



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

April 14, 2019

VOL. 84

NO. 15

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)

### PALM SUNDAY

Sermon & Text: "Voices of the Passion"  
Order of Service: See printed Service Folder  
Hymns: **443 ~ 442 ~ 560 ~ 437 ~ 441**  
Adult Bell Choir: "The Peace of Christ"

\*\*\*\*\*

**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**

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Devin Dietrich & Jared Lange, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Richard & Bev Elling, *Greeters* ✠
- ✠ Dave Badenhop, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, Denny Von Deylen, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham, Kathy Behnfeldt, *Altar Guild* ✠

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are placed in celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Delbert & Marian Damman, which was on Thurs., April 11<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to the Damman's and we wish you many more happy years together!

**THANK YOU!** The captains of all three annual church cleaning groups would like to thank those members who gave of their time and energy to come and clean and spruce up the church and fellowship hall over the past few weeks. Everything looks and "smells" so clean. Thank you for the awesome job!

**2018 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.

<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 1:00 PM 4:30 PM	<b>Palm Sunday Worship Service</b> (with Communion following) Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" 4-H Meetings Jr High LYF
Mon.	7:00 PM	Adult Instruction Class
Tue.	<b>8:35 AM</b> 7:00 PM	<b>School Chapel led by Pastor Niermann</b> Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class
Thurs.	6:30 AM <b>7:00 PM</b>	Men's Lenten Bible Breakfast in fellowship hall <b>Maundy Thursday Communion Service</b> Offering: <i>150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mission Offering</i> Adult Bell Choir: "In the Garden" Acolytes: <i>Ella Rosebrook &amp; Jared Lange</i> Greeters: <i>Elmer &amp; Pat Maassel</i> Ushers: <i>Dave Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers</i> Altar Guild: <i>Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham, Kathy Behnfeldt</i>
Fri.	<b>7:00 PM</b>	****NO SCHOOL (return on Tues., Apr. 23 <sup>rd</sup> )**** <b>Good Friday Tenebrae Service</b> Offering: <i>Home Fund</i> Adult Choir: "When You Prayed Beneath the Trees" Acolytes: <i>Karleigh Sonnenberg &amp; Claire Wachtman</i> Greeters: <i>Esther Layton &amp; Linda Meyer</i> Ushers: <i>Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop, Denny Bockelman</i> Altar Guild: <i>Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham, Kathy Behnfeldt</i>
Sat.	10:00AM	Set up for Easter Breakfast
Sun.	<b>7:00 AM</b> 8:15 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. Eric Moquin, St. John Lutheran – Sherwood</i>

**EASTER BREAKFAST SIGN UP** – The Women of Freedom 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, coffeecake, doughnuts, sweet rolls, cookies, coffee and juice*. A lot of help with donations is needed. Please sign up on the chart in the narthex to donate items. Any refrigerated or bakery items in stay-fresh containers can be brought to the church on Saturday morning. All items need to be at the church prior to 8:00 AM Easter morning. Sign-up to HELP with preparation and serving. Any questions can be directed to *Pat Mahnke* at 419-598-8382 or *Marian Damman* at 419-598-8462.

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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, and Willie Gerken*
- ❖ *Delora Winkelman, Marian Buchhop, Dorothy Gerken, and Lawrence Langenhop,* at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs and Melba Elling,* in Assisted Living at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Donald Landry,* residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Armed Services: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, Seth Handy*
- ❖ *Shirley Sonnenberg, Shorty Bischoff, Don Dickmann, Ron Dietrich, Carey Damman, Florence Jones, Darrel Bockelman and Tonya Whitman,* who are dealing with health issues at this time
- ❖ *Elmer Maassel,* for heart valve replacement surgery at St. Luke's Hospital on Thursday
- ❖ *Alicia Maassel,* currently hospitalized at Riverside Methodist Hospital, Columbus for further testing

**150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY BLANKETS** – Just a reminder to get your order in for these beautiful anniversary blankets woven with pictures of some of our historic buildings. These blankets are \$35 each. Use the envelope to enclose your check and place your order. We should have our first order of these blankets here by the end of April.

**MEN'S LENTEN BIBLE BREAKFAST** will be meeting again this Thursday morning on Maundy Thursday in the fellowship hall at 6:30 AM, as we continue our study, "Monumental Mountaintops." Many key parts of the salvation story happened in Scripture on mountaintops. Join us for an amazing breakfast and for the study of God's Word. It's a great way to start the day!

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 04/07/19	\$10,271.00	\$265.00	\$215.00

**ATTENDANCE:** 185

**6<sup>TH</sup> LENTEN SERVICE:** \$640.00 – Bethesda Lutheran Communities; Attendance: 110

**LWML:** The next meeting of the Women of Freedom will be held on Tues., April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. This will be a Mission Meeting so bring your Quarterlies and Mite Box (if you have one). All ladies of St. John are invited to come to our meetings. The Quarterlies and Odes are still available on the table in the narthex. There are always interesting articles to be found in them. Pick up a copy today!

**NEXT VOTERS' MEETING:** The next Voters' Meeting of 2019 will be held in the fellowship hall on Sunday, Apr. 28<sup>th</sup> immediately following the Worship Service. Currently on the agenda: 1) Revisit \$20,000 gift to the church; 2) Updated "alcohol policy"; 3) Update on the Youth Center; 4) Kindergarten Policy Change

**VOLUNTEERS FOR WORSHIP SLIDES** – If you're good with your TV remote and game controller, we've got a job for you. During each worship service we need an individual who will advance the slides on the sanctuary screens. If you would be interested in serving in this way, please speak with Dan Wachtman or with Pastor. If we can get a few people together, we will do some quick training and have you serving in no time!



## HOLY WEEK

### LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS!

Our 2019 Holy Week journey with Jesus begins today. We will walk with Jesus to His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, to the upper room with His disciples, and to the cross where He lays down His life for us.

**IT IS THE HOLIEST OF WEEKS FOR CHRISTIANS AROUND THE GLOBE!** Let us all join together in God's House to worship and honor our loving, redeeming Savior!

#### **MAUNDY THURSDAY** (Thursday, Apr. 18)

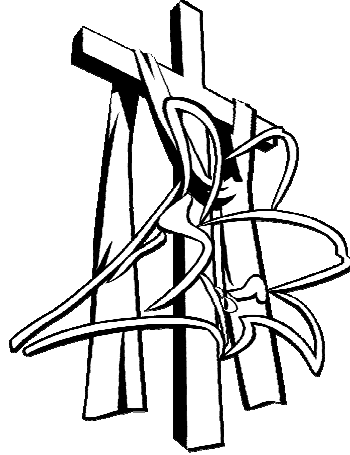
- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday worship with Holy Communion
- Theme "In Remembrance of Me"
- Offering 150th Anniversary Mission Offering

#### **GOOD FRIDAY** (Friday, Apr. 19)

- 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service of Tenebrae (darkness)
- Theme "Remember Me"
- Offering Home Fund

#### **EASTER SUNDAY** (Sunday, Apr. 21)

- 7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service
- 8:15 a.m. Easter Fellowship Breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. Easter Festival Service  
with Holy Communion



### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL STAFF RECRUITMENT**

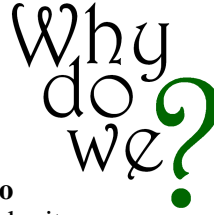
It's time to bring together a staff of teachers and other helpers for our VBS, which is scheduled for **June 3-7 from 9:00 AM - Noon**. Our theme this year is "**Miraculous Mission: Jesus Saves the World.**" Sometimes we talk about superheroes saving the world, but they are only make-believe. Only the Son of God can actually do this work! He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the whole world, and through whom God has reconciled the world to Himself!

On the table in the narthex are VBS Staff Recruitment forms. Please review the positions that we need to fill, and please consider signing up. There is no one more precious to Jesus than His little ones, and there is no work more important than to teach them the love of Jesus! Will you join us in this vital ministry to His children? If so, speak with this year's VBS director Karen Riefers.

**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 for more details about this.

**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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup>.

**WHY DO WE?** A suggestion was made a while back about a feature in our bulletin that asks and answers questions about why we do what we do in our worship and practice. This was an excellent idea that would enrich everyone's worship and life of faith. A few suggestions would be: **Why do we turn to the cross during a processional? Why do we not sing certain hymns and songs? Why do we use Creeds? Why do we practice "closed Communion?" Why do we baptize infants?** If you have a question you'd like to see answered, please submit it using the form on the table in the narthex.



**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. Copies are available in the school office. The cost is \$10.00. If writing a check, please make it payable to: *St. John PTL*. Thank you for supporting the PTL!

**GERALD HISTORY BOOKS** – If you didn't get one yet, you can still do so. Stop in at the church office to purchase your copy or you can also send \$12 to Robert L. Stockman, 1218 Spoonbill Landing Circle, Bradenton, FL 34209, and he will mail your copy to you via USPS.

If at any time during the year you need a gift for a current or former member of St. John, why not consider this history book about the development of Gerald? This book is full of interesting facts about Gerald, Freedom Township, and St. John Church. Get your copy today!

**PRAYER CALENDAR NOTE:** Please be aware that if you would like your wedding anniversaries printed on the prayer calendars, you will have to post them each year. Just list them on the blank calendars posted on the bulletin board in the narthex throughout the year.

**TEMPORARY COOK POSITION:** Miss Tonya will not be able to return as our school cook for the remainder of this school year. With that news, we are seeking someone to be the cook for April and May. This would be a paid position, Monday thru Friday. It averages 3-3.5 hours per day. This person would plan the daily meals, purchase the necessary items for the daily meals (either thru Gordon Food, Chief, or Wal-Mart), prepare and serve the meal, clean up after the meals, etc. If you think you may be interested in this two month adventure, please contact Pastor Kramer at 419-598-8702 to set up a time to talk.

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

**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!

**PTL FUNDRAISER:** The *Profitable Solutions* Liquid Laundry Detergent & Fabric Softener Fundraiser sponsored by the PTL has begun and will run until Fri., April 26<sup>th</sup>. This fundraiser involves selling bulk laundry detergent (including pods!), softener, scent booster, dish soap, dishwasher pods and trash bags! All products are comparable to name brands. You will be receiving 42% more detergent (350-500 loads!) for the same price you'd pay in store! Please approach any St. John student to place an order. Please direct any questions to Amy Kramer at 419-297-6998!

**COMING SOON!** “Mary Poppins, Jr.” is being presented by St. John Lutheran School students on Fri., April 26 at 7:00 PM and also on Sun., April 28 at 2:00 PM in the school gym. Preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are involved in this musical. There will be a free will admission donation. Many, many people have put a lot of time and effort into this production, so plan to come and enjoy a very entertaining evening and afternoon with us. Refreshments will be served following each of the performances.



**SCHOOL MUSICAL:** The musical directors would like to extend a request to anyone (business or private) that would like to make a donation toward the musical production this year; can do so by contacting the school office at 419-598-8702. If you choose to make a donation, your company name or your personal name will be listed in the musical program.

**PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION:** St. John Lutheran Preschool is in full swing. The 4/5 year old class is close to full and the 3 year old class still has plenty of openings. Anyone interested in enrolling your child in our preschool program should contact the school office at 419-598-8702. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration form.

**SOAR WITH THE EAGLES:** Please be aware that at the December 2018 Voters' Meeting it was announced that the Soar With The Eagles event will now become an “every other year” event. So this year there will be no fundraiser in November. Stay tuned to the bulletin later for the 2020 date.

**AREA EVENTS:**

- **Jayne Westhoven Fundraiser** will be held on Sun., April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Armory Arts & Events Center, Napoleon. See flyer on bulletin board.



**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**Two essentials to happiness – something to do and someone to love!**

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.  
Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matt 22:37, 39)*