



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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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
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TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Sermon: "Consider Jesus" *Hebrews 3:1-6*

Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: 414 ~ [Baptism: 605, 588] ~ 413 ~ 416 ~ 415 ~ 417

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to every member, friend, and visitor. You have entered this church, not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. May you who enter here find rest, forgiveness, and strength. May your worship here enable you to see your Savior more clearly, love Him more dearly, follow Him more nearly, and serve Him more sincerely. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the basket in the narthex as you leave.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Cooper Speiser, Mitch Rosebrock, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Denny Bockelman, Tim Badenhop, Dave Myles, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kaylee Buchhop, Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, Karan Niebergall, *Altar Guild* ✠

BAPTISM TODAY – MACK ROBERT BUCHHOP

This morning we rejoice with **Nathan & Kaylee Buchhop** as they present their infant son, **Mack Robert**, for Holy Baptism. Mack was born on January 3rd at Community Hospital and Medical Center in Bryan, Ohio. Mack's baptismal sponsors are **Melissa & Andrew Nicol**. His grandparents are Robert & Ronda Wentworth, Mike & Dawn Buchhop, and the late Cindy Buchhop. We join Nathan & Kaylee and this family in celebrating Mack's new birth into the family of God, for "no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit." (John 3:5)



ARCHIVES DISPLAY: The Archives Committee has a new display up with the pictures of the students and teachers for the school year 2021-2022. This display includes both of the preschool classes too. Be sure to stop down the side hallway and check it out.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "Lamp" Youth Group
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tues.	6:00 PM	School Board Meeting
Wed.	8:35 AM 5:45 PM 7:00 PM	School Chapel for Ash Wednesday Jr High Confirmation Class (<i>until 6:45 PM</i>) Ash Wednesday Worship Service ; Offering: <i>Church Vocation Students</i> Acolyte: <i>Olivia Foor</i> Ushers: <i>Denny Bockelman, Tim Badenhop, Dave Myles</i> Altar Guild: <i>Karen Germann, Mary Kossow, Diana Kruse</i>
Thurs.	6:30 AM	Men's Lenten Bible Study Breakfast (see bulletin note)
Sun.	9:00AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "Lamp" Youth Group
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM

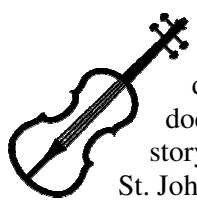
FOR THOSE LISTENING FROM THE PARKING LOT**Pick up your bulletin and service by driving through the carport before worship****You can give your offering to the deacon at the same time****Tune your FM radio to 87.7****MATTERS FOR PRAYER** – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- ❖ *Melba Elling, Lorna Von Deylen, Norma Damman, Evelyn Rohrs*, at Genacross – Napoleon
- ❖ *Ruth Mahnke*, at Assisted Living – Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Hildegard Behrmann*, at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Niermann, Jared Dishop, Jordan Lange*
- ❖ *Esther Layton, Florence Jones, Robin Showman, Sue Hurst, Eileen Fitzenreiter*, and *Don Lawrence*, for health concerns relating to cancer
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, at Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky, and recently diagnosed with lung cancer
- ❖ *Bill Von Deylen*, recuperating at home now after his recent hospitalization
- ❖ *Elmer Maassel*, recovering nicely from successful hip replacement surgery this past week
- ❖ *Nick & Jenelle McCarthy and Family*, for the passing of their son, *William Joshua*, at birth on Thurs., Feb. 17th at Fulton County Health Center. William's funeral and committal were held at St. John on Fri., Feb. 25th.

TODAY IS TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY This Sunday, which highlights the divine glory of Christ, is the culmination of the Epiphany season, but also the transition to the Lenten season. From the Mount of Transfiguration Jesus makes His way resolutely to Jerusalem, like a lamb to the slaughter. On this day we say farewell the **Alleluia**. That joyous word of praise, meaning "Praise the Lord," is customarily set aside for the penitential season of Lent, and will be re-introduced in our worship again on Easter Sunday when we raise it again in joyous celebration of Christ's victory over sin and death.



SPECIAL MUSICAL OFFERING THIS MORNING – Today as we commemorate the



Transfiguration of Our Lord, it is our joy and pleasure to welcome professional violinist, **Mrs. Morgan (Bland) Maassel**. Morgan is the wife of Skyler Maassel, the daughter-in-law of Mike & Tana Maassel. She is a freelance violinist and fiddler who does live performances, recordings, and lessons. She also describes herself as an artist, storyteller, wife, and dog mom. Morgan and Skyler reside in Nashville, TN. Welcome to St. John!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY THIS MORNING

Provoking Proverbs ♦ Eighth Commandment



Mark Twain once said, “A lie can travel around the world and back again while the truth is lacing up its boots.” His observation speaks to the great destruction the tongue is capable of doing to our neighbor. In fact, the **Eighth Commandment of our God is perhaps one of the most difficult for us to master**. As St. James says, we use our tongues both to praise God and to tear down our fellow human beings whom God made in His image. The tongue *“is a restless evil,”* he writes! (*James 3:8*)

Join us this morning as the *Proverbs provoke us* to tame our tongues, and to use them to build up one another. **Each session is a study unto itself, so don’t feel like you shouldn’t come if you weren’t there for previous sessions.** Bible Study is a wonderful time of growth in God’s Word and of Christian fellowship. **Oh, and we have coffee too!**

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING – Finally...get those buckets and rags ready!!! We are gearing up for the 2022 annual church cleaning. The listing of people for this year’s cleaning groups is inserted in today’s bulletin. If you are on the list and feel you are not physically able to help with the cleaning for whatever reason, let your co-chair know and we’ll make a note of that. Thank you!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 2/13/22	\$9,244.00	\$201.00	\$230.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 143

THANK YOU to my sisters and brothers in Christ for all of your expressions of concern, your assurances of prayer, and your cards these past few weeks. I thank God for all of you! I am feeling good, and with a new lease of life, I am eager to continue serving among you. God be praised for each new day that He gives us! *Pastor Niermann*

2021 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – The 2021 individual offering totals (green sheets) are available on the narthex table. These will also be printed in the Church Annual Report. We hope this helps those members in need of this information for tax purposes. If you have any questions on your yearly contribution information, please call past Financial Trustee, *Jerry Langenhop* at 419-598-8151.

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.

Lent Midweek 2022

Ash Wednesday is just 4 days from now, and it's time for God's people to review and rehearse anew the story of our salvation in the passion, suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior. Lenten midweek services will be held each Wednesday during Lent at 7:00 p.m.



Our midweek Lenten theme this year is, "**Places of the Passion.**" This worship and sermon series will take us to places like Bethany, the House of Simon the leper, the Courtyard, the Judgment Hall, Calvary and the open tomb, as we walk with Jesus all the way! **Here is the schedule of our Lenten midweek services:**

WEEKLY THEME

• **Ash Wed.: Jerusalem - Eye of the Storm**
Imposition of Ashes, Holy Communion

• Lent 2: Bethany – House of Fragrance

• Lent 3: Mount of Olives – Singing Slopes

• Lent 4: Gethsemane – Garden Goat Rope

• Lent 5: The Courtyard – Galleria of Guilt

• Lent 6: Judgment Hall – Forum for Freedom

OFFERING

St. John Church Vocation Students

Good Shepherd Lutheran for the Deaf

Filling Home of Mercy, Napoleon

National Youth Gathering

Worship Anew TV program

Lutheran Hour Broadcast

Lenten Midweek services are on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. starting Ash Wednesday, March 2nd



Each midweek Lenten service (with the exception of Ash Wednesday) will begin with a hymn sing. We will sing stanzas of hymns selected by the congregation. Think ahead of hymns you would like to sing (that don't include *Alleluia*'s), and be prepared to offer your suggestions at these services.

MEN'S LENTEN BIBLE BREAKFAST

Each Thursday during the Lenten season, the men will gather at 6:30 a.m. in the north fellowship hall for breakfast and a half-hour Bible study.

That we all must die is agreed upon. It's what takes place two seconds later that makes us wonder. Explore this lively topic with us in our Bible Breakfast Study, **Death ... Then What?** Softening death with euphemisms or denying its approach with cosmetic surgery doesn't change the fact it's there -- waiting for us all. Healthy eating and living may get us a few more miles in our bodies, but will not forever hold off our demise. Man has formulated complex religions, philosophies and ideologies to attempt a glimpse behind that final curtain, but they offer no solace against the perfect judgment of an omniscient and righteous God. **That relief is available only through Jesus' redemptive work on the cross.**

Please consider joining us each Thursday during Lent as we nourish our bodies with breakfast, and our souls with God's Word.



LENTEN DEVOTIONS FROM L.H.M. – Lutheran Hour Ministries has made available their 2022 Lenten Devotions, on the theme, "Suffering Servant." These devotions show Christ walking with us. Taking on our humanity, the Savior enters a world hostile toward God and blackened by sin. Stepping into our darkness, Jesus was "the light of men." Bearing our punishment, He was lifted up on the cross, and there he died, rising three days later in resurrection victory. Several booklets have been printed and are available on the narthex table. Pick up your copy and make these devotions part of your daily household routine during this Lenten season!

BUY A BRICK? Want to buy a brick for the Youth Center yet? We will be placing another order for more name plates to be printed sometime at the end of February. Now would be a good time to fill out an order form if you want to be added to the order. Forms are available in the tract rack by the narthex table. There are still plenty of bricks left to put your name (*or your family name*) on one.

ATHLETIC BANQUET – SAVE THE DATE! The St. John Athletic Banquet will be on **Sun., March 27th at 4:30 PM.** More details to follow.

WHY LUTHERAN SCHOOLS – A SAFE PLACE: Unfortunately, in many communities children are not safe. Lutheran schools provide places where children don't have to worry about being attacked verbally or physically. Loving teachers and other staff members daily demonstrate Christ's love for them and their love for children.

KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2022! The St. John K-clinic will be held on Thursday, March 24th beginning at 1:30 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 2021 (*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, we already have the items listed above and you will not need to bring them the day of the clinic.*

NOTE: KINDERGARTEN HALF DAY! Please note that on Thurs., March 24th (*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 March 24th. Thank you!

PTL SPRING PENNY DRIVE: The PTL Penny Drive is underway and will continue thru Fri., March 4th. This year the competition is set for which classroom can collect the most pennies. The classroom collecting the most pennies will be given a pizza party, while the remaining classrooms will be given ice cream treats for participating. So bring in your spare change and help support the PTL.

ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES: You may begin ordering SCRIP again. Please turn those orders in on Wednesdays, with payment to *St. John School PTL Scrip*. The gift cards will be sent home the following week on Tuesday or Wednesday. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

ENROLLMENT FOR PRESCHOOL: The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2022-23 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 have opened the registration up to the public, so be sure to register soon.** There is a non-refundable \$30 fee that must accompany your registration paperwork. The School Board approved rates for the 2022-2023 school year are: 3-yr old Preschool - \$100/month; 4/5-yr old Preschool - \$250/month.

2021 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – **Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers today.**

The various organization secretaries are asked to write up a summary of the year's activities and the treasurers of the different organizations are asked to submit their yearly financial report.

Also, if you've moved, eliminated your landline phone, or have a new phone number, contact the church office or make a note of it on a *Rite of Fellowship Card* and drop it in one of the baskets in the narthex to help us keep our records as up-to-date as possible.

OHIO DISTRICT NEWS: The Lutheran Church – Ohio District wants to share some news with you. A Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) has been established in the Ohio District. Later this year, donations of up to \$750 will be able to be made into the SGO. That money will then go to the Lutheran School of the donor's choice. That money will be used as scholarship money at the school designated by the donor. The donor will then be able to receive a tax credit for the full amount they donated (up to \$750), directly on their Ohio State Tax return. This is exciting news! As more information becomes available, in the months ahead, we will share it with all of you.

ALTAR FLOWERS: For anyone wishing to place flowers on the altar or piano for a certain Sunday worship, please sign up on the "Flower Calendar" posted in the narthex. Then about two weeks before that date, please contact *Mabel Bischoff* at 419-598-8757. **The price for flowers through the Women of Freedom is \$21.00.** Please make checks payable to Women of Freedom. Remember that it is your responsibility to call Mabel either way; if you would like the Women of Freedom to order the flowers or if you are going to take care of ordering the flowers. This will alleviate any confusion.

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!

PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST – hosted by the Ridgeville Township Fire & Rescue will be held on Sun., March 6th from 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the Ridgeville American Legion Hall. This will be a drive-thru only! Proceeds to benefit fire & rescue equipment. Freewill donation.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Peace is not the absence of conflict. Peace is resting in the certainty that God knows best.

*"You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast,
because they trust in you." Isaiah 26:3*