



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 419-270-8863
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SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon & Text: "Never Give Up on Thomas" *John 20:19-31*

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 470 ~ 517:1,6,3 ~ 472 ~ 795:1,5 ~ [Communion: 465, 525] ~ 484

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life." Our Savior invites us to His table, a table of love that has been prepared for us. Jesus, our Savior, lived, died and lives again for each one of us. Let us worship our God today and praise Him for His love. If you are a visitor today, please fill out a blue pew card from the rack in front of you and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave today.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Zeb Kramer, Brice Baumert, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Ted Ripke, Denny Behnfeldt, Bob Norden, Elmer Maassel, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Gruenhagen, Nancy Short, Deb Wachtman, *Altar Guild* ✘

As We Gather on this Second Sunday of Easter

We gather today still in the glow of the most joyous and amazing celebration of Easter, the resurrection of our Savior from the dead. The sights and sounds of that celebration linger in our memory, not as just a past event finished and forgotten, but as Peter calls it today, "a living hope," as enduring and strong as the certainty of our living Lord and the promised future of our own resurrection. We return to continue the Easter celebration because in the afterglow of the days since Easter Sunday, many still do not know that hope. Like the absent apostle Thomas, we still face what seems to be a hopeless world. Today we remember that our only hope is built on Christ whose crucifixion wounds were endured for us and for all. Thomas saw those wounds and believed. Peter rejoiced. And although we do not now see Him, "you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory" (1 Peter 1:8), the only sure and living hope.



In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: https://74058984.view-events.com</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 5:30 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Combined Jr High & High School LYF Meeting
Mon.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	OAA and ITBS testing for Gr. 3-6 and K-2, respectively (Mon – Fri) PTL Meeting
Tues.	8:35 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Kindergarten Clinic (<i>see bulletin note</i>) Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Junior High Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM)
Thurs.	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Study Breakfast
Sat.	9:00 AM	Work Day at the Youth & Family Center (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:30 PM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" 4-H Meetings – Gerald Busy Fingers & Cloverbuds

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: *Irene Joost, 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
- ❖ *Delbert Damman*, for surgery this past week at St. V's Hospital, Toledo

EASTER THANKS – We offer our thanks and gratitude again to everyone who helped make our celebration of Easter such a joy and delight! Thank you to...

- our organists (also for all their work during Lent);
- those who assisted in worship (altar guilders, ushers, deacons, acolytes, Communion assistants);
- those who provided flowers, and helped arrange them in the sanctuary; The lilies that are on display this morning are unspoken for. If you'd like to take one and enjoy it, please do so.
- those who helped provide breakfast, and those who woke up early to prepare it;

...and to all who helped in any way. Your service is a blessing to us all, and we are grateful!

WORK DAY AT YOUTH CENTER: Please come and help if you can. The date is Sat., April 22nd at 9:00 AM. We can get a lot accomplished if we have a good turnout. Our goal is to work on the upper northwest storage room to try to get it finished and useable for storage space.

LUTHERAN WITNESS RENEWAL – It's time to renew your subscription to the Lutheran Witness for this year. To subscribe or renew your subscription, **simply place \$19.00 in an envelope**, along with your name and address, and place it in the Sunday collection plate or bring it to the church office. **Deadline for subscriptions is May 22nd.**

Bible Study



MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST THIS THURSDAY – During our Lenten study we came across the question of why there are variations in Biblical accounts, especially in the Gospels. For instance, in Luke's account of the Lord's beatitudes, Jesus says, "*Blessed are the poor.*" But in Matthew's account, Jesus says, "*Blessed are the poor in spirit.*" Why the difference? Do such variations detract from the reliability of God's Word, or actually enhance it.

This Thursday we'll dive into this matter a little more deeply with a study titled, "**Reasons the Gospels 'Disagree'**" Part of the reason to study such things is to be prepared to answer those who might offer these variations as an excuse for not trusting God's Word. **Men's Bible Breakfast is this Thursday, April 20, at 6:30 a.m.** Please join us, since the best part of waking up is a delicious breakfast, great fellowship, and the Word of God!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 4/09/23	\$13,783.00	\$152.00	\$188.00

ATTENDANCE: 4/09/23 – Sunrise Service: 175; Late Service: 243

MAUNDY THURSDAY SVC. (4/06/23): Home Fund - \$1,170.00; Building Fund - \$600.00;
Attendance: 109

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE (4/07/23): Home Fund - \$1,803.00; Attendance: 139

MEMORIALS for *Darrel Bockelman*: St. John Lutheran Church Home Fund - \$3,660.00;
St. John Endowment Fund (School Acct) - \$76.00



COMING UP IN MAY – On the first two Sundays of May, we will be blessed in worship to welcome the junior bell and chime choirs from St. Paul Lutheran School in Napoleon. This is part of a larger effort to foster greater cooperation between our respective congregations' ministries of Lutheran Christian education. On Sunday, May 7 we will welcome the *Crusader Bells*, and on May 14 the *Beginning Chimes & Children's Choir*.

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES TO RESUME – On Thursday, May 4, the first Thursday of May, our Thursday evening worship services will resume. Here's what you need to know:

- Thursday evening services begin at 7:00 p.m.
- These services will be held in the sanctuary until school is out, after which they will move to the north end of the fellowship hall.
- Each Thursday service will be a preview of the coming Sunday service.
- Communion will be celebrated on the Thursdays prior to normal Communion Sundays.

EXPERT GUESTS, EXPANSIVE TOPICS, EXTOLLING CHRIST... 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: Putting Children at the Center of Family Policy; Responding to Unanswered Bible Questions; The Doctrine of the Trinity & the Bible; Lies about Human Nature; The Sacrifice of the Mass and more. You can listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

PRESCHOOL & SCHOOL GRANDPARENTS' DAY AND SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR –

Coming soon.... The week of April 24 brings the Scholastic Book Fair to St. John. During that week students will have many opportunities to attend the book fair. One of those will be on Thursday or Friday during Grandparents' Day. Another opportunity will be on Tues., April 25th from 5:30 – 7pm during Family Game Night. There will be hot dogs, chips and cookies served. To make all of these events happen, we are in need of your assistance. We would invite anyone from the congregation to sign up at the table in the narthex if you'd like to help out. We would be grateful for your service!

AN EASY OPPORTUNITY TO BENEFIT ST. JOHN SCHOOL: The Lutheran Church – Ohio District wants to share some news with you. A Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization of Ohio or LSGO was established in 2022 in the Ohio District. The LSGO's purpose is to raise scholarship dollars for students to attend Lutheran schools throughout Ohio, with priority given to students from low-income households. Contributors to the LSGO of Ohio qualify for a nonrefundable tax credit for their donations; the tax credit will be able to be applied to their Ohio state income tax liability, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$750. Couples filing jointly may donate a total of \$1,500, where each person separately donates \$750. Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs) are relatively new in existence in Ohio. As of 2022, the Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization of Ohio is now recognized as a charitable organization under Section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code. The LSGO of Ohio had a very successful initial year! For more information about LSGO's or to make your donation, please go to <https://www.lsgoohio.org/>

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 9:00 – 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.

LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT – If you have used **prescription or nonprescription** glasses or sunglasses in your drawers, desks, or closets, you can donate them now! Children's glasses are especially needed. Both plastic and metal frames are accepted. There is a box under the table in the narthex for the collection of these used glasses.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIPS: Here is another opportunity to encourage and help young people prepare for service to the church as pastors, teachers, lay workers, deaconesses, etc. \$500 per year Women of Freedom Scholarships are available to any young person attending one of our synodical schools. Simply contact any Women of Freedom member for more details about this.

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.

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!**

OHIO ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN: The Ohio Division OGT is located in the north end of the Culligan Water Conditioning building on Independence Drive in Napoleon. Someone is usually there to receive items on the first Tuesday of the month from 9:30-11:30 AM. If you need to drop off items at another time, please contact *Nancy Helmke* (419-758-3539), *Diann Meyer-Grieser* (419-267-3485), or *Vicki Grieser* (419-445-2986) and they will be happy to meet you and open the facility to receive your donations! PLEASE do not drop off items at the warehouse when it is closed. Thank you!

PROJECT CONNECT – There are many free booklets in the rack in the narthex. Be sure to check for some informative reading. Some titles are: “*Alzheimer’s: Facing the Loss of a Lifetime*,” “*Talking with God*,” “*Forgiveness is a Choice*,” “*Talking Openly with Kids*,” “*Setting Priorities*,” “*Your Place in God’s Plan*,” “*Stressed but Connected*,” “*Beyond Divorce*,” “*For Better, For Worse*,” “*What Is Faith in Jesus?*” and many more. These booklets are furnished through the Lutheran Hour Ministries.

USE OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL OR YOUTH CENTER – If you would like to use the Fellowship Hall or Youth Center for any occasion, on a certain date this year, **please contact the church/school office at 419-598-8961 or 419-598-8702**. You may also check the online calendar.

LWML DEFIANCE ZONE RALLY: After attending the Napoleon Zone Rally yesterday, we received an invitation for the Defiance Zone Rally which will be held this Sat., April 22 at St. Peter Lutheran Church, Florida, Ohio. See flyer on the bulletin board for all the info!

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Food For Thought...
No Bunny rose from the dead.

“According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (1 Peter 1:3)