



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

April 11, 2021

VOL. 86 NO. 15
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SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon & Text: "Toward the Forgiveness of Sins" *John 20:19-23*

Order of Service: *Service of Prayer & Preaching (LSB pg. 260)*

Hymns: 467 ~ 470 ~ 472 ~ 465

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest this morning, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. 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. Please drop it in the basket at the door. Thank you!



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠

✠ Bob Norden, Elmer Maassel, Denny Behnfeldt, Ted Ripke, *Ushers* ✠

✠ Mary Kay Rettig, Sandy Von Deylen, Kathy Badenhop, *Altar Guild* ✠

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES RESUME NORMAL SCHEDULE – Now that we are through the season of Lent, we will return to our normal schedule for Thursday services. Each Thursday service will be a 'preview' of the following Sunday service. Once again the ***Sacrament of the Altar*** will be celebrated on the Thursday evenings prior to the first and third Sundays of each month. Services on Thursday evenings are at 7:00 p.m.

CHURCH CONSTITUTION: Several members have asked for a copy of the church's constitution over the past months. With the revision to the cemetery rates by Council in December 2020, the updated constitution booklets are now available in the new tract rack in the narthex. If interested, please pick up a copy at your convenience. More will be printed as needed.

2020 CHURCH'S ANNUAL REPORT: There are about 30 copies available on the desk and table in the narthex following the service today.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	7:00AM 10:20AM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.	3:30 PM 7:00 PM	Lady Eagles Basketball Skills Camp (<i>see bulletin note</i>) PTL Meeting
Tue.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship Service
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 3:00 PM 4:00 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Jr High LYF Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>) Sr High LYF Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Willie Stottlemyer</i> , St. Stephen Lutheran – Defiance

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:

- ❖ *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.

LYF MEETINGS: The LYF will be meeting on Sun., April 18th at the St. John Youth & Family Center. The Jr High LYF will meet from 3:00-4:00 PM. The Sr High will then meet from 4:00-5:30 PM. Masks will be required. Come join us for a Bible study, fellowship, food, and games!

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES – Why attend Sunday School?

It's as simple as **B-I-B-L-E...**

- **B** is for **BIBLE**. We delight in the *Bible* because we want to grow in God's Word. *"I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoil."* Psa 119:162
- **I** is for **INSTILL**. We want to *instill* God's Word in the hearts of our children and in our own hearts. *"I have stored up your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."* Psa 199:11
- **B** is for **BETTER** – There is no thing *better*. When Mary took time to listen to Jesus while Martha was distracted, He said, *"Mary has chosen the better portion."* Luke 10:42
- **L** is for **LEADERS** – When we attend Sunday School, we honor God who gives *leaders* to His church so that we may avail ourselves of their teaching and grow in grace and in the knowledge of God. *"He gave some to be...pastors and teachers."* Eph 4:11
- **E** is for **ENCOURAGEMENT** – Every Christian needs the constant *encouragement* of God's Word as we face our trials and temptations. *"Therefore encourage one another with these words."* 1 Thess 4:8



Join us for Sunday School each Sunday. The **children** meet in the fellowship hall, the **youth** "Lamp" study group meets in the *Youth & Family Center*, and **Adult Bible Study** meets in the sanctuary.

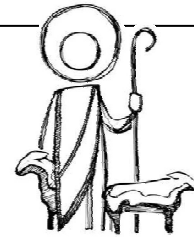
Good Shepherd Sunday Brunch

Sunday, April 25 (two weeks from today)

We're announcing a brunch for **Good Shepherd Sunday, April 25** to benefit our own women's organization, *The Women of Freedom*. These women do so much for us and for God's Kingdom – LWML mite offerings for missions, Bible Studies, congregational service (such as funeral meals), and scholarships for young people preparing for church work. With thanks to God, we honor their service by giving them all proceeds from this brunch.

- **Brunch Menu** - French Toast, Pancakes, Scrambled eggs, Sausage, Fruit, Coffee, Juice
- **Time** – Serving begins after the morning service, about 10:00 a.m.
- **Carryout containers** will be available in line if you'd like to take it with you.
- **Free Will donations** accepted with proceeds to *The Women of Freedom*.
- **All-Male kitchen crew** – We're honoring the women, and want them simply to enjoy. Men, please sign up to help (on the sheet in the narthex) today, or call the church office.

Food Sign-Up – As with Easter Breakfast, we are looking for folks to provide food items to lower costs and raise proceeds. Food items needed are **EGGS** (in lots of 5 dozens, 30 doz. total) ~ **HALF-GALLON JUICES** (8 total) ~ **SYRUP** (4 bottles) ~ **SMALL MANDARIN ORANGES**, like Cuties or Halos (5 bags) ~ **BANANAS** (5 dozen). Sign up today in the narthex, and **bring your items to the church on Friday, April 23 during office hours.**



**Good Shepherd
Sunday Brunch**

April 25

SPRING FLOWER SALE EXTENDED: The PTL Spring Flower sale has been extended thru today. Take time before midnight and place your order. We are still in need of additional orders so that we can meet our sales goal. 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 your form with payment to St. John PTL to the narthex table today.** 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!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 04/04/21	\$23,767.00	\$585.00	\$580.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday (Early) – 90; (Late) – 236

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE: \$900 – Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty; Attendance: 97

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE: \$1,350 – Home Fund; \$500 Stained Glass Window; Attendance: 126

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS (previous donations): \$450.00

CORRECTED MEMORIALS for *Sharon Badenhop*: St. John Building Fund - \$1,087.50
St. John Endowment Fund – Mission & Outreach - \$1,087.50
St. John Endowment Fund – School Acct. - \$63.00
Stained Glass Windows - \$1,000.00

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.

LUTHERAN WITNESS RENEWAL – It's time to renew your subscription to the Lutheran Witness for the year. To subscribe or renew your subscription, **simply place \$16.00 in an envelope**, along with your name and address, and place it in the Sunday collection plate or bring it to the church office. **Deadline for subscriptions is May 15th.**

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!*

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.

LWML QUARTERLIES & ODES are available in the tract rack in the narthex. These are available for all women of the congregation. Please pick up a copy today!

WOMEN OF FREEDOM TO RESUME MEETINGS: The Women of Freedom will be meeting again beginning in April (April 20th). We will plan to begin meeting as usual on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. All women are invited to come to our meetings. Hope to see you on the 20th!



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.

LWML SPRING RALLY - The Women of Freedom are invited to the Napoleon Zone Spring Rally to be held at Emmaus Lutheran Church, Wauseon, on Saturday, April 24th with registration and at 8:30 AM and the program following from 9-11:15 AM. The guest speaker will be *Madalyn Short*, Director of Family Life Ministry, Living Word Lutheran Church, Galena, OH. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for more information. The theme this year is “Family Life Ministry in Practice.”

PIERSTORF MEMORIAL LOAN FUND – provides interest-free loans to Lutheran students who are or will be enrolled full time in a four-year undergraduate program at any accredited college or university. This year, the maximum interest-free loan amount is \$3,000 for the school year. For information, visit www.Pierstorf.org and complete the 2021-2022 application. Applications open April 15, 2021 and close June 30, 2021.

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.

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!

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.

WHY NOT CONSIDER ST. JOHN? Saint John Lutheran School offers preschool to 8th grade Lutheran education. Students are taught the Word of God. In addition all the other subjects are taught. Students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of athletics. Bus transportation is available to students in all the local school districts. SJL is accredited by the National Lutheran School Accreditation and by the State of Ohio Dept. of Education. We are currently accepting registration for the 2021-2022 school year. If you have any questions about enrollment or would like a tour of the school please call the school office for an appointment.

THE SPRING S.T.O.P. PENNY DRIVE! **Save Those Old Pennies!!!** Classrooms—get your pennies gathered up for the PTL Spring Penny Drive! This has begun and continues thru Fri., April 23rd. This year we are reverting back to collecting the most pennies by classroom. The classroom collecting the most pennies will be given a pizza party, while the remaining classrooms will be given an ice cream treat for participating. **If any congregation member has pennies to contribute, please leave them on the narthex table. If you choose, you may leave a note with which classroom you wish for them to go. Otherwise they will be divided amongst the classrooms.**

PRESCHOOL GRADUATION will be **Tues., May 18th** at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. This ceremony is for the 3-yr old and 4/5-yr old classes. Everyone is invited to this big day for the preschoolers. There will be a program followed by light refreshments.

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 rates for the 2021-2022 school year: 3-yr old Preschool - \$80/month; 4/5-yr old Preschool - \$210/month.

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!

ATHLETIC RECOGNITION: The Athletic Banquet will take on a different look this year. It will be an Athletic Recognition program. There will not be a potluck meal held with this program. This will be held on Sun., April 18th beginning at 4 PM. Special guests will be high school senior athletes who will share their experience with academics and athletics at the high school level.

LADY EAGLES SKILLS CAMP: Coach Schroeder will be conducting a Lady Eagles Elite Skills Basketball Camp at St. John from 3:30 – 5:00 PM on April 12, 21, 28, May 3, 10, 17. This is open to any congregation member/student in Grades K-4. Flyers located on the narthex table. For questions, please call Coach Schroeder at 419-591-6655. Let's go Eagles!

ST. JOHN SCRIP: 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 on the table in the narthex and in the 'School Info' rack outside the office. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to the SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

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.

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.

DRIVE-THRU BBQ CHICKEN DINNER: The Ridgeville Sons of the American Legion invite you to their Drive-Thru BBQ Chicken Dinner at the Legion Hall on County Road 19, today with serving from 11:00 AM until sold out. On the menu: ½ BBQ chicken, Baked Potato, Roll, and Cookie. The cost is \$10. Hope to see you there!

✘ ✘ ✘

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

A sealed tomb now open... the Joy of Easter!

*“So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy,
and ran to tell his disciples.” (Matt 28:8)*

COLORING PAGE

