



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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School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339
Church Website: www.sjl.org

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

(OUTDOOR SERVICE)

Sermon: "Let Love Be Genuine" *Romans 1:9*

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We welcome all who have come to worship our God with us today! Each day we live is a priceless gift from God, loaded with possibilities to learn something new, to gain fresh insights into His great truths. May we be showered with those blessings as we together profess His Name today. But above all, we invite you to come to worship with us at any time.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

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

ONE SUNDAY SERVICE STARTING SEPTEMBER 6

At its August meeting, **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.

OUTDOOR SERVICE COMMITTEE & PREPARATIONS – We extend our thanks to everyone who worked so diligently to get the school grounds and pavement area ready for our Outdoor Service this morning. This week a lot of work has gone into the area immediately around the old school to get it ready for parking and to get it looking nice for everyone. Thank you to everyone who helped, also with the sound equipment and setup this morning – you are good and faithful servants for whom we thank God!

thank you

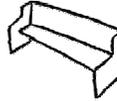
In God's House This Week		Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl
Date	Time	Activities
Today	10:00AM	Outdoor Worship Service at the Old School Property
Tues.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel School Board & Stewardship Board Meetings
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class (until 7:30 PM)
Thurs.	8:20 AM 8:35 AM	First student day for PS4/5 Thursday Worship with special music by David Anderson
Fri.	8:20 AM	First student day for PS3
Sun.	9:00AM	Communion Service with special music by David Anderson
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: Rev. Donald Luhring, 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

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
- ❖ Sue Hurst, who is experiencing health concerns with the return of her cancer
- ❖ Ruth Moll, who is recovering from recent open heart surgery
- ❖ Rev. Logan Scheiwe, Assoc. Pastor at St. Paul, Napoleon, who is receiving immunotherapy treatment for stage four cancer.
- ❖ Brenda Elling, recuperating from recent outpatient surgery
- ❖ Kay Heilman, who is recovering from recent surgery
- ❖ Pat Maassel, who is having a scheduled surgery tomorrow at St. Luke’s - Maumee

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.

THE SCRIPTURES THIS DAY – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Scriptures today remind us how we respond as Christians to evil in this world, not by any particular activity necessarily, but by *inactivity*, that is, that we refrain from retaliation and instead trust God for His final judgment.

- In the *Old Testament* reading, Jeremiah's cry to God to take vengeance upon his enemies is also an acknowledgment that vengeance is not Jeremiah's responsibility.
- This parallels the thought of Paul in the *Epistle*, "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord' □" (Rom 12:19). Who can argue this point, as Jesus' means of accomplishing salvation takes this path when he leaves judgment to his Father and picks up his cross?
- In the *Gospel* reading Jesus declares and defines divine love by revealing that he, the very Son of God Incarnate, would be the one who does not retaliate but responds passively to the desires of sinful men, even permitting them to kill Him, that He might rise again on the third day. How fitting that the *Collect of the Day* is a request that our God would "grant us courage to take up our cross daily," following Jesus in humility, expecting to receive persecution of our own and relying only on his perfect obedience to this divine cause through his life, death, and resurrection.

OLD SCHOOL WALK-THRU THIS MORNING – Assuming there is not too much mud for us to track, the Old School building, nearing completion, will be open for you to walk through and appreciate. Please use the sidewalk to the front of the building and enter there, and exit by the east door by the east door to minimize close contact with one another. As you enter the front door and exit the east doors, notice the brick walls. These are the bricks where the brass donor plaques will be installed. The large west room will be our new youth center, and the east room will be a multipurpose room for meetings, classes, Bible studies, family events, etc.

SPECIAL SERVICE THIS THURSDAY & SUNDAY

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.

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 08/23/20	\$6,769.00	\$280.00	\$825.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 40; Sunday Early - 42; Sunday Late – 30

MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS will begin this **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.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM MEETING & LWML QUARTERLIES: The next Women of Freedom meeting will be held on Tues., Sept. 15th at 7:00 PM. As we have not been able to meet for quite some time, please plan to bring your Mite boxes to the September meeting. The LWML Quarterlies are available on the narthex table. Be sure to pick up your copy today! All ladies of St. John are invited to come to our meetings. Hope to see you there!

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

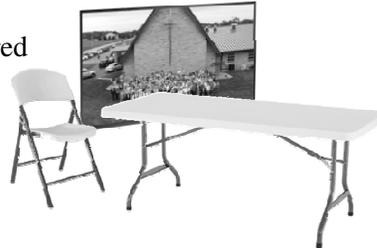
- **Thursday evening Communion services** prior to first and third Sundays
- **First and Third Sundays each month** – in the Sanctuary, and drive-thru after each service
- **Second Sundays** – after both services in the sanctuary

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.

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!



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.

OFFERINGS ON TUESDAYS: The offering option on Tuesdays from 9-noon has been eliminated, due to the startup of the new school year. Visitors will only be allowed into the building by appointment. Masks required, temperature taken, per recommendation of the local health department. See below for the remaining options for offerings.

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.

FOLLOW OUR CHURCH ON FACEBOOK – our new Facebook page will become a source of information about our 150th Anniversary year, as well as a place where members and school alumni will be encouraged to share memories of the past. Be sure to head there soon and check out the anniversary theme and logo on the page banner.



If you aren't following our church yet on Facebook, just search for “St. John Lutheran, Napoleon” and you'll see us in this list with a profile picture of the outside front of the sanctuary. Be sure to share the page with your friends, and let's build a good following, especially as we approach the 150th Anniversary celebration. (Our school also has a Facebook page; find and follow it!)

NEW FACES AT ST. JOHN: We warmly welcome the following new staff members this school year: *Mrs. Pamala Reeves*, who is joining us as the Preschool Teacher; *Mrs. Haley O'Neil*, who will be the 3rd & 4th Grade Teacher; *Mrs. Donna Matson*, who is on board as the 7th & 8th Grade Teacher; *Mrs. Pat Kramer*, will be the Title I Reading Instructor; *Mrs. Andi Kolbe*, is our new school janitor; and we are still searching for a Freedom Flock Aide. Please, please contact the school if you know of anyone interested in this paid position. Welcome aboard *Mrs. Reeves*, *Mrs. O'Neil*, *Mrs. Matson*, *Mrs. Kramer*, and *Mrs. Kolbe*!

3-YR PRESCHOOL OPENINGS: The State of Ohio lifted the preschool limitation of 9 students per class. **As a result of that, St. John can now add a few more students to the 3-yr old class.** 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.

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!

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

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!

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 of the receivers.

OHIO ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN: The Ohio Division OGT is located in the north end of the Culligan Water Conditioning building on Independence Drive in Napoleon. Someone is usually there to receive items on the first Tuesday of the month from 9:00-11:00 AM. If you need to drop off items at another time, please contact *Nancy Helmke* (419-758-3539), *Diann Meyer-Grieser* (419-267-3485), or *Vicki Grieser* (419-445-2986) and they will be happy to meet you and open the facility to receive your donations! PLEASE do not drop off items at the warehouse when it is closed. Thank you!

CHURCH HISTORY BOOKS – If at any time during the year you need a gift for a current or former member of St. John, why not consider one of our Church History Books. This book is full of interesting facts about St. John's and is available in the church office at a cost of \$12.00.

SAVE THE DATE – HAWKS PIZZA AND ST. JOHN SCHOOL: On Sat., Sept. 12th, Hawks Pizza in Napoleon will be donating 10% of their total sales that day to St. John School. This is a community fundraising event they have chosen us to participate in with them. They have pizzas, subs, pasta, salads, tacos, etc. Lots of things to pick from! Call Hawks at 419-599-1946 to order by phone or go to hawkspizza.com. Thank you for supporting St. John School on the 12th. See flyers!

CHICKEN BBQ MEAL: St. Paul Lutheran Church – Liberty Center is sponsoring a Chicken BBQ Meal on Sun., Sept. 13th from 11:30am – 2:00pm. This will be “drive-thru only” at their church parking lot (8074 County Road T, Liberty Ctr). The cost is \$8. See flyer posted in narthex.

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

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Egotism is the art of seeing things in yourself that others cannot see.

“It is not good to eat much honey, nor is it glorious to seek one's own glory.” Prov 25:27