



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

March 2, 2025

VOL. 91

NO. 9

Rev. Gary Bender, TIM Pastor
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Cell: 989-770-0005; Church: 419-598-8961
School: 419-598-8702
Church Website: www.sjl.org

Transfiguration Sunday

Sermon: "One Greater Than Moses Is Here" *Deuteronomy 34:1-12*

Order of Service: Divine Service Setting Three ~ LSB pg. 184

Hymns: **415 ~ 416 ~ (Communion: 414, 413) ~ 417**

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 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* ✘ Maxton Howard, Westen Cowell *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Dave Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Deb Von Deylen, Elaine Buenger, Teresa Weller, Pat Mahnke *Altar Guild* ✘

DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY – What does St. John's ministry area look like? Who are the people in our area? Their ages, life circumstances, professions, etc.? Next Sunday, March 9th, after church, Ms. Lisa Hall from the Ohio District Office will present a Demographic Study of our area. Pastor Bender encourages all elected and appointed leaders of the congregation, as well as all members of the Transition Task Force and the Call Committee, to attend this presentation. Any member of St. John who is interested may also attend. Let's get to know the people whom God is calling us to minister to.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS will not be held for the next few weeks. We will resume on March 16th.

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM	Communion Service
	10:20 AM	Sunday School and "The Lamp"; Workshop
	2:30 PM	GriefShare Support Group – Topic: " <i>Grief & Your Household</i> "
Tues.	5:15 PM	School Board Meeting
	7:00 PM	Transition Task Force Meeting
Wed.	8:35 AM	Ash Wednesday School Chapel
	5:45 PM	Junior High Confirmation Class
	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Service; Offering – Youth Conferences Acolyte: <i>Brynnleigh Kehnast</i> Ushers: <i>Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop</i> Altar Guild: <i>Deb Von Deylen, Elaine Buenger, Teresa Weller, Pat Mahnke</i>
	8:00 PM	Adult Choir Practice
Thurs	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Study Breakfast
Fri.	5:00 PM	St. John Girls' Basketball Lock-In (Fri. 5 PM – Sat. 9 AM)
Sun.	9:00 AM	Worship Service with Communion Following
	10:20 AM	Demographic Study Presentation
	10:20 AM	Sunday School and "The Lamp"
	1:30 PM	Gerald Busy Fingers 4-H Meeting
	2:30 PM	GriefShare Support Group – Topic: " <i>Questions for God</i> "

PASTORAL EMERGENCIES – In the event you require emergency pastoral care, please call Pastor Gary at 989-770-0005. *NOTE ABOUT HOSPITALIZATION: If you are planning to spend time in a hospital (more than just out-patient) for surgery or other issues, please notify the Church Office or Pastor Gary, so he can arrange to visit you while you are there. He will need to know the dates involved and which hospital you will be staying at (preferably in writing). Thank you for your help and cooperation in this matter.*

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

- ❖ *Melba Elling, Norma Damman, and Rozella Gruenhagen* at Genacross
- ❖ *Lawrence Behrmann* at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Irene and Willie Joost* and *Leona Durham*
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Carmon, Jordan Lange, Cody Hoffman, Joshua, and Kyle*
- ❖ *Lowell Petzoldt* and *Cheryl Yaw*, for health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *William Niebergall* undergoing heart surgery
- ❖ *Marietta Damman* recuperating from hip surgery

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 2/23/2025	\$9,903.00	\$225.00	\$310.00

ATTENDANCE: 155

PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR – In today’s Scripture readings we hear that *The Glory of God Is Manifested in the Body of Christ.*

“Moses was faithful in all God’s house as a servant,” but Christ Jesus “has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses” (Heb. 3:3, 5). A beloved and well-pleasing Son, faithful even to the point of death, Jesus’ own body was raised up on the third day as the house of God, and He has brought us into that house through the waters of Holy Baptism (Heb. 3:6). Thus, it was not Moses, the lawgiver, but his successor, Joshua (the Hebrew name for Jesus), who led the people into the Promised Land (Deut. 34:1–4, 9). Now, on the Mount of Transfiguration, the New Testament Joshua appears in the glory that He is about to manifest by His “departure” (exodus) in Jerusalem (Luke 9:31). Having entered the waters of the Jordan in His Baptism, He passed through those waters and entered into glory by His cross and Passion. What He thereby accomplished in His own flesh and blood, crucified and risen, He reveals and gives to His Body, the Church, by the means of His Word. Therefore, the Father declares from heaven, “Listen to him!” (Luke 9:35). *“He who has ears to hear, let him hear” (Matt. 11:15).*

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES – The season of Lent begins this week with **Ash Wednesday** on March 5th. During Lent, we gather for special midweek services each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Gary will be preaching a series titled “Words that Last Forever.” The schedule is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Mar. 5	“Forgive!”	Youth Conferences
Mar. 12	“Paradise!”	Orphan Grain Train
Mar. 19	“Behold!”	Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch
Mar. 26	“Forsaken!”	Worship Anew
Apr. 2	“Thirst!”	Lutheran Hour Broadcast
Apr. 9	“Finished!”	Mission Endowment
Apr. 17	“For You!”	Home Fund
Apr. 18	“Hands!”	Home Fund

Words that
LAST FOREVER!

Confirmation Class during Lent will be held from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., dismissing in time for students and families to attend the evening service.



LENTEN DEVOTIONALS are available on the Narthex table. This year’s devotional book titled “The Hand of The Lord” was written by St. John graduate *Rev. Dr. Matthew Rosebrock*. Pick up a copy, and follow through daily this Lenten season. There are also free devotionals provided by Lutheran Hour Ministries that can be found online at lhm.org/lent.

2024 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – If you still need to submit your organization’s report for the 2024 Church Annual, please be sure to get it turned in to Leah Saylor this week in order to be included. Thank you!

YOUTH “MY DEVOTIONS” BOOKLETS for March, April, and May are on the desk in the narthex. Pick one up for each of your children today!

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS NEXT WEEKEND! Jesus once said, “concerning that day and hour no one knows” (Matt 24:36). Something like that could be said of the confusion sometimes surrounding the change to Daylight Saving Time, but no need to be confused! Be sure to spring your clocks forward one hour this Saturday before going to bed. If you forget, your alarm will go off an hour late, and you may have to come to worship in your robe and slippers. Of course we’d be glad to see you in whatever condition, but maybe it would be best just to set your clocks forward an hour next Saturday evening!



MEN’S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY – Join us bright and early this Thursday morning at 6:30 AM for **Men’s Bible Breakfast**. It’s a great way to start your day! Good food, good friends, and a good Word from God!

WOMEN’S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY – The Women of Freedom will be starting a 4-week Lenten Bible Study on **Wed., March 12th at 10 AM**. All ladies are invited; no sign up necessary! If you would be interested in attending a Tuesday evening Bible study, please sign up on the sheet in the back of the church by March 9th.



THANK YOU, WOMEN OF FREEDOM! – Thank you to all of the women that came to help prepare materials for baby care kits on Monday. We enjoyed a morning of fellowship, service, and lunch together! Mark your calendars for the next Women of Freedom meeting set for Tuesday, March 18th, at 7 p.m. All ladies of the church are welcome.

THE SPRING LWML QUARTERLY is available in the tract rack for any ladies to pick up a copy!

LWML NAPOLEON ZONE SPRING RALLY – Ladies, also mark your calendars for the Spring Rally on Sat., April 5th. More details can be found on the bulletin board in the back of the church.

2024 END-OF-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – The 2024 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.

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING – A list of the people appointed for this year’s annual church cleaning is 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 to everyone who volunteers and shows up to do this each year!

ENDOWMENT FUND CONTACTS – Do you have questions about the St. John Endowment Fund? *Krista Gerken* and *Dave VonDeylen* are happy to provide more information to anyone who has questions or interest in making a donation. *Krista* can be reached at 419-966-2596 or lkgerken@henry-net.com. *Dave* can be reached at 419-438-1844 or davevd21@gmail.com.

GRIEFSHARE, a class offered at St. John for anyone grieving the loss of a loved one, meets on Sunday afternoons 2:30 p.m. from now until March 30. It is led by the team of Rev. Gary Bender, our TIM, and Nancy Nemoyer, a member of St. John.



You are invited to pray each week for the comfort of participants and the wisdom of leaders.

Brochures with more information are on the back table.

This week the topic is "Regrets." Upcoming class videos, with workbook and discussion, in March, will be:

Sunday, March 2 Grief and Relationships - Your Household / Your Friendships

Sunday, March 9 Questions for God

Sunday, March 16 Stuck in Grief

Sunday, March 23 Hope & Resilience

Sunday, March 30 What Do I Live for Now?

FACEBOOK VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY – Are you interested in serving at St. John, but want flexible times and remote work? Do you enjoy working with social media? We are looking for a member to help take over the management of our church Facebook page. This volunteer will create posts and share information about our worship services, events, etc. This can be done from the comfort of your own home as long as you have internet and a smartphone or computer! Anyone with questions or interest can email Leah at churchsecretary@sjl.org.

SURPRISE CARD SHOWER – Marietta Damman will be celebrating her 90th birthday on March 8th! If you would like to bless her with a card, her address is 15978 Rd V, Napoleon. Also, if you happen to own a "Grandma Damman" blanket and could send or text her a picture of you with the blanket, that would be awesome!! Any questions, give *Sharon Damman* a call or text.

THANKS FROM OUR PRINCIPAL – Heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped in any way with Open House. It was a successful day and so great to see so many families and students celebrating St. John. Thank you to PTL for putting on a delicious pancake breakfast. The help from the PTL and all volunteers is so appreciated as is your support of the school. Thank you to all the congregation members who came down to join us for breakfast and took a look around the school, what a great day for fellowship. Thank you to Bonnie Niermann for planning and organizing the activities in the gym and so many things for Open House. Of course thank you to all the teachers and staff who filled the hallways with amazing student work and helped get things ready for the day. We are indeed fortunate to have a dedicated faculty and staff here at St. John. –*Miss Tracy Germann*

"YUMMY" FUNDRAISER – This is the last week to order "Yummy" Fundraiser items! The deadline is Tuesday, March 4th. We have heard nothing but great things about the delicious products being sold. We look forward to updating the school playground with the money raised. This will benefit all the children from 3-year-old preschool and up. There is information on the narthex table, or scan the QR code to access the online ordering page.



ENROLLING NOW – St. John Lutheran School is enrolling students in preschool-grade 8 for the 2025-2026 school year. Interested families can contact Tracy Germann for more information at 419-598-8702 or tgermann@sjl.org.

SCHOOL POSITION OPENING:

- **Music Teacher** - This is an open position as of November 1st. This is a one day a week position responsible for teaching children in grades K-5 music according to the state standards. If you know of anyone for this position, please contact Miss Germann at tgermann@sjl.org.

LSGO WINDOW STILL OPEN – It is tax time and not too late to make a donation to the LSGO (Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization). Your donation will provide scholarships to St. John students K-8. You will also have a dollar for dollar reduced state income tax liability up to \$750 per filing individual or \$1,500 as a couple. You make the donation, your tax dollars come back to you, and the donation goes to a student at St. John. It will cost you nothing out of your pocket to make a difference! Please call Tracy at 419-598-8702 or email her at tgermann@sjl.org with any questions.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE – St. John School continues to collect donations of empty egg cartons that hold a dozen eggs. Please make sure they are clean and not damaged.

THANK YOU to *Larry Mahnke* and *Dean Maassel* for their efforts this winter in keeping the church and school parking lot cleared of snow. They donate their time and equipment to get this job done after each snowfall. It has been greatly appreciated especially on the extra chilly days! God is good! Thank you for being willing servants here at St. John.

LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN'S BULLETINS are always available on the back table!

OHIO ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN – The Ohio Division OGT is located in the north end of the Culligan building on Independence Drive in Napoleon. Someone is usually there to receive items on the first Tuesday of the month from 9:30-11:30 AM. PLEASE do not drop off items at the warehouse when it is closed. Thank you!

AREA EVENT

- ◆ **THE RIDGEVILLE TOWNSHIP FIRE AND RESCUE PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST** is **TODAY**, March 2nd from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Ridgeville Legion Hall. Eat inside or carry out for a free-will donation.

VENMO IS HERE! Exciting News...St. John now accepts donations via Venmo! If you need internet access, use our guest wifi **SJL Open** with the password **sjleagles##**. Then scan the QR code beside this announcement to visit our donation page.



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Thought for the Week...

Forecast: The Son will shine forever.