

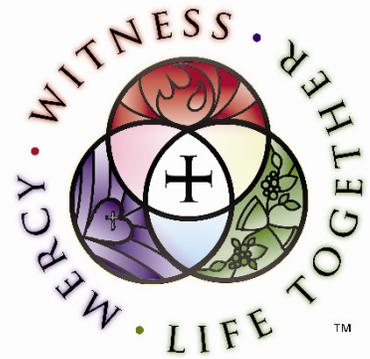
# ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

16035 County Road U

Napoleon, Ohio 43545

Church: (419) 598-8961

School: (419) 598-8702



## News & Notes

May 17, 2020

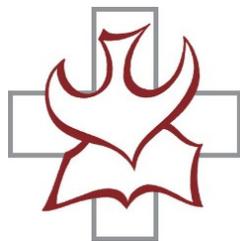
During these unusual days of pandemic, we will not be preparing the regular church bulletin, but will instead make this '*News & Notes*' page available weekly on the website. In addition, paper copies of this page will be available on Tuesdays outside the church office for anyone coming in to drop off an offering.



### LITURGICAL SETTING FOR SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

One theme that arises from the readings for this Sixth Sunday of Easter is the work of the Holy Spirit guiding Christians to make a defense of their faith. In the Gospel, Jesus promises his disciples the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, the truth they will come to confess boldly. In the Epistle, Peter encourages Christians to make a defense of the hope that they have. And in the First Reading, Paul offers a defense of his teachings on the Areopagus.

Another theme, much less prominent, is found in the Verse and the appointed Psalm for the day. In Psalm 66, the psalmist praises God for bringing his people through trials. Likewise, in the Verse, Christ's resurrection gives Christians hope in the midst of tribulation. This sermon study, based on the Epistle, will join these two themes by focusing on how the death and resurrection of Christ referenced in the second half of the text (*1 Pet 3:18-22*) give Christians confidence to witness in the midst of the suffering discussed in the first part of the text (*3:13-17*).



### CONFIRMATION SUNDAY - June 7th, 10:00 a.m. service

**The Rite of Confirmation for our junior catechumens will take place this year on Sunday, June 7th in the 10:00 a.m. service.** In the meantime, these young people will be preparing with Pastor Niermann by writing Statements of Faith, studying the Small Catechism on "The Sacrament of the Altar" and by answering questions from all sections of the Small Catechism. Please pray for them as they make their final preparations for Confirmation and their first Communion.



**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 and Arlene Gerken*, at Assisted Living – Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Harold Behrmann*, at Fulton Manor – Wauseon
- ❖ *Donald Badenhop*, now residing at Vancrest Assisted Living – 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*
- ❖ *Dale VonDeylen*, brother of Deb Durham and Dave VonDeylen, who is currently undergoing cancer treatments

**BIRTHDAY WISHES!** Clara Meyer is celebrating her 95th birthday today, May 17th. Her family is so grateful to God for her life and blessings. Cards of well wishes may be sent to Clara at 1435 Taylor Dr., Napoleon 43545. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CLARA!

**A NOTE OF THANKS:** The family of *Dorothy Gerken* would like to thank everyone for their warm thoughts, prayers, and cards following Dorothy’s passing. A big thanks to the live stream and recording team for making the service available for everyone to attend and watch (*we have received many compliments regarding this*). We would especially like to thank the Women of Freedom, the Church Elders, and Pastor for all of their visits with Dorothy during her time at Genacross Lutheran Home. She truly appreciated each and every one of them. God’s Blessings to all of you!

**MRS. HALEY O’NEIL ACCEPTS CALL TO TEACH** - Great news! Haley (*Gruenhagen*) O’Neil has accepted our call to teach in the 3rd and 4th grade, replacing long-time teacher and servant of souls, Mr. Lowell Petzoldt. Details about her arrival, installation and welcome will be forthcoming. Please watch for updates, and let’s give thanks to God for supplying our need.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 05/10/20	\$10,940.00	\$505.00	\$65.00

**YOUTH CENTER DONATION UPDATE** – Donations to the Youth Center have continued to come in over the past 4-5 months. Here is where donations stand to date: 82 bricks have been purchased with donations of \$12,940.00. Total donations (*including the brick donations*) stands at \$106,519.84.

**OFFERINGS DURING THIS TIME** – 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!

There are three ways we suggest giving your gifts during this time especially...

- Use our new ‘**Give Now**’ online giving page – a link is on our website
- Mail your offerings to the church
- Drop off your offerings on Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to noon, outside the church office

**More detailed information is available on the “Sustaining Ministry” document online.**



**GETTING BACK TO WORSHIP** – At the last meeting of the Church Council and Elders it was decided that we would target the first week of June to resume public worship services as follows:

- **Thursday, June 4th at 7:00 p.m.**
- **Sunday, June 7th at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.**



By having three identical services each week, we hope to keep our numbers down at any one service, to better conform to government guidelines for group gatherings. In the letter to the congregation, you can read about many protocols we are putting in place to help mitigate the spread of viruses.

In addition, we will continue to make service recordings available on Sunday mornings by 9:00 a.m. We will record the Thursday evening service for that purpose.

Also, we are purchasing an FM transmitter so that we can broadcast services to the parking lot. This will permit people at higher risk, as well as those who are initially uncomfortable with public gatherings, to come to the church and listen to the service on their car the radios. If we need to restrict the number of people gathered for worship, the overflow crowd could listen this way as well.



**RESUMING COMMUNION** - First week of June

**Our souls are parched, but the Sacramental fast is soon ending!** At its meeting last Tuesday, the church council revised their original decision about resuming Holy Communion.

**We now plan to resume Communion the first week of June in all three services** - Thursday, June 4th at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, June 7th at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. **The Rite of Confirmation will take place in the 10:00 a.m. service.** These plans will permit the 2020 Confirmation

Class to receive their first Communion together during the same service in which they are confirmed, as we have traditionally done.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT UPDATE**

The St. John “Maskateers” have been hard and work, and their project of sewing protective face masks for the community, to be distributed by the Henry County Health Department, is nearly complete. They will have sewn some 300 of these masks. What a joy it is to be a blessing to the community in this way.



Now the “Maskateers” are turning their attention to Phase 2 of this project, sewing masks for our own congregation, so that when we resume public services, everyone will have access to a mask. Thanks again to this group of ladies for their dedication and service.

**ONLINE SERVICES FROM ST. JOHN**

- Online services will be made available on **Sundays by 9:00 a.m.**
- Be sure to access the service PDF files so that you can follow along with each service
- Links for all these worship resources will be made available on **sjl.org** and on our Facebook page.



## **NEW PROCEDURES FOR HOLY COMMUNION**

When we resume Holy Communion during the first week of June, there will be new procedures and protocols in place as follows:

- **For the Altar Guild** - Members of the Altar Guild will be following very specific protocols for the safe preparation of the Communion vessels and elements, including hand washing, masks, sanitizing, etc.
- **For Pastor and Assistant** - Both the pastor and the Communion assistant will thoroughly wash their hands immediately prior to the distribution, and will wear masks.
- **For Communicants inside the Sanctuary** - We will form a single line in the middle aisle starting with worshipers on the pulpit side, maintaining appropriate distancing in the aisle. We will come forward to the front of the aisle to receive the host (the bread) from the pastor, then turn toward "your side" of the sanctuary to receive an individual cup of wine. The empty cup can then be deposited in the basket, and you may return to your pew by the side aisle. For more specific protocols, please refer to the recent congregational letter.
- **For Communicants in their cars listening to the FM broadcast** - At the end of the service, worshipers in the sanctuary will be dismissed and immediately head outside. Once they have cleared the building, a station for Communion will be set up under the carport, and an announcement will be made that those in their cars can begin driving through to receive Communion. The flow will be from south to north, from the parking lot toward the old school building.



**2019 CHURCH'S ANNUAL REPORT:** The 2019 Annual Report is now available. Thank you for your patience. Copies can be picked up from the table outside the office or on the desk in the narthex. There will be more printed and available next Tuesday. Thanks to everyone for your information submitted to be included in this report.

## **OLD SCHOOL WORK DAY, SATURDAY, MAY 30 --- We need your help!**

We are nearing completion of the Old School renovation, but a few things remain to be done. A few significant donations have been made for the completion of this project which we hope will inspire us to do what we can to donate our sweat equity and save costs. **WE COULD USE YOUR HELP!**

**A work day has been scheduled for Saturday, May 30th**, for putting in a footer tile for improved drainage. The excavation is being contracted, but we need help with:

- 1) Hauling dirt away a few miles using our trucks or trailers;
- 2) Scraping dirt from the foundation walls after excavation;
- 3) Laying the footer tile;
- 4) Spreading out a base layer of stone; and
- 5) Power washing the foundation walls using our own power sprayers and hoses.

The old saying goes, "Many hands make light work." No, this proverb is NOT in the Bible, but it's true nonetheless! **Please plan on joining us on Saturday, May 30.**