



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

March 25, 2018

VOL. 83

NO. 12

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor  
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181  
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339  
Church Website: [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)

### SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 444 ~ 442 ~ 443 ~ 512 ~ 634 ~ 436 ~ 440 ~ 452 ~ 438 ~ 512 ~ 967

Children's Bell Choir: "All Hail the Power of Jesus Name"

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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 Damman, *Organist* ✠ Ashton Niese & Logan Honemann, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Elmer & Pat Maassel, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Eldor & Rozella Gruenhagen, *Visitation* ✠
- ✠ Dave Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✠



### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT

– We, the members of Good Shepherd of the Deaf Lutheran Church want to thank you and the members of St. John Lutheran Church for your gift of \$712.00. Please know we appreciate your gift to this ministry. Your congregation has been a loyal supporter for the ministry God has given us. Thank you for what you do, and the support you give this deaf ministry. Your prayers we cherish so much. Thank you!

### 150th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE MEETING

– The Anniversary Committee will have its third meeting tomorrow evening, March 26<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. We could still use more help with this committee – the more people we have helping, the better our celebration will be. Please join us!

CELEBRATING  
**150**  
YEARS

<b>In God's House This Week</b>		<i>Online church calendar: <a href="http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl">www.DynaCal.com/sjl</a></i>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM	<b>Palm Sunday Service</b> Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.	5:30 PM 6:30 PM	Bread From Heaven Food Pantry distribution 150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee meeting
Tue.	9:00 AM <b>8:35 AM</b> 1:00 PM 7:00 PM	Exercise Class <b>Chapel Service led by Grades 1&amp;2</b> Kindergarten Clinic Shepherd Committee Meeting followed by Board of Elders at 7:30 PM
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM	****NO SCHOOL (return on Tues., Apr. 3 <sup>rd</sup> )**** Midweek Confirmation Class Adult Bell Choir practice Adult Choir practice
Thurs.	9:00 AM <b>7:00 PM</b>	Exercise Class <b>Maundy Thursday Communion Service</b> Offering: <i>Lutheran Immigration &amp; Refugee Services</i> Adult Bell Choir: "Just As I Am" and "In the Garden" Acolytes: <i>Kaelyn Gerken &amp; Gavin Gerken</i> Greeters: <i>Esther Layton &amp; Phyllis Silveus</i> Ushers: <i>Dave Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers</i> Altar Guild: <i>Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short</i>
Fri.	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Good Friday Tenebrae Service</b> Offering: <i>Home Fund</i> Adult Choir: "Look At Him" Acolytes: <i>Karleigh Sonnenberg</i> Greeters: <i>Larry &amp; Pat Mahnke</i> Ushers: <i>Dave Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers</i> Altar Guild: <i>Marietta Damman, Deb Wachtman, Sharon Badenhop, Nancy Short</i>
Sat.	10:00AM	Set up for Easter Breakfast
Sun.	<b>7:00 AM</b> 8:00 AM <b>9:30 AM</b>	<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. Jacob Stuenkel, St. Peter Lutheran – Florida</i>

### **CONFIRMATION CLASS – THINGS TO NOTE**

- **Midweek Confirmation Class resumes normal schedule** – This week the midweek confirmation class will resume its regular schedule. We will meet on Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.
- **Confirmation Planning Meeting** – On Sun., Apr. 8<sup>th</sup>, Pastor will meet with this year's confirmation class and their parents to make plans for Confirmation and related events. We will meet after the Sunday School hour, about 11:15 a.m., in the 7-8 grade classroom.

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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, Willie Gerken*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, and Dorothy Gerken* at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Lucia Delventhal*, at Fulton Manor, Wauseon
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs, Delores Badenhop, and Melba Elling*, in Assisted Living at The Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Armed Services: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Ben Majewski (Gr. 1&2 Teacher)*, recovering from surgery for cancer this past week

**THANKS RECEIVED:** "Our sincere appreciation for the thoughts, prayers, cards, memorials and visits following the loss of our father. We mourn his passing but look forward to the promise that someday we will be reunited with him in heaven". *The family of Vernon Tietje*

**SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY:**

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter 1 that God reveals His wrath upon the unrighteous when they receive the due penalty for their sins. Such people try their best to deny the existence of God, but in their denial they make themselves to be fools who refuse to see what is so obviously true. So God, in one of His most surprising acts, gives them over to their lusts and their debased minds. It is a terrifying picture of what sin does and can do to those whom God has made and loved.

Thankfully for those who are in Christ, there is a righteousness by faith in Christ that avails for us!

Because this Bible book had such a profound impact on Martin Luther, it is only fitting in this 500th Reformation Anniversary year that we should take up the study of Romans in our midst and consider God's Word to us through this amazing letter of St. Paul. Join us, that the light of God's Word may shine upon you!



**2017 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT** will be available on the desk and table in the narthex following the service today. Thanks to everyone for your information submitted to be included in this report.

**MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST** will not be meeting this Thursday. We will resume our regular monthly schedule in April as we meet on the first Thursday of each month.

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

**ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING** – The list of the people for this year's annual church cleaning are printed and 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!

**2017 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS** – The 2017 end of year contribution totals (green sheets) are available on the table in the narthex. If you have any questions on your yearly contributions, please call *Alan Damman* at 419-598-8425.



## H O L Y W E E K

**Today we begin our 2018 commemoration of Holy Week**, when we walk with Jesus from His triumphal entry into Jerusalem to Calvary and the cross, and beyond to the miracle of Easter in the garden tomb. Don't miss any of it!

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY** – Thursday, March 29

- 7:00 p.m. Worship Service, celebrating Christ's gift of His Holy Supper  
*This service will bring to a conclusion our Lenten review of the Small Catechism. To prepare, please read the section of the Catechism on the **Sacrament of the Altar***

### **GOOD FRIDAY** – Friday, March 30

- 7:00 p.m. Service of Tenebrae (darkness)  
*We remember the passion and death of Christ for our salvation.*

### **EASTER SUNDAY** – Sunday, April 1

- 7:00 a.m. **Easter Sunrise Service** “Awake, My Heart, with Gladness!”
- 8:00 a.m. Easter Fellowship Breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. **Easter Festival Service with Holy Communion**  
*This is the feast of victory for our God!*

**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 *Linda Riefers* at 419-267-3366.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 03/18/17	\$5,839.00	\$106.00	\$397.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 205

**6<sup>TH</sup> LENTEN SERVICE:** \$732.00 – *Lutheran Hour Ministry*; Attendance: 104

**WHY LUTHERAN SCHOOLS?** *Strengthening Communities:* Every community needs students who are academically qualified and have learned to practice appropriate morality and respect. Since Lutheran schools accept students from all parts of the community, they can have a strong effect on the community itself.

**LWML SPRING RALLY** - The Women of Freedom are invited to the Napoleon Zone Spring Rally to be held at the Trinity Center at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon, on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> with registration/breakfast at 8:30 AM and the program from 9-11:30 AM. The guest speaker will be *Kelly Storch* talking about Kids Alive International in Zambia. The collection will go to Kelly's Mission Fund, Napoleon Zone, and Mission Mites. See additional information on the narthex table.



**St. John Lutheran Church & School presents "Parenting the Love and Logic Way,"** a parenting program designed by the Love and Logic Institute. This program is great for parents as well as educators,

grandparents, or anyone who works with children. Participants will learn how to...

- Avoid un-winnable power-struggles and arguments
- Stay calm when your kids do incredibly upsetting things
- Set enforceable limits
- Avoid enabling and being empowering
- Help your kids learn from mistakes rather than repeating them
- Raise kids who are family members rather than dictators

And much more! This parenting program is designed to give you practical skills that can be used immediately! There will be a total of four Sunday afternoon sessions starting the Sunday after Easter (April 8,15,22,29), from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. in our fellowship hall. Cost is \$15 per couple for the workbook. Sessions will be facilitated by Faith Wiechers, daughter-in-law of Dan & Joyce Wiechers. **Sign up now in the narthex! Also, pick up a flier for your own information or to invite a friend.**

**KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY** for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2018! The K-clinic will be held on Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1:00 PM. **Napoleon Area Schools and St. John Lutheran School's eligibility date for entering Kindergarten is that a child must be five years old on or before August 1 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 2017 (*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 the items listed above and you will not need to bring them the day of the clinic.*

**POSITION OPENINGS:** St. John Lutheran School is seeking individuals for the following positions for the 2018-19 school year: 1) **Jr High Science Teacher** for 4 hours per week. Must have a teaching license and a background check; 2) **Computer Teacher** for Grades K-8 for 4 hours per week. Must have a teaching license and a background check; 3) **Freedom Flock Aide** (*After school care*) for 12-15 hours per week from 3 – 6 PM. Must have a background check. Interested applicants should contact the school office at 419-598-8702. Thank you!

**ATHLETIC BANQUET:** The St. John Athletic Banquet is scheduled for **Sun., April 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM** with a potluck meal. The Boosters will be providing the meat and drinks, so please bring a side dish to share. Honorees will be all St. John athletes (Gr. 4-8), the Mini-Eagles (Gr. 1-3), and the cheerleaders. Special guests will be high school senior athletes who will share their experience with academics and athletics at the high school level. Come and enjoy some great fellowship!

**SAVE THE DATE:** Plans are in motion for the “Soar with the Eagles” school fundraiser to be held at the Ridgeville American Legion Hall on Fri., Nov. 9, 2018. There will be a meal, along with live and silent auctions. The format will be the same as last year’s event. Stay tuned for more information as plans are firmed up for this year’s event.

**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 – everything is strictly confidential. Just give Pastor Niermann a call, and we’ll see what we can do!

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PLANS** – Initial planning has begun for VBS. We are considering returning to a morning VBS program this year to try to avoid all of the busyness of family schedules on summer evenings. While we are not yet signing up staff, it would be helpful to know that there are people who can be present to teach and help with crafts, snacks, and recreation. If you are inclined to help with a morning VBS, please speak with this year’s VBS director, Mary Rettig. She can be reached at 419-966-6160 or email her at [mrettig@sjl.org](mailto:mrettig@sjl.org).

**3-YR OLD PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION:** The 3 year old class still has openings. Anyone interested in enrolling your child in our preschool program should contact the school office at 419-598-8702 to request an enrollment packet and/or turn in their registration form. **The 4/5 year old class is currently full for the 2018-19 school year, and we have started a waiting list.** There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration form.

**ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES:** 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 in the ‘School Info’ rack outside the office. Payment must accompany orders.

**FACEBOOK PAGE:** Please "like" and "share" our Facebook page which is a great way to share lessons going on in the classroom, special student recognitions, important events, and announcements. The link is <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnlutheranschoolnapoleon/>

**GRANDPARENT’S DAY:** A reminder that Grandparent’s Day at St. John School for Grades K-8 will be held on **Friday, May 4** from 12:30 - 3:00 PM. *Lunch is not included.*

✘ ✘ ✘

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**It is human to follow the crowd. It is divine to follow Jesus.**

*“But...Noah walked with God.” (Gen. 6:9)*