



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

August 21, 2022

VOL. 87

NO. 34

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

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

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

(OUTDOOR SERVICE)

Sermon: "Strive to Enter" *Luke 13:22-30*

Service: *Printed Service Folder*

Special music selections by Mr. Mike Nicol

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to the outdoor worship service of God's Word and the fellowship of this congregation. We hope that you will be both comforted and challenged by the Word of God from us today. If you are new to our community; we hope you will consider making this your church home. Please fill out the blue guest card and lay it on the table by the school building.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ (recorded)
- ✠ Dave Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karen Germann, Mary Kossow, Diana Kruse, *Altar Guild* ✠

HOLY COMMUNION RESCHEDULED FOR AUGUST – Because we are out doors on this third Sunday of the month, which is normally a Communion Sunday, we have rescheduled Communion for the fourth Sunday of the month, August 28, when we are back in the sanctuary.

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES take place each week, May through October, at 7:00 p.m. Now that the school year is underway, we will resume gathering in the sanctuary for these services. Holy Communion will be celebrated at the Thursday service this week.

MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST will resume after a summer break on Thursday, Sept 1 at 6:30 a.m. That's one week from this coming Thursday. **Please join us!**

WOMEN OF FREEDOM: The Women of Freedom will not be meeting in August. Our next meeting will be Tues., Sept. 20. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend!

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

| Date | Time | Activities |
|-------------|--|--|
| Today | 10:00AM 11:20AM | Outdoor Worship Service; Installation of Principal and 5&6 th Grade Teacher; Blessing of the Backpacks Congregational Meal; SJLS Open House |
| Mon. | 8:30 AM 10:00AM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM | Pay school fees (until noon) Staff Meeting <i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution Parent Meeting; Classrooms open; Meet Teachers (<i>until 7 PM</i>) |
| Tues. | 8:30 AM | Pay school fees (until noon) |
| Wed. | 8:20 AM 8:35 AM | First Student Day 8:35 AM Opening Chapel |
| Thurs. | 7:00 PM | Thursday Evening Worship w/Communion (<i>in the sanctuary</i>) |
| Sun. | 9:00AM 10:20AM | Communion Service 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
- ❖ *Steve Hurst*, following recent heart surgery additional health concerns

THANK YOU: The family of *Henry Gerken* would like to thank everyone for their prayers, kind words, and cards sent during our dad’s recent illness and passing. We also would like to thank Pastor Niermann and others for their visits. A special “thank you” to the Women of Freedom for providing the delicious luncheon. Your support has meant a lot to us and has been a great comfort to us. May God continue to bless the members of St. John with the ability to show their kindness to others.

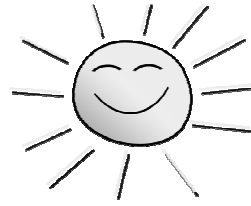
LUTHER HAD WARTBURG, WE HAVE COLLINSVILLE... Issues, Etc. is a radio-talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week’s teachings include: Apparent Contradictions in Paul’s Conversion Story, Proof Texting Early Church Fathers in Roman Catholicism, The Nunc Dimittis, Old Testament Patriarch Isaac and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org and your favorite podcast provider.

SHARE THE BOUNTY OF SUMMER – This morning a table is set up under the carport where you can bring any spare produce from your garden and share it with others in the congregation. Bring whatever you can and take whatever you can use, and share the bounty of summer!



WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL OUTDOOR SERVICE!

Scripture tells us that nature itself proclaims the glory of God (Psa 19:1). Sometimes it's refreshing to be in nature's sanctuary *"to join with all nature in manifold witness of [His] great faithfulness, mercy and love."* (LSB 809:2) We pray that you will be blessed in our morning together, and will stay around for everything else that's going on.



- **Blessing of the Backpacks** – It's back-to-school time, and we want our children to go with God's blessing and our prayers. All students are invited forward today during the service, even if they don't have their backpacks.
- **Installation of Ms. Germann and Mr. Benson** – We rejoice to receive two new servants among us for our school ministry. Please read about them elsewhere in this bulletin.
- **SJLS Open House** - SJLS students (K-6) may stop by their classrooms to meet and greet their teachers and to get familiar with the lay of the land before school starts this Wednesday. Students may also drop off school supplies (from their blessed backpacks) so that they are ready to go on the first day of school.
- **Congregational Meal** – Join us after worship in the fellowship hall for a wonderful meal of pulled pork, beef brisket, and the extras! A freewill offering will be received to defray expenses. We'll also take a little time to get to know Ms. Germann and Mr. Benson.

ATTENTION ALL ST. JOHN 7th & 8th GRADERS

A couple of things are happening, about which you should have received word this past week.

- **Midweek Confirmation Instruction** – will begin on **Wednesday, August 31st at 6:15 p.m.** in the classroom nearest to the sanctuary. Parents are invited to be present for the first 10 or 15 minutes to receive information about the year ahead, expectations of the catechumens, and dates related to confirmation in the spring.
- **Acolyte Training** – will be held next Sunday after the Sunday School hour, from about 11:15 AM to noon. We will gather in the sanctuary.
- **Acolyte Scheduling** – Pastor Niermann sent out information related to acolyte scheduling. Please read it carefully and respond to him so that a schedule can be handed out next Sunday during training.

*7th & 8th
Graders*

| <u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u> | Home Fund | Synod & Missions | Building Fund |
|-------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------|
| Weekly Need | \$9,792.78 | \$500.00 | \$961.54 |
| Rec'd 8/14/22 | \$9,050.38 | \$385.00 | \$195.00 |

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 21; Sunday – 93

THREE WAYS TO GIVE YOUR REGULAR OFFERING

- Deposit your envelope or offering in the offering plate being passed during the service.
- Use the '**Give Now**' online giving page – a link (the blue button) is on our website.
- Mail your offering to the church.

Family Fun Event

SOMETHING IS BREWING IN THE STEWARDSHIP BOARD for a family fun event. All we can say right now is to mark your calendar for the evening of Sunday, October 30th. More details will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead. Let's just say it will be a treat for our mouths and for our eyes!

NEW PORTABLE SOUND SYSTEM – This morning in our outdoor service we are featuring a brand new portable sound system, purchased from the Memorial Fund. The old sound system was beginning to fail us and was not worth fixing. **The new ProSonus mixer board** features 16 channels and many of the benefits of a modern digital mixer, but with the feel and ease-of-use of a classic analogue mixer. **The new Electro-Voice speakers** have a very different look compared to bulkier, heavier speakers of the past. They have a bass cabinet with a speaker array and are rated at 1,000 watts (that's a lot of power!). They have Bluetooth onboard; meaning a smartphone (for example) can be connected wirelessly. The speakers are self-powered, meaning there is no need for a separate amplifier. They are easy to move and set up. Sound technology has come a long way, and these speakers take advantage of much of that technology. **Thank you to all the families who designated gifts to our Memorial Fund to make possible special purchases such as this. Your gifts are making a difference.**

NOTE – In case you're wondering, we will make the old sound system available for sale, including the **Powerpod 1840 Mixer, 2 EV Force-i 250W speakers, and 2 tripod speaker stands**. We will list these on Facebook Marketplace as well. Let us know if you or anyone you know may be interested.

PARENT MEETING: On Mon., Aug. 22nd from 6-7PM there will be a Parent Meeting for families of Kindergarten thru Grade 6. We will meet first in the Fellowship Hall. That will be a time to introduce our staff members and set the tone for the school year. After meeting in the Fellowship Hall students can drop off materials in their classrooms, meet teachers.

FREEDOM'S FLOCK – St. John's after school program will begin at 3:00 PM on the first day of school, August 24. Please contact Director *Brittany Pescara* to pre-register your child(ren) and pay the \$15 per family registration by August 24, if possible. You can also access the Freedom's Flock Handbook and Registration/Medical forms on FastDirect. *Mrs. Susan Dickes* will be the Freedom Flock Aide along with Brittany this year. If any adult or student (16 or older) would like to volunteer to also help with the program, you may contact Brittany at 480-352-9830.

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE INFO: **Open House** will be held in two sessions (each day) on Thurs., Sept. 1 for those registered for the 4-5 year old class at 8:30-9:30 and 10:00-11:00. For the 3 year old class it will be held on Fri., Sept. 2, at 8:30-9:30 AM and 10:00-11:00. Students and parents will come to the classroom during the day to get a feel for how the preschool day is run. Parents will choose their session prior to the open house. During your visit, your child will also be able to drop off their school supplies, if necessary. Please click on the link below to sign up for a time to come to the open house. Be sure to sign up for the corresponding day for your child's age level.

Sign up link: www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4EABAB2BA75-preschool

Per the July School Board meeting, the 4/5-yr preschool will begin on Tues., Sept. 6th at 8:20 AM. The 3-yr preschool will begin on Wed., Sept. 7th at 8:20 AM.

SCHOOL NOTES:

- ✓ **1st DAY OF SCHOOL** for St. John is Wed., Aug. 24 , with classes beginning at 8:20AM. Students arriving after that time will need to report to the school office.
- ✓ **OPEN HOUSE** – (Gr.K-6) On Sun., Aug. 21st following the 10:00 AM Outdoor Worship Service. This is for Kindergarten thru Gr. 6. See note above in the bulletin.
- ✓ **PARENT MEETING** – (Gr. K-6) On Mon., Aug. 22nd from 6:00 – 7:00 PM there will be a Parent Meeting for families in the Fellowship Hall. See note above also.
- ✓ **SCHOOL OFFICE** will be open on Mon. and Tues., Aug. 22 & 23 from 9-noon for anyone that wants to pay their school fees for the upcoming school year.
- ✓ **OPENING CHAPEL SERVICE** will be Aug. 24th at 8:35AM in the church. Following the service, *Principal Tracy Germann* will welcome our new students. **All are welcome to attend this Opening Service!**
- ✓ **SCHOOL PICTURES** will be taken by *Emilie Parsons* of Emilie’s Photo Design. The dates for these are Sept. 15th and Sept. 16th. Order forms will be sent home shortly after school starts.
- ✓ **LUNCH PROGRAM** – We will serve hot lunches again this school year. Lunch prices will remain the same. We have put Preschool and Grades K-4 together for one price, and Grades 5-6 for one price. They are: PS 4/5 - Gr. 4 - \$2.75, Gr. 5-6 - \$3.00. Extra milk is 50¢. The adult meal price is \$3.25 and \$3.75 w/milk. Money sent in for lunches are posted to each families lunch account in FastDirect Communication. You can view your balance by clicking on the Finance icon at the top of the FastDirect home page.
- ✓ **BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP** – St. John Athletic Booster membership fees for the 2022-2023 school year are: \$20.00 for husband and wife; \$10.00 for single. Make checks payable to *St. John Boosters*.
- ✓ **SCRIP PROGRAM** will be offered again this school year. Anyone willing to help the PTL with this fundraiser can contact *Kristyn Honemann* at 419-592-0643.

PARENT HANDBOOKS: The 2022-23 Parent Handbook is posted and available via the FastDirect Communication network. A message was sent to each family through FastDirect. Handbooks will only be printed for those St. John families that do not have internet access via computers, cell phones, i-Pads, etc. Go to www.fastdir.com/stjohnfreedom and click on “Links”.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Adam and Eve were the first people to ignore the apple terms and conditions!

“In the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Gen 2:17

Welcome Miss Tracy Germann

Some of us may remember the old television show, “Welcome Back, Kotter.” With the installation of our new principal this morning, we are living our own version of that show, “Welcome Back, Germann.”

Miss Tracy Germann is the daughter of Ron & Karen Germann and a 1984 graduate of St. John Lutheran School. She graduated from Napoleon High School in 1988, and went on to the University of Toledo to pursue a BA degree in Elementary and Early Childhood Education. After graduating from UT she went on to Lourdes College to study for her Master’s Degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

Miss Germann taught for 26 years at St. Rose Catholic School in Perrysburg, OH in the second and third grades, and specialized in Kindergarten readiness. She has also taught Math Methods to preservice teachers at Bowling Green State University. She loves to travel, shop and read, and enjoys spending time with family and friends! **Welcome back, Miss Germann!**



Welcome Mr. Stephen Benson

Perhaps the movie “Farewell China” tells the story of our newest teacher’s arriving. Mr. Stephen Benson comes to us from his most recent field of service in Shenzhen, China, where he worked for the Lutheran Church, Hong Kong Synod to help establish Buena Vista Concordia International School.

Mr. Benson was born in Concord, NH. As he says, “I was born, like most people, at a very young age.” He grew up in Terryville, CT and attended St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol, CT. His degrees include a BS in Biochemistry (Illinois Institute of Technology), a BA in Studio Arts (University of Illinois), and a BA in Lutheran Education (Concordia, River Forest, IL).

He worked for 18 years in advertising, and received his first teaching position at St. Paul Lutheran, Kewanee, IL. He taught for 15 years at Grace Lutheran School, Chicago, and retired in 2013. It was then that he went on a six-month short-term missionary trip to China that turned into an eight year mission!

Mr. Benson has six children and four grandchildren. He enjoys biking, hiking, kayaking, tennis, reading, Bible study, baking, painting, volleyball and archery. **Welcome back to the states and to northwest Ohio, Mr. Benson!**