



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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

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ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon: "God Has a Dream" *Isaiah 56:1, 6-8*
Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Four (LSB pg. 203)
Hymns: **901 ~ 653 ~** (Communion: **609, 528**) **~ 922**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome! We are here at the Savior's invitation; therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, receiving mercy and finding grace to help in every time of need. But above all, we invite you to come to worship with us at any time. 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 table in the narthex as you leave.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ David Badenhop, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, Denny Von Deylen, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kaylee Buchhop, Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, Karan Niebergall, *Altar Guild* ✠

COVID-19 MEASURES – The two most important things we can do to prevent the spread of viruses are: 1) social distancing, and 2) wearing a mask when entering and exiting the building, and when singing or speaking. Masks can be removed during longer periods of listening, such as Scripture readings, sermon, prayers, etc.

ONE SUNDAY SERVICE STARTING SEPTEMBER 6

At its meeting last week, **the Church Council voted to return to a single Sunday service, beginning Sunday, September 6th – service begins at 9:00 a.m. as usual.** If attendance begins to rebound and Covid-19 remains an issue, the Council noted that we can always revert back to two Sunday services to keep the congregation size smaller. For now, however, with in-person attendance down, it is no longer necessary or feasible to conduct two services on Sundays.

Date	Time	Activities
Today	8:30AM & 10:00AM	Communion Service
Tues.	7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Parent's Meeting in Fellowship Hall Stewardship Board Meeting
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship
Sun.	8:30AM & 10:00AM	Worship Service
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Willie Stottlemeyer</i> , St. Stephen 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

Drive-thru Communion after worship under carport

PEW COLOR DESIGNATIONS FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING

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



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*, at Assisted Living – Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Harold Behrmann*, at Fulton Manor, Wauseon
- ❖ *Donald Badenhop*, has returned to Vancrest Nursing Care Facility, 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*
- ❖ *Cheryl Yaw*, for recent heart issues, and prayers answered
- ❖ *Sue Hurst*, who is experiencing health concerns with the return of her cancer
- ❖ *Ruth Moll*, who is recovering from open heart surgery this past Thursday
- ❖ *Nick & AnneMarie Damman*, on the birth of their daughter, Larkyn Louise, on Sun., Aug. 9th at Toledo Hospital. All are doing well, including big sister, Maisie, who is soooo excited!
- ❖ *John & Abby (Dietrich) Buldas*, on the birth of their daughter, Tessa Alexandria, on Tues., Aug. 11th at Fulton County Health Center. Theo and Tay can't wait to help mommy and daddy with their new little sister.
- ❖ *Rev. Logan Scheiwe*, Assoc. Pastor at St. Paul, Napoleon, who is receiving immunotherapy treatment for stage four cancer. May God give him strength in the battle and healing in the body.

THE SCRIPTURES THIS DAY – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

The lessons for this Sunday are tightly themed around the idea that none who comes to Christ in faith is cast aside. The **Old Testament Reading** promises salvation for those outside Israel. All who love the Lord and keep his commandments will be gathered and none are cast aside. The **Gospel** is the well-known account of Jesus' dealings with the Canaanite woman who pleads to him on behalf of her daughter. Although at first she suffers rejection, she persists with her plea. She is not pushed away, but receives more than she originally asked. In the **Epistle** from Romans 11 (which continues a lengthy series of Sundays in this letter), St. Paul grapples with the question of Israel's rejection of God. Has God cast Israel? Concern for his fellow Jews is on the apostle's mind in chapters 9–11. Since he is writing to a predominately Gentile church in Rome, he intends to teach the doctrine of God's election by grace to show that God's mercy extends to all.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU to all who supported us with thoughts, prayers, cards and kind words during the recent illness and passing of our dear brother, *Dale Von Deylen*. We miss him, but know that he lives eternally in heaven with the Lord. Thank you all, *Dave & Jane Von Deylen, Deb Durham*

TWO SPECIAL SUNDAYS COMING UP

AUG. 30 - ANNUAL OUTDOOR SERVICE – Two weeks from today we will gather outdoors next to the Old School building for our annual Outdoor Service. Service time is 10:00 a.m. Please bring a chair and a friend!

- **At this service we will also witness the installation of our newest called teacher, Mrs. Haley (Gruenhagen) O'Neil.** Light refreshments will be served afterwards to give everyone a chance to hang around and greet Mrs. O'Neil. Sometime down the road, when the pandemic has abated, we will plan a congregational meal to properly welcome Mrs. O'Neil into our midst.
- **Also** at this service we will introduce the congregation to two more new members of the teaching staff. They are **Mrs. Donna Matson** and **Mrs. Pamala Reeves**. We will remember our school and staff in prayer, and invite God's blessings upon their work this school year as we continue the educational ministry of feeding Jesus' little lambs!

SEPTEMBER 3rd and 6th – MUSICAL SERVICE BY DAVE ANDERSON – Some of you may remember when Dave Anderson was here at St. John a number of years back for an evening concert. He, and Roger Walck, will be back to lead worship on Thursday, Sept. 3rd and Sunday, Sept. 6 with a message of God's Word and of song.

- **A free-will offering will be received to support a ministry near to Dave's heart, the SHEPHERD CANYON RETREAT (SCR) near Wickenburg, AZ.** *SCR* is an officially recognized service organization of the LC-MS that provides counseling services for spiritual and emotionally hurting church workers. Did you know that 80% of pastors say that the ministry has negatively impacted their families, and that upwards of 70% of pastors fight depression? *SCR* provides 7-day retreats with counseling services to help restore church workers to health so they can flourish in ministry.

SHEPHERD'S COMMITTEE OR ELDERS' MEETING: Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 25.

RITE OF FELLOWSHIP CARDS: Due to the decreased attendance from the pandemic, we are asking that, for the time being, members do not need to fill out the Rite of Fellowship cards. Attendance is not being tracked at this time. We will inform you when to resume filling out the attendance cards. This will also save the church on expenses. Thank you.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 08/09/20	\$5,851.00	\$130.00	\$315.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 24; Sunday Early - 35; Sunday Late – 15

MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS will kick-off this year on **Wednesday evening, Sept. 2nd at 6:15 p.m.** We will gather in the north end of the fellowship hall to allow for better social distancing; please wear masks as well, per state requirements. We would like to have parents attend that evening for the first 15 or 20 minutes so that we can discuss the educational plan for the year, as well as any contingencies should distance learning become necessary.

INSTALLATION AT IMMANUEL LUTHERAN, HAMLER: On Sun., August 30th at 4:00 pm, Rev. James Fundum (*a brother to Rose Hoffman*) will be installed at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hamler. This installation will be held outside on the church grounds.

OPTIONS FOR HOLY COMMUNION DURING COVID - During this time of pandemic, we are making Holy Communion available in the following ways:

- **Thursday evening Communion services** prior to first and third Sundays
- **First and Third Sundays each month** – in the Sanctuary, and drive-thru after each service
- **Second Sundays** – after both services in the sanctuary

Please note – Drive-thru Communion is on the first and third Sundays only for those who have participated in the Divine Service from the parking lot.

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.

BULLETIN SUBMISSION NOTE: With Thursday night services in session, 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!



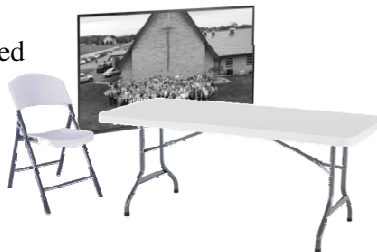
SHARE THE BOUNTY OF SUMMER – This morning a table has been set up under the carport where you can bring any spare produce from your garden and share it with others in the congregation. Bring whatever you can and take whatever you can use, and share the bounty of summer! The table will be set up each Sunday through mid-September or so.

ARCHIVES DISPLAY: In honor of *Lowell Petzoldt's* retirement after serving St. John Lutheran School for 44 years, the Archives Committee has updated their display with pictures and documents from Mr. Petzoldt's teaching career. We have pictures of his family, past and present students, fishing buddies (*fishing stories not included*) and his many achievements throughout his career. Please stop by and check out the nice tribute to Mr. Petzoldt and his part in St. John School's history.

FURNISHINGS FOR OLD SCHOOL RENOVATION EAST ROOM - The church council discussed furnishings for the east room of the old school renovation project which is envisioned to be a versatile room available for meetings, conferences, classes, family events, etc. of up to approximately 50 people. To furnish the room, the council settled on purchasing *Lifetime*™ brand tables and chairs because of their high quality and durability. We are planning to purchase the following:

- 8 six-foot banquet tables - \$85 each
- 50 chairs - \$25 each
- 2 60-inch TVs and wall mounts (for both rooms) - \$500 each

If you would like to give a gift toward these purchases, we are prepared to begin receiving them. Gifts may be included with your regular offering (make a notation on your envelope), or deposited into the clear box marked "Old School Furnishings" located on the narthex table (special envelopes for your gift are available). Thank you for your gifts as we come down the homestretch on this project!



FREEDOM'S FLOCK – St. John's after school program will begin at 3:00 PM on the first day of school, August 27. Please contact Director *Karen Riefers* to pre-register your child(ren) and pay the \$15 per family registration by August 27, if possible. You can also access the Freedom's Flock Handbook and Registration/Medical forms on FastDirect. The Freedom Flock Aid position is still trying to be filled. Please see note below. If any adult or student (16 or older) would like to volunteer to also help with the program, you may contact Karen at 419-598-8686.

STAFF POSITION OPENING: St. John Lutheran School is looking for an aide for the Freedom Flock After School Care Program. This individual must be 18 years old, have a high school diploma, be willing to have a background check, and supply several references. If interested, please email Pastor Kramer at ckramer@sjl.org. Thank you!

IF YOU'RE EVER IN A PINCH and could use a little help, the *Good Neighbor Fund* is there to assist you too! Everything is strictly confidential. Just give Pastor Niermann a call!

SCHOOL NOTES PAGE can be picked up at the table in the narthex .

PARENT HANDBOOKS: The 2020-21 Parent Handbook is now posted and available via the FastDirect Communication network. A message has been sent to each family through FastDirect. Go to www.fastdir.com/stjohnsfreedom and click on "Links". Handbooks will only be printed for those St. John families that do not have internet access via computers, cell phones, i-Pads, etc. Please call the school office to request a printed handbook.

UPCOMING SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL DATES TO REMEMBER:

- ▶ **Preschool Parent's Meeting & Open House** – On **Mon., Aug. 24 at 6:00 PM** there will be a Preschool Parent's Meeting held in the Fellowship Hall for children entering the 3-yr old preschool class. Immediately following this meeting (at 7:00 PM) there will be a Parent Meeting for children entering the 4/5-yr old preschool class. Parents will meet the new teacher as well as be informed about student expectations in the classroom. The basics of navigating in the FastDirect Communication system will also be presented. The classroom will be open and staffed during these meetings. **All Preschool parents are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting. Masks are now required when entering and exiting the building.**
- ▶ **School Open House** – The St. John School will be holding an open house on **Tues., Aug. 25th from 6:00 – 7:00 PM** for Kindergarten thru Gr. 8 families. **Masks are now required when entering and exiting the building.** We will meet first in the Fellowship Hall. That will be a time to introduce our staff members and set the tone for the school year. After meeting in the Fellowship Hall students can drop off materials in their classrooms, meet teachers, and pay fees in the school office.

PRESCHOOL UPDATE: The State of Ohio has lifted the preschool limitation of 9 students per class. **As a result of that, St. John can now add a few more students to both of the 3-yr old and 4/5-yr old classes.** If interested, please contact the school office to register your child. 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.

HEARING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE: If hearing in worship has been a problem for you, pick up one of the receiver units for our hearing assistance system. An usher will assist you and you'll hear much more clearly. *(Also, please let us know how the system is working for you.)*

For those who use the hearing assistance system regularly and for the sake of hygiene, we ask that you claim one of the ear buds as your own and keep it with you in your purse, pocket, etc. Bring it with you when you come to church, and simply plug it into one the receivers.

BBQ RIB MEAL: The Ridgeville Fire Dept. is sponsoring a BBQ Rib Meal on Thurs. Sept. 17th. **Presale tickets only.** Contact *Eric Riefers* at 419-966-0227 to purchase your tickets. Tickets must be purchased by Tues., Sept. 1st. See flyer posted in narthex.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

People are guided to heaven more by footprints than by guideposts.

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." Eph 5:1-2

SCHOOL NOTES

- ✓ 1st DAY OF SCHOOL for St. John is Thurs., Aug. 27 , with classes beginning at 8:20 AM. **Masks are now required when entering and exiting the building.** Students arriving after that time will need to report to the school office.
- ✓ OPEN HOUSE – (Gr.K-8) On Tuesday, August 25th from 6:00-7:00 PM for Kindergarten thru Gr. 8. All classrooms will be open and we invite parents and students to come in and bring in their school supplies, meet their teacher, and pay their school fees. **Masks are now required when entering and exiting the building.**
- ✓ OPEN HOUSE FOR PRESCHOOL - On Monday, Aug. 24th at 6:00 PM there will be a Parent Meeting for the incoming 3-yr old Preschoolers. Then at 7:00 PM there will be a Parent Meeting for the 4&5-yr old Preschoolers. **Masks are now required when entering and exiting the building.** This will include an overview of the FastDirect Communication information system we have implemented at St. John. The classroom will be open for parents and students to bring in their class supplies and meet the teacher.
- ✓ SCHOOL OFFICE will be open on Tues., Aug. 25th from 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM for anyone that wants to pay their enrollment fee and drop off school supplies to the classroom. **Also return any St. John Library books from last school year at this time.**
- ✓ OPENING SERVICE will be Aug. 27th at 8:35 AM in the church. **Masks are now required when entering and exiting the sanctuary.** Following the service, *Principal Charles Kramer* will welcome our new students. **All are welcome to attend this Opening Service!**
- ✓ SCHOOL PICTURES will be taken by *Emilie Parsons* of Emilie's Photo Design and are scheduled for Thurs., Sept. 17th at 9:00 AM for the 4/5 Preschool class and Grades K-8; and Fri., Sept. 18th at 9:00 AM for 3-yr old Preschoolers and anyone absent on Sept. 17th. Order forms will be sent home shortly after school starts.
- ✓ LUNCH PROGRAM – Lunch prices remain the same. We have put Preschool and Grades K-4 together for one price, and Grades 5-8 for one price. They are: PS 4/5 - Gr. 4 - \$2.75, Gr. 5-8 - \$3.00. Extra milk is 50¢. The adult meal price is \$3.25 and \$3.75 w/milk. Money sent in for lunches are posted to each families lunch account in FastDirect Communication. You can view your balance by clicking on the Finance icon at the top of the FastDirect home page.
- ✓ BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP – St. John Booster membership for the 2020-21school year are: \$20.00 for husband and wife; \$10.00 for single. Make checks payable to *St. John Boosters*.
- ✓ SCRIP PROGRAM will be offered again this school year. Anyone willing to help the PTL with this fundraiser can contact *Kristyn Honemann* at 419-592-0643.