

# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

May 29, 2022

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NO. 22

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](http://www.sjl.org)

### SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon: "You Say Good-Bye, I Say Hello" *Acts 1:1-11*

Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 493 ~ 493 ~ 492 ~ 495 ~ 575

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### **WELCOME TO OUR VETERANS & VISITORS**

*On this Memorial Day Weekend, welcome to this service of worship in which we remember, with reverence and thanksgiving, those who gave their lives for our country. Above all, however, we would remember Him whose love includes people of all nations—our Lord Jesus who gave His life for all of us. May the remembrance of His sacrifice bring reconciliation and peace! If you are a visitor today, please 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.*

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### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘ Raegan Dietrich, Dakota Szabo, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Mike Maassel, Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Deb Wachtman, Kathy Gruenhagen, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✘

**VOTERS' MEETING:** The next Voters' Meeting will be held on Sun., June 5<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RECOGNITION** – If you are graduating from high school with the class of 2022, we'd like to take a moment or two to recognize you in our worship on **Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>**. On that day we'll have you gather together before worship in the "Cry Room" and be seated together for worship. We'll ask about your plans, and offer prayer for you as well. In the meantime, we'd appreciate having a picture of each graduate that we can project during the recognition. Email them to *Pastor Niermann* at [sniermann.sjl@gmail.com](mailto:sniermann.sjl@gmail.com), or drop off in the office.

<b>In God's House This Week</b>		<i>Online church calendar: <a href="https://74058984.view-events.com">https://74058984.view-events.com</a></i>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	<b>9:00AM</b> 10:20AM	<b>Worship Service</b> Adult Instruction Class; Adult Bible Study; "The Lamp"
Mon.	6:00 PM	LYF School's Out Bonfire ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Tues.	7:00 PM	Stewardship Board Meeting
Wed.	6:00 PM	School Board Meeting
Thurs.	6:30 AM <b>7:00 PM</b>	Men's Bible Breakfast <b>Thurs. Evening Worship w/Communion</b> ( <i>Fellowship Hall – North End</i> )
Sun.	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM	<b>Communion Service</b> Voters' Meeting; "The Lamp"
Mon.-Sat.	7:30 AM	Morning Meditations, WONW 1280 AM

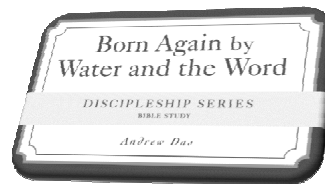
**MATTERS FOR PRAYER** – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- ❖ *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
- ❖ *Justin Atkinson's* safe return to the states on Mon., May 23<sup>rd</sup> from his military assignment overseas
- ❖ *Kevin Riefers* and *Bailey Bost*, on the birth of their son, Luka David Riefers, on May 18<sup>th</sup> at Defiance Promedica Hospital

**MANY THANKS:** Dear St. John friends: Thank you for the prayers, cards, and expressions of sympathy at the passing of our father/grandfather, *Rev. Lloyd Nicol*. We grieve, and yet we have peace and hope in the certainty of his salvation in Christ Jesus! Thanks be to God for the eternal life he now enjoys! Signed, *Rev. Robert & Nancy Nemoyer & family* and *Pastor Stephen & Bonnie Niermann & family*

**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.

**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.”** This morning we will be discussing Holy Baptism as the means by which God gives us new birth, and connects us to the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

**THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES** will move to the north fellowship hall this week, on Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, and will meet there throughout the summer months. Our Thursday services are always a preview of the coming Sunday, and Holy Communion is celebrated on the Thursdays prior to Communion Sundays. **Come one, come all!**

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2022**

It's shaping up to be a great week of Vacation Bible School, which is scheduled for June 20-24 (Monday to Friday). A wonderful time of Christian education is being planned for students, entering grades Pre-6 next year. Here are some things to note:

### • **Student enrollment and registration**

**Enroll online at our VBS website.** A link is available on our sjl.org website, or type **vbsmate.com/stjohnsfreedomvbs** into your web browser.

**Alternatively, brochures with registration forms** are available now in the narthex for you to enroll the children in your life. Fill it out and drop it in the box marked for this purpose.

### • **Volunteer to help**

**You can also use our VBS website to volunteer.** Again, that link is available on our sjl.org website, or type **vbsmate.com/stjohnsfreedomvbs** into your web browser. Please remember the words of Jesus, “*Let the little children come to Me,*” and check out the opportunities to serve His little ones!

### • **VBS Mission Offering**

**Each morning at our opening chapel we will receive an offering to help Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Toledo** to call a full-time pastor. Because deafness makes it difficult to earn a good living, the deaf community is typically lower income and needs help in supporting a church where God's Word is proclaimed in the language they understand – American Sign Language. Rev. Shirrel Petzoldt has served this church for many years, but needs to retire. We pray that God will bring a new pastor to this congregation soon!

*It's going to be a great adventure! Be sure to invite a friend!*



**UPDATE ON ORDERING ALTAR FLOWERS:** With the sudden loss of Mabel Bischoff, who took care of ordering altar flowers for many years, we have heard from Nancy Glaser that she will be taking care of altar flowers going forward. So anyone wishing to place flowers on the altar or piano for a certain Sunday service, please sign up on the “Flower Calendar” posted in the narthex. Then about two weeks before that date, please call or text *Nancy Glaser* at 419-906-0963. **NOTE: The price for flowers through the Women of Freedom has also increased to \$25.00.** Please make checks payable to Women of Freedom. Remember that it is your responsibility to call Nancy either way; if you would like the Women of Freedom to order the flowers or if you are going to take care of ordering the flowers yourself. This will alleviate any confusion.

**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.

**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.



**Men's Breakfast  
Bible Study**



**MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY** meets again this Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 a.m. in the north fellowship hall. We gather for one hour, which should give you give time to get on your way with whatever your day may hold. It's a wonderful time of fellowship and of nourishment for the soul from Scripture, the very Bread of Life! **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!**

**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:** Please note the church office hours during the summer are Tuesday thru Friday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Closed over the lunch hour and all day on Mondays. If making a special trip, please call (419-598-8961) to guarantee someone will be here. Thank you!

**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.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 5/15/22	\$5,620.00	\$170.00	\$275.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 29; Sunday – 117

**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.

**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.

**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](http://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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup>.

**REPORT CARDS** will be available for viewing and/or printing via FastDirect Communication as of Sun., June 5<sup>th</sup>. We will no longer print hard copies from the office. Please check FastDirect on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**HAWKS PIZZA\*\*SAVE THE DATE!** FYI...On Sat., August 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 **7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

**STAMP COLLECTING:** The LWML is collecting “Stamps For Missions.” Here is what you do: Cut the stamps from the envelopes allowing ¼ inch margin or more around the stamp. The stamp may not be damaged and the perforations around the stamp must be perfect. Regular stamps are no longer accepted. You need not trim the stamp; we have someone who trims and sorts the stamps. Do not remove stamps from envelopes, albums, and older postcards. An “old” postcard is usually from 1930 or before. The most valuable stamps are commemorative and foreign. Collecting stamps is an easy way to participate in a mission project. A yellow box is on the table in the narthex.

**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.

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

**A SAVE THE DATE:** The *Annual Stephanie Lynn Kossow Memorial Golf Outing* will be held on Sat., July 30<sup>th</sup> this year with a 1:00 PM shotgun start. Registration flyers available soon!

**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 4<sup>th</sup> Grade are invited to participate in the flag drill during the Ridgeville Memorial Day service.

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT...**

**At His ascension our Lord entered heaven, and left the door open for you to enter.**

*“I will take you to be with me.” John 14:3*