



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

April 25, 2021

VOL. 86 NO. 17

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon Title & Text: "This Is How We Know; This Is What We Do" *1 John 3:16-24*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: *740 ~ 709 ~ 588 ~ 711*

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 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 and dropping it in the basket at the doors as you leave.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

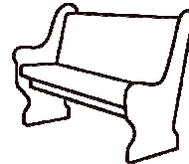
✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠

✠ Bob Norden, Elmer Maassel, Denny Behnfeldt, Ted Ripke, *Ushers* ✠

✠ Mary Kay Rettig, Sandy Von Deylen, Kathy Badenhop, *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.

- **PEW COLOR INDICATIONS HAVE BEEN REMOVED.** At its last meeting the Church Council recommended removing the color indications on the pews that have been in place during this pandemic. As of this morning, you may sit in any pew, but we ask that everyone continue to observe social distancing as best you can, and that we avoid packing the back pews especially. You can space yourselves out both front to back and side to side. *It's one small step to normalcy!*



SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS MORNING for the children will meet in the gym. The Adult Bible Study for this morning is cancelled, and will resume again next Sunday.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 10:20AM 10:30AM 3:00 PM 4:00 PM	Worship Service Sunday School (<i>will meet in the gym</i>); "The Lamp" is cancelled today Good Shepherd Sunday Brunch (<i>see info in bulletin</i>) Jr High LYF Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>) Sr High LYF Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
Wed.	6:15 PM 3:30 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class Lady Eagles Basketball Skills Camp (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Thurs.	11:30AM 1:40 PM 7:00 PM	Kindergarten dismisses at 11:30 AM Kindergarten Clinic (<i>until 2:40 PM</i>) Thursday Evening Worship Service
Sat.	9:00 AM	Confirmation Mini-Retreat (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Lee Genter</i> , Christ Our Savior 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

MATTERS FOR PRAYER – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- ❖ *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*, *Eileen Fitzenreiter*, and *Patty Badenhop*, for health concerns relating to cancer
- ❖ *Norma Damman*, recuperating at Genacross Lutheran Home after a recent fall
- ❖ *Casen Lawrence* (Dan & Deb Wachtman’s grandson), for recent health issues
- ❖ *Don Lawrence*, son-in-law of Dan & Deb Wachtman (Megan’s husband) who is battling both cancer and Covid in the hospital in Cleveland.
- ❖ *Ron Germann*, admitted to Toledo Hospital this week with health issues

LYF TODAY: LYF will be meeting today at the Youth & Family Center. The Jr High LYF will meet from 3:00-4:00 PM. The Sr High will then meet from 4:00-5:30 PM. Masks will be required. Come join us for a Bible study, fellowship, food, and games!

Good Shepherd Sunday Brunch

THIS MORNING AFTER WORSHIP

Please join us after worship this morning for our *Good Shepherd Sunday Brunch*. The men are serving today, as we honor our church women's organization, *The Women of Freedom*, for all they do for God's kingdom through their LWML mite offerings for missions, Bible Studies, congregational services (such as funeral meals), shut-in contacts and visitations, and scholarships for young people preparing for church work. The proceeds from this brunch will be given to *The Women of Freedom* as support and encouragement for their work among us.

- **Brunch Menu** - French Toast, Pancakes, Scrambled eggs, Sausage, Fruit, Coffee, Juice
- **Time** – Serving begins after the morning service, about 10:30 a.m.
- **Carryout containers** will be available in line if you'd like to take it with you.
- **Free Will donations** accepted with proceeds to *The Women of Freedom*.

Serving will begin at about 10:30 a.m. Please take care to observe social distancing, to sanitize your hands, and as much as possible to be seated in "Covid bubbles." Thank you to the fellowship hall set-up crew and to the men of St. John who are providing and preparing food and serving us today.

Please enjoy your brunch!



CONFIRMATION CLASS RETREAT THIS SATURDAY – This is a reminder to the confirmation class of 2021 and their parents that the class will be meeting this coming Saturday morning, May 1st, for our mini retreat to study the Sacrament of the Altar from the Small Catechism. We will gather in the East Room of the Youth & Family Center from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Pastor will have some juices and snacks on hand for the confirmands to help them get through the morning! ☺

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. This coming week we will begin the process of recruiting staff, so please keep an eye on the bulletin and look for sign-up pages to be in the narthex next Thursday and Sunday.



PTL SPRING FLOWER DELIVERY: The PTL Spring Flower sale was a big success! The flowers will be delivered on Thurs., May 13th around 11:30 AM. Any and all help will be appreciated to help unload the flowers from the truck. The flowers will already be sorted by families. Please contact Ashley Crall at 419-966-0067 or email her at aellingcrall@yahoo.com if you are available to help. Those families who ordered flowers may pick up their orders between 3 – 6 PM on May 13th along the west side of the building. This location may change if there is inclement weather that day. For any church member that needs to have their flowers delivered, please call Ashley. The PTL thanks everyone who supported this fundraiser.

2020 CHURCH'S ANNUAL REPORT: There are several copies available on the desk and table in the narthex today.

CHURCH CONSTITUTION: Several members have asked for a copy of the church's constitution over the past months. With the revision of the cemetery rates by Church Council in December 2020, updated constitution booklets are now available in the new tract rack in the narthex. If interested, please pick up a copy at your convenience. More will be printed as needed.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 04/18/21	\$7,139.00	\$205.00	\$580.00
ATTENDANCE:	Thursday – 44;	Sunday – 124	

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS: \$1,550.00

MEMORIALS for *Annetta Rosebrock*: Designation to be determined - \$1,860.00

CONTINUE BUILDING THE WALL: The St. John Youth & Family Center is up and running. The first three groups of brick nameplates from the youth center fundraiser have been put up. A big thanks to *Mike Elling* for cleaning all the bricks, *Tom Rohrs* for laying up the two brick walls, and for the 135+ contributors (*and counting*) for making the \$19,000+ fundraiser a success! There is room for at least another 135, so if you've been waiting for a reminder, or wanted to see how they look, stop over at the youth center and check out the walls by the South or East doors. It's fun to read the names, the confirmation years...some from the 1800's, and some in the 2020's! But...there are still bricks to be engraved! Why not consider filling out an application, and give it to Joyce Wiechers or Cathy Gerken along with a check (*\$100 minimum for a brick*) with the inscription info you would like on it. Checks should be payable to *St. John Lutheran Church*, with "Youth Center" on the memo line. Let's keep building, brick by brick!

For those who cannot get over to see the bricks, we have a photo posted on the bulletin board, narthex table, and entrance doors for you to see how they look.



FINISHING THE STAINED GLASS WINDOW PROJECT – Pastor Niermann reported at the last voters' meeting that because of increased costs, the donation for our stained glass windows in memory of Juanita Thorpe by her family (Juanita was Pastor Maassel's daughter) will be approximately \$7,500 short of completing the project. This is approximately the amount needed for the final two windows. The family has opted not to complete the financing for the project, **so the church council has decided to begin receiving congregational gifts toward its completion.** If you care to give a donation and become part of this project, please include your special gift with your regular offering, and make note of it on the outside of the envelope.

Also starting now, families who would like a portion of their loved one's memorial gifts to go toward this project may do so in consultation with the pastor in accordance with the Stewardship Board's Memorial Gift guidelines.

LUTHERAN WITNESS RENEWAL – It's time to renew your subscription to the Lutheran Witness for the year. To subscribe or renew your subscription, **simply place \$16.00 in an envelope**, along with your name and address, and place it in the Sunday collection plate or bring it to the church office. **Deadline for subscriptions is May 15th.**

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.

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.

BALCONY SEATING DURING WORSHIP – With livestreaming and recording of our services taking place from the balcony, we ask that as much as possible the congregation be seated the *nave* (the main seating area of the sanctuary) so that the microphones don't pick up extraneous sounds from the balcony. If you feel that you need to sit in the balcony because of the fullness of the sanctuary and for social distancing reasons, please keep that in mind that the microphones are nearby. *Thank you!*

ST. JOHN CHURCH LIBRARY – Stop in and check out the growing number of books available in the church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary. The books in this library have been screened to assure that they are true to the Word of God and can be trusted to be theologically sound. To borrow a book, just take it with you, and then return it to the basket when you've finished reading. A complete list of the books in the church's library can be found by clicking on the "Book Inventory" link on the library page of our church's website. <http://www.sjl.org/library.html>

PROJECT CONNECT – There are many free booklets in the rack in the narthex. Be sure to check for some informative reading such as: *“Alzheimer’s: Facing the Loss of a Lifetime,” “Talking with God,” “Forgiveness is a Choice,” “Talking Openly with Kids,” “Setting Priorities,” “Your Place in God’s Plan,” “Stressed but Connected,” “Beyond Divorce,” “For Better, For Worse,” “What Is Faith in Jesus?”* and many more. Booklets furnished through Lutheran Hour Ministries.

PIERSTORF MEMORIAL LOAN FUND – provides interest-free loans to Lutheran students who are or will be enrolled full time in a four-year undergraduate program at any accredited college or university. This year, the maximum interest-free loan amount is \$3,000 for the school year. For information, visit www.Pierstorf.org and complete the 2021-2022 application. Applications open April 15, 2021 and close June 30, 2021.

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. Just give Pastor Niermann a call!

PRESCHOOL GRADUATION will be **Tues., May 18th** at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. This ceremony is for the 3-yr old and 4/5-yr old classes. Everyone is invited to this big day for the preschoolers. There will be a program followed by light refreshments.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT: 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. Rates for the 2021-2022 school year: 3-yr old Preschool - \$80/month; 4/5-yr old Preschool - \$210/month.

KINDERGARTEN CLINIC & ELIGIBILITY for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2021! The St. John K-clinic will be held on Thursday, April 29th beginning at 1:00 PM. **St. John Lutheran School's eligibility date for entering Kindergarten is that a child must be five years old on or before September 30th to enroll in Kindergarten.** Items needed for our St. John clinic are: An original and/or certified copy of their birth certificate; a physical dated after August 2020 (*if available*); immunization records; Social Security number; child custody documents if applicable; and the baptism date/baptismal certificate, or dedication date. *NOTE: If your child is enrolled in our Preschool program, we already have this information and you will not need to bring them the day of the clinic.*

KINDERGARTEN HALF DAY! Please note that on Thurs., April 29th (*the day of the K-garten Clinic*), the Kindergarten class will dismiss at 11:20 AM. Please make pick up arrangements at that time for your child on April 29th. Thank you!

SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL GRANDPARENT'S DAY: A notice that Grandparent's Day at St. John School for Grades Preschool thru 8 is cancelled again due to Covid protocol and having too many people inside classrooms and cafeteria. We pray that we can see all of you next school year.

LADY EAGLES SKILLS CAMP: Coach Schroeder will be conducting a Lady Eagles Elite Skills Basketball Camp at St. John from 3:30 – 5:00 PM on April 28, May 3, 10, 17. This is open to any congregation member/student in Grades K-4. Flyers located on the narthex table. For questions, please call Coach Schroeder at 419-591-6655. Let's go Eagles!

HAWKS PIZZA & ST. JOHN SCHOOL: Hawks Pizza in Napoleon will be donating 10% of their total sales on Sat., May 8th, to St. John School. This is a community fundraising event they have chosen us to be a part of. Last year the response from our congregation members was so much that Hawk's ran out of pizza dough and had to hold up on taking orders for a short time until they got more dough. They said our congregation is "over the top" with supporting the St. John School. Let's do it again! Call Hawks at 419-599-1946 to place your order. You may also go to their website at hawkspizza.com.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Sheep don't wallow!

*"Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace,
with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. (2 Tim 2:22)*