

# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

May 16, 2021

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Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor  
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal

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### **SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – (Confirmation)**

Sermon Title & Text: “Numbered” *Acts 1:15-21*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: 856 ~ 598 ~ 590 ~ 517~ [Communion: 689, TLH391, 411] ~ 941

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### **WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS**

*A warm welcome to all, especially friends and relatives of our Confirmation Class. 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. You can also register your name in the Guest Book in the Narthex.*

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### **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 Behnfeldt, *Altar Guild* ✧

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are placed by this year’s Confirmation Class consisting of *Cal Bickel, Brooklyn Bostelman, Jack Buchhop, Tayah Homan, Ian Rosebrook, and Parker Woods.*

**THE FLOWERS ON THE PIANO** are placed by *Mike & Cheryl Dietrich* in honor of their granddaughter, *Brooklyn Bostelman’s* confirmation today.

**MOURNING THE LOSS:** On Friday, May 7, 2021, Ron Germann, 78, passed away at his home after a short battle with leukemia. Ron’s funeral took place on Thurs., May 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM at St. John and a committal service was held at St. John Lutheran Cemetery immediately following the service. Ron’s quiet and gentle personality will be missed by everyone who had the good pleasure of knowing him. His family will miss him greatly. Please continue to keep Karen, Tracy, Scott, and Mike in your daily prayers at this time of mourning for them.

**ADULT BIBLE CLASS WILL NOT MEET TODAY** – Because of Pastor’s involvement in photographs with the confirmation class today, Adult Bible Study will be cancelled. **We will resume our study, “Provoking Proverbs,” on Sunday, May 23.** And with youth Sunday School dismissed for the season, we will resume our study in the north fellowship hall.

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

| <b>Date</b>   | <b>Time</b>               | <b>Activities</b>  |
|---------------|---------------------------|--|
| Today         | <b>9:00AM</b><br>10:20AM  | <b>Confirmation and Communion Service</b><br>"The Lamp"  |
| Mon.          | 3:30 PM                   | Lady Eagles Basketball Skills Camp ( <i>last one</i> )   |
| Tue.          | <b>8:35 AM</b>            | <b>School Chapel</b><br>Last day for 4/5-yr old Preschool  |
|               | 6:30 PM                   | Preschool Graduation in the sanctuary  |
|               | 7:00 PM                   | Women of Freedom Meeting   |
|               | 7:00 PM                   | Shepherd Committee   |
| Thurs.        | 7:30 PM                   | Board of Elders  |
|               | 6:30 AM                   | Men's Bible Study Breakfast  |
|               | <b>7:00 PM</b>            | <b>Thursday Evening Worship Service</b>  |
| Fri.          | 9:00 AM                   | Gr. K-8 Field Trip to Sauder Village   |
| Sun.          | <b>9:00 AM</b><br>10:20AM | <b>Worship Service</b><br>Adult Bible Study; "The Lamp"  |
| Mon.-<br>Sat. | 7:30 AM                   | Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM<br>Speaker: <i>Rev. Dale Kern</i> , Retired, St. John Lutheran – Stryker |

**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:

- ❖ *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*, for recent health issues relating to ongoing seizures
- ❖ *Don Lawrence*, who is battling both cancer and Covid in the hospital in Cleveland
- ❖ *Clara Meyer*, who will celebrate her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday tomorrow (Monday). Happy Birthday!

**PRAYERS FOR PASTOR:** Please keep Pastor Niermann in your daily prayers at this time. He has been recently hospitalized briefly at Fulton County Health Center with acute pancreatitis. He is still dealing with some of the ongoing symptoms of this condition. These attacks are very painful and prayers for healing on his behalf would be greatly appreciated.

**GOD BLESS THE CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2021!** This class of six is being confirmed under the theme, “**Numbered,**” based on the reading today from Acts 1. We are reminded of the blessing it is to be ‘numbered’ among the disciples of Christ, and of the tragedy of falling from this high calling as did Judas. May God’s Spirit preserve our confirmands and all of us in Christian faith to life everlasting!

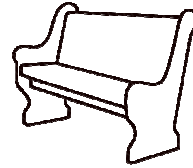


**The six members of this year’s confirmation class (and their Confirmation verses) are:**

- **Cal Bickel**, son of Nathan & Christa Bickel (Matthew 6:33)
- **Brooklyn Bostelman**, daughter of Ryan & Renee Bostelman (Deuteronomy 31:6)
- **Jack Buchhop**, son of Keith & Candace Buchhop (Joshua 1:9)
- **Tayah Homan**, daughter of Stephenie Wentworth & R. Christopher Homan (Joshua 1:9)
- **Ian Rosebrook**, son of Bradley & Amy Rosebrook (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- **Parker Woods**, son of Kirk & Kim Woods (John 8:12)

**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!*



**ARCHIVES DISPLAY:** The Archives Committee is paying tribute to Confirmation Sunday. In the display cases in the hallway, there are pictures of the confirmation classes observing anniversaries. We have started with the 5th anniversary and ended with the 80th anniversary. Please take time to enjoy the display.

**HAWK’S PIZZA “THANK YOU!”** Thank you to everyone who supported the Hawk’s Pizza Community Day this past weekend. Every year we increase our involvement and this year was no exception. Hawk’s informed us that the school will be receiving a check for \$575 which is 10% of their sales on Sat., May 8<sup>th</sup>. This is great news and they were amazed (again) at the outpouring of support for St. John. Thanks everyone!

**WOMEN OF FREEDOM:** The next meeting will be held on Tues., May 18 at 7:00 PM. All women are invited to come. Hope to see you there!

**8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE GRADUATION** will be held on Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduates are: *Cal Bickel, Brooklyn Bostelman, Tayah Homan, Ian Rosebrook, and Parker Woods.*

Men's Breakfast  
**Bible Study**



**MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST** – Each month on the first and third Thursdays, 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 time to get on your way with whatever your day may hold. We look ahead to the Scripture readings for upcoming Sundays and discuss them together. **Oh, and of course there's breakfast – a really good breakfast that you don't want to miss! Please join us. It's the best part of waking up!**

| <b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b> | Home Fund      | Synod & Missions | Building Fund |
|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Weekly Need                    | \$9,792.78     | \$500.00         | \$961.54      |
| Rec'd 05/09/21                 | \$7,446.00     | \$205.00         | \$370.00      |
| ATTENDANCE:                    | Thursday – 42; | Sunday – 121     |               |

**STAINED GLASS WINDOWS:** \$150.00 (This fund has now met its goal. Thank you everyone!)

**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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)

**EAGLE NEWS:** The Eagle News is available on the narthex table and is 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 – May" in the "Everybody" column.

**ABOUT LUTHERAN SCHOOLS:** *We Show the Love of Christ!* Caring, Christian teachers share the Word of God daily with children and families. Strengthening a home, school and church partnership, through an education of the whole child, students are prepared and equipped for a life of Christian citizenship and discipleship.

**SAVE THE DATE! MARK YOUR CALENDARS! CANCEL ANY PLANS** you may have had for **July 25, 2021**. This is the date that St. John is planning to celebrate and recognize Lowell Petzoldt's retirement and his 44 years in the teaching ministry all at St. John. More details to be forthcoming, but per this announcement, we just want you to keep this date on your schedule.

**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.

### **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 18<sup>th</sup>** 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.

**BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS** need to be turned in to the office by Wednesday of each week in order to be included in the Thursday and Sunday bulletin. Please note this. 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](http://www.Pierstorf.org) and complete the 2021-2022 application. Applications open April 15, 2021 and close June 30, 2021.

**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](mailto:honemann@embarqmail.com).**

**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN** will Thurs., **May 27<sup>th</sup>** 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.**

**ST. JOHN SCHOOL POSITION OPENINGS** – St. John Lutheran School is seeking to fill the following paid position that will be open after this school year.

- **School Cook** – This individual is responsible for ordering/purchasing, preparing, and serving lunch for approximately 55-60 students and staff; and the clean up after lunch. This would average 15 hours per week. Must be willing to have a FBI/BCI background check.

Please contact the school office at 419-598-8702 if interested.

**RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPT. AUXILIARY** will be hosting a Drive Thru Chicken BBQ today 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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...**

**Eat the devil's corn and you'll choke on his cob.**

*"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death." (Prov 14:12)*