

St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

March 14, 2021

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FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon Title and Text: "Alive in Christ" *Ephesians 2:1-10*
Order of Service: Matins (*LSB pg. 219*)
Hymns: 744 ~ 555 ~ 941 (*Te Deum*) ~ 837

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

The church is not the building, even though we love it. The church is the people: We are the church. We would like you to consider making us your spiritual home. Please make yourself known to the Pastor or you may fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the basket as you leave.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠
- ✠ Denny Von Deylen, Dan Wiechers, Dave Badenhop, Jerry Short, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karen Germann, Mary Kossow, Diana Kruse, *Altar Guild* ✠

PASSED AWAY:

- We mourn the sudden passing of *Annetta Rosebrock*, 90, on Sat., March 6, 2021, at Henry County Hospital. Annetta's funeral was held privately at St. John Lutheran Church at 11:00 AM on Sat., March 13th. The service was also live-streamed. Her committal service was at St. John's Cemetery following the service. As we will all miss Annetta's pleasant demeanor, we can rest assured she is smiling all day in heaven. Please keep Annetta's children, *Deb* (Jerry) Lange, *John* (Joyce), *Jim* (Diane), and *Dave* (Karen), and their families in your daily prayers during the remaining Lenten season.
- On Sunday, March 7, 2021, *Phyllis Silveus*, 89, fell asleep in Jesus. Phyllis' funeral took place at St. John Lutheran Church on Fri., March 12th at 11:00 AM. The service was also live-streamed. Burial was in St. John Lutheran Cemetery. Phyllis is sure to be part of the quilting group in heaven...and every quilt will be stitched perfectly! Please remember, in prayer, her children *David* (Debra), *Diane* (Dennis) Von Deylen, and *Debra* (Larry) *Gossman*, and their families as they deal with the loss of their mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

In God's House This Week*Online church calendar: <https://74058984.view-events.com>*

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 10:20AM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.	7:00 PM	PTL Meeting
Tue.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
Wed.	6:15 PM 3:00 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class Easter Flower Orders due today (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Thurs.	6:30 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM	Men's Lenten Bible Study Breakfast Women's Lenten Bible Study (<i>see bulletin note</i>) Lenten Worship Service; Offering: <i>Lutheran Hour Broadcast</i> Ushers: <i>Dennis Showman, Dave Von Deylen, Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling</i> Altar Guild: <i>Karen Germann, Mary Kossow, Diana Kruse</i>
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.-Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. James Strawn</i> , St. James Lutheran – Burlington

FOR THOSE LISTENING FROM THE PARKING LOT**Pick up your bulletin and service by driving through the carport before worship****You can give your offering to the deacon at the same time****Tune your FM radio to 87.7****MATTERS FOR PRAYER** – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Renetta Homan*
- ❖ *Melba Elling* and *Lorna Von Deylen*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs* and *Ruth Mahnke*, at Assisted Living – Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Harold Behrmann*, at Fulton Manor, Wauseon
- ❖ *Donald Badenhop*, at Vancrest Nursing Care Facility, Holgate
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Armed Services: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, and Jared Dishop*
- ❖ *Sue Hurst, Rev. Logan Scheiwe, Eileen Fitzenreiter, and Patty Badenhop*, for health concerns relating to cancer
- ❖ *Crew Gerken*, born prematurely and in the NICU at Riverside Hospital, Columbus
- ❖ *Norma Damman*, recuperating at Genacross Lutheran Home after a recent fall
- ❖ *Marian Damman*, for an outpatient surgery at Defiance Mercy Health last Thursday

COVID-19 MEASURES – The two most important things we can do to prevent the spread of viruses are 1) social distancing, and 2) wearing a mask when entering and exiting the building, and when singing or speaking. Masks can be removed during longer periods of listening, such as Scripture readings, sermon, prayers, etc.

THANK YOU! *Clara Meyer* would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, phone calls and well wishes after her recent fall. All were very much appreciated!

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU! The family of *Sharon Badenhop* would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers, cards, visits, and support during Sharon's battle with cancer and now with her passing. We appreciate every one of you for thinking of us and praying for us to get us through this difficult time. A special thank you to Pastor Niermann for all of his comforting words and to the Women of Freedom for the nice luncheon prepared after the funeral. God bless all of you!

EASTER FLOWERS – ORDER QUICKLY: Order deadline is this week on **Wed., March 17th**. We found out this past week that, *thanks again to the postal service*, we never received our mailing for Easter flower orders. The deadline for ordering has passed, but Lakewood is allowing us to place an order yet. It must be submitted to them at 9am on Thurs., March 18th. Please take the time to submit your order today (and pay later). Order form is in this bulletin. Some quantities may be limited since we are ordering so late. Lakewood cannot guarantee that we will get “everything” as we have ordered. If you submit your order form today you can drop your payment at the office or put it in the container on the narthex table next week. Checks payable to **St. John Lutheran Church**. No late orders!

BALCONY SEATING DURING WORSHIP – With livestreaming and recording of our services taking place from the balcony, we ask that as much as possible the congregation be seated in the *nave* (the main seating area of the sanctuary) so that the microphones don't pick up extraneous sounds from the balcony. If you feel that you need to sit in the balcony because of the fullness of the sanctuary and for social distancing reasons, please keep that in mind that the microphones are nearby. *Thank you!*

MEETING OF 2021 CONFIRMATION CLASS AND PARENTS – It's time to make plans for Confirmation Sunday, scheduled for Sunday, May 16th. We will meet **NEXT SUNDAY**, March 21st after the Sunday School hour at about 11:15 a.m. in the 7-8 grade classroom. We will discuss the schedule of events and make plans for confirmation itself. Please join us then!

Sunday School

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** for the children meets in the fellowship hall. As in the schools, students will wear masks and maintain social distancing. After a joint opening, we will then split into two groups, grades K-3 and 4-6.
- **'THE LAMP' YOUTH BIBLE STUDY** meets on Sunday mornings in the *Youth & Family Center* across the road. Youth may head over after worship to join Sharon Damman for the study of God's Word together as we apply His Word to our lives in this day and age. Please join us.
- **ADULT BIBLE STUDY WILL RESUME THIS MORNING IN THE SANCTUARY!** Our new study is titled, **"PROVOKING PROVERBS."** If you learned a proverb from your parents, such as, "A chain is only as strong as its weakest link," and still remember it, you understand the power of a proverb to stick in the mind and to impact our lives. The Bible **PROVERBS** are the same – pithy, memorable and often fun little sayings of wisdom that we can apply to our walk with Christ. We'll find all kinds of Proverbs to help us keep God's commands and to take "every thought captive" to Christ, (2 Cor. 10:5) like this proverb: *"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."* (4:23)



NEW ARCHIVES DISPLAY: The Archives Committee has a new display with pictures of the students and teachers of St. John School for the 2020-2021 school year. Also, in the spirit of the basketball tournament season, the committee has displayed programs from the National Lutheran Tournament from the years 1990, 1998 and 1999. There are familiar names listed whose children are currently playing on the St. John basketball teams. Sending a big “Thank You” to Tom Von Deylen for his donation of old tournament programs and scorebooks to the Archives Committee.

NEW FACILITY NAME – The old school has received a new name that reflects its new use for ministry. That new name is... **St. John Youth & Family Center**

The youth will have primary use of the entire building, but the east room will also be available for family events **IF** they do not conflict with anything the youth have scheduled. The east room is equipped with tables and chairs and a large TV and sound bar with internet connectivity. Soon there should be a serving counter in the east room as well.

Thanks again to everyone who has donated for this project or lent a hand to perform actual work. It is a tremendous blessing to be able to provide this long-needed facility for our youth especially. Stay tuned for information about a dedication sometime later when the weather turns warmer and the exterior of the building is complete.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 03/07/21	\$9,311.03	\$355.00	\$415.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday (Early) – 115; (Late) – 80

THURSDAY LENTEN #3 SERVICE: \$555.00 – Filling Home - Napoleon; Attendance: 44



FINISHING THE STAINED GLASS WINDOW PROJECT – Pastor Niermann reported at the last voters’ meeting that because of increased costs, the donation for our stained glass windows in memory of Juanita Thorpe by her family (Juanita was Pastor Maassel’s daughter) will be approximately \$7,500 short of completing the project. This is approximately the amount needed for the final two windows. The family has opted not to complete the financing for the project, **so the church council has decided to begin receiving congregational gifts toward its completion.** If you care to give a donation and become part of this project, please include your special gift with your regular offering, and make note of it on the outside of the envelope.

Also starting now, families who would like a portion of their loved one’s memorial gifts to go toward this project may do so in consultation with the pastor in accordance with the Stewardship Board’s Memorial Gift guidelines.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES ARE HERE! Yes, you read that correctly!!! Those of you who had your pictures taken or if you submitted photos to be put into the directory can pick up your copy at the tables in the narthex after the service. Please feel free to take (and deliver) any family member directories so they can enjoy this directory too. The committee cannot begin to thank you for your patience thru this experience. They hope you like the finished product.

LYF will be meeting on Sunday, March 21st. The Jr. High youth (*6th-8th grade*) will meet from 3:00-4:00 PM. The Sr. High youth (*9th-12th grade*) will meet from 4:00-5:30 PM. We will be gathering together in the new Youth & Family Center for some fellowship, a Bible study, and some snacks. We would love for you to join us!

Lent Bible Study Opportunities for Men and Women

- **MEN'S LENTEN BIBLE BREAKFAST** – Each Thursday during Lent the men are invited to join us for a breakfast Bible study at **6:30 a.m.** We gather in the fellowship hall for one hour, which should give you give time to get on your way with whatever your day may hold. It's a great way to commemorate Lent, to enjoy fellowship, to grow in God's Word, and to enjoy a really good breakfast! **Please join us!**



- **WOMEN'S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY** – Join your sisters in Christ each Thursday morning during Lent for our Bible study, **“Be Thou My Guide.”** We'll look at the examples of biblical figures who work on growing their trust in the Lord. From Moses to Mary, we look at their circumstances and responses to learn how to stand firm and draw close to Jesus. **Join us this Thurs., March 18th at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room next to Pastor's study.** Masks will be required when entering and leaving the building.



Lent Midweek 2021

“Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster” (Joel 2:13). God's invitation and promise finds its fullness in Jesus Christ, who personified and accomplishes all that God declares. Follow different events during the Passion, specifically focusing on the people that followed Christ, to see how God calls His people to return to Him.



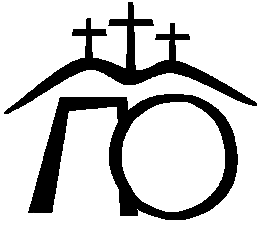
WEEKLY THEME

- Ash Wednesday: Call to Return
- Lent 2: Return to Prayer
- Lent 3: Return from Betrayal
- Lent 4: Return from False Witness
- **Lent 5: Return from Denial**
- Lent 6: Return from the Kingdom of God
- Maundy Thursday: Return to the Table
- Good Friday: Return to the Church
- Easter Sunrise: Return and See

OFFERING DESIGNATIONS

St. John Church Vocation Students
 Good Shepherd Lutheran for the Deaf
 Filling Home of Mercy, Napoleon
 National Youth Gathering
Lutheran Hour Broadcast
 Worship Anew TV program
 Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty
 Home Fund
 Home Fund

Lenten Midweek services are on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.



ABOUT OUR EASTER CELEBRATION THIS YEAR – At its meeting this past week the church Council decided that we are not at the point yet in this pandemic where we should be having congregational meals, and that we would therefore **NOT have an Easter Breakfast this year**. Another change for this Easter is that **BOTH SERVICES will be identical** – same sermon, service and hymns – whereas in previous years each service was different and people were encouraged to attend to both.

CHOICE DOLLARS TO DESIGNATE: Great news for Thrivent Financial members. There are still 2020 Thrivent Choice Dollars that have not been designated by members of our congregation. Even though it's 2021, your 2020 dollars can still be designated until March 31, 2021. Not sure if you have Choice Dollars to designate? Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to determine your Choice Dollars amount. Or you can call Doug Kossow or Tyler Kossow at the Thrivent office in Ridgeville Corners at 419-267-0113 to find out!

THANK YOU from Vance and Linda Becker at Matongo Lutheran Theological College in Kenya to our friends at St. John for your generous congregational contribution to the work of training pastors, deaconesses and evangelists for the church of eastern Africa. Thanks to God and his people like you, this semester's work is going well and we also are quite well. We are happy not only to hear of your support but to be reminded of you. God's blessings to all you are doing there at and around Napoleon.

FELLOWSHIP HALL SETUP CREW NEEDS YOU! The ministry team that sets up the fellowship hall for funerals or special events could use a little extra help. They typically set up on evenings prior to an event, so you don't need to be retired to help out. If you can serve with this helping ministry, please speak with Pastor Niermann or Joyce Wiechers so we can get you added to the contact list. Thank you!

PLUMBING PARTS NEEDED IN TEXAS – The Texas District of the LC-MS reports that after the recent deep-freeze in Texas, homes and churches are in need of plumbing supplies especially, or monetary donations to help pay for repairs. If you would like to make a gift, you may do so online at <http://txlcms.org/donate>. 100% of funds received will bless the ministries and churches in need. **Another option is to actually send plumbing supplies.** A list of needed supplies and the address for the warehouse where they will be stored are available on an informational sheet located on the table in the narthex. Thank you for anything you can do to help.



THREE WAYS TO GIVE YOUR REGULAR OFFERING

- Deposit your offering in the narthex when you come to worship, or if you're listening to the FM broadcast, give your offering to the usher or deacon when they hand you your bulletin.
- Use the 'Give Now' online giving page – a link (the blue button) is on our website.
- Mail your offering to the church.

MY DEVOTIONS for March, April, and May are available this Sunday on the desk in the back of the church. Pick up your copy today! If you know of someone who would enjoy these, take one for them.

BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR LUTHERAN HOUR

MINISTRY (LHM) – LHM would like to have an ambassador in each congregation. The task is simple and rewarding for both the ambassador and the congregation. It involves...

- ...reading a monthly email about new product and program information, and sharing the information with the congregation;
- ...participation in an annual virtual training event from wherever you are;
- ...possibly leading congregational activities such as book clubs, “Gospel Adventure Groups,” Bible studies, etc.



When you sign up to become an Ambassador, you will receive a welcome package with some unique gifts to help keep you connected to LHM. Please speak with Pastor Niermann if you are interested.

OPTIONS FOR HOLY COMMUNION DURING COVID - During this time of pandemic, we are making Holy Communion available in the following ways:

- **Thursday evening Communion services** prior to first and third Sundays
- **First and Third Sundays each month** – in the Sanctuary, and drive-thru after the service
- **Second Sundays** – after the service in the sanctuary



Drive-thru Communion is on the first and third Sundays for those who have participated in the Divine Service from the parking lot.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE – HELP WITH SANCTUARY TECHNOLOGY

- **Have you got a ‘knack’ for technology? Have you ever considered that ‘knack’ to be a gift of God that can be used in service to Him and His people?** We could use some help in worship with the sound board and with video recordings and uploading.
- And while we’re at it, **we could also use some volunteers to help as “slide clickers” to advance worship slides during services.** This task does not require any technical skills, just the ability to press a button on a remote control.

Please think and pray about it, and get the word out, and we’ll begin signing up people soon, and will then provide training. These are wonderful ways to serve!

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 MEETING: The next PTL meeting will be on Mon., March 15th at 7:00PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend this meeting. This will be a business meeting. We would also like to discuss the possibility of hosting a drive-thru dinner fundraiser. Hope to see you there!

KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2021! The St. John K-clinic will be held on Thursday, April 29th beginning at 1:00 PM. **St. John Lutheran School's eligibility date for entering Kindergarten is that a child must be five years old on or before September 30th 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 2020 (*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 this information and you will not need to bring them the day of the clinic.*

KINDERGARTEN HALF DAY! Please note that on Thurs., April 29th (*the day of the K-garten Clinic*), the Kindergarten class will dismiss at 11:20 AM. Please make pick up arrangements at that time for your child on April 29th. Thank you!

PTL SPRING FLOWER FUNDRAISER: The PTL is preparing for a Spring Flower sale that will begin on Wed., March 17th and run thru Wed., April 7th. There are numerous varieties (36) of flowering plants and hanging baskets to pick from. Order forms will be sent home with students on March 17th. These flowers and hanging baskets are coming to us thru Foertmeyer & Sons Greenhouse. The profit from this fundraiser will be used toward the school's technology. Orders will be delivered on May 13th. Please contact Ashley Crall at 419-966-0067 or email her at aellingcrall@yahoo.com with any questions you may have. Think spring!

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT: The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2021-22 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. We are now opening the registration up to the public as of Feb. 2, 2021, so be sure to register soon. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration. Here are the School Board approved rates for the 2021-2022 school year: 3-yr old Preschool - \$80/month; 4/5-yr old Preschool - \$210/month.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR – The Lutheran Hour Ministries can be heard on a few radio stations in our area. They cover many topics relevant to today's issues. Broadcasts can be heard Sundays on: Archbold's WMTR 96.1 at 7:30 AM; **Napoleon's WNDH 103.1 at 9:00 AM.**

SWISS STEAK DINNER: The Ridgeville American Legion is hosting a **Drive-Thru Swiss Steak Dinner today** with serving from 11:00 AM until sold out. On the menu: Swiss Steak, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Corn, Roll, Dessert. This will be held at the Legion Hall on County Road 19. The cost is \$10. Hope to see you there!

✂ ✂ ✂

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

If evolution is true, how come mothers only have two hands?

*"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well." (Psalm 139:14)*