



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

October 30, 2022

VOL. 87

NO. 44

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

REFORMATION DAY (observed)

Sermon & Text: "The Reformation Is Important" *Revelation 14:6-7*

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: **580 ~ 973 ~ 656 ~ 805** [Communion: **744, 644**] ~ 555 ~ 655

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING CHURCH *We thank God this day for His work through Martin Luther to bring to light the Gospel of Jesus. May He reform us and renew us as we seek His purposes under the power of this Gospel. The church gathers under the Gospel of Christ. It is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and place it in the basket at the door as you leave today. May the Lord bless our worship.*



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Garrison Kruse, Maddox Oyer, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Mike Maassel, Scott Van Valkenburg, Carey Damman, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kathy Gruenhagen, Deb Wachtman, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✠

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED TODAY – This morning we welcome into membership with us two individuals.

- **Aleeah Brown** is received by the rite of Confirmation. Aleeah was baptized here at St. John on November 27, 2005, and recently completed adult instruction in the faith. She is the daughter of Greg & Lisa Brown, Arianah's sister, and Karen Sonnenberg's grand-daughter.
- **Tracy Germann** is received by transfer from Trinity Lutheran, Toledo. Tracy is serving now as a Called Principal at St. John. She is the daughter of Karen (and Ron†) Germann.

It is our great joy and privilege to welcome these two as sisters with us in faith in the body of Christ here at St. John. May we be as much a blessing to them as they are to us, and may God make our association fruitful for the kingdom of God, to the glory of our Savior!

TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK: Remember to turn your clocks back this coming weekend, Sunday, November 6th at 2:00 AM. Daylight saving time ends!

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: www.DynaCal.com/sjl

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM Noon	Communion Service and New Member Recognition Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Trunk or Treat (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Tue.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	All Saints Service with Communion Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "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
- ❖ *Lawrence Behrmann*, at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ *Esther Layton*, at Defiance Hospice Center
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Niermann, Jared Dishop, Jordan Lange*
- ❖ *Sue Hurst and Dave Crandall*, concerns relating to cancer
- ❖ *Alan Gruenhagen*, recovering after a recent hospitalization
- ❖ *Patty Nicol*, who has been hospitalized in the ICU this past week on a ventilator
- ❖ *Pat Kramer*, recovering from surgery to further prepare her leg for a prosthesis

ADULT SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

PRESENT STUDY: 'Holy Communion' --- Join us for Bible study this morning as we wrap up our study of the Lord's Supper – what it is, and why we practice it the way we do. The coffee is on!

NEW STUDY STARTING NEXT SUNDAY: "Christians in a Woke World" --- It's a different world we live in now. A world many of us barely recognize. Victimhood is power. You get 'cancelled' for even reasonable viewpoints. Employers force you to train for cultural sensitivity. Discriminating between people on the basis of race is good and righteous. One misspoken word can get you fired. Words like *woke*, *white privilege*, *critical race theory*, *systemic racism*, and *antiracism* have formed a new vocabulary.



What's going on? Some have referred to these trends as 'cultural Marxism.' Group identity (by gender, race, sexual orientation, etc.) is emphasized over individuality, and groups are pitted against each other as oppressors or oppressed. How do we as Christians make sense of all this? How should we respond as witnesses for Christ? Join us for this new Bible study on Sunday mornings:

Christians in a Woke World ♦ A Call to Courage, Confession and LOVE

We will analyze this new Marxism from a Biblical perspective, and find courage to confess the truth to this 'Woke' world that our true identity is in Christ. In Him we are not defined by any humanly devised identity group, but by the cross at which ALL of us were redeemed by the Savior to be the children of God.

COMMUNITY TRUNK-or-TREAT



TODAY ♦ 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. ♦ Church and School Parking Lot

Get the word out to friends and families that the children of the community are welcome to get their costumes on and come for a late afternoon of fun, games and treats at our first-ever Trunk-or-Treat. It's a great opportunity for us to welcome people of this area to our property and to build relationships.

A note to our 'Trunkers' – Thank you for signing up to help provide this service in our community. If you still want to sign up as a 'Trunker,' it's not too late. You are still welcome to throw some treats into your trunk, and perhaps a little game, and join the Trunkers this evening in treating the children. Here is what our Trunkers need to know...

- **Purchase candy and treats for the kids – no homemade treats, please**
- **Optionally, decorate the back end of your car and perhaps dress up in a coordinating costume** (you can be as creative as you'd like, or do nothing). Please stay away from really scary themes, and let's go more for fun!
- **Bring along a quick little game** (also optional) for the kids to play at your trunk. How about a ring toss onto a long pumpkin stem? Or engage them in a game of tic-tac-toe using candy corn?
- **Maybe offer a little prize along with a treat.**
- **Arrive at the church on October 30th by 3:30 PM**, in time to find a parking spot (attendants will direct you) and to get your trunk all set up for trick-or-treaters at 4:00.

ALL SAINTS COMMEMORATION NEXT SUNDAY – Join us next Sunday for this annual remembrance of all the saints, especially those of our congregation who departed to be with the Lord since our last celebration of All Saints. These include:



Clara Meyer (†-Nov 6)

Paula Taft (†-Jan 7)

John Damman (†-Jan 24)

William McCarthy (†-Feb 17)

Evelyn Rohrs (†-Mar 3)

Bill Von Deylen (†-Mar 15)

Hildegard Behrmann (†-Apr 8)

Florence Jones (†-Apr 16)

Mabel Bischoff (†-May 12)

Ruth Mahnke (†-Jun 14)

Henry Gerken (†-Jul 22)

Donald Landry (†-Sep 13)

The saints with Christ in heaven are often symbolized by stalks of wheat gathered in or around a crown. This symbol brings to mind two comforting Bible passages: ***“He will gather His wheat into His barn”*** (Matt 3:12), and ***“Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life”*** (Rev 2:10). Today, as Christ's saints on earth, we rejoice with all the saints who wear the crown and are gathered like wheat into a barn around the Lamb of God. As one Church we raise our voices to praise Him whose shed blood washes us and makes us saints – holy in the sight of God!

NOMINATION PROCESS BEGINS – The Stewardship Board is beginning the process of nominating individuals for the various offices of our congregation. Please keep this process in prayer, as it is often difficult to identify willing candidates. And please, if you are asked about accepting a nomination, give it prayerful thought, and consider how God may want to use you in service to His people, for the blessing of us all!

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 10/23/22	\$5,109.00	\$585.00	\$180.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 35; Sunday – 136

THURSDAY SERVICES – The Thursday evening service this week (Oct 27) was the final Thursday evening service for this year. These will resume the first Thursday of May, 2023. For the *Festival Half* of the church year (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter) there will be midweek services.

A REMINDER: If you are the LAST person to leave the building at the end of the day or after a meeting, etc., please make sure that the hallway and restroom lights are turned off and that the main entry doors (*where the buzzer is located*) are closed. With a tight budget, every little bit of electrical savings will benefit the church and closing the doors assures the safety of the building. Thank you!

LADIES OF ST. JOHN: The 2023 Booklet for the *Women of Freedom (LWML)* is being edited. All women of the Lutheran Church are considered members of the LWML. If you would like to be listed as an *active* member please contact *Linda Riefers*. Call 419-267-3366 or e-mail rie307w@bright.net. Current members please note any change of address or phone contact; and also, if you would like to have your e-mail added. *Women of Freedom* meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of the month with no meetings in January, February, June, August and December. Special optional activities are planned in February, June, and December. We serve funerals on request and volunteer our services as needed in the church. A warm welcome to any and all!

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: The Ridgeville Sons of the American Legion are asking you to join them in their mission to place “wreaths across America” in 2022. National Wreaths Across American Day is Sat., Dec. 17, 2022. Sponsored wreaths are placed on grave markers at state and national veterans’ cemeteries, as well as at local, community cemeteries each December. Wreath Sponsorship forms and more information is available on the narthex table. Wreaths may also be sponsored online at www.wreathscrossamerica.org/OH0229P or via the QR code on the sponsorship form. **Order deadline is Wed., Nov. 23rd.**

AREA EVENTS:

- **Filling Fall Fling** hosted by the Filling Home Women’s Guild will be held on Sat., Nov. 5th from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM in the Therapy Center located at N160 St Route 108, Napoleon. See flyer for all the details.
- **Napoleon Zone Christian Life Workshop** will be held on Sat., Nov. 12th at 9:00 AM at St. Paul Lutheran Church – Flatrock, 12-868 County Road K, Napoleon. Join us in Fellowship and Bible Study! See posted flyer!

✘ ✘ ✘

Food For Thought...

Are you drowning in life’s troubles? Remember, your Lifeguard walks on water!

“The torrents of destruction overwhelmed me;... In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice... He sent from on high, he took me; he drew me out of many waters.”

Psalm 18