

St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

May 8, 2022

VOL. 87

NO. 19

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon: "Washed in the Blood" *Revelation 7:9-17*

Service: Morning Prayer (LSB pg. 235)

Hymns: 710 ~ 709 ~ 510 ~ 666 ~ 711

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Happy Mother's Day!... and a special, grateful welcome to all mothers this morning. We bless and cherish you for the care and nurture you gave or are giving now to your children. We salute you in the name of our Lord who loved His mother and provided for her. If you are visiting with us this morning, help us get to know you better by filling out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the basket at the doors as you leave.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Maddox Oyer, Olivia Foor, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Mike Maassel, Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Deb Wachtman, Kathy Gruenhagen, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✠

HOLY COMMUNION will be offered this morning following the service. Those who wish to attend should fill out a card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it into the basket at the door as you leave. Return immediately to the front pews in the sanctuary.

THANK YOU! I would like to say thank you to everyone for their prayers, conversations, and kind words during this time of considering a call to Springfield, MO. I want to thank all of you for the last 7 years of welcoming me into your community and for the support as I began my teaching ministry. St. John will always hold a special place in my heart and I cannot thank God enough for the memories that have been made here. Signed, *Sarah Bartok*

2021 CHURCH'S ANNUAL REPORT: These are available on the narthex table after the service. Thanks to everyone for your information submitted to be included in this report.

In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: https://74058984.view-events.com</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 10:20AM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Instruction Class; Adult Bible Study; "The Lamp"
Tue.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr High Confirmation Class (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Thurs.	7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Confirmation Questioning (in Fellowship Hall) Thursday Evening Worship with Communion
Fri.		Last Day for 3-yr old Preschool
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Confirmation and Communion Service Adult Instruction Class; Adult Bible Study; "The Lamp"
Mon.-Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM

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

- ❖ *Melba Elling, Lorna Von Deylen, Norma Damman*, at Genacross – Napoleon
- ❖ *Ruth Mahnke*, at Assisted Living – Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Lawrence Behrmann*, at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab and in hospice care
- ❖ *Military: Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Niermann, Jared Dishop, Jordan Lange*
- ❖ *Esther Layton, Sue Hurst, Eileen Fitzenreiter, and Don Lawrence*, concerns relating to cancer
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, at Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky, and battling lung cancer
- ❖ *Mabel Bischoff*, recuperating at Fulton Manor, Wauseon, with broken bones after a recent fall
- ❖ *Pat Kramer*, scheduled surgery at Cleveland Clinic on Wed., May 11th

CONFIRMATION CLASS HAPPENINGS – For the Confirmation Class of 2022, here are important dates to remember...

- Wed. May 11 Preparation for Questioning: 6:15 - 7:45pm
- Thr. May 12 Confirmand Questioning: 7:00pm, followed by rehearsal
- Sun. May 15 **Confirmation Sunday**

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES RESUME – This week we resumed our Thursday evening worship services. Through October, worship is offered each Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. Once school is out, we will begin worshipping in the north end of the fellowship hall. Our Thursday services are a preview of the service for the following Sunday. Holy Communion will be offered on the Thursday's prior to Communion services on the first and third Sundays of each month.

GRACE, FAITH, SCRIPTURE & CHRIST ALONE... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's subjects include: A New Study on Stay-at-Home Moms; The Lord's Supper Hymn "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing;" The Vocation of Citizen; The Active & Passive Obedience of Christ and more. Listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

On Easter Sunday it was our great joy and privilege to unveil the final Resurrection stained glass window, and to dedicate all 19 windows to the glory of God.

- **A booklet – “The Stained Glass Windows of St. John”** – with a brief history and descriptions of each window is available on the narthex table. Sometime when you have a few moments, use the booklet for a close-up self-guided tour of each of the windows.
- **Send a “thank you”**– For those of you who would wish to send **Steve & Sue Hurst** a personal thank you, here is their mailing address: *21281 County Road U, Napoleon, OH 43545.*

ADULT INSTRUCTION AND MEMBERSHIP CLASS

This morning after worship Pastor Niermann is teaching the third session of an **Adult Instruction and Membership Class**, **“I have Good News for You about a Savior Who Saves You.”** We will discuss some of the promises of His coming, His birth, His divine and human natures, and how He suffered, died and rose for our salvation.

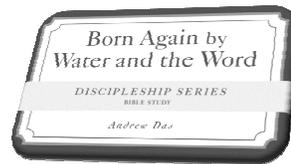
This class is for anyone interested in learning more about what our church teaches and confesses, and will also be a membership class for those who may wish to join our congregation - although, of course, there is no obligation for class participants to do so. Classes will run for about 10 weeks through the end of June, with a break on Confirmation Sunday. We will meet after worship each Sunday for an hour, in the conference room. This is also an excellent opportunity for members of St. John to be refreshed in the primary teachings of our faith and to invite someone to come with you who may be interested in joining our fellowship.

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

A new Adult Bible study is underway titled **“Born Again by Water and the Word – A Study of Infant Baptism.”** One of the most noticeable

differences between Christian denominations is whether or not they baptize infants. Many protestant denominations do not practice infant baptism, and even require those who join their fellowships to renounce their

baptism as an infant and be re-baptized. What does Scripture say? *This study is being led by Jeremy Heilman, son of our members Don & Kay Heilman and formerly an LCMS pastor.*



SCRIP FOR GRADUATION: Why not use the PTL SCRIP Program to order gift cards for those graduating seniors in your lives. Order forms are available in the tract rack in the narthex or online via FastDirect. Please turn those orders in on Wednesdays, with payment to *St. John School PTL* 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.**

THREE WAYS TO GIVE YOUR REGULAR 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.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 5/01/22	\$5,965.00	\$315.00	\$155.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 164

MEMORIALS for *Hildegard Behrmann*: St. John Endowment Fund – School Acct - \$88;
The Lutheran Hour - \$335; Filling Home of Napoleon - \$10;
St. John Lutheran Church Home Fund - \$1030

VBS PLANNING TO BEGIN – VBS has been scheduled for **June 20-24** (Monday to Friday) from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. each day. This morning we begin by recruiting staff members. Please find the form in today's bulletin and review the positions that are available, and consider serving the children in our VBS by leading them to their Lord and Savior. *Andrea Oyer* has consented to be our director this year – please speak with her or with Pastor Niermann if you have any questions.



The primary positions we need to fill are: **2 Preschool co-leaders**; **Bible story tellers** (*to teach the day's main lesson*); **Bible challenge leaders** (*to help students memorize Scripture*); **Craft coordinator**; **Games leader**; **Snacks coordinator**. Other positions are needed as well, as listed on the staff recruitment form. When you have filled out the form, return it to the narthex in the box marked for this purpose. And thank you for the role you play in leading Jesus' little lambs into the arms of their Good Shepherd.

LUTHERAN WITNESS RENEWAL – It's time to renew your subscription to the Lutheran Witness for the year. To subscribe or renew your subscription, **simply place \$16.00 in an envelope**, along with your name and address, and place it in the Sunday collection plate or bring it to the church office. **Deadline for subscriptions is May 15th**.

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.

CHURCH LIBRARY – The church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary, is growing to contain a lot of excellent books that will edify your faith. 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. Please check out the selection. To borrow a book, just take it with you, and then return it to the basket when you've finished reading.

PIERSTORF MEMORIAL LOAN FUND – provides interest-free loans to Lutheran students who are or will be enrolled full time in a four-year undergraduate program at any accredited college or university. For more information, visit www.Pierstorf.org and complete the 2022-2023 application. Applications open April 15, 2022 and close June 30, 2022.

INTERESTED IN A CHURCH PROFESSION? WE'D LIKE TO HELP! Recently a number of young people from St. John have pursued educational goals to prepare them for full-time service as teachers and pastors. If you are interested in a church profession (*as a pastor, deaconess, teacher, lay minister, or a Director of Christian Education, Christian Outreach, Parish Music, or Family Life Ministry*), our congregation would like to support you by offering a tuition gift. An application for this gift is available online --- type www.sjl.org/student_gift_app.pdf into your browser (*there is no link*) and fill out the application. Deadline for fall enrollment is June 1st.

PRESCHOOL GRADUATION will be **Tues., May 17th** at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. This ceremony is for the 3-yr old and 4/5-yr old classes. Everyone is invited to this big day for the preschoolers. There will be a program followed by light refreshments.

ENROLLMENT FOR PRESCHOOL: The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2022-23 school year. Anyone interested in enrolling your child in our preschool program should contact the school office at 419-598-8702 to request an enrollment packet. **We have opened the registration up to the public, so be sure to register soon.** There is a non-refundable \$30 fee that must accompany your registration paperwork. The School Board approved rates for the 2022-2023 school year are: 3-yr old Preschool - \$100/month; 4/5-yr old Preschool - \$250/month.

POSITION OPENINGS:

- St. John Lutheran School is seeking a **preschool teacher aide** (3-yr class) for Wednesday and Friday mornings next school year. Applicant must have experience with preschool-age children, obtain a background check, and supply three references.
- St. John Lutheran School is seeking a part-time **school custodian** position for next school year.
- St John Lutheran School is seeking a **long term sub teacher for kindergarten**. Our current teacher will be taking a maternity leave beginning the first week of September. Applicant must have a valid teaching certificate, obtain a background check, and supply three references.
- St. John Lutheran School is asking for your help as we are seeking names for consideration for the **Principal position** and the **7th & 8th Grade Teacher position** for the 2022-2023 school year. Pastor Kramer (Principal) and Pat Kramer (Grade 7&8 Teacher) will both be leaving us at the end of the current 2021-2022 school year. Requirements for the jobs are: Must have a Bachelor degree in education, obtain a background check, supply three references, and adhere to the St. John Lutheran Church and School religious beliefs. If you have names please call the school office at 419-598-8702.

To set up an interview for any of these positions, please contact the school office at 419-598-8702.

ST. JOHN GIRLS B-BALL OPEN GYMS: Coach Schroeder will be holding open gyms for girls who are going into Grades K-6 next school year. These will be held at St. John from 1:00 – 2:30 PM on the following dates: **June 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22; July 12, 13, 19, 20**. Flyers with more information are available on the narthex table. Any questions...Call Coach Schroeder at 419-591-6655.

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 at 7:30 AM; **Napoleon's WNDH 103.1 at 9:00 AM.**

GOT SOME TIME? Why not be an adult volunteer at St. John School. You could listen to children read, talk about your time in the military, work with flash cards, or tell children about a hobby or craft you enjoy doing. The possibilities are endless and your time with them will be priceless!

If you would be interested in volunteering in the next school year, please call the school office at 419-598-8702 and give us your name and a contact number. The school will contact you. Thank you in advance for thinking about volunteering at our school.

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 Niermann a call, and we'll see what we can do!

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. 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 of the receivers. At the end of the service, unplug the ear bud to take with you until the next time.

THANK YOU FOR OUTDOOR EDUCATION: Grades 5&6 would like to thank the PTL, Thrivent Action Team, and especially Mr. Petzoldt for the great experience we had at Outdoor Education last week. Mr. Petzoldt, Todd, Eric, and Kurtis were phenomenal in making this altered Outdoor Ed experience one we will remember for a long time. You went "above and beyond" to make it so fun and yet educational. Thank you ever so much!

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN will Fri., **May 27th** with early dismissal at 2:00 PM. Closing Day festivities include: Closing chapel at 12:40 PM; as well as Kindergarten graduation, awards, prizes. All parents are welcome to come. This is for students in Kindergarten through Grade 7. Academic Awards will be handed out as well as other awards. **Please note: This service will include Kindergarten Graduation.**

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH – LIBERTY CTR is hosting a **Chicken BBQ dinner today** with serving from 11:30 AM until 1:30 PM at the church located at 8074 County Road T, Liberty Ctr. It is a Drive-thru only. Menu: ½ chicken, baked beans, chips, coleslaw, cookie. Cost is \$10.

RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPT. AUXILIARY will be hosting a Drive Thru Chicken BBQ on Sun., May 15 at the Ridgeville Fire Station. Serving begins at 11:00 AM until gone. Menu consists of: ½ Chicken, sides, and cookie. Freewill offering. Come; support your local Fire Department.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Don't believe everything you think.

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death." Prov 14:12