



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

March 29, 2026

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Pastoral Vacancy

Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church Office: 419-598-8961

School Office: 419-598-8702

Church Website: [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)

### PALM SUNDAY / SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

Guest Preacher: Rev. Matthew Montgomery

Order of Service: Divine Service Setting Three without Communion *LSB pg. 184*

Hymns: 443 ~ 442 ~ 441

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#### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome in the name of the Lord. We pray that through this time of stillness and song, prayer and proclamation, you may experience the Spirit of God at work in your life. May God richly bless your worship today! Please fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you, and drop it into the baskets at the doors as you leave. If you do not have a local church home, we extend a warm invitation to you to become a part of our church family.

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

- ✠ Elaine Buenger, *Organist* ✠ Piper Speiser, Westen Cowell *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dave Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Deb Wachtman, Nancy Short, Kathy Gruenhagen *Altar Guild* ✠



### HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Maundy Thursday Communion Service: 4/2 at 7 p.m.
- Good Friday Tenebrae Service: 4/3 at 7 p.m.
- Easter Sunday Services: 4/5 at 7 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Easter Sunday is a week away! Come and invite your friends & family to join also as we walk together through Holy Week and then celebrate the joy of Christ's resurrection on Easter.

*Note: This year, Holy Communion will be celebrated at both the 7 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Easter services. There will be a breakfast and time of fellowship in between the two services as usual.*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	<b>Worship Service</b> Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "the LAMP"; Confirmation class meets until 11:15
Tues.	8:35 AM	<b>School Chapel</b>
Wed.	7:00 PM	Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 7:00 PM	Kindergarten Screening Men's Bible Breakfast <b>Maundy Thursday Communion Service; Offering: St. John Home Fund</b> <i>Guest Preacher: Rev. Matthew Montgomery Organist: Elaine Buenger</i> <i>Acolytes: Alana Naveau, Brynnleigh Kehnast</i> <i>Ushers: Derek Damman, Greg Kehnast, Mitchell Kruse, Todd Kruse</i> <i>Altar Guild: Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow</i>
Fri.	7:00 PM	NO SCHOOL <b>Good Friday Tenebrae Service; Offering: St. John Home Fund</b> <i>Guest Preacher: Rev. Matthew Montgomery Organist: Sharon Damman</i> <i>Acolytes: Owen Stier, Zac Kramer</i> <i>Ushers: Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Joe Badenhop, Nick Sonnenberg</i> <i>Altar Guild: Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow</i>
Sun.	7:00 AM 9:30 AM	<b>Easter Sunrise Service with Communion</b> <i>Easter Fellowship Breakfast between services</i> <b>Easter Festival Service with Communion</b>

**PASTORAL EMERGENCIES** – Please contact **Pastor Kramer** at 567-277-1339 with any emergency pastoral care requests.

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

- ❖ *Melba Elling and Norma Damman at Genacross, Napoleon*
- ❖ *Rozella Gruenhagen and Bob Nemoyer at Vancrest, Holgate*
- ❖ *Lois Arps, at Genacross – Assisted Living, Napoleon*
- ❖ *Our Shut-Ins: Irene Joost, Leona Durham, and Marlene Showman*
- ❖ *Brenda Elling, Anne Rausch, and Julie (Kern) Patterson for health concerns related to cancer*
- ❖ *Stan Gerken and Rev. Ken Schroeder for health concerns*
- ❖ *Military: Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Jordan Lange, Joshua, and Kyle*

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
<u>Rec'd 03/22/2026</u>	\$9,459.00	\$180.00	\$175.00

ATTENDANCE: 124

Lent 3: Attendance - 62; Contributions for *the Lutheran Hour Broadcast* - \$1,807.00

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



**PALM SUNDAY CHILDREN'S PROCESSION** – This morning, the children will process into the sanctuary at the beginning of the service with palm branches in hand. There will also be a children's message while the children are up front. Children should arrive ten or fifteen minutes before the service and head to the fellowship hall for their palm branches and instructions.

**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 services on April 5<sup>th</sup>. The menu includes eggs, sausage, and hash browns. Thank you for helping in this way as we celebrate the joy of Easter together!

**GROUP 1 CHURCH CLEANING** – Group 1 will clean tomorrow, March 30<sup>th</sup>. The plan is to begin at 5 p.m. If you can't come right at 5, feel free to pop in later as you're able! Bring rags and buckets; the more the merrier!

**THANK YOU!** – We would like to "THANK" everyone in Group #3 that took time out of their busy schedules to come and help with the annual cleaning. - *Greg & Jenna Kehnast and Doug & Mary Kossow*

**THE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT** is available on the Narthex table. If you didn't get your directory updates in, please still let Leah ([churchsecretary@sjl.org](mailto:churchsecretary@sjl.org)) know if you have any changes.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY** – Men's Bible Breakfast will meet on Thursday mornings in Lent at 6:30 AM. It's a great way to start your day! Good food, good friends, and the good Word!

**LYF MEETING** – The next LYF meeting will be on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Youth and Family Center. JH and HS will both meet at 4:00pm. This is the last meeting of this school year.

**LWML NAPOLEON ZONE RALLY** – When: Saturday April 25, 2025 | Where: St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1588 St. Route 108, Wauseon | Time: 8:30 to 11:15 a.m. | Flyers with details are available on the Narthex table.

**DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES** - We have several devotional resources available this Holy Week and Spring season. Check them out!

- **HOLY WEEK FAMILY DEVOTIONS** – The LCMS family ministry has put out a booklet of Holy Week Devotions. They are geared toward families but could provide a time of reflection for all! There are a limited number of copies on the desk in the Narthex, feel free to pick one up and follow along throughout this important week.
- **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. *If you have (or know of someone who has) a purpose for the leftover Jan/Feb/Mar editions, please help yourself!*
- **YOUTH "MY DEVOTIONS" BOOKLETS** for March, April, and May are on the desk in the narthex. Pick one up for each of your children today!
- **DIGITAL DEVOTION OPTIONS** are available on a sheet on the desk in the Narthex.
- **THE CHURCH LIBRARY** in the hallway next to the sanctuary is packed with resources.

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS** – Leah Saylor is in the church office on Wednesdays and Thursdays from around 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. as before. Bulletin submissions are due by 9 a.m. on Wednesdays to [churchsecretary@sjl.org](mailto:churchsecretary@sjl.org) or 419-598-8961.



## From the **Classroom** to the **Congregation**

*Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School*



**DAD AND SON CONSTRUCTION PROJECT** – On Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 6-7:30 p.m., St. John School is sponsoring a father/son construction night! We are welcoming all sons Preschool-8th grade and their dads from the congregation as well as St. John School sons and dads. Pizza, tools, and materials will be provided. Registration details to come!

**PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT** – *Help us spread the word!* St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for next school year. Anyone interested in enrolling their child in our preschool program should contact the school office at 419-598-8702 for more information. Know someone interested? Refer them to us, and if they enroll, your registration fee will be waived.

**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.

**THE FLOWER CALENDAR** for 2026 is posted in the narthex. To sign up for a certain Sunday to place flowers on the altar or the piano, sign your name on that Sunday, and then about two weeks before that date, call Nancy Glaser at 419-906-0963 to let her know if you are getting your own flowers or if you want the Women of Freedom to take care of them. **The price for the flowers through the Women of Freedom is \$30.00.** It is your responsibility to contact Nancy Glaser. Also, please contact the church office with the information for the bulletin.

### **AREA EVENTS**

- ❖ The **CPC Women’s Health Resource** is hosting its annual Spring Benefit on Tues., April 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm in Archbold. There will be testimonies of God's handiwork, a keynote speaker, a meal, and opportunities to support the ministry. Registration is required. Flyers are available on the Narthex Table
- ❖ **CAMP LUTHERHAVEN** has opened registration for its summer programs. Programs are available for K-12 and families. For more information, visit [lutherhaven.org](http://lutherhaven.org). There are flyers on the Narthex table.

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*Thought for the Week...*

**Hosanna is a Hebrew word of praise meaning “save us now.”**

