



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

February 7, 2021

VOL. 86 NO. 6
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FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sermon Title & Text: "Christus Consolator" *Mark 1:29-39*
Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Five (*LSB pg. 213*)
Hymns: **846** (*Thur only*) ~ (Baptism: "Borning Cry", **744** (*Sun only*) ~ **684** ~
(Communion: **620, 543**) ~ **849**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS *Welcome to every member, friend, and visitor. You have entered this church, not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. May you who enter here find rest, forgiveness, and strength. May your worship here enable you to see your Savior more clearly, love Him more dearly, follow Him more nearly, and serve Him more sincerely. If you have no church home of your own, we invite you to join the St. John family. Please fill 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* ✠
- ✠ Tim Badenhop, Dave Myles, Denny Bockelman, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karen Lulfs, Kaylee Buchhop, Ronda Wentworth, Karan Niebergall, *Altar Guild* ✠

BAPTISMS THIS MORNING – Today we rejoice with **Jordan & Allison Myles** who present their twin daughters for Holy Baptism. **Lennon Ann** and **Breckyn Lana** were born on December 18 at the Toledo Hospital. Their baptismal sponsors are **Kip & McKenzie** (Myles) **McCann**. Lennon and Breckyn's grandparents are Dave & Sara Myles, James Grooms, and Susan Totter. We rejoice today with this family and pray that the work God begins in the water of Holy Baptism may be brought to completion on the day of Jesus Christ, that through faith in Christ Lennon and Breckyn may receive their inheritance in the kingdom of God.



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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 10:30AM	Communion Service LYF Super Bowl Drive-thru Sub Sale (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.	6:30 PM 7:00 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys @ Tinora PTL Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Tue.	8:35 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	School Chapel led by Grades 1&2 B-ball: Gr. 7&8 Girls; 6:00 PM Gr. 7&8 Boys vs NWO Cougars Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship
Friday	-Sunday	B-Ball: NWOLL Tournament at St. John – Freedom (<i>runs thru Sunday</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM	Worship Service w/Communion following
Mon.-Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM

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: *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*, and *Jared Dishop*
- ❖ *Sue Hurst*, *Rev. Logan Scheiwe*, *Sharon Badenhop*, *Phyllis Silveus*, and *Eileen Fitzenreiter*, 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 recent cancer surgery
- ❖ *Norma Damman*, recuperating at Genacross Lutheran Home after a fall this past 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.

SUB SALE TODAY! Subs will be available for pick up after church today 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!

THANK YOU to *Larry Mahnke* and *Dean Maassel* for their efforts this winter in keeping the church and school parking lot cleared of snow. They donate their time and equipment to get this job done after each snowfall. This year's snowfall has been sparse until this past week, but even when there is a dusting; they are here bright and early clearing the lot. Great job guys! Thank you for your service!

PRAYER & ACTIVITY CALENDARS – FEBRUARY: Due to the harsh weather last Sunday, we are making the February Prayer and Activity calendars available on the narthex table this morning. Please stop by and pick them up for yourself or other members you think would like them. Thanks!

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.**



- **TWO 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.
- **TWO 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!
- **THREE 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!**

NEXT VOTERS' MEETING is Sunday, February 21st **after the worship service in the sanctuary** (so that Sunday School can gather 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.

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.

LWML NOTE: The LWML Zone President is asking for donations of washable markers (10 count) and coloring books to be taken to the National Convention from the Ohio LWML District. One of the service events at the Convention is to pack school kits. The coloring books are for younger children. Anyone wishing to donate items may place them in the designated collection container that will be placed in the narthex. Thank you.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 01/31/21	\$4,120.00	\$75.00	\$170.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 30; Sunday – 35

ADD'L MEMORIALS for *Elmer Badenhop*: St. John Building Fund - \$425.00

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.

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.



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.

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!

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!

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.**

Lent Midweek 2021

“Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster” (Joel 2:13). God’s invitation and promise finds its fullness in Jesus Christ, who personified and accomplishes all that God declares. Follow different events during the Passion, specifically focusing on the people that followed Christ, to see how God calls His people to return to Him this Lenten season.



WEEKLY THEME

- Ash Wednesday: Call to Return
- Lent 2: Return to Prayer
- Lent 3: Return from Betrayal
- Lent 4: Return from False Witness
- Lent 5: Return from Denial
- Lent 6: Return from the Kingdom of God
- Maundy Thursday: Return to the Table
- Good Friday: Return to the Church
- Easter Sunrise: Return and See

OFFERING DESIGNATIONS

St. John Church Vocation Students
Good Shepherd Lutheran for the Deaf
Filling Home of Mercy, Napoleon
National Youth Gathering
Lutheran Hour Broadcast
Worship Anew TV program
Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty
Home Fund
Home Fund

Ash Wednesday is Feb. 17 ♦ Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Due to Covid, there will be no imposition of ashes this year

**Thereafter, our Lenten Midweek services
will be on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.**

BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR LUTHERAN HOUR

MINISTRY (LHM) – LHM would like to have an ambassador in each congregation. The task is simple and rewarding for both the ambassador and the congregation. It involves...



- ...reading a monthly email about new product and program information, and sharing the information with the congregation;
- ...participation in an annual virtual training event from wherever you are;
- ...possibly leading congregational activities such as book clubs, “Gospel Adventure Groups,” Bible studies, etc.

When you sign up to become an Ambassador, you will receive a welcome package with some unique gifts to help keep you connected to LHM. Please speak with Pastor Niermann if you are interested.

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.

PTL MEETING: The next PTL meeting will be on Mon., Feb. 8th at 7:00PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend this meeting. This will be a business meeting. Discussion on an alternate drive-thru fundraiser since the Soup & Pie had to be cancelled. Hope to see you there!

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 have opened the registration up to the public as of Feb. 2, 2021. 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.

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, usually within a week after the meeting.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

The best vitamin for a baptized believer in Christ is B1.

“He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.” (Mark 16:16)