



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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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

THE HOLY TRINITY

Sermon & Text: "Looking for Something to Believe In" *Matthew 28:16-20*

Order of Service: *See Printed Service Folder*

Hymns: **507 ~504** ~ [Communion: **822, 717**] ~ **794**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to every member, friend, and visitor. You have entered this church, not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. May your worship here enable you to see your Savior more clearly, love Him more dearly, follow Him more nearly, and serve Him more sincerely. If you have no church home of your own, we invite you to join the St. John family. Please fill out a blue pew card from the rack in front of you and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave today.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Garrison Kruse, Nolan Bickel, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Doug Dietrich, Nick Sonnenberg, Joe Badenhop, Neil Badenhop *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Lou Ann Rosebrock, Diane Von Deylen, *Altar Guild* ✠



ALTR FLOWERS are placed today in honor of the 55th Wedding Anniversary of Don & Karan Niebergall. Don & Karan were married on June 2, 1968. Congratulations to the Niebergalls, and may God bless them with many more happy years together!

WELCOME REV. TED RELLSTAB! This morning we welcome back to St. John Rev. Ted Rellstab, who has graciously consented to fill in for Pastor Niermann today. Rev. Rellstab has been around our circuit for a long time, having spent his entire ministerial career as Pastor at St. John Lutheran in Holgate. Now retired, he and his wife Deb live south of Holgate. Welcome and thank you, Rev. Rellstab!

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

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Worship Service
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:30 PM	Worship Service w/communion following Adult Bible Study 4-H Meetings: Gerald Busy Fingers & Cloverbuds

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



Holy Trinity

TODAY IS THE FEAST OF THE HOLY TRINITY – The Feast of the Holy Trinity differs from the other three high festivals of the Church Year. Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost all celebrate the mighty acts of God for the salvation of mankind. Today’s festival, on the other hand, celebrates the nature of God and the important and mysterious article of our Christian faith, that the true God is one in unity and triune in persons. The three Creeds of the Church, and the Athanasian Creed especially, are shaped by this doctrine of our faith and serve as distinct

symbols, or markers, of the true Christian church. This doctrine is essential for our salvation. As church history has demonstrated, a false understanding of this doctrine leads, without fail, to a false understanding of Christ and His redemptive work. To deny the Trinity is to deny who Christ is. To deny who Christ is to reject His saving work. Thus the church celebrates this day each year, to keep us mindful of this core doctrine of our Christian faith.



SUMMER SUNDAYS ADULT BIBLE CLASS

This morning after worship Rev. Rellstab will lead us in a “Longer Look at the Lessons” Bible study. We will be digging more deeply into the Scriptures we hear today in worship, from **Genesis 1, Acts 2, and Matthew 28**. Join us this morning in the south end of the fellowship hall for this study.

THE PASTOR’S NEW (AND SIMPLER) EMAIL ADDRESS – Please be aware that the pastor’s email address has changed to make it simpler and more memorable. From now on, the pastor’s email address is pastor@sjl.org. In the future this same email address will transfer to whoever the pastor may be. Please make the change --- Pastor Niermann will not be monitoring his old email address for much longer.

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.



- To enroll a student, or to volunteer as a helper, please visit our VBS website at vbsmate.com/stjohnsfreedomvbs23
- A link for our VBS website is also provided on our homepage at sjl.org.
- If you prefer, you can register a student using the paper forms available in the narthex.

LADIES, GET YOUR KICKS!!! (on Route 66) Sign up today...The Women of Freedom invite you to travel on Route 66 to Archbold on Tues., June 20th at 9:00 AM. Please see the bulletin insert for all the details, and be sure to join them for a very nice morning of fun, fellowship...and lunch too. Sign-up sheet located at the narthex table.

CONFSSIONAL LUTHERANS, WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK... 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 topics include: The Evening Hymn "Abide with Me," Children's Rights, The Biblical Case for the Trinity, News Discernment and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

WANTED - JAVA JOY HOSTS There are still a few months open for hosting Java Joy, and we are looking for individuals or groups to fill in the gaps. JAVA JOY is on the second Sunday of each month, and we're looking for hosts for:

June ~ October ~ November ~ December

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.



LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY TO BEGIN – Tuesdays, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

On the Tuesdays of summer, starting June 13, Pastor Niemann will be leading a *LifeLight* Bible study series. Please sign up today in the narthex!

LifeLight is an extensive series of popular Bible studies that provide an in-depth look at the books of Scripture and various related topics. The goal of this series is to help us grow in Christian faith through a program of regular personal and group study. In Bible study this morning Pastor will discuss with the group which of the many studies might interest them.



- **Expense** – *LifeLight* Bible study materials cost \$12 per participant (or per couple if shared). While there is no charge to participate, it would be welcomed and appreciated if you are able to defray that expense for the church.

LWML QUARTERLIES have arrived and are in the rack in the narthex. Pick up your copy today!

2022 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT: These are available today, after the service, on the narthex table and the desk. There are 50 copies and more will be printed as needed each Sunday. Thank you for your patience, as the computer attack in August affected the production of this report any sooner.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 5/28/23	\$3,975.00	\$405.00	\$175.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 30; Sunday – 109

ARCHIVES DISPLAY: The Archives Committee members have put up a display of past Confirmation classes ranging from classes who would have celebrated their 80th anniversary to those classes celebrating their 5th anniversary. Come and check it out in the side hallway by the church.

EAGLE NEWS : The Eagle News publication is being passed out today after the service. It is also available online via FastDirect. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnfreedom/>, click on “Links” at the top of the page, then click on “Eagle News- May 2023” in the “Everybody” column. Enjoy!

MY DEVOTION BOOKLETS for the next quarter, *June, July, and August*, are available on the desk in the narthex. These are nice kid-friendly family devotions. Take time to be together and grow in your faith. Pick up a copy today!

SUMMER HOURS (UPDATED): Please note the church office hours during the summer months 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!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE OUTDOOR SERVICE – This year the annual Outdoor Service has been scheduled for Sunday, August 20th.

REPORT CARDS: End of the year report cards can be viewed in FastDirect as of Mon., June 5th.

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.

UPDATE - PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT – St. John Lutheran Preschool is still accepting enrollment applications for 2023-24 school year. The 4-yr old class still has about 4 open spots. The 3-yr old class still has availability for next 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.

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

- **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.

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.

AREA EVENTS:

- **Friends of Orphan Grain Train** will be hosting a **Bake Sale, Food Stand, Thrift & Plant Sale** at the Florida Ohio Fire Station on **June 8 & 9** during the Historic 424 Yard Sales. Stop in to enjoy great food from the lunch stand or baked items from the Bake Sale and help support this worthy cause!
- **The 15th Annual Stephanie Kossow Memorial Golf Outing** will be held at White Pines Golf Course on **Sat., July 29th**, with a 1:00 PM shotgun start. Registration forms available on the narthex table!

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!

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. (*Also, please let us know how the system is working for you.*)

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 of the receivers. At the end of the service, unplug the ear bud to take with you until the next time.

IF YOU'RE EVER IN A PINCH and could use a little help, the *Good Neighbor Fund* is there to assist you too! Please don't be bashful about asking – everything is strictly confidential. Just give Pastor Niermann a call, and we'll see what we can do!

THE LUTHERAN HOUR – Locally you can listen to the Lutheran Hour Ministries broadcast on WMTR 96.1 FM, Archbold at 7:30 AM or on WNDH 103.1 FM, Napoleon at approximately 9:00 AM every Sunday. They cover many interesting topics relevant to today's issues.

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS PRICE INCREASE: For anyone wishing to place flowers on the altar for Sunday worship, please contact *Nancy Glaser* at 419-906-0963. **NOTE:** **The price for flowers through the Women of Freedom has increased to \$30.00.** Checks payable to Women of Freedom.

WORSHIP ANEW: Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. produces a weekly, 30-minute Lutheran broadcast worship service called *Worship Anew* (*formerly Worship For Shut-Ins*). Each service includes music, scripture readings, prayers, and a pastor delivering a message that is designed to feel one-on-one to the viewer. 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 support of God's work through *Worship Anew*. Broadcasts can be viewed every Sunday on: *Toledo's WTVG (CW) Channel 13.2 at 10:30 AM.*

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Food For Thought...

**If we are to reflect the nature of the Trinity who made us,
our relationships must also reflect the love between the Persons of Trinity.**

"God is love." (1 John 4:8)