



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

September 13, 2020

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NO. 37

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

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FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Omnivore, Herbivore, or 'To the Lord'" *Romans 14:1-12*

Order of Service: Service of Prayer & Preaching (*LSB pg 260*)

Hymns: 609 ~ "I Am the Church" ~ "Come, Imagine Life Together" ~ "No Saint on Earth"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS *A warm welcome to all our guests. We are pleased that you chose to worship at St. John Church this morning. We hope that this time spent with our God and with friends in Christ will prove spiritually uplifting to you. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to our pastor and by filling out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you. Simply drop it in the basket at the table in the narthex as you leave today.*



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

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

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.

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!

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.

In God's House This WeekOnline church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM	Worship Service w/Communion following
Mon.	7:00 PM	PTL Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Tues.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Women of Freedom Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>)
Thurs.	9:00 AM 7:00 PM	School Pictures taken PS4/5, K, Gr. 1-8 (weather permitting outside) Thursday Evening Worship
Fri.	9:00 AM	School Pictures taken PS3 (weather permitting outside)
Sun.	9:00AM	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*, 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 and Rev. Logan Scheiwe*, who are experiencing health concerns with the return of their cancer
- ❖ *Ruth Moll, Brenda Elling, Kay Heilman, and Pat Maassel*, recovering from recent surgeries

THE SCRIPTURES THIS DAY – **Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

From today's *Psalm* we read that our Lord forgives all our iniquity, heals all our diseases, redeems our lives from the pit, and crowns us with steadfast love and mercy. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us for our iniquities, but re-moves our transgressions from us as far as the east is from the west. Such bountiful forgiveness led Joseph in the *Old Testament reading* to recognize that he was not in the place of God to judge or condemn his brothers and thus he readily forgave their sins. The bountiful forgiveness we receive from God through the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus, leads us to forgive and be gracious to our fellow Christian not merely seven times but seventy times seven—that is, countless times in our life together. Yes, our Lord God wills and calls us in the *Gospel* to have mercy on our fellow servants just as he has had mercy on us. Since our Lord Jesus Christ has died and lived again, St. Paul points out in the *Epistle reading* that all of us, including our brothers and sisters in Christ, belong to Him.

LYF ICE CREAM SOCIAL – The LYF is looking into an alternate option for its annual ice cream social this year. Stay tuned for upcoming information and a possible October date.

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!

2021 NOMINATIONS – This month the Stewardship Board is beginning work on identifying nominees for the various offices of our church. As they undertake this task, we ask three things of each congregational member:

- 1) Pray for the process, that God would raise up willing leaders from among us;
- 2) Please submit your name to the church office if you might be interested in any office;
- 3) If you are approached for a nomination, please don't turn it down without giving it serious and prayerful consideration. We have prayed for you, and believe that God has equipped you to serve for the office for which you are nominated.

OLD SCHOOL ITEMS FOR SALE: On Sat., Sept. 26th at 9:00 AM - 11:00AM over on the blacktop at the old school property, we will be offering the following items:

3 wooden desks, 2 – 2' x 8' wood tables, 30" square table, Old fellowship hall tables (white), Projector screens, Old light fixture globes, Old German books, Record player & vinyl records, 2 – dry erase boards, Pile of wood trim, Lectern/podium, Wood cabinet w/door, 2 – wooden extension ladders, Book rack w/castors, Sliding glass display, Metal shelving unit, 55 gal. cardboard barrels w/lids, and many more items (yet to be discovered and noted in next Sunday's bulletin).

These are being offered on a "first come, first serve" basis and buyers can simply make a monetary donation for the item(s) they take. If paying by check, make payable to St. John Lutheran Church. All proceeds will be going to the Youth Center project.

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.

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.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 09/06/20	\$7,110.00	\$325.00	\$550.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 40; Sunday – 74

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

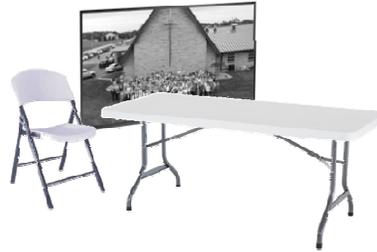
- **Thursday evening Communion services** prior to first and third Sundays
- **First and Third Sundays each month** – in the Sanctuary, and drive-thru after each service
- **Second Sundays** – after both services in the sanctuary

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 – Thank you to everyone who has given gifts for furnishing the new facility in the old school. We are approximately two-thirds of the way to our goal. We envision the east room to be versatile for meetings, conferences, classes, family events, etc. of up to approximately 50 people. We will be 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/wall mounts (for both rooms) - \$500 each

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!



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.

'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 stop in or email Joyce in the office.

COUNCIL MINUTES – This is just a reminder that council meeting minutes are not published until they are approved a month later. If you would like to read about the most recent council meeting, an unofficial and unapproved copy of the minutes is available for viewing in the church office.

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!



KFUO
Radio

KFUO RADIO – “Christ for you. Anytime. Anywhere.” St. Paul said, “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” (Rom 10:17)

There is perhaps no other broadcast ministry at which you can hear “Christ for you” more faithfully than at KFUO Radio, the radio broadcast Ministry of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. There’s something for everyone, and you can listen on demand by going to www.kfu.org. Check it out – although the devil will hate it, you will “be strengthened in the Lord and in the strength of His might!” (Eph. 6:10)

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.

RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP FUNDRAISER: The Stewardship Board is offering “for sale” the Ultimate Cloth® as a fundraiser. These are a MiraFiber® technology cloth that cleans with water only. This cloth is more effective than harsh cleaning chemicals and soaps. See *Karen Norden* (419-267-3477) for more information and pricing. This will be an on-going fundraiser for the Right Hand of Fellowship gift matching campaign.

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.

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.

PROJECT CONNECT – 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.

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.

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!

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: The Ridgeville Sons of the American Legion are asking you to join them in their mission to place “wreaths across America” in 2020. National Wreaths Across America Day is Dec. 19, 2020. Sponsored wreaths are placed on grave markers at state and national veterans’ cemeteries, as well as at local, community cemeteries each December. Wreath Sponsorship Forms and more information available on the narthex table. Wreaths may also be sponsored online at www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org. Order deadline is Nov. 15, 2020.

CHICKEN BBQ MEAL: St. Paul Lutheran Church – Liberty Center is sponsoring a Chicken BBQ Meal today 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...

A cold church, like cold butter, doesn’t spread very well.

“Then Joseph hurried out, for his compassion grew warm for his brother.” Gen 43:30