



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

June 14, 2020

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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

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon Title & Text: "I Brought You To Myself" *Exodus 19:2-8*
Order of Service: *Service of Prayer & Preaching, LSB pg. 260*
Hymns: **791 ~ 684 ~ 727 ~ 739**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome in the name of the Lord. We pray that through this time of stillness and song, prayer and proclamation, you may experience the Spirit of God at work in your life. If you do not have a local church home, we extend a warm invitation to you to become a part of our church family. Simply fill out the 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. Your presence is a blessing to us.

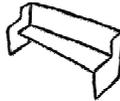


SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠
- ✠ Neil Badenhop, Tom Von Deylen, Doug Dietrich, Joe Badenhop, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Anita Badenhop, Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Deb Durham, *Altar Guild* ✠

PEW COLOR DESIGNATIONS FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING

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



THANK YOU TO OUR CHURCH LAWN MOWING CREW! We are grateful that **Ron Germann** and **Joe Badenhop** have volunteered to help mow the south lawn of the church (*the ball fields*) until a replacement is found. Thank you to **Stan Gerken** who has been mowing the south fields for the past 6 years! We are also thankful to God for those who continue to serve as volunteer lawn mowers - **Tim Badenhop** who has been mowing for 3 years, and **Dave Myles** who incredibly has been mowing for thirty-plus years! Thank you, gentlemen, for your service to us all and for the great job you do in keeping the grounds beautiful around this house of God!



| In God's House This Week | | Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Date | Time | Activities |
| Today | 8:30AM & 10:00AM | Worship Service with Communion following |
| Thurs. | 7:00 PM | Thursday Evening Worship |
| Sun. | 8:30AM & 10:00AM | ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ Father's Day ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ Communion Service |
| Mon.- Sat. | 7:30 AM | Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Kurt Mews</i> , St. John Lutheran - Defiance |

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 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
- ❖ *Arlene Wallace, Dennis & Rhonda Bockelman*, who mourn the recent passing of their son and brother, Bruce Flory
- ❖ *Jakob Andrzejewski*, who today at Historic Trinity Lutheran in Detroit is being ordained into the holy ministry. May God make his ministry fruitful for Christ's kingdom

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!

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.

CEMETERY CEMENT FOOTERS – At its meeting last Tuesday, the Church Council voted to proceed with pouring the final section of the cement footers at a cost of \$15,750. This pouring will complete both back rows of the southern section of our cemetery. It was essential that this matter be addressed immediately because at this time there are footers for only two more graves. We would like to thank *Ben Kruse* (Cemetery Sexton) for his many years of taking care of the finer details of operating our cemetery. Council decided that funds for this project would be taken from the *Building Fund* (instead of borrowing). Please keep this in mind as you direct your gifts and offerings.

The Council also discussed the plot price, which at this time does not even cover the cost of the concrete footers. This matter will be revisited at the next Church Council meeting.

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.

| <u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u> | Home Fund | Synod & Missions | Building Fund |
|--------------------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|
| Weekly Need | \$9,792.78 | \$500.00 | \$961.54 |
| Rec'd 06/07/20 | \$21,068.00 | \$210.00 | \$580.00 |

ATTENDANCE: Thursday - 37; Sunday Early - 78; Sunday Late – 123

MEMORIALS for *Dorothy Gerken*: St. John Lutheran Church Memorial Fund - \$775; St. John Lutheran Church Endowment Fund – Capital Projects - \$775; Lutheran Hour Ministries - \$350; Grace Hospice - \$350

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.

POSITION OPEN: *Mr. Ben Majewski* taught at St. John Lutheran School for four years. He has taken another teaching position closer to his home in Monroe, MI. We wish Mr. Majewski the Lord's blessing in his future. St. John School is seeking a junior high teacher with an emphasis in science and math. The individual must have a four-year college degree, have a background check and furnish references. Please call 419-598-8702 if you are interested or know of anyone interested.

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. Please stay at home if you are exhibiting any symptoms of a cold or flu, or if you are even remotely suspicious that you have had contact with someone else who exhibits these types of symptoms. You should self-quarantine for at least 14 days.
2. “Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions” (per CDC) should consider themselves ‘high risk’ for serious illness, and should not return to public services until they are completely comfortable doing so, and be very careful when they do so.
3. We will continue to record services and make them available on our YouTube channel on Sunday mornings by 9:00 a.m.
4. An FM transmission of our services is available in the church parking lot. Worshipers can drive through the carport before worship to pick up a bulletin and service folder. Drivethru Communion will be offered after Communion services on the first and third Sundays. Worshipers should wait for the parking lot to clear a bit. The flow will be northward from the parking lot toward the old school.
5. 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.
6. There will be no Sunday School or Bible study gatherings for the time being.
7. All services will be held in the sanctuary to allow more room for social distancing.
8. We will respect each other by adhering to all social distancing requirements.
9. Pews are marked with colored masking tape. Thursday evenings - RED pews; Sunday early service – RED; Sunday late service – BLUE
10. Sanitizing of the sanctuary will take place between services.
11. Hand sanitizer will be available in the narthex, or you are encouraged to bring your own.
12. Bulletins and orders of service will not be handed out, but picked up in the narthex.
13. Offerings may be given at the sanctuary entrance doors - no offering plates will be passed.
14. Pastor and greeters will not be greeting before or after worship.
15. 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.
16. Worshipers will be asked to remain in the sanctuary end of the building and not use other parts of the building.
17. 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 in the pews. 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.

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.

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...

Arguing with a fool shows there are two.

“Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself.” Prov 26:4

AS WE GATHER – Second Sunday after Pentecost

This first Sunday after the festival half of the church year picks up with God's work of redemption, through the ministry of the apostles, in order to make us his kingdom of priests. The *Epistle* recalls the genealogy of death brought on by Adam's sin, such that by this first man's act of disobedience, all human nature fell into sin. Sin, further, leads to death. But Christ breaks the lineage of sin brought on by Adam and brings forth a new lineage of righteousness and life. This new lineage is begotten spiritually through the ministry of the apostles (*Gospel*), recorded in the Scriptures, and still carried out by the Church's ministers. As those begotten into new life by Christ's ministers, the Church becomes a new kingdom of priests, glorifying God and bearing witness to his salvation (*Old Testament Reading*).

