



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

April 9, 2017

VOL. 82

NO. 15

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor  
Mr. M. Brent Keller, Vicar  
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

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### SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

Sermon & Text: *The Passion History from Matthew 27*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: **442 ~ 438 ~ 444 ~ 441**

Chime Choir: Grades 5&6 play "The King Comes"

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**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.*

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#### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Ashton Niese & Aden Foor, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Don & Karan Niebergall, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Carey Damman, Craig Drewes, Scott VanValkenburg, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow, *Altar Guild* ✠

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are placed in celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Elmer & Pat Maassel. Elmer & Pat were married on April 15, 1967. The family is hosting an Open House today in the Fellowship Hall from 2 - 4 PM. Please stop by to congratulate the Maassels on their milestone anniversary. May God bless them with many more happy, healthy years together! Congratulations Elmer & Pat, and enjoy your day!

**HOLY COMMUNION** will be offered this morning following the Worship service. Those who wish to attend should fill out a Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and give it to the usher during the collection of the offering this morning. Return immediately to the front pews in the sanctuary following the service.

**In God's House This Week**

Online church calendar: [www.DynaCal.com/sjl](http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 2:00 PM 4:30 PM	<b>Palm Sunday Service</b> w/Communion following Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "Time To Spare" Open House – 50 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary for Elmer & Pat Maassel Sr. High LYF
Mon.	10:00AM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Women's Lenten Bible Study <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study; Adult Instruction Class PTL Meeting
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM	Chapel led by <i>Vicar Keller</i> ; Offering: <i>Genacross Lutheran Home</i> Exercise Class <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study Church Council
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr. Hi. Confirmation Class ( <i>until 7:30 p.m.</i> )
Thurs.	6:30 AM 7:00 PM	**** <i>NO SCHOOL (return on Tues., Apr. 18)</i> **** Men's Lenten Bible Study at Hill's Restaurant <b>Maundy Thursday Communion Service</b> Offering: <i>Lutheran Heritage Foundation</i> Adult Bell Choir: "Melody on the Cross" Acolytes: <i>Clay Behnfeldt &amp; Kaleb Woods</i> Greeters: <i>Bonnie Niermann &amp; Cheryl Yaw</i> Ushers: <i>Carey Damman, Craig Drewes, Scott VanValkenburg</i> Altar Guild: <i>Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow</i>
Fri.	7:00 PM	<b>Good Friday Tenebrae Service</b> Offering: <i>Home Fund</i> Adult Choir: "There, At Calvary" Acolytes: <i>Clay Behnfeldt &amp; Clara Damman</i> Greeters: <i>Bob &amp; Diane Norden</i> Ushers: <i>Tom VonDeylen, Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Roger Lulfs</i> Altar Guild: <i>Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow</i>
Sat.	9:00 AM	Set up for Easter Breakfast
Sun.	7:00 AM 8:00 AM 9:30 AM	<b>Easter Sunrise Service</b> Fellowship Breakfast for everyone – Freewill Offering! (Till 9:15 AM) <b>Easter Festival Service with Communion</b>
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Lee Genter</i> , Christ Our Savior Lutheran, Defiance

**Life's Big Questions, God Big Answers – Sunday Bible Study**

In light of what much of the scientific community believes about human origins and evolution, Christians are often called upon to defend the doctrine of Creation by the Word and the hand of God. One question that often arises is about the age of the earth. Is the earth billions on years old, or just thousands. Does it really matter? Please join us during the Sunday School hour as we grow in grace and in the knowledge of God's Holy Word, and in our own ability to defend the Christian faith.

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

- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Lucia Delventhal, Renetta Homan, and Florence Fitzenreiter*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, and Anna Brodman*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Servicemen, *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, and Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Delores Badenhop*, in Assisted Living at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Annetta Rosebrock, Evelyn Rohrs, and Shirley Sonnenberg*, all dealing with health issues
- ❖ *Richard Wagner* (Renee Petzoldt's father), receiving radiation and chemo treatments

**ADD'L THANKS:** The Family of Marie Damman would also like to thank the Women of Freedom ladies for preparing and serving a wonderful meal the day of Marie's funeral. Thanks again!

## **LifeLight** BIBLE STUDY meets this Monday evening and Tuesday morning.

**The Parables of Jesus** - God loves all people and desires that we would all believe in Jesus for our salvation. But there are many who reject our Lord. And though Jesus is the narrow door and the only way to receive salvation, many attempt to enter the Kingdom through other means. Those who seek these other means face eternal judgment. This week, we will consider parables where Jesus sought to shake people out of self-reliance and instead trust and rely on God's forgiveness.

**EASTER BREAKFAST LAST DAY TO SIGN UP** – The Women of Freedom and the LYF are once again hosting an Easter Breakfast to be served between the two services on Easter morning (8:00-9:15 AM). The menu is: *Egg Casseroles, French bread, fresh fruit, coffee cake, doughnuts, cinnamon rolls, cookies, coffee and juice*. A lot of help with donations is needed. Please sign up on the chart in the narthex. All items need to be at the church prior to 8:00 AM. All are welcome to help with preparation and serving. Any questions can be directed to *Nancy Glaser* at 419-598-8432.

**Java Joy TODAY!** It's the second Sunday of the month! Be sure to stop out in the front hallway this morning for some refreshments and fellowship. Our hosts today are *Jim & Nancy Hogrefe* and *Larry & Pat Mahnke*, and we thank them for this service of love to us all!

**JAVA JOY COORDINATOR NEEDED** - Java Joy on the second Sunday of each month has been a real blessing, but the individual who has coordinated it in the past needs to step away from that task. We're looking for a replacement. The task is fairly simple. It would mean watching the Java Joy sign-up list to make sure someone is signed up for each second Sunday. If no one is signed up, it would mean approaching people to ask if they would consider hosting. If you are interested to serve in this way, or for more information on what this task entails, please speak with Rosella Gruenhagen or Pastor Niermann. Thanks for thinking about it!



## **LENTEN BIBLE STUDIES** –

- **Men's Lenten Bible Breakfast!** On Thursday mornings during Lent all men are invited to join us for our Lenten Bible Breakfasts at Hill's Restaurant in Napoleon. We gather at 6:30 AM.
- **Women's Lenten Bible Study** – "Gifts Chosen for You," will be held on Monday at 10:00 AM. All ladies invited! We hope you can join us to learn more about your "spiritual gift."

# Holy Week at St. John



Holy week begins today! Please be sure to take note of all the worship opportunities and make it a priority to be in God's house as we walk with Jesus into Jerusalem, to the upper room to share in His Supper, then to the garden and the cross, and finally to the open tomb. May God bless our Holy Week journey!

- 4/13 **Maundy Thursday, 7:00pm** **Come to the upper room**, sit with Jesus, and receive the gifts of His very own body and blood!
- 4/14 **Good Friday, 7:00pm** This service of darkness celebrates the greatest act of love this world has ever seen; Christ dies for us!
- 4/16 **Easter Sunrise, 7:00am** **He is risen indeed!**  
**Easter Breakfast, 8:00am** **Come and share breakfast** and fellowship  
**Easter Festival, 9:30am** **The celebration continues**; different sermon & service, and the celebration of the Feast of Victory!

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 04/02/17	\$8,297.00	\$114.00	\$435.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Sunday (04/02/17) Service: 237

**4-05-17 LENTEN SERVICE:** \$618.00 – *Good Shepherd for Deaf - Toledo*; Attendance: 148

**ARCHIVES DISPLAY:** The Archives Committee members have put up a display of past Confirmation classes ranging from 1937 (*80th anniversary*) to 2012 (*celebrating their 5th anniversary*). Come and check it out in the showcases in the hallway by the church. We are sure you will find a familiar face in the display.

**LWML QUARTERLIES:** The Quarterlies for the Women of Freedom are ready to be picked up from the table in the narthex. Our next meeting will be Tues., April 18th at 7:00 PM. April is a Mite Box meeting, so be sure to bring your mite boxes with you on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**LWML SPRING RALLY** - The Women of Freedom are invited to the Napoleon Zone Spring Rally to be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Liberty Center, on Saturday, April 29th with registration and breakfast at 8:30 AM and the program from 9-11:30 AM. The speakers will be presenting a program about the "Families Serving Families" mission work at St. Paul – Liberty Center. The collection will go to support their purchase of various items toward this effort.

**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 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**STAFF & TEACHER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:** On Sun., April 23<sup>rd</sup> St. John Church and the Board of Education would like to recognize the following individuals for their years of service in the teaching ministry: *Rev. Charles Kramer* – 40 years; *Mr. Lowell Petzoldt* – 40 years; *Mrs. Bonnie Niermann* – 15 years; *Joyce Wiechers* – 10 years (*as church & school secretary*). To celebrate this noteworthy occasion, there will be a potluck luncheon following the Sunday School hour at 11:30 AM on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, featuring pulled pork from Brookview Farm Meats. Please bring a side dish or two to pass and enjoy some good food and fellowship in honor of these individuals.

**“I HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU” – Adult Christian Instruction**

**IT’S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN!** Pastor Niermann is teaching a new adult instruction class, each Monday evening, 7:00-8:15 p.m. The course covers the basics of the Christian faith that every Christian ought to know at a minimum. **This is a membership course for those wishing to join our congregation**, but it is also intended for those who are simply curious about what we believe, teach and confess, as well as for current members who want a “refresher.”



**THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICES** will begin on Thurs., May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. Once school is out for the summer, we will move these services into the north end fellowship hall. Our Thursday evening worship services will be held each week through October 26. Holy Communion will usually be on the Thursday evenings prior to regular Communion Sundays.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

### Staff sign-up



Yep, it’s time to think about putting together a team for a summer Vacation Bible School. **VBS is scheduled for the evenings of June 4-8** (Sunday to Thursday). Mary Rettig has volunteered to be our director, and so we continue signing up staff members. If you would like to serve the children of our congregation as a VBS staff member, please fill out the form on the table in the narthex and drop it in the container marked VBS Staff Sign-Up. Please think and pray about this, as you consider the words of Jesus, “*Let the children come unto me, and do not forbid them!*”



**SUMMER MISSION TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS – SIGN-UP NOW!**

**We are planning a summer mission trip to New Orleans.** The area has not fully recovered from the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and has been hit by severe storms and floods since then, including multiple devastating tornadoes recently. We would like to serve our neighbors in New Orleans this summer by lending our time and gifts to the community through

*Camp Restore*, which is a Recognized Service Organization in our Synod. Informational leaflets about this trip and its costs are available in the narthex next to a sign-up sheet. The cost to you will be very minimal thanks to many offerings and gifts received in support of those who go. **Now the only question is, “WHO WILL GO?”** May God lead many of us to say, “**Here am I, Lord; send me!**”

**SPRING PENNY DRIVE**– **Save Those Old Pennies!!!** The Spring Penny Drive (S.T.O.P.) began on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and runs thru Fri., May 5<sup>th</sup>. Start saving 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 raised \$17,227.67 for various projects at St. John.**

**PTL MEETING** will be held on Mon., April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. School parents are invited to attend these meetings at any time. We look forward to seeing new faces at the April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**GRANDPARENT’S DAY**: A reminder that Grandparent’s Day at St. John School for Grades K-8 will be held on **Friday, May 5** from 12:30 - 3:00 PM. *Lunch is not included.*

**SAVE THE DATE**: Plans are in motion for a St. John Lutheran School Fundraiser to be held at the Ridgeville American Legion Hall on Fri., Nov. 10, 2017. There will be a meal, along with a live and silent auction. Stay tuned for more information as plans are firmed up for this upcoming event.

**BASKETBALL FUN!** On Sat., April 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM there will be a Student vs. Staff/Coaches Basketball game held here in our gym. The student team will consist of 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> students, and the Staff/Coaches team will consist of...well, you know who. So plan to come and have some fun! Tell your family, friends, and church members too!

**BASKETBALL FUN...AND TALENT TOO!** During half time of the games on Sat., April 29<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a student talent show. Please encourage your child to participate! It can be instrumental, singing, tumbling, dance or art work. There are a lot of talented children in our school and we would like to showcase these talents. All talent submissions will have to be turned in to *Karan Niebergall* no later than Thurs., April 13. Thank you!

**PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT** – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2017-18 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.

**6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE SCHOOLS ELECTRONICS RECYCLING**: On Sat., Apr. 22 from 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM the battle is on again as Henry County Solid Waste Mgmt., along with N&R&G Recycling and Zack’s Recycling are hosting the Electronics Recycling Roundup. The four Henry County Schools compete to collect the most pounds of recyclable electronics on this date. The winning school is rewarded a \$300 bonus. Our collection location is at Napoleon High School, the west side student parking lot. Start gathering your unused electronics and be ready to take them to N.H.S. on April 22<sup>nd</sup>! Reduce / Reuse / **Recycle!**

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**“Resurrection – coming soon to a cemetery near you.”**

*“The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.” (Luke 24:7)*