

St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

March 21, 2021

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FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon Title and Text: “God’s Love, Written In Our Hearts” *Jeremiah 31:31–34*
Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Three (*LSB pg. 184*)
Hymns: 430 ~ 422 ~ (Communion: 560, 632, 433) ~ 392

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome in the name of the Lord. We pray that through this time of stillness and song, prayer and proclamation, you may experience the Spirit of God at work in your life. May God richly bless your worship! If you are visiting us today simply fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the basket at the door as you leave today. Your presence is a blessing to us.



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* ✠

PALM SUNDAY CHILDREN’S PROCESSION – NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday. Children are invited to join the Procession of Palms at the beginning of the service, after which Pastor will have a special message for them. To have your child participate, arrive 15 minutes early. Perhaps show them the pew where you will be sitting so they can find their way back to you. Then take them to the fellowship hall, where they will receive their palm branches and instructions.



MEETING OF 2021 CONFIRMATION CLASS AND PARENTS: It’s time to make plans for Confirmation Sunday. We will be meeting **THIS MORNING AFTER THE SUNDAY SHOOL 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!

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	8:35 AM 7:30 PM	School Chapel Board of Elders
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class
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>Worship Anew</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	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.-Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM

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

Drive-thru Communion after worship under carport

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
- ❖ *Casen Lawrence* (Dan & Deb Wachtman's grandson), who has been experiencing more frequent seizures, that God may quell the seizures and restore his health.

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 ALL! *The Family of Phyllis Silveus* would like to say “Thanks!” Thanks to all who sent cards, made visits, gave memorials, and kept her in your prayers during her illness. She felt your support throughout. Thanks to Pastor Niermann for his support and prayers and thanks to the Women of Freedom for the meal they prepared. Mom loved her St. John family so much and we are grateful to you always. *Dave, Diane, Deb and families*

THANKS: The funeral committee would like to thank all the helpers, servers, setup crew, and those who donated food items for the recent funerals. Also, to Pastor Niermann for contacting the Henry Health Dept to ensure that we followed proper Covid guidelines for the luncheons. The families really appreciated the opportunity to fellowship with each other following the funeral services.

EASTER LILIES – PLAN “B” – We were not able to place an order for Easter lilies this year because of high demand. **Our new plan is to take donations through next Sunday, which we will use to make a run to Walmart to purchase our lilies. Each lily runs about \$6.00.** If you would like to make a donation for this cause, please leave your gift in the “Easter Lily” container in the narthex. For every \$6.00 you donate, you may take a lily home with you on Easter Sunday after the late service.



HOLY WEEK

LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS!

Our 2021 Holy Week journey with Jesus begins next Sunday. 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!

PALM SUNDAY (Sunday, March 28)

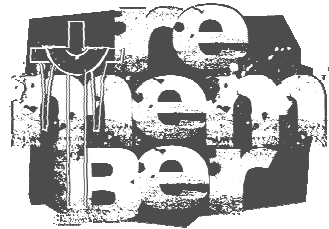
- 8:45 a.m. Children gather in the fellowship hall for the procession
- 9:00 a.m. Worship Service

MAUNDY THURSDAY (Thursday, April 1)

- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday worship with Holy Communion
- Theme “Return to the Table”

GOOD FRIDAY (Friday, April 2)

- 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service of Tenebrae (darkness)
- Theme “Remember Me”



FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 03/14/21	\$6,321.00	\$120.00	\$190.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 97

THURSDAY LENTEN #4 SERVICE: \$490.00 – National Youth Gathering; Attendance: 35

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 BE HELD 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)

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 this Lenten season.



WEEKLY THEME

- **Lent 6: Return to the Kingdom of God**
- Maundy Thursday: Return to the Table
- Good Friday: Return to the Church
- Easter Sunrise: Return and See

OFFERING DESIGNATIONS

- **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.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES! 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 table in the narthex. Please feel free to take (and deliver) any family member directories so they can enjoy this directory too.

LYF meeting TODAY! 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

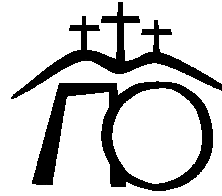
- **MEN'S LENTEN BIBLE BREAKFAST** – Each Thursday during Lent the men are invited to join us for a breakfast Bible study at 6:30 a.m. We gather in the fellowship hall for one hour, which should give you give time to get on your way with whatever your day may hold. It's a great way to commemorate Lent, 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 25th at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room next to Pastor's study.** Masks will be required when entering and leaving the building.



ABOUT OUR EASTER CELEBRATION THIS YEAR – At its last meeting 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.



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!*



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.

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

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.

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](https://www.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!

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 crew.

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.

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!

CONGRATS TO THE 7TH & 8TH GRADE BOYS' B-BALL TEAM: Congratulations to the 7th & 8th Grade Boys' basketball players and coaches for placing runner-up in the All-Ohio State Tournament held at St. John on March 6&7. Great job to the Eagles on coming back in the final game to give Bethany - Parma a big challenge in the fourth quarter.

Also, a big "thank you" to Brad Rosebrook and the Boosters for all their organization efforts before, during, and after the tournament. There is so much that goes into a tournament of this magnitude and Brad and the Boosters did a great job for the weekend.

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 Spring Flower sale is underway and will run thru Wed., April 7th. There are numerous varieties (36) of flowering plants and hanging baskets to pick from. To order online go to www.fundraiseit.org, and enter the church's Web Sale Code (C44EE). Enter your email address and click "submit." Click on the shop now URL. If you can't order online, use the yellow order forms available on the narthex table and return them to the office with payment to St. John PTL. 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.**

RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP FUNDRAISER: The Stewardship Board is offering “for sale” the Ultimate Cloth® as a fundraiser. These are a MiraFiber® technology cloth that cleans with water only. This cloth is more effective than harsh cleaning chemicals and soaps. See *Karen Norden* (419-267-3477) for more information and pricing. This will be an on-going fundraiser for the Right Hand of Fellowship gift matching campaign.

CHURCH HISTORY BOOKS – If at any time during the year you need a gift for a current or former member of St. John, why not consider one of our Church History Books. This book is full of interesting facts about St. John’s and is available in the church office at a cost of \$12.00.

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!

‘BREAD FROM HEAVEN’ – A note to St. John members needing food assistance – If you could use food assistance from our food pantry, please speak with *Pastor Niermann*. We are required by the *Northwestern Ohio Food Bank* to keep a record with your name, but pastor will keep your record separate and absolutely confidential.

Contributions can be made at any time. Monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your offering envelope). Food donations for our pantry can be dropped off in the box by the Archives display cases. Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated. Thank you so much! As we learned in the meaning of the Fifth Commandment, “*We should fear and love God that we...help and support our neighbor in every physical need.*” (*Small Catechism*)

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** into your browser (*there is no link*) and fill out the application. Deadline for fall enrollment is June 1st.

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS need to be turned in to the office by Wednesday of each week in order to be included in the Thursday and Sunday bulletin. Please note this. Thank you!

ST. JOHN SCHOOL 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/stjohnlutherschoolnapoleon/>

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

There’s always free chees in a mousetrap!

*“The light of the wicked is put out...and his own schemes throw him down.
A trap seizes him by the heel; a snare lays hold of him.” (Job 18:5, 9)*