



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

May 14, 2023

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NO. 20

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

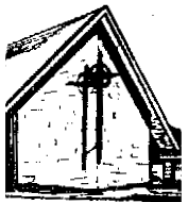
Sermon & Text: "Identity Confusion, Identity Clarity" Acts 17:24-28a

Order of Service: *See Printed Service Folder*

Hymns: 477 ~ 602 ~ 594

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS AND ALL MOTHERS

God speaks to us and we listen and respond with our hymns, prayers, and praises. Together we bless the Lord, whose purpose is to save us and keep us in His faithful flock. He is the God of Grace and the God of Glory. We also ask His blessing on all the mothers who are with us today. If you are visiting with us this morning, please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave today.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Brice Baumert, Zeb Kramer, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Mike Maassel, Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Elaine Buenger, Deb Von Deylen, *Altar Guild* ✠

ALTAR FLOWERS: The altar flowers are placed today in memory of *Brenda Johnson* who died in a tragic car accident on May 12, 1988. Brenda was the sister of Dave (Diane) Johnson, and they would like to share their memory of Brenda with the beautiful flowers today.



MOTHER'S DAY JAVA JOY – TODAY

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! This morning the Stewardship Board is hosting a special JAVA JOY honoring mothers for all they do. There will be special coffees, juices, and some tasty delicacies and pastries. We hope you can join us after worship to enjoy these treats and fellowship with one another. *Oh, and those who love their mothers are welcome too!*

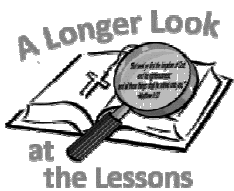
LARGE PRINT HYMNALS are available for your use on the narthex table. Pick one up and use it during worship, and return it to the table after worship. We hope these hymnals will be a blessing to you!

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service w/Communion following Athlete Recognition for Seniors (<i>see bulletin note</i>) <i>Java Joy</i> ; "The Lamp"
Tues.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Confirmation Final Preparation (6:15 – 7:30 PM)
Thurs.	6:30 AM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast Confirmation Questioning in Fellowship Hall – North End Thursday Ascension Day Service (Communion)
Fri.	7:45 AM 9:00 AM	Pastries with Parents (<i>until 8:15 AM</i>) Grades K-6 Field Trip to Imagination Station – Toledo
Sun.	9:00 AM	Confirmation and Communion Service

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
- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Irene Joost, Leona Durham* and *Elaine Mahnke*,
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Carmon, Jared Dishop, Jordan Lange*
- ❖ *Alan Gruenhagen, Sue Hurst* and *Dave Crandall*, health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *Marietta Damman*, who underwent a back procedure to relieve pain and is recovering at home



SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS will not meet today or next Sunday, but will resume two weeks from today on Pentecost Sunday, May 28. During the summer months we will engage in studies titled, ***A Longer Look at the Lessons***. These week-by-week studies take a more in-depth look at the Scripture readings that are read in worship that morning. Each Sunday is a study unto itself, so that if you have to miss one Sunday, you can easily pick up again the following Sunday. **We hope you'll join us!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL: There will be no Sunday School during the months of May, June, July, and August. We will resume Sunday School on September 10th, which will be promotion Sunday.

ASCENSION SERVICE AT ST JOHN THIS THURSDAY – This Thursday evening, while Pastor Niermann is with the catechumens for questioning and their statements of faith, Rev. Charles Kramer will conduct our Thursday evening service in the sanctuary. Because Thursday is also ***Ascension Day***, the ascension of Christ will be the special focus of the service, hymns and sermon --- a completely different service than the following Sunday. Ascension Day Worship is Thursday at 7:00 pm with Holy Communion.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM: The next Women of Freedom meeting will be held on Tues., May 16th at 7:00 PM. All women are encouraged to come to our meetings. We look forward to seeing you there.

ATHLETE RECOGNITION – SENIORS – This morning we will take a few minutes at the end of the worship service to recognize four St. John graduates who this year are graduating from high school. They are being recognized for their participation in high school athletics for the past four years. The four seniors are: *Ella Rosebrook, Claire Wachtman, Bryce Bostelman, and Ada Griffith.*

CONFIRMATION 2023 – Next Sunday we will rejoice to witness the confirmation of eight catechumens as they confess their Christian faith and receive the Lord’s Supper for the first time. This is a day of rejoicing for them and for this congregation! This year’s confirmation class theme is, “One and Strong in Christ.” Our eight catechumens are: **Brice Baumert, Hannah Damman, Zeb Kramer, Garrison Kruse, Addison Naveau, Peyton Naveau, Maddox Oyer, and Alex Wachtman.** Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to join us at the Lord’s Table next Sunday.



Events this week related to Confirmation:

- **Wed. May 17 6:15 pm Final preparation for Public Questioning**
- **Thr. May 18 7:00 pm Questioning & Statements of Faith; Confirmation Rehearsal**
This event is open to all. You’ll hear a good review of what you learned in confirmation class, as well as the catechumens’ statements of faith based on their chosen confirmation verses.

WANTED - JAVA JOY HOSTS We are looking for a few people or groups of people to host JAVA JOY on the second Sundays of the remaining months of 2023. Please remember that hosting does not need to cost you anything – you may reimburse yourself from the Java Joy kitty. Also, hosting guidelines are available next to the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Thank you for providing this wonderful service for the fellowship and enjoyment of your church family.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL has been set for June 19-23 from 9:00 to 11:30 each morning, Monday through Friday. Our theme this year is, ***God’s Living Water***, which explores various biblical accounts of the Living Water, Jesus Christ. Students will learn about the water from the rock, the water that healed Naaman, the water Jesus offered the woman at the well, the water Jesus used to wash His disciples feet, and the water by which thousands were baptized on the day of Pentecost. Presently we are working to recruit staff members, including:

- 1 or 2 **Story Tellers** to tell and teach the Bible story of the day
- 1 or 2 **Science segment leaders** to learn a science lesson that supports the day’s theme
- 1 **Craft Leader** and 1 helper
- 1 or 2 **Game Leaders**, to give the students some physical activity
- 1 or 2 **Snack Coordinators**, to plan and prepare each day’s snack



Please complete the VBS flyer and consider helping in this ministry to the children. ***Water you going to do for the children? Get on board with VBS!*** Completed forms can be returned to the designated box on the narthex table. Our first staff meeting will be arranged soon.

LWML SUMMER ODES have arrived and are available in the tract rack by the narthex table. Of interest in this edition is a write up and pictures of the “service day” the St. John ladies participated in at Orphan Grain Train in Napoleon in February. Pick up your copy today!

LUTHERAN WITNESS RENEWAL – It’s time to renew your subscription to the Lutheran Witness for this year. To subscribe or renew your subscription, **simply place \$19.00 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 22nd.**

LCMS NATIONAL OFFERING – At every national convention of *The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod* (of which St. John Lutheran is a member), an offering is received at the opening worship service for a designated mission. Every congregation is invited to participate in this offering by sending their contribution with their circuit convention delegates. The church council voted at its last meeting to participate in this national offering by receiving the gifts of our people, to be included the with offerings of our brothers and sisters in Christ across the nation. More details will be forthcoming, but here’s what you need to know for now:



- This offering is designated for the translation of many LCMS resources so that Christ’s Gospel can reach people of language groups all around the world.
- Convention meets in Milwaukee July 29 to Aug 3. Theme us “We Preach Christ Crucified”
- Our circuit delegates are: Pastoral, Rev. Peter Marcis; Lay Delegate, Randy Carothers.

LOST AND FOUND: There are many lost and found items on a table outside the gym. Please make your way down the hallway to check to see if anything belongs to you. These items will be donated to the Orphan Grain Train if they are not claimed by Fri., May 26th.

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES HAVE RESUMED – Here’s what you need to know:

- Thursday evening services begin at 7:00 p.m.
- These services will be held in the sanctuary until school is out, after which they will move to the north end of the fellowship hall.
- Each Thursday service will be a preview of the coming Sunday service.
- Communion will be celebrated on the Thursdays prior to normal Communion Sundays.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 5/07/23	\$11,721.88	\$252.00	\$398.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 39; Sunday – 146

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN FOR GRADES K-6 will Thurs., **May 25th** with early dismissal at 2:00 PM. Closing Day festivities include: Chapel at 12:45 PM; Presidential academic awards; and attendance and AR awards. Classroom awards will be handed out in the classrooms earlier in the day. All parents are welcome to come.

PRESCHOOL GRADUATION: This year our 4/5-yr preschool graduation will be held on Tues., May 23rd at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited to this big day for the 4/5-year olds. There will be a program followed by light refreshments in the fellowship hall.

CPH READS CHALLENGE! CPH Reads is a summer reading program that challenges participants to read books about Jesus and find hope in God's Word. The goal is to read 1,000 minutes of books about Jesus. All ages are invited to participate in the program, which starts May 31 and concludes on August 11, and all who complete the challenge are eligible for a chance to win prizes! To join the challenge, go to cph.org/reads (with an adult), pick a book to read, start reading, and log your time by August 11th! Ready, set, read! This challenge is for adults also. Flyers available on the narthex table.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL POSITION OPENINGS – St. John Lutheran School is seeking people to fill several positions that will be opening after this school year.

- **Kindergarten Teacher** – The requirements are: Must have a Bachelor's degree in education, obtain a background check, supply three references and adhere to the St. John Lutheran Church & School religious beliefs.
- **7th & 8th Grade Teacher** – The requirements are: Must have a Bachelor's degree in education, obtain a background check, supply three references and adhere to the St. John Lutheran Church & School religious beliefs.
- **Music Instructor** – This individual is responsible for classroom music one day per week in Grades K-8. Applicant must obtain a background check along with three references.
- **STEM Instructor** – This individual is responsible for overseeing the STEM program one day per week in Grades K-8. Applicant must obtain a background check along with three references.

If you know of anyone interested, please call the school office or email Miss Germann at tgermann@sjl.org.

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 10 – 11:30 AM on the following dates: July 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27. Informational flyers are available on the narthex table. Any questions...call Coach Schroeder at 419-591-6655.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2023-24 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.

A ST. JOHN LIBRARY THANK YOU – St. John Librarian, Rachel Dominique, would like to say "THANK YOU" to everyone who donated or purchased books for our library this school year. Your generosity helps our library grow faster than we can imagine. In total, 645 NEW BOOKS were added into our collection this school year!!

As a reminder, our library is always accepting donations of gently used books. Your donation could help replace a ratty copy of our own or be added as a new book to our shelves. If we already have a copy, your donation will be passed along to inner city Toledo school teachers to gift to their students. Just drop donations marked "Library" off at the school office anytime. Thank you!

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.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIPS: Here is another opportunity to encourage and help young people prepare for service to the church as pastors, teachers, lay workers, deaconesses, etc. \$500 per year Women of Freedom Scholarships are available to any young person attending one of our synodical schools. Simply contact any Women of Freedom member for more details about this.

PIERSTORF COLLEGE FUND: The Pierstorf College Fund is a one-of-a-kind pan Lutheran financial aid program that provides interest-free loans to all Lutherans pursuing a higher education who live in the State of Ohio. These loans are specific to students who are or will be enrolled full time in a four-year undergraduate program at any accredited college or university. This year, the maximum interest-free loan is \$4,000 for the school year. For information, visit www.Pierstorf.org to complete the online 2023-2024 application. Application deadline is June 30, 2023. Questions can be emailed to Pierstorf@messiahfp.org.

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 in the School Info rack outside the school office. 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.**

DRIVE-THRU CHICKEN BBQ hosted by the Ridgeville Fire Dept. Auxiliary will be held on Sun., May 21st from 11:00 AM until gone. Brookview chicken, sides, cookie. Come and support your local Fire Dept. Freewill donation!

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE: The Ridgeville Corners Memorial Day service to remember those who served our country will be held on **Mon., May 29 at 10:30 AM** at the Ridgeville American Legion. Children age PreK thru 4th Grade are invited to participate in the flag drill at the service. Practices will be held on Tues., May 23 & Thurs., May 25 at 6:30 PM. Call *Laura Bickel* at 419-267-5203 or *Jenny Behnfeldt* at 419-267-5636 for questions or more info on the flag drill.

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Food For Thought...

Cars aren't the only thing recalled by their maker.

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil." (2 Corinthians 5:10)