



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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Turn and Live" *Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32*

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: *815 ~ 806 ~ 543 ~ 704*

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

You are among Christian friends today. We all have come to the Lord's House to hear what He has to say and to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. We pray that His grace will touch and move you. 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* ✠

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are placed in celebration of the 65th Wedding Anniversary of *Ron & Elaine Hesterman* which was on Fri., Sept. 25th. Their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, all want to wish them a very "Happy Anniversary." Congratulations to Ron & Elaine on this milestone anniversary!

ELDERS MEETING THIS TUESDAY – The elders of our congregation meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. We will meet in the north end of the fellowship hall.

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.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM	Worship Service
Mon.	7:00 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tues.	8:35 AM 7:30 PM	School Chapel 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	Communion Service
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Eric Moquin</i> - St. John Lutheran - Sherwood

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, Jared Dishop*
- ❖ *Leona Durham, Sue Hurst* and *Rev. Logan Scheiwe*, for health concerns with cancer
- ❖ *Ruth Mahnke*, recuperating at Genacross Lutheran Home after a recent fall at home
- ❖ *Amber Gruenhagen* and *Brent Shoup*, married this past Fri., Sept. 25th in Bucyrus, OH

A BLESSED THANKS: Ruth Moll would like to thank everyone for the prayers given, cards sent, food prepared, and comforting visits following her recent heart surgery. Your care and concern meant the world to her.

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.

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.

THE SCRIPTURES THIS DAY – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

This Sunday's Scripture readings call us to take a good, hard look at ourselves. Jesus answering a question with a question in the *Gospel* challenges the Jewish leaders to assess their earlier reaction to John the Baptist's call to repentance. Ezekiel's questions in the *Old Testament Reading* indict Judah for blaming God and excusing their sins. Always, in fact, "good and upright is the Lord" (Ps 25:8), and when we do humble ourselves and repent, he is always eager to bind up our wounds (Introit).

- **Old Testament Reading Context:** In the days of Ezekiel, many of the people of Judah had been exiled to Babylon as the consequence of their persistent idolatry. Our Old Testament reading from Ezekiel 18 records what the prophet preached to those exiles probably around 592 B.C. The final fall of Jerusalem is yet to come in 587 B.C. when most of the remaining people of Judah will be exiled to Babylon.

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.

2021 NOMINATIONS – This week the Stewardship Board sent out letters to prospective nominees for the various offices of our congregation and school. As the nomination procedure carries forward, we ask that everyone please pray that the Lord of the Vineyard, the church, would send workers who make it possible to nourish the ministry of Word and Sacrament in our midst.

If you receive one of the letters, 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.

LYF ICE CREAM SOCIAL – The LYF is hosting 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!

ICE CREAM SOCIAL DONATIONS: In an effort to give as much of the profit from the Ice Cream Social to the youth traveling to the National Youth Gathering in 2022, we are asking if congregation members would like to help by donating items toward the fundraiser. A signup sheet is at the narthex table listing grocery/food items needed to prepare the menu for the social. If you are able to help, please list your name and the item(s) you are able to donate on the sheet. A signup sheet can also be found on the church's Facebook page. **Please have items to the church/school by Tues., Oct. 13th**. If there are any questions, please contact Sarah Bartok through the church office. Thank you for supporting our youth!



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.

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.

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.

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.

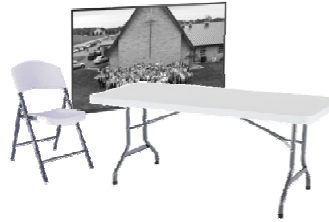
<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 09/20/20	\$6,750.00	\$100.00	\$685.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 38; Sunday – 90

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.

FURNISHINGS FOR OLD SCHOOL RENOVATION EAST ROOM – Thank you to everyone who has given gifts for furnishing the new facility in the old school. So far we have enough funds to purchase the tables and chairs for the east room. Once these have arrived, we can begin using that room for events up to approximately 50 people.

- We are still receiving gifts for the purchase of two large TV's to be mounted on the walls in each of the two main rooms. 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*).



'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!

"ON IT'S LAST LEG" – The refrigerator in the supply room off the kitchen (used mainly by the teachers) is "on its last leg". So we are asking if there is someone (or if you know of anyone) who has a used fridge they would like to sell, please contact the school office. The school will pay you for it.

PRESCHOOL GRANDPARENTS' DAY, SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR, and SCHOOL

VISITATION: Under "normal conditions" all three of these events would have been held during the month of October. But guess what...due to Covid-19, we have been forced to cancel them. So we are looking to schedule *Preschool Grandparents' Day* and the *Scholastic Book Fair* in the spring 2021 (in coordination with the school's *Grandparents' Day*, possibly early May). In regard to the *School Parent Visitation*, unfortunately, that will not be held this year.

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.

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.

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!

A SIMPLE AND CONVENIENT WAY TO GIVE – This fall, consider signing up for electronic giving. St. John Lutheran Church relies on financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. One simple, easy to use authorization form can begin or change your electronic contributions amount. Contact *Joyce Wiechers* in the office at 419-598-8961 for details or begin by clicking on the blue “Give Now” button on the church’s website. Thank you!

ST. JOHN CHURCH LIBRARY – Stop in and check out the growing number of books available in the church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary. The books in this library have been screened to assure that they are true to the Word of God and can be trusted to be theologically sound. To borrow a book, just take it with you, and then return it to the basket when you’ve finished reading. A complete list of the books in the church’s library can be found by clicking on the “Book Inventory” link on the library page of our church’s website. <http://www.sjl.org/library.html>

STAMP COLLECTING: The LWML is collecting “Stamps For Missions.” Here is what you do: Cut the stamps from the envelopes allowing ¼ inch margin or more around the stamp. The stamp may not be damaged and the perforations around the stamp must be perfect. Regular stamps are no longer accepted. You need not trim the stamp; we have someone who trims and sorts the stamps. Do not remove stamps from envelopes, albums, and older postcards. An “old” postcard is usually from 1930 or before. The most valuable stamps are commemorative and foreign. Collecting stamps is an easy way to participate in a mission project sponsored by the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League. A yellow box is on the table in the narthex.

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!

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...

**The mind is a sacred enclosure into which nothing harmful can enter
except by your own permission.**

“Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” Phil 4:8