



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

May 30, 2021

VOL. 86 NO. 22  
Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181  
Rev. Charles Kramer, Principal School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339  
Church Website: [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)

### THE HOLY TRINITY

Sermon Title & Text: "Loved to Love, Served to Serve" *John 3:16*  
Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*  
Hymns: *822 ~ 507 ~ 571 ~ 794*

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### **WELCOME TO OUR VETERANS & VISITORS**

*On this Memorial Day Weekend, welcome to this service of worship in which we remember, with reverence and thanksgiving, those who gave their lives for our country. Above all, however, we would remember Him whose love includes people of all nations—our Lord Jesus who gave His life for all of us. May the remembrance of His sacrifice bring reconciliation and peace! If you are a visitor today, please 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.*

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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* ✠

**GRADUATION CLASS OF 2021** – The Altar Flowers are placed today in honor of the eighth grade graduating class of St. John. The 2021 graduates are:

*Cal Bickel   Brooklyn Bostelman   Tayah Homan   Ian Rosebrook   Parker Woods*

We wish you all of God's blessings as you begin the next chapter in your lives. Good luck to all of you and CONGRATULATIONS from everyone at St. John!

**HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RECOGNITION** – If you are graduating from high school with the class of 2021, we'd like to take a moment or two to recognize you in our worship on **Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>**. On that day we'll have you gather together before worship in the "Cry Room" and be seated together for worship. We'll ask about your plans, and offer prayer for you as well. In the meantime, we'd appreciate having a picture of each graduate that we can project during the recognition. Email them to *Pastor Niermann* at [sniermann.sjl@gmail.com](mailto:sniermann.sjl@gmail.com), or drop off in the office.

<b>In God's House This Week</b>		<i>Online church calendar: <a href="https://74058984.view-events.com">https://74058984.view-events.com</a></i>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	<b>9:00AM</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation and Worship Service</b>
Mon.	6:00 PM	LYF Summer Bonfire ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Thurs.	6:30 PM <b>7:00 PM</b>	Men's Bible Study Breakfast <b>Thursday Evening Worship with Communion</b>
Sun.	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM	<b>Communion Service</b> ( <i>with recognition of High School Seniors</i> ) Adult Bible Study
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. James Strawn</i> , St. James Lutheran – Burlington

**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
- ❖ *Don Lawrence*, who is battling both cancer and Covid in the hospital in Cleveland
- ❖ *Mabel Bischoff*, who is having severe back pain and will be having back surgery on June 15<sup>th</sup> at Toledo Hospital

**THANKS SO MUCH!** The family of *Ronald German* would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, cards, and all the memorials given with the recent passing of our father. Thank you to Pastor Niermann for his visits and comforting words; to Pastor Kramer for conducting such a nice funeral service; to Renee Petzoldt for providing the music; and to the Women of Freedom who served such a delicious luncheon, we say “thanks so much.” Your kindness will always be remembered!

**ADULT BIBLE CLASS WILL NOT MEET THIS MORNING** – Because of Pastor's involvement in photographs with our eighth grade graduates, Adult Bible Study today is cancelled. **We will resume our study, “Provoking Proverbs,” next Sunday, June 6.**

**UPDATE COVID-19 MEASURE** – Today is the final day for the COVID mask guidelines that have been in place for worship for more than a year. **Please refer to the insert in today's bulletin to learn more about our new guidelines.** For today, the old guidelines are still in place: 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.

**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 months of June, July, and August. We will resume Sunday School the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in September (9-12).

**Men's Breakfast  
Bible Study**



**MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY** meets again this Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 a.m. in the north fellowship hall. We gather for one hour, which should give you give time to get on your way with whatever your day may hold. It's a wonderful time of fellowship and of nourishment for the soul from Scripture, the very Bread of Life! **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!**

**VOTERS' MEETING TWO WEEKS FROM TODAY** – Please be aware that the congregation will meet in voting assembly on Sunday, June 13 after the worship service.

**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!

**LYF BONFIRE** – The LYF will kick off the summer with a bonfire at the Youth Center on Mon., May 31<sup>st</sup>. This event will go from 6:00 – 9:00 PM (or whenever your curfew is...). Youth in Jr. and Sr. High are welcome to attend this event. Students who were previously in 5<sup>th</sup> grade this past school year are also welcome to join us but will need to have parents stop by to fill out a form. Throughout the night we will have s'mores and lawn games set up for youth. This is a "come and go" event, so youth are welcome to arrive or leave within the time frame. Please bring your own lawn chair. If you have any questions, please contact Miss Bartok.

**INTERESTED IN A CHURCH PROFESSION? WE'D LIKE TO HELP!** Recently a number of young people from St. John have pursued educational goals to prepare them for full-time service as teachers and pastors. If you are interested in a church profession (*such as a pastor, deaconess, teacher, lay minister, a Director of Christian Education, etc.*), our congregation would like to support you by offering a tuition gift. An application is available online at [www.sjl.org/student\\_gift\\_app.pdf](http://www.sjl.org/student_gift_app.pdf). There is no link. **Deadline for fall enrollment is June 1<sup>st</sup>.**

<b>FINANCIAL FACTS:</b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 05/23/21	\$5,951.00	\$668.00	\$232.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 30; Sunday – 100

**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.

**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:** Please note the church office hours during the month of June are Tuesday thru Friday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Closed over the lunch hour and all day on Mondays. If making a special trip, please call (419-598-8961) to guarantee someone will be here. Thank you!

**WHY LUTHERAN SCHOOLS? *We Strengthen Congregations!*** Lutheran schools equip children to become Christian leaders in the congregation. The school also involves young parents in congregation activities more than in congregations without schools. These young parents frequently become new leaders of the congregation. Students are encouraged to become future pastors and teachers, ensuring an ongoing supply of church workers.

**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 check it out!

**CONTINUE BUILDING THE WALL:** The St. John Youth & Family Center is up and running. 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!

**ST. JOHN GIRLS B-BALL OPEN GYM:** Coach Schroeder will be holding open gyms for girls who will be going into Grades 3-8 next school year. These will be held at St. John from 1:00 – 2:30 pm on the following dates: **June 8, 10, 15, 17, 22; July 8, 13, 16, 20, 22**. Any questions...Call Coach Schroeder at 419-591-6655.

**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.
- **Music, Computer, or Phys Ed Teacher** – These are part-time positions. The applicant must have a valid Ohio teaching license, have a background check, and adhere to Lutheran teachings. Applicant must supply 3 references and be interviewed.

If interested in any of these positions, please contact Principal Kramer at the school (419-598-8702) or in-coming school board president, Joel Stier at 419-277-1142.

**REPORT CARDS** will be available for viewing and/or printing via FastDirect Communication as of Sun., June 6<sup>th</sup>. We will no longer print hard copies from the office. Please check FastDirect on the 6<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://www.Pierstorf.org) and complete the 2021-2022 application. Applications open April 15, 2021 and close June 30, 2021.

**THE LUTHERAN HOUR** – The Lutheran Hour Ministries can be heard on a few radio stations in our area. They cover many topics relevant to today’s issues. Broadcasts can be heard Sundays on: Archbold’s WMTR 96.1 FM at 7:30 AM; **Napoleon’s WNDH 103.1 FM at 9:00 AM**; Fort Wayne’s WOWO 1190 AM at 10:30 AM.

**OHIO ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN:** With all the flooding, tornadoes, and storms that have hit the southern states and the Midwest, please keep the OGT in your thoughts when disposing of clothing and household items. The Ohio Division OGT is located in the north end of the Culligan Water Conditioning building on Independence Drive in Napoleon. Someone is usually there to receive items on the first Tuesday of the month from 9:00-11:00 AM. If you need to drop off items at another time, please contact *Nancy Helmke* (419-758-3539), *Diann Meyer-Grieser* (419-267-3485), or *Vicki Grieser* (419-445-2986) and they will be happy to meet you and open the facility to receive your donations! PLEASE do not drop off items at the warehouse when it is closed. Thank you!

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**A SAVE THE DATE:** The *Annual Stephanie Lynn Kossow Memorial Golf Outing* will be held on Sat., July 31<sup>st</sup> this year with a 1:00 PM shotgun start. Flyers available on the narthex table!

**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.

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**Don't let sin against you produce sin in you.**

*“Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written:  
“It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord...” (Rom 12:9)*