



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. Charles Kramer, Principal

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SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "It's Not About Deserving" *Matthew 20:1-16*

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Five (*LSB pg 213*)

Hymns: 869 ~ 827 ~ 953 ~ (Communion: 680, 555) ~ "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Warm greetings and love in Christ are extended to all members and guests. We trust that you will experience the warmth of Christian fellowship, the inspiration of worship and the peace that comes from an awareness of God's presence. 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

✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠

✠ Elmer Maassel, Ted Ripke, Denny Behnfeldt, Bob Norden, *Ushers* ✠

✠ Sandy Von Deylen, Mary Kay Rettig, Kathy Badenhop, *Altar Guild* ✠



STEWARDSHIP BOARD MEETING THIS MONDAY – The *Stewardship Board* is scheduled to meet this Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the north end of the fellowship hall. This is a specially scheduled meeting.

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.

PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS for the quarter of October, November, and December are on the desk in the narthex. There are also large print copies available.

ATTENDANCE CARDS: 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 Week *Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl*

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM	Communion Service
Mon.	7:00 PM	Stewardship Board Meeting
Tues.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	School Chapel Shepherd Committee Board of Elders
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class <i>(until 7:30 PM)</i>
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship
Sun.	9:00AM	Worship Service
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Dale Kern, Retired, - St. John Lutheran - Stryker</i>

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, 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, and Pat Maassel, recovering from recent surgeries*
- ❖ *Leona Durham, for testing to determine a future surgery date*
- ❖ *Ruth Mahnke, recuperating at Genacross Lutheran Home after a recent fall at home*

LYF ICE CREAM SOCIAL – The LYF is looking at an alternate option for its annual ice cream social this year. This will be a Drive-thru Ice Cream Social with **pre-orders only**. The date is Sun., Oct. 18th with drive-thru from 10:30 AM – Noon. Order forms are available on the narthex table and also on the school or church’s Facebook page under “Events”. **Pre-order deadline is Sun., Oct. 4th**. The menu will be: *Chicken or Hot Dog Sandwich, Baked Beans, Chips, and Schwan’s Ice Cream*. Freewill offering! This is a Thrivent Action Team event! Come out and support the youth of our congregation as they continue to raise funds for the Youth Center; and also begin to raise funds for the next National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX in 2022!

THE SCRIPTURES THIS DAY – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Sundays after Pentecost show us how to live and labor in God's vineyard as we rely on his boundless, undeserved grace and mercy. In the **Old Testament reading** our Lord invites us to seek him while and where He may be found; He calls us to forsake our wicked ways and unrighteous thoughts; He summons us to return to Him. However, none of these actions earns our way into his vineyard, because His ways of giving abundant pardon are higher than our ways. Since our God graciously invites us to seek his face (**Psalm**), we may engage in the labors of our vocations with the same courage and confidence evident the ministry of St. Paul, as he write in today's **Epistle reading**. God's salvation through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus, leads us to fruitful labor in the flesh even while we look forward to eternal life with our Lord. Regardless of how long we labor in his vineyard and how arduous that labor may be, our labor is "rewarded" with the same boundless grace that called us into the vineyard in the first place, as we read in the **Gospel lesson**.

2021 NOMINATIONS – This week 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.

MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION meets each Wednesday evening from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. For the time being we are meeting 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 furnishings in the renovated old school, we will move our Wednesday evening classes to the east room.

THREE WAYS TO GIVE AN OFFERING

- Deposit your offering in the narthex when you come to worship, or if you're listening to the FM broadcast, 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 offering to the church.

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.

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.

POLICY REMINDER, MATERIAL GIFTS – It is the long-established policy at St. John that when generous material gifts are offered to the church, the *Stewardship Board* first reviews and evaluates those offers. This is to ensure that the gift is needed and desirable for ministry, that it does not duplicate what we already have, and that it is consistent with the mission and ministry of the church. If you ever have something material you think you would like to donate to the church, please contact the Pastor or Stewardship Board chairperson so that this process can begin.

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 the service
- **Second Sundays** – after the service in the sanctuary



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

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.

HAWKS COMMUNITY DAY RESULTS: A snippet from owner Chery Weideman's email: *Holy Cow!!! St. John's is blessed with loyal members... we were so crazy busy that we ran out of dough and had to make a new batch in the middle of all of it. So we had to quit taking orders for about a half hour. Anyway, we made it through and I have your check ready to go.* With that being said, the result of the Sat., Sept. 12th, Hawks Community Day netted St. John School \$528. That is \$220 more than last year's total. **We can't thank St. John congregation members and school families enough for supporting this fundraiser to benefit the school. GREAT JOB!**

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 09/13/20	\$8,827.00	\$115.00	\$200.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 30; Sunday – 110



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 September or so.

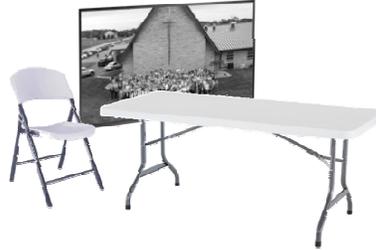
PRAYER CALENDAR NOTE: Please be aware that if you would like your wedding anniversaries printed on the prayer calendars, you will have to stop in or email Joyce in the office.

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.

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 of 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!

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!

IF YOU'RE EVER IN A PINCH and could use a little help, the *Good Neighbor Fund* is there to assist you too! Please don't be bashful about asking – everything is strictly confidential. Just give Pastor Niermann a call, and we'll see what we can do!

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.

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.

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.

FREEDOM FLOCK UPDATE: St. John Lutheran School is looking for an aide for the Freedom Flock After School Care Program. We have found someone for 2 days, but are still looking for someone to take the remaining 3 days. If interested, please email Pastor Kramer at ckramer@sjl.org.

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.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

It's okay to swallow your pride. It contains no calories!

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.” James 5:16