



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

May 23, 2021

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THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Sermon Title & Text: "The Wind of the Spirit" *Acts 2:1-2*
Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*
Hymns: 498 ~ 502 ~ [Communion: 693, 650, 795] ~ 496

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to every member, friend, and visitor. You have entered this church, not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. If you have no church home of your own, we invite you to join the St. John family. Fill out a blue pew card from the rack in front of you and drop in the baskets at doors as you leave church this morning.



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* ✧

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

MY DEVOTIONS for June, July, and August are available this Sunday on the desk in the back of the church. Pick up your copy today! If you know of someone who would enjoy these, take one for them.

SUNDAY SCHOOL & SUMMER: There will be no Sunday School for the remaining month of May, and for the months of June, July, and August. We will resume Sunday School the second Sunday in September (9-12), which will be promotion Sunday.

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 – everything is strictly confidential. Just give Pastor Niermann a call, and we'll see what we can do!

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tue.	9:30 AM 12:45PM	Field Trip – Gr. K-8 to Norden’s Dairy Farm Field Trip – Gr. K-4 Putt-Putt Golf
Wed.	9:00 AM	Gr. K-8 Intra-School Field Day; 12:45 PM Gr. 5-8 Putt-Putt Golf
Thurs.	12:40PM 7:00 PM	Last Student Day with Closing Chapel ; Kindergarten Graduation; Academic Awards; 2:00 PM Early Dismissal Thursday Evening Worship Service
Fri.	9:00 AM	Staff Meeting – End of Year
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	8th Grade Graduation and Worship Service Adult Bible Study
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Stephen Niermann</i> , St. John Lutheran – Napoleon

FOR THOSE LISTENING FROM THE PARKING LOT**Pick up your bulletin and service by driving through the carport before worship****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
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson*, *Jason Rohrs*, *Emily Schroeder*, *Jared Dishop*, and *Jordan Lange*
- ❖ *Sue Hurst*, *Rev. Logan Scheiwe*, *Eileen Fitzenreiter*, and *Patty Badenhop*, for health concerns relating to cancer
- ❖ *Norma Damman*, recuperating at Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Casen Lawrence*, for recent health issues relating to ongoing seizures
- ❖ *Don Lawrence*, who is battling both cancer and Covid in the hospital in Cleveland
- ❖ *Mabel Bischoff*, who will be having back surgery on June 15th at Toledo Hospital

PRAYERS FOR PASTOR: Please keep Pastor Niermann in your daily prayers. He has been dealing with acute pancreatitis, but improving and gaining strength every day. Your prayers for continued healing on his behalf would be greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU ALL! The family of *Annetta Rosebrock* would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers, cards, and all the memorials given with the recent passing of our mother. Thank you to Pastor Niermann for his comforting words at the funeral service; to Renee Petzoldt for providing the music; Dan Wachtman for his technical expertise to live stream the service; and to the Women of Freedom who served such a delicious luncheon, we say “thanks so much.”

ADULT BIBLE STUDY RESUMES PROVERBS STUDY in fellowship hall

After a hiatus for “Here I Stand Sunday” and a few other special Sundays, our study, “**PROVOKING PROVERBS,**” resumes this morning. If you learned a proverb from your parents, such as, “**Actions speak louder than words,**” 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)



PICTURE DIRECTORIES: We are making available the extra picture directories for anyone who would like one. We are simply asking that you make a freewill donation. If you did not get your picture taken or have family members who would like to have a directory, please take advantage of this offer. Look for the bucket with the camera pictures on it and drop your donation into it. There is a limited supply, so when they’re gone...they’re gone!

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.

- **WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION THIS WEEK AND NEXT SUNDAY.** The CDC and state guidelines are changing as we begin to emerge from this pandemic, and discussions are underway among the church leadership as to how we will respond.

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.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 05/16/21	\$4,715.00	\$80.00	\$540.00
ATTENDANCE:	Thursday – 29;	Sunday – 166	

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.

ABOUT LUTHERAN SCHOOLS: We Innovate! Lutheran schools continually evolve to meet the needs of students and the communities they serve. Classical schools, academies, robotics, athletics, STEM, service learning, resource programs, drama, fine arts, blended classrooms and virtual schools are the many opportunities that students can explore and experience in reaching their full potential.

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.

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!

3-YR AND 4/5-YR PRESCHOOL UPDATE: The 4/5-year old preschool class numbers are currently at 10 students. We are able to take a few more in this class. The 3-year old class has openings available, as they currently have 6 students enrolled. If you know of anyone interested in enrolling in our preschool program, please have them contact the school office at 419-598-8702 to obtain a registrations packet. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration form.

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.

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!*

STAMP COLLECTING: The LWML is collecting “Stamps For Missions.” Here is what you do: Cut the stamps from the envelopes allowing ¼ inch margin or more around the stamp. The stamp may not be damaged and the perforations around the stamp must be perfect. Regular stamps are no longer accepted. You need not trim the stamp; we have someone who trims and sorts the stamps. Do not remove stamps from envelopes, albums, and older postcards. An “old” postcard is usually from 1930 or before. The most valuable stamps are commemorative and foreign. Collecting stamps is an easy way to participate in a mission project. A yellow box is on the table in the narthex.

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.**

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.

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...

Church sign: ATM inside – Atonement, Truth, Mercy.

*“O LORD, I love the habitation of your house
and the place where your glory dwells..” (Psa 26:8)*