



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

January 31, 2021

VOL. 86 NO. 5
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FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon Title & Text: "Don't You Get It?" *Matthew 20:20-28*
Order of Service: Morning Prayer (*LSB pg. 235*)
Hymns: 528 ~ "We Have Been Sent to Serve" ~ 833 ~ 935

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

The Psalmist wrote: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the House of the Lord.'" We are happy to have you with us, whether someone invited you or you came by yourself. We are glad to share this House of the Lord with you. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to our pastor and by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you. Simply drop it in the basket in the narthex as you leave.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠
- ✠ Dean Badenhop, Rich Elling, Dave Von Deylen, Dennis Showman, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Diane Von Deylen, Lou Ann Rosebrock, *Altar Guild* ✠

VOTERS' MEETING is scheduled for Sunday, February 21, 2021 after worship in the fellowship hall. On the agenda will be: 1) Report on the St. John Endowment fund and requested uses; 2) Annual School Report; 3) Audit Committee Report.

ELDERS MEET THIS TUESDAY – The Elders Meeting postponed from last Tuesday will meet instead this Tuesday, Feb. 2nd, at 7:30 p.m. in the north end Fellowship Hall.

2020 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – The 2020 individual offering totals (green sheets) are available on the narthex table. These will also be printed in the Church Annual Report. We hope this helps those members in need of this information for tax purposes. If you have any questions on your yearly contribution information, please call past Financial Trustee, *Mary Kossow* at 419-599-0011.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM	Worship Service
Mon.	5:00 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys; 6:00 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys @ Trinity – Toledo
Tue.	8:35 AM 5:00 PM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	School Chapel B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls; 6:30 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs Monclova Christian School Board Meeting Shepherd Committee; 7:30 PM Board of Elders
Wed.	6:15 PM 6:30 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class St. John Registration Open House for Preschool thru Grade 8 (<i>see note</i>)
Thurs.	6:30 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast in fellowship hall B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys @ St. John – Defiance Thursday Evening Worship
Sat.	TBD 12:30PM 3:00 PM	Jr/Sr High LYF making Super Bowl subs B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls; 1:45 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys @ Senedot Stripes vs Ashland Christian B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls; 4:15 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys @ Senedot Stripes
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:30AM	Communion Service LYF Super Bowl Drive-thru Sub Sale (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Jacob Stuenkel</i> , St. Peter Lutheran – Florida

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 Annetta Rosebrock*
- ❖ *Melba Elling and Lorna Von Deylen*, at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Evelyn Rohrs and Ruth Mahnke*, 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, Seth Handy, Jared Dishop*
- ❖ *Sue Hurst, Rev. Logan Scheiwe, Sharon Badenhop, and Phyllis Silveus*, for cancer issues
- ❖ *Crew Gerken*, born prematurely and in the NICU at Riverside Hospital, Columbus
- ❖ *Rev. Robert Nemoyer*, is now home and continuing his rehab there
- ❖ *Peter Gerken*, recuperating at home following surgery last week

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.

MANY THANKS:

- ▶ *Marian Dickmann* would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers, and church tapes delivered to her during her recuperation and rehab from her broken hip surgery. She is making steady progress and appreciates all the thoughts from everyone.
- ▶ *Rev. Robert Nemoyer* sends a “thank you” to those of you who sent cards or offered a prayer during his rehabilitation from his recent fall. The cards gave encouragement when needed and the prayers were felt when strength was needed. Thank you very much!

TODAY IS NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN

For the entire history of our congregation, Christian education through our parochial school has been a vital part of our ministry, as it has in many congregations throughout our church body, *The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*. We mark and celebrate this day using the NLSW national theme this year, “**Sent to Serve**,” inspired by our theme verse, “*Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*” (*Matt 20:28*) Join us in prayer for our school ministry and for all who teach, learn and serve within these walls.



National Lutheran Schools Week provides the network of 1,900 LCMS preschools, elementary schools and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God’s work in Lutheran schools. In this, Lutheran schools thank God for the opportunity to provide excellent academic preparation for the children they serve and for the opportunity to share Jesus’ amazing love with students and their families. National Lutheran Schools Week gives schools the ability to proclaim these great blessings within the communities they serve. Lutheran schools are amazing incubators for the faithful witness of God’s love through Christ by teachers and students alike.

NLSW ACTIVITIES: In celebration of National Lutheran Schools Week, Dave Kleck from WNDH radio station recorded radio spots from students at St. John. Students told why they like attending St. John Lutheran School. On Thursday, Dave came back and did live interviews with classrooms and teachers. These were broadcast over WNDH 103.1 FM last week.

MEN’S BIBLE BREAKFAST will meet this Thursday, Feb. 4, in the fellowship hall at 6:30 a.m. for an amazing breakfast and for the study of God’s Word. It’s a great way to start the day, and to further enhance your walk with Jesus!



2020 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – It’s time to start getting ready for the 2020 Annual Report. The various organization secretaries are asked to write up a summary of the year’s activities and the treasurers of the different organizations are asked to submit their yearly financial report. **Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers by Sun., Feb. 28.**

Also, if you’ve moved, eliminated your landline phone, or have a new phone number, contact the church office or make a note of it on a *Rite of Fellowship Card* and drop it in one of the baskets in the narthex to help us keep our records as up-to-date as possible.

Countdown to Sunday School

Because of Covid-19 it's been a long time since the children and adults of St. John have gathered on a regular basis for Sunday morning Christian education. **However, plans are in place to resume both Sunday School and Adult Bible Study in February.**



- **THREE WEEKS TO SUNDAY SCHOOL!** We will kick off Sunday School on **Sunday, February 21st** in the fellowship hall with a **JUNIOR JAVA JOY for the returning students**. There will be snacks and drinks, all commercially packaged for safety. As in the schools, students will wear masks and maintain social distancing. We will begin the session with a combined opening during which we will begin practicing a song or hymn for worship later on. We will then split into two groups, grades K-3 and 4-6 for our first lesson on the Creation.
- **THREE WEEKS TO 'THE LAMP' YOUTH BIBLE CLASS!** Also on **February 21st** the youth will gather again for a Sunday study. We will be blessed to gather in our new youth facility across the road. Join us, and invite a friend!
- **FOUR WEEKS TO ADULT BIBLE CLASS!** Because of the Voters' Meeting on 21st, this class will resume the following **Sunday on February 28th**. We will meet in the sanctuary for the time being. Our new study is titled, **"PROVOKING PROVERBS."** If you learned a proverb from your parents, such as, "Two wrongs don't make a right," and still remember it, you understand the power of a proverb to stick in the mind and to impact our lives. The Bible **PROVERBS** are the same – pithy, memorable and often fun little sayings of wisdom that we can apply to our walk with Christ. We'll find all kinds of Proverbs to help us keep God's commands and to take "every thought captive" to Christ, (2 Cor. 10:5) like this proverb: "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." (4:23)

A Lenten FAST from something that distracts you from God is a great spiritual exercise, but a Lenten FEAST on the Word of God is another great way to commemorate Lent. Your life of faith will definitely be enriched in Sunday School and Bible study. JOIN US, PLEASE!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 01/24/21	\$4,316.00	\$100.00	\$435.00
ATTENDANCE:	Thursday – 25;	Sunday – 75	

THRIVENT T-SHIRTS! There are an abundance of Thrivent t-shirts available this morning to anyone interested in them. Take as many as you want (or need)! They are in boxes labeled by adult sizes (Med/Lg/XL/2XL), and kid sizes all in one box. We have the boxes spaced apart in the narthex for safe distancing. We will have these t-shirts available for several Sundays, after which time they will be donated to the Orphan Grain Train in Napoleon. If you know of anyone who might like a t-shirt, please take one.

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!

THREE WAYS TO GIVE YOUR REGULAR 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.

LYF SUPER BOWL SUB SALE! It's that time of year again! Why not help out the church's Youth Group as well? On Sunday, February 7th, they will be selling Super Bowl subs to help raise money for their trip to the National Youth Gathering in 2022. Each sub costs \$3.00 (*or 4 for \$10.00*) and will contain salami, bologna, ham, white cheese, and yellow cheese on a 6" sub bun. **To place your order, please fill out a pre-order form and place it in the basket at the back of the church or bring it to the church office by Monday, February 1st.** Orders can also be made on the link on the St. John Church Facebook page. Subs will be available for pick up after church on February 7th until 11 AM via a drive-thru pick up similar to what was done for the Ice Cream Social. Payment will be due at the time of pick up. Checks made out to St. John LYF. Thank you for supporting our LYF!



VBS PLANNING TO BEGIN – Yes, it's time to start thinking about *Vacation Bible School* for this year. VBS has been tentatively scheduled for June 7-11. The first order of business is to identify and **VBS DIRECTOR** to help lead the way in this ministry to our children. If you would be interested in serving the little ones in this way, please speak with Pastor Niermann.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE – HELP WITH SANCTUARY TECHNOLOGY

- **Have you got a 'knack' for technology? Have you ever considered that 'knack' to be a gift of God that can be used in service to Him and His people?** We could use some help in worship with the sound board and with video recordings and uploading.
- And while we're at it, **we could also use some volunteers to help as "slide clickers" to advance worship slides during services.** This task does not require any technical skills, just the ability to press a button on a remote control.

Please think and pray about it, and get the word out, and we'll begin signing up people soon, and will then provide training. These are wonderful ways to serve!

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



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

USE OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL – If you would like to use the Fellowship Hall for any occasion, please contact the church/school office at 419-598-8961 or 419-598-8702. In addition to calling the office, you may want to check the online master calendar at <https://74058984.view-events.com> (*you can also link to it from www.sjl.org*).

ST. JOHN REGISTRATION OPEN HOUSE – An **Open House** is planned for grade levels (PS-8) at St. John School for Wednesday evening, **February 3rd, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM** for families who would like to come and look at our school and discuss the possibility of sending their child/children here for their education. If anyone in the congregation might know of prospective students for Grades PS-8, be sure to pass this information to them.

PRESCHOOL:

- **ENROLLMENT FOR PRESCHOOL:** The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2021-22 school year. Anyone interested in enrolling your child in our preschool program should contact the school office at 419-598-8702 to request an enrollment packet. We will be opening the registration up to the public as of Feb. 2, 2021, so be sure to register soon. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration.
- **TUITION** – Here are the School Board approved rates for the 2021-2022 school year:
3-yr old Preschool - \$80/month; 4/5-yr old Preschool - \$210/month.

ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES: You may begin ordering SCRIP. Order forms are available on the narthex table and also in the “School Info” rack outside the office. Please turn those orders in on Wednesdays, with payment to *St. John School PTL Scrip Program*. The gift cards will be sent home the following week on Tuesday. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

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.

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.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Social distancing at church does not apply to God.

“Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.” (James 4:8)