

St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon: "Worthy Is the Lamb" *Revelation 5:1-14*
Service: Divine Service, Setting One (LSB pg. 151)
Hymns: 483 ~ 949 ~ 547 ~ (Communion: 487, 488, 482) ~ 950

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

You are among Christian friends today. We all have come to the Lord's House to hear what He has to say and to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. We pray that His grace will touch and move you. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the basket at the doors as you leave.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✧ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✧ Maddox Oyer, Garrison Kruse, *Acolytes* ✧
- ✧ Mike Maassel, Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, *Ushers* ✧
- ✧ Deb Wachtman, Kathy Gruenhagen, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✧

FLOWERS TODAY:

- ♥ **Altar flowers** are placed in loving memory of our daughter, sister, and aunt, *Stephanie Kossow*, who went to be with the Lord 14 years ago today. As the years pass, we still miss her every day, but know she is singing her heart out in heaven along with her three grandparents. Signed, *Doug. Mary. Tyler. Olivia. Kohen. and Logan*
- ♥ **Piano flowers** are being placed in memory of our son, brother, and uncle, *Ryan Rosebrock*. May 3rd is always a difficult day for us. Knowing this was God's plan for Ryan brings us the comfort needed to get through this time of year. We still miss his smile and humor so much every single day. Signed, *Randy. Lou Ann. Michael. Sam. Axel. Peyton. Ben. Michelle. Ryan. Lucy. Kate. and Henry*

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 10:20AM 10:45AM	Communion Service Special Voters' Meeting; "The Lamp" Adult Bible Class; Adult Instruction Class (<i>later due to Voters' Mtg</i>)
Tue.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel School Board & Stewardship Board Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Jr High Confirmation Class (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Thurs.	6:30AM 7:00 PM	Men's Bible Study Breakfast Thursday Evening Worship Services begin
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15AM 10:20AM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Instruction Class Adult Bible Study; "The Lamp"
Mon.-Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM

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

- ❖ *Melba Elling, Lorna Von Deylen, Norma Damman*, at Genacross – Napoleon
- ❖ *Ruth Mahnke*, at Assisted Living – Genacross Lutheran Home
- ❖ *Lawrence Behrmann*, at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab and in hospice care
- ❖ **Military:** *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Niermann, Jared Dishop, Jordan Lange*
- ❖ *Esther Layton, Sue Hurst, Eileen Fitzenreiter*, and *Don Lawrence*, concerns relating to cancer
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, at Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky, and battling lung cancer
- ❖ *Mabel Bischoff*, recuperating at Fulton Manor, Wauseon, with broken bones after a recent fall

BIG THANKS! The family of *Florence Jones* wishes to thank everyone who showered us with support during the illness and passing of our mother. From pastoral visits from Pastor Niermann and Pastor Kramer, to the funeral service including a tribute to our fathers trumpet playing in church at Easter, to kind words and expressions of sympathy from church members and friends; to the fantastic luncheon from the Women of Freedom. We felt so much love and compassion from all of you and it has been greatly appreciated by each of us.

SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING THIS MORNING – The special voter's meeting has been called for this morning to handle a couple of items of pressing business. 1) School report about how next year is shaping up, especially for grades 7-8; 2) Hiring of a new principal; 3) Issuing a call for a teacher for the 5-6 grade to replace Miss Bartok, who has accepted a call to Missouri; 4) An announcement about lighting plans for the sanctuary. This meeting should be fairly brief and will take place in the sanctuary, after which Adult Bible Study will meet in the fellowship hall.

UPDATE – MISS BARTOK received a call to teach at Springfield Lutheran School in Springfield, Missouri. After much prayerful deliberation, she has made her decision and is accepting the call to teach in their Lutheran school. We pray God will continue to bless Miss Bartok as she continues her teaching ministry in Springfield Lutheran School.

2021 CHURCH'S ANNUAL REPORT: These are available on the narthex table after the service. Thanks to everyone for your information submitted to be included in this report.

Men's Breakfast
Bible Study



MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY meets again this Thursday, May 4 at 6:30 a.m. in the north fellowship hall. We gather for one hour, which should give you time to get on your way with whatever your day may hold. It's a wonderful time of fellowship and of nourishment of body and soul! **The breakfasts are the best, and you don't want to miss it! Please join us. It's the best part of waking up!**

CONFIRMATION CLASS HAPPENINGS – For the Confirmation Class of 2022, here are important dates to remember...

- Wed. May 4 Preparation for Questioning: 6:15 - 7:45pm
- Wed. May 11 Preparation for Questioning: 6:15 - 7:45pm
- Thr. May 12 Confirmand Questioning: 7:00pm, followed by rehearsal
- Sun. May 15 **Confirmation Sunday**

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES SET TO RESUME – Starting this week we are resuming our Thursday evening worship services, at 7:00 p.m. each Thursday through October. Our Thursday services are a preview of the service for the following Sunday. Holy Communion will be offered on the Thursday's prior to Communion services on the first and third Sundays of each month.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

On Easter Sunday it was our great joy and privilege to unveil the final Resurrection stained glass window, and to dedicate all 19 windows to the glory of God.

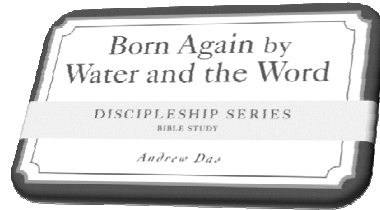
- **A booklet – “The Stained Glass Windows of St. John”** – with a brief history and descriptions of each window is available on the narthex table. Sometime when you have a few moments, use the booklet for a close-up self-guided tour of each of the windows.
- **Send a “thank you”**– For those of you who would wish to send **Steve & Sue Hurst** a personal thank you, here is their mailing address: *21281 County Road U, Napoleon, OH 43545.*

ADULT INSTRUCTION AND MEMBERSHIP CLASSES: Pastor Niermann will be teaching an **Adult Instruction and Membership Class** after Sunday services. This class is for anyone interested in learning more about what our church teaches and confesses, and will also be a membership class for those who may wish to join our congregation - although, of course, there is no obligation for class participants to do so. Classes will run for about 10 weeks through the end of June, with a break on Confirmation Sunday. We will meet after worship each Sunday for an hour, about 10:15-11:15 a.m., in the conference room near the restrooms.

This is also an excellent opportunity for members of St. John to be refreshed in the primary teachings of our faith, and to invite someone to come with you who may be interested in joining our fellowship.

NEW ADULT BIBLE STUDY BEGINS TODAY

A new Adult Sunday Bible study is underway this morning titled “**Born Again by Water and the Word – A Study of Infant Baptism.**” One of the most noticeable differences between Christian denominations is whether or not they baptize infants. Many protestant denominations do not practice infant baptism, and even require those who join their fellowships to renounce their baptism as an infant and be re-baptized. What does Scripture say? *This study will be led by Jeremy Heilman, son of our members Don & Kay Heilman and formerly an LCMS pastor.*



LUTHERAN WITNESS RENEWAL – It’s time to renew your subscription to the Lutheran Witness for the year. To subscribe or renew your subscription, **simply place \$16.00 in an envelope**, along with your name and address, and place it in the Sunday collection plate or bring it to the church office. **Deadline for subscriptions is May 15th.**

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>		Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78		\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 4/24/22	\$4,740.00		\$840.00	\$205.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 161

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.

VBS PLANNING TO BEGIN – Yes, it’s time to start thinking about *Vacation Bible School* for this year. VBS has been tentatively scheduled for June 13-17. The first order of business is to identify and **VBS DIRECTOR** to help lead the way in this ministry to our children. If you would be interested in serving the little ones in this way, please speak with Pastor Niermann.



LWML QUARTERLIES are available in the tract rack in the narthex. These are available for all women of the congregation. Please pick up a copy today!

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.

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.

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. For more information, visit www.Pierstorf.org and complete the 2022-2023 application. Applications open April 15, 2022 and close June 30, 2022.

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 (*as a pastor, deaconess, teacher, lay minister, or a Director of Christian Education, Christian Outreach, Parish Music, or Family Life Ministry*), our congregation would like to support you by offering a tuition gift. An application for this gift is available online --- type www.sjl.org/student_gift_app.pdf into your browser (*there is no link*) and fill out the application. Deadline for fall enrollment is June 1st.

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 at 7:30 AM; Napoleon's WNDH 103.1 at 9:00 AM.

PRESCHOOL GRADUATION will be **Tues., May 17th** at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. This ceremony is for the 3-yr old and 4/5-yr old classes. Everyone is invited to this big day for the preschoolers. There will be a program followed by light refreshments.

ENROLLMENT FOR PRESCHOOL: 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. The School Board approved rates for the 2022-2023 school year are: 3-yr old Preschool - \$100/month; 4/5-yr old Preschool - \$250/month.

ST. JOHN SCRIP: Scrip orders will be received on Wednesdays, ordered on Fridays and delivered on the following Tuesday. Order forms are posted on FastDirect under 'Links,' titled SCRIP Order Forms and SCRIP Program Info, there are also hard copies on the table in the narthex and in the 'School Info' rack outside the office. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to the SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**

GOT SOME TIME? Why not be an adult volunteer at St. John School. You could listen to children read, talk about your time in the military, work with flash cards, or tell children about a hobby or craft you enjoy doing. The possibilities are endless and your time with them will be priceless!

If you would be interested in volunteering in the next school year, please call the school office at 419-598-8702 and give us your name and a contact number. The school will contact you. Thank you in advance for thinking about volunteering at our school.

POSITION OPENINGS:

- St. John Lutheran School is seeking a **preschool teacher aide** (3-yr class) for Wednesday and Friday mornings next school year. Applicant must have experience with preschool-age children, obtain a background check, and supply three references.
- St. John Lutheran School is seeking a part-time **school custodian** position for next school year.
- St John Lutheran School is seeking a **long term sub teacher for kindergarten**. Our current teacher will be taking a maternity leave beginning the first week of September. Applicant must have a valid teaching certificate, obtain a background check, and supply three references.
- 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.

To set up an interview for any of these positions, please contact the school office at 419-598-8702.

ST. JOHN GIRLS B-BALL OPEN GYMS: Coach Schroeder will be holding open gyms for girls who are going into Grades K-6 next school year. These will be held at St. John from 1:00 – 2:30 PM on the following dates: **June 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22; July 12, 13, 19, 20**. Flyers with more information are available on the narthex table. Any questions...Call Coach Schroeder at 419-591-6655.

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. 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 the receivers. At the end of the service, unplug the ear bud to take with you until the next time.

RIDGEVILLE FIRE DEPT. AUXILIARY will be hosting a Drive Thru Chicken BBQ on Sun., May 15 at the Ridgeville Fire Station. Serving begins at 11:00 AM until gone. Menu consists of: *½ Chicken, sides, and cookie*. Freewill offering. Come; support your local Fire Department.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Son screen prevents sin burn!

"Wickedness burns like a fire." Isa 9:18

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty." Psa 91:1