



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

September 6, 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

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Guest Speakers: Dave Anderson and Roger Walck
Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*
Hymns: *Songs led by Dave Anderson and Roger Walck*

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

- ✘ Elmer Maassel, Ted Ripke, Denny Behnfeldt, Bob Norden, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Sandy Von Deylen, Mary Kay Rettig, Kathy Badenhop, *Altar Guild* ✘

ONE SUNDAY SERVICE STARTING TODAY

At its August meeting, **the Church Council voted to return to a single Sunday service, beginning Sunday, September 6th.** 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.

MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION CLASS has begun, and will meet each Wednesday evening from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. For the time being we will meet in the 7-8 grade classroom. The room will be thoroughly sanitized after each school day to prepare for our evening class. As soon as we have the occupancy permit and proper furnishings, we will move our Wednesday evening classes to the east room of the old school building.

In God's House This Week *Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl*

| Date | Time | Activities |
|---------------|---------------------------|--|
| Today | 9:00AM | Communion Service with special music by David Anderson |
| Mon. | | NO SCHOOL – Labor Day |
| Tues. | 8:35 AM 7:00 PM | School Chapel Church Council Meeting |
| Wed. | 6:15 PM | Jr. High Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>) |
| Thurs. | 7:00 PM | Thursday Evening Worship |
| Sat. | All Day | Hawks Pizza Community Day Fundraiser (<i>see bulletin note</i>) |
| Sun. | 9:00AM | Worship Service w/Communion following |
| Mon.- Sat. | 7:30 AM | Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Lee Genter</i> , Christ Our Savior Lutheran - Defiance |

FOR THOSE LISTENING FROM THE PARKING LOT

Pick up your bulletin and service by driving through the carport before worship

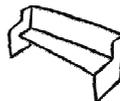
You can give your offering to the deacon at the same time

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*, at 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
- ❖ *Rev. Logan Scheiwe*, Assoc. Pastor at St. Paul, Napoleon, who is receiving immunotherapy treatment for stage four cancer
- ❖ *Ruth Moll*, who is recovering from recent open heart surgery
- ❖ *Brenda Elling*, recuperating from recent outpatient surgery
- ❖ *Kay Heilman*, who is recovering from recent surgery
- ❖ *Pat Maassel*, who had a scheduled surgery last week at St. Luke’s – Maumee
- ❖ *Andy Durham and Brooke Boulton*, who were married Sat., Sept. 5. May God bless their new life together! Congrats!

Welcome Dave Anderson & Roger Walck

Today we welcome back to St. John **Dave Anderson** and **Roger Walck**, who will lead us in a special service of music and message. Dave and Roger were here some years ago, and told us about a ministry founded by Dave and his wife called *Shepherd's Canyon Retreat*, an officially recognized ministry organization of the *Missouri Synod*. This ministry of retreat and restoration is designed to help pastors and other church workers and their spouses in times of conflict, crisis, depression and anxiety. The life of ministry, with its unique challenges and trials, negatively impacts many church workers and their families. It is a great blessing for them to have this ministry available for help and counseling and spiritual restoration.



- **A free-will offering is being received today in worship for *Shepherd's Canyon Retreat*.** You may leave your gift in the baskets at the sanctuary doors. God bless you for your support of this vital ministry and mission within our church body.

ATTENDANCE CARDS: They're baaaaack! Please start filling out the Rite of Fellowship cards again. With resuming one service, we are going to start tracking attendance again.

RESUMING SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASS – Considerations are underway about restarting Sunday School and Sunday Bible Class as soon as we can safely do so. Please stay posted for more information.

| <u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u> | Home Fund | Synod & Missions | Building Fund |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------|
| Weekly Need | \$9,792.78 | \$500.00 | \$961.54 |
| Rec'd 08/30/20 | \$7,568.00 | \$175.00 | \$190.00 |

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – N/A; Sunday – 199

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.

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.

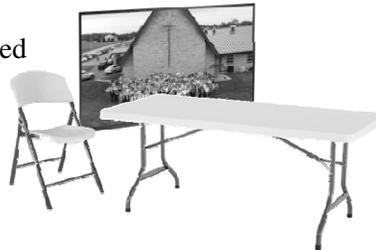
WOMEN OF FREEDOM MEETING & LWML QUARTERLIES: The next Women of Freedom meeting will be held on Tues., Sept. 15th at 7:00 PM. As we have not been able to meet for quite some time, please plan to bring your Mite boxes to the September meeting. The LWML Quarterlies are available on the narthex table. Be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

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.

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!



'BREAD FROM HEAVEN' – A note to St. John members needing food assistance – If you could use food assistance from our food pantry, please speak with *Pastor Niermann*. We are required by the *Northwestern Ohio Food Bank* to keep a record with your name, but pastor will keep your record separate and absolutely confidential.

Contributions can be made at any time. Monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your offering envelope). Food donations for our pantry can be dropped off in the box by the Archives display cases. Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated, and the families we serve are greatly appreciative of the generosity of St. John. Thank you so much!



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.

PRAYER CALENDAR NOTE: Please be aware that if you would like your wedding anniversaries printed on the prayer calendars, you will have to post them each year. Just list them on the blank calendars posted on the bulletin board in the narthex throughout the year.

PTL MEETING: The first PTL Meeting will be held on Mon., Sept. 14th at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall. This will be a business meeting to get organized for the school year. Please plan to attend and support the school!

PTL OFFICER NOMINATIONS: We are currently seeking nominations for PTL officers. Please consider getting involved with PTL by becoming an officer. This is just one way of supporting St. John School and bringing new ideas to the forefront for school activities and fundraisers.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP: Membership is now being taken for the Athletic Booster Club. Prices are \$20.00 for a couple and \$10.00 for an individual. Make checks payable to St. John Boosters and send to school. Our programs here at St. John give our students a sense of sportsmanship, discipline, structure and self-confidence needed to go out into the world.

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.

SAT., SEPT. 12TH – 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. 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. Add'l orange flyers on narthex table!

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.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Ambition never gets you anywhere until you roll up your sleeves and get to work.

“Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.” Eph 4:28

LABOR DAY DEVOTION

"By the Sweat of Your Brow"



*"By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food
until you return to the ground." Genesis 3:19*

In September Americans pause to observe Labor Day.

In her book, *In Defense of Looting*, author Vicky Osterweil contends that the very idea of work is unjust and oppressive, and that the only reason our system of pay-for-work exists is to further enrich the people who own the stores and factories. She believes that looting is a justifiable means of dismantling the very idea of personal property and of redistributing wealth in a more just way, apart from having to work for it. It's not exactly a very high view or noble view of work.

Scripture views work very differently. God created human beings to work in the Garden of Eden and care for it. Work must have been a joyful blessing. With the fall into sin, work became more of a burden. God tells Adam, "*By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food.*" Now thorns and thistles would complicate farming. Much sorrow would enter the picture.

Work still represents God's purpose for people. Much blessing and fulfillment accompanies faithful labor. But, like Adam, we toil by the sweat of our brow because of sin in the world. Work problems multiply. Labor-management strife develops. Unemployment affects many. Some work takes a tremendous physical toll. Other work exacts a serious mental and emotional price. Sometimes we defy work and let it rule our lives with no room for God or people's needs. Sometimes we devalue work and become lazy sluggards, expecting others to provide for us. Both distortions reveal our sinful rebellion against a loving God.

But in our labor we remember Jesus Christ. He is the One who worked with His hands as a carpenter and called to Himself rugged fishermen and tax collectors. He did the work of Him who sent Him (*John 9:4*). In prayer His sweat was like drops of blood (*Luke 22:44*). He completed His saving work on the cross and rose from the dead.

Jesus knows our needs and our labor problems. He promises to be with us. He restores our work to its joyful significance in God's creation. We continue to toil by the sweat of our brow, but through the sweat we see his face.

PRAYER: *Father, move us to work joyfully for Jesus' sake. Amen.*