 5:00 PM.

LIBRARY COMPUTERS & SMARTBOARDS: With the increased use of Chromebooks by students in the school classrooms, the need for the computers in the Library has greatly decreased. In an effort to de-clutter the Library, we are offering these used computers and a few Smart Boards to anyone interested in them. We would ask for a small donation in exchange. What's available...PC's, towers, monitors, keyboards, etc. We have set a deadline of Mon., April 3rd to conclude this offer.

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. **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!

Bible Study



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. **They are also offering one "new student" scholarship in the amount of \$500 for next school 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 3/05/23	\$11,710.24	\$222.00	\$528.00

ATTENDANCE – Sunday: 138

LENTEN SERVICE (3/1/23): Good Shepherd Church for the Deaf - \$813.00 Attendance: 65



PLANS FOR AN ALTAR CRUCIFIX – Plans are underway to acquire a crucifix for the altar, to stand between the two altar candles. Briefly, a crucifix is a cross upon which the corpus, the body of Christ, is affixed --- a powerful visual representation of the core message of our faith – *"Christ, and Him crucified."* (1 Cor. 2:2) Pastor has prepared a paper with a fuller explanation, available now in the narthex.

The plan is to have the cross portion of the crucifix built locally, and to order the corpus from carvers in Europe who specialize in this kind of artwork. 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. During lent, a resin crucifix that pastor normally has in his study is on the altar so that you can get a feel for its visual impact. Also a receptacle has been placed in the narthex to receive any gifts toward this project.

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING – The list of the people for this year's annual church cleaning are printed and 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!

CHOICE DOLLARS: Keep up the good work! Your designations are making a difference here at St. John. You have until March 31, 2023 to designate your 2022 Choice Dollars. Some of you may still have Choice Dollars to designate, so either give Mary Kossow (at the Ridgeville Thrivent Office) a call to check on your Choice Dollars. The phone number is 419-267-0113. Thank You!

KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2023! The K-clinic will be held on Tuesday, April 18th from 8:30 – 11:30 AM. **St. John Lutheran School's eligibility date for entering Kindergarten is that a child must be five years old on or before September 30th to enroll in Kindergarten.** Items needed for our St. John clinic are: An original and/or certified copy of their birth certificate; a physical dated after August 2022 (*if available*); immunization records; Social Security number; child custody documents if applicable; and the baptism date or dedication date. *NOTE: If your child is enrolled in our Preschool program, we already have the items listed above and you will not need to bring them the day of the clinic.*

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.

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!

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.

SWISS STEAK DINNER: The Ridgeville American Legion is hosting a Drive-thru Swiss Steak Dinner at the Legion Hall today from 11:00 AM until sold out. On the menu: *Swiss Steak, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, and Dinner Roll* for a cost of \$12.

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Food For Thought...

Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not get all bent out of shape!

“Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly.” (Prov 14:29)

COLORING PAGE



Jesus and the Woman at the Well