



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

July 02, 2023

VOL. 88

NO. 27

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

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Guest Preacher: Rev. Ted Rellstab, (Retired)

Sermon & Text: "The Idiot's Guide to Christianity?" *Matthew 10:40-42*

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Three, LSB pg. 184

Hymns: **870 ~ 685 ~ (Communion: 851, 696) ~ 965**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome in the name of the Lord. We pray that through this time of stillness and song, prayer and proclamation, you may experience the Spirit of God at work in your life. If you do not have a local church home, we extend a warm invitation to you to become a part of our church family. Simply fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave this morning. Your presence is a blessing to us.

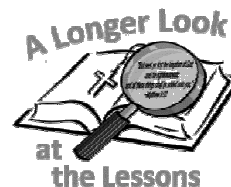


SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Cayden Ruffer, Alex Wachtman, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop, Denny Bockelman, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow, Karen Germann, *Altar Guild* ✘

WELCOME REV. TED RELLSTAB! This morning we welcome to St. John, Rev. Ted Rellstab, who has graciously consented to fill in for Pastor Niermann. 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!

SUMMER SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS will 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: 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* and *Leona Durham*
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Carmon, Jared Dishop, Jordan Lange*
- ❖ *Alan Gruenhagen, Sue Hurst, Dave Crandall, Eddie Harris*, 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



TRUE FREEDOM!

When is YOUR Independence Day? The American flag has long stood as a symbol of freedom, and for the political freedoms we do enjoy, we are thankful. The realities, however, is that many have a false sense of freedom and are actually slaves. Absorb this freedom quote from Goethe, "*None are more hopelessly enslaved than those who falsely believe they are free.*" Charles

Kingsley said, "*There are two freedoms: the false where a man is free to do what he likes; and the true where a man is free to do what he ought.*"

Romans 3:23 explains that each of us are sinners that fall short of the holiness of God. We're naturally enemies of God's (Ephesians 2:1-3); and slaves of the power of sin. Thankfully, Jesus Christ died for us and His grace now rules. He has set us "free indeed," (John 8:36), free to "live as servants of God." (1 Peter 2:16). Once our personal shackles to sin have been unlocked, we stop living for the world. We're no longer slaves to sin, but slaves of Jesus Christ --- and truly free in Him!

Therefore, step away from sin and enjoy your freedom to do what is right. This pleases God, and makes each and every day YOUR personal Independence Day.

Happy 4th of July. God bless you.

| <u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u> | Home Fund | Synod & Missions | Building Fund |
|--------------------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|
| Weekly Need | \$9,792.78 | \$500.00 | \$961.54 |
| Rec'd 6/25/23 | \$12,583.00 | \$40.00 | \$275.00 |

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 41; Sunday – 114

EXPERT GUESTS, EXPANSIVE TOPICS, EXTOLLING CHRIST... 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 Toxic War on Masculinity; The Battle for the Bible in the LCMS; Women & Head Coverings; Does the Bible Condone the Killing of Homosexuals? and more. You can listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY will not meet this Tuesday (July 4th), but will meet again on Tuesday, July 11. When we resume, we will be discussing the second lesson of our *End Times* study, "Death and Dying." Compare these two poets...

Earth, that nourished thee,
shall claim thy growth
To be resolved to earth again
to mix forever with the elements
-William Cullen Bryant

One short sleep past,
we wake eternally,
And death shall be no more;
death, thou shalt die.
-John Dunne



What a difference Christ makes for our eternal reality, and what a difference faith in Christ makes when we are confronted by death!

If you'd like to do a little study ahead of July 11, you can pick up the *lesson two* study guide in the narthex. Or you can just come and join the conversation. Either way, we hope you'll join us for *LifeLight* as God's sheds the light of life upon us through His Word. We meet in the e meet in the **Y&FC East Room**. A stair lift is available if you need it!

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.

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.
- **Classroom Visit & Supply Drop-Off**: Following the Worship Service students can stop by their classroom and drop off their supplies for the first day of school on Wed., Aug. 23rd. School fees can also be paid during this time.

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. Thank you!

LCMS NATIONAL OFFERING BEGINS TODAY --- Look for the *Old Mission Offering Box* to make your contribution to this synod-wide offering!

Every three years, when our church body assembles for its national convention, a special national offering is received for a designated mission. This 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. Our congregation's contribution to this offering will come from three sources:



1. This year's **VBS offerings**, totaling \$209;
2. Some of the previous years' **earnings of our Endowment Fund Mission Account** (amount to be determined by Council; Stewardship Board is recommending \$1,000);
3. **Your gifts and offerings**, to be gathered these next few weeks in the *Old Mission Offering Box* (Cash, or checks to *St. John Lutheran Church* – memo: '*National Offering*')

These combined funds will be taken to the convention by our circuit delegates, Rev. Peter Marcis and Mr. Randy Carothers, who will place our gift in the offering at the convention worship service. ***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.*** Many are clamoring to learn of Jesus, but do not have access to material in their mother tongues that can teach them. This is our opportunity to bless them. It's a mission worthy of our support!

POSITIONS FILLED: We are happy to announce the hiring of *Mrs. Megan Sherman* as the Kindergarten Teacher, and *Mrs. Aymie Barnes* as the Art Teacher for the 2023-2024 school year.

Resumes are still being accepted for: **7th & 8th Grade Teacher, Music Instructor, STEM Instructor, School Cook, and Freedom Flock After Care Director.**

If you know of anyone interested, please call the school office at 419-598-8702 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...

**Only God can turn a mess into a message, a test into a testimony,
a trial into a triumph, a victim into a victor!**

*"We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God,
to those who are called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28)*