



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

June 21, 2020

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Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor  
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

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School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339  
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### THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon Title & Text: "The Praises of a Trapped Prophet" *Jeremiah 20:7-13*

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: Early: 837 ~ 586 ~ [Communion: 570, 783] ~ 744

Late: 837 ~ [Baptism: Borning Cry, 588] ~ 586 ~ [Communion: 570, 783] ~ 744

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### A PRAYER UPON ENTERING CHURCH

*Happy Father's Day!... and a special, grateful welcome to all fathers this morning. We bless and cherish you for the strong, reliable and confident provider you have been or continue to be to your families. We salute you in the name of our Lord. If you are visiting us today simply fill out the blue 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.*

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### **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* ✠

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are placed today in celebration of the baptism of *Beau William Bostelman* by the family. May God bless Beau and his family on this, his **big** day!

**BAPTISM IN SUNDAY LATE SERVICE** – This weekend, worshipers at the late Sunday service will witness the baptism of **Beau William Bostelman**, son of **Scott & Megan Bostelman**. Beau was born on January 30 at the Henry County Hospital. His sponsors are Joe Badenhop and Jana Bostelman. Beau's grandparents are Neil & Anita Badenhop, and Rod & Jeri Bostelman. God begins a good work in this child through this holy washing. We pray that by the faithfulness of parents and family, God's saving work in Beau would be brought to completion on the day of Jesus Christ when all believers in Christ receive the promised inheritance of Christ's eternal kingdom.



In God's House This Week		Online church calendar: <a href="http://www.DynaCal.com/sjl">www.DynaCal.com/sjl</a>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	8:30AM & 10:00AM	♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ Father's Day ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ <b>Worship Services with Communion following</b>
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tues.	7:00 PM	Shepherd Committee Meeting
Thurs.	7:00 PM	<b>Thursday Evening Worship</b>
Fri.	6:30 PM	Wedding Rehearsal – <i>Buchhop / Wentworth</i>
Sat.	3:30 PM	Wedding Ceremony – <i>Nathan Buchhop / Kaylee Wentworth</i>
Sun.	8:30AM & 10:00AM	<b>Communion Service (both)</b>
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Dale Kern</i> , retired, St. John Lutheran – Stryker

**FOR THOSE LISTENING FROM THE PARKING LOT**

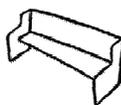
Pick up your bulletin and service by driving through the carport before worship  
 You can give your offering to the deacon at the same time  
 Tune your FM radio to 87.7  
 Drive-thru Communion after worship under carport

**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
- ❖ *Harold Behrmann*, returned to Fulton Manor, Wauseon, for recuperation
- ❖ *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 & Dorinda Damman*, who mourn the passing of Dorinda's father, Harvey Russell
- ❖ *Nathan Buchhop & Kaylee Wentworth*, who will be joined in marriage next Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. May God bless their union as husband and wife!

**PEW COLOR DESIGNATIONS FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING**

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



<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 06/14/20	\$10,560.00	\$285.00	\$775.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Thursday - 55; Sunday Early - 62; Sunday Late – 43

**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!

**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*). As they are currently on the Cemetery Committee also, they are asking for possibly one or two volunteers to help with mowing the cemetery grounds periodically. Please call the church office at 419-598-8961 if you feel the urge to help out with the summer mowing. Thank you!



**CEMETERY CEMENT FOOTERS** – At its last meeting on June 9, 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. It was also 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.

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

**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.

**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 forming and pouring of concrete sidewalks around the building, and 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.**

**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. Drive thru 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.

**STAFFING UPDATE:** St. John Lutheran School has had five staff members leave us this year. *Mrs. Mary DeWit* and *Mr. Lowell Petzoldt* have retired. *Mrs. Valerie Rice* has chosen to leave as our preschool teacher, along with her husband, *Mr. Nick Rice*, as our janitor. *Mr. Ben Majewski* has taken employment at a school closer to his home in Monroe, MI.

The following individuals will be added to the staff this fall. *Mrs. Haley O'Neil* will teach 3-4 grades. *Mrs. Pam Reeves* will be the preschool teacher. *Mrs. Pat Kramer* will become our Title I educator and will work with students needing extra help. Due to decreased funding from the State of Ohio, the teacher aide position will not be filled at this time. The school janitor position is close to being filled, and we are still in the process of possibly using various resources to fill the position of Grade 7-8 teacher.

The State of Ohio has limited the preschool to 9 students due to Covid19. There is currently one opening in the 3-yr old class and the 4/5-yr old class is full. However, registration for Kindergarten to eighth grade is still available for this fall. If you know of someone interested in enrolling their child please call the school office at 419-598-8702.

**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.

**PROJECT CONNECT (new titles)** – 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.

**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.

**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...**

**A man who rows the boat doesn't have time to rock it.**

*“Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys.” Prov 18:9*



## ***God is Your Child's Father Too!***

*Whoever fears the Lord has a secure fortress,  
and for their children it will be a refuge. Prov 14:26*

God Himself is a father. What parental emotion has He not felt? Are you separated from your child? So was God. Is someone mistreating your child? They mocked and bullied His. Is someone taking advantage of your child? The Son of God was set up by false testimony and betrayed by a greedy follower. Are you forced to watch while your child suffers? God watched His Son on the cross.

And we too are God's children, suffering in a world of sin that wreaks havoc on our bodies, twists our minds, and severs our relationships. Does God shrug His shoulders and say, "Oh well, that's life"? Of course not. Why would He go to all the trouble of introducing Himself to the world with the title of 'Father'? Curator, Manager, and Overseer are colder titles of indifference.

But God's role is not merely a job. It's a relationship.

So God chose a relationship title you can identify with, and now we can begin to understand His heart when His children are in pain.

So whatever emotions you feel about your child, God feels about your child, and feels it even more deeply. I know that's hard to believe, but God has known your child longer than you have. He hurt for your child before he was born. You're not alone. Your Father weeps right by your side.

God is your child's Father too. Just as you'll do everything to help your child during his pain, so will God.

When I think about someone wiping away my tears, I think about Dad. His hands were callused and tough, his fingers short and stubby. And when my father wiped away a tear, he seemed to wipe it away forever. There was something in his touch that took away more than the drop of hurt from my cheek. It also took away my fear.

### **Prayer**

*Dear God, Bless all the fathers in the world who have accepted the responsibilities of being a parent. Guide them to be outstanding role models to their children. Let them look to your example and to parent with patience, unconditional love and understanding.  
Amen.*