



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

August 23, 2020

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Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339
Church Website: www.sjl.org

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon: "Built to Last" *Matthew 16:13-20*

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 655 ~ 647 ~ 645 ~ 644

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome! We are here at the Savior's invitation; therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, receiving mercy and finding grace to help in every time of need. But above all, we invite you to come to worship with us at any time. Help us get to know you better by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the basket at the table in the narthex as you leave.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠

✠ David Badenhop, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, Denny Von Deylen, *Ushers* ✠

✠ Kaylee Buchhop, Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, Karan Niebergall, *Altar Guild* ✠

COVID-19 MEASURES – The two most important things we can do to prevent the spread of viruses are: 1) social distancing, and 2) wearing a mask when entering and exiting the building, and when singing or speaking. Masks can be removed during longer periods of listening, such as Scripture readings, sermon, prayers, etc.

ONE SUNDAY SERVICE STARTING SEPTEMBER 6

At its August meeting, **the Church Council voted to return to a single Sunday service, beginning Sunday, September 6th – service begins at 9:00 a.m. as usual.** If attendance begins to rebound and Covid-19 remains an issue, the Council noted that we can always revert back to two Sunday services to keep the congregation size smaller. For now, however, with in-person attendance down, it is no longer necessary or feasible to conduct two services on Sundays.

Date	Time	Activities
Today	8:30AM & 10:00AM	Worship Service
Mon.	5:30 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution PS3 Open House/Meet the Teacher PS4/5 Open House/Meet the Teacher
Tues.	6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Grades K-8 Open House/Meet the Teacher/Pay fees Shepherd Committee Elders Meeting
Thurs.	8:20 AM 8:35 AM	First student day for Grades K-8 Opening Chapel
Sun.	10:00AM	Outdoor Worship Service at the Old School Property
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Jacob Stuenkel</i> , St. Peter Lutheran - Florida

FOR THOSE LISTENING FROM THE PARKING LOT

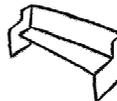
Pick up your bulletin and service by driving through the carport before worship

You can give your offering to the deacon at the same time

Tune your FM radio to 87.7

PEW COLOR DESIGNATIONS FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Thursday evenings - **RED** pews
- Sunday early service – **RED** pews
- Sunday late service – **BLUE** pews



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

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, and Lester Rabe*
- ❖ *Melba Elling, and Lorna Von Deylen*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs*, at Assisted Living – Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Harold Behrmann*, at Fulton Manor, Wauseon
- ❖ *Donald Badenhop*, has returned to Vancrest Nursing Care Facility, Holgate
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran’s Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Armed Services: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Connor Gerken, Seth Handy, Nathan Nemoyer, Jared Dishop*
- ❖ *Sue Hurst*, who is experiencing health concerns with the return of her cancer
- ❖ *Ruth Moll*, who is recovering from recent open heart surgery
- ❖ *Rev. Logan Scheiwe*, Assoc. Pastor at St. Paul, Napoleon, who is receiving immunotherapy treatment for stage four cancer. May God give him strength in the battle and healing in the body.
- ❖ *Brenda Elling*, for successful outpatient surgery recently at Toledo Hospital
- ❖ *Kay Heilman*, who is recovering from surgery on Friday; may God grant her a speedy recovery!

NO THURSDAY SERVICE THIS WEEK - As in years past, the Thursday evening service this week will be cancelled so that we may encourage everyone to come together for the annual Outdoor Service on Sunday, Aug. 30. This year especially we'd like to be together to lend our support and prayers to our new called teacher and to the new St John School staff.

TWO SPECIAL SUNDAYS COMING UP

AUG. 30 - ANNUAL OUTDOOR SERVICE – One week from today we will gather outdoors next to the Old School building for our annual Outdoor Service. Service time is 10:00 a.m. Please bring a chair and a friend! Also, please reserve the parking around the school for those who need it most. In these days of pandemic, it's been a long time since we've all been together as the body of Christ. We hope that the outdoor setting of our service, along with the regular precautions of social distancing, masks, and hand sanitation, will make people feel safer about attending worship and that we can see one another again, even if from a distance of six feet.

- **At this service we will also witness the installation of our newest called teacher, Mrs. Haley (Gruenhagen) O'Neil.** Light refreshments will be served afterwards to give everyone a chance to hang around and greet Mrs. O'Neil. Sometime down the road, when the pandemic has abated, we will plan a congregational meal to properly welcome Mrs. O'Neil into our midst.
- **Also** at this service we will introduce the congregation to two more new members of the teaching staff. They are **Mrs. Donna Matson** and **Mrs. Pamala Reeves**. We will remember our school and staff in prayer, and invite God's blessings upon their work this school year as we continue the educational ministry of feeding Jesus' little lambs!

SEPTEMBER 3rd and 6th – MUSICAL SERVICE BY DAVE ANDERSON – Some of you may remember when Dave Anderson was here at St. John a number of years back for an evening concert. He, and Roger Walck, will be back to lead worship on Thursday, Sept. 3rd and Sunday, Sept. 6 with a message of God's Word and of song.

- **A free-will offering will be received to support a ministry near to Dave's heart, the SHEPHERD CANYON RETREAT (SCR) near Wickenburg, AZ.** *SCR* is an officially recognized service organization of the LC-MS that provides counseling services for spiritual and emotionally hurting church workers. Did you know that 80% of pastors say that the ministry has negatively impacted their families, and that upwards of 70% of pastors fight depression? *SCR* provides 7-day retreats with counseling services to help restore church workers to health so they can flourish in ministry.

RITE OF FELLOWSHIP CARDS: Due to the decreased attendance from the pandemic, we are asking that, for the time being, members do not need to fill out the Rite of Fellowship cards. Attendance is not being tracked at this time. We will inform you when to resume filling out the attendance cards. This will also save the church on expenses. Thank you.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 08/16/20	\$7,771.00	\$150.00	\$540.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 42; Sunday Early - 37; Sunday Late – 29

MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS will kick-off this year on **Wednesday evening, Sept. 2nd at 6:15 p.m.** We will gather in the north end of the fellowship hall to allow for better social distancing; please wear masks as well, per state requirements. We would like to have parents attend that evening for the first 15 or 20 minutes so that we can discuss the educational plan for the year, as well as any contingencies should distance learning become necessary.

LWML RETREAT: Word was recently received that the Fall LWML Retreat scheduled for September has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

HOLY COMMUNION OPTIONS DURING COVID - During this time of pandemic, we are making Holy Communion available in the following ways:

- **Thursday evening Communion services** prior to first and third Sundays
- **First and Third Sundays each month** – in the Sanctuary, and drive-thru after each service
- **Second Sundays** – after both services in the sanctuary

Please note – Drive-thru Communion is on the first and third Sundays only for those who have participated in the Divine Service from the parking lot.

OFFERINGS ON TUESDAYS: The offering option on Tuesdays from 9-noon has been eliminated, due to the startup of the new school year. Visitors will only be allowed into the building by appointment. Masks required, temperature taken, per recommendation of the local health department. See below for the remaining options for offerings.

A NOTE ABOUT OFFERINGS – There is much for which to be thankful, even during this pandemic. In particular, we give thanks to God for everyone who has faithfully supported the ministry through this time with their continuing offerings. We are truly blessed! If you will not be returning to public services for a while yet, you can give your offering in one of these ways:

- For those listening to the FM parking lot broadcast, you may give your offering to the usher or deacon when they hand you your bulletin.
- Use the **'Give Now'** online giving page – a link (the blue button) is on our website.
- Mail your offerings to the church.

FURNISHINGS FOR OLD SCHOOL RENOVATION EAST ROOM - The church council discussed furnishings for the east room of the old school renovation project which is envisioned to be a versatile room available for meetings, conferences, classes, family events, etc. of up to approximately 50 people. To furnish the room, the council settled on purchasing *Lifetime*[™] brand tables and chairs because of their high quality and durability. We are planning to purchase the following:

- 8 six-foot banquet tables - \$85 each
- 50 chairs - \$25 each
- 2 60-inch TVs and wall mounts (for both rooms) - \$500 each

If you would like to give a gift toward these purchases, we are prepared to begin receiving them. Gifts may be included with your regular offering (make a notation on your envelope), or deposited into the clear box marked "Old School Furnishings" located on the narthex table (special envelopes for your gift are available). Thank you for your gifts as we come down the homestretch on this project!





SHARE THE BOUNTY OF SUMMER – This morning a table has been set up under the carport where you can bring any spare produce from your garden and share it with others in the congregation. Bring whatever you can and take whatever you can use, and share the bounty of summer! The table will be set up each Sunday through mid-September or so.

PARENT HANDBOOKS: The 2020-21 Parent Handbook is posted and available via the FastDirect Communication network. A message was sent to each family through FastDirect. Go to www.fastdir.com/stjohnfreedom and click on “Links”. Handbooks will only be printed for those St. John families that do not have internet access via computers, cell phones, i-Pads, etc. Please call the school office to request a printed handbook.

UPCOMING SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL DATES TO REMEMBER:

- ▶ **Preschool Parent’s Meeting & Open House** – On **Mon., Aug. 24 at 6:00 PM** there will be a Preschool Parent’s Meeting held in the Fellowship Hall for children entering the 3-yr old preschool class. Immediately following this meeting (at 7:00 PM) there will be a Parent Meeting for children entering the 4/5-yr old preschool class. Parents will meet the new teacher as well as be informed about student expectations in the classroom. The basics of navigating in the FastDirect Communication system will also be presented. The classroom will be open and staffed during these meetings. **All Preschool parents are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting. Masks are now required when entering and exiting the building.**
- ▶ **School Open House** – The St. John School will be holding an open house on **Tues., Aug. 25th from 6:00 – 7:00 PM** for Kindergarten thru Gr. 8 families. **Masks are now required when entering and exiting the building.** We will meet first in the Fellowship Hall. That will be a time to introduce our staff members and set the tone for the school year. After meeting in the Fellowship Hall students can drop off materials in their classrooms, meet teachers, and pay fees in the school office.

3-YR PRESCHOOL OPENINGS: The State of Ohio lifted the preschool limitation of 9 students per class. **As a result of that, St. John can now add a few more students to the 3-yr old class.** If interested, please contact the school office to register your child. Registration for Kindergarten to eighth grade is still available for this fall. If you know of someone interested in enrolling their child please call the school office at 419-598-8702.

FREEDOM’S FLOCK – St. John’s after school program will begin at 3:00 PM on the first day of school, August 27. Please contact Director *Karen Riefers* to pre-register your child(ren) and pay the \$15 per family registration by August 27, if possible. You can also access the Freedom’s Flock Handbook and Registration/Medical forms on FastDirect. The Freedom Flock Aid position is still trying to be filled. If any adult or student (16 or older) would like to volunteer to also help with the program, you may contact Karen at 419-598-8686.

IF YOU’RE EVER IN A PINCH and could use a little help, the *Good Neighbor Fund* is there to assist you too! Everything is strictly confidential. Just give Pastor Niermann a call!

“SCHOOL NOTES” PAGE can be picked up at the table in the narthex.

STAFF POSITION OPENING: St. John Lutheran School is looking for an aide for the Freedom Flock After School Care Program. This individual must be 18 years old, have a high school diploma, be willing to have a background check, and supply several references. If interested, please email Pastor Kramer at ckramer@sjl.org. Thank you!

HEARING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE: If hearing in worship has been a problem for you, pick up one of the receiver units for our hearing assistance system. An usher will assist you and you’ll hear much more clearly. (*Also, please let us know how the system is working for you.*)

For those who use the hearing assistance system regularly and for the sake of hygiene, we ask that you claim one of the ear buds as your own and keep it with you in your purse, pocket, etc. Bring it with you when you come to church, and simply plug it into one the receivers.

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 9:00-11:00 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!

THE LUTHERAN HOUR – The Lutheran Hour Ministries can be heard on a few radio stations in our area. They cover many topics relevant to today’s issues. Broadcasts can be heard Sundays on: Archbold’s WMTR 96.1 FM at 7:30 AM; Napoleon’s WNDH 103.1 FM at 9:00 AM.

INSTALLATION AT IMMANUEL LUTHERAN, HAMLER: On Sun., August 30th at 4:00 pm, Rev. James Fundum (*a brother to Rose Hoffman*) will be installed at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hamler. This installation will be held outside on the church grounds.

SAVE THE DATE – HAWKS PIZZA AND ST. JOHN SCHOOL: On Sat., Sept. 12th, Hawks Pizza in Napoleon will be donating 10% of their total sales that day to St. John School. This is a community fundraising event they have chosen us to participate in with them. They have pizzas, subs, pasta, salads, tacos, etc. Lots of things to pick from! Call Hawks at 419-599-1946 to order by phone or go to hawkspizza.com. Thank you for supporting St. John School on the 12th. See flyers!

BBQ RIB MEAL: The Ridgeville Fire Dept. is sponsoring a BBQ Rib Meal on Thurs. Sept. 17th. **Presale tickets only.** Contact *Eric Riefers* at 419-966-0227 to purchase your tickets. Tickets must be purchased by Tues., Sept. 1st. See flyer posted in narthex.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

You can judge a man by his enemies as well as by his friends!

“You will be hated by all for my name’s sake.

But the one who endures to the end will be saved.” ~Jesus, Matt 10:22