



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

May 9, 2021

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon Title & Text: "Seeing As God Sees, Through Lenses of Love" *Acts 10:34-38*
Order of Service: *Service of Prayer & Preaching (LSB pg. 260)*
Hymns: 791 ~ 845 ~ 844 ~ 829

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Happy Mother's Day!... and a special, grateful welcome to all mothers this morning. We bless and cherish you for the care and nurture you gave or are giving now to your children. We salute you in the name of our Lord who loved His mother and provided for her. If you are visiting with us this morning, help us get to know you better by filling out the blue 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

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠
- ✠ Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel, Carey Damman, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Anita Badenhop, Deb Durham, Pat Maassel, Kathy Behnfeltdt, *Altar Guild* ✠



ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers on the altar are placed in celebration of *Leah Maassel's* graduation today from Concordia University – Ann Arbor at 1:00pm. They are placed by her family. Leah is graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice and public policy. Best wishes to Leah in her future endeavors!

PRAY FOR OUR 2021 CONFIRMANDS – Next Sunday, six young members of St. John will stand before the congregation to confirm and publicly confess their baptismal faith. Prior to this, they will be examined on Thursday evening. It's a big event in their lives and in their development as Christians. Please keep them in your prayers during their final preparation, asking God to carry in the years ahead the work that He has begun in them. Our confirmands this year are: *Cal Bickel, Brooklyn Bostelman, Jack Buchhop, Tayah Homan, Ian Rosebrook, and Parker Woods.*

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 10:20AM	Worship Service with communion following Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.	3:30 PM	Lady Eagles Basketball Skills Camp (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Tue.	8:35 AM 9:30 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel led by <i>Mr. Kevin Creutz</i> , Ohio Lutheran Schools Supt. Vision, Hearing, and Scoliosis Screening for Gr. K-8 Church Council Meeting
Wed.	9:00 AM 6:15 PM	Vision, Hearing, and Scoliosis Screening for Gr. K-8 Confirmation Class Preparation – 8 th Grade Confirmands only
Thurs.	11:30AM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	PTL Spring Flower delivery (<i>help needed – see bulletin note</i>) Confirmation Examination / Questioning in the fellowship hall Thursday Evening Worship Service with communion
Fri.		Last day for PS3-year old Class
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Confirmation and Communion Service Sunday School; "The Lamp"
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

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*, receiving hospice care at home for acute myeloid leukemia. May God preserve him in faith unto life everlasting, and keep Ron's family in His tender care.

HOLY COMMUNION will be offered this morning following the service. Those who wish to attend should fill out a card from the pew rack in front of you and give it to the usher as you leave your pew this morning. Return immediately to the front pews in the sanctuary.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS WILL NOT MEET TODAY OR NEXT SUNDAY – Today is Mother’s Day, so take a little more time at home and enjoy family. Next Sunday is confirmation Sunday, and pastor will be busy with taking class pictures, etc. **Adult Bible Study will resume its study, “Provoking Proverbs,” on Sunday, May 23.**

CONFIRMATION CLASS PREPARATION FOR QUESTIONING – This next Wednesday evening, May 12, the confirmation class of 2021 will meet from 6:15 to 7:45 p.m. to prepare for public questioning the following evening, 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 for the final time.

- **CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL** – After the questioning on Thurs., May 13th at 7:00 PM is finished, the confirmands and their families will proceed to the sanctuary for a brief rehearsal to get ready for confirmation Sunday. At that time, robes and stoles will be handed out, and final instructions given.

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.**

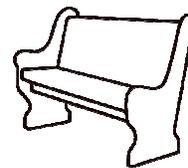


Please consider serving the little ones in some capacity with our VBS. Staff recruitment forms are available on the table in the narthex. We need leaders and helpers for each of the five site rotations: 1) Bible Story Telling; 2) Bible Challenge (to help student memorize Scriptures); 3) Crafts; 4) Games; 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!*



ABOUT LUTHERAN SCHOOLS: *We Pursue Excellence!* In a Christ-centered religiously integrated curriculum Lutheran schools meet or exceed state standards for high quality schools. Through National Lutheran Schools Accreditation (NLSA) schools complete a rigorous self-study, are reviewed by a team of peers and implement initiatives that provide a continuing program of excellence for students.

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 05/02/21	\$11,909.44	\$120.00	\$455.00
ATTENDANCE:	Thursday – 38;	Sunday – 112	

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS: \$450.00

IN MEMORY of *Rev. George Maassel* and in **HONOR** of the 90th birthday of *Rev. Richard Maassel*:
Stained Glass Windows - \$90

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.

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.**

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!*

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.

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 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.

SCRIP FOR GRADUATION: Why not use the PTL SCRIP Program to order gift cards for those graduating seniors in your lives. Order forms are available in the tract rack in the narthex or online via FastDirect. Please turn those orders in on Wednesdays, with payment to *St. John School PTL*. 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.**

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN will Thurs., **May 27th** with early dismissal at 2:00 PM. Closing Day festivities include: Closing chapel at 12:40 PM; as well as Kindergarten graduation, awards, prizes. All parents are welcome to come. This is for students in Kindergarten through Grade 8. Academic Awards will be handed out as well as other awards. **Please note: This service will include Kindergarten Graduation.**

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 10, 17. This is open to any congregation member/student in Grades K-4. For questions, please call Coach Schroeder at 419-591-6655.

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.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE: The Ridgeville Corners Memorial Day service to remember those who served our country will be held on **Mon., May 31 at 10:30 AM** at the Ridgeville American Legion. **Flag Drill**: Children age K thru 4th Grade are invited to participate in the flag drill during the Ridgeville Memorial Day service. Practice will be on Tues., May 25, and Thurs., May 27 at 6:30 PM (for 45 minutes). *Laura Bickel* and *Jenny Behnfeldt* are directing the children.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Read your Bible. Not all questions can be answered by Google.

“You have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” (2 Tim 2:15)