



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

October 4, 2020

VOL. 85

NO. 40

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

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Tenants, Not Owners" *Matthew 21:33-46*

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting One (*LSB pg. 151*)

Hymns: Medley (*AGPS 86, LSB 907*) ~ **544** ~ (Communion: **571, 566**) ~ **912**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to the services of God's House and the fellowship of our congregation. Enter in stillness...know that the Lord is God. Listen in reverence...it is God who has made us. Sing with delight...it is God who hears us. Speak with conviction...there is no other God. Depart in peace...it is God's gift for you. Serve with joy...it is your gift to God. If you are visiting us today, please fill 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 today.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

✠ Bethann Gerken, *Pianist* ✠

✠ Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel, Carey Damman, *Ushers* ✠

✠ Mary Kossow, Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, *Altar Guild* ✠



MANY THANKS:

- ✠ *Ron & Elaine Hesterman* would like to thank everyone for their cards and prayers in honor of their recent 65th wedding anniversary. Also, thank you Pastor Niermann for the special prayer offered in church.
- ✠ *Pat Maassel* would like to thank Pastor Niermann for his visit and everyone for their prayers, cards, food, and visits during her recuperation from her recent surgery. It meant so much for her to hear from you all during her recovery. Thank you again!

PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS for the quarter of October, November, and December are on the desk in the narthex. There are also large print copies available.

In God's House This WeekOnline church calendar: <https://74058984.view-events.com>

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM	Communion Service
Tues.	8:35 AM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	School Chapel School Board Meeting Stewardship Board Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>)
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship
Sun.	9:00AM	Worship Service w/Communion following
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Stephen Niermann</i> - St. John Lutheran - Napoleon

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****Drive-thru Communion after worship under carport****MATTERS FOR PRAYER** – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- ❖ Shut-Ins: *Norma Damman, Renetta Homan, and Lester Rabe*
- ❖ *Melba Elling, Lorna Von Deylen, and Ruth Mahnke*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs*, at Assisted Living – Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Harold Behrmann*, at Fulton Manor, Wauseon
- ❖ *Donald Badenhop*, at 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, Jared Dishop*
- ❖ *Leona Durham, Sue Hurst* and *Rev. Logan Scheiwe*, for health concerns with cancer
- ❖ *The family of Linda 'Kay' Gerken*, especially her sons Zach, Cody, and Connor. Kay passed away on Sept. 12th.
- ❖ *Rev. Robert Nemoyer*, who is in physical rehab at Evergreen Manor – Montpelier to regain strength after recent falls.

2021 NOMINATIONS – The Stewardship Board has sent out letters to prospective nominees for the various offices of our congregation and school. As the nomination procedure carries forward, we ask that everyone please pray that the Lord of the Vineyard, the church, would send workers who make it possible to nourish the ministry of Word and Sacrament in our midst.

If you received one of the letters, please consider it prayerfully and carefully. We have prayed for you, and believe that God has equipped you to serve for the office for which you are nominated.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 09/27/20	\$5,515.00	\$170.00	\$445.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 36; Sunday – 89

THE SCRIPTURES THIS DAY – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Today's propers (the variable parts of the service) could well fit during Lent. The *Gospel*, for example, takes place during Holy Week. All the elements point to Jesus' Passion—his rejection and murder by his own people. The primary image is of vines and vineyards: planted and nurtured with meticulous and loving care. Yet the vineyard of the Lord yielded not good fruit but "wild grapes" (*Old Testament*). As a result, the *Psalm* grieves that Yahweh has "broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit" (Ps 80:12). These Old Testament passages, of course, prefigure later Israel killing the vineyard master's own son when he comes (Matt 21:39). "Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him" (*Collect*).

In light of all this, today's Introit is remarkable. "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! . . . The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes" (Ps 118:1, 22–23). This is why St. Paul, with all his impressive credentials as a man of Israel, would count that all as rubbish for the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus (*Epistle*).

BIBLE STUDY RESUMES NEXT SUNDAY, OCT. 11

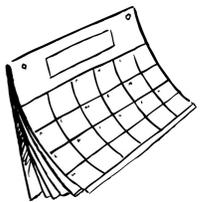
POLITICS IS DRIVING ME CRAZY!

With every election cycle, the rhetoric becomes overpowering. We hear it in the national news. We read it on social media. Sometimes the discussions are balanced and informative. Sometimes they are mean-spirited and inaccurate. Sometimes they instill hope. Sometimes they incite fear or anger. Sometimes they promote an agenda that is very obviously contrary to God's Word and will.

What can a Christian do? How does a Christian view politics? How does a Christian respond to the present political climate? How can a Christian find hope even when he or she is overwhelmed with the thought, "Politics is driving me crazy!"?

This Bible study offers a note of calm as it reminds us that we are citizens of two kingdoms, each with a different role and a different agenda. It offers a note of hope as it reminds us that God has absolute rule over both kingdoms. It offers a note of encouragement as it leads us to consider how we serve in both kingdoms.

Join us, beginning next Sunday, Oct. 11 after the Sunday service. We will meet in the south end of the fellowship hall to allow for better social distancing.



NEW ONLINE CHURCH CALENDAR – Recently we have switched online calendar services, so that our master calendar has a new and fresh look that we hope you will enjoy. **To navigate to this calendar, go to our webpage at sjl.org and click on the Calendar tab at the top of the page.** If you want to schedule any kind of event in the church or school facilities, please refer to this calendar first to determine if there will be any scheduling conflicts.

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.

LYF ICE CREAM SOCIAL – **Pre-order deadline is TODAY!** The LYF is hosting an alternate option for its annual ice cream social this year. This will be a Drive-thru Ice Cream Social with **pre-orders only**. The date is Sun., Oct. 18th with drive-thru from 10:30 AM – Noon. Order forms are available on the narthex table and also on the school or church’s Facebook page under “Events”. The menu will be: *Chicken or Hot Dog Sandwich, Baked Beans, Chips, and Schwan’s Ice Cream*. Freewill offering! This is a Thrivent Action Team event! Come out and support the youth of our congregation as they continue to raise funds for the Youth Center; and also begin to raise funds for the next National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX in 2022!

ICE CREAM SOCIAL DONATIONS: In an effort to give as much of the profit from the Ice Cream Social to the youth traveling to the National Youth Gathering in 2022, we are asking if congregation members would like to help by donating items toward the fundraiser. A signup sheet is at the narthex table listing grocery/food items needed to prepare the menu for the social. If you are able to help, please list your name and the item(s) you are able to donate on the sheet. A signup sheet can also be found on the church’s Facebook page. **Please have items to the church/school by Tues., Oct. 13th**. If there are any questions, please contact Sarah Bartok through the church office. Thank you!

PASTOR INSTALLATION AT ST. JOHN, STRYKER – We rejoice with our sister congregation, St. John Lutheran, Stryker, as they installed their new pastor, **Rev. Aaron Bueltmann**, on Sat., Oct. 3rd. Rev. Bueltmann comes to northwest Ohio from Advent Lutheran Church of Hartford County, Maryland where he served since August 2016. We pray that God will richly bless his ministry at St. John for many years to come.

THREE WAYS TO GIVE AN OFFERING

- Deposit your offering in the narthex when you come to worship, or if you’re listening to the FM broadcast, 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 offering to the church.

FURNISHINGS FOR OLD SCHOOL RENOVATION EAST ROOM – Thank you to everyone who has given gifts for furnishing the new facility in the old school. So far we have enough funds to purchase the tables and chairs for the east room. Once these have arrived, we can begin using that room for events up to approximately 50 people.

- We are still receiving gifts for the purchase of two large TV’s to be mounted on the walls in each of the two main rooms. 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*).

ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES: As of October 1st, you may begin ordering SCRIP again. Order forms are available on the narthex table and also in the “School Info” rack outside the office. Please turn those orders in on Wednesdays, with payment to *St. John School PTL Scrip Program*. The gift cards will be sent home the following week on Tuesday. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

OPTIONS FOR HOLY COMMUNION 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 the service
- **Second Sundays** – after the service in the sanctuary



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



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 September or so.

PROJECT CONNECT – There are many free booklets in the rack in the narthex. Be sure to check for some informative reading such as: “*Alzheimer’s: Facing the Loss of a Lifetime*,” “*Talking with God*,” “*Forgiveness is a Choice*,” “*Talking Openly with Kids*,” “*Setting Priorities*,” “*Your Place in God’s Plan*,” “*Stressed but Connected*,” “*Beyond Divorce*,” “*For Better, For Worse*,” “*What Is Faith in Jesus?*” and many more. Booklets furnished through Lutheran Hour Ministries.

‘BREAD FROM HEAVEN’ – A note to St. John members needing food assistance – If you could use food assistance from our food pantry, please speak with *Pastor Niermann*. We are required by the *Northwestern Ohio Food Bank* to keep a record with your name, but pastor will keep your record separate and absolutely confidential.

Contributions can be made at any time. Monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your offering envelope). Food donations for our pantry can be dropped off in the box by the Archives display cases. Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated, and the families we serve are greatly appreciative of the generosity of St. John. Thank you so much!

A SIMPLE AND CONVENIENT WAY TO GIVE – This fall, consider signing up for electronic giving. St. John Lutheran Church relies on financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. One simple, easy to use authorization form can begin or change your electronic contributions amount. Contact *Joyce Wiechers* in the office at 419-598-8961 for details or begin by clicking on the blue “Give Now” button on the church’s website. Thank you!

ST. JOHN CHURCH LIBRARY – Stop in and check out the growing number of books available in the church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary. The books in this library have been screened to assure that they are true to the Word of God and can be trusted to be theologically sound. To borrow a book, just take it with you, and then return it to the basket when you’ve finished reading. A complete list of the books in the church’s library can be found by clicking on the “Book Inventory” link on the library page of our church’s website. <http://www.sjl.org/library.html>

STAMP COLLECTING: The LWML is collecting “Stamps For Missions.” Here is what you do: Cut the stamps from the envelopes allowing ¼ inch margin or more around the stamp. The stamp may not be damaged and the perforations around the stamp must be perfect. Regular stamps are no longer accepted. You need not trim the stamp; we have someone who trims and sorts the stamps. Do not remove stamps from envelopes, albums, and older postcards. An “old” postcard is usually from 1930 or before. The most valuable stamps are commemorative and foreign. Collecting stamps is an easy way to participate in a mission project sponsored by the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League. A yellow box is on the table in the narthex.

“ON IT’S LAST LEG” – The refrigerator in the supply room off the kitchen (used mainly by the teachers) is “on its last leg”. So we are asking if there is someone (or if you know of anyone) who has a used fridge they would like to sell, please contact the school office. The school will pay you for it.

PRESCHOOL GRANDPARENTS’ DAY, SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR, and SCHOOL

VISITATION: Under “normal conditions” all three of these events would have been held during the month of October. But guess what...due to Covid-19; we have been forced to cancel them. So we are looking to schedule Preschool Grandparents’ Day and the Scholastic Book Fair in the spring 2021 (in coordination with the school’s Grandparents’ Day, possibly early May). In regard to the School Parent Visitation, unfortunately, that will not be held this year.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP: Membership is now being taken for the Athletic Booster Club. Prices are \$20.00 for a couple and \$10.00 for an individual. Make checks payable to St. John Boosters and send to school. Our programs here at St. John give our students a sense of sportsmanship, discipline, structure and self-confidence needed to go out into the world.

FREEDOM FLOCK UPDATE: St. John Lutheran School is looking for an aide for the Freedom Flock After School Care Program. We have found someone for 2 days, but are still looking for someone to take the remaining 3 days. If interested, please email Pastor Kramer at ckramer@sjl.org.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: The Ridgeville Sons of the American Legion are asking you to join them in their mission to place “wreaths across America” in 2020. National Wreaths Across America Day is Dec. 19, 2020. Sponsored wreaths are placed on grave markers at state and national veterans’ cemeteries, as well as at local, community cemeteries each December. Wreath Sponsorship Forms and more information available on the narthex table. Wreaths may also be sponsored online at www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org. Order deadline is Nov. 15, 2020.

✂ ✂ ✂

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

God wants full custody, not just weekend visits.

*Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."
Matthew 22:37*