



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

June 20, 2021

VOL. 86 NO. 25
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

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dale Kern
Sermon Title & Text: “Whirlwind Voices” *Job 38:1-11*
Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting One (pg. 151)*
Hymns: **908 ~ 725 ~ [Communion: 774, 923, 605] ~ 922**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

As we celebrate Father’s Day, we recognize the important role which Christian fathers play in their families. We ask that our loving Father in Heaven would bless them all in carrying out this God-given responsibility. If you are our guest today, simply fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the basket at the door as you leave. Thank you for visiting us today!



SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠
- ✠ Neil Badenhop, Doug Dietrich, Joe Badenhop, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Nancy Short, Deb Wachtman, Kathy Gruenhagen, *Altar Guild* ✠

GUEST PREACHER TODAY – In Pastor Niermann’s absence today, **Rev. Dale Kern** joins us as our guest preacher, Communion celebrant and worship leader. He will be preaching from Job 38 a sermon titled, “**Whirlwind Voices.**” Job wanted an audience with God and he got it. The Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind storm. It’s not exactly what Job was expecting, but God’s “whirlwind voice” is exactly what he needed. We welcome Rev. Kern into our midst!

WOMEN OF FREEDOM – There is no meeting scheduled for the month of June.

PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS for the next quarter, *July, August, September*, are on the desk in the back of the church. There are also large print booklets available for anybody to pick up.

In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: https://74058984.view-events.com</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study
Mon.		Re-paving of the parking lot begins
Tues.	1:00 PM	Girls Basketball Open Gym (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Thurs.		Cancelled - Thursday Evening Worship (<i>if working on parking lot</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Jim Fundum</i> , Immanuel Lutheran – Hamler

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

Drive-thru Communion after worship under carport

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

- ❖ *Melba Elling, Lorna Von Deylen, Norma Damman, Evelyn Rohrs*, at Genacross – Napoleon
- ❖ *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, and Eileen Fitzenreiter*, for health concerns relating to cancer
- ❖ *Don Lawrence*, who is battling both cancer and Covid in the hospital in Cleveland
- ❖ *Mabel Bischoff*, who had back surgery this past week at Toledo Hospital
- ❖ *Esther Layton*, recovering from recent surgery at St. Luke’s Hospital in Maumee

PARKING LOT NEWS

- **PAVING** - Please be aware that the grinding and paving of our parking lot is tentatively set to begin on **Monday, June 21st**. That week the parking lot will be unavailable for parking. We will cancel the Thursday evening service that week (or whichever week the work takes place).
- **FILL DIRT AVAILABLE** – If the project gets pushed back one week (June 28) and you are in need of some fill for your property, the pile along the south end of the parking lot is available for free. Come and get it! It is not clean dirt, but also contains pieces of asphalt. If you know of anyone in need of this, please help yourself.

VBS NOTES – VBS is still being scheduled for this summer in the mornings, 9:00 a.m. to noon. The revised dates are still being decided to coordinate with the repaving of the parking lot. Please consider serving the little ones in some capacity with our VBS. Staff recruitment forms are available on the narthex table. We still need leaders and helpers for each of the five site rotations shown on the recruitment form.



A FATHER'S DAY DEVOTION from "Our Daily Bread" – June 2010

In the U.S., more long distance calls are made on Mother's Day than any other day. But on Father's Day, the most collect calls are made. It seems that children still depend on their fathers to provide, even when they are far away from home.

Fathers are needed and wanted for much more than financial help. While 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12 is primarily directed toward church leaders, Paul talks about how their role is similar to a father's. He states: "You know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children."

Exhorted is "to call near." It is easy for fathers to think that all that's required of them is to bring home a paycheck. But children need their close encouragement.

The word **comforted** is "to console." Nothing is more valuable to a child than the time given by a father to listen and talk. Without constant relating, relationships turn cold.

Charged is "to affirm." Fathers challenge their children by affirming the truth of God's Word as they live it out in front of them. And even in failings, they affirm what is right through the asking of forgiveness.

How thankful we can be for fathers who help their children "walk worthy of God" (v.12).

~ **Good fathers reflect the heavenly Father** ~



FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 06/13/21	\$7,345.00	\$185.00	\$345.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 39; Sunday – 80

MEMORIALS for Ron Germann: St. John Lutheran Memorial Fund - \$2,645.00

ANNOUNCING OUTDOOR SERVICE DATE – The Church Council has established **Sunday, August 22nd** as the date for our annual Outdoor Service, with the following Sunday (8/29) as a rain date. This year at the outdoor service we are also planning to rededicate the old school building as our brand new **Youth and Family Center**. Please mark your calendar for this special date and event!

COVID-19 MEASURES – We now have new guidelines in place for face masks, that reflect the new state and CDC guidelines. We ask you to use your discretion when deciding whether to wear a mask, keeping in mind the "royal law according to the Scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (James 2:8) Be considerate of the well-being of those around you, especially if you are not immune from having had COVID or a vaccination. (New CDC guidelines from its website state that if you have been vaccinated, you can safely resume the activities you did prior to the pandemic without wearing a mask or social distancing; and if you are not vaccinated, you should continue taking all precautions.) We will not try to distinguish who is vaccinated and who is not.

For the time being, most other Covid mitigation measures we have been observing will continue. We will roll them back a little at a time as we try to return to normalcy. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

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!

LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BULLETINS are available on the table in the narthex. The Children's Bulletins are coordinated with the Bible texts for each Sunday, and provide activities that tie in with the weekly themes. Pick one up today for your child.

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.

WHY LUTHERAN SCHOOLS? *Strengthening Communities:* Every community needs students who are academically qualified and have learned to practice appropriate morality and respect. Since Lutheran schools accept students from all parts of the community, they can have a strong effect on the community itself.

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.

TRINITY TIME: On July 12, Concordia University Ann Arbor (CUAA), Ann Arbor, MI, will host Trinity Time, an in-person one-day retreat for high school students considering church work vocations. Get to know and experience CUAA's campus while interacting with current students and professors, participating in worship in CUAA's Chapel of the Trinity and learning about avenues for service in the church. Find out more, register or refer a student at: cuaa.edu/trinitytime.

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. The maximum interest-free loan amount is \$3,000 for this year. For information, visit www.Pierstorf.org to complete the 2021-2022 application. Applications close June 30, 2021.

TURN YOUR OLD USED CELL PHONE INTO A GIFT FOR THE POOR!

Sources tell us that the average American household has 5 to 6 old unused cell phones lying around. Now you can put those phones to good use AND keep them out of the landfills. Bring them to church and deposit them in the large white box in the narthex. They will be forwarded to a company that sorts them and prepares them to be given to poor families for emergency use, and sends us a check.



PROJECT CONNECT – There are many free booklets in the rack in the narthex. Be sure to check for some informative reading such as: “*Alzheimer’s: Facing the Loss of a Lifetime*,” *Talking with God*,” “*Forgiveness is a Choice*,” “*Talking Openly with Kids*,” “*Setting Priorities*,” “*Your Place in God’s Plan*,” “*Stressed but Connected*,” “*Beyond Divorce*,” “*For Better, For Worse*,” “*What Is Faith in Jesus?*” and many more. Booklets furnished through Lutheran Hour Ministries.

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.

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!

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.

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.

SCHOOL YARD SIGNS: Yard signs promoting St. John Lutheran School are available in the narthex. Please take a sign and place it in your front yard. The sign will let everyone know that our school is accepting student registrations from grades preschool thru 8th grade.

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!

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.

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 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.

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!

REMINDER--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!

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

✘ ✘ ✘

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Soft words are hard arguments.

"Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone." (Prov. 25:15)