

St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

April 3, 2022

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NO. 14

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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FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon: "Authority for What?" *Luke 20:9-20*
Service: Divine Service, Setting Three (LSB pg. 184)
Hymns: 735 ~ 575 ~ (Communion: 430, 622) ~ 912

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Behold how good and pleasant it is... to share this time together! May you feel cleansed and renewed by God's presence, equipped to face the challenges of a new week with courage and calm. The Lord be with you. If you do not have a local church home, we extend a warm invitation to you to become a part of our church family. Simply fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the basket in the narthex as you leave today.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Paul Sausser & Garrison Kruse, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Elmer Maassel, Ted Ripke, Bob Norden, Denny Behnfeltd, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Deb Von Deylen, Anita Badenhop, Pat Maassel, Kathy Behnfeltd, *Altar Guild* ✠

ADULT BIBLE STUDY THIS MORNING

Provoking Proverbs • Ninth & Tenth Commandments

You shall not covet. The Ninth and Tenth Commandments are not merely the last and least in a list. They are the matched bookend to the First Commandment, and mirror its meaning. If the First Commandment is about fearing, loving and trusting God above all things in our hearts, these last Commandments guard our hearts from fearing, loving and trusting in other so-called gods to which our hearts may be attracted.



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!**

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "Lamp" Youth Group
Tues.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
Wed.	5:45 PM 7:00 PM	Jr High Confirmation Class (<i>until 6:45 PM</i>) Lenten Worship Service; Offering: <i>Lutheran Hour Broadcast</i> Acolyte: <i>Maddox Oyer</i> Ushers: <i>Elmer Maassel, Ted Ripke, Bob Norden, Denny Behnfeldt</i> Altar Guild: <i>Deb Von Deylen, Anita Badenhop, Pat Maassel, Kathy Behnfeldt</i>
Thurs.	6:30 AM	Men's Lenten Bible Study Breakfast
Sun.	9:00AM 10:20AM 3:00 PM	Worship Service with Communion following Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "Lamp" Youth Group Jr and Sr High LYF Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
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*, recuperating at home from knee replacement surgery this past week
- ❖ *Bev Elling*, for an outpatient procedure at Toledo Hospital tomorrow (Monday)
- ❖ *Lawrence Behrmann*, now at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab with Hildegard, his wife

THANK YOU to everyone for the cards, prayers, and kind words that have been shared with us.

Thank you to Pastor Niermann for his visits and the comforting words at the funeral. Also, thank you to all those involved with the preparation and serving of the delicious meal. Signed, *Janet, Tom, Anne, and the family of Bill Von Deylen*

THANK YOU GROUP #1: Thank you to all the people that came to help clean the sanctuary, balcony, narthex, hallways, etc. last Monday. We had a very nice turnout and thus got the job done that night. We appreciate all your hard work for the church! *Chairmen, Brad & Amy Rosebrook and Matt & Shawna Schroeder*

AND THIS WEEK.... Cleaning group #3 will be cleaning their section on Thurs., April 7th at 6pm. Bring buckets and rags and meet in the Fellowship Hall! See you then...and thank you.

APRIL LYF MEETING – On Sun., April 10th 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!

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 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.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 3/27/22	\$7,133.00	\$345.00	\$370.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 179

LENTEN SERVICE #4: National Youth Gathering - \$866.00 Attendance: 61

MEMORIALS for *Evelyn Rohrs*: SJL Endowment Fund – Undesignated - \$1,055.00

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 – CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: When the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod was formed, it became a requirement of Synodical membership that congregations would provide Christian education for their children. This was before public schools were available and before Sunday schools were popular. Thus a congregation was expected to operate a Lutheran School if it was to become a member of the Synod. The Great Commission was not given only to parents, but to all members of the church.

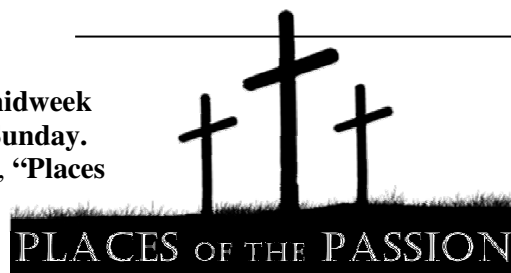
MEN'S LENTEN BIBLE BREAKFAST – Thursdays at 6:30 AM

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

This Wednesday we will gather for our final midweek Lenten service, before Holy Week commences next Sunday. Our midweek and Holy Week Lenten theme this year is, "Places of the Passion." This week we continue our walk with Jesus to the Judgment Hall of Pontius Pilate. Here Pilate yields to the crowds and for political expediency condemns Jesus to death on the cross. Yet for one very surprised man the scene is not all gloom and doom. With his own execution by crucifixion looming, things suddenly take a turn. The condemnation of Jesus meant his instant release. For him, that judgment hall became a freedom forum!



The offering this Wednesday evening is for *The Lutheran Hour Broadcast*.



As with each midweek Lenten service, we will begin by singing hymns selected by the congregation. Think ahead of hymns you would like to sing (that don't include *Alleluia*'s), and be prepared to raise your hand to offer your suggestions at these services.

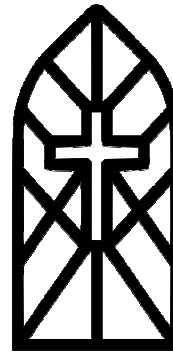
STAINED GLASS WINDOW NEWS – Unveiling, Dedication, Crosses

We are nearing the completion of the stained glass window project. The crucifixion window has been installed, and the Resurrection window will soon be installed, but both will remain veiled for now. Here are the plans.

GOOD FRIDAY – Window #18, The Crucifixion, will be unveiled during the opening hymn verses, "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted."

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE – Window #19, The Resurrection, will be unveiled early in the service. Following the service, two items will be distributed: 1) booklets with the history of this project as well as pictures and descriptions of each window; 2) stained glass cross necklaces, made with pieces of the same glass used in these windows.

EASTER FESTIVAL SERVICE – All nineteen windows will be dedicated to the glory of God in memory of Juanita Thorpe and in honor of Juanita's father, Rev. George Maassel, long-time pastor at St. John. Additional booklets and cross necklaces will be available as well.



Perhaps between the Easter services when you have a little time before or after breakfast, you will want to use that booklet to take a close-up self-guided tour of all the windows.

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!

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.



HOLY WEEK

LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS!

Our 2022 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, April 10)

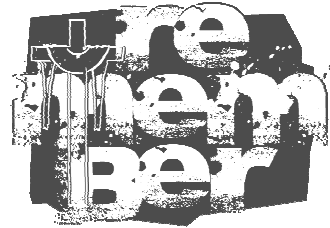
- 8:45 a.m. Children gather in the fellowship hall for the procession
- 9:00 a.m. Worship Service

MAUNDY THURSDAY (Thursday, April 14)

- 7:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
- Theme Places of the Passion – The Upper Room

GOOD FRIDAY (Friday, April 15)

- 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service of Tenebrae (darkness)
- Theme Places of the Passion - Golgotha



Easter Sunday is just two weeks from today! Here's the schedule...

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|--|
| 7:00 a.m. | Sunrise Service | Places of the Passion – The Garden Tomb
<i>Unveiling of the Resurrection Window</i> |
| 8:00 a.m. | Easter Breakfast | Fellowship and food in the Fellowship Hall
<i>Take some time for a self-guided tour of the stained glass windows</i> |
| 9:30 a.m. | Festival Service | Easter celebration with Holy Communion
<i>Dedication of the Stained Glass windows</i> |



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 way 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.

Brochures about this class are available in the narthex, either for you or to pass along to someone else as an invitation!

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.

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.
- St. John Lutheran School is seeking a part-time **school custodian** position for next school year.
- St. John Lutheran School is seeking a **long term sub 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.
- St. John Lutheran School is asking for your help as we are seeking names for consideration for the **Principal position** and the **7th & 8th 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.

To set up an interview for any of these positions, please contact the school office at 419-598-8702.

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 9th from 10:30am – 10pm to CPC Women's Health Resource. See flyer in the narthex!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Just follow your heart? Really?

"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" Jeremiah 17:9

"Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12