

# 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

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School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339  
Church Website: [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)

### FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon: "Rebels Welcome" *Luke 15:1-3, 11-32*

Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: **686 ~ 612 ~ 609 ~ 571**

Children's Choir: Grades K – 8 will sing "Were You There"

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### 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.*

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### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Raegan Dietrich & Zeb Kramer, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Denny VonDeylen, Dave Badenhop, Dan Wiechers, Jerry Short, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Mary Kossow, Diana Kruse, Karen Germann, *Altar Guild* ✘

### ADULT BIBLE STUDY THIS MORNING

#### **Provoking Proverbs ♦ Eighth Commandment**

People love to talk about people! And usually, it seems, people love to talk of other people's faults, foibles, and failings. We often assume the worst about a person, or jump to conclusions, and let our minds and mouths run with it! But did you know that Jesus speaks well of you? May God give us tongues to do the same for each other, always explaining everything about our neighbor in the kindest way!



Join us this morning as the *Proverbs provoke us* to tame our tongues, and to use them to build up one another. Bible Study is a wonderful time of growth in God's Word and of Christian fellowship. **Oh, and we have coffee too!**

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

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Time</b>                         | <b>Activities</b>  |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Today       | <b>9:00AM</b><br>10:20AM<br>4:30 PM | <b>Worship Service</b><br>Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "Lamp" Youth Group<br>Athletic Banquet (see bulletin note)   |
| Tues.       | <b>8:35 AM</b><br>6:00 PM           | <b>School Chapel</b><br>School Board Meeting ( <i>this will serve as the April meeting</i> )   |
| Wed.        | 5:45 PM<br><b>7:00 PM</b>           | Jr High Confirmation Class ( <i>until 6:45 PM</i> )<br><b>Lenten Worship Service; Offering: <i>Worship Anew</i></b><br>Acolyte: <i>Maddox Oyer</i><br>Ushers: <i>Denny Von Deylen, Dave Badenhop, Dan Wiechers, Jerry Short</i><br>Altar Guild: <i>Karen Germann, Mary Kossow, Diana Kruse</i> |
| Thurs.      | 6:30 AM                             | Men's Lenten Bible Study Breakfast   |
| Sun.        | <b>9:00AM</b><br>10:20AM            | <b>Communion Service</b><br>Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "Lamp" Youth Group   |
| Mon.-Sat.   | 7:30 AM                             | Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM  |

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

- ❖ *Melba Elling, Lorna Von Deylen, Norma Damman*, at Genacross – Napoleon
- ❖ *Ruth Mahnke*, at Assisted Living – Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Hildegard Behrmann*, at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ *Florence Jones*, moved to hospice care at Fulton Manor, Wauseon
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Niermann, Jared Dishop, Jordan Lange*
- ❖ *Esther Layton, Sue Hurst, Eileen Fitzenreiter, and Don Lawrence*, concerns relating to cancer
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, at Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky, and battling lung cancer
- ❖ *Teacher Sarah Bartok*, who has received a teaching call to Springfield Lutheran School in Springfield, Missouri. We pray that God will guide her in her deliberations, as she considers where she will continue her teaching ministry.
- ❖ *Cheryl Yaw*, for knee replacement surgery on Tues., March 29<sup>th</sup> at FCHC

**CHILDREN SINGING TODAY:** The Kindergarten thru Grade 8 children of St. John Church and School will be singing today, and will be seated in the balcony. They will return to their families following their singing. Thank you for their participation today.

**MANY THANKS!** Thank you to all the members of St. John Lutheran Church for the kindness you showed for Evelyn Rohrs. For the cards, the visits, and the prayers, we thank you very much. Thank you to Pastor Niermann for the comforting words at Mom's funeral. Also to the ladies for preparing the wonderful meal. God bless you all! *Signed, Susan, Jim, & Tom and families*

**EASTER BREAKFAST SIGN UP** – There will once again be an Easter Breakfast served between the two services on Easter morning (8:00-9:15 AM). A lot of help with donations is needed. Please sign up on the chart in the narthex to donate items and/or to help with serving on Sunday. Any refrigerated or bakery items in stay-fresh containers can be brought to the church on Saturday morning (4-16). All items need to be at the church prior to 8:00 AM Easter morning.

**EASTER LILY DONATIONS** – This year we are having difficulty locating suppliers for Easter lilies, so instead of ordering them as we usually do, we will take donations in the narthex and use your gifts to purchase our lilies locally. If, for some reason, we simply cannot find lilies, we will use those gifts to purchase others flowers. **If you can give a gift of \$8 to \$10, you would be welcome to take one of the flowers home with you after the Easter services.** You can put your donation in the “Easter Flower” container located on the narthex table. Thank you!

**EASTER FLOWER UPDATE:** Because we had to have such a quick “turn-a-round” on the Easter flower orders this year, we buffered the count for each of the flowers offered. Extra flowers that can be “spoken for yet” are: 3 – Hyacinths; 5 – Tulips; 2 – Daffodils; 1 – Mum; 1 – Cineraria. So if you want to purchase any of these extra flowers please fill out an order form located beside the Easter Flower container (*with payment*) and drop it in container on the table. Payment can also be made later.

**FLOWER PICK UP VOLUNTEER:** We are asking if there is a volunteer(s) willing to go and pick up the Easter flowers for us on Fri., April 15<sup>th</sup> between 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. The location is at Lehmann Greenhouse Inc., 6801 Telegraph Road, Temperance, MI 48182. It would be about an hour drive (one way). Please contact Joyce in the church office if you can help us out.

**GROUP #1 CHURCH CLEANERS:** Cleaning group #1 will be cleaning on Mon., March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6pm and again on Mon., April 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Bring buckets and rags! Thank you.

**A “YUMMY” THANK YOU!** St. John School and Preschool would like to thank everyone that purchased items from their recent fundraiser. It appears to have been a big success! Just a reminder that the frozen items will be arriving on Tues., April 5<sup>th</sup> and must be picked up between 2:30 and 4:30.

**APRIL LYF MEETING** – On Sun., April 10<sup>th</sup> from 3-4:30pm, the Jr High and Sr High LYF will be meeting at the Youth Center. Come join us for some snacks, games, a Bible study, and fellowship. We hope to see you there!

| <b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b> | Home Fund    | Synod & Missions | Building Fund |
|--------------------------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|
| Weekly Need                    | \$9,792.78   | \$500.00         | \$961.54      |
| Rec'd 3/20/22                  | \$12,709.58  | \$220.00         | \$175.00      |
| ATTENDANCE:                    | Sunday – 162 |                  |               |

**LENTEN SERVICE #3:** Filling Home – Napoleon - \$585.00      Attendance: 64

**CEMETERY NOTE:** With warmer weather upon us, please take time now to remove any grave blankets, as well as Christmas floral arrangements that have been placed on gravesites. Thank you!

**MEN'S LENTEN BIBLE BREAKFAST**

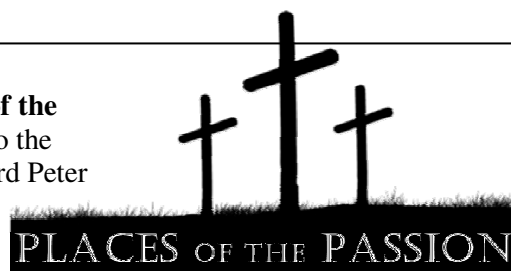
**Each Thursday during the Lenten season, the men will gather at 6:30 a.m. in the north fellowship hall for breakfast and a half-hour Bible study.**

One of the most difficult things about death is the separation it creates between us and our loved ones. That break from our loved ones seems so permanent, for never again will we see that person in this life and world. **But does it have to be that way?** Is there a possibility some day of reunion? What do the Scriptures say? Join us this Thursday!



# Lent Midweek 2022

Our midweek Lenten theme this year is, “**Places of the Passion.**” This week we continue our walk with Jesus to the *Courtyard of Caiaphas*, the High Priest. In this courtyard Peter denied his Master three times, as the Jewish leaders hurled false accusations at Jesus, not looking for truth, but for a way to condemn Him. Yet in the midst of this Galleria of guilt stands Jesus, the innocent Lamb of God, who came for the very purpose of bearing all of this guilt to His cross.



**Here is the schedule for our remaining Lenten midweek services:**

## WEEKLY THEME

- **Lent 5: The Courtyard – Galleria of Guilt**
- Lent 6: Judgment Hall – Forum for Freedom
- Maundy Thursday – The Upper Room
- Good Friday – Golgotha
- Easter Sunrise – The Garden Tomb

## OFFERING

- **Worship Anew TV program**
- Lutheran Hour Broadcast
- Sufficient Grace Ministries
- Home Fund
- Home Fund

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



**Each midweek Lenten service 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.

**MAJOR GIFT FOR LUTHERAN EDUCATION** – This past week it was announced to our School Board and to the school staff that a donor has stepped forward with a major gift, a large portion of which is available for immediate use, and with the pledge of more to be given over the next number of years. This gift is intended to bolster and strengthen Lutheran education at St. John and in Henry County in cooperation with St. Paul in Napoleon. The donor wants to help make our Lutheran schools fully competitive with the public schools, and even a cut above. Arrangements for the stewardship of this gift are currently being made that will involve both school boards as well as a special ad hoc committee of principals, school board representatives, lay persons and pastors.

The donor is especially interested in supporting educational programs in our schools for foreign language, computer coding, robotics, and STEAM (*science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics*). This gift will make possible some exciting new programs for Lutheran school students in our area, even giving them a competitive edge. Combined with the teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (*which public schools can never offer*), it is the vision that Lutheran education in our area will prosper and enrollment will grow.

We give thanks to God for this donor and gift. Obviously there are many details that need to be worked out, but in the meantime, please pray for those who are making plans to figure out the best way to be stewards of this gift toward the goal of strengthening Lutheran education here at St. John and in cooperation with St. Paul.

## **STAINED GLASS WINDOW NEWS – Unveiling and Dedication**

We are nearing the completion of the stained glass window project. The crucifixion window has been installed but remains veiled until our Good Friday evening service when it will be unveiled and lit during the first hymn. The resurrection window is nearing completion, and will be installed soon, but will be veiled until Easter morning. Th at morning **we will unveil the resurrection window during the Sunrise Service**, and then **in the later Festival Service dedicate to God's glory all the stained glass windows**. A booklet with a history of the stained glass window project and descriptions of each window will be made available on Easter morning as well. Perhaps between Easter services you will want to use that booklet to take a self-guided tour of all the windows.



**ADULT INSTRUCTION AND MEMBERSHIP CLASS TO BEGIN:** On the Sunday after Easter, April 24, Pastor Niermann will begin teaching an Adult Instruction and Membership Class after Sunday services. This class is for anyone interested in learning more about what our church teaches and confesses, and will also be a membership class for those who may wish to join our congregation - although, of course, there is no obligation for class participants to do so. Classes will run for about 10 weeks through the end of June, with a break on Confirmation Sunday. We will meet after worship each Sunday for an hour, about 10:15-11:15 a.m., in the conference room near the restrooms.

This is also an excellent opportunity for members of St. John to be refreshed in the primary teachings of our faith and to invite someone to come with you who may be interested in joining our fellowship.

**ATHLETIC BANQUET UPDATE!** The St. John Athletic Banquet is today at 4:30 PM in the fellowship hall. The Boosters will furnish the meat, sides, drinks, and table service. They are asking families to bring a dessert to share. Hope to see many of you at the banquet as we honor our St. John athletes and also hear from the St. John alumni high school seniors!

**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.

**WHY LUTHERAN SCHOOLS – VALUE BY CONGREGATIONS:** Lutheran schools require a considerable investment of prayers, energy, money and staff. Such an investment by a congregation clearly demonstrates to the community that it places a high value on children, God's beloved little ones.

**SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL GRANDPARENTS' DAY AND SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR:** The PTL decided to combine the School and Preschool Grandparents' Day this school year. They are also coordinating it with the Scholastic Book Fair. This will be held as follows:

**Preschool 4/5-year old Grandparents' Day** will be held on **Thurs., April 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 – 11:00 AM**. Grandparents will also be able to go to the Scholastic Book Fair that morning.

**Grades K-8 School Grandparents' Day** will be held on **Fri., April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12:30 – 3:00 PM** (*lunch not included*). Grandparents will also be able to go to the Scholastic Book Fair that morning.

**Preschool 3-year old Grandparents' Day** will be held on **Fri., April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 – 11:00 AM**. Grandparents will also have the opportunity to go to the Scholastic Book Fair that morning also.

## **POSITION OPENINGS:**

- St. John Lutheran School is seeking a **preschool teacher aide** (3-yr class) for Wednesday and Friday mornings next school year. Applicant must have experience with preschool-age children, obtain a background check, and supply three references. For further information or to set up an interview please contact the school office at 419-598-8702.
- St. John Lutheran School is seeking a **school custodian** for next school year. This is a part time position. For further information or to set up an interview please contact the school office.
- St John Lutheran School is seeking a **long term substitute teacher for kindergarten**. Our current teacher will be taking a maternity leave beginning the first week of September. Applicant must have a valid teaching certificate, obtain a background check, and supply three references. For further information or to set up an interview please contact the school office at 419-598-8702.
- St. John Lutheran School is asking for your help as we are seeking names for consideration for the **Principal position** and the **7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher position** for the 2022-2023 school year. Pastor Kramer (Principal) and Pat Kramer (Grade 7&8 Teacher) will both be leaving us at the end of the current 2021-2022 school year. Requirements for the jobs are: Must have a Bachelor degree in education, obtain a background check, supply three references, and adhere to the St. John Lutheran Church and School religious beliefs. If you have names please call the school office at 419-598-8702.

## **FREE OR REDUCED CHURCH WORKER TUITION AT CONCORDIA, ST. PAUL**

Our Concordia University in St. Paul, Minnesota has announced free tuition for all pre-seminary and pre-deaconess students, as well as a \$6,000 tuition cap for other church work students (Directors of Education, Outreach, Parish Music, and Lutheran School Teacher). Now, as ever, the church needs young people to answer the call to ministry. Spread the word about these financial incentives, and encourage a young person in your life to consider a church work career.

**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.**

**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!

**CPC & HAWK’S PIZZA:** Get on board to help CPC Women’s Health Resource in Napoleon with the well-known Hawk’s Community Day in April. Hawk’s will be donating 10% of their sales on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:30am – 10pm to CPC Women’s Health Resource. See flyer in the narthex!

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**  
**Prayers Up, Worries Down.**

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.. Phil 4:6*