



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

May 2, 2021

VOL. 86 NO. 18
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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon Title & Text: "Fruitful Branches of the Vine Divine" *John 15:1-8*
Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Three (LSB pg 184)
Hymns: 474~ [Sunday Baptism: "Borning Cry," 601] ~ 595
[Communion: 706, 611, 618] ~ 691

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

You are among Christian friends today. We all have come to the Lord's House to hear what He has to say and to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. We pray that His grace will touch and move you. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the basket at the doors as you leave.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Bethann Gerken, *Pianist* ✠
- ✠ Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel, Carey Damman, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham, Pat Maassel, Kathy Behnfeldt, *Altar Guild* ✠

FLOWERS TODAY:

- ♥ **Altar flowers** are being placed in honor of today's baptism of *Connor Michael Jackman*.
- ♥ **Piano flowers** are placed in loving memory of our daughter, sister, and aunt, *Stephanie Kossow*, who went to be with the Lord 13 years ago on May 1st. As the years pass, we still miss her every day, but know she is singing her heart out in heaven along with her three grandparents. Signed, *Doug, Mary, Tyler, Olivia, Kohen, and Logan*
- ♥ **Piano flowers** are being placed in memory of our son, brother, and uncle, *Ryan Rosebrock*. May 3rd is always a difficult day for us, but knowing that Ryan is where he needs to be, brings us the comfort needed to get through this time of year. We miss his smile and humor so much every single day. Signed, *Randy, Cou Ann, Michael, Sam, Axel, Ben, Michelle, Ryan, Lucy, Kate, and Henry*

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.	3:30 PM	Lady Eagles Basketball Skills Camp (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Tue.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel School Board & Stewardship Board Meeting
Wed.	9:00 AM 6:15 PM	7 th & 8 th Grade Quiz Bowl Tourney at NWOESC in Archbold Confirmation Class Preparation – Confirmands only
Thurs.	6:30AM 7:00 PM	Men's Bible Study Breakfast Thursday Evening Worship Service
Sat.	10:00AM	Hawk's Pizza Community Day until 10PM (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service with Communion following Adult Bible Class; 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

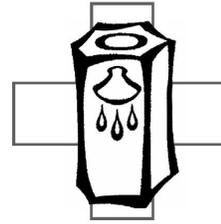
MATTERS FOR PRAYER – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- ❖ *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*, with in-home hospice as he is dealing with acute leukemia

A "DELICIOUS" THANKS: The Women of Freedom sincerely thank the men of the church for their thoughtfulness and all the work they did to serve up such a delicious Good Shepherd Sunday Brunch for everyone. There was a nice turnout, wonderful fellowship, and the monetary donations will allow the Women of Freedom to continue their work for the Lord. A job well done...and thanks again!

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!

BAPTISM THIS MORNING – Today we rejoice with **Brandon & Kayla Jackman** as they present their infant son, **Connor Michael Jackman**, for Holy Baptism. Connor was born on February 19th at the Fulton County Health Center in Wauseon. His baptismal sponsors are **Curt & Sarah Wilson** (Kayla’s sister and brother-in-law), for whom Jessica Damman and Lucas Damman (Kayla’s siblings) will be standing in as proxies. Connor’s grandparents are **Dave & Teresa Damman** and **Gary & Cheryl Jackman**.



We pray together with this family that the work God begins today in Connor in his baptism will be brought to completion on the day of Jesus Christ, when all who believe and are baptized shall be saved for God’s eternal kingdom!

CONFIRMATION CLASS PREPARATION FOR QUESTIONING – These next two Wednesday evenings (May 5 & 12), the confirmation class of 2021 will meet from 6:15 to 7:45 p.m. to prepare for public questioning on Thursday, May 13. Confirmands should bring with them the questions handed out by Pastor a month ago with their written answers, as well as Catechisms, Bible, and pencils. We will review our answers together.

VBS NOTES – Great news – Madelyn (Dishop) Kuhlman has graciously consented to serve as VBS director this year, so it’s time to begin recruiting the staff. **VBS is scheduled for June 7-11 (Monday to Friday) in the mornings, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Our first staff planning meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 15th at 10:00 a.m.**

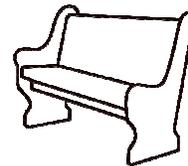


Please consider serving the little ones in some capacity with our VBS. A staff recruitment form is included in today’s bulletin for you to sign up. We need leaders and helpers for each of the five site rotations: 1) Bible Story Telling; 2) Bible Challenge (to help student memorize Scriptures); 3) Crafts; 4) Games; and 5) Snacks. In addition, we need a preschool teacher or two and helpers. For those of middle school age, an excellent way to help is to be a group leader, to lead a group of students through the site rotations and to be general helpers.

Use the form to sign up, and return it to the box marked for this purpose in the narthex. Thank you for serving Jesus’ little lambs! ***“All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children.” (Isa 54:13)***

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!*



PROPERTY SALE – It's official. The parcel of property in Napoleon donated to the church about a year and a half ago has now been sold to *Snyder Buick Cadillac GMC* for \$45,000. We thank Ben Kruse for keeping the property mowed during our tenure of ownership, Greg Kehnast for marketing the property for us, and Snyders for their purchase of the lot. This is a tremendous gift to our congregation, for which we are thankful to God!

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.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 04/25/21	\$6,728.00	\$195.00	\$105.00
ATTENDANCE:	Thursday – 39;	Sunday – 120	

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS: \$2,000.00

MEMORIALS for Renetta Homan: St. John Lutheran Church – Home Fund - \$390.00

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.



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.

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.

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.

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.**

HEARING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE: If hearing in worship has been a problem for you, pick up one of the receiver units for our hearing assistance system. An usher will assist you and you'll hear much more clearly. (*Also, please let us know how the system is working for you.*)

For those who use the hearing assistance system regularly and for the sake of hygiene, we ask that you claim one of the ear buds as your own and keep it with you in your purse, pocket, etc. Bring it with you when you come to church, and simply plug it into one of the receivers. At the end of the service, unplug the ear bud to take with you until the next time.

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!*

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.

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.

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 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 COMMUNITY DAY: 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.

RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPT. AUXILIARY will be hosting a Drive Thru Chicken BBQ on Sun., May 16 at the Ridgeville Fire Station. Serving begins at 11:00 AM until gone. Menu consists of: *½ Chicken (Brookview), Cheesy Potatoes, Relish & Dip, Coffee Cake*. Freewill offering. Come and support your local Fire Dept. Sponsored by Ridgeville Fire Department Auxiliary.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Don't accuse God of being silent if your Bible remains unopened.

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." (Rom 10:17)