



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

August 6, 2023

VOL. 88

NO. 32

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

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Guest Preacher: *Rev. Ted Rellstab*

Sermon & Text: "Seeing Things through Jesus' Eyes" *Matthew 14:13-21*

Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting Three*

Hymns: **648 ~ 806 ~** (Communion: **618, 629**) ~ **922**

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 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

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘ Cayden Ruffer, Alex Wachtman, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Dave Badenhop, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, Denny Von Deylen, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Karen Lulfs, Kaylee Buchhop, Karan Niebergall, Ronda Wentworth, *Altar Guild* ✘

AT REST NOW! On Saturday, July 29, 2023, *Lorna Von Deylen*, 93, passed away at Genacross Lutheran Home, Napoleon. Lorna's funeral was held here on Wed., Aug. 2nd at 11:00 AM, with burial in St. John Lutheran Cemetery. Please keep the entire Von Deylen family in your thoughts and prayers as they mourn Lorna's passing. The altar flowers today are from the family, in memory of Lorna.

WELCOME BACK, REV. TED RELLSTAB, and thank you again for filling in for us to bring us God's Word and administer the Sacrament of the Altar.

SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING TODAY: There will be a Special Voters' Meeting today following the service to discuss matters of the implementation of EdChoice.

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 through August 15.

In God's House This Week*Online church calendar: <https://74058984.view-events.com>*

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 1:30 PM	Communion Service (followed by a brief Voters' Meeting) 4-H Meetings – Gerald Busy Fingers & Cloverbuds
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Worship Service
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Study

MATTERS FOR PRAYER – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- ❖ *Melba Elling* and *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

SUMMER ADULT BIBLE CLASS is cancelled this morning so that we can hold our special Voters' Meeting. Bible Class will be cancelled for the following two Sundays in Pastor's absence and for the Outdoor Mission Festival. Our class will resume on Sunday, August 27.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 7/30/23	\$16,827.58	\$675.00	\$500.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 46; Sunday – 96

LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY will not meet for the next two Tuesdays, but will resume on Tuesday, August 22. The study leaflets for our next session are available in the narthex. We will be discussing and studying the *Judgment Day*, when Christ will return according to Scripture to judge the living and the dead, and to bring His Church to eternal life with Him in glory. We look forward to His coming and pray that He would come speedily, because that day holds such great promise for those who trust Him. We hope you can join us when we resume!



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!

WOMEN OF FREEDOM: The Women of FREEDOM will not be meeting in August. Our next meeting will be at 7:00 PM on Tues., Sept. 19. All ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend!

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!

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.

SOLID, SERIOUS, SUBSTANTIVE... 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 Old Testament & Baptism; Denying Jesus' Divinity; Seminex & the Supernatural; No-Fault Divorce and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

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!



During these weeks in the lead-up to the Outdoor Mission Festival, 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.

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!

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.

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.

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!

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

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...

On eagles’ wings – the only way to fly!

“They who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”

(Isa 40:31)