St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP 16035 CO. RD. U ◆ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship ◆ Stewardship ◆ Mission

April 12, 2026

VOL. 92 NO. 15

Pastoral Vacancy
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church Office: 419-598-8961
School Office: 419-598-8702
Church Website: www.sjl.org

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

- Guest Pastor: *Rev. Dr. Matthew Buse*
- Order of Service: Prayer and Preaching *LSB pg. 260*
- Hymns: **490 ~ 470 ~ "Thine is the Glory"** *(projected and printed in the bulletin)*

****

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 those around you 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 *Organist* ✠ Kenlee Coressel, Jovi Sonnenberg *Acolytes* ✠
✠ Derek Damman, Greg Kehnast, Mitchell Kruse, Todd Kruse *Ushers* ✠
✠ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow *Altar Guild* ✠

EASTER THANKS – We give thanks to God for everyone who worked to make Easter at St. John such a joyful celebration of Christ's resurrection. Thank you to *Rev. Matthew Montgomery* for guiding us through 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*; 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!

WELCOME, BABY ELI! – *Eli David Lamb* was born to parents *Jared and Jessica Lamb* on March 27, 2026. After some time in the NICU, the Lambs are now home. They are doing well but could use continued prayers for upcoming testing and adjusting. The proud grandparents are *Teresa and Dave Damman* and *Bob and Ann Lamb.* We praise God alongside them for this gift of new life!

In God's House This Week		*Online church calendar: https://74058984.view-events.com*
Date	***Time***	***Activities***
TODAY	**9:00 AM** 10:15 AM	**Worship Service with Communion Following** Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; the LAMP; Confirmation class meets until 11:15
Mon.	 5:15 PM	PTL Meeting School Board Meeting
Tues.	**8:35 AM** 6:00 PM	**School Chapel** Church Council Meeting
Thurs.	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Study
Sun.	**9:00 AM** 10:15 AM 1:00 PM 4:00 PM	**Communion Service** Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; Confirmation class meets until 11:15 *Gerald BusyFingers* 4-H Meeting LYF Meeting

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
- *Eli Lamb* for continued healing and growth
- 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 04/05/2026	$10,811.87	$621.87	$666.87

ATTENDANCE: 389 total (155 early service + 234 late service)

Maundy Thursday: Attendance - 110; Contributions for *St. John Home Fund* - $1,609.00

Good Friday: Attendance - 132; Contributions for *St. John Home Fund* - $1,182.00

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

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.

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.

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!

LYF MEETING TODAY – LYF will meet today, April 19th 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.

***PORTALS OF PRAYER* BOOKLETS** for April/May/June are on the Narthex desk. Help yourself, or grab one to pass along! Large print copies are also available.

ADULT CHOIR – Thank you to the St. John choir for sharing musical gifts this season. The choir will now take a recess, and practices will resume again this fall. Please disregard the practices listed on the April activity calendar.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM MEETING – The Women of Freedom welcome all ladies to the April 21st meeting at 7 P.M. Our topic will be from the quarterly, page 16. *No Quarterly? No problem... a copy is ready for you.*

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.

CHANGE TO CHURCH OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK – This week, Leah Saylor will be in the office on Tuesday (4/14) and Wednesday (4/15) instead of the usual Wednesday and Thursday. Bulletin submissions will be due by 9 a.m. on Wednesday as usual to churchsecretary@sjl.org or 419-598-8961.

DAD AND SON CONSTRUCTION PROJECT – There is an informational flyer included in today's bulletin and a sign-up sheet on the Narthex table. Dads and sons, check it out!

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.

LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BULLETINS are always available on the table in the narthex. The Children's Bulletins are coordinated with the Bible texts for each Sunday and provide activities that tie in with the weekly themes.

✠ ✠ ✠

Thought for the Week…

Christ died for you. How can you now live for Him?