



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

June 11, 2023

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

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Church Website: www.sjl.org

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Look Who's at the Table" *Matthew 9:9-13*

Order of Service: Morning Prayer, LSB pg. 235

Hymns: **THURSDAY: 611 ~ 609 ~ 915 ~ 935**

SUNDAY: (Baptism: 605, 588) ~ (Graduates: 672: sts. 1 & 4) ~ 609 ~ 915 ~ 611

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Now is the hour of worship. 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. If you are our guest today, please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew 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* ✠ Zeb Kramer, Brice Baumert, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Doug Dietrich, Nick Sonnenberg, Joe Badenhop, Neil Badenhop *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Lou Ann Rosebrock, Diane Von Deylen, *Altar Guild* ✠



FLOWERS TODAY:

- ♥ Altar Flowers are placed today in honor of the 40th Wedding Anniversary of *Pastor & Bonnie Niermann*, which is today. Congratulations to the Niermanns on this special occasion. May God continue to grant them many more happy, healthy years together. God's blessings!
- ♥ Piano Flowers are placed in celebration of the baptism of *Brynn Bockelman* by her grandparents, Dennis & Rhonda Bockelman and Edward & Renea Ackerman.

BAPTISM THIS MORNING – This morning we are privileged to see the baptism of **Brynn Renea Bockelman**, infant daughter of Chris & Amber Bockelman. Brynn was born on December 5, 2022 at Cleveland Metro Hospital. Witnessing her baptism today are Jonathon Kos and Kacey Mason, friends of the Bockelmans. Brynn's grandparents are Dennis & Rhonda Bockelman and Edward & Renea Ackerman. May the good work that God begins this day in His daughter Brynn be brought to completion on the day of Jesus Christ. Congratulations to the Brockelmans on this day of their rejoicing!



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 Adult Bible Study 4-H Meetings: Gerald Busy Fingers & Cloverbuds
Tues.	7:00 PM	Church Council Meeting
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Worship Service with Communion
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study

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

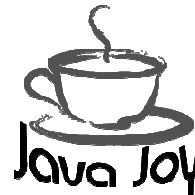
- ❖ *Melba Elling, Lorna Von Deylen, Norma Damman*, at Genacross – Napoleon
- ❖ *Lawrence Behrmann*, at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Irene Joost, Leona Durham* and *Elaine Mahnke*
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Carmon, Jared Dishop, Jordan Lange*
- ❖ *Alan Gruenhagen, 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
- ❖ *Arlene Gruenhagen*, for shoulder replacement surgery at FCHC on Thursday, June 15th

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES OF 2023!

Today we congratulate our confirmation class of 2023 as they now graduate from high school and begin the next chapter of their lives and educations. We will introduce them to you this morning, ask about their plans, and pray for them.

We wish them all of God's best, that He may direct their paths as fruitful citizens of this world and of His kingdom. This year's high school graduates from our congregation are:

Karter Behnfeldt (Mike & Shelly); **Bryce Bostelman** (Ryan & Renee); **Kaelyn Gerken** (Dean & Jennifer Maassel); **Logan Honemann** (Jeremy & Kristyn); **Ella Rosebrook** (Brad & Amy); **Karleigh Sonnenberg** (Nick & Kelly); **Addyson Speiser** and **Macee Speiser** (Scott & Kylie); **Claire Wachtman** (Todd & Tina).



- **Java Joy** this morning is hosted by the Church Council in honor of these graduates. We hope you can join us in the fellowship hall and take a few moments to congratulate them, and to enjoy a little something to eat and to drink.

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



SUMMER SUNDAYS ADULT BIBLE CLASS

This morning after worship we will begin Sunday morning Bible studies that take "A Longer Look at the Lessons." These week-by-week studies take an 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. **Please join us in the fellowship hall** – there's coffee, juice, a little something to munch, blessed fellowship, and the Word of God.

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/stjohnfreedomvbs23**
- 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.

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.

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.

LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY – END TIMES

Begins Tuesday, June 20, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

We know that life certainly comes to a conclusion, but what about the whole thing? Is humanity doomed just to muddle along forever as it has in the past? Or is there a goal, a final reckoning, an ending that makes sense? Christians believe not only that the world had a beginning (Creation) and a glorious middle (our Lord's death and resurrection), but that it will also have an end.

Over the course of 9 sessions of this *LifeLight* Bible study, we explore what the Bible says about the end times and what the divine Author has written as the ending for those who love Him – which isn't an ending at all, but the beginning of something far better!

***Sign up in the narthex for this study!* Please note that the start date for this study has been delayed one week** from what was previously announced.



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!

2022 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT: These are available today on the narthex table and the desk. There are several 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 6/04/23	\$12,901.50	\$240.00	\$405.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 35; Sunday – 107

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!

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

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.

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.

GOLF OUTING: 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!

✘ ✘ ✘

Food For Thought...

“God creates out of nothing. Wonderful you say. Yes, to be sure, but He does what is still more wonderful: he makes saints out of sinners.” Søren Kirkegaard

“So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.” (Heb 13:12)