



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon & Text: "I Go to Prepare a Place for You" *John 14:1-3*

Order of Service: *See Printed Service Folder*

Hymns: 465 ~ 722 ~ [Communion: 739,526] ~ 687

Special Music: **St. Paul Children's Choir** (grades 2-5), "Song of Praise"

St. Paul Intermediate Chime Choir (grades 3-4), "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome guests to this place of praise and prayers as we gather together as part of the family of our Heavenly Father. We invite you to join us now and return again to celebrate the salvation we have in Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord. If you are a visitor, please fill out the blue 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

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Nolan Bickel, Garrison Kruse, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Mike Maassel, Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Elaine Buenger, Deb Von Deylen, *Altar Guild* ✘

BAPTISM TODAY – This morning we rejoice with **Steven & Kyleigh Marshall** as they present their daughter, **Sophie Jade Marshall**, for Holy Baptism in a family ceremony later in the morning. Sophie was born on May 9, 2022 in Toledo. Her siblings, Jack and Chloe, are enrolled in our preschool. Sophie's baptismal sponsor is her maternal grandmother, Dawn Sumner. We pray that what God begins today in the water of Holy Baptism He may bring to completion on the Day of Jesus Christ!



A WELCOME TO ST. PAUL SCHOOL CHOIRS – This morning we welcome to St. John two children's choirs from St. Paul Lutheran in Napoleon --- the **Children's Choir**, and the **Intermediate Chime Choir**. Thank you for being here this morning, and blessing us with your music! Thanks also to Mr. Josh Miesner for coordinating this with us.

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 w/special music by St. Paul Lutheran School Choirs Adult Bible Class; "The Lamp" 4-H Meetings: Gerald Busy Fingers and Cloverbuds
Tues.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Confirmation Preparation (6:15 – 7:30 PM)
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship
Fri.	6:00 PM	Mother / Son Dodgeball Game
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service w/Communion following Athlete Recognition for Seniors (<i>see bulletin note</i>) <i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Class; "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
- ❖ *Ron Hesterman*, briefly hospitalized with a rapid heart rate, and is now home
- ❖ *Marietta Damman*, who underwent a back procedure to relieve pain

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 the final chapter of our Sunday study...

Christians in a Woke World - A Call to Courage, Confession and LOVE

SUNDAY SCHOOL: There will be no Sunday School during the months of May, June, July, and August. We will resume Sunday School on September 10th, which will be promotion Sunday.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION – This year's catechumens, the confirmation class of 2023, will gather this Wednesday and next (May 10 & 17) to make final preparations for public questioning and statements of faith on Thursday, May 18. These two Wednesday sessions will be extended by 15 minutes, from 6:15 to 7:45 PM. Please keep our catechumens in prayer as they prepare to join us at the Lord's Table just two weeks from today!



SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETE RECOGNITION – Next 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.*

MOTHER'S DAY JAVA JOY – next Sunday!



After worship next Sunday the Stewardship Board will host a special JAVA JOY honoring mothers for all they do. There will be specialty coffees, juices, and some tasty delicacies and pastries. We hope you can join us after worship next Sunday to enjoy these treats and fellowship with one another. *Oh, and those who love their mothers are welcome too!*

BOOK FAIR THANKS! The Scholastic Book Fair was another big success this year. The teachers and librarian would like to thank everyone who purchased books for their children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews during the week. And a very “BIG” thanks to those who purchased books and then donated them to the various classrooms and library. Your generosity is so much appreciated! **THANK YOU ALL!**

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 **Science segment leaders** to learn a science lesson that supports the day's theme
- 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 complete the VBS flyer and consider helping 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.**

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.

BULLETIN NOTES: With Thursday night services starting, bulletin announcements will need to be turned in to the office by Wednesday of each week in order to be included in the Thursday and Sunday bulletin. Please make a note of this. Thank you!

LOST AND FOUND: There are many lost and found items on a table outside the gym. Please make your way down the hallway to check to see if anything belongs to you. These items will be donated to the Orphan Grain Train if they are not claimed by Fri., May 26th.

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES HAVE RESUMED – 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.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 4/30/23	\$5,206.00	\$75.00	\$105.00

ATTENDANCE: 167

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.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN FOR GRADES K-6 will Thurs., May 25th with early dismissal at 2:00 PM. Closing Day festivities include: Chapel at 12:45 PM; Presidential academic awards; and attendance and AR awards. Classroom awards will be handed out in the classrooms earlier in the day. All parents are welcome to come.

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.

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.

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.

TRUTH, GOODNESS & BEAUTY... 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 topics include: The Vocation of Elder; The U.S. Constitution & Natural Law; C.F.W. Walther's Law & Gospel Theses; The Marks of the Church and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

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.

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.

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.

IF YOU’RE EVER IN A PINCH and could use a little help, the ***Good Neighbor Fund*** is there to assist you too! Please don’t be bashful about asking – everything is strictly confidential. Just give Pastor Niermann a call, and we’ll see what we can do!

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.

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.

WORSHIP ANEW: Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. produces a weekly, 30-minute Lutheran broadcast worship service called *Worship Anew* (*formerly Worship For Shut-Ins*). Each service includes music, scripture readings, prayers, and a pastor delivering a message that is designed to feel one-on-one to the viewer. They look forward to the continuation and expansion of this ministry in the years to come. Lutheran Ministries Media would like to thank you for your prayers and support of God’s work through *Worship Anew*. Broadcasts can be viewed every Sunday on: *Toledo’s WTVG (CW) Channel 13.2 at 10:30 AM.*

PLANT SALE: St. Paul Lutheran Church – Napoleon Township is having their Annual Plant Sale at their church located at 16976 County Road Q1, Napoleon, on Sat., May 13th from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

DRIVE-THRU CHICKEN BBQ hosted by the Ridgeville Fire Dept. Auxiliary will be held on Sun., May 21st from 11:00 AM until gone. Brookview chicken, sides, cookie. Come and support your local Fire Dept. Freewill donation!

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Food For Thought...

Get online with God and upload your worries.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God..” (Philippians 4:6)