



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16-035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom
Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Miss Mary K. Rettig, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
School: 419-598-8702 Home: 419-966-6160
Church Website: www.sjl.org

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Order of Service – *Service of Prayer & Preaching (Page 260)*

Sermon & Text: “Picking Up the Pieces” *John 20:19-31*

Hymns: 477 ~ (Late Service: “Borning Cry,” 603) ~ 472 ~ 461

2nd Service Children’s Choir: Grades K-4 sing “Do You Know Who Died For Me?”

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest this morning, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to our pastor and by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you. Simply pass it to the center aisle during the offering.



SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING

1st Service: ✕ Cally Bialorucki & Conner Bialorucki, *Acolytes* ✕

2nd Service: ✕ Alex Stevens & Brady Gerken, *Acolytes* ✕

✕ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✕

✕ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✕

✕ Alan & Kathy Damman, *Greeters* ✕

✕ Dave Badenhop, Denny VonDeylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, *Ushers* ✕

✕ Linda Riefers, Marian Damman, Ruth Mahnke, Mabel Bischoff, *Altar Guild* ✕

ALTAR FLOWERS are placed today in celebration of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Larry & Pat Mahnke by their family. Larry & Pat were married on May 2, 1964. An Open House will be hosted by their family today from 3:00-5:00 PM in the south end of the fellowship hall. All are welcome to come and wish Larry & Pat congratulations, visit with relatives and friends, and have some light refreshments. Congratulations to the Mahnke’s and many more!

145th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE will hold a make-up meeting on, Thursday, May 1st at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to serve on this committee, please join us for this meeting!

In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM 1:00 PM 3:00 PM 4:30 PM	Early Worship Service Sunday School; Adult Bible Class; <i>"Time To Spare"</i> Late Worship Service 4-H Meetings Open House – 50 th Wedding Anniversary of <i>Larry & Pat Mahnke</i> LYF Meeting in <i>Miss Rettig's</i> classroom
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class Board of Elders
Wed.	9:00 AM 6:15 PM 7:00 PM	"Oklahoma" Dress Rehearsal – <i>Congregation invited to come</i> Jr. Confirmation Class Adult Choir Practice
Thur.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant, Napoleon Exercise Class 145 th Anniversary Meeting
Fri.	7:00 PM	Spring Musical "Oklahoma" performance
Sun.	8:15 AM 9:30 AM 10:30AM 2:00 PM	Early Worship Service Sunday School; Adult Bible Class; <i>"Time To Spare"</i> Late Worship Service Spring Musical "Oklahoma" performance
Mon.- Sat.	7:20 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Dale Kern</i> , Retired – St. John Lutheran, Stryker

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

- Our Homebound Shut-Ins: *Stan Moll, Marian Fitzenreiter, and Donald & Sue Landry*
- Pauline Dishop* and *Marie Damman*, residing at The Lutheran Home
- Magdalena Volkman*, residing at Heartland Nursing Home, Wauseon
- Lucy Rosebrock*, residing at GlennPark of Defiance
- Marian Buchhop* and *Anna Brodman*, residing at Country View Haven
- Helen Norden*, residing at Greenbriar Assisted Living, Birmingham, AL
- Servicemen and women*, Justin Atkinson, Kyle Elling, Jason Rohrs, and Emily Niermann
- Edwin Rosebrock*, at home dealing with health issues at this time
- Casen Lawrence*, as he has had on-going seizures resulting in hospitalization
- Florence Jones*, recuperating at home following a pacemaker implant
- Norma Damman*, rehabbing at Henry County Hospital following a fractured hip
- Hilda Kruse*, at Henry County Hospital following a severe stroke prior to Easter

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE ARRIVAL of a newborn baby boy to *Adam & Cori Niese*. *Casen Thomas* was born on Friday, April 18th at Fulton County Health Center. Big brother *Ashton* is very proud of his new brother and will be a big help for Adam & Cori. Congratulations to the Nieses'!

BAPTISM TODAY – On this second Sunday of Easter, we rejoice to witness the baptism of little *Avery James Crall* into Christ’s death and resurrection. *Avery* is the son of *Aaron & Ashley* (nee Elling) *Crall*. He was born on April 8th at the Henry County Hospital. *Avery’s* baptismal sponsors are *Josh and Kara Elling* (Ashley’s brother and sister) and *Jeremy & Beth Crall* (Aaron’s brother and sister-in-law). His grandparents are *Mark & Brenda Elling* and *Mike & Judy Crall*. As Christ is risen, today *Avery* is given new life in the Easter washing of holy Baptism. May the faith God creates in this child be nourished in the years ahead, and finally be brought to its completion on the day of Christ!



THE LWML – would like to thank those who came and supported the Easter Breakfast, to those who so generously donated food items, and to the LYF members for your help throughout the morning. It was greatly appreciated! Thank you once again!

NEW ARCHIVES DISPLAY: With the upcoming celebration of our church’s 145th Anniversary, the Archives committee has collected pictures & information from the first 75 years of the church’s history and placed it in their display cases. The pictures are of past pastors, past teachers, the old church and the old school. We even found Miss Schick’s whistle and pictures of track teams and baseball teams. Stop by and check it out!



MEN’S BIBLE BREAKFAST – After His resurrection, Jesus invited His disciples to breakfast (John 21:12), and He still invites His disciples! On the first Thursday of each month, get your day off to a great start with good food and friends and God’s Word, the Bread of Life! **This coming Thursday, May 1st, we will meet at 6:30 a.m. at Hill’s Restaurant in Napoleon.** Won’t you please join us?

NEW SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES

The Means of Grace – (*This study is intended to fill in a little time as we prepare for our next bigger study, “The Screwtape Letters” - see below*). God seems to have a fondness for doing His greatest work through the most ordinary means – with mud He healed the blind; with a word from His mouth he raised the dead; with wood and nails He redeemed the world. And now with water, bread and wine He comes to us, simply but powerfully.

The Screwtape Letters – In this classic book by C.S. Lewis we meet Screwtape, a fictitious devil with vast experience in the art of temptation. In a series of 31 letters, he teaches his craft to an apprentice devil by the name of Wormwood. It is a fascinating and eye-opening look into the craftiness of our enemy as he works tirelessly to draw us away from our Savior.

CS LEWIS
Screwtape
LETTERS

This Bible study will be modeled as a book club. Everyone is encouraged to purchase a copy of this book (used copies are available on Amazon.com for a few dollars), or download the free Kindle edition at <http://www.epubbud.com/book.php?g=UH6Q68D3> (this link is available at [sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)). Each week we will read a few of the letters, then come together on Sundays to discuss what we’ve read, and to compare it with God’s Word. This is a classic piece of literature that every Christian ought to read. Get your copy ordered or downloaded soon.



**LUTHERAN
PUBLIC RADIO**
Sacred Music for the Easter Season

LUTHERAN PUBLIC RADIO

Right now *Lutheran Public Radio* is streaming sacred Easter music on the internet during the 50 days of Easter. Give it a listen anytime of day or night at lutheranpublicradio.org. It will bring the Easter season to your home and life like nothing else can!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	<u>Home Fund</u>	<u>Synod & Missions</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 4/20/14	\$9,833.08	\$5,069.50	\$530.50

ATTENDANCE: 4/20/14 – Sunrise Service: 192 Festival Service: 291

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION: *Youth Summer Mission Servant Event - Napoleon* - \$1,180.00
Attendance: 160

GOOD FRIDAY TENNEBRAE: *Filling Home of Mercy & Lutheran Home – Napoleon* - \$1,050.00
Attendance: 162

IS IT TIME FOR A ST. JOHN GARAGE SALE? The idea came up at Church Council about having a combined garage sale. We haven't done this for a number of years, and we all have accumulated 'stuff' that we could do without, so the timing seems right. Since the mats are already in the gym for the school musical, we thought a June date would be good. **However, we need someone to take a leadership role and assemble a team to coordinate this effort.** If you would like to step into this role, please speak with Pastor Niermann or president Craig Drewes.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE VICAR – It won't be long until we welcome a Vicar into our midst, probably mid-August. To get ready for his ministry among us, there are number of things we need to get accomplished.

1. **Office** - A temporary partition wall will section off about 8 ft. of the room currently used for quilting.
2. **Apartment** – We need to locate an unfurnished apartment (preferably two bedrooms to accommodate a few children) in or near Napoleon. Once we know who our Vicar is and his situation, we will have time to pull some items together if necessary to furnish what he will need. Please speak with Pastor Niermann if you know of any apartments that would be suitable for a Vicar and can be occupied starting August 1.
3. **Support** – Together we all need to get used to the idea of a second church staff member and what that means for the finances. Along with exciting possibilities comes additional responsibilities, and we pray that everyone will be forthcoming in their financial and prayer support for a Vicar's ministry among us.



LUTHERAN WITNESS RENEWAL – It's time to renew your subscription to the Lutheran Witness for this year. To subscribe or renew your subscription, **simply place \$17.00 in an envelope**, along with your name and address, and place it in the Sunday collection plate or bring it down to the church office. **Deadline for subscriptions is May 18th.**

LADIES NIGHT OUT: Invitations were mailed for the Ladies Night Out fundraiser for the “Right Hand of Fellowship” gift matching campaign being hosted by the Stewardship Board. This will be held on Mon., May 5th from 6:00-8:30 PM in the fellowship hall. **RSVP by Sun., May 4th.**

- There will be babysitting service available (*if you need it*). Just give *Karen Norden* a call at 419-267-3477 to get that lined up.
- A potluck meal will be followed by a “white elephant” auction.
- A silent auction will be ongoing throughout the event. Any silent auction items may be dropped off in the marked container under the narthex table. Questions about the silent auction can be directed to *Karen Norden, Kim VanValkenburg* (419-579-0437, or *Jackie Ripke* (419-267-5574).
- Buy a “mystery” balloon for \$5.

This will be a fun-filled evening for all ladies to enjoy! Sign up to come on the sheet in the narthex.



CHURCH LIBRARY – The church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary, is growing to contain a lot of excellent books that will edify your faith. 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. Please check out the selection. To borrow a book, just take it with you, then return it to the basket when you’ve finished reading.

LADIES AID SCHOLARSHIPS: Here is another opportunity to encourage and help young people prepare for service to the church as pastors, teachers, lay workers, deaconesses, and parish workers. \$500 per year Ladies Aid Scholarships are available to any young person attending one of our synodical schools. Simply contact any Ladies Aid member for more details about this.

INTERESTED IN A CHURCH PROFESSION? WE’D LIKE TO HELP! Lately 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.

ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOL & YOUNG ADULTS: Join us in the Cry Room after church each Sunday for Bible Study, fellowship, and snacks. Feed your soul and your body to start your week out right! Looking forward to having you join us each week! *Sharon Damman*

A GREAT MOTHER’S DAY GIFT – The “Recipes and Remembrances” cookbooks from PTL would surely make Mom smile. They have a very nice collection of great recipes in them. This is a PTL fundraiser and the cookbooks are available today in the hallway by the drinking fountain. The cost is \$10.00. If writing a check, please make it payable to: *St. John PTL*. We hope you enjoy making all the “goodies” in this cookbook. Thank you for supporting the PTL!

S.T.O.P. PENNY DRIVE – The PTL Spring Penny Drive at St. John School has begun. This will run thru Fri., May 9th. The classroom collecting the most pennies will be treated to a pizza party. All other classrooms will get an ice cream party. Save those pennies and give them to one of our students or turn your pennies in at the school office. **NOTE: *Since starting this fundraiser in October 1992, the PTL has now raised \$15,639.06 for the school. Save Those Old Pennies!***

GRANDPARENT'S DAY: A reminder that Grandparent's Day at St. John School for Grades K-8 will be held on **Friday, May 9** from 12:30 - 3:00 PM. *Lunch is not included.*

PROJECT CONNECT – There are many free booklets in the rack in the narthex. Be sure to check for some good reading. Some titles are: “*Why Do Bad Things Happen To Me,*” “*Has God Abandoned Me,*” “*Dealing with Depression,*” “*Coping with Cancer,*” “*Who Is Jesus,*” “*Just Stress?*”, “*Overcoming A Painful Childhood,*” “*Where's God in All of This?*”, “*Why Should I go to Church?*” and many more. These booklets are furnished through the Lutheran Hour Ministries.

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.

4-H MEETINGS – The Gerald Busy Fingers 4-H Club, the Freedom Royal Farmers 4-H Club (Grades 3-12), and the Cloverbuds (Grades K-2) will be having their meeting today at 1:00 PM at St. John Lutheran School.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN BENEFIT - The Ohio Division OGT is sponsoring a Drive-thru Beef Brisket Dinner on Sun., May 4th at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1075 Glenwood Ave., Napoleon, from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM (*or until they run out*). Freewill donation with Thrivent Matching Funds.

HOSPICE BAZAAR: The 8th Annual Hospice of Henry Co. Bazaar will be held on Wed. and Thurs., May 14 & 15 at the Napoleon American Legion. All live auction donations must be received by May 1st. They are accepting donations of silent auction items, handmade wooden items, craft or needlework items or baked goods and pies for the day of the bazaar. See flyer for all the details!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

**“Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone,
but in every leaf in spring-time.” ~Martin Luther**

*“For as the earth brings forth its buds, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up
before all the nations.” (Isaiah 61:11)*