



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

April 19, 2026

VOL. 92

NO. 16

*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)

### **THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

- Guest Pastor: *Rev. Matthew Montgomery*
- Sermon and Text: "What is the Sacrament of the Altar" *Matthew 26:19-29*
- Order of Service: Divine Service Setting One *LSB pg. 151*
- Hymns: **466 ~ 483 ~ Communion: 680, 468 ~ 481 v. 1, 3**

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### **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.*

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

- ✠ Sharon Damman *Organist* ✠ Sadie Bickel, Emma Damman *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Derek Damman, Greg Kehnast, Mitchell Kruse, Todd Kruse *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow *Altar Guild* ✠

**LYF MEETING TODAY** – LYF will meet **today**, April 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. If you'd like to watch the service, it will be livestreamed on the CTSFW Facebook and YouTube pages (search: [www.youtube.com/@ctsfw](http://www.youtube.com/@ctsfw)). 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!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 1:00 PM 4:00 PM	<b>Communion Service</b> Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; Confirmation class meets until 11:15 <i>Gerald BusyFingers</i> 4-H Meeting LYF Meeting
Tues.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	<b>School Chapel</b> Women of Freedom Meeting
Thurs.	6:00 PM	Father/Son Construction Night
Sat.	8:30 AM	LWML Spring Rally @ St. Luke's Wauseon
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	<b>Worship Service</b> 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* and *Larry Mahnke* for upcoming heart procedures
- ❖ *Eli Lamb* for continued healing and growth
- ❖ 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
Rec'd 04/12/2026	\$28,129.32	\$222.00	\$238.00

ATTENDANCE: 151

**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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto:churchsecretary@sjl.org) or 419-598-8961.

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

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

**CONFIRMATION** is two weeks away! On Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, five 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will publicly profess their faith. Keep them in your prayers as they finish up classes and prepare for this special day.

**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.

**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. Feel free to grab them to use in church or to take home after the service!

**OPPORTUNITY FOR 2026 COLLEGE STUDENTS** – The *Pierstorff College Fund* is a one-of-a-kind Lutheran financial aid program that provides interest-free loans to all Lutherans pursuing a higher education who live in the State of Ohio. These loans are specific to students who are or will be enrolled full time in a four-year undergraduate program at any accredited college. All types of students are eligible: those continuing education after high school, second career applicants, those continuing education after a gap, etc. Information is on the Narthex table.

**COUNCIL MINUTES** – This is just a reminder that council meeting minutes are not published until they are approved a month later. If you would like to read about the most recent council meeting, an unofficial and unapproved copy of the minutes is available for viewing in the church office, usually within a week after the meeting.

#### **AREA EVENT**

- ❖ **St. Paul Lutheran Church** (8074 CR-T Liberty Center) is hosting its **annual Chicken BBQ** next Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, from 11-1:30 p.m. \$13 per plate— ½ chicken with baked beans, cole slaw, roll, & cookie. Drive-thru only. See the flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

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*Thought for the Week...*

**In Holy Communion, Christ does not give us a symbol, but He gives Himself—His true body and blood for our forgiveness.**

# THIS WEEK:

St. John Lutheran School is sponsoring a

## DAD AND SON CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

for all **SONS** PS-8<sup>th</sup> Grade and their **DADS**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 23 6:00 - 7:30 PM**

Come enjoy some **PIZZA** and then  
build something together using the  
tools and materials provided.



RSVP to the school office (419)598-8702  
by April 20th or sign up in the narthex



## LWML NAPOLEON ZONE SPRING RALLY

**Saturday April 25, 2026**

*"to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."*

**When:** Saturday April 25, 2026

**Where:** St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1588 St. Route 108, Wauseon

**Time:** 8:30 to 11:15 A.M.

**Speakers:** **Rev. Jeff and Deaconess Gina Teeple** *Missionaries to Eurasia*

8:30 - Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 - Board of Directors Meeting

9:05 - Program

**In-gathering:** Monetary Donation for Rev. Jeff and Gina's ministry in Eurasia

Children's Bible Story Books (ARCH Books) for their children's Ministry. *Books must be lightweight & small because they're packed in their suitcases.*

Also donations for Mites™ and Napoleon Zone LWML.