



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

May 21, 2023

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NO. 21

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

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 419-270-8863
Church Website: www.sjl.org

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Confirmation Sunday)

Sermon & Text: "One and Strong in Christ" *John 17:11*

Order of Service: *See Printed Service Folder*

Hymns: 655 ~ [Communion: 637, 649, 651] ~ 838

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 baskets at the door as you leave today. You can also register your name in the Guest Book in the Narthex.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Nolan Bickel, Evelyn Szabo, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Mike Maassel, Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Elaine Buenger, Deb Von Deylen, *Altar Guild* ✘

ALTAR FLOWERS: The altar flowers are placed today by the 2023 Confirmation Class in honor of this momentous occasion in their lives. May God richly bless each one of them going forward!

CONFIRMATION 2023 – This morning we 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," based on the prayer of our Lord in today's Gospel reading, "that they may all be one." (*John 17:21*).

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 join us at the Lord's Table today, that God may strengthen them in faith to life eternal!

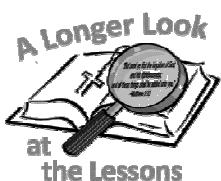


In God's House This WeekOnline church calendar: <https://74058984.view-events.com>

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM	Confirmation and Communion Service
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tues.	7:00 PM	Preschool 4/5-yr old Last Day Preschool 4/5-yr old Graduation in sanctuary
Wed.		Preschool 3-yr old Last Day
Thurs.	12:40PM 2:00 PM 7:00 PM	Last Student Day (Gr. K-6) Closing Chapel; Academic & Attendance Awards; AR Awards Early Dismissal Thursday Worship Service
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study

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

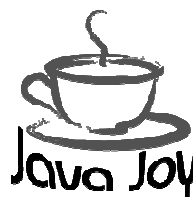
- ❖ *Melba Elling, Lorna Von Deylen, Norma Damman*, at Genacross – Napoleon
- ❖ *Lawrence Behrmann*, at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Irene Joost, Leona Durham* and *Elaine Mahnke*,
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Carmon, Jared Dishop, Jordan Lange*
- ❖ *Alan Gruenhagen, 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
- ❖ *Elaine Mahnke*, recovering at Northcrest Rehab, Napoleon after hospitalization



SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS will not meet today so that Pastor may join the confirmands for photography, but will resume next Sunday on Pentecost, 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.

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.



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

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.



MEET THE OLD MISSION OFFERING BOX! This offering box has been around for a long time, although we are not certain as to its origins. In its history it has no doubt received many mission contributions which have richly blessed the lives of many people, whether by lending them assistance for the needs of the body, or by making known to them the Gospel of their eternal salvation in Christ our Lord. For many years this box has collected dust, but now it's back and ready to go to work by once again receiving our special mission offerings as opportunities become available to us.

This summer the first task of our *Old Mission Offering Box* will be to receive our contributions to the LCMS National Offering, about which you can read in the next announcement. So stop on out in the fellowship hall and check out this little wooden box, which stands ready to serve as a conduit to our community and world of our offerings of love.

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. Gifts will be received in the ***Old Mission Offering Box*** on the four Sundays of July leading up to the conventions. For now, we just need everyone to be informed.



- The national 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 is "We Preach Christ Crucified"
- Our circuit will be represented at the convention by pastoral delegate, Rev. Peter Marcis, and lay delegate, Randy Carothers.

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.**

ACTS BIBLE STUDY... The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily 15-minute verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon. Pastor Weedon begins a study this week on The Book of Acts. You can listen at your convenience at thewordendures.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

OHIO DISTRICT ‘SINGLES DAY’ IN DUBLIN – This announcement is late in coming, but the Ohio District is hosting a *Singles Day* for all post college-age singles. **The date is June 24, 10am to 8pm.** The place is The Shelter House at St. John Lutheran Church in Dublin. This one-day event will include time for worship, discussions, service projects, meals and fun! **Registration is \$35, but the deadline to sign up is tomorrow (May 22).** Pastor has placed registration forms on the table in the narthex. Just fill one out, even if you don’t have the money right away, and leave it on the table. We’ll get it to the district on Monday. Descriptive flyers are also on the narthex table. If some are interested, we can arrange for a carpool as well.



<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 5/14/23	\$8,817.00	\$150.00	\$257.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 27; Sunday – 161

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.
- **School Cook** – This individual is responsible for ordering/purchasing, preparing, and serving lunch for approximately 40-50 students and staff during the school year; along with clean-up afterwards. This would average 15 hours per week. Applicant must obtain a background check.
- **Freedom Flock Director** – This individual is responsible for overseeing the aides in charge of the care of the students in the after-school care program each day from 3:00-6:00 pm; submitting payroll hours; purchasing snacks; filling in as an aide when needed. Applicant must obtain a background check.

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

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.

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.

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.**

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.

PROJECT CONNECT – There are many free booklets in the rack in the narthex. Be sure to check for some informative reading. Some titles are: “*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. These booklets are furnished through the Lutheran Hour Ministries.

DRIVE-THRU CHICKEN BBQ hosted by the Ridgeville Fire Dept. Auxiliary is being **held today from 11:00 AM until gone**. Brookview chicken, sides, cookie. Come and support your local Fire Dept. Freewill donation!

OPEN HOUSE: *Terry & Karen Norden* are hosting an open house to celebrate their daughter, Grace’s accomplishments of becoming a Doctor of Veterinary medicine. This open house will be held on Sun., May 28th beginning at 4pm at the Norden residence (17756 US Hwy 6, Napoleon). Stop in and congratulate the “new” **Dr. Norden, DVM**. Congratulations Grace!

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 *Jennie Behnfeldt* at 419-267-5636 for questions or more info on the flag drill.

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Food For Thought...

Be kind whenever possible.

And here’s a pro tip --- it’s always possible!

“Love is patient, love is kind.” (1 Cor 13:4)