

St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

February 21, 2021

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FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Sermon & Text: "God Provides Even When Things Are Drastically Wrong" *Genesis 22:1-18*
Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting One (LSB pg. 151)
Hymns: 702 ~ 798 ~ (Communion: 809, 656) ~ 718

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We invite you to celebrate God's love as we pray to a Heavenly Father who cares for us, and as we hear His powerful Word to us. If you do not have a local church home, we extend a warm invitation to you to become a part of our church family. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the basket in the narthex as you leave.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠
- ✠ Tim Badenhop, Dave Myles, Denny Bockelman, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karen Lulfs, Kaylee Buchhop, Ronda Wentworth, Karan Niebergall, *Altar Guild* ✠

VOTERS' MEETING is today 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; 4) Naming the Youth Center; 5) Stained Glass Project and add'l funding needed; 6) Cemetery Pricing Updated

REMAINING LENT MIDWEEK SERVICES ON THURSDAYS – Please remember that our Lent midweek services this year will be held on Thursday evenings. There will be no Wednesday evening Lent services this year.

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 10:30AM	Communion Service Sunday School begins for Preschool thru High School age students Voters' Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.	5:30 PM 5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Boys @ Tinora
Tue.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Board of Elders
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class
Thurs.	6:30 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM	Men's Lenten Bible Study Breakfast Women's Lenten Bible Study (<i>see bulletin note</i>) Lenten Worship Service ; Offering: <i>Good Shepherd Church for the Deaf</i> Ushers: <i>Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop</i> Altar Guild: <i>Karan Niebergall, Kaylee Buchhop, Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs</i>
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.-Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Kurt Mews</i> , St. John Lutheran – Defiance

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*
- ❖ *Sharon Badenhop*, *Phyllis Silveus*, *Sue Hurst*, *Rev. Logan Scheiwe*, *Eileen Fitzenreiter*, and *Patty Badenhop*, for health concerns relating to cancer
- ❖ *Crew Gerken*, born prematurely and in the NICU at Riverside Hospital, Columbus
- ❖ *Clara Meyer*, home and recuperating from her recent fall
- ❖ *Norma Damman*, recuperating at Genacross Lutheran Home after a recent fall
- ❖ *Marian Damman*, for her recovery from her surgery this past week

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.

Sunday School Begins Today

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, but today is the day to start anew!



- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** will kick off TODAY 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.
- **'THE LAMP' YOUTH BIBLE CLASS ALSO RESUMES TODAY.** We will be blessed to gather in our new youth facility across the road. Join us, and invite a friend!
- **NEXT SUNDAY THE ADULT BIBLE CLASS WILL RESUME!** 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, "A stitch in time saves nine," 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 02/14/21	\$9,481.00	\$170.00	\$280.00
ATTENDANCE:	Thursday – 33;	Sunday – 120	

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.

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

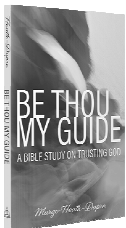
Lenten Midweek services are on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Lent Bible Study Opportunities for Men and Women

- **MEN'S LENTEN BIBLE BREAKFAST** – Each Thursday during Lent the men are invited to join us for a breakfast Bible study at **6:30 a.m.** We gather in the fellowship hall for one hour, which should give you give time to get on your way with whatever your day may hold. It's a great way to commemorate Lent, to enjoy fellowship, to grow in God's Word, and to enjoy a really good breakfast! **Please join us!**



- **WOMEN'S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY** – Join your sisters in Christ each Thursday morning during the remainder of Lent for our Bible study, **“Be Thou My Guide.”** We'll look at the examples of biblical figures who work on growing their trust in the Lord. From Moses to Mary, we look at their circumstances and responses to learn how to stand firm and draw close to Jesus. **Join us this Thursday (Feb. 25th) at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room next to Pastor's study.** Women interested can call or email Lois Rosebrock at 419-598-8248 or rosebro1137@gmail.com. Masks will be required when entering and leaving the building.



LENTEN DEVOTIONS FROM L.H.M. – Lutheran Hour Ministries has made available their 2021 Lenten Devotions, on the theme, "The Mark of Love." In these devotions we read of Jesus' unwavering love for mankind. Sent by the Father, His Son's mission and ministry was to call us "out of darkness into His marvelous light." This God has done through His Son. He took our sin and sorrow to the cross of Calvary, and rising on the third day, crowns all believers with the gift of forgiveness and eternal life. Several booklets have been printed (some in large print) and are available on the narthex table. Pick up your copy and make these devotions part of your daily household routine!

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.

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.

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!

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.



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.

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.**

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.

EAGLE NEWS: The Eagle News is available on the narthex table today and also online via FastDirect Communication. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnfreedom/>, click on “Links” at the top of the page, then click on “Eagle News – February” in the “Everybody” column. Extra copies are also in the “School Info” rack outside the office.

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS: For anyone wishing to place flowers on the altar or piano for a certain Sunday worship, please sign up on the “Flower Calendar” posted in the narthex. Then about two weeks before that date, please contact *Mabel Bischoff* at 419-598-8757. **NOTE: The price for flowers through the Women of Freedom is \$21.00.** Please make checks payable to Women of Freedom. Remember that it is your responsibility to call Mabel either way; if you would like the Women of Freedom to order the flowers or if you are going to take care of ordering the flowers yourself. This will alleviate any confusion.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Lent calls us to forsake our sins, not just our chocolates!

*“He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper,
but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.” (Prov 28:13)*