



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon & Text: "Not Seeing the Forest for the Trees" *Luke 24:25-27, 30-31*

Order of Service: *Service of Prayer & Preaching (LSB pg. 260)*

Hymns: 474 ~ Psalm 116 ~ 476 ~ 879 ~ 482

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest this morning, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to our pastor and by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack and dropping it in the baskets by the doors as you leave today.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Maddox Oyer, Cayden Ruffer, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Ted Ripke, Denny Behnfeldt, Bob Norden, Elmer Maassel, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kathy Gruenhagen, Nancy Short, Deb Wachtman, *Altar Guild* ✠

As We Gather on this Third Sunday of Easter

Today we see Jesus appear to His disciples on the road to Emmaus. They say afterward that their hearts burned within them as Jesus opened up to them the Scriptures. In the Reading from Acts, those gathered on Pentecost are cut to the heart by Peter's words. And in the Epistle, Peter speaks of purified souls and hearts. It seems our hearts are being greatly affected by Christ. They are cut, burning, and purified by the Word of Christ.



SHEPHERD COMMITTEE AND ELDERS MEETINGS – This Tuesday evening, April 25, the Shepherd Committee will meet at 6:30 prior to the Elders' Meeting at 7:00.

YOUTH CENTER WORK DAY THANKS: Thank you to those of you who took the time to come and help with more of the remodeling project the past two Saturdays. We had a fairly good turnout and were able to get more progress made in the upper room. Stay tuned for additional work days.

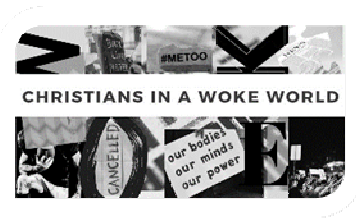
In God's House This Week		Online church calendar: https://74058984.view-events.com
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:30 PM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" 4-H Meetings – Gerald Busy Fingers & Cloverbuds
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tues.	8:35 AM 5:30 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Family Game Night / Book Fair (<i>see bulletin note</i>) Shepherd Committee Board of Elders
Wed.	6:15 PM	Junior High Confirmation Class (6:15 – 7:30 PM)
Thurs.	9:00 AM 12:30PM	PS 4/5-yr old Grandparents' Day & Scholastic Book Fair (<i>see note</i>) Grades K-6 Grandparents' Day & Scholastic Book Fair (<i>see note</i>)
Fri.	9:00 AM	PS 3-yr old Grandparents' Day & Scholastic Book Fair (<i>see note</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"

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*, recuperating at home after his hospitalization at St. V's Hospital, Toledo
- ❖ *Cheryl Yaw*, who is recovering from surgery on Friday for implanting a pacemaker
- ❖ *Marlene Showman*, hospitalized this past week at FCHC for pneumonia

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE STUDY

We have learned a lot about the phenomenon in our Western civilization called 'Cultural Marxism,' a.k.a 'Woke-ism.' Many Christians remember "how things used to be" when belief in God, Biblical morals, and going to church were cultural norms. We no longer live in that world! The present 'woke' culture is increasingly hostile to our faith, and many Christians want to know, "What do we do? How do we live in a world like this?"



Because this new world is foreign to so many, it can be scary. But of course in the risen Savior there is no need for fear. As Christ used the darkness surrounding His crucifixion for our salvation, He now exerts His supreme authority over heaven and earth to turn all things, even opposition, for the good of His Church. For this reason it's an exciting time to be a Christian, to see what God will do! Let us take courage, and be resolute in faith, even to life everlasting! 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

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 4/16/23	\$7,084.45	\$675.00	\$165.00

ATTENDANCE: 132



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.

LUKE BIBLE STUDY... The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily 15-minute verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon. Pastor Weedon is leading a study this week in Luke 22 on The Institution of the Lord's Supper, Who Is the Greatest?, Jesus Foretells Peter's Denial, Scripture Must Be Fulfilled in Jesus, Jesus Prays in the Mount of Olives and The Betrayal & Arrest of Jesus. You can listen at your convenience at thewordendures.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

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.**

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/>

CHURCH MEMBER VOLUNTEERS: We are asking congregation members to help us make the book fair run smoothly. **We would invite anyone from the congregation to sign up at the table in the narthex if you'd like to help out...** or please click on this link to sign up via the computer: www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4EABAB2BA75-book . It will only take a couple hours of your time. We'd love to have you join us and we would be grateful for your service!

GRADES K-6 GRANDPARENT'S DAY: A reminder that Grandparents' Day at St. John School for Grades K-6 will be held on **Thursday, April 27th** from 12:30 - 3:00 PM. *Lunch is not included.* There will be opportunity to visit the Scholastic Book Fair during this time also.

PRESCHOOL GRANDPARENTS' DAY AND SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR – Here is the information you need to know about the Preschool Grandparents' Day:

Preschool 4/5-year old Grandparents' Day is on **Thurs., April 27th from 9:00- 11:00 AM.**

Grandparents will also be able to go to the Scholastic Book Fair that morning.

Preschool 3-year old Grandparents' Day will be **Fri., April 28th from 9:00-11:00 AM.**

Grandparents will also be able to go to the Scholastic Book Fair that morning.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT: Another book fair opportunity will be on Tues., April 25th from 5:30 – 7pm during Family Game Night. There will be hot dogs, chips and cookies served.

PRESCHOOL GRADUATION: This year our 4/5-yr preschool graduation will be held on Tues., May 23rd at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited to this big day for the 4/5-year olds. There will be a program followed by light refreshments in the fellowship hall.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is still 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.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL POSITION OPENINGS – St. John Lutheran School is seeking people to fill several positions that will be opening after this school year.

- **Kindergarten Teacher** – The requirements 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.
- **7th & 8th Grade Teacher** – The requirements 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.
- **Music Instructor** – This individual is responsible for classroom music one day per week in Grades K-8. Applicant must obtain a background check along with three references.
- **STEM Instructor** – This individual is responsible for overseeing the STEM program one day per week in Grades K-8. Applicant must obtain a background check along with three references.

If you know of anyone interested, please call the school office or reach out to Miss Germann at tgermann@sjl.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.

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!

HEARING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE: If hearing in worship has been a problem for you, pick up one of the receiver units for our hearing assistance system. An usher will assist you and you'll hear much more clearly. (*Also, please let us know how the system is working for you.*)

For those who use the hearing assistance system regularly and for the sake of hygiene, we ask that you claim one of the ear buds as your own and keep it with you in your purse, pocket, etc. Bring it with you when you come to church, and simply plug it into one of the receivers. At the end of the service, unplug the ear bud to take with you until the next time.

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.

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.

PIERSTORF COLLEGE FUND: The Pierstorf College Fund is a one-of-a-kind pan Lutheran financial aid program that provides interest-free loans to all Lutherans pursuing a higher education who live in the State of Ohio. These loans are specific to students who are or will be enrolled full time in a four-year undergraduate program at any accredited college or university. This year, the maximum interest-free loan is \$4,000 for the school year. For information, visit www.Pierstorf.org to complete the online 2023-2024 application. Application deadline is June 30, 2023. Questions can be emailed to Pierstorf@messiahfp.org.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR – Locally you can listen to the Lutheran Hour Ministries broadcast on WMTR 96.1 FM, Archbold at 7:30 AM or on WNDH 103.1 FM, Napoleon at approximately 9:00 AM every Sunday. They cover many interesting topics relevant to today's issues.

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.

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.

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.

LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BULLETINS are available today on the table in the narthex. The Children's Bulletins are coordinated with the Bible texts for each Sunday, and provide activities that tie in with the weekly themes. Pick one up today for your child.

CHURCH HISTORY BOOKS – If you need a Christmas gift for a former member of St. John, why not consider one of our Church History Books. This book is full of interesting facts about the formation of St. John's congregation as well as information on hundreds of past and current members. These books are available in the church office at a cost of \$12.00.

TURN YOUR OLD USED CELL PHONE INTO A GIFT FOR THE POOR AND FOR YOUR CHURCH! Informed sources tell us that the average American household has 5 to 6 old unused cell phones lying around. Now you can put those phones to good use AND keep them out of the landfills. Bring them to church and deposit them in the large white box in the narthex. They will be forwarded to a company that sorts them and prepares them to be given to poor families for emergency use, and sends us a check. Old cell phones range in value from \$1 up to \$50.

CHICKEN BBQ – St. Paul Lutheran – Liberty Center is hosting a Drive-thru Chicken BBQ at their church located at 8074 County Road T, Liberty Center on Sun., April 30 from 11:00 am – 1:30 pm (or until gone). The menu is: ½ chicken, baked beans, Cole slaw, roll, and cookie. The cost is \$10. Chicken prepared by Erv Sonnenberg.

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Food For Thought...

Easter is the one time of the year when it's perfectly safe to put all your eggs in one basket.

“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.” (1Psa 20:7)