

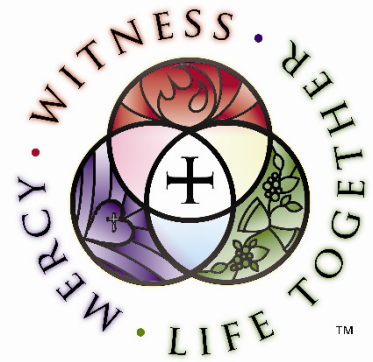
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

16035 County Road U

Napoleon, Ohio 43545

Church: (419) 598-8961

School: (419) 598-8702



News & Notes

May 31, 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.



PENTECOST SUNDAY

Just as Pentecost was a fulfillment of the Old Testament Word prophecies (today's Introit and Old Testament Reading) and of the Word Incarnate (the Gospel reading), so, too, are worship services throughout the world a fulfillment of Jesus' promise and therefore each a mini Pentecost, if you will, as people hear the Gospel, "the mighty works of God," in their own tongues (Second Reading, Acts 2:11).

In the liturgy of the church, people receive living water through the Gospel in the Absolution, in the reading of Scripture, in the preaching of the Word, and in Holy Communion. As they are refreshed and renewed by this living water, out of their hearts the Holy Spirit will cause to "flow rivers of living water" (Jn 7:38). Worshipers are then sent forth with God's benediction as they go out into the world. As with the Christians of the Early Church, they will have opportunity in the midst of their vocations to love their neighbor and speak about Jesus, the living water, repeating what they have learned from their pastor.



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY – Next Sunday, late 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 are 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.

8th GRADE GRADUATION CEREMONY - The 8th Grade Graduation will take place in the sanctuary on Sat., June 6th at 7 PM. We ask that family members only attend this ceremony to allow for safe social distancing. The 8th Grade graduates for 2019-2020 are: *Brooks Behnfeldt, Landon Bockelman, Emersyn Gerken, and Ian Gurney.*



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
- ❖ *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*
- ❖ *Harold Behrmann*, hospitalized this week at the Toledo Hospital, with health complications
- ❖ *Cathy Gerken*, now recovering at home after a sudden surgery was required
- ❖ *Rodney Rosebrock*, undergoing a heart ablation at Cleveland Clinic on June 1st

A SINCERE THANKS: The family of *Eldor Gruenhagen* would like to thank everyone for their prayers, kind words, and cards following Eldor’s passing. We would especially like to thank Pastor Niermann for all his visits with Eldor during his stay at Genacross Lutheran Home. That meant the world to him. God’s Blessings to all the St. John family!

MANY THANKS TO THE RECORDING CREW who has been so faithful about coming to recording sessions so that everyone can watch on Sunday mornings. Thanks especially to *Dan Wachtman* for all of his technical expertise and for helping us to continually improve the quality of our recordings, to those who provided singing (*Sharon Damman, Anita Badenhop, Megan Badenhop, Eric & Teresa Weller and Maggie Weller, and Beth Niermann*), and to *Renee Petzoldt* for the beautiful music she prepares for our edification. Well done, crew! We have received very positive feedback about our recordings, and we owe a great debt of gratitude to all who made it possible.

OLD SCHOOL WORK DAY YESTERDAY

Thank you to everyone who helped at the workday yesterday at the old school. Tremendous progress was made toward completion! Well done, good and faithful servants of Christ!

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.



CONGRATULATIONS TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FROM ST. JOHN

– We give thanks to God for your successful completion of high school, and pray that God will bless you in all your ways. 2020 high school graduates from St. John are: **Lydia Babcock, Brooks Behnfeldt, Caleb Bockelman, Emily Bostelman, Bailey Johnson, Colin Johnson, Tyne Rosebrock, Maggie Weller, and Landon Willeman**. God be with you all, and congratulations from everyone here at St. John Lutheran!



ONLINE SERVICES FROM ST. JOHN – Starting this week, we will be video recording the Thursday evening services, and making the video available for viewing the following Sunday morning 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 available on sjl.org and on our Facebook page.

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.

HELP WITH MOWING – We are looking for volunteer help for mowing the south field of the church property (the old softball fields). Volunteers may of course use the church mower, or can bring their own mower, if preferred. This job typically needs to be done once a week early in the season, and then as needed throughout the summer. If you could help with this, please contact the church office at 419-598-8961.



**If you cannot sing like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can serve the Savior’s kingdom, You can mow from spring to fall.**

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 05/24/20	\$5,870.00	\$145.00	\$260.00

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT UPDATE



The St. John “Maskateers” are still hard at work, turning out face masks for both the community and for our congregation. It appears that face masks will be part of the “new normal” of our lives for a while to come, so these masks will be a blessing to many.

When we resume worship, you will see these masks available in the narthex, in children’s and adult sizes and in lots of patterns. They are yours for the taking, but once you claim one, it is yours. Wash it and use it over and over, and let’s help prevent the spread of this virus.

• **THANKS FROM THE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

We received the following note from the Henry County Health Department: *Dear St. John Lutheran Church, We would like to thank you so much for your donation of face masks. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. The masks will be to great use by our customers and employees. Thank you again for your kindness.*



WEARING MASKS WHEN WE RETURN TO WORSHIP

We are reading in the news of cases where people, are resisting, sometimes violently, wearing face masks in public. If you are of a mind that face masks are unnecessary for your own protection, that's okay, **BUT we ask everyone to remember that love's first duty is not to ourselves but to our neighbor, to "help and support them in every physical need."** (Explanation, 5th Commandment) This is one of those times that calls for us to heed the Scripture, "*In humility count others more significant than yourselves.*" (Phil 2:3) Consideration of others is the main thing!

We ask everyone to please consider wearing a mask into worship, at least until you find your seat in the pews and are a safe distance from others. It is advisable to wear them again when exiting the church.

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, our goal is to keep our numbers lower 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 will be back to our normal schedule for Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays of each month, but with a revised procedure spelled out in the "New Communion Procedures" announcement in this edition of News & Notes.

We have purchased an FM transmitter so that we can live broadcast our Sunday 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 radio. For more information about listening to the FM broadcast, see the following announcement.

LISTENING TO WORSHIP IN THE PARKING LOT – If you would like to listen to the live FM broadcast of our Sunday worship services in the parking lot, please read the following:

- **Please come to worship by driving through the carport as normal**, north to south. A deacon will be ready to hand you a bulletin. If you downloaded the bulletin and service file before coming, you can access those from your device instead.
- **Find your parking space anywhere in the parking lot.** Consider leaving closer parking spaces for those who are entering the building.
- **Tune your FM radio** to the right frequency, which will be made available soon.
- **Communion for the parking lot worshipers** will be available after the late service on the first and third Sundays of each month. Procedures for this are spelled out in the "New Communion Procedures" announcement in this edition of News & Notes.





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 and parking lot, 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.



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.

2019 CHURCH'S ANNUAL REPORT: Copies can be picked up from the table outside the office or on the desk in the narthex.