



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
Church Website: www.sjl.org

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – Good Shepherd Sunday

Sermon & Text: "Real World? Real Savior!" *Acts 2:42-47*

Order of Service: *See Printed Service Folder*

Hymns: *711 ~ 709 ~ 845 ~ 710*

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 in front of you and drop in the baskets at the doors as you leave today.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

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

ALTAR FLOWERS TODAY:

- ❖ Altar flowers are placed in loving memory of our daughter, sister, and aunt, *Stephanie Kossow*, who went to be with the Lord 15 years ago tomorrow, May 1st. As the years pass, we still miss her every day, but know she is singing her heart out in heaven along with her three grandparents. Signed, *Doug, Mary, Tyler, Olivia, Kohen, and Logan*
- ❖ Additional altar flowers are being placed today in memory of our son, brother, and uncle, *Ryan Rosebrock*. May 3rd is always a difficult day for us. But knowing this was God's plan for Ryan brings us the comfort needed to get through this time of year. We still miss his smile and humor so much every single day. Signed, *Randy, Cou Ann, Michael, Same, Axel, Peyton, Ben, Michelle, Ryan, Lucy, Kate, and Henry*

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School will wrap up today for the Sunday School year. There will be no Sunday School during the months of May, June, July, and August. We will resume Sunday School the second Sunday in September, which will be promotion Sunday.

In God's House This Week

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Tues.	8:35 AM 6:00 PM	School Chapel School Board Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Confirmation Preparation (6:15 – 7:30 PM)
Thurs.	6:30 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast Thursday Evening Worship (with communion)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:30 PM	Communion Service w/special music by St. Paul Lutheran School Choirs Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" 4-H Meetings: Gerald Busy Fingers and 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*, recuperating from a recent hospitalization

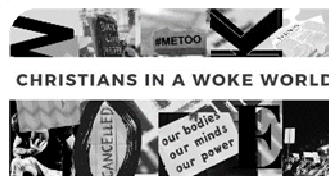
As We Gather on this Fourth Sunday of Easter

Today we hear about Jesus as both our Shepherd and the door for us, the sheep. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who leads us to green pastures and still waters. And Jesus is the door, the gate by which we enter eternal life. As we follow Jesus, we know that He is always leading us toward righteousness—toward an eternity dwelling in the house of the Lord.



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?"



What we are called to do is to always be ready to defend the faith, and to bear witness to the truth in love, emboldened by the resurrection of Christ from the dead. 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

ALTAR FLOWERS PRICE INCREASE: For anyone wishing to place flowers on the altar for Sunday worship, please contact *Nancy Glaser* at 419-906-0963. **NOTE: The price for flowers through the Women of Freedom has increased to \$30.00.** Checks payable to Women of Freedom.

Bible Study



MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST THIS THURSDAY – Ever wondered if some texts were intentionally excluded from the Bible and why? In *Lost Books?* (a video-based Bible study) we consider why some ancient writings failed to make the cut for inclusion, why other texts most definitely met the standard, and why others, including those "gospels" found in the last century, came up short. This study is a follow-up to our previous study about the reliability of Scripture.

Men's Bible Breakfast is set for this Thursday, May 4, at 6:30 a.m. Please join us for a breakfast of good food and a good word from God!

SPECIAL MUSICAL TREAT NEXT SUNDAY – This coming Sunday, May 7, we will welcome to St. John three visiting children's 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. The three choirs are the **Children's Choir** (2-5 grades), the **Intermediate Chime Choir** (3-4), and the **Crusader Bells** (7-8).



THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES RESUME THIS WEEK – This Thursday, May 4, our Thursday evening worship services 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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL has been set for June 19-23 from 9:00 to 11:30 each morning, Monday through Friday. Our theme this year is, *God's Living Water*, which explores various biblical accounts of the Living Water, Jesus Christ. Students will learn about the water from the rock, the water that healed Naaman, the water Jesus offered the woman at the well, the water Jesus used to wash His disciples feet, and the water by which thousands were baptized on the day of Pentecost. Presently we are working to recruit staff members, including:

- 1 or 2 **Story Tellers** to tell and teach the Bible story of the day
- 1 or 2 **Bible Challenge Leaders** to help students memorize each day's Bible verse
- 1 **Craft Leader** and 1 helper
- 1 or 2 **Game Leaders**, to give the students some physical activity
- 1 or 2 **Snack Coordinators**, to plan and prepare each day's snack



Please see the staff recruitment insert in today's bulletin. Consider how you can help in this ministry to the children. *Water you going to do for the children? Get on board with VBS!* Completed forms can be returned to the designated box on the narthex table. Our first staff meeting will be arranged soon.

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.**

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETE RECOGNITION – On Sunday, May 14, we will take a few minutes at the end of the worship service to recognize four St. John graduates who this year are graduating from high school. They are being recognized for their participation in high school athletics for the past four years. The four seniors are: *Ella Rosebrook, Claire Wachtman, Bryce Bostelman, and Ada Griffith.*

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 4/23/23	\$5,032.00	\$80.00	\$265.00

ATTENDANCE: 156

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.

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.

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.

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.

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/>

WHY NOT CONSIDER ST. JOHN? Saint John Lutheran School offers preschool to 8th grade Lutheran education. Students are taught the Word of God through weekly chapel, daily religion classes, and a Christ-centered learning environment. Students also have the opportunity to participate in a variety of athletics. Bus transportation is available to students in local school districts. If you have any questions about enrollment or would like a tour of the school please call the office for an appointment.

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.

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 the receivers. At the end of the service, unplug the ear bud to take with you until the next time.

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!

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.

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.

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.

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 white box in the narthex. They will be forwarded to a company to sort them and be given to poor families for emergency use.

CONGRATULATIONS are in order for church member, *Karleigh Sonnenberg*, who ran and completed the Glass City Marathon, held last weekend in Toledo. Karleigh finished the marathon with a time of 4 hours; 38 minutes. Karleigh is a senior at Napoleon High School. Great job Karleigh!

CHICKEN BBQ TODAY – St. Paul Lutheran – Liberty Center is hosting a Drive-thru Chicken BBQ at their church located at 8074 County Road T, Liberty Center 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...

Give it to God and go to sleep.

"In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety." (Psa 4:8)