



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Giving to Caesar and to God" *Matthew 22:15-22*

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Three (*LSB pg. 184*)

Hymns: 940 ~ 914 ~ (Communion: 636, 549) ~ 554

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest this morning, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. Please fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and 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* ✠
- ✠ Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel, Carey Damman, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Mary Kossow, Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, *Altar Guild* ✠

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.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 10/11/20	\$9,278.99	\$182.00	\$415.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 26; Sunday – 90

LYF DRIVE-THRU ICE CREAM SOCIAL TODAY serving (pre-orders only) from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM at the west doors of the Fellowship Hall. Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit future LYF servant events. On the menu: *Chicken Sandwiches, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Chips,* and *Schwan's Ice Cream.* Freewill offering! A Thrivent Action Team event! Thank you!

In God's House This Week		Online church calendar: https://74058984.view-events.com
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM	Communion Service
	10:20AM	Adult Bible Study (<i>in the sanctuary</i>)
	10:30AM	Drive-thru LYF Ice Cream Social (<i>10:30 – Noon</i>)
Tues.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
	7:00 PM	Women of Freedom Meeting
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. James Strawn</i> - St. James Lutheran - Burlington

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, Lorna Von Deylen, and Ruth Mahnke*, 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*
- ❖ *Sue Hurst* and *Rev. Logan Scheiwe*, for health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *Rev. Robert Nemoyer*, who is in physical rehab at Evergreen Manor – Montpelier to regain strength after recent falls.
- ❖ *Leona Durham*, who is hospitalized and recovering from cancer surgery
- ❖ *John Gruenhagen*, thanksgiving for his release from the hospital and improving health

A REMINDER: If you are the LAST person to leave the building at the end of the day or after a meeting, etc., please make sure that the hallway lights are turned off and that the main entry doors (*where the buzzer is located*) are closed. With a tight budget, every little bit of electrical savings will benefit the church and closing the doors assures the safety of the building. Thank you!

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.

THE SCRIPTURES THIS DAY – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

During the season after Pentecost, the non-festival half of the Church Year, the Gospels focus on Jesus' teachings. This week's *Gospel* focuses on Jesus' teaching about stewardship, the management of the resources entrusted to us by God. Understanding proper stewardship includes recognizing what belongs to whom. Jesus implores us to reflect on His words "render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (v 21).

The very fact that the Pharisees and Herodians challenge Jesus on this topic hints at the theme of authority, a theme also evident in some of the other readings. For instance, in the *Psalm*, we see clearly the Lord's position: he is to be praised. "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised." (Ps 96:6). In the *Old Testament Reading*, Isaiah expresses a similar positioning. In His own words, the Lord declares what he will do or is doing: "I will go before you and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze. . . . I call you by your name. . . . I am the Lord, and there is no other" (Is 45:2-5). The *Epistle* adds very simply, "he has chosen you," and he is "the living and true God" (1 Thess 1:4, 9). Each one of these expressions is an affirmation of the Lord's authority.

ALL SAINTS DAY (Sunday, Nov. 1) – Two weeks from today

Once again this year, we will commemorate ALL SAINTS DAY as we give thanks to God for the lives and for the salvation of seven of our fellow members who passed away since the last commemoration of All Saints. They are: **Wilfred Gerken, Reldon (Shorty) Bischoff, Delora Winkelman, Eldor Gruenhagen, Dorothy Gerken, Linda (Kay) Gerken, and Troy Barton**. A white flower will be placed near the baptismal font symbolic of the righteousness of Christ in which all the saints are clothed for the eternal feast of heaven.

BIBLE STUDY TODAY POLITICS IS DRIVING ME CRAZY!

With every election cycle, the rhetoric becomes overpowering. We hear it in the national news. We read it on social media. Sometimes the discussions are balanced and informative. Sometimes they are mean-spirited and inaccurate. Sometimes they instill hope. Sometimes they incite fear or anger. Sometimes they promote an agenda that is very obviously contrary to God's Word and will.

What can a Christian do? How does a Christian view politics? How does a Christian respond to the present political climate? How can a Christian find hope even when he or she is overwhelmed with the thought, "**Politics is driving me crazy!**"?

This Bible study offers a note of calm as it reminds us that we are citizens of two kingdoms, each with a different role and a different agenda. It offers a note of hope as it reminds us that God has absolute rule over both kingdoms. It offers a note of encouragement as it leads us to consider how we serve in both kingdoms. **Join us TODAY after worship back in the sanctuary** (the fellowship hall is busy with Ice Cream Social activity).



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!

REDEDICATION AND NAMING THE “NEW” OLD SCHOOL – At its last meeting the Church Council decided two things related to our “new” facility across the road;

1. **The building should be rededicated** to reflect its new ministry function. The Council chose to rededicate on **Sunday, Dec. 6** (*the Sunday following the 102nd anniversary of the building’s dedication as a school on Sunday, December 1, 1918*).
2. **The building should have a name** instead of “the old school.” There are good reasons to name a building. A name gives a building personality and identity, making it easier to reference in publicity and scheduling (*i.e. can we even imagine the Empire State Building without its name*). A name can identify a building’s purpose (*i.e. “One Government Center” in Toledo*). Building names can also honor individuals (*i.e. St. John Lutheran Church*). Some building names are easily reduced to acronym nicknames (*the ‘Mariott Activities Center,’ known as ‘the MAC.’*)

The council would like to solicit possible names from the congregation. If you have an idea for naming our new facility, please write your suggestion on a piece of paper and place it in the appropriate box on the narthex table.

PLANS FOR ADVENT AND LENT DURING COVID – The Elders, Church Council and pastor have put together a plan for Advent and Lent during this time of pandemic. Instead of eliminating the Thursday service and having to split the Sunday service (for the sake of appropriate distancing), it has been decided instead...

- **to maintain the Thursday evening services** through the school year, which will continue to be the same service as the following Sunday;
- **to eliminate the traditional Advent and Lent Wednesday evening services;**
- **to receive door offerings at Thursday and Sunday services during Advent and Lent** as a substitute for the traditional mission and benevolence offerings we usually receive at our midweek services. The Stewardship Board will be preparing the list of missions and benevolences for these offerings.

God willing, these plan will be in place for this year only, and we can return to our normal schedule the following year.

CHRISTMAS CHILDREN’S SERVICES 2020 – Covid has interrupted many events and traditions, and the same will unfortunately be true this Christmas at St. John. To assure proper social distancing in the sanctuary, the traditional *Christmas Children’s Service* and the *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service* will each have to be split into two services. The schedule for Christmas will be as follows:

Sun. Dec. 20	6:00 pm	Younger Children’s Service: Preschool thru Grade 2
	7:30 pm	Old Children’s’ Service: Grades 3 thru 8
Thur. Dec. 24	6:00 pm	Early Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
	8:00 pm	Later Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Fri. Dec 25	9:30 am	Christmas Day Festival Service

Plans for the children’s services are now underway. Parents, please respond promptly when we reach out to determine which children will be participating in the *Children’s Christmas Services*. We of course encourage every child to take part in these services as a wonderful way for them to hear and learn again of God’s greatest gift to mankind, His only-begotten Son!

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.

LWML NAPOLEON ZONE CHRISTIAN LIFE WORKSHOP –The LWML Fall Christian Life Workshop will be held on Sat., Nov. 7, 2020 at St. Luke Lutheran Church, St Rt 108, Wauseon. Registration at 9:00 AM. The theme this year is "God's Promises to Me." A Mite offering will be taken to help reach the goals set by the Ohio District for mission projects. See today's bulletin insert.

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*).

LONG-TERM SUB – St. John School is in search of a long-term sub for the kindergarten position with a possible beginning date of late February thru the end of the school year. If you or someone you know is interested, please email Pastor Kramer at ckramer@sjl.org or Board President Tara Sausser . Oat Tsausser10@yahoo.com, or call the school office at 419-598-8702.

“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.

USED FAX MACHINE FOR SALE: The office fax machine is now operational thru the office copier. Thus, the previous standalone fax is no longer being used or needed. If you know of anyone who has need or interest in the old unit, please call the office to set up a time to come and look at it.

PTL FUNDRAISER: The *Profitable Solutions* Liquid Laundry Detergent & Fabric Softener Fundraiser sponsored by the PTL is underway now thru Oct. 23rd. Information and order forms are available on the narthex table. This fundraiser involves selling bulk laundry detergent (including pods!), softener, scent booster, dish soap, dishwasher pods and trash bags! All products are comparable to name brands. Please direct any questions to Nicole Stier at 419-966-7376.

ST. JOHN SCRIP: Start your Christmas shopping early! There are so many vendors on the Scrip order form, that you can't go wrong. Scrip orders are received on Wednesdays, ordered on Fridays and delivered on the following Tuesday. Order forms are posted on FastDirect under 'Links,' titled SCRIP Order Forms and SCRIP Program Info, There are also copies on the table in the narthex. Please feel free to share with family and friends. Payment must accompany orders. Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to the SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.

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.

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.

GERALD HISTORY BOOKS – If you didn't get one yet, you can still do so. Stop in at the church office to purchase your copy or you can also send \$12 to Robert L. Stockman, 1218 Spoonbill Landing Circle, Bradenton, FL 34209, and he will mail your copy to you via USPS.

If at any time during the year you need a gift for a current or former member of St. John, why not consider this history book about the development of Gerald? This book is full of interesting facts about Gerald, Freedom Township, and St. John Church. Get your copy today!

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...

The golden rule may be old, but it hasn't been used enough to show signs of wear.

"So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them" (Matt 7:12)