

St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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NO. 20

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Confirmation)

Sermon: "Hearts Fixed Where True Joys are Found" *John 16:12-22; Revelation 21:1-7*

Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 803 ~ 897 ~ 395 ~ 427 ~ 910 ~ [Communion: 687, 633, 618, 611] ~ 484

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

A warm welcome to all, especially friends and relatives of our Confirmation Class. If you are visiting with us this morning, help us get to know you better by filling out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the basket at the doors as you leave. You can also register your name in the Guest Book in the Narthex.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Brice Baumert, Zeb Kramer, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Mike Maassel, Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Deb Wachtman, Kathy Gruenhagen, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✘

GOD BLESS THE CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2022 – This class of six is being confirmed under the theme, "**Hearts Fixed Where True Joys are Found,**" based on the collect of the day and our reading from Revelation 21. May God's Spirit preserve our confirmands and all of us in Christian faith to life everlasting, and by His Word and Sacraments keep their hearts fixed on His gift of eternal life. **The six members of this year's confirmation class (and their Confirmation verses) are:**



- **Raegan Dietrich**, daughter of Michael & Amy Dietrich (*Joshua 1:9*)
- **Olivia Foor**, daughter of Jason & Zoe Foor (*Psalms 37:5*)
- **Mitchell Rosebrock**, son of Brad & Sarah Rosebrock (*Joshua 1:9*)
- **Paul Sausser**, son of Kirk & Tara Sausser (*Psalms 55:22*)
- **Cooper Speiser**, son of Scott & Kylie Speiser (*Romans 8:31*)
- **Dakota Szabo**, son of Blake & Brittini Miller (*Ephesians 2:8-9*)

In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: https://74058984.view-events.com</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 10:20AM	Confirmation and Communion Service Adult Bible Study; "The Lamp"
Tue.	8:35 AM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Last Day for 4/5-yr old Preschoolers Preschool Graduation in sanctuary (<i>see bulletin note</i>) Women of Freedom Meeting
Thurs.	6:30 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast Thursday Evening Worship with Communion
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service 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
- ❖ *Pat Kramer*, successful surgery at Cleveland Clinic in preparing her for a prosthetic leg
- ❖ *The Family of Rev. Lloyd Nicol*, especially his children Nancy (Bob) Nemoyer, Bonnie (Pastor) Niermann, Patty and Mike. Their father passed away last Monday in Marysville. May the good news of Easter fill their hearts with joy, even in their time of loss.
- ❖ *The Family of Mabel Bischoff*, and especially her daughter, Stacy, who is grieving the very sudden passing of her mother early Thursday morning at Fulton Manor Nursing & Rehab, Wauseon. May God comfort this family with the assurance of the resurrection of the dead to eternal life! A Memorial Service will be held here on Sat., May 21st at 11 AM.

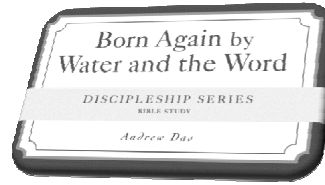
ADULT INSTRUCTION AND MEMBERSHIP CLASS is cancelled for this morning, as the confirmands and their families take time for photographs after worship. We will resume next Sunday.



SEEKING NEW YOUTH LEADER – Now that Miss Bartok has taken a call to a new field of service, we are seeking the services of a new LYF (*Lutheran Youth Fellowship*) leader for our congregation. If you might be interested in serving in this way, please speak with Pastor Niermann. And thank you for considering this. This is a crucial ministry and a noble work that we must provide for our youth in these days when so many other forces are working to pull them away from Christ.

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.

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY – A new Adult Bible study is underway 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 is led by Jeremy Heilman, son of our members Don & Kay Heilman and formerly an LCMS pastor.*



THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES – Thursday evening worship services at 7:00 PM have begun and will be held through October. Once school is out, we will begin worshipping in the north end of the fellowship hall. 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.

SCRIP FOR GRADUATION: Why not use the PTL SCRIP Program to order gift cards for those graduating seniors in your lives. Order forms are available in the tract rack in the narthex or online via FastDirect. Please turn those orders in on Wednesdays, with payment to *St. John School PTL*. The gift cards will be sent home the following week on Tuesday. 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.**

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 5/08/22	\$9,222.00	\$170.00	\$230.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 41; Sunday – 134

MEMORIALS for *Florence Jones*: St. John Lutheran Church – Home Fund - \$2,130

VBS PLANNING TO BEGIN – VBS has been scheduled for **June 20-24** (Monday to Friday) from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. each day. This morning we begin by recruiting staff members. Please find the form in today’s bulletin and review the positions that are available, and consider serving the children in our VBS by leading them to their Lord and Savior. *Andrea Oyer* has consented to be our director this year – please speak with her or with Pastor Niermann if you have any questions.



The primary positions we need to fill are: **2 Preschool co-leaders; Bible story tellers** (*to teach the day’s main lesson*); **Bible challenge leaders** (*to help students memorize Scripture*); **Craft coordinator; Games leader; Snacks coordinator.** Other positions are needed as well, as listed on the staff recruitment form. When you have filled out the form, return it to the narthex in the box marked for this purpose. And thank you for the role you play in leading Jesus’ little lambs into the arms of their Good Shepherd.

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!

Men's Breakfast
Bible Study



MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST – Each month on the first and third Thursdays, the men are invited to join us for a breakfast Bible study at 6:30 a.m. We gather in the fellowship hall for one hour, which should give you time to get on your way with whatever your day may hold. We look ahead to the Scripture readings for upcoming Sundays and discuss them together. **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!**

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.

EAGLE NEWS: The Eagle News is available today at the end of the service and is online via FastDirect Communication. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnfreedom/>, click on "Links" at the top of the page, then click on "Eagle News – May" in the "Everybody" column.

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.

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.

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.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN will Fri., **May 27th** with early dismissal at 2:00 PM. Closing Day festivities include: Closing chapel at 12:40 PM; as well as Kindergarten graduation, awards, prizes. All parents are welcome to come. This is for students in Kindergarten through Grade 7. Academic Awards will be handed out as well as other awards. **Please note: This service will include Kindergarten Graduation.**

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT: The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2021-22 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. Rates for the 2022-2023 school year: 3-yr old Preschool - \$100/month; 4/5-yr old Preschool - \$250/month.

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.

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.**

WORSHIP ANEW – Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. produces a weekly, 30-minute Lutheran broadcast worship service called Worship Anew. Each service includes music, scripture readings, prayers, and a pastor delivering a message that is designed to feel one-on-one to the viewer. Each program is closed-captioned for the hearing impaired. For over 50 plus years, the ministry's dedicated staff and supporters have touched the lives of countless viewers around the world. They look forward to the continuation and expansion of this ministry in the years to come. Lutheran Ministries Media would like to thank you for your prayers and your support of God’s work through Worship Anew. Broadcasts can be viewed every Sunday on: **Toledo’s WTVG(CW) Channel 13.2 at 10:30 AM.**

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.

OHIO ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN: The Ohio Division OGT is located in the north end of the Culligan Water Conditioning building on Independence Drive in Napoleon. Someone is there to receive items on the **first Tuesday** of the month from 9:30-11:30 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, open the facility, and receive your donations! PLEASE do not drop off items at the warehouse when it is closed. Thank you!

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.

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.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE: The Ridgeville Corners Memorial Day service to remember those who served our country will be held on **Mon., May 30 at 10:30 AM** at the Ridgeville American Legion. **Flag Drill:** Children age K thru 4th Grade are invited to participate in the flag drill during the Ridgeville Memorial Day service. Practice will be on Thurs., May 26 at 6:30 PM (for 45 minutes) at the Legion Hall.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

“Where God builds a church, there the devil would build a chapel.” ~Martin Luther

“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith,” 1 Peter 5:8