



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

April 27, 2025

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NO. 17

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon: “Apostle’s Creed – First Article – I” / Order of Service: Matins *LSB* pg. 219

Hymns: 480 ~ 475 v. 1, 3, 4 ~ 954 v. 1 ~ 941 ~ 477 v. 2, 3

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

- ✠ Sharon Damman *Organist* ✠ Maxton Howard, Kenlee Coressel *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Derek Damman, Greg Kehnast, Ian Rosebrook *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow *Altar Guild* ✠

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented today by the Doug and Mary Kossow family with the note: *Remembering our daughter, sister, & aunt **Stephanie Lynn Kossow** at this time of year. Stephanie's birthday was April 23rd, and she passed away 17 years ago on May 1st. She is deeply missed each and every day, but we know she is in a much better place, heaven, which is our home. Until we meet again, we keep our memories of Stephanie alive.*

THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP services will resume this Thursday, May 1st, at 7 p.m. Each Thursday service will be a preview of the coming Sunday service.

LYF MEETING – LYF is meeting TODAY, 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 will gather after worship today to take “A Longer Look at the Lessons.”

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM	Worship Service
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
	1:30 PM	Gerald BusyFingers 4-H Meeting
	4:00 PM	LYF Meeting
Mon.	5:30 PM	Bread from Heaven Food Pantry Distribution
Tues.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
	5:30 PM	Popsicles in the Park
Wed.	6:15 PM	Junior High Confirmation Class
Thurs.	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Study Breakfast
	1:30 PM	National Day of Prayer Event for Parents, Students, and Prayer Pals
	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship Service
Sat.	3:00 PM	Open House 90 th Birthday Party for Ron Hesterman (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM	Communion Service with Surveys to Follow
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp"

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 4/20/2025	\$11,144.00	\$170.00	\$150.00

ATTENDANCE: 155 (Easter Sunrise); 231 (Easter Festival)

Maundy Thursday: \$1,720 to Home Fund, \$800.00 to Building Fund; Attendance- 107

Good Friday: \$1,075 to Home Fund; Attendance- 148

ADULT CHOIR will not practice this week. They will meet on May 7th and 14th. Then the choir will go on "summer break" until September. Thank you, choir, for sharing your musical gifts with us!

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.

PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR – In today’s Scripture readings we hear that *That You May Believe and Have Life in His Name*.

On the Lord’s Day, St. John the apostle was given a revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God, the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last. He is the Living One, “the firstborn of the dead” (Rev. 1:5). He died for all people, and behold, He is alive forevermore! Therefore, He has “the keys of Death and Hades” (Rev. 1:18). For His death atoned for sin and conquered death, and in His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to us. The “sharp two-edged sword” of His mouth (Rev. 1:16) calls you to “believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,” that by such faith “you may have life in his name” (John 20:31). To that end, He sends His ministers of the Word, as the Father sent Him, “to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins” (Acts 5:31).

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

EASTER THANKS – We give thanks to God for everyone who worked so diligently and faithfully to make Easter at St. John such a joyful celebration of Christ’s resurrection. Thank you to Pastor for all of his work throughout Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Thank you to our organists, choir, deacons, altar guild, ushers, acolytes, and tech team. Thanks also to everyone who supplied flowers and breakfast items; to those who served a wonderful breakfast and decorated the fellowship hall; to the Stewardship Board for coordinating the children’s Easter Bag-skets; and to anyone else who had a hand in helping us to celebrate, we say THANK YOU!

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!

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.

HOLY LAND MINISTRY MOMENT – “Christian Families of Bethlehem in the Holy Land” will be joining us for worship on Sunday, May 11th. They will share a few minutes of a “ministry moment” during the service, and then following the service will have a table display selling their handmade olivewood crafts. Please help support our brothers and sisters in the town of Bethlehem.

CIRCUIT ASCENSION DAY SERVICE – Mark your calendars! St. John Stryker will be hosting this year’s circuit Ascension Day service at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 29th. Rev. Stephen Niermann will be preaching, and Holy Communion will be given. We will not be having our own Thursday service that week, so we encourage you all to attend the service at St. John Stryker. There will be ice cream provided afterwards.

LUTHERAN WITNESS RENEWAL – It’s time to renew subscriptions to the *Lutheran Witness* magazine for this year. **To subscribe or renew your subscription, simply place \$20.75 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 26th.

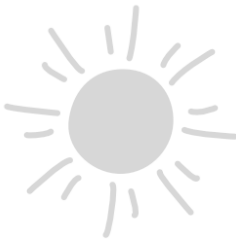
CHECK OUT WHAT'S GOING ON AT ST. JOHN SCHOOL!

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.

HIRING NOW – St. John Lutheran School has several staff positions open for the upcoming school year: **preschool teacher, part-time 1st and 2nd grade teacher, short and long-term substitutes, school cook, and music teacher.** Interested candidates, contact Tracy Germann at tgermann@sjl.org.

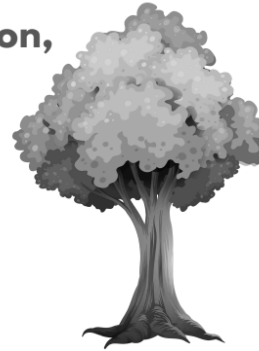
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND PRAYER PALS – See bulletin insert.

POPSICLES IN THE PARK THIS TUESDAY –



Popsicles in the Park

**Come to Glenwood Park, Napoleon,
on Tuesday, April 29
5:30 - 6:30 pm**



**FREE
POPSICLES!**

**Sponsored by St. John Lutheran School
16035 County Road U, Napoleon, OH 419-598-8702**

AREA EVENTS

- ◆ **A CHICKEN BBQ DRIVE-THRU AT ST. PAUL LIBERTY CENTER** will run TODAY from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$13 per meal. More details found on the bulletin board.
- ◆ **THE BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY “COLLEGIATE CHORALE”** will be performing at St. Martin’s Lutheran Church in Archbold on Sunday, May 4th at 3 p.m.

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.



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Thought for the Week...

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.