



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

April 13, 2025

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NO. 15

Rev. Gary Bender, TIM Pastor
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Cell: 989-770-0005; Church: 419-598-8961
School: 419-598-8702
Church Website: www.sjl.org

PALM SUNDAY

Sermon: "I Am He" *Deuteronomy 32:36-39*

Order of Service: Divine Service Setting Three ~ LSB pg. 184

Hymns: 443 ~ 442 ~ 441

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

On this day, long ago, our Lord entered Jerusalem to glad shouts of "Hosanna!" On the threshold of Holy Week, we invite you to share with us this foretaste of His final triumph. Welcome to our celebration! If you have no church home of your own, we invite you to join the St. John family. Simply fill 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

- ✠ Elaine Buenger *Organist* ✠ Anna Sausser, Anika Rosebrock *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Derek Damman, Greg Kehnast, Ian Rosebrook *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow *Altar Guild* ✠

PALM SUNDAY CHILDREN'S PROCESSION – Parents, the children are gathering this morning in the fellowship hall to prepare for a Palm Sunday processional at the beginning of worship. There will also be a special message for them at the front of the sanctuary. When they arrive, send them down to the fellowship hall to join us!

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE – Please join us for services this Holy Week and Easter. Invite your friends and family as we walk with Jesus to the tomb and then celebrate His glorious resurrection!

- **Maundy Thursday Communion Service** (7 p.m.) Thurs. 4/17
- **Good Friday Tenebrae Service** (7 p.m.) Fri. 4/18
- **Easter Sunrise Service** (7 a.m.), **Easter Fellowship Breakfast** (8:15 a.m.), **Easter Festival Service with Communion** (9:30 a.m.) Sun. 4/20



Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20 AM	Palm Sunday Worship Service with Communion following Adult Bible Study; Sunday School and "The Lamp"
Mon.	7:00 PM	PTL Meeting
Tues.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Transition Task Force Meeting Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 7:00 PM	EASTER BREAK BEGINS – No School 4/16 through 4/21 Junior High Confirmation Class Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Communion Service ; Offering – <i>Home Fund</i> Organist: <i>Elaine Buenger</i> Acolytes: <i>Kenlee Coressel, Brynnleigh Kehnast</i> Ushers: <i>Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel</i> Altar Guild: <i>Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow</i>
Fri.	7:00 PM	Good Friday Tenebrae Service ; Offering – <i>Home Fund</i> Organist: <i>Sharon Damman</i> Acolyte: <i>Erin Damman</i> Ushers: <i>Dave Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers</i> Altar Guild: <i>Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow</i>
Sun.	7:00 AM 8:15 AM 9:30 AM	Easter Sunrise Service Easter Fellowship Breakfast Easter Festival Service with Communion

PASTORAL EMERGENCIES – In the event you require emergency pastoral care, please call Pastor Gary at 989-770-0005. *NOTE ABOUT HOSPITALIZATION: If you are planning to spend time in a hospital (more than just out-patient) for surgery or other issues, please notify the Church Office or Pastor Gary, so he can arrange to visit you while you are there. He will need to know the dates involved and which hospital you will be staying at (preferably in writing). Thank you!*

MATTERS FOR PRAYER – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- ❖ *Melba Elling, Norma Damman, and Rozella Gruenhagen* at Genacross
- ❖ *Lawrence Behrmann* at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Irene and Willie Joost* and *Leona Durham*
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Carmon, Jordan Lange, Joshua, and Kyle*
- ❖ *Lowell Petzoldt* and *Cheryl Yaw*, for health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *William Niebergall* undergoing heart surgery
- ❖ *Eli Damman* recovering from heart surgery

FINANCIAL FACTS:

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 4/6/2025	\$8,556.34	\$885.00	\$600.00

ATTENDANCE: 152

LENT 6 (4/2): \$1,010.00 for *The Lutheran Hour* Broadcast; Attendance- 70

JUDY OKULY MEMORIALS: Total of \$2,695.00 gifted to the Endowment Fund, equally divided between the Capital Project and School Fund.

PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR – In today’s Scripture readings we hear that *The Cross and Passion of Our Lord Are the Hour of His Glory*.

The King of Israel comes into His royal glory by the path of humble obedience “to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Phil. 2:8). He “goes as it has been determined” (Luke 22:22), according to the Scriptures, willingly submitting to His Father’s plan for the salvation of sinners. “Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name” (Phil. 2:9). His suffering and death open the way of repentance for the forgiveness of sins because He goes to the cross bearing the sins of the world. In His resurrection, God the Father vindicates His people and has compassion on His servants (Deut. 32:36). He kills to make alive; He wounds in order to heal. In remembrance of Him, we praise God, confessing “that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:11). *“He who has ears to hear, let him hear” (Matt. 11:15).*

FACEBOOK VOLUNTEER NEEDED! – We are looking for a volunteer to help manage our church Facebook page. This volunteer will create posts and share information about our worship services, events, etc. This can be done from the comfort of your own home as long as you have internet and a smartphone or computer! If you would need training or more information, we are happy to provide it. Anyone with interest or questions can email Leah at churchsecretary@sjl.org.

WIPED WINDOWS, POLISHED PEWS, FRESH FLOORS, AND MORE! – A huge THANK YOU to everyone who participated in this year’s church cleaning. Many helping hands came together to make this big project go so well. Everything looks fresh, just in time for Easter!

LYF MEETING – The next LYF meeting is coming up on Sunday, April 27th, at the Youth and Family Center. JH and HS will both meet at 4:00 p.m. This is the last meeting of this school year.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – Join us as we take a “Longer Look at the Lessons” after worship this morning in the north end of the fellowship hall.

THE WOMEN OF FREEDOM will be having their April meeting this Tuesday, the 15th, at 7:00 p.m. All ladies of the church are welcome to join for a time of fellowship and devotion.



THE TRANSITION TASK FORCE will also be meeting this Tuesday, the 15th, at 7:00 p.m.

EASTER FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST – The sign-up sheet for our annual Easter Fellowship Breakfast is on the Narthex table. The breakfast will start around 8:15 a.m. between the Easter Sunrise and Festival services on April 20th. The menu includes eggs, sausage, and hash browns. Thank you for helping in this way as we celebrate the joy of Easter together!

A CHURCH AND SCHOOL PRAYER CONNECTION! – On Sunday, April 27th, members of the congregation will have an opportunity to partner with our St. John Lutheran School students as “Prayer Pals”. Participants will be randomly given a particular student for whom to pray for beginning now and continuing through the 2025-26 school year.

All we ask is that you remember this one child in prayer as he/she grows in knowledge and in Christian faith. Likewise, we will ask this student to pray specifically for you. Please consider joining with a special child from our school in this way! You will both be blessed!

For more information, contact Tracy Germann or Bonnie Niermann at the school office (419)598-8702.



POPSICLES IN THE PARK – All church and school families are invited to join us on April 29th for an evening at the park. Bring the kids to come play and enjoy a popsicle. **We will be at Glenwood Park in Napoleon from 5:30-6:30 handing out popsicles.** Bring a friend, and invite someone who might like to know more about our school.

ENROLLING NOW – St. John Lutheran School is enrolling students preschool-grade 8 for the 2025-'26 school year. Interested families can contact Tracy Germann at 419-598-8702 or tgermann@sjl.org.

THE 2024 ANNUAL REPORT is available on the Narthex table. If you didn't get your directory updates in, please still let Leah (churchsecretary@sjl.org) know if you have any changes.

EPIC AUSTRALIAN ADVENTURE! – Mark your calendars for **Vacation Bible School** the week of June 9th to 13th from 9-11:30 a.m. This year's theme will be "Epic Australian Adventure" from Concordia Publishing House. More details to come!



ENDOWMENT FUND CONTACTS – Do you have questions about the St. John Endowment Fund? *Krista Gerken* and *Dave VonDeylen* are happy to provide more information to anyone who has questions or interest in making a donation. *Krista* can be reached at 419-966-2596 or lkgerken@henry-net.com. *Dave* can be reached at 419-438-1844 or davevd21@gmail.com.

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.

THE LUTHERAN WITNESS – If you would like a monthly copy of the *Lutheran Witness* magazine mailed to your home, please contact the church office to be added to the mailing list. The *Lutheran Witness* magazine "seek[s] to help you interpret the world from a Lutheran perspective."

VENMO IS HERE! Exciting News...St. John now accepts donations via Venmo! If you need internet access, use our guest wifi **SJL Open** with the password **sjleagles##** Then scan the QR code to visit our donation page.



AREA EVENTS

- ◆ A "CHRIST IN THE PASSION" PRESENTATION will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Liberty Center, on Tues., April 15th at 7 p.m. More details are on the bulletin board.
- ◆ A COMMUNITY CHOIR EASTER CANTATA PRESENTATION will be held at Haven Heights Baptist Church in Wauseon TODAY at 6 p.m. More details are on the bulletin board.

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Thought for the Week...

Let us walk with Christ this Holy Week, remembering His journey and finding hope in His resurrection.