



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

February 13, 2022

VOL. 87

NO. 7

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

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 567-277-1339
Church Website: www.sjl.org

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Service: Service of Prayer & Preaching (LSB pg. 260)

Sermon: "To Be Blessed" *Luke 6:17-26*

Hymns: 729 ~ "We Shall Not Be Moved" ~ 982 ~ 705

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. May you who enter here find rest, forgiveness, and strength. May your worship here enable you to see your Savior more clearly, love Him more dearly, follow Him more nearly, and serve Him more sincerely. If you have no church home of your own, we invite you to join the St. John family. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you. Simply drop it in the basket in the narthex as you leave.*



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Olivia Foor, *Dakota Szabo, Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Denny Bockelman, *Tim Badenhop, Dave Myles, Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kaylee Buchhop, *Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, Karan Niebergall, Altar Guild* ✘

VOTERS' MEETING – This morning after worship in the fellowship hall

This morning after worship we will gather in the fellowship hall for our first annual voters' meeting of 2022. The business of the Lord's House to which we will tend includes: 1) Endowment Fund earnings report; 2) Approval of Endowment Fund distributions; 3) Principal's annual school report; 4) Amendment to bylaws – Pastoral Call Committee.

LYF SUPER BOWL SUB SALE! TODAY, the LYF are distributing their Super Bowl subs. **These were pre-order only.** Subs will be available for pick up after church until 11 AM through a drive-thru pick up similar to what was done last year. Payment is due at the time of pick up. Checks can be made out to St. John LYF. Thank you for supporting our LYF youth!

BIBLE STUDY IS CANCELLED today for the Voters' Meeting in the fellowship hall.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 10:20AM 10:30AM 10:30AM	Worship Service w/Communion following Sunday School LYF Super Bowl Sub Sale (<i>following the service</i>) Voters' Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Tues.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr High Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>)
Thurs.	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Breakfast
Sun.	9:00AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "Lamp" Youth Group
Mon.- Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM Speaker: <i>Rev. Lee Genter</i> , Christ Our Savior Lutheran – Defiance

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****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
- ❖ *Hildegard Behrmann*, at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, residing at the Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Schroeder, Jared Dishop, Jordan Lange*
- ❖ *Esther Layton, Florence Jones, Robin Showman, Sue Hurst, Eileen Fitzenreiter, and Don Lawrence*, for health concerns relating to cancer
- ❖ Those recovering from struggles related to Covid, especially Denny Damman and Linda Meyer
- ❖ *Bill Von Deylen*, recuperating at Fulton Manor, Wauseon, after his recent hospitalization
- ❖ *Rose Abel Family (Char Weber's sister)*, for the passing of Rose on Tuesday this past week due to Covid

THANK YOU: The Family of *John Damman* would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, Christmas and sympathy cards, & memorials. Thanks to Pastor Niermann and others for their visits. Thanks to the Women of Freedom for the luncheon they prepared. God bless all of you!
Signed, *Denny, Sharon, Dale & families*

AND A THANK YOU from the *Wilbur & Irene Joost Family* for all the cards and prayers received during the sudden loss of Sandra (Joost) Eberle, their daughter, sister, and aunt. Sandy's "sunshine smile" will be greatly missed.

NEW 2022 ALTAR GUILD (pink) & USHER (blue) SCHEDULES: The 2022 Altar Guild and Usher schedules are available at the table in the narthex. Thank you for your patience as these schedules were worked out. All of these volunteers are such a blessing to us a St. John! Thank you!

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST will meet this Thursday, Feb. 17, in the fellowship hall at 6:30 a.m. for an amazing breakfast and for the study of God's Word. It's a wonderful time of fellowship and of nourishment of body and soul! **The breakfasts are the best; you don't want to miss it! Please join us. It's the best part of waking up!**



THANK YOU to *Larry Mahnke* and *Dean Maassel* for their efforts this winter in keeping the church and school parking lot cleared of snow. They donate their time and equipment to get this job done after each snowfall. This year's snowfall has been sparse until recently, but even when there is a dusting; they are here bright and early clearing the lot. Great job guys! Thank you for your service!

2021 END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – The 2021 individual offering totals (green sheets) are available on the narthex table. These will also be printed in the Church Annual Report. We hope this helps those members in need of this information for tax purposes. If you have any questions on your yearly contribution information, please call past Financial Trustee, *Jerry Langenhop* at 419-598-8151.

LENT BEGINS TWO WEEKS FROM THIS WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday will be upon us shortly, and it's time for God's people to review and rehearse anew the story of our salvation in the passion, suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior. **Lenten midweek services will be held each Wednesday during Lent at 7:00 p.m.**

Each midweek Lenten service (with the exception of Ash Wednesday) will begin with a hymn sing. We will sing stanzas of hymns selected by the congregation. Think ahead of hymns you would like to sing (that don't include *Alleluia's*), and be prepared to offer your suggestions at these services.

Our midweek Lenten theme this year is, **"Places of the Passion."** This worship and sermon series will take us to places like Bethany, the House of Simon the leper, the Courtyard, and the Judgment Hall, as we walk with Jesus all the way! A full schedule will be published in the bulletin next Sunday.



OFFERING BOXES – Be sure to only use your 2022 envelopes. Your offering number changes every year, so please discard your 2021 envelopes to save confusion for the Finance Trustees. If you did not receive a 2022 box of envelopes and would like one, contact *Jim Hogrefe* (419-267-3806).

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 2/06/22	\$6,540.00	\$395.00	\$165.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 98

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.

BUY A BRICK? Want to buy a brick for the Youth Center yet? We will be placing another order for more name plates to be printed sometime at the end of February. Now would be a good time to fill out an order form if you want to be added to the order. Forms are available in the tract rack by the narthex table. There are still plenty of bricks left to put your name (*or your family name*) on one.

LEND A HAND! The February 21st *Women of Freedom* meeting will be held at Quilter's Hide-Away, on South Perry St., Napoleon beginning at 9:00 AM. The agenda will be a short devotion, tying blankets and a pizza lunch. All Freedom ladies are welcome to enjoy a morning of good company while helping fill a need. (Please mask if not fully vaccinated.)

2021 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – It's time to start getting ready for the 2021 Annual Report. The various organization secretaries are asked to write up a summary of the year's activities and the treasurers of the different organizations are asked to submit their yearly financial report. **Please turn your reports in to Joyce Wiechers by Sun., Feb. 27.**

Also, if you've moved, eliminated your landline phone, or have a new phone number, contact the church office or make a note of it on a *Rite of Fellowship Card* and drop it in one of the baskets in the narthex to help us keep our records as up-to-date as possible.

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.

WATER TESTER: At the January Council meeting, the need for a person to replace Ken Griffith as our water system tester was discussed. Ken would like to step down from this position, so we are seeking anyone in the congregation or in the area who may be interested in taking over this job. Please contact the church office (419-598-8961). This is a paid position.

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.

ST. JOHN SCRIP CONTINUES: You may begin ordering SCRIP again. Please turn those orders in on Wednesdays, with payment to *St. John School PTL Scrip*. The gift cards will be sent home the following week on Tuesday or Wednesday. 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.**

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!

POSITION OPENINGS: St. John Lutheran School is asking for your help as we are seeking names for consideration for the Principal position and the 7th & 8th Grade Teacher position for the 2022-2023 school year. Pastor Kramer (Principal) and Pat Kramer (Grade 7&8 Teacher) will both be leaving us at the end of the current 2021-2022 school year. Requirements for the jobs are: Must have a Bachelor degree in education, obtain a background check, supply three references, and adhere to the St. John Lutheran Church and School religious beliefs. If you have names please call the school office at 419-598-8702. Interested persons can also mail a resume' to St. John Lutheran School, 16035 County Road U, Napoleon, OH 43545.

OHIO DISTRICT NEWS: The Lutheran Church – Ohio District wants to share some news with you. A Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) has been established in the Ohio District. Later this year, donations of up to \$750 will be able to be made into the SGO. That money will then go to the Lutheran School of the donor's choice. That money will be used as scholarship money at the school designated by the donor. The donor will then be able to receive a tax credit for the full amount they donated (up to \$750), directly on their Ohio State Tax return. This is exciting news! As more information becomes available, in the months ahead, we will share it with all of you.

PRESCHOOL:

- **ENROLLMENT APPLICATIONS:** The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2022-23 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. **We have opened the registration up to the public, so be sure to register soon.** There is a non-refundable \$30 fee that must accompany your registration paperwork.
- **TUITION** – School Board approved rates for the 2022-2023 school year at their Jan. 4th meeting. The cost for PS4/5-yr class will be \$250/month; and for the PS3-yr class \$100/month.

SWISS STEAK DINNER – hosted by the Ridgeville American Legion today. This will be a drive-thru only from 11:00 AM until sold out. On the menu: *Swiss Steak, Mashed Potatoes w/gravy, Green Beans, Roll, and Dessert.* The cost is \$10.

PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST – hosted by the Ridgeville Township Fire & Rescue will be held on Sun., March 6th from 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the Ridgeville American Legion Hall. This will be a drive-thru only! Proceeds to benefit fire & rescue equipment. Freewill donation.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

People readily drop a faith they feebly hold.

*“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful
(Hebrews 4:15-16)*

COLORING PAGE

