



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

October 25, 2020

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NO. 43

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

REFORMATION DAY (observed)

Sermon & Text: "Done!" *Romans 3:19-28*
Order of Service: See printed Service Folder
Hymns: 644 ~ 668 ~ 566 ~ 656 ~ 578

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING CHURCH

We thank God this day for His work through Martin Luther to bring to light the Gospel of Jesus. May He reform us and renew us as we seek His purposes under the power of this Gospel. The church gathers under the Gospel of Christ. It is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes. You are welcome as our guest this morning. Fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and pass it to the center aisle during the offering. May the Lord bless our worship.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠
- ✠ Mike Maassel, Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Mary Kossow, Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, *Altar Guild* ✠



BIBLE STUDY TODAY Abraham, Man of Faith!

This morning in Pastor Niermann's absence, Rev. Kramer will lead a single-session Bible study titled, "**Abraham, Man of Faith.**" Together we'll take a fresh look at the birth of Isaac, Abraham's son, and the testing of Abraham when God called upon him to sacrifice Isaac. Please join us in the north end of the fellowship hall for this study of the Scriptures.



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.

In God's House This WeekOnline church calendar: <https://74058984.view-events.com>

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 10:20AM	Reformation Worship Service Adult Bible Study
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tues.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Shepherd Committee Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr. High Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>)
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship
Sat.	9:00 AM	LWML Napoleon Zone Workshop (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Sun.	2:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:20AM	Turn your clocks back one hour All Saints Sunday & Communion Service Adult Bible Study
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Carl Rockrohr</i> – Zion Lutheran – Ridgeville Corners

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, 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*, recovering from recent cancer surgery
- ❖ *Annetta Rosebrock*, for health concerns and now recuperating at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Rosie Leonard*, for seizure activity that has begun again due to medication changes

TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK: Remember to turn your clocks back this coming weekend, Sunday, November 1st at 2:00 AM. Daylight saving time ends! *Schlaf Gut!*

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 10/18/20	\$9,605.70	\$288.00	\$498.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 37; Sunday – 92

THE SCRIPTURES THIS DAY – Reformation (observed)

Psalm 46, the Psalm for Reformation Day, forms the basis for Luther’s great hymn, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God,” which we will sing today as the *Hymn of the Day*. While this hymn is sung regularly on Reformation Sunday, it is also the Hymn of the Day for the First Sunday in Lent, when the Church remembers Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness. These two Sundays of the Church Year share common themes. In the time of the Reformation, Lutherans were facing temptation and possible death at the hand of the Roman Catholic Church and the government. Luther understood that the agent of these tormentors of the Church was the devil. Yet, the point of the Reformation was the Gospel message (*the first reading and Epistle*) of justification through Jesus’ death and resurrection and, not to be forgotten, Jesus’ active obedience to God for our sake. Therefore, the hymn also points us to the one who for us overcame sin, death, and the devil when he was tempted by all the things that prevail against us. It is this Jesus, the Truth of God in our flesh, that sets us free indeed from sin, death and the devil (*the Gospel*).

ALL SAINTS DAY (Sunday, Nov. 1) – One week 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 rose 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.

LYF DRIVE-THRU ICE CREAM SOCIAL THANK YOU: The Jr. and Sr. High LYF youth would like to thank everyone who supported the Drive-thru Ice Cream Social this past Sunday. With your support of the event, youth are working hard to raise money for future LYF events, including the next National Youth Gathering in 2022. A special thanks to anyone who donated miscellaneous ingredients toward the food prep; and to Thrivent for the Action Team card. Thanks again to everyone!

SOAR WITH THE EAGLES FUNDRAISER: In lieu of the Soar with the Eagles event this year, the School Board is hosting a drive-thru BBQ Chicken Dinner on Sun., Nov. 8th from 11:30am – 2pm at the school. This will be “PRE-ORDERS” only, with the order deadline of Tues., Oct. 27th. Order forms have been inserted in today’s bulletin. Return orders to the box on the narthex table. Payment is made when picking up your order.

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.

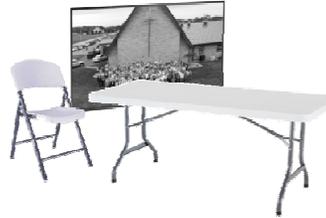
IF YOU’RE EVER IN A PINCH and could use a little help, the *Good Neighbor Fund* is there to assist you too! Please don’t be bashful about asking – everything is strictly confidential. Just give Pastor Niermann a call, and we’ll see what we can do!

FUNERAL HELP: If you would be interested and willing to donate food (*salads/desserts*) or to help serve at funeral luncheons, please sign the sheet on the narthex table. Thank you in advance!

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!

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. All of the tables and some of the chairs are now in place, and we are ready to begin using the east room on a limited basis. Once all the chairs 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).



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.

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.

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, we can return to our normal schedule the next 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!

DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS: The School Board would like to ask for volunteers to help decorate the sanctuary this year. They will be putting up decorations on Tues., Dec. 1st prior to School Board meeting that night. Please consider giving an hour or two of your time to help with this project. Hoping to have good participation 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.

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.

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!

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.

BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALL SEASON: The 20/21 basketball season is fast approaching with practices scheduled to begin October 26th. The 4-6 grade teams (*both boys and girls*) will consist of any active church member’s children that are currently in grades 4 to 6 and are interested in participating this year. **Practices begin tomorrow, Mon., October 26th with Girls practice 3:30PM to 5:00PM and then Boys practice 5:00PM to 6:30PM.** Please contact the Athletic Director - Brad Rosebrook (419) 966-3099 or brosebrook@sjl.org if your child is interested. Mini-Eagles basketball will begin a little later this season for boys and girls grades K-3rd.

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.

SWISS STEAK DINNER: The Ridgeville American Legion is hosting a Swiss Steak Dinner on Sun., Nov. 8th serving from 11am – 1pm. See flyer on bulletin board.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

“The true treasure of the church is the most holy gospel of the glory and grace of God.”

Martin Luther, Thesis 62

“I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my portion of food.” (Job 23:12)