

St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

May 22, 2022

VOL. 87

NO. 21

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 OF EASTER

Sermon: "Pray as Children" *John 16:23-24*

Children's Sermon: "You'll have bad days, but..."

Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 779 ~ 915 ~ 773 ~ 906

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. If you have no church home of your own, we invite you to join the St. John family. Fill out a blue pew card from the rack in front of you and drop in the baskets at doors as you leave church this morning.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Paul Sausser, Cooper Speiser, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Mike Maassel, Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Deb Wachtman, Kathy Gruenhagen, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✘

SUDDENLY GONE: *Mabel Bischoff*, 80, passed away unexpectedly early Thursday morning (May 12) at Fulton Manor Nursing & Rehab, Wauseon. Mabel's Memorial Service was held here yesterday, May 21st at 11:00 AM. May God give her daughter, Stacy, the comfort her family needs so dearly at this difficult time for them. Please keep Stacy and Mabel's grandchildren in your daily prayers.

VOTERS' MEETING: The next Voters' Meeting will be held on Sun., June 5th. It will be held in the fellowship hall following the Worship Service that day. Agenda items are: 1) School matters regarding Grades 7&8; 2) Increase of salary increment for principal position; 3) Update on Call given to teacher for Grades 5&6.

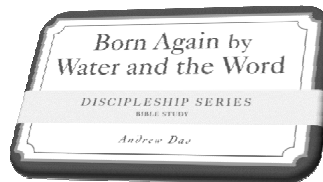
SUNDAY SCHOOL & SUMMER: There will be no Sunday School for the remaining month of May, and for the months of June, July, and August. We will resume Sunday School the second Sunday in September (9-11), which will be promotion Sunday.

In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: https://74058984.view-events.com</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Instruction Class; Adult Bible Study; "The Lamp"
Mon.	7:00 PM	Stewardship Board Meeting
Tues.	6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Shepherd Committee Board of Elders
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship
Fri.	12:40PM 2:00 PM	Closing Chapel, Kindergarten Graduation, Awards, and Prizes Early Dismissal
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*, recuperating after successful surgery to prepare her for a prosthetic leg
- ❖ *Karen & Terry Norden and Family*, who grieve the passing of Karen’s sister, Patty, on Sat., May 14th, from her battle with cancer
- ❖ *Jamie Carothers* (Great Grandson of Don & Karan Niebergall), who had additional surgery on Fri., May 20th at U of M – Ann Arbor for his cleft palate

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.*



ADULT INSTRUCTION AND MEMBERSHIP CLASS

This morning after worship Pastor Niermann is teaching the fourth session of an **Adult Instruction and Membership Class, “I have Good News for You about a Savior Who Saves You.”** We will discuss sacraments and the ‘Means of Grace,’ as ways by which God imparts His gifts of life and salvation.

MY DEVOTIONS for June, July, and August are available this Sunday on the desk in the back of the church. Pick up your copy today! If you know of someone who would enjoy these, take one for them.

ARCHIVES DISPLAY: The Archives Committee is paying tribute to Confirmation Classes. In the display cases in the hallway, there are pictures of the confirmation classes observing anniversaries. We have started with the 5th anniversary and ended with the 80th anniversary. Please check it out!



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.

LYF SCHOOL'S OUT BONFIRE - The LYF will kick off the summer with a bonfire at the Youth Center on Mon., May 30th. This event will go from 6:00 – 9:00 PM (*or whenever your curfew is...*). Youth in Jr. and Sr. High are welcome to attend this event. Students who were previously in 5th grade this past school year are also welcome to join us but will need to have parents stop by to fill out a form. Throughout the night we will have s'mores, whiffle ball, and lawn games set up for youth. This is a "come and go" event, so youth are welcome to arrive or leave within the time frame. Please bring your own lawn chair. If you have any questions, please contact Miss Bartok.

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.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 5/15/22	\$8,755.00	\$305.00	\$395.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 37; Sunday – 225

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.

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!

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.

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 10 students enrolled and can take about 3 more students. 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.

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.**

EAGLE NEWS: The Eagle News is available in the info rack in the narthex and is online via Fast Direct 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.

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.

HAWKS PIZZASAVE THE DATE!** FYI...On Sat., August 20th, Hawks Pizza in Napoleon will be donating 10% of their total sales that day to St. John School. This is a community fundraising event they have chosen us to participate in with them. Flyers will be made available as it gets closer.

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.

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.

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!

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.

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.

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 of 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!

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...

God has given us two hands; one with which to receive, the other with which to give.

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” 1 John 4:11