

St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

March 28, 2021

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SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder
Hymns: 442 ~ 438 ~ 439 ~ 441

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS *On this day, long ago, our Lord entered Jerusalem to glad shouts of "Hosanna!" On the threshold of Holy Week, we invite you to share with us this foretaste of His final triumph. Welcome to our celebration. If you have no church home of your own, we invite you to join the St. John family. Simply fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and pass it to the center aisle during the offering this morning.*



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damnan, *Organist* ✠
- ✠ Denny Von Deylen, Dan Wiechers, Dave Badenhop, Jerry Short, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karen Germann, Mary Kossow, Diana Kruse, *Altar Guild* ✠

PALM SUNDAY CHILDREN'S PROCESSION – TODAY

Children are invited to join the Procession of Palms at the beginning of the service this morning, after which Pastor will have a special message for them. Send your child to the fellowship hall before the service to receive their palm branch and instructions.



2020 CHURCH'S ANNUAL REPORT: There are about 60 copies available on the desk and table in the narthex following the service today. There will be more printed and available next Sunday. Thanks to everyone for your information submitted to be included in this report.

COVID-19 MEASURES – The two most important things we can do to prevent the spread of viruses are 1) social distancing, and 2) wearing a mask when entering and exiting the building, and when singing or speaking. Masks can be removed during longer periods of listening, such as Scripture readings, sermon, prayers, etc.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 10:20AM	Palm Sunday Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Tue.		**NO SCHOOL – EASTER BREAK (return on Tues., Apr. 6th)**
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class
Thurs.	6:30 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM	Men's Lenten Bible Breakfast in fellowship hall Women's Lenten Bible Study in the cry room Maundy Thursday Communion Service Offering: <i>Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty</i> Ushers: <i>Elmer Maassel, Denny Behnfeldt, Ted Ripke, Bob Norden</i> Altar Guild: <i>Sandy Von Deylen, Kathy Badenhop, Mary Kay Rettig</i>
Fri.	7:00 PM	Good Friday Tenebrae Service Offering: <i>Home Fund</i> Ushers: <i>Elmer Maassel, Denny Behnfeldt, Ted Ripke, Bob Norden</i> Altar Guild: <i>Sandy Von Deylen, Kathy Badenhop, Mary Kay Rettig</i>
Sun.	7:00 AM 9:30 AM	Easter Sunrise Service with Communion Easter Festival Service with Communion
Mon.-Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Carl Rockrohr, Zion Lutheran – Ridgeville Corners</i>

FOR THOSE LISTENING FROM THE PARKING LOT

Pick up your bulletin and service by driving through the carport before worship

You can give your offering to the deacon at the same time

Tune your FM radio to 87.7

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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Renetta Homan*
- ❖ *Melba Elling* and *Lorna Von Deylen*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs* and *Ruth Mahnke*, at Assisted Living – Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Harold Behrmann*, at Fulton Manor, Wauseon
- ❖ *Donald Badenhop*, at Vancrest Nursing Care Facility, Holgate
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Armed Services: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, and Jared Dishop*
- ❖ *Sue Hurst, Rev. Logan Scheiwe, Eileen Fitzenreiter, and Patty Badenhop*, for health concerns relating to cancer
- ❖ *Crew Gerken*, born prematurely and in the NICU at Riverside Hospital, Columbus
- ❖ *Norma Damman*, recuperating at Genacross Lutheran Home after a recent fall
- ❖ *Casen Lawrence* (Dan & Deb Wachtman's grandson), who has been experiencing more frequent seizures, that God may quell the seizures and restore his health.
- ❖ *Jim Rosebrock*, hospitalized this past week for a ruptured appendix and surgery.
- ❖ *The Renetta Homan Family*, as they grieve the passing of Renetta this past Thursday. May God grant them comfort at this time of grief.

EASTER LILIES, PLAN B – We were not able to place an order for Easter lilies this year because of high demand. **Our new plan is to take donations through today, which we will use to make a run to Walmart to purchase our lilies. Each lily runs about \$6.00.** If you would like to make a donation for this cause, please leave your gift in the special container in the narthex. For every \$6.00 you donate, you may take a lily home with you on Easter Sunday after the late service.



HOLY WEEK

LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS!

Our 2021 Holy Week journey with Jesus begins today. We will walk with Jesus to His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, to the upper room with His disciples, and to the cross where He lays down His life for us.

IT IS THE HOLIEST OF WEEKS FOR CHRISTIANS AROUND THE GLOBE! Let us all join together in God's House to worship and honor our loving, redeeming Savior!

MAUNDY THURSDAY (Thursday, April 1)

- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday worship with Holy Communion
- Theme "Return to the Table"

GOOD FRIDAY (Friday, April 2)

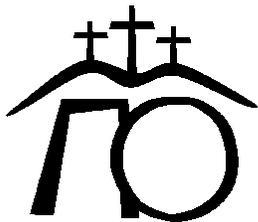
- 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service of Tenebrae (darkness)
- Theme "Remember Me"



EASTER SUNDAY (Sunday, April 4)

- 7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service
 - 9:30 a.m. Easter Festival Service
- } *Both Easter services will be the same, both with Communion*
(*Note: Due to Covid, there will be no Easter breakfast this year.*)

BALCONY SEATING DURING WORSHIP – With livestreaming and recording of our services taking place from the balcony, we ask that as much as possible the congregation be seated in the *nave* (the main seating area of the sanctuary) so that the microphones don't pick up extraneous sounds from the balcony. If you feel that you need to sit in the balcony because of the fullness of the sanctuary and for social distancing reasons, please keep that in mind that the microphones are nearby. *Thank you!*



ABOUT OUR EASTER CELEBRATION THIS YEAR – At its last meeting the church Council decided that we are not at the point yet in this pandemic where we should be having congregational meals, and that we would therefore **NOT have an Easter Breakfast this year.** Another change for this Easter is that because there will be no breakfast, **BOTH SERVICES will be identical** – same sermon, service and hymns, both with Holy Communion.

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 03/21/21	\$6,164.00	\$115.00	\$595.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 114

THURSDAY LENTEN #5 SERVICE: \$590.00 – Lutheran Hour Broadcast; Attendance: 44

Lent Bible Study Opportunities for Men and Women

- **MEN'S LENTEN BIBLE BREAKFAST** – Each Thursday during Lent the men are invited to join us for a breakfast Bible study at 6:30 a.m. We gather in the fellowship hall for one hour, which should give you give time to get on your way with whatever your day may hold. It's a great way to commemorate Lent, to enjoy fellowship, to grow in God's Word, and to enjoy a really good breakfast! **Please join us!**
- **WOMEN'S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY** – Join your sisters in Christ each Thursday morning during Lent for our Bible study, **"Be Thou My Guide."** We'll look at the examples of biblical figures who work on growing their trust in the Lord. From Moses to Mary, we look at their circumstances and responses to learn how to stand firm and draw close to Jesus. **Join us this Thurs., April 1st at 10:00 a.m. in the cry room.**



PORTALS OF PRAYERS for *April, May, June*, are available on the desk in the narthex. There are also large print booklets available for anybody to pick up.

MY DEVOTIONS for March, April, and May are available this Sunday on the desk in the back of the church. Pick up your copy today! If you know of someone who would enjoy these, take one for them.

LWML QUARTERLIES & ODES are available in the tract rack in the narthex. These are available for all women of the congregation. Please pick up a copy today!

LWML SPRING RALLY - The Women of Freedom are invited to the Napoleon Zone Spring Rally to be held at Emmaus Lutheran Church, Wauseon, on Saturday, April 24th with registration at 8:30 AM and the program following from 9-11:15 AM. The guest speaker will be *Madalyn Short*, Director of Family Life Ministry, Living Word Lutheran Church, Galena, OH. Please see the flyer in today's bulletin for all the information. The theme this year is "Family Life Ministry in Practice."

FINISHING THE STAINED GLASS WINDOW PROJECT – Pastor Niermann reported at the last voters' meeting that because of increased costs, the donation for our stained glass windows in memory of Juanita Thorpe by her family (Juanita was Pastor Maassel's daughter) will be approximately \$7,500 short of completing the project. This is approximately the amount needed for the final two windows. The family has opted not to complete the financing for the project, **so the church council has decided to begin receiving congregational gifts toward its completion.** If you care to give a donation and become part of this project, please include your special gift with your regular offering, and make note of it on the outside of the envelope. Also starting now, families who would like a portion of their loved one's memorial gifts to go toward this project may do so in consultation with the pastor in accordance with the Stewardship Board's Memorial Gift guidelines.

DESIGNATE CHOICE DOLLARS by March 31, 2021: There are still 2020 Thrivent Choice Dollars that have not been designated by members of our congregation. **Your 2020 dollars can still be designated until March 31, 2021.** Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to determine your Choice Dollars amount. Or you can call Doug Kossow or Tyler Kossow at the Thrivent office in Ridgeville Corners at 419-267-0113 to find out!

OPTIONS FOR HOLY COMMUNION DURING COVID - During this time of pandemic, we are making Holy Communion available in the following ways:

- **Thursday evening Communion services** prior to first and third Sundays
- **First and Third Sundays each month** – in the Sanctuary, and drive-thru after the service
- **Second Sundays** – after the service in the sanctuary



Drive-thru Communion is on the first and third Sundays for those who have participated in the Divine Service from the parking lot.

ATHLETIC RECOGNITION: The Athletic Banquet will take on a different look this year. It will be an Athletic Recognition program. There will not be a potluck meal held with this program. This will be held on Sun., April 18th beginning at 4 PM. Special guests will be high school senior athletes who will share their experience with academics and athletics at the high school level.

LADY EAGLES SKILLS CAMP: Coach Schroeder will be conducting a Lady Eagles Elite Skills Basketball Camp at St. John from 3:30 – 5:00 PM on March 29, April 7, 12, 21, 28, May 3, 10, 17. This is open to any congregation member/student in Grades K-4. Flyers located on the narthex table. For questions, please call Coach Schroeder at 419-591-6655. Let's go Eagles!

THE SPRING S.T.O.P. PENNY DRIVE! Save Those Old Pennies!!! Everyone get your pennies gathered up for the PTL Spring Penny Drive! This will begin this week and continue thru Fri., April 23rd. This year we are reverting back to collecting the most pennies by classroom. The pennies will be counted weekly and classroom progress will be posted in the school newsletter. The classroom collecting the most pennies will be given a pizza party, while the remaining classrooms will be given an ice cream treat for participating. If you will be seeing relatives over Easter, be sure to check with them for any spare change they may have to donate to your classroom collection.

KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2021! The St. John K-clinic will be held on Thursday, April 29th beginning at 1:00 PM. **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 2020 (*if available*); immunization records; Social Security number; child custody documents if applicable; and the baptism date/baptismal certificate, or dedication date. *NOTE: If your child is enrolled in our Preschool program, we already have this information and you will not need to bring them the day of the clinic.*

KINDERGARTEN HALF DAY! Please note that on Thurs., April 29th (*the day of the K-garten Clinic*), the Kindergarten class will dismiss at 11:20 AM. Please make pick up arrangements at that time for your child on April 29th. Thank you!

PTL SPRING FLOWER FUNDRAISER: The PTL Spring Flower sale is underway and will run thru Wed., April 7th. There are numerous varieties (36) of flowering plants and hanging baskets to pick from. To order online go to www.fundraiseit.org, and enter the church's Web Sale Code (C44EE). Enter your email address and click "submit." Click on the shop now URL. If you can't order online, use the yellow order forms available on the narthex table and return them to the office with payment to St. John PTL. These flowers and hanging baskets are coming to us thru Foertmeyer & Sons Greenhouse. The profit from this fundraiser will be used toward the school's technology. Orders will be delivered on May 13th. Please contact Ashley Crall at 419-966-0067 or email her at aellingcrall@yahoo.com with any questions you may have. Think spring!

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT: The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2021-22 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. We are now opening the registration up to the public as of Feb. 2, 2021, so be sure to register soon. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration. Here are the School Board approved rates for the 2021-2022 school year: 3-yr old Preschool - \$80/month; 4/5-yr old Preschool - \$210/month.

ST. JOHN SCRIP: Scrip orders will be received on Wednesdays, ordered on Fridays and delivered on the following Tuesday. Order forms are posted on FastDirect under 'Links,' titled SCRIP Order Forms and SCRIP Program Info, there are also hard copies on the table in the narthex and in the 'School Info' rack outside the office. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to the SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR HAWKS PIZZA & ST. JOHN SCHOOL: Hawks Pizza in Napoleon will be donating 10% of their total sales on Sat., May 8th, to St. John School. This is a community fundraising event they have chosen us to be a part of. Last year the response from our congregation members was so much that Hawk's ran out of pizza dough and had to hold up on taking orders for a short time until they got more dough. They said our congregation is "over the top" with supporting our St. John School. Let's do it again! Call Hawks at 419-599-1946 to place your order. You may also go to their website at hawkspizza.com.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

When you throw mud at someone, you're the one losing ground!

"Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear." (Eph 4:29)