



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

April 20, 2025

VOL. 91

NO. 16

Rev. Gary Bender, TIM
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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

EASTER SUNDAY – The Resurrection of our Lord

- **Sunrise Service (7 AM):** *Printed Service Folder (White)*
 - Sermon & Text: **“My Redeemer Lives”** Job 19:23-27
 - Hymns: **467 v. 1-3, 6 ~ 469 ~ 461 ~ 478**
- **Easter Festival Service with Communion (9:30 AM):** *Printed Service Folder (Ivory)*
 - Sermon: **“Words that Last Forever: ALLELUIA!”** Matthew 28:5-6
 - Hymns: **461 ~ 463 v. 1, 4 ~ Tune: 816 ~ Communion: 464, 474, 487~ Tune: 781**

Choir Anthem, both services: “The Resurrection”

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

CHRIST IS RISEN – HE IS RISEN INDEED! We greet those who are visiting with us today in the name of our Risen Savior. We are gathered as a community of Christians; our center is Jesus Christ. We are here to know again the touch of His forgiving and healing hand. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to our pastor and by filling out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack and dropping it in the baskets at the doors as you leave.



SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Elaine Buenger (Sunrise), Sharon Damman (Festival) *Organist* ✘
- ✘ Alana Naveau, Westen Cowell (Sunrise)
- Brayden Damman, Brynneleigh Kehnast (Festival) *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Derek Damman, Greg Kehnast, Ian Rosebrook *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow *Altar Guild* ✘

EASTER FLOWERS – Those who bought Easter flowers to beautify the sanctuary for Easter are listed in the bulletin today. You may take your flowers home after the 9:30 AM Easter Festival Service (2nd Service) today. Thank you for sharing their beauty once again!

EASTER FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST – Join us in the Fellowship Hall between services for a breakfast. Thank you to all involved in planning, cooking, and serving this meal!

PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR – In today’s Scripture readings we hear that *Christ’s Resurrection is the Firstfruits of the New Creation.*

The Lord has promised to “create new heavens and a new earth” (Is. 65:17), in which His people shall abide in peace and joy. That new creation has begun in the bodily resurrection of Christ Jesus. All the baptized belong to that new creation. Reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, they are “the offspring of the blessed of the LORD” (Is. 65:23). The Lord rejoices and is glad in them; He hears and answers their prayers. For “if in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied” (1 Cor. 15:19). But Christ Jesus has been raised, “the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Cor. 15:20). We may be “perplexed about this” (Luke 24:4), perhaps even frightened and brought to our knees, because it seems like an “idle tale” (Luke 24:11). But faith clings to the Word of Christ and finds His resurrected body — not in the tomb, but in His Holy Supper. **“He who has ears to hear, let him hear” (Matt. 11:15).**

<i>In God’s House This Week</i>		<i>Online church calendar: https://74058984.view-events.com</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	7:00 AM 8:15 AM 9:30 AM	Easter Sunrise Service Easter Fellowship Breakfast Easter Festival Service with Communion
Mon.		NO SCHOOL – Last day of Easter Break
Tues.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
Wed.	6:15 PM 7:00 PM	Junior High Confirmation Class Adult Choir Practice
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 1:30 PM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; “The Lamp” Gerald BusyFingers 4-H Meeting

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 4/13/2025	\$6,605.00	\$297.00	\$283.00

ATTENDANCE: 221 add’l \$70 offering to the Good Neighbor Fund

LENT 6 (4/9): \$975 to Mission Endowment, \$100.00 to The Lutheran Hour Broadcast; Attendance- 76

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.

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.

LYF MEETING – The next LYF meeting is coming up next 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.

LAST CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY – On Sunday, May 4th, we will be administering our final congregational survey (*Planning for the Future*) at the end of our worship service.

90th BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR RON HESTERMAN! – Ron Hesterman’s family is hosting a 90th birthday party for him in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday May, 3rd. It will run “Open House” style from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Everyone from church is invited to join in this celebration!

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.

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.

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.



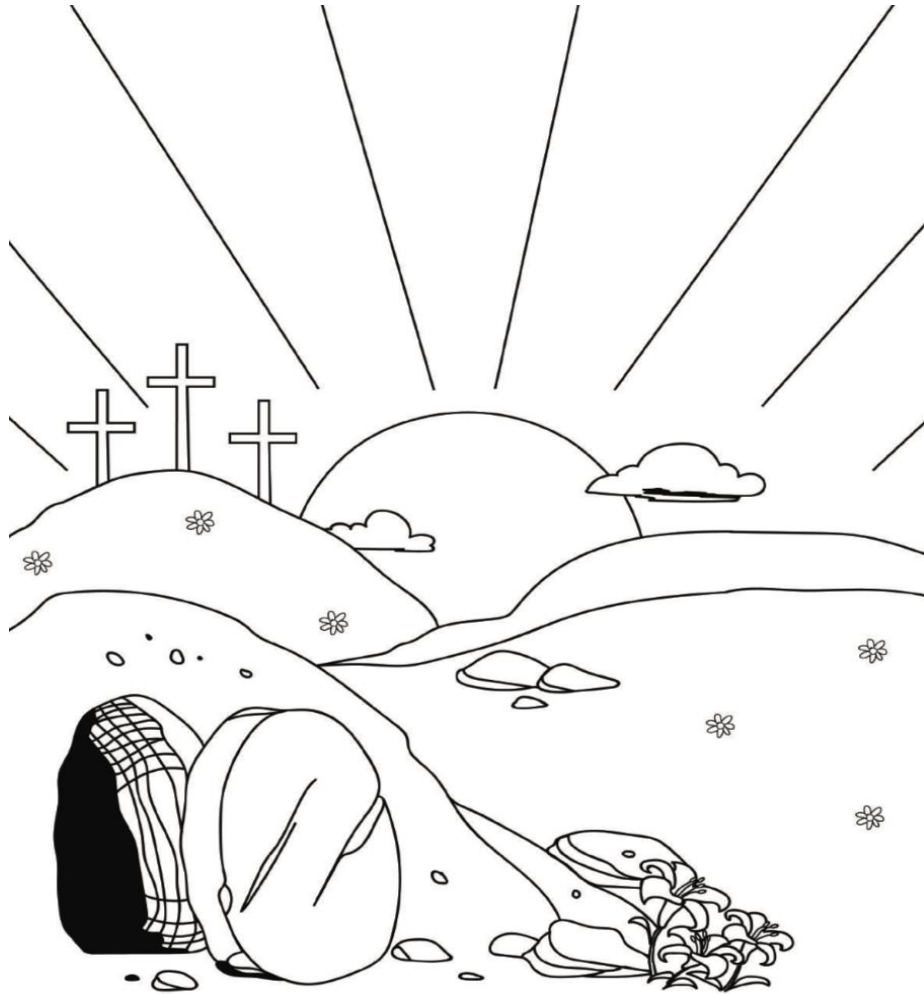
✘ ✘ ✘

Thought for the Week...

Celebrate today like your Savior is alive—because He is!

✘ ✘ ✘

COLORING SHEET



He is Risen



Easter Flowers

NAME	FLOWERS	DESIGNATION
Denny and Kathy Behnfeltd	Hydrangea (1)	In honor of our family
Pastor and Millie Bender	Tulip (1) Hydrangea (2)	
Denny and Rhonda Bockelman	Daffodil (1)	In honor of Arlene Wallace and our children and grandchildren
	Hyacinth (2)	In loving memory of Lowell Flory, Bruce Flory, Lyle Wallace, Darrel Bockelman, Elmer and Olga Bockelman
Marian Dickmann	Tulip (1)	In loving memory of Don Dickmann
Mark and Brenda Elling	Daffodil (1)	In loving memory of Norman and Helen Castor
	Tulip (1)	In loving memory of Earl Elling
Steve and Kathy Gruenhagen	Tulip (2)	In loving memory of our parents
Todd and Chris Hesterman	Lily (2)	In loving memory of Elaine Hesterman
		In loving memory of Norm and Anita Bair
	Hyacinth (1)	In honor of our grandchildren
	Cineraria (1)	In loving memory of William McCarthy
Dave and Diane Johnson	Lily (1)	In loving memory of Lawrence and Ruby Gerken and Brenda Johnson
	Tulip (1)	In honor of our grandchildren
Doug and Mary Kossow	Lily (1)	In loving memory of our parents, Walter and Lucia Delventhal and Erv and LaDonna Kossow
	Daffodil (1)	In honor of our grandkids, Kohen and Karsyn Kossow
	Tulip (1)	In loving memory of our daughter, Stephanie Kossow



Easter Flowers

NAME	FLOWERS	DESIGNATION
Diana Kruse	Hyacinth (3)	In loving memory of my husband, Vern Kruse
Nick, Yajaira, Brayton, and Chase Kruse		In loving memory of our dad and grandpa, Vern Kruse
Kirk, Kim, Lexi, Kaleb, and Parker Woods		In loving memory of our dad and grandpa, Vern Kruse
Todd, Kathy, Carlie, and Mitchell Kruse	Tulip (1)	In loving memory of our dad and grandpa, Vern Kruse
Mike and Tana Maassel	Tulip (1)	In loving memory of Loren Maassel
Don and Karan Niebergall	Hydrangea (1)	In honor of our grandchildren and great grandchildren
Bob and Diane Norden	Hyacinth (1) Tulip (1)	In loving memory of our parents In honor of our children and grandchildren
Randy and Lou Ann Rosebrock	Lily (1)	In loving memory of our son, Ryan Rosebrock, and our parents
Lois Rosebrock	Hydrangea (2)	In loving memory of Royal Ward and Walter Rosebrock
Brad and Amy Rosebrook	Daffodil (1) Hyacinth (1) Cineraria (1) Hydrangea (1)	
Denny and Diane Von Deylen	Hyacinth (1)	In honor of our children and grandchildren In loving memory of our parents and grandparents
Dan and Deb Wachtman	Hydrangea (1)	In honor of our grandchildres
Dan and Joyce Wiechers	Tulip (1) Cineraria (1)	In honor of our grandchildren In loving memory of our parents

Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Luke 12:27