



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

July 16, 2023

VOL. 88

NO. 29

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Lavish Sower" *Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

Order of Service: *See printed Service folder*

Hymns: 901 ~ 584/589 Medley ~ 586 ~ 577 ~ 921

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 a visitor, we ask that you 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

- ✘ Bethann Gerken, *Pianist* ✘ Zeb Kramer, Brice Baumert, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop, Denny Bockelman, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow, Karen Germann, *Altar Guild* ✘

THIRD-SUNDAY COMMUNION POSTPONED – Ordinarily on this third Thursday and Sunday of July we would celebrate Holy Communion. However, because Pastor Niermann has contracted Covid, and out of an abundance of caution, we have postponed today's Communion celebration to the following Thursday and Sunday, July 20 and 23.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM: The Women of Freedom will be meeting this week, Tues., July 18th at 7:00 PM in the north end Fellowship Hall. The speaker for the meeting will be Tana Maassel. She will be speaking about a mission trip she took part in several years ago. All ladies welcome!

FINANCIAL FACTS:

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 7/09/23	\$8,862.89	\$142.00	\$183.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 41; Sunday – 112

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
Tues.	9:30 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM	LifeLight Bible Study @ Youth Center Girls' Basketball Open Gym TUES/WED/THURS (until 11:30 AM) Women of Freedom Meeting
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Worship Service
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship 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, Dave Crandall, Eddie Harris, health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ Marietta Damman, who underwent a back procedure to relieve pain and is recovering at home
- ❖ Arlene Gruenhagen, recuperating from shoulder replacement surgery this past week
- ❖ Our brothers and sisters at St. Paul, Napoleon, as they install and welcome a new associate pastor, Rev. Brandon Betcher



SUMMER SUNDAYS 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.**

LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY will meet this Tuesday, July 18. 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! It is the difference between hopelessness and hope!

If you'd like to do a little study ahead of July 18, 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 sheds the light of life upon us through His Word. We meet in the **Y&FC East Room**. A stair lift is available if you need it!

LAST CHANCE TO GIVE A GIFT FOR THE LCMS NATIONAL 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. \$1,000 of the previous years' **earnings of our Endowment Fund Mission Account**
3. **Your gifts and offerings**, being gathered these first three weeks of July 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – **The Outdoor Mission Festival** 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.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT – *Help spread the word about our preschool program!* St. John Lutheran Preschool is still accepting enrollment applications for 2023-24 school year. **The 3-yr old class still has several open spots to fill for next year. The 4-yr old class has 4 openings left.** Please help us fill these 3-yr and 4-yr old spots quickly. Anyone interested in enrolling your child in our preschool program should contact the school office at 419-598-8702 to request an enrollment packet.

ANNUAL SCHOOL CLEANING DATES have been set for Mon., July 24 and Wed., July 26 starting at 5:00 PM both nights. Please read the Parent Participation Policy in FastDirect with all the details about family requirements for School Cleaning. The carpets will be cleaned on Tues., July 25.

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 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27. Informational flyers are available on the narthex table. Any questions...call Coach Schroeder at 419-591-6655.

MARK YOUR CALENDER FOR HAWK'S COMMUNITY DAYS: Coming again in August (Sat., Aug. 19th) will be Hawk's Community Days. On that day, Hawks will donate 10% of their sales for the day, to St. John Lutheran School. This has been a big success for both St. John School and Hawks in the past. We will have flyers available as it gets closer. Let's keep up the great support shown for St. John, by ordering your favorite food at Hawk's Pizza on Sat., Aug. 19th.

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!

OHIO ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN: The Ohio Division OGT is located in the north end of the Culligan Water Conditioning building on Independence Drive in Napoleon. Someone is usually there to receive items on the first Tuesday of the month from 9:30-11:30 AM. If you need to drop off items at another time, please contact *Nancy Helmke* (419-758-3539), *Diann Meyer-Grieser* (419-267-3485), or *Vicki Grieser* (419-445-2986), and they will be happy to meet you and open the facility to receive your donations! PLEASE do not drop off items at the warehouse when it is closed. Thank you!

HOMEMADE ICE CREAM SOCIAL: Today from 11am – 1pm, Zion Lutheran Church in Ridgeville Corners will be hosting a homemade Ice Cream Social at the church. They will be serving hot chicken sandwiches, hot dogs, cheesy potatoes, Cole slaw, baked beans, chips, pie, cake and a beverage. Freewill donation and carryout available. Come and enjoy!

VBS INVITATION: Christ Our Savior Lutheran and St. John Lutheran, Defiance invite all children ages 3-yr (potty trained) to 6th grade to their VBS which will be held July 23 – 26 at 5:30 PM (Family Meal); 6-8 PM VBS. Sign up information slips are available on the narthex table.

GOLF OUTING: The 15th Annual Stephanie Lynn 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!

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Food For Thought...

God never asked you to figure it out! He asks you to trust that He already has!

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)