

St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

April 18, 2021

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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon Title: "Here I Stand"
Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*
Hymns: 645 ~ 656 ~ 660 ~ [Communion: 488, 655, We Are Called to Stand Together] ~ 587

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

The church is not the building, even though we love it. The church is the people: We are the church. We would like you to consider making us your spiritual home. Please make yourself known to the Pastor or you may fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the basket at the table in the narthex as you leave.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠
- ✠ Bob Norden, Elmer Maassel, Denny Behnfeldt, Ted Ripke, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Mary Kay Rettig, Sandy Von Deylen, Kathy Badenhop, *Altar Guild* ✠

"Here I Stand" Sunday

This morning we take a little detour from the Easter season to join with congregations from across the LC-MS to observe and celebrate "**Here I Stand**" Sunday. 500 years ago, on April 18, 1521, Martin Luther was present at *The Diet of Worms* to be given the opportunity to recant what he had written about justification before God through faith in Christ alone, apart from good works. Standing before the emperor himself, as well as representatives of the pope, Luther's life was on the line. Yet God strengthened him to answer that he would not recant the teachings of Scripture or deny Christ. "Here I stand," he said. "I can do no other. God help me." May we all draw courage from his bold witness before the king, and confess Christ to a world that is hostile to our faith. **Here we stand, upon God's Word!**

- **Special Adult Bible Study this morning** – During the Sunday School hour, the adults will gather in the sanctuary for a special Bible study written for this day, titled, "**Standing in the Footprints of a Bold Confession.**" Please join us!

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	7:00AM 10:20AM 4:00 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Athletic Recognition Program (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Tue.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel led by Gr. 7&8 Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 3:30 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class Lady Eagles Basketball Skills Camp (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship Service
Fri.		PTL Penny Drive ends
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:00AM 10:20AM 3:00 PM 4:00 PM	Worship Service Good Shepherd Sunday Brunch (<i>see info in bulletin</i>) Sunday School; "The Lamp" Jr High LYF Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>) Sr High LYF Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Jacob Stuenkel</i> , St. Peter Lutheran – Florida

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
Drive-thru Communion after worship under carport

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

- ❖ *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.

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.

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES RESUME NORMAL SCHEDULE – Each Thursday service will be a ‘preview’ of the following Sunday service. Once again the *Sacrament of the Altar* will be celebrated on the Thursday evenings prior to the first and third Sundays of each month. Thursday services are at 7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES – Why attend Sunday School?

It’s as simple as **B-I-B-L-E...**



- **B is for BIBLE.** We delight in the *Bible* because we want to grow in God’s Word. *“I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil.” Psa 119:162*
- **I is for INSTILL.** We want to *instill* God’s Word in the hearts of our children and in our own hearts. *“I have stored up your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” Psa 199:11*
- **B is for BETTER** – There is no thing *better*. When Mary took time to listen to Jesus while Martha was distracted, He said, *“Mary has chosen the better portion.” Luke 10:42*
- **L is for LEADERS** – When we attend Sunday School, we honor God who gives *leaders* to His church so that we may avail ourselves of their teaching and grow in grace and in the knowledge of God. *“He gave some to be...pastors and teachers.” Eph 4:11*
- **E is for ENCOURAGEMENT** – Every Christian needs the constant *encouragement* of God’s Word as we face our trials and temptations. *“Therefore encourage one another with these words.” 1 Thess 4:8*

Join us for Sunday School each Sunday. The **children** meet in the fellowship hall, the **youth** “Lamp” study group meets in the *Youth & Family Center*, and **Adult Bible Study** meets in the sanctuary.

CHURCH CONSTITUTION: Several members have asked for a copy of the church’s constitution over the past months. With the revision to the cemetery rates by Council in December 2020, the updated constitution booklets are now available in the new tract rack in the narthex. If interested, please pick up a copy at your convenience. More will be printed as needed.

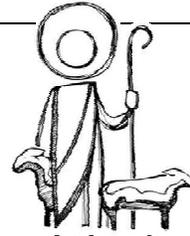
2020 CHURCH’S ANNUAL REPORT: There are about 30 copies available on the desk and table in the narthex following the service today.

DATE CHANGED--LYF MEETING: The LYF will be meeting on Sun., April 25th at the St. John Youth & Family Center. The Jr High LYF will meet from 3:00-4:00 PM. The Sr High will then meet from 4:00-5:30 PM. Masks will be required. Come join us for a Bible study, fellowship, food, and games! Sorry for any confusion.

SANCTIFYING YOUR VOCATIONS WITH THE WORD OF GOD... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week’s topics include: The TV Series “The Falcon and the Winter Soldier;” The Historical Reliability of John’s Gospel; The Word “Resurrection” in the Bible; The Calling of the Prophet Isaiah and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

Good Shepherd Sunday Brunch

Next Sunday, April 25



**Good Shepherd
Sunday Brunch**

April 25

We're announcing a brunch for **Good Shepherd Sunday, April 25** to benefit our own women's organization, *The Women of Freedom*. These women do so much for us and for God's Kingdom – LWML mite offerings for missions, Bible Studies, congregational service (such as funeral meals), and scholarships for young people preparing for church work. With thanks to God, we honor their service by giving them all proceeds from this brunch.

- **Brunch Menu** - French Toast, Pancakes, Scrambled eggs, Sausage, Fruit, Coffee, Juice
- **Time** – Serving begins after the morning service, about 10:00 a.m.
- **Carryout containers** will be available in line if you'd like to take it with you.
- **Free Will donations** accepted with proceeds to *The Women of Freedom*.
- **All-Male kitchen crew** – We're honoring the women, and want them simply to enjoy. Men, please sign up to help (on the sheet in the narthex) today, or call the church office.

Food Sign-Up – As with Easter Breakfast, we are looking for folks to provide food items to lower costs and raise proceeds. Food items needed are **EGGS** (in lots of 5 dozens, 30 doz. total) ~ **HALF-GALLON JUICES** (8 total) ~ **SYRUP** (4 bottles) ~ **SMALL MANDARIN ORANGES**, like Cuties or Halos (5 bags) ~ **BANANAS** (5 dozen). Sign up today in the narthex, and **bring your items to the church on Friday, April 23 during office hours.**

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 04/11/21	\$5,794.00	\$597.00	\$210.00
ATTENDANCE:	Thursday – 32;	Sunday – 101	

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS: \$1,000.00

MEMORIALS for *Phyllis Silveus*: St. John Home Fund - \$2,060.00
Stained Glass Windows - \$325.00

THREE WAYS TO GIVE YOUR REGULAR OFFERING

- Deposit your offering in the narthex when you come to worship, or if you're listening to the FM broadcast, give your offering to the usher or deacon when they hand you your bulletin.
- Use the '**Give Now**' online giving page – a link (the blue button) is on our website.
- Mail your offering to the church.

LUTHERAN WITNESS RENEWAL – It's time to renew your subscription to the Lutheran Witness for the year. To subscribe or renew your subscription, **simply place \$16.00 in an envelope**, along with your name and address, and place it in the Sunday collection plate or bring it to the church office. **Deadline for subscriptions is May 15th.**

CONTINUE BUILDING THE WALL: The St. John Youth & Family Center is up and running. The first three groups of brick nameplates from the youth center fundraiser have been put up. A big thanks to *Mike Elling* for cleaning all the bricks, *Tom Rohrs* for laying up the two brick walls, and for the 135+ contributors (*and counting*) for making the \$19,000+ fundraiser a success! There is room for at least another 135, so if you've been waiting for a reminder, or wanted to see how they look, stop over at the youth center and check out the walls by the South or East doors. It's fun to read the names, the confirmation years...some from the 1800's, and some in the 2020's! But...there are still bricks to be engraved! Why not consider filling out an application, and give it to Joyce Wiechers or Cathy Gerken along with a check (*\$100 minimum for a brick*) with the inscription info you would like on it. Checks should be payable to *St. John Lutheran Church*, with "Youth Center" on the memo line. Let's keep building, brick by brick!

For those who cannot get over to see the bricks, we have a photo posted on the bulletin board, narthex table, and entrance doors for you to see how they look.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM MEETING: The Women of Freedom will be meeting this Tues., April 20th at 7:00pm. We will plan to resume our usual meeting schedule of the 3rd Tuesday of each month. All women are invited to come to our meetings. The Quarterlies and Odes are available in the tract rack in the narthex also.

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 on the bulletin board for more information. The theme this year is "Family Life Ministry in Practice."

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!*

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.



PORTALS OF PRAYERS for *April, May, June*, are available on the desk in the narthex.

PIERSTORF MEMORIAL LOAN FUND – provides interest-free loans to Lutheran students who are or will be enrolled full time in a four-year undergraduate program at any accredited college or university. This year, the maximum interest-free loan amount is \$3,000 for the school year. For information, visit www.Pierstorf.org and complete the 2021-2022 application. Applications open April 15, 2021 and close June 30, 2021.

INTERESTED IN A CHURCH PROFESSION? WE'D LIKE TO HELP! Recently a number of young people from St. John have pursued educational goals to prepare them for full-time service as teachers and pastors. If you are interested in a church profession (*as a pastor, deaconess, teacher, lay minister, or a Director of Christian Education, Christian Outreach, Parish Music, or Family Life Ministry*), our congregation would like to support you by offering a tuition gift. An application for this gift is available online --- type www.sjl.org/student_gift_app.pdf into your browser (*there is no link*) and fill out the application. Deadline for fall enrollment is June 1st.

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. Just give Pastor Niermann a call!

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.

FELLOWSHIP HALL SETUP CREW NEEDS YOU! The ministry team that sets up the fellowship hall for funerals or special events could use a little extra help. They typically set up on evenings prior to an event, so you don't need to be retired to help out. If you can serve with this helping ministry, please speak with Pastor Niermann or Joyce Wiechers so we can get you added to the crew.

ST. JOHN CHURCH LIBRARY – Stop in and check out the growing number of books available in the church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary. The books in this library have been screened to assure that they are true to the Word of God and can be trusted to be theologically sound. To borrow a book, just take it with you, and then return it to the basket when you've finished reading. A complete list of the books in the church's library can be found by clicking on the "Book Inventory" link on the library page of our church's website. <http://www.sjl.org/library.html>

CHURCH HISTORY BOOKS – If at any time during the year you need a gift for a current or former member of St. John, why not consider one of our Church History Books. This book is full of interesting facts about St. John's and is available in the church office at a cost of \$12.00.

COUNCIL MINUTES – This is just a reminder that council meeting minutes are not published until they are approved a month later. If you would like to read about the most recent council meeting, an unofficial and unapproved copy of the minutes is available for viewing in the church office, usually within a week after the meeting.

PROJECT CONNECT – There are many free booklets in the rack in the narthex. Be sure to check for some informative reading such as: “*Alzheimer’s: Facing the Loss of a Lifetime*,” “*Talking with God*,” “*Forgiveness is a Choice*,” “*Talking Openly with Kids*,” “*Setting Priorities*,” “*Your Place in God’s Plan*,” “*Stressed but Connected*,” “*Beyond Divorce*,” “*For Better, For Worse*,” “*What Is Faith in Jesus?*” and many more. Booklets furnished through Lutheran Hour Ministries.

WHY NOT CONSIDER ST. JOHN? Saint John Lutheran School offers preschool to 8th grade Lutheran education. Students are taught the Word of God. In addition all the other subjects are taught. Students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of athletics. Bus transportation is available to students in all the local school districts. SJL is accredited by the National Lutheran School Accreditation and by the State of Ohio Dept. of Education. We are currently accepting registration for the 2021-2022 school year. If you have any questions about enrollment or would like a tour of the school please call the school office for an appointment.

THE SPRING S.T.O.P. PENNY DRIVE! **Save Those Old Pennies!!!** Classrooms—get your pennies gathered up for the PTL Spring Penny Drive! This has begun and continues thru Fri., April 23rd. This year we are reverting back to collecting the most pennies by classroom. 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 any congregation member has pennies to contribute, please leave them on the narthex table. If you choose, you may leave a note with which classroom you wish for them to go. Otherwise they will be divided amongst the classrooms.**

PRESCHOOL GRADUATION will be **Tues., May 18th** at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. This ceremony is for the 3-yr old and 4/5-yr old classes. Everyone is invited to this big day for the preschoolers. There will be a program followed by light refreshments.

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. Rates for the 2021-2022 school year: 3-yr old Preschool - \$80/month; 4/5-yr old Preschool - \$210/month.

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!

SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL GRANDPARENT'S DAY: A notice that Grandparent's Day at St. John School for Grades Preschool thru 8 is cancelled again due to Covid protocol and having too many people inside classrooms and cafeteria. We pray that we can see all of you next school year.

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.**

ATHLETIC RECOGNITION TODAY: 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 today 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 April 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!

ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE SCHOOLS ELECTRONICS RECYCLING: On Sat., April 24 from 8AM – Noon, the battle is on again as Henry County Solid Waste Mgmt., along with Zack's Recycling are hosting the Electronics Recycling Roundup. Please bring your discarded electronics items to the Napoleon Area School parking lot and help support the school and the environment.

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 the 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...

3 nails. 1 cross. 4-given!

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:24)