



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

April 1, 2018

VOL. 83

NO. 13

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

EASTER DAY – The Resurrection of our Lord

- **7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service: *Printed Service Folder***
Sermon & Text: "They Were Afraid" *Mark 16:1-8*
Hymns: 879 ~ 457 ~ 603 ~ 475 ~ 477
Adult Choir: "This Joyful Eastertide" and "Risen, Risen"
- **9:30 a.m. Easter Festival Service with Communion: *Printed Service Folder***
Sermon & Text: "Of First Importance" *1 Corinthians 15:1-11*
Hymns: 457 ~ 474 ~ 633 ~ [Communion: 480,629,438] ~ 461
Adult Choir: "This Joyful Eastertide"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

CHRIST IS RISEN – HE IS RISEN INDEED! We greet those who are visiting with us today in the name of our Risen Savior. We are gathered as a community of Christians. Our center is Jesus Christ. We are here to know again the touch of His forgiving and healing hand. 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 this morning. Thank you!



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- 1st Service: ✘ Kaleb Woods & Ella Rosebrook, *Acolytes* ✘
 2nd Service: ✘ Clay Behnfeldt & Karleigh Sonnenberg, *Acolytes* ✘
 ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘
 ✘ Harold Behrmann & Richard Elling, *Visitation* ✘
 ✘ Dave & Sara Myles, *Greeters* ✘
 ✘ Denny Behnfeldt, Elmer Maassel, Bob Norden, Ted Ripke, *Ushers* ✘
 ✘ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow, *Altar Guild* ✘

In God's House This Week *Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl*

Date	Time	Activities
Today	7:00 AM 8:00 AM 9:30 AM	Easter Sunrise Service Fellowship Breakfast for everyone – Freewill Offering! (Till 9:15 AM) Easter Festival Service with Communion
Mon.		NO SCHOOL – Easter Break
Tue.	8:20 AM 8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Classes resume Chapel led by Pastor Kramer Exercise Class Stewardship Board and School Board Meetings
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Men’s Bible Breakfast at St. John Fellowship Hall Exercise Class Women’s Lenten Bible Study (<i>final session</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 2:30 PM 4:30 PM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; “The Lamp” <i>Love & Logic</i> Parenting Workshop St. John Athletic Banquet
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Jeff Corder</i> , St. John Lutheran – Stryker

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

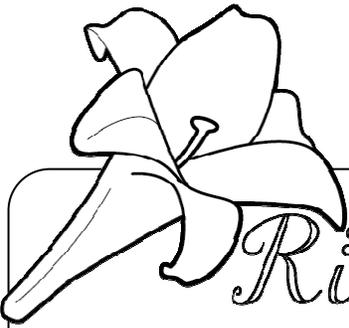
- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, Willie Gerken*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, and Dorothy Gerken* at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Lucia Delventhal*, at Fulton Manor, Wauseon
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs, Delores Badenhop, and Melba Elling*, in Assisted Living at The Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Donald 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

BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL are cancelled today, but will resume next Sunday.

EASTER BREAKFAST – The Easter Breakfast will be served between the two services this morning from 8:00 to 9:15 AM. The menu is: *Egg Casseroles, French bread, fresh fruit, coffee cake, doughnuts, cinnamon rolls, cookies, coffee and juice*. There will be a freewill donation which assists the Women of Freedom in their Adopt-A-Seminarian program and also Christian Growth.

EASTER FLOWERS – Those who bought Easter flowers to beautify the sanctuary for Easter are listed in the bulletin insert today. You may take your flowers home after the 9:30 AM Easter Festival Service (2nd Service) today. Thank you for sharing their beauty once again!

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.



He is Risen

There's no mistake. It's a special day. The flowers, the banners, the triumphant music, and happy Christians greeting each other with ancient proclamations of good news...

**"Christ is risen!" "He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"
It's Easter Sunday!**

Sadly, Easter excitement is often short-lived. If only Easter joy would linger beyond the benediction at the end of the service. If only Easter would permeate our lives as we head back to our homes, to school, to work, and to the daily routines that occupy so much of our time. How easily we forget the Easter truth we boldly declare: "He is risen indeed!"

The devil smiles when we treat Easter as a one-day event and then pack away its message along with the seasonal decorations. Easter's message impacts our daily lives and our eternity. Easter empowers us to live each new day in hope and joy, no matter what sorrows or disappointments we may face.

How can we hang on to Easter joy beyond the special worship services on April 1? How can we live in hope on May 7, July 19, Oct. 13, and all the other days of the year? Spend time in God's Word! Listen as Jesus says to you, "Because I live, you also will live." (John 14:19) Remember your baptism! "We were therefore buried with Jesus, through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Rom 6:4) Receive more regularly Jesus' body and blood in the Holy Supper for the forgiveness of sins and assurance of God's love for you. Be encouraged by your brothers and sisters in Christ as you celebrate Easter joy every week in public worship.

The Easter flowers wither and the special music dies away, but the message of Easter continues to bring joy to forgiven sinners each new day.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

OUR EASTER MORNING SCHEDULE

- 7:00 a.m. **Sunrise Service** "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness!"
- 8:00 a.m. Fellowship Breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. **Festival Service with Holy Communion**

This is the feast of victory for our God!



BLESSING OF NEW WORSHIP ADORNMENTS – This morning at each of our Easter worship services we will be blessing and dedicating two new adornments to our worship.

• **CANDELABRAS AND CANDLES – dedicated in the Sunrise Service**

Ever since God commanded that a lampstand to be built for use in the tabernacle (Exo 25:31-40), the flames of lamps and candles have had an important place in the worship of God's people (see Acts 20:8). The tabernacle lampstand, being the only source of light inside the Holy Place, points directly to Jesus Christ as the Light of the World (John 8:12). The seven candles on each candelabra represent completeness – the seven days of the creation, the seven churches of Revelation, the seven-fold gifts of the Spirit, etc. The lighting of these candles at each service reminds us of God's presence among us as our only source of light in a world made dark by sin.

These candelabras and candles are dedicated today in memory of Vernon Kruse. Four of Vernon's grandchildren will be the first to light these candles – Kaleb and Parker Woods in the Sunrise Service; Lexi Woods and Mitchell Kruse in the late Festival Service.

• **FUNERAL PALL – dedicated in the Festival Service**

The funeral pall is a large cloth that covers the casket of the Christian deceased. It is typically adorned with symbols of Easter, such as the Easter Lily that you see on our pall. The pall symbolizes the righteousness of Christ that covers us in Baptism. It reminds us of Christ's burial shroud and therefore also His resurrection and ours. The pall also serves in worship to draw our attention from the body of the deceased to their Savior, through whose death and resurrection we boldly confess that those who believe in Christ will live even though they die. (John 11:25) The pall also reminds us that before God we are all equal -- rich or poor, prominent or unknown, newly converted or a life-long member, we all don the righteousness of Christ as the garment of our salvation. **The funeral pall is dedicated today in memory of Loren Maassel.**

CONFIRMATION CLASS – PLANNING MEETING – Next Sunday 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.

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.

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST will be meeting this Thursday in the fellowship hall at 6:30 a.m. Join us for an amazing breakfast and for the study of God's Word. We are studying the topic of confession and absolution, some of Christ's greatest gifts to His people. It's a great way to start the day!

THANK YOU to the Group 2 members and a few non-members that helped with the annual church cleaning. We appreciated it very much and it was well done. *Signed, Committee Chairs*

WHY LUTHERAN SCHOOLS? *Seeking the Lost:* Lutheran schools, which enroll children from all parts of the community, provide new and varied opportunities for evangelism by the congregation and its staff. These opportunities are not available in any other way. That's why Lutheran schools are considered the most effective agencies in congregational evangelism and why pastors of growing congregations with schools in nearly every case, identify the school as the congregation's most effective outreach agency. Eighty-five percent of the fastest growing congregations in the Synod operate schools.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 03/25/17	\$7,511.00	\$304.00	\$317.00

ATTENDANCE: 282

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 14th 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.**

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 8th 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!

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!

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.*

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.

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.

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.

MINI RELAY FOR LIFE EVENT – Join us for the FIRST Henry County Mini Relay For Life hosted by today's youth, tomorrow's leaders. This event is geared towards the YOUTH of our counties and is an idea that was sparked from area pastors and youth leaders to encourage youth of all ages and youth groups to form teams and join us on this fun-filled day! Lunch will be provided. There will be an informational meeting held at a later date. This Mini Relay For Life event will be held on Sat., April 28th from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1075 Glenwood Ave., Napoleon. For more information or to get involved you can contact Sue Gerken at suegerken@bright.net.

SUNNY D LABELS – Throughout the school year please continue to save labels from *Sunny D* drinks. Classrooms that save 20 *SunnyD* labels earn 20 FREE books. **COLLECT *SunnyD* UPC labels** from these eligible products: 1, 2, or 3 liter bottles; 16 oz., 48 oz., 64 oz., 96 oz., or 128 oz. bottles; 6.75 oz.-6, 8, or 24 pack outer wraps; 6.75 oz.-12 pack cardboard case; 11.3 oz.-6 or 24 pack outer wraps; 12 oz.-12 or 24 pack cans outer wraps. **SEND** UPC labels to the school office any time.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM 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 Women of Freedom Scholarships are available to any young person attending one of our synodical schools. Simply contact any Women of Freedom member.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

It is the hour to rend thy chains, the blossom time of souls. ~Katherine Lee Bates

"Now, behold, I release you today from the chains on your hands." (Jer. 40:4)