



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

April 9, 2023

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NO. 14

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Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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EASTER DAY – The Resurrection of our Lord

- **7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service with Communion:** *Printed Service Folder*
Sermon & Text: "The Angel is Sitting; The Strife is O'er" *Matthew 28:1-10*
Hymns: 457 ~ 466 ~ 797 ~ 464 ~ [Communion: 461, 475] ~ 478
- **9:30 a.m. Easter Festival Service with Communion:** *Printed Service Folder*
Sermon & Text: "The Angel and the Word of God" *Matthew 28:5-6*
Hymns: 461 ~ 467 ~ 469 ~ [Communion: 633, 461] ~ 457

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

CHRIST IS RISEN – HE IS RISEN INDEED! We greet those who are visiting with us today in the name of our Risen Savior. We are gathered as a community of Christians. Our center is Jesus Christ. We are here to know again the touch of His forgiving and healing hand. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to our pastor and by filling 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

- 1st Service: ✘ Garrison Kruse, Nolan Bickel, *Acolytes* ✘
 2nd Service: ✘ Alex Wachtman, Evelyn Szabo, *Acolytes* ✘
 ✘ Renee Petzoldt, Sharon Damman, *Organists* ✘
 ✘ Ted Ripke, Denny Behnfeldt, Bob Norden, Elmer Maassel, *Ushers* ✘
 ✘ Kathy Gruenhagen, Nancy Short, Deb Wachtman, *Altar Guild* ✘

EASTER FLOWERS – Those who bought Easter flowers to beautify the sanctuary for Easter are listed in the bulletin insert today. You may take your flowers home after the 9:30 AM Easter Festival Service (2nd Service) today. Thank you for sharing their beauty once again!

BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL are cancelled today, but will resume next Sunday.

In God's House This Week

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	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
Mon.		NO SCHOOL – Easter Break
Tues.	8:20 AM 8:45 AM 10:45AM 7:00 PM	Classes resume (Grades PS 4/5 thru 6 th) Grades K-6 Field Trip to preview “Beauty & the Beast” at Nap. High Sch. School Chapel Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Junior High Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM)
Sat.	9:00 AM	LWML Napoleon Zone Spring Rally here at St. John (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 5:30 PM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; “The Lamp” Combined Jr High & High School LYF Meeting

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
- ❖ *John Gruenhagen*, for hip replacement surgery this past week



HAPPY EASTER TO ONE AND ALL! We hope you can join us for a full morning of celebration! In both services this morning we celebrate the Lamb’s High Feast, Holy Communion, but the liturgies, hymns and sermons are entirely different. Please join us for both. If you do so, perhaps you would like to attend Communion at one or the other of the services. Here’s the schedule:

- **7:00 am** **Easter Sunrise Service**
- **8:00 am** **Easter Fellowship Breakfast**
- **9:30 am** **Easter Festival Service**



The *Stewardship Board* has prepared a little something special for the children this morning after each of the services – **Easter Bags-kets** with little Easter treats and gifts. Be sure to pick one up!

EASTER THANKS – This morning we offer thanks to God for so many people who helped make our celebration of Easter such a joyous day of worship and fellowship. Thank you to our musicians (also for all their work during Lent), to those who assisted in worship (altar guilders, ushers, deacons, acolytes, Communion assistants), and to those who provided and prepared our breakfast. Your service is a blessing to us all, and we are grateful!

EASTER BREAKFAST – The Easter Breakfast will be served between the two services this morning from 8:00 to 9:15 AM. The menu is: *Scrambled eggs, ham or sausage links, fresh fruit, doughnuts, cinnamon rolls, cookies, coffee and juice.* There will be a freewill donation.

MORE CHURCH CLEANING THANKS! "A sincere THANK YOU to Group #3 (fellowship hall) cleaning group. What a great job you did! "Many hands make light work" as the saying goes, and how true it is. Thanks also to our trusty Trustee Dan who was there to help us get started. All help was so much appreciated!" Co-chairs *Cheri & Juergen Goertz* and *Nancy & Jack Glaser*

SACRED MUSIC FOR THE EASTER SEASON... "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today," "Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands," "I Know That My Redeemer Lives," "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness," "He's Risen, He's Risen." You can listen 24/7 to sacred music for the 50 days of the Easter season at lutheranpublicradio.org, TuneIn, Amazon Echo, Google Home, Apple HomePod and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.



LWML ZONE RALLY is this Saturday at St. John

Each year our Zone of the *Lutheran Women's Missionary League* holds a spring rally for purposes of fellowship, growth in faith, and to conduct the business of the Zone. This spring we are hosting this rally at St. John. It is scheduled for this Saturday, April 15, starting at 8:30 am in the fellowship hall.

This year the featured guest speaker is **Michael Nicol**, former missionary to Nigeria (and Bonnie Niermann's brother). Most of his

ministry has been dedicated to translating the Bible into the Gokana language, a project for which he is still consulting. He will be speaking on the topic, **"Gathering the Scattered: Bible translation and the Return from Babel."** Mike will share with us what it takes to translate the Scriptures into a language that does not even have an alphabet, and has never been written down.

The zone ingathering this year will be an offering received at the rally opening devotion to support the Gokana translation of the Bible and the publication of the Gokana Small Catechism in cooperation with the *Lutheran Heritage Foundation*.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 4/02/23	\$7,063.00	\$80.00	\$150.00

ATTENDANCE – Sunday: 209

A HOME FUND donation of \$1000 was made by the Women of Freedom

MEMORIALS for *Hildegard (Kate) Ludeman*: St. John Lutheran Church - \$790.00;
St. John Endowment Fund (School Acct) - \$97.00

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.

THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP SERVICES will begin on Thurs., May 4th at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. Once school is out for the summer, we will move these services into the north end fellowship hall. Our Thursday evening worship services will be held each week through October. Holy Communion will usually be on the Thursday evenings prior to regular Communion Sundays.

PLANS FOR AN ALTAR CRUCIFIX – LAST DAY 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!*



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. 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.

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.

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.*

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.

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.

'BREAD FROM HEAVEN' – A note to St. John members needing food assistance – If you could use food assistance from our food pantry, please speak with *Pastor Niermann*. We are required by the *Northwestern Ohio Food Bank* to keep a record with your name, but pastor will keep your record separate and absolutely confidential.

Contributions can be made at any time. Monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your offering envelope). Food donations for our pantry can be dropped off in the box by the Archives display cases. **Food items especially needed at this time are: spaghetti sauce, mac n' cheese, saltines & any crackers.** Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated. Thank you so much! As we learned in the meaning of the Fifth Commandment, "*We should fear and love God that we...help and support our neighbor in every physical need.*" (*Small Catechism*)

COUNCIL MINUTES – This is just a reminder that council meeting minutes are not published until they are approved a month later. If you would like to read about the most recent council meeting, an unofficial and unapproved copy of the minutes is available for viewing in the church office, usually within a week after the meeting.

ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE SCHOOLS ELECTRONICS RECYCLING: On Sat., Apr. 22 from 8:00 AM – Noon the battle is on again as Henry County Solid Waste Mgmt. are hosting the Electronics Recycling Roundup. The four Henry County Schools compete to collect the most pounds of recyclable electronics on this date. The winning school is given a cash reward. Our collection location is at Napoleon High School, the west side student parking lot. Start gathering your unused electronics and be ready to take them to N.H.S. on April 22nd! Reduce / Reuse / **Recycle!**

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.

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Food For Thought...

Easter is more than something to dye for.

"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins." (1 Cor 15:17)

**HE HAS
RISEN!**



LifeWay Kids