



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

May 4, 2025

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Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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### THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon: “Apostle’s Creed – First Article – II”

Order of Service: Divine Service Setting Four *LSB* pg. 203

Hymns: 483 ~ 953 (v. 1) ~ Communion: 633 (v. 1-4, 7-8), 910 ~ 525 (v. 1, 3, 4)

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#### **WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS**

*Welcome to this place of praise and prayer 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.*

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#### **SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✠ Sharon Damman *Organist* ✠ Brynneigh Kehnast, Brayden Damman *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Carey Damman Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Deb Wachtman, Nancy Short, Kathy Gruenhagen *Altar Guild* ✠

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented today by

- ❖ The Hesterman Family *in honor of Ron Hesterman’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.*
- ❖ The Randy and Lou Ann Rosebrock family *in loving memory of our son and brother, Ryan Rosebrock who was taken to his Heavenly home on May 3, 2009. We miss his smile and laughter every day and are looking forward to the day we will all be together again.*

**THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP** services will resume this Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m.

**LAST CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY** – Today we will be administering our final congregational survey (*Planning for the Future*) at the end of our worship service.

**ADULT CHOIR** will not practice this week. They will meet again on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Then the choir will go on “summer break” until sometime in September. Thank you, choir, for sharing your musical gifts!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	<b>Communion Service with Surveys to Follow</b> Adult Bible Study; Sunday School
Tues.	8:35 AM	<b>School Chapel</b>
Wed.	6:15 PM	Junior High Confirmation Class
Thurs.	7:45 AM 7:00 PM	Muffins with Moms of St. John School <b>Thursday Evening Worship Service</b>
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20 AM	<b>Worship Service with Communion to Follow</b> Mother's Day <i>Java Joy</i> after worship Adult Bible Study; Sunday School

**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

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 4/27/2025	\$7,079.00	\$255.00	\$335.00

**ATTENDANCE: 149**

**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](mailto:lkgerken@henry-net.com). *Dave* can be reached at 419-438-1844 or [davevd21@gmail.com](mailto:davevd21@gmail.com).

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

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION** – On Sunday, May 25th we invite high school graduates to gather with us in the worship service for graduate recognition. We'll remember your confirmation theme, we'll ask you about your plans for the future, and commend those plans to God in prayer. In the meantime, we'd appreciate having a picture of each graduate that we can project during the recognition. Email them to Leah at [churchsecretary@sjl.org](mailto:churchsecretary@sjl.org), or drop a picture off in the office during the school day.

**PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR** – In today’s Scripture readings we hear that *The Good Shepherd Feeds His Lambs*.

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain” (Rev. 5:12), who by His cross has conquered sin and death. With His blood, He has “ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation” (Rev. 5:9). This same Lord Jesus visits people of all nations and calls them to Himself by the Gospel, even as He “was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead” (John 21:14). He restored Simon Peter to faith and life, and He commissioned him to feed His lambs and tend His sheep (John 21:15–17). Likewise, He revealed Himself to Saul of Tarsus and brought him to repentance, so that the persecutor of Jesus might carry and confess His name “before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel” (Acts 9:15).

**MOTHER’S DAY JAVA JOY** – Next Sunday the Stewardship Board is planning to host a Mother’s Day Java Joy after the worship service. We’ll have some special coffees and treats for all of our moms and for all of us who love our moms and are grateful to God for the blessings they are.

**EASTER THANKS** – Another special thank you goes to Bethann Gerken, Brynnleigh Kehnast and Lakyn Kehnast for adding their keyboard (trumpet) talents to the previous weeks’ services!

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** will gather after worship today to take “A Longer Look at the Lessons.”

**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](mailto:churchsecretary@sjl.org).

**HOLY LAND MINISTRY MOMENT** – “Christian Families of Bethlehem in the Holy Land” will be joining us for worship next Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. 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 29<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**MILITARY SERVICE BOARD** – Do you know who is currently managing (or who was the last person to take care of) the military display in the Narthex? There are some changes to be made, and we aren’t sure who is to make them. Anyone involved in this project or who has background information that may be helpful is encouraged to call Leah in the church office at 419-598-8961.

**THE WOMEN OF FREEDOM** will have their next meeting on Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. Leah Saylor will be presenting a bit about the CPC Women’s Health Resource, a local pregnancy center ministry. If you’d like to bring a pack of diapers (sizes newborn to 6) to the meeting, Leah is willing to drop them off at CPC as a donation from the Women of Freedom. May is also a mites (Women of Missions) meeting. All ladies of the church are invited to join in!

**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 26<sup>th</sup>.

**MAGAZINE RACK IN THE NARTHEX** – Speaking of magazines, visit the rack above the back table in the Narthex! There are magazines from Lutheran organizations such as our Seminaries, Worship Anew, Lutherans for Life, and many others. Anyone may freely borrow copies!

**WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT EGG CARTONS** for the organization “Together We Can Make a Difference.” There is a collection box in the Narthex for clean, 12-count only egg cartons. Thank you!

**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](mailto:tgermann@sjl.org).

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

**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!

#### **AREA EVENT**

◆ **THE BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY “COLLEGIATE CHORALE”** will be performing at St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Archbold on TODAY, May 4<sup>th</sup> 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 that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still preserves them; that He richly and daily provides me with food and clothing, home and family, property and goods, and all that I need to support this body and life; that He protects me from all danger, guards and keeps me from all evil; and all this purely out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which I am in duty bound to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.”** *Martin Luther's Explanation of the First Article of the Apostle's Creed*