



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

April 5, 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

EASTER SUNDAY – The Resurrection of Our Lord

- **Sunrise Service (7 AM) and Festival Service (9:30 AM)** Both services will use the same printed service folder (ivory insert).
 - Guest Pastor: *Rev. Matthew Montgomery*
 - Sermon and Text: "Feast of Victory" *Matthew 28:1-10*
 - Hymns: **463 ~ 478 v. 1, 3 ~ 488 v. 1 ~ 465 ~ Communion: 548, 474, 633 ~ 461**

Choir Anthem during Sunrise Service: "Acclamation for Easter"

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, Mitchell Kruse, Todd Kruse (Sunrise)
- ✠ Carey Damman, Scott VanValkenberg, Mike Maassel (Festival) *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!

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	7:00 AM	Easter Sunrise Service with Communion <i>Easter Fellowship Breakfast between services</i>
	9:30 AM	Easter Festival Service with Communion
Mon.		NO SCHOOL
Tues.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
	5:30 PM	Kindergarten Signing Night
Wed.	7:00 PM	Adult Choir Practice
Sun.	9:00 AM	Worship Service with Communion Following
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; the LAMP; Confirmation class meets until 11:15

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
- ❖ *Nancy Nemoyer* for upcoming heart procedures
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson*, *Jason Rohrs*, *Jordan Lange*, *Joshua*, and *Kyle*

FINANCIAL FACTS:

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 03/29/2026	\$6,385.00	\$1,310.00	340.00

ATTENDANCE: 226

Lent 4: Attendance - 70; Contributions for *the Filling Home* - \$1,902.00

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.



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) know if you have any changes.

LYF MEETING – The next LYF meeting will be on Sunday, April 19th 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, 2026 | 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.

A NOTE FOR THOSE AT THE SUNRISE SERVICE – If you would like to keep your bulletin and order of service, please do! However, if you are just going to toss it after the service, please put it back together, and place it in the box on the Narthex table. This way, it can be reused at the second service in the event that we don't have enough to go around. Thank you!

CALL PROCESS UPDATE – The Ohio District has processed our application for a convertible vicar. Vicars from the Fort Wayne Seminary will receive their placements during the assignment service on April 28th at 7 p.m. If you'd like to watch the service, it will be livestreamed on the CTSFW Facebook and YouTube pages. After we receive our placement, our call committee will be able to set up a time to get the vicar started at St. John. Thank you all for your prayers and patience in this process!

CONFIRMATION CLASS will not meet today and will resume on April 12th for just a few more weeks! Confirmation will be held on Sunday, May 3rd, with questioning on Friday, May 1st at 6 p.m.

DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE –

- **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!
- **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. Bulletin submissions are due by 9 a.m. on Wednesdays to churchsecretary@sjl.org or 419-598-8961.

DAD AND SON CONSTRUCTION PROJECT – On Thursday, April 23rd, 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. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex table.

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.

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Thought for the Week...

The tomb is empty— no bones about it! Happy Easter!



Easter Flower Orders



Denny and Rhonda Bockelman -

Daffodil (1) in honor of *our children*;
Hyacinth (2) in honor of *our grandchildren* and in honor of *Arlene Wallace*

Marian Dickmann - Tulip (1) in loving memory of *Don Dickmann*

Mark and Brenda Elling - Hyacinth (1) in loving memory of *Norman and Helen Castor*; Tulip (1) in loving memory of *Earl Elling*

Peter and Karen Gerken - Lily (2) in honor of *Seth Gerken*, in honor of *Anna Gerken*; Tulip (1) in honor of *Cody and Emily Knapp*; Cineraria (1) in loving memory of *August and Pauline Gerken*; Hydrangea (1) in honor of *Peter and Karen Gerken*

Dave and Diane Johnson - Lily (1) in loving memory of *Lawrence and Ruby Gerken and Doyle Johnson*; Hydrangea (1) in honor of *our children and grandchildren*

Doug and Mary Kossow - Hyacinth (1) in loving memory of *our parents, Walter and Lucia Delventhal and Erv and LaDonna Kossow*; Daffodil (1) in honor of *our grandkids, Kohen, Karsyn, and Kade Kossow*; Tulip (1) in loving memory of *our daughter, Stephanie Kossow*

Diana Kruse - Tulip (1) in loving memory of *my husband, Vern Kruse*

Nick, Yajaira, Brayton, and Chase Kruse - Tulip (1) in loving memory of *our dad and grandpa, Vern Kruse*

Todd, Kathy, and Mitchell Kruse; Carlie and Damien Helm - Tulip (1) in loving memory of *our dad and grandpa, Vern Kruse*

Karen Kruse - Hyacinth (1); Tulip (1)

Pat and Larry Mahnke - Lily (1) in loving memory of *our parents*, in honor of *our children and grandchildren*

Don and Karan Niebergall - Cineraria (1) in honor of *our grandchildren and great grandchildren*

Bob and Diane Norden - Hyacinth (1) in loving memory of *our parents*; Tulip (1) in honor of *our children and grandchildren*

Brad and Amy Rosebrook - Lily (1); Hyacinth (1); Tulip (1)

Jerry and Nancy Short - Daffodil (2) in loving memory of *our parents Russel and Martha Short and Norman and Lillian Ruetz*

Dan and Deb Wachtman - Cineraria (1) in honor of *our children and grandchildren*