



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

April 2, 2023

VOL. 88

NO. 14

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 419-270-8863
Church Website: www.sjl.org

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION (Palm Sunday)

Sermon & Text: "This Is the Day the Lord Has Made" *Psalm 118:24*

Children's Sermon: "Save Me. I'm Stuck!"

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: 442 ~ 903 ~ 787 ~ [Communion: 430, 563] ~ 441

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 blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave.*



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Bethann Gerken, *Pianist* ✘ Addison Naveau, Peyton Naveau, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Ted Ripke, Denny Behnfeldt, Bob Norden, Elmer Maassel, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Gruenhagen, Nancy Short, Deb Wachtman, *Altar Guild* ✘



PALM SUNDAY CHILDREN'S PROCESSIONAL – This morning, as is customary on Palm Sunday, the children will begin our service with the **Procession of Palms**. The processional will be followed by the children's sermon. If you have

children who would like to participate in this processional, please send them to the fellowship hall before the service begins to receive palm branches and instructions.

BREAKFAST HELP – Thank you to everyone who signed up to bring food donations for the Easter Breakfast next Sunday. The donation items are all filled. Church Council and the LYF are being asked to come and help with preparing and serving this year's Easter Breakfast. Anyone else wanting to help with prep and serving is welcome help also.

NOTE: Some of the food items such as **EGGS, TATER TOTS, or MILK** will need to be at the church by **8:00am Sat., April 8th** so they can be prepped for Sunday's breakfast. If you signed up for baked goods or juice, please have it to the kitchen either on Saturday or by 8 AM Easter morning.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:30 PM	Communion Service – PALM SUNDAY Sunday School; Adult Bible Class “The Lamp” cancelled for today 4-H Meetings – Gerald Busy Fingers & Cloverbuds
Tues.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>)
Thurs.	6:30 AM 7:00 PM	****NO SCHOOL (return on Tues., Apr. 11)**** Men’s Lenten Bible Study Breakfast Maundy Thursday Communion Service ; Offering: <i>Home Fund</i> Acolyte: <i>Alex Wachtman</i> Ushers: <i>Ted Ripke, Denny Behnfeldt, Bob Norden, Elmer Maassel</i> Altar Guild: <i>Kathy Gruenhagen, Nancy Short, Deb Wachtman</i>
Fri.	7:00PM	Good Friday Tenebrae Service ; Offering: <i>Home Fund</i> Acolyte: <i>Addison Naveau, Peyton Naveau</i> Ushers: <i>Dan Wiechers, Dave Badenhop, Jerry Short, Denny Von Deylen</i> Altar Guild: <i>Kathy Gruenhagen, Nancy Short, Deb Wachtman</i>
Sun.	7:00 AM 8:00 AM 9:30 AM	Easter Sunrise Service with Communion Fellowship Breakfast for everyone – Freewill Offering! (Till 9:15 AM) Easter Festival Service with Communion

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

- ❖ *Melba Elling, Lorna Von Deylen, Norma Damman*, at Genacross – Napoleon
- ❖ *Lawrence Behrmann*, at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Leona Durham* and *Elaine Mahnke*,
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Carmon, Jared Dishop, Jordan Lange*
- ❖ *Alan Gruenhagen, Sue Hurst* and *Dave Crandall*, health concerns related to cancer

PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS for the next quarter, *April, May, June*, are on the desk in the narthex. There are also large print booklets available for anybody to pick up.

LENTEN SUPPER THANKS: Thank you to all that attended the delicious Lenten suppers this year. There was so much variety to pick from as well as great desserts too! Thanks again!

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING THANKS!

- ❖ We would like to thank all of the members of our cleaning group that came to the annual cleaning this year! What a great turn out and a hard working group. Much appreciation!
Co-chairs, *Brad & Lisa Bockelman* and *Denny & Rhonda Bockelman*
- ❖ THANK YOU to the members of Group 2 who helped clean their area this past Tuesday. We had an awesome group that showed up. Very much appreciated! From Co-chairs, *Doug & Sandy Dietrich* and *Mike & Cheryl Dietrich*



HOLY WEEK BEGINS THIS MORNING

Join us for all the services of God's house this holiest of weeks!

Thursday, April 6 Maundy Thursday at 7:00 pm with Communion

Friday, April 7 Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 7:00 pm

Sunday, April 9 Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 am (with Communion)

Easter Fellowship Breakfast at 8:00

Easter Bags-kets for the children

Easter Festival Service at 9:30 am (with Communion)

The two Easter services are entirely different sermons and services!

Join us for a full morning of celebration!

Jesus arose Easter morning, and so can you! 😊

MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS will resume its regular schedule this Wednesday.

We will meet from 6:15 to 7:30 pm.



CHILDREN'S EASTER 'BAG-SKETS' – The Stewardship Board is preparing something special for Easter morning for the children of the congregation and any friends they may like to invite. Just as we hand out treat bags at Christmas, we will have **Easter Bags-kets** to give to the children on Easter morning! Join us Easter morning for worship, breakfast, and little something special for the young ones!

HOLY WEEK PODCASTS... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's teachings include: The Hymn "O Lord, We Praise Thee," The Seven Words of Christ from the Cross, The Hymn "Upon the Cross Extended," Apparent Contradictions in the Events of Holy Week and more. You can listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE STUDY

We have been discussing a phenomenon in our Western civilization called 'Cultural Marxism,' a.k.a 'Woke-ism.' Does it feel these days like everything is seen through the lense of race? This is what happens when classic racism and the new racism meet each other. First, you are categorized by your race as belonging to either an oppressor or oppressed group, then treated accordingly – that is, oppressed races receive favored treatment over oppressor races. It's the new form of discrimination which the world of woke sees as the solution to racism. But like everything in cultural Marxism, this only ends up creating further division in the one human family which God created. Come on down to the fellowship hall – **the coffee is on** – and join us this morning for our Sunday study... **Christians in a Woke World - A Call to Courage, Confession and LOVE**



Bible Study



MEN'S LENT BIBLE BREAKFAST: **Men's Bible Breakfast will be meeting at 6:30 a.m. this coming Maundy Thursday.** We are engaging in a study titled, "The Bible on Trial" which asks whether or not the Bible is reliable. The verdict we reach is crucial for us personally, since the Bible is the foundation of our Christian hope, the assurance of our eternal salvation, and the light by which we live. It is also crucial for us to be able to answer others when they express doubts about the Bible, and whether they can trust it. Please join us for good food and a good word from God!

A QUESTION ABOUT LARGE-PRINT HYMNALS – The publishing arm of our church body, *Concordia Publishing House*, has recently made available a large-print version of our hymnal. It is exactly the same as the hymnal in the pews, but a little heavier and easier to read. They sell for \$49.99 per copy. We are probably not talking about having these in the pews, but most likely having copies available in the narthex for those who wish to use them.



The Church Council discussed the possibility of purchasing some copies, but first wanted to gauge interest. If you would appreciate having some of these available, or if you think you might like to purchase a personal copy, please speak with Pastor Niermann or congregational president Dan Wachtman.

LWML SPRING RALLY - The Napoleon Zone Spring Rally will be held here at St. John on Saturday, April 15th with registration at 8:30 AM followed by the program at 9 AM. The speaker will be Michael Nicol, Bible translator of the Gokana language. The ingathering will be a monetary donation toward the work of translating the Bible and catechism into the Gokana language. See flyer!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 3/26/23	\$6,376.00	\$1,598.00	\$360.00

ATTENDANCE – Sunday: 154

LENTEN SERVICE (3/22/23): Lutheran Hour Broadcast - \$730.00 Attendance: 54

LENTEN SERVICE (3/29/23): Sufficient Grace Ministries - \$1,090.00 Attendance: 75

PLANS FOR AN ALTAR CRUCIFIX – **Just a few weeks left to donate!**

Soon we will acquire a crucifix for the altar, to stand between the two altar candles. A crucifix (a cross upon which the body of Christ) is a powerful visual representation of the core message of our faith – “*Christ, and Him crucified.*” (1 Cor. 2:2) Pastor has prepared a paper with a fuller explanation, available now in the narthex.

Our plan is to have the cross portion of the crucifix built locally, and to order the corpus (body) from carvers in Europe who specialize in this kind of artwork. A donor has offered to provide this for the congregation, but would also like to give everyone the opportunity, if desired, to be part of this special project. During lent, a resin crucifix that pastor normally has in his study is on the altar so that you can get a feel for its visual impact. If you care to make a gift to this project, a receptacle has been placed in the narthex to receive it. *Thank you!*



CHURCH JANITOR POSITION: At the March Council meeting, it was announced that Dan & Kim Damman would like to step down from cleaning the church. We would like to first offer this position to anyone within the congregation (or *school*) that may be interested in taking over this job. This is a paid position. If after several weeks there is no response, we will search for someone outside the church/school. Please contact the church office at 419-598-8961 to leave your name and number.

ST. JOHN SCHOLARSHIP: With the decision made to reinstate 7th and 8th grade here at St. John, I have had alumni of the school reach out to me. They are offering a scholarship of \$500 for any current sixth grade students that re-enroll at St. John for their 7th grade year. **They are also offering one “new student” scholarship in the amount of \$500 for next school year.** We are very grateful to have supportive alumni here at St. John, whose mission is focused on growing His kingdom. If you know of anyone who is interested in St. John, have them call the school at 419-598-8702 or email me, Tracy Germann at tgermann@sjl.org.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2023-24 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.

KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2023! The K-clinic will be held on Tuesday, April 18th from 8:30 – 11:30 AM. **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 2022 (*if available*); immunization records; Social Security number; child custody documents if applicable; and the baptism date or dedication date. *NOTE: If your child is enrolled in our Preschool program, we already have the items listed above and you will not need to bring them the day of the clinic.*

POSITION OPENINGS: St. John Lutheran School is seeking names for filling the position of **Kindergarten Teacher** and **7th & 8th Grade Teacher for the 2023-2024 school year.** Requirements for the positions are: Must have a Bachelor’s degree in education, obtain a background check, supply three references, and adhere to the St. John Lutheran Church & School religious beliefs. If you know of anyone interested, please call the school office or reach out to Miss Germann at tgermann@sjl.org.

CAMP LUTHERHAVEN Summer Camp brochures are available for anyone interested. They are on the narthex table. Pick up a copy for yourself or for someone you know that would like to go.

✘ ✘ ✘

Food For Thought...

Joy in us is evidence of Christ in us.

Jesus answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.” (Luke 19:40)

COLORING PAGE

Palm Sunday

