



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

August 15, 2021

VOL. 86 NO. 33
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

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon Title & Text: "Offensive Wisdom" *John 6:51-69*
Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting Three (LSB pg. 184)*
Hymns: **904 ~ 526 ~** (Communion: **629, 712, 818**) ~ **655**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome! We are here at the Savior's invitation; therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, receiving mercy and finding grace to help in every time of need. But above all, we invite you to come to worship with us at any time. If you are a visitor, please introduce yourself to the pastor as you leave the worship service this morning.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠
- ✠ Jerry Short, David Badenhop, Dan Wiechers, Denny Von Deylen, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Ronda Wentworth, Karan Niebergall, Kaylee Buchhop, Karen Lulfs, *Altar Guild* ✠

ANNUAL OUTDOOR SERVICE IS NEXT SUNDAY! Don't miss it! Our *Annual Outdoor Service* is scheduled for next Sunday, Aug. 22 at 10:00AM (*the following Sunday is the rain date*).

- **REDEDICATION OF THE YOUTH & FAMILY CENTER** – Also next Sunday, we will be rededicating the old school building for its new lease on life as our 'Youth & Family Center' (*Y&FC*). Following the service and rededication, the Stewardship Board will be hosting a Java Joy for everyone, and the *Y&FC* will be open for touring. Please mark your calendar for this special date and event!

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION – At their recent meeting the elders discussed whether we should begin receiving Holy Communion once again at the altar rail. After much discussion, it was decided that for now we will continue as we have during the Covid pandemic. This is in large part because of the surge of the Covid 'Delta Variant' and present uncertainties about how serious this surge may become. We thank everyone for their patience in this matter; we pray that we will be able to return to the altar rail soon to receive Christ's Holy Supper.

| In God's House This Week | | Online church calendar: https://74058984.view-events.com |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Date | Time | Activities |
| Today | 9:00AM 10:20AM | Communion Service Adult Bible Class |
| Thurs. | 7:00 PM | Thursday Evening Worship |
| Fri. | 9:00 AM | Staff Meeting in Fellowship Hall - North |
| Sun. | 10:00AM | Outdoor Worship Service at the Old School Property (NOTE TIME) Rededication of the Youth and Family Center |
| 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

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, Jordan Lange*
- ❖ *Sue Hurst, Eileen Fitzenreiter, and Don Lawrence*, for health concerns relating to cancer
- ❖ *Esther Layton*, recovering from recent surgery
- ❖ *Kay Heilman*, for extreme sciatic back pain as she awaits an MRI in a week

ADULT BIBLE STUDY THIS MORNING

Provoking Proverbs ♦ Third Commandment

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.”

Most people forget that God’s Third Commandment in Exodus 20 is not just about rest, but includes the command to work. That’s because this commandment is all about keeping a proper balance in life between work and worship, labor and the Lord, vocation and vacation.

In our Sunday Adult Bible Study, we are looking at the biblical Proverbs categorized according to the Ten Commandments. Join us this morning as the *Proverbs provoke us* to properly balance work and rest in our lives. **Each session is a study unto itself, so don’t feel like you shouldn’t come if you weren’t there for previous sessions.** Bible Study is a wonderful time of growth in God’s Word and of Christian fellowship. **Oh, and we have coffee too!**



WOMEN OF FREEDOM: The Women of Freedom will not be meeting in August. Our next meeting will be Tues., Sept. 21. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend!

SHARE THE BOUNTY OF SUMMER – This morning a table has been set up under the carport where you can bring any spare produce from your garden and share it with others in the congregation. Bring whatever you can and take whatever you can use, and share the bounty of summer! The table will be set up each Sunday through September or so.



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.

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

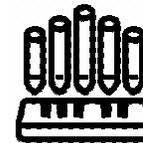


Drive-thru Communion is on the first and third Sundays for those who have participated in the Divine Service from the parking lot.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| <u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u> | Home Fund | Synod & Missions | Building Fund |
| Weekly Need | \$9,792.78 | \$500.00 | \$961.54 |
| Rec'd 08/08/21 | \$7,068.00 | \$212.00 | \$530.00 |
| ATTENDANCE: | Thursday – 47; | Sunday –125 | |

INTERESTED IN PLAYING THE ORGAN? BEING A CHURCH ORGANIST?

Through a generous gift to the *LCMS Ohio District* from a family that loves Lutheran worship and hymnody, grant money is available for you to take organ lessons with an eye toward serving as a church organist. This grant can fund lessons for beginners, for pianists transitioning to organ, or for current organists wanting to hone their skills. Speak with the Pastor if you are interested!



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!

CHURCH LIBRARY – The church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary, is growing to contain a lot of excellent books that will edify your faith. The books in this library have been screened to assure that they are true to the Word of God and can be trusted to be theologically sound. Please check out the selection. To borrow a book, just take it with you, and then return it to the basket when you've finished reading.

COUNCIL MINUTES – This is just a reminder that council meeting minutes are not published until they are approved a month later. If you would like to read about the most recent council meeting, an unofficial and unapproved copy of the minutes is available for viewing in the church office, usually within a week after the meeting.

PARENT HANDBOOKS: The 2021-22 Parent Handbook is posted and available via the FastDirect Communication network. A message was sent to each family through FastDirect. Handbooks will only be printed for those St. John families that do not have internet access via computers, cell phones, i-Pads, etc. Go to www.fastdir.com/stjohnfreedom and click on “Links”.

ST. JOHN SCHOOL POSITION OPEN – St. John Lutheran School is seeking someone to fill the following position that is open for 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.

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

UPCOMING SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL DATES TO REMEMBER:

- ▶ **School Open House** – The St. John School will be holding an open house on **Tues., Aug. 24th from 6:00 – 7:00 PM** for Kindergarten thru Gr. 8 families. We will meet first in the Fellowship Hall. That will be a time to introduce our staff members and set the tone for the school year. After meeting in the Fellowship Hall students can drop off materials in their classrooms, meet teachers, and pay fees in the school office.
- ▶ **Preschool Parent’s Meeting & Open House** – On **Wed., Aug. 25 at 6:30 PM** there will be a Preschool Parent’s Meeting held in the Fellowship Hall for children entering the 3-yr old preschool class. Immediately following this meeting (at 7:30 PM) there will be a Parent Meeting for children entering the 4/5-yr old preschool class. Parents will be informed about student expectations in the classroom and also the basics of navigating in the FastDirect Communication system. The classroom will be open and staffed during these meetings. **All Preschool parents are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting.**

FREEDOM’S FLOCK – St. John’s after school program will begin at 3:00 PM on the first day of school, August 25. Please contact Director *Karen Riefers* to pre-register your child(ren) and pay the \$15 per family registration by August 25, if possible. You can also access the Freedom’s Flock Handbook and Registration/Medical forms on FastDirect. If any adult or student (16 or older) would like to volunteer to also help with the program, you may contact Karen at 419-598-8686.

✂ ✂ ✂

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

**The church is not a cruise ship with a handful of people serving everyone else who is relaxing.
The church is a battleship where it’s “all hands on deck” and everyone serves the mission!**

“Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.” (Rom 12:11)

SCHOOL NOTES:

- ✓ **1st DAY OF SCHOOL** for St. John is Wed., Aug. 25 , with classes beginning at 8:20AM. Students arriving after that time will need to report to the school office.
- ✓ **OPEN HOUSE** – (Gr.K-8) On Tuesday, August 24th from 6:00-7:00PM for Kindergarten thru Gr. 8. See note above in the bulletin.
- ✓ **OPEN HOUSE FOR PRESCHOOL** - On Wednesday, Aug. 25th at 6:30PM there will be a Parent Meeting for the incoming 3-yr old Preschoolers. Then at 7:30PM there will be a Parent Meeting for the 4&5-yr old Preschoolers. See note above in bulletin.
- ✓ **SCHOOL OFFICE** will be open on Tues., Aug. 24th from 8:30 – 11:30AM and 1:30 – 3:00PM for anyone that wants to pay their enrollment fee and purchase supplies from the book store.
- ✓ **OPENING CHAPEL SERVICE** will be Aug. 25th at 8:35AM in the church. Following the service, *Principal Charles Kramer* will welcome our new students. Once back in their rooms the children, by classrooms, will have the opportunity to purchase school supplies from our book store if they have not already done so. **All are welcome to attend this Opening Service!**
- ✓ **SCHOOL PICTURES** will be taken by *Emilie Parsons* of Emilie's Photo Design. Final arrangements are being scheduled yet. Order forms will be sent home shortly after school starts.
- ✓ **LUNCH PROGRAM** – Still searching for a cook. So until one is hired, parents will be packing lunches for their children. When our hot lunch program is back up and running, lunch prices will remain the same. We have put Preschool and Grades K-4 together for one price, and Grades 5-8 for one price. They are: PS 4/5 - Gr. 4 - \$2.75, Gr. 5-8 - \$3.00. Extra milk is 50¢. The adult meal price is \$3.25 and \$3.75 w/milk. Money sent in for lunches are posted to each families lunch account in FastDirect Communication. You can view your balance by clicking on the Finance icon at the top of the FastDirect home page.
- ✓ **BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP** – St. John Athletic Booster membership fees for the 2021-2022 school year are: \$20.00 for husband and wife; \$10.00 for single. Make checks payable to *St. John Boosters*.
- ✓ **SCRIP PROGRAM** will be offered again this school year. Anyone willing to help the PTL with this fundraiser can contact *Kristyn Honemann* at 419-592-0643.

I am that
bread of life.

John 6:48

