

St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

April 10, 2022

VOL. 87

NO. 15

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

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SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

Sermon: "Grasped!" *Philippians 2:5-11*

Children's Sermon: "The Rock that Saves"

Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 442 ~ 443 ~ 444 ~ 441 ~ 430 ~ 436

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

On this day, long ago, our Lord entered Jerusalem to glad shouts of "Hosanna!" On the threshold of Holy Week, we invite you to share with us this foretaste of His final triumph. Welcome to our celebration. If you have no church home of your own, we invite you to join the St. John family. Simply fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the basket in the narthex..

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Olivia Foor & Zeb Kramer, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Elmer Maassel, Ted Ripke, Bob Norden, Denny Behnfeldt, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Deb Von Deylen, Anita Badenhop, Pat Maassel, Kathy Behnfeldt, *Altar Guild* ✠



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!

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: <https://74058984.view-events.com>

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 10:20AM 3:00 PM	Palm Sunday Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Jr & Sr High LYF (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.	7:00 PM	PTL Meeting
Tues.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr High Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>)
Thurs.	6:30 AM 7:00 PM	NO SCHOOL – Easter Break (Thurs/Fri/Mon) Men's Lenten Bible Breakfast in fellowship hall Maundy Thursday Communion Service Offering: <i>Sufficient Grace Ministries</i> Acolytes: <i>Cooper Speiser & Alex Wachtman</i> Ushers: <i>Elmer Maassel, Denny Behnfeldt, Ted Ripke, Bob Norden</i> Altar Guild: <i>Deb Von Deylen, Anita Badenhop, Pat Maassel, Kathy Behnfeldt</i>
Fri.	7:00 PM	NO SCHOOL – Easter Break (Thurs/Fri/Mon) Good Friday Tenebrae Service Offering: <i>Home Fund</i> Acolytes: <i>Mitch Rosebrock & Alex Wachtman</i> Ushers: <i>Elmer Maassel, Denny Behnfeldt, Ted Ripke, Bob Norden</i> Altar Guild: <i>Deb Von Deylen, Anita Badenhop, Pat Maassel, Kathy Behnfeldt</i>
Sun.	7:00AM 8:00 AM 9:30 AM	Easter Sunrise Service Easter Breakfast for everyone – Freewill Offering! (<i>Till 9:15 AM</i>) Easter Festival Service with Communion
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
- ❖ *Lawrence & Hildegard Behrmann*, at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab and in hospice care
- ❖ *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 recent knee replacement surgery
- ❖ *Bev Elling*, for an outpatient procedure at Toledo Hospital this past week
- ❖ *Matt Schroeder and Family*, grieving the death of Matt's father, *Ray Schroeder*. May God console them with the sure promise of salvation through Christ our Lord!

THANK YOU BEYOND MEASURE! “To our St. John Family, We want to take a moment to extend our deep gratitude for your love, prayers, and support during one of the worst moments in our lives at the loss of our little William. We cannot express how grateful we are to everyone who has reached out to us, donated to Sufficient Grace Ministries and *Cuddle Cots*, and supported us behind the scenes in ways that we cannot even imagine. And then Church Council’s decision to implement William’s Policy to provide free burials to lost infants has touched our family so deeply. We are so thankful and blessed to have such a supportive community and spiritual family. Thank you!” *Signed. Nick, Jenelle, and Maclyn McCarthy; Todd & Chris Hesterman; Tim & Karen McCarthy*

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 desires, and to hunger and thirst for God. Bible Study is a wonderful time of growth in God’s Word and of Christian fellowship. **Oh, and we have coffee too!**



- **NEW BIBLE STUDY AFTER EASTER** – A new Sunday Bible study will get underway on the Sunday after Easter, April 24, titled “**Born Again by Water and the Word – A Study of Infant Baptism.**” One of the most obvious differences between denominations is whether or not they baptize infants. Many protestant denominations do not or even require those who join their fellowship to renounce their baptism as an infant and be re-baptized. What does Scripture say? *This study will be led by Jeremy Heilman, son of our members Don & Kay Heilman and formerly an LCMS pastor.*



‘THE LAMP’ YOUTH BIBLE STUDY meets on Sunday mornings in the *Youth and Family Center* across the road. Youth may head over after worship for the study of God’s Word together as we apply His Word to our lives in this day and age. Please join us. “**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and light unto my path.**” *Psa 119:105*

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!



HOLY WEEK

LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS!

Our 2022 Holy Week journey with Jesus begins today. 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!

TODAY, PALM SUNDAY (Sunday, April 10)

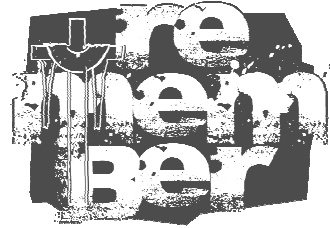
- 8:45 a.m. Children gather in the fellowship hall for the procession
- 9:00 a.m. Worship Service

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 next Sunday! Here's the schedule...

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|-----------|-------------------------|--|
| 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> |



2021 CHURCH'S ANNUAL REPORT: This is available today on the narthex tables after the service. There are about 50 copies today and there will be more printed and available next Sunday. Thanks to everyone for your information submitted to be included in this report.

APRIL LYF MEETING – Today 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!

PTL MEETING: The next PTL meeting will be on Mon., April 11th at 7:00 PM. Please plan to attend and support the efforts of the PTL program. We welcome new attendees!

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 4/03/22	\$8,591.00	\$320.00	\$290.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 153

LENTEN SERVICE #5: Worship Anew - \$810.00 Attendance: 77

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.

VBS PLANNING TO BEGIN – Yes, it's time to start thinking about *Vacation Bible School* for this year. VBS has been tentatively scheduled for June 13-17. The first order of business is to identify and **VBS DIRECTOR** to help lead the way in this ministry to our children. If you would be interested in serving the little ones in this way, please speak with Pastor Niermann.



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!



STAINED GLASS WINDOW NEWS – Unveiling, Dedication, Crosses

We are nearing the completion of the stained glass window project. The last two windows, the Crucifixion and Resurrection, have been installed but 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.

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

LWML SPRING RALLY - The Women of Freedom are invited to the Napoleon Zone Spring Rally to be held at St. James Lutheran Church, Burlington, on Saturday, April 30th with registration at 8:30 AM and the program following at 9:00 AM. The guest speaker will be *Judy Kaufmann*, who will share her highlights of her trip to Israel. Please see the flyer in today's bulletin for all the information.

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. For more information, visit www.Pierstorf.org and complete the 2022-2023 application. Applications open April 15, 2022 and close June 30, 2022.

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.

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.

ST. JOHN GIRLS B-BALL OPEN GYMS: Coach Schroeder will be holding open gyms for girls who are going into Grades K-6 next school year. These will be held at St. John from 1:00 – 2:30 PM on the following dates: **June 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22; July 12, 13, 19, 20**. Flyers with more information are available on the narthex table. Any questions...Call Coach Schroeder at 419-591-6655.

PRESCHOOL GRADUATION will be **Tues., May 17th** 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.

WHY LUTHERAN SCHOOLS – CONGREGATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY: As the school reaches many segments of the community, the parents who come to the school begin to inquire about the sponsoring congregation. Members frequently ask each other, Does this congregation have a school? But non-member school parents frequently ask the school, “Does this school have a church?” The congregation becomes better known in the community because of the school parents, and the school's marketing efforts.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Tomorrow's forecast – God Reigns, and the Son Shines!

*“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ;
and He will reign forever and ever.” Rev 11:1*