



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

June 7, 2020

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NO. 23

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

THE HOLY TRINITY

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: **905 ~ 948**, stz. 1,5 ~ [Communion: **599, 805, 507**] ~ **506**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

A warm welcome to all, especially friends and relatives of our Confirmation Class. If you are visiting with us this morning, help us get to know you better by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the basket at the exit doors as you leave today. You can also register your name in the Guest Book in the Narthex and introduce yourself to the Pastor.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠

✠ Neil Badenhop, Tom Von Deylen, Doug Dietrich, Joe Badenhop, *Ushers* ✠

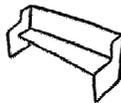
✠ Anita Badenhop, Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Deb Durham, *Altar Guild* ✠

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed by this year's Confirmation Class and they are listed below in the bulletin.

FLOWERS ON THE PIANO are placed in celebration of the 25th Wedding Anniversary of Larry & Krista Gerken. They were married here at St. John by Pastor Kenneth Schroeder on June 10, 1995. Congratulations to Larry & Krista and God's blessings on many, many more years of happiness!

PEW COLOR DESIGNATIONS FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Thursday evenings - **RED** pews
- Sunday early service - **RED** pews
- Sunday late service - **BLUE** pews



In God's House This Week		Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl
Date	Time	Activities
Today	8:30AM & 10:00AM	Communion Service (both); Confirmation Service @ 10:00 AM
Tue.	7:00 PM	Church Council Meeting
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship
Sun.	8:30AM & 10:00AM	◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ Father's Day ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ Worship Service with Communion following
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Lee Genter</i> , Christ Our Savior Lutheran – Defiance

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*, has returned to Fulton Manor, Wauseon, for recuperation
- ❖ Thanksgiving on behalf of *Brenda Kruse, Colton, Landen, and Trenton*, who were spared serious injuries in a car accident this week

TODAY IS CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

The Rite of Confirmation for our junior catechumens will take place in the 10:00 a.m. service. These young people have been preparing themselves in these past weeks by reviewing the Small Catechism, with a special focus on the sixth part of doctrine, the *Sacrament of the Altar*. They were examined on Thursday evening and each presented a statement of their Christian faith based on the confirmation verses they had selected. They now present themselves at the altar to confirm their baptismal faith in Christ, and to join us as communicant members of the church. Please pray that the faith begun at the baptismal font and nurtured in their years of catechesis may continue to grow and be strengthened in them, unto life everlasting! This year's confirmands are: **Brooks Behnfeldt, Devin Dietrich, Emersyn Gerken, Colton Kruse, Landen Kruse, Trenton Kruse, and Jared Lange**. Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2020!



8th GRADE GRADUATION CEREMONY - The 8th Grade Graduation took place in the sanctuary yesterday at 7 PM. The 8th Grade graduates for 2019-2020 are: *Brooks Behnfeldt, Landon Bockelman, Emersyn Gerken, and Ian Gurney*. We thank God for the Christian education that each of these young adults received at our school.

A BIG THANK YOU! Cathy Gerken would like to thank everyone for all the prayers and cards received during her recent hospitalization and surgery. It was so kind and supportive of everyone. She is doing better and getting stronger each day. Thanks again!

MANY THANKS: Clara Meyer says “Thank You!” to all who called or sent cards and well wishes for her 95th birthday, and to Pastor Niermann for his greeting and prayer. The celebration went on for two weeks!

THURSDAY SERVICES HAVE BEGUN! Each Thursday service will be a preview of the coming Sunday. The Sacrament of the Altar will be celebrated on the Thursdays prior to the regular Communion Sundays. **ALSO TO BE NOTED:** With Thursday night services starting, bulletin announcements must be turned in to the office by Wednesday of each week in order to be included in the Thursday and Sunday bulletin. Please make note of this. Thank 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.

THANKS FOR YOUR DEDICATED SERVICE: St. John Lutheran School wishes to thank these staff members who will not be returning next school year.

- ♥ Mrs. Valerie Rice - has been our preschool teacher for three years. She has creatively led the small children to the knowledge of Jesus, as well as preparing them for their next level of education.
- ♥ Mrs. Mary DeWit will be retiring as our school aide. She helped students in math, reading, and also taught art in the upper grades. Mrs. DeWit could also be seen out on the playground as the recess aide.
- ♥ Mr. Lowell Petzoldt - is retiring after 44 years of service to God all of which have been teaching at St. John Lutheran School. He taught all subjects in the third and fourth grade classes. He also led students in learning about wetland habitats, making salsa, and constructed many Mother's day projects with his students.

THANK YOU ALL FOR THE LOVE AND CARE YOU HAVE GIVEN OUR STUDENTS.

A NOTE ABOUT OFFERINGS – 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! If you will not be returning to public services for a while yet, you can give your offering in one of these ways:

- For those listening to the FM parking lot broadcast, you may 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 offerings to the church.
- Drop off your offerings on Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to noon, outside the church office.

RESUMING WORSHIP DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC – As we return to public services, a number of protocols have been put in place to help mitigate the spread of any viruses among us. These are in line with recommendations from the CDC, as well as the Ohio Dept. of Health and the Henry County Health Dept.



COVID-19

1. Those who are at high risk for severe illness should not attend until they are completely comfortable doing so, based on the best information available.
2. We will continue to record services and make them available on our YouTube channel on Sunday mornings by 9:00 a.m.
3. An FM transmission of our services is available in the church parking lot, with drive-thru Communion offered after the late service on Communion Sundays. Worshipers can drive through the carport before worship to pick up a bulletin and service folder.
4. We are resuming worship with three weekly services to keep our numbers down --- Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. All services will be identical.
5. There will be no Sunday School or Bible study gatherings for the time being.
6. All services will be held in the sanctuary to allow more room for social distancing.
7. **We will respect each other by adhering to all social distancing requirements.**
8. Pews are marked with colored masking tape. Thursday evenings - RED pews; Sunday early service – RED; Sunday late service – BLUE
9. Sanitizing of the sanctuary will take place between services.
10. Hand sanitizer will be available in the narthex, or you are encouraged to bring your own.
11. Bulletins and orders of service will not be handed out, but picked up in the narthex.
12. Offerings may be given at the sanctuary entrance doors - no offering plates will be passed.
13. Pastor and greeters will not be greeting before or after worship.
14. Communion will be celebrated as usual on the first and third Sundays, as well as on Thursday evenings prior to those Sundays. Safety Protocols will be announced.
15. Worshipers will be asked to remain in the sanctuary end of the building and not use other parts of the building.
16. We will dismiss from worship one pew at a time, starting at the back, and head immediately to the parking lot - no congregating in the narthex.

A SPECIAL WORD ABOUT MASKS: We strongly encourage wearing face masks in the church, especially when social distancing is difficult. If wearing a mask feels awkward to you, consider at least wearing one as you enter and exit the church, and removing it during worship when you are distanced from others. Thank you for your consideration! Face masks are more for the protection of others than ourselves, a Fifth Commandment matter of helping and supporting our neighbor in every physical need.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 05/31/20	\$2,965.00	\$20.00	\$260.00

NEW PROCEDURES FOR HOLY COMMUNION

To guard against the spread of any viruses, there is for the time being a new procedure in place for Holy Communion:

- **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 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 on the radio 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.



OLD SCHOOL RENOVATION – Much progress has been made at the old school building, even during these days of pandemic. Most recently a wonderful crew of men spent the day digging around the foundation so that a footer tile could be laid to improve drainage. Next up will be the forming and pouring of concrete sidewalks around the building, and the excavation for a stone parking area around the building. **Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered their time and service. They are saving the congregation a large amount of financial resources, and helping to bring this project to completion!**

Donations can still be made using the information on the brochures in the narthex, or along with your regular offering envelope.

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 through 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, And mow from spring to fall.**



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!

WOMEN OF FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIPS: Here is another opportunity to encourage and help young people prepare for service to the church as pastors, teachers, lay workers, deaconesses, and parish workers. \$500 per year Women of Freedom Scholarships are available to any young person attending one of our synodical schools. Simply contact any Women of Freedom member for more details about this.

HELP US KEEP UPDATED RECORDS – With the advent of cell phones, keeping current contact information is an issue for every organization these days, including the church. When people move or get a new phone number, they often don't think to update that information with us, often leaving us with no way to contact them for ministry related matters. So please, if you move or get a new phone number, contact the church office or make a note of it on the *Rite of Fellowship Card* and help us keep our records as up-to-date as possible.

LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BULLETINS are available on the table in the narthex. The Children's Bulletins are coordinated with the Bible texts for each Sunday, and provide activities that tie in with the weekly themes. Pick one up today for your child.

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 FM at 7:30 AM; Napoleon's WNDH 103.1 FM at 9:00 AM; Fort Wayne's WOWO 1190 AM at 10:30 AM.

SAVE THE DATE: St. John School will once again be participating in the **Hawks Pizza & Drive Thru Community Days fundraiser. The date is Sat., Sept. 12, 2020.** 10% of that entire day's food sales will be donated back to St. John School. We were a part of this fundraiser last year and were given the opportunity again. We thank Hawks Pizza for thinking of us again. Plan your day around pizza, subs, pasta, salads, etc.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL & SUMMER: There will be no Sunday School for June, July, and August. There will be more updates regarding the resumption of Sunday School as the summer progresses.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS: Please note the church office hours during the month of June are Tuesday thru Friday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Closed over the lunch hour and all day on Mondays. If making a special trip, please call (419-598-8961) to guarantee someone will be here. Thank you!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

The best reformers of the world are those who begin with themselves.

"How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye, when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?'" Matt 7:4