



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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

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NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "The Best of Food, The Best of Company" *Isaiah 25:6*

Order of Service: Matins (*LSB pg. 219*)

Hymns: 435 ~ "A Loving Shepherd" ~ 633 ~ 941, Te Deum ~ "What Feast of Love"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Now is the hour of worship. God speaks to us and we listen and respond with our hymns, prayers and praises. Together we bless the Lord whose purpose is to save us and keep us in His faithful flock. He is The God of Grace and The God of Glory. If you are new to our community, we hope you will consider making this your church home. Please fill out the blue 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

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠
- ✠ Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel, Carey Damman, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Mary Kossow, Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, *Altar Guild* ✠

2021 NOMINATIONS – The Stewardship Board is busy trying to line up nominations and appointments for the various offices of our congregation for the year 2021. More letters have been sent out asking if people would consider serving. As this process carries forward, 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 10/04/20	\$11,405.98	\$160.00	\$355.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 34; Sunday – 111

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM	Worship Service w/Communion following
Tues.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Church Council 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	Communion Service
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev.Theodore Rellstab</i> - St. John Lutheran - Holgate

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****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*, 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
- ❖ *Ruth Mahnke*, recuperating at Genacross Lutheran Home after a recent fall at home
- ❖ *Rev. Robert Nemoyer*, who is in physical rehab at Evergreen Manor – Montpelier to regain strength after recent falls.
- ❖ *Peter Gerken*, awaiting testing results for a health concern
- ❖ *The Family of Troy Barton* especially his wife Heather and their four children, as well as Ron & Judy and the rest of their family. Troy passed away suddenly on Mon., Oct. 5th at only 36 years of age. May they all find comfort in the promise of Christ's resurrection.
- ❖ *For two members of our church family who are recovering from Covid*, and for everyone's safety in this pandemic.
- ❖ *John Gruenhagen*, who has been hospitalized this past week for tests and procedures

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.

IF YOU'RE EVER IN A PINCH and could use a little help, the *Good Neighbor Fund* is there to assist you too! Please don't be bashful about asking – everything is strictly confidential. Just give Pastor Niemann a call, and we'll see what we can do!

THE SCRIPTURES THIS DAY – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Considering the time of the year, the season of fall often brings thoughts of harvest and of feasting. So too, the proper of the day (the changeable parts of the worship service) focus our attention on the great feast of the Kingdom of God.

The *Psalm* pictures the Lord preparing “a table before me in the presence of my enemies” (Ps 23:5). Portions of today’s *Epistle* are read also on Thanksgiving Day, and exhort us to rejoice always, even if we do go through times of hunger (Phil 4:4, 6, 12). The *Old Testament reading* sets before our eyes a great feast where the shroud of death has been lifted.

In the *Gospel* from Matthew 22, we read the parable of the wedding banquet. As the feast is prepared, invitations go out, but no one comes. Nevertheless, the feast and celebration will go on. The king sends his servants to go out into the roads and gather all whom they find. There is no limit as to whom his invitation is extended. He does not know who will be brought in at this final invitation; some are “good,” some “bad,” but to all, the feast has been offered. In fact, to all a wedding garment is also given (v 11), as today’s *Introit* describes: “He has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness” (Is 61:10).

BIBLE STUDY RESUMES TODAY

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 TODAY after the service. We will meet in the south end of the fellowship hall to allow for better social distancing.



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!

CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S SERVICES 2020 – Covid has interrupted many events and traditions, and the same will unfortunately be true this Christmas at St. John. To assure proper social distancing in the sanctuary, the traditional *Christmas Children's Service* and the *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service* will each have to be split into two services. The schedule for Christmas will be as follows:

Sun. Dec. 20	6:00 pm	Younger Children's Service: Grades Preschool-2
	7:30 pm	Old Children's' Service: Grades 3-8
Thr. Dec. 24	6:00 pm	Early Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
	8:00 pm	Later Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Fri. Dec 25	9:30 am	Christmas Day Festival Service

Plans for the children's services are now underway. Parents, please respond promptly when we reach out to determine which children will be participating in the *Children's Christmas Services*. We of course encourage every child to take part in these services as a wonderful way for them to hear and learn again of God's greatest gift to mankind, His only-begotten Son!

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*).

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.

“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.

USED FAX MACHINE FOR SALE: The office fax machine is now operational thru the office copier. Thus, the previous standalone fax is no longer being used or needed. If you know of anyone who has need or interest in the old unit, please call the office to set up a time to come and look at it.

PTL FUNDRAISER: The *Profitable Solutions* Liquid Laundry Detergent & Fabric Softener Fundraiser sponsored by the PTL is coming soon! Thank you to everyone for your patience in waiting for us to get this underway. At the Sept. 14th PTL meeting it was decided to run this fundraiser from Oct. 5-23, 2020. This fundraiser involves selling bulk laundry detergent (including pods!), softener, scent booster, dish soap, dishwasher pods and trash bags! All products are comparable to name brands. You get 42% more detergent (350-500 loads!) for the same price you'd pay in store! Order forms are being sent home today. Please direct any questions to Nicole Stier at 419-966-7376 and she will find an answer as quickly as possible!

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

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.

CHURCH HISTORY BOOKS – If at any time during the year you need a gift for a current or former member of St. John, why not consider one of our Church History Books. This book is full of interesting facts about St. John's and is available in the church office at a cost of \$12.00.

GERALD HISTORY BOOKS – If you didn't get one yet, you can still do so. Stop in at the church office to purchase your copy or you can also send \$12 to Robert L. Stockman, 1218 Spoonbill Landing Circle, Bradenton, FL 34209, and he will mail your copy to you via USPS.

If at any time during the year you need a gift for a current or former member of St. John, why not consider this history book about the development of Gerald? This book is full of interesting facts about Gerald, Freedom Township, and St. John Church. Get your copy today!

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.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

It's not what we have, but how much we enjoy what we have, that makes happiness.

“Be content with what you have, for he has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”

Hebrews 13:5