



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

June 18, 2023

VOL. 88

NO. 25

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

### THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "No, He's Not Kidding" *Jeremiah 20:7-13*

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting One, LSB pg. 151

Hymns: 791 ~ 646 ~ (Communion: 628, 790) ~ 558

\*\*\*\*\*

### A PRAYER UPON

*Happy Father's Day!... and a special, grateful welcome to all fathers*

### ENTERING

*this morning. We bless and cherish you for the strong, reliable and confident*

### CHURCH

*provider you have been or continue to be to your families. We salute you in the*

*name of our Lord. 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. Simply drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave today.*

\*\*\*\*\*



### SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Evelyn Szabo, Nolan Bickel, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Doug Dietrich, Nick Sonnenberg, Joe Badenhop, Neil Badenhop *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Lou Ann Rosebrock, Diane Von Deylen, *Altar Guild* ✠

ALTAR FLOWERS today are provided by the *Randy & LouAnn Rosebrock Family* in honor and in memory of their family and friends who share heavenly or earthly birthdays in the month of June. They remember those who have passed, and celebrate with those who are still with them. Happy Birthdays!

### 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 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. **Please join us in the fellowship hall** – there's coffee, juice, a little something to munch, blessed fellowship, and the Word of God.



In God's House This Week		Online church calendar: <a href="https://74058984.view-events.com">https://74058984.view-events.com</a>
Date	Time	Activities
♦ ♦ ♦ FATHER'S DAY ♦ ♦ ♦		
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	<b>Communion Service</b> Adult Bible Study
Mon-Fri	9:00 AM	Vacation Bible School (see bulletin note)
Tues.	9:00 AM 9:30 AM	Ladies Outing to a few Archbold businesses ( <i>see note</i> ) LifeLight Bible Study at the Youth & Family Center
Thurs.	7:00 PM	<b>Thursday Worship Service</b>
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	<b>Worship Service</b> (with special songs by VBS students) 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* and *Leona Durham*
- ❖ 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*, recuperating from shoulder replacement surgery this past week

**A SPECIAL GIFT** – With a prayer of thanks to God, the Church Council this past Tuesday received a special gift from the estate of *Hildegard Ludeman*, presented by the Doug & Sandra Dietrich family (Doug is Hildegard's nephew). This gift has been deposited into the account maintained by the Stewardship Board, and discussions will begin on how best to be stewards of this gift. Further details will be forthcoming in council minutes, and at future Voters' meetings. We praise God for our sister in Christ and husband, Bob, and for their thoughtful gift to our church.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** BEGINS TOMORROW!

Each morning this week, from 9:00 to 11:30, the students of our VBS will be worshipping, learning, doing crafts, eating snacks, playing games, and having a 'splashing' great time! It's all about water – God's Living Water – and how water plays such an amazing role in the story of our salvation!



- IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ENROLL STUDENTS! Visit our VBS website at [vbsmate.com/stjohnfreedomvbs23](http://vbsmate.com/stjohnfreedomvbs23)
- A link for our VBS website is also provided on our homepage at [sjl.org](http://sjl.org).
- **A FEW MORE MATERIAL ITEMS NEEDED** – Please sign up in the narthex.
- **VBS DAILY OFFERINGS** will be added to our contribution to the *LCMS National Offering* for translation projects around the globe. Read more about this offering in this bulletin.
- **NEXT SUNDAY** our VBS students will be invited to our worship service to share with us some of their songs.

**LADIES, GET YOUR KICKS!!!** (on Route 66) **Sign up yet today!!** The Women of Freedom invite you to travel on Route 66 to Archbold on Tues., June 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. There will be some fun, fellowship...and lunch too. Sign-up sheet and information located 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](mailto:pastor@sjl.org). In the future this same email address will transfer to whomever the pastor may be. Please make the change --- Pastor Niermann will not be monitoring his old email address for much longer.

### **LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY – END TIMES**

**Begins this 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! *LifeLight Bible Study* **will meet in the east room of the Youth & Family Center.** For those who may have trouble with stairs, a stair lift is available through the front (south) doors.



**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.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 6/11/23	\$9,405.00	\$172.00	\$228.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Thursday – 29; Sunday – 121

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR – Outdoor Mission Festival**

Mark your calendar --- this year's outdoor service is set for **Sunday, August 20 at 9:30 a.m.** Here is a preview of what will be happening that day.

- **Mission Festival** – Our guest preacher that day will be **Rev. Charles Tessaro**, Bible Translation Consultant for Nigeria with *Lutheran Bible Translators*.
- **Presentation of Mission Gift** – We will present Rev. Tessaro a gift from our congregation for the translation of the Gokanna Small Catechism. More information will be coming.
- **Blessing of the Backpacks** – Students returning to school, any school, are invited to bring their backpacks for a blessing and a little something to clip on as a reminder.
- **Congregational Meal** – About 11:00 a.m. we will sit down to a meal in the fellowship hall, and hear a little more from Rev. Tessaro about his work with Bible translation.

**PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS** for the next quarter, *July, August, September*, are on the desk in the back of the church. There are also large print booklets available for anybody to pick up.

**LCMS NATIONAL OFFERING** – Every three years, when our national church body assembles in convention, a special national offering is received for a designated mission. This is the year! The LCMS National Convention will be held in Milwaukee July 29 to August 3, where the national offering will be gathered at the opening worship service. Sister congregations from all over the nation will send their contributions with their respective circuit delegates, to be added to this national offering.



The Church Council decided that we should participate in this offering by receiving the gifts of our members on the four Sundays of July leading up to the convention. Our combined gift will then be taken to the convention by our circuit delegates, Rev. Peter Marcis and Mr. Randy Carothers, who will place it in the offering baskets at the convention worship service. To receive your gifts, the *Old Mission Offering Box* will be in the narthex during those Sundays of July.

*This year's offering is designated for the translation and production of doctrinal and educational resources for disseminating and teaching the Gospel to language groups around the globe.* It's a mission worthy of our support!

**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](http://www.Pierstorf.org) to complete the online 2023-2024 application. Application deadline is June 30, 2023. Questions can be emailed to [Pierstorf@messiahfp.org](mailto: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.

- **7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:tgermann@sjl.org).

**WHY NOT CONSIDER ST. JOHN?** Saint John Lutheran School offers preschool to 8th grade Lutheran education. Students are taught the Word of God. In addition all the other subjects are taught. Students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of athletics. Bus transportation is available to students in all the local school districts. If you have any questions about enrollment or would like a tour of the school please call the church office for an appointment.

**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.

**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.

**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 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.

**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.*

**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!

**GOLF OUTING:** The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Stephanie Kossow Memorial Golf Outing will be held at White Pines Golf Course on **Sat., July 29<sup>th</sup>**, with a 1:00 PM shotgun start. Registration forms available on the narthex table!



✱ ✱ ✱

**Father's Day Food For Thought...**

"The righteous who walks in his integrity — blessed are his children after him!"  
*Proverbs 20:7*