



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

July 30, 2023

VOL. 88

NO. 31

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

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "A Kingdom to Die For" *Matthew 13:44-52*

Order of Service: Printed Order - *Service of Morning Prayer (also LSB pg. 235)*

Hymns: 743 ~ *Psalm 125 (tone C)* ~ 654 ~ 571 ~ (*Offertory, 782, sts. 1,3-4*) ~ 573

Children Sermon: "All or One?"

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome guests to this place of praise and prayers as we gather together as part of the family of our Heavenly Father. We invite you to join us now and return again to celebrate the salvation we have in Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord. If you are a visitor, please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it into the baskets at the door as you leave.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Peyton Naveau, Addison Naveau, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop, Denny Bockelman, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow, Karen Germann, *Altar Guild* ✠

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.**



SHARE THE BOUNTY – Is your garden producing a bounty of beans? A profusion of peas? A mess of melons? 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!

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 Adult Bible Study
Tues.	9:30 AM	<i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study @ Youth Center
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Worship Service with Communion
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:30 PM	Communion Service (followed by a brief Voters' Meeting) 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, 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

IN THE EVENT OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY during pastor's time away, please call Rev. Jim Strawn, pastor at St. James Lutheran in Burlington, at 419-446-2217 (home) or 419-445-4750 (office). Pastor Niermann will be out of the office the latter part of this week, and again August 7-15.

SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING: There will be a Special Voters' Meeting held on Sun., Aug. 6th following the Worship Service to discuss matters of the implementation of EdChoice.

LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY --- JUDGMENT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

LifeLight will meet this Tuesday, August 1st. We will be discussing *Lesson four* of our *End Times* study, "Judgment in the Old Testament."

The judgment of sin is a strong theme in Scripture, and most especially in the Old Testament. The curse in Eden, the great flood, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the conquest of the land of the Canaanites, and the Babylonian Captivity of Israel are Old Testament examples of judgment. And of course we confess that the history of our fallen world will end in judgment, as we say in the creed, "*He will come again to judge the living and the dead.*" In all of this we learn that God does not take sin lightly. Yet in His infinite mercy, Christ provided a reprieve when He received sin's full and just judgment in His own flesh on the cross, and clothes us with His righteousness instead.

Join us this Tuesday! If you'd like to do a little study ahead, you can pick up the *Lesson Four* study leaflet in the narthex. Or you can just come a 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!



LIVE LCMS CONVENTION BROADCAST... You can listen to a live broadcast from the 68th Regular Convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Milwaukee from 7-9 p.m. CST on Sunday, July 30. You can listen at issuesetc.org and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 7/23/23	\$7,186.42	\$140.00	\$255.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 30; Sunday – 130

CHURCH HYMNS: These were published in a previous CRT newsletter out of Ridgeville Corners in a section titled, “Do You Know Your Church Hymns?” Here are a few of them:

- A Dentist’s Hymn....Crown Him with Many Crowns
- The Tailor’s Hymn....Holy, Holy, Holy
- A Contractor’s Hymn.....The Church’s One Foundation

MISSION FESTIVAL – 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.

GOKANA SMALL CATECHISM MISSION PROJECT – Recently Rev. Robert Rahn of *The Lutheran Heritage Foundation* challenged the congregations of our circuit to fund the translation, printing and distribution of the *Gokana Small Catechism*. St. John, with our sister churches in the area, accepted the challenge. Our congregational 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 these next few weeks in the lead-up to our *Outdoor Mission Festival* on August 20.

As it is here at St. John, the *Small Catechism* remains a primary tool for the Christian education of youth and adults, for the sowing of the Gospel seed. 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!



Over the next few weeks, the *Old Mission 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.

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.

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.

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

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!

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.

✘ ✘ ✘

Food For Thought...

Sin burn is prevented by Son screen.

“The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.” (Psa 121:5)