



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

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Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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### EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "The Way it Looks, the Way it Is" *Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43*

Order of Service: *See printed Service folder*

Hymns: **663 ~ 946 ~ 892** ~ [Communion: **680, 761**] ~ **923**

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### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*Welcome! We are here at the Savior's invitation; therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, receiving mercy and finding grace to help in every time of need. If you have no church of your own, we invite you to make this your home church. If you are a visitor, please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and pass it to the center aisle during the offering this morning.*

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### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Nolan Bickel, Evelyn Szabo, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop, Denny Bockelman, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow, Karen Germann, *Altar Guild* ✠

**COMMUNION IS CELEBRATED TODAY** – Ordinarily we would have celebrated Holy Communion on the third Sunday of this month. This month, however, we delayed it a week because of pastor's Covid status at the time, and are therefore celebrating the Sacrament on this fourth Sunday of July. May God bless our reception of this gift of His grace, to our growth in grace and the strengthening of faith.



**SUMMER ADULT BIBLE CLASS** - This morning we 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.**

## 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
Mon.	5:00 PM 5:30 PM	Annual School Cleaning ( <i>see bulletin note</i> ) <i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tues.	9:30 AM 10:00AM	<i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study @ Youth Center Girls' Basketball Open Gym <b>TUES/WED/THURS</b> (until 11:30 AM)
Wed.	5:00 PM	Annual School Cleaning ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Thurs.	7:00 PM	<b>Thursday Worship Service</b>
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	<b>Worship Service</b> 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
- ❖ *Ruth Moll*, as she recovers at home following a hospitalization at St. V's this week

## **LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY** --- HEAVEN OR HELL

LifeLight will meet this Tuesday, July 25. We will be discussing *Lesson Three* of our *End Times* study, "Heaven and Hell."

Over the centuries, people have claimed to have made contact with the dead. Even today, magazines and books publicize accounts of "near-death" experiences, the testimony of people who were thought dead but in fact came back to life. It's all part of our natural curiosity as to what lies beyond the veil of death.

We are far better off, however, to consult Scripture about this matter. It may not tell us all we'd like to know – human curiosity is seemingly insatiable – but it does tell us enough to know that to die in the Lord is to be better off by far, and to die without Him is unthinkable!

Join us this Tuesday! If you'd like to do a little study ahead, you can pick up the *Lesson Four* study guide in the narthex. Or you can just come a 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 **Y&FC East Room**. A stair lift is available if you need it!



**SHARE THE BOUNTY** – Has your garden produced a bounty of beans? A crush of cucumbers? An excess of eggplants? If you've got more than you can use, consider sharing the bounty with your friends at church. A table is located outside under the carport where you can drop off the garden produce you *can't* use, and where you can also pick up what you *can* use. It's a wonderful way to share the blessing!





## **REPORT ON OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL OFFERING –**

The numbers are in. **Our total contribution to the LCMS National Offering is \$2,684.** This includes VBS offerings of \$209, previous year's endowment fund mission earnings of \$1,000, and your gifts over the past few weeks of \$1,475. This wonderful gift will be sent with our circuit delegates to the convention later this week in Milwaukee, where it will be placed into the National Offering during the opening worship service. It is so exciting to think about how many people all over the world will receive the gift of the Gospel in their own language because of this offering and our contribution to it! ***Praise God from whom all blessings flow!***

And thank you to all who gave so generously to bless so many!

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 7/16/23	\$10,191.58	\$919.00	\$799.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Thursday – 39; Sunday – 114

**SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING:** There will be a Special Voters' Meeting held on Sun., Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> following the Worship Service to discuss matters of the school.

**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: **7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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. 23<sup>rd</sup>. School fees can also be paid during this time.

**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.

**GOKANA SMALL CATECHISM MISSION PROJECT** – Last week we finished gathering our contribution for the *National Offering*, which will be sent with our circuit delegates to the LCMS National Convention later this week in Milwaukee. With this project behind us, one more project lies ahead yet this summer – a congregational gift for the Gokana translation of the Small Catechism. At the encouragement of Rev. Robert Rahn and *The Lutheran Heritage Foundation*, this translation project has been adopted as a mission project by all the congregations of our circuit. Please refer also to the *LHF* insert in this bulletin.

As it is here at St. John, the *Small Catechism* remains a primary tool for the Christian education of youth, for the spreading of the Gospel. It is hard to overestimate the impact this book has had and is having on people all around the globe. What a blessing it will be for the people of Gokana to have this resource available to them in their own language!

Our contribution to this project will come from two sources:

- 1) \$1,000 of previous year's earnings from the Mission Account of our endowment fund;
- 2) Your offerings, to be received once again in the *old Mission Offering Box*. We're putting that old box to good use this summer!

Over the next three weeks, the offering box will be placed in the narthex (Thursday in the fellowship hall) to receive offerings you may wish to give toward this project. The box will also be available one last time at the beginning of the outdoor service (August 20). On that day, with our guests, Rev. Chuck Tessaro, translation consultant with *Lutheran Bible Translators*, and Mike Nicol, Gokana translator, we will announce our congregation's contribution to this project.

**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.

**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 25, 26, 27. Questions...call Coach Schroeder at 419-591-6655.

**MARK YOUR CALENDER FOR HAWK'S COMMUNITY DAYS:** Coming again in August (Sat., Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>) 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.

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**Food For Thought...**  
**Just love everyone. I'll sort it out later. ~God**  
*"Let all that you do be done in love." (1 Cor 16:14)*