

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. 27

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

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Guest Preacher: *Rev. Ted Rellstab, Retired, St. John Lutheran – Holgate*

Sermon: "What Super Power Would You Choose" *Luke 10:1-20*

Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: **819 ~ 948 ~ 837** ~ (Communion: **642, 976**) ~ **818**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Come, rejoice awhile! Put down your burdens, lift up your heart, the Lord is at hand. May you receive from the Lord all you have come to seek. If you are visiting with us, know that we are honored to welcome you. Please fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the baskets at the door as you leave today.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘ Alex Wachtman, Brice Baumert, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Tim Badenhop, Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Ronda Wentworth, Kaylee Buchhop, Karen Lulfs, Karan Niebergall, *Altar Guild* ✘

WELCOME REV. TED RELLSTAB! We are grateful today to have Rev. Ted Rellstab filling in for Pastor Niermann by leading us in worship. Rev. Rellstab was the long-time pastor, now retired, of St. John Lutheran Church in Holgate. He and his wife Deb now reside south of Holgate. We pray that God will bless his preaching of the Word, and our hearing, that together we may grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

MYSTERY SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY – In Colossians 1:26 St. Paul speaks of "The mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints." Something like this is afoot this morning at St. John. Rev. Rellstab has prepared a Bible study for us today, but its subject remains a mystery ---until, that is, it is revealed to God's saints at about 10:20 this morning, after worship in the fellowship hall. Please come and join him as we grow together in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord.



In God's House This Week		<i>Online church calendar: https://74058984.view-events.com</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study
Tues.	6:00 PM 7:00 PM	School Board Meeting Gerald Busy Fingers 4-H Club (<i>Youth Center</i>)
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thurs. Evening Worship (<i>Fellowship Hall – North End</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Study
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
- ❖ *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 Dave Crandall*, concerns relating to cancer
- ❖ *Donald Landry*, at Ohio Veteran's Home, Sandusky, and battling lung cancer
- ❖ *Henry Gerken*, moved to Genacross Lutheran Home for more rehab therapy
- ❖ *Irene Joost*, recovering from a recent fall and a procedure to fix a cracked vertebrae
- ❖ *Jason Foor*, recuperating from recent surgery to put a stent in his heart valve
- ❖ *Cora Bartok* (Sarah Bartok's 10-yr old niece), hospitalized at St. Jude's Hospital, Memphis, TN following surgery this past week for a tumor in her abdominal area

THANK YOU! The school would like to thank Dan Wachtman and Todd Wachtman for all the extra hours (volunteered) that they give to the school in order to keep our technology up and running smoothly. They can always be counted on to come at a moment's notice to fix anything that comes up throughout the school year. Thank you both so, so much!

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDIES have been suspended for July and August, and will resume on the first Thursday of September (9/01).

ALTAR GUILD CONSIDERATION: We are currently very low on Altar Guild staff. We could use a few more teams to help with our church services. If this is something that you would consider helping with, it would be greatly appreciated. Two or three people on a team works out very good. If anyone is interested, please contact Diane Von Deylen 419-966-0527.

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES take place each week, May through October, at 7:00 p.m. Until school resumes, we are gathering in the north fellowship hall for these services. As always, Holy Communion is celebrated on the Thursday evenings prior to Communion Sundays.

SACRED MUSIC STATION... You can listen to the best of the Church's music for the past 2,000 years on Lutheran Public Radio. LPR streams 24/7 at lutheranpublicradio.org, TuneIn, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

THANK YOU! --- VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2022

We had a fantastic week together in VBS, exploring the rainforest for treasures of God's Word! Bible stories were told, songs were sung, projects were crafted, snacks were consumed, and fun was had --- all of it pointing our students to Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord.

In addition, the children gave offerings totaling \$205.50 for *Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for the Deaf* in Toledo as they call a new pastor. What a privilege to support the preaching of God's Word!

Many thanks to those who helped make our VBS possible, especially our director, Andrea Oyer, whose enthusiasm and organizational skills were such a blessing to us. Thank you also to Kelly Sonnenberg, Megan Bostelman, and Madelyn Kuhlman, as well as our youth helpers without whom we could not have made things work.

In addition, we thank everyone who helped supply items for crafts and snacks. And thank you to the parents and families who entrusted their children to us for our VBS mornings. It was a privilege to let the children come to Jesus!



PASSING THE OFFERING PLATES – The church council voted at its last meeting to resume the practice of passing the offering plates during worship, starting this week. One of the practical reasons is to address a concern that had been raised that having the offering plates in the narthex created some confusion for guest worshippers who did not know where or when to give an offering, and consequently gave no offering.

On a more biblical note, restoring the offering to the sanctuary and the liturgy reminds us that giving our gifts is integral to our worship, not incidental. The offering is not a worship *interlude*, but a worship *feature*. We come here primarily for the 'Divine Service' (*German, 'Gottesdienst'*), where God serves us in Word and Sacrament. Yet we do remain passive in worship, as though there is nothing for us to do. God's service to us, His 'Divine Service,' calls forth our service to Him in sacrifices of **praise** (*Heb 13:5*), **prayer** (*Psa 141:2*), **song and thanksgiving** (*Psa 107:22*), and **offerings** (*Psa 54:6 - "With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to You."*) For this reason the offering properly belongs in the context of the liturgy, just as much as the sacrifices of our praise, prayers and songs.



<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 6/26/22	\$11,444.00	\$350.00	\$192.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 25; Sunday – 126

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.

JOIN A MINISTRY PLANNING TEAM FOR A MOTHER/DAUGHTER BANQUET



The *Stewardship Board* is in the initial stages of planning a mother/daughter banquet for the fall of 2022. We are seeking individuals, both women and men, to form a ministry planning team to coordinate this event. We need the help of the women to plan an event that will have appeal to girls and women, and the help of men to coordinate the set-up, serving, and clean-up for the event so that the girls and women can enjoy a nice evening together. Sign up today as part of this planning team using the form provided in the narthex. Thank you!

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 11 students enrolled and can take about 3 more students. If you know of anyone interested in enrolling in our preschool program, have them contact the school at 419-598-8702 to obtain a registrations packet. There is a non-refundable \$30 registration fee that must accompany your registration form.

ANNUAL SCHOOL CLEANING has been set for **Mon., July 25** at 6:00PM. No cleaning on Tues., July 26 as carpets will be shampooed. On **Wed., July 27** starting at 6:00 PM put furnishings and desks back into classrooms, and clean other areas of the building. Please contact a School Board member if evenings do not work for you. Please read the Parent Participation Policy on FastDirect with all the details about family requirements for School Cleaning.

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 **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.
- If you know of anyone interested in these positions, please call the school office at 419-598-8702.

PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS for the next quarter, *July, August, September*, are on the desk in the back of the church. There are also large print booklets available for anybody to pick up.

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.

PROJECT CONNECT – There are many **new, 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*,” “*Forgiveness is a Choice*,” “*Setting Priorities*,” “*Journey Through the Rat Race*,” “*Helping Your Child Have a Relationship with God*,” “*Your Place in God’s Plan*,” “*Love Thy Neighbor*,” “*Stressed but Connected*,” “*For Better, For Worse*,” “*What Is Faith in Jesus?*” and many more. Booklets furnished through Lutheran Hour Ministries.

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+ 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. Broadcast can be viewed every Sunday on: **Toledo’s WTVG(CW) Channel 13.2 at 10:30 AM.**

TURN YOUR OLD USED CELL PHONE INTO A GIFT FOR THE POOR AND FOR YOUR CHURCH! Informed sources tell us that the average American household has 5 to 6 old unused cell phones lying around. Now you can put those phones to good use AND keep them out of the landfills. Bring them to church and deposit them in the large white box in the narthex. They will be forwarded to a company that sorts them and prepares them to be given to poor families for emergency use, and sends us a check. Old cell phones range in value from \$1 up to \$50.

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!

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!

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.

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: July 12, 13, 19, 20. Flyers with information are available on the narthex table.

GOLF OUTING: *The 14th Annual Stephanie Lynn Kossow Memorial Golf Outing will be on Sat., July 30th with a 1:00 PM* shotgun start. The meal provided with your golf registration is *½ BBQ Chicken, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Roll, Dessert, and Lemonade.* Non-golfers interested in a “meal only” Chicken Dinner may contact Chris Hesterman at 419-783-2013 with your reservation by Fri., July 22nd. The “meal only” reservation is a carryout meal and will be available at 5pm the day of the outing. The cost is \$20 (which goes into the Scholarship Fund). Flyers available on the narthex table!

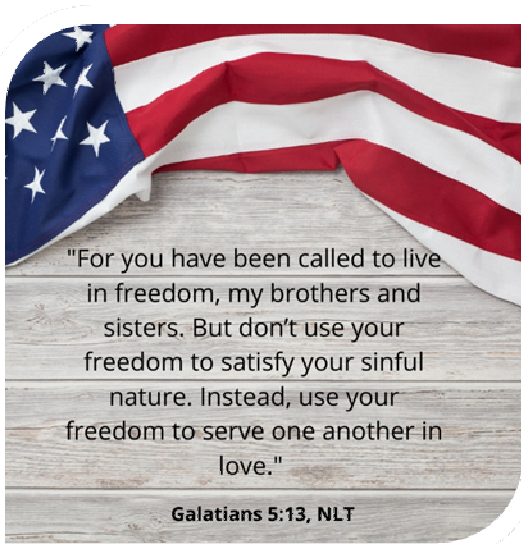
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Jesus is God’s selfie.

“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being.” Heb. 1:3

Jesus answered, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.” John 14:9



FREE TO SERVE

It's great to be free! But consider what St. Paul wrote: "*Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible*" (1 Cor 9:19). Think about that. "Since I am free, I'm going to make myself a slave to everyone..."

What? That doesn't sound right, does it? In fact, that sounds awful! I don't want to be a slave to you or anyone else. In fact, when I hear that "I'm free," my first thought is, "Then I can do whatever I want!"

But that's not freedom. Have you learned that lesson yet? Living for yourself isn't freedom. It's just a different kind of slavery. It

means you're a slave to your own sinful desires. To live life serving yourself is just as empty and difficult as being forced to serve an evil king or wicked queen. That's not freedom!

That's why Jesus says, "*Everyone who sins is a slave to sin*" (John 8:34). He's right! But then he offers us this promise: "*If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed*" (John 8:36). With your eternal future assured in heaven, you're free from focusing your life on you. With your sins forgiven at Jesus' cross, you're free from trying to earn your own salvation. With Jesus by your side every day, you're free from using others as your tools for personal gain. Jesus has set you free indeed!

Here's what that looks like: "*You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love*" (Gal 5:13). Can you see how a Christian looks at freedom differently? You're free to serve. Your life isn't about your preferences or your your wants. Jesus gives you so much more! So your life can be about humbly serving others in love. You're free to serve.

We could use more of that kind of freedom in America—and everywhere. Our world needs more Christians serving one another because of the freedom we have in Jesus. Our world needs more Christians willing to make ourselves slaves to those around us, all with the goal of winning more and more people to faith in Jesus. Our world needs more Christians willing to sacrifice our time or preferences to encourage and raise others up. Brothers and sisters, you were called to be free! So let's use our freedom to serve one another humbly in love. You'll find that it's great to be free. **Free to serve!**