



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

August 13, 2023

VOL. 88

NO. 33

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

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Guest Preacher: *Rev. Dale Kern, (retired)*
Sermon & Text: "Storms of Doubt" *Matthew 14:22-33*
Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*
Hymns: *761 ~ 905 ~ 763 ~ 575 ~ 917*

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 visiting with us today, please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave this morning.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Garrison Kruse, Nolan Bickel, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dave Badenhop, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, Denny Von Deylen, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karen Lulfs, Kaylee Buchhop, Karan Niebergall, Ronda Wentworth, *Altar Guild* ✠

WELCOME REV. DALE KERN, and thank you for filling in for us to bring us God's Word today.

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.

NO THURSDAY SERVICE PRIOR TO OUTDOOR SERVICE – Please note that there will be no Thursday Evening Worship Service this coming week (August 17) since we are having the Outdoor Service and special congregational events.

SUMMER ADULT 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.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM	Worship Service w/Communion following
Fri.	5:00 pm	Wedding Rehearsal – <i>Lamb / Damman</i>
Sat.	All day 3:30 PM	Hawk's Community Day for St. John Lutheran School (see insert) Wedding Ceremony – <i>Jared Lamb / Jessica Damman</i>
Sun.	9:30 AM 11:00AM	Outdoor Mission Festival; Blessing of the Backpacks Congregational Meal; SJL School classrooms open

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

LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY will not meet this Tuesday, 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!



LifeLight

HAWK'S COMMUNITY DAY IS HERE! This Sat., Aug. 19th will be Hawk's Community Days. See flyer in the bulletin! This has been a big success for both St. John School and Hawks in the past. So keep up the great support for St. John, and order your favorites at Hawk's Pizza on Sat., Aug. 19th.

MISSION FESTIVAL NEXT SUNDAY! **The Outdoor Mission Festival** is set for next **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** – Around 11am 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.

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!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 8/06/23	\$10,638.00	\$322.00	\$513.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 42; Sunday – 113



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!

UNANSWERED BIBLE QUESTIONS... Issues, Etc., a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio, will have Pastors Bryan Wolfmueller and Brian Kachelmeier respond to your unanswered Bible questions. You can submit your question via email: talkback@issuesetc.org, Facebook: [facebook.com/issuesetc](https://www.facebook.com/issuesetc), or the Issues, Etc. Comment Line: (618) 223-8382. You can listen to the interview at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite pod cast 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.

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.

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.

POSITION UPDATES: Over the course of the last few weeks we have had some changes in our enrollment in grades 5-8. Due to the changes in enrollment, we will not be hiring a 7th & 8th grade teacher at this time. Mrs. Amanda Bockelman will take the role of teaching grades 5&7 for the 2023-2024 school year. She is excited to have this unique opportunity.

POSITIONS NEEDED: In other hiring news, we continue to search for **Freedom Flock aides**. The hours for this position are 3-6 each day after school or earlier if all students are picked up. We also are in need of a **School Cook**. Until that position is filled, students will need to pack a lunch each day. Milk will be available for purchase. Finally we are eager to find a **Music teacher** for one day a week and a **STEM teacher** for one day a week. If you know of anyone interested, please have them contact Miss Germann by calling the school office at 419-598-8702 or by emailing tgermann@sjl.org

HEARING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE: If hearing in worship has been a problem for you, pick up one of the receiver units for our hearing assistance system. An usher will assist you and you'll hear much more clearly. (*Also, please let us know how the system is working for you.*)

For those who use the hearing assistance system regularly and for the sake of hygiene, we ask that you claim one of the ear buds as your own and keep it with you in your purse, pocket, etc. Bring it with you when you come to church, and simply plug it into one of the receivers. At the end of the service, unplug the ear bud to take with you until the next time.

WORSHIP ANEW: Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. produces a weekly, 30-minute Lutheran broadcast worship service called *Worship Anew* (*formerly Worship For Shut-Ins*). Each service includes music, scripture readings, prayers, and a pastor delivering a message that is designed to feel one-on-one to the viewer. They look forward to the continuation and expansion of this ministry in the years to come. Lutheran Ministries Media would like to thank you for your prayers and support of God's work through *Worship Anew*. Broadcasts can be viewed every Sunday on: *Toledo's WTVG (CW) Channel 13.2 at 10:30 AM.*

THANK YOU: A special thank you to all the school families who teamed up to tackle the big job of cleaning the school building. There was a lot of support this year again, and because of that, the cleaning went very smoothly. Great job St. John families!!

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

"The truth remains the truth, no matter how sweet the lie may taste." ~Michael Johnson

Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." (John 17:17)

SCHOOL NOTES

- ✓ **1st DAY OF SCHOOL** for St. John is Wed., Aug. 23, with classes beginning at 8:20 AM. Students arriving after that time will need to report to the school office.
- ✓ **OPENING CHAPEL SERVICE** will be Aug. 23rd at 8:35 AM in the church, conducted by Pastor Niermann. Following the service, *Principal Tracy Germann* will welcome our new students. **All families are welcome to attend!**
- ✓ **CLASSROOM VISITS** – (PS, Gr.K-7) On Sunday, August 20 following the 9:30 AM Outdoor Worship Service all classrooms will be open. We invite families and students to come in and bring their school supplies.
- ✓ **SCHOOL PARENTS' MEETING** – There will be a meeting for parents of grades K-7 on Mon., Aug. 28 from 6 – 7:30 PM. The meeting will start with information regarding EdChoice at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall. There will be time for questions as well as time for filling out EdChoice paperwork. We will also be sharing volunteer opportunities and introducing new teachers. Following that, each teacher will have an information session in their classroom for parents. The breakdown of this schedule will be coming home before the first day of school.
- ✓ **PRESCHOOL PARENTS' MEETING** – Preschool parents are invited to attend Preschool Preview Day on Thurs., August 31 (4-year old preschool) and Fri., September 1 (3-year old preschool) A sign up for time sheet will be coming home soon. This is a day to visit your child's classroom with your child for a short amount of time before the first day of school. A variety of information will be given regarding arrival/dismissal, lunch, volunteering, etc... Be on the lookout for an email in your Fast Direct account with more information.
- ✓ **PARENT HANDBOOKS:** The 2023-24 Parent Handbook is now posted and available via the FastDirect Communication network. A message was sent to each family through FastDirect. Simply go to www.fastdir.com/stjohnfreedom and click on "Links" at top of page to go to the section you wish to view.
- ✓ **SCHOOL OFFICE** will be open from 8:30 – Noon on Mon., Aug. 21 and Tues., Aug. 22.
- ✓ **LUNCH PROGRAM** – The Lunch Program is still being determined. We are still searching for a cook. Students will need to pack lunches until a cook is hired. Milk can be purchased for 50¢ per carton. Be patient as we continue our quest! Lunch prices will remain the same as last school year.

SCHOOL NOTES (continued)

- ✓ **BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP** – St. John Booster membership for the 2023-24 school year are: \$20.00 for husband and wife; \$10.00 for single. Make checks payable to *St. John Boosters*.
- ✓ **SCHOOL PICTURES** will be taken by *Pictures by Marisa* this year and are scheduled for Thurs., Sept., 14th at 9:00 AM for the 4/5-year old Preschool class and Gr. K-7; and Fri., Sept. 15th at 9:00 AM for 3-year old Preschool class and anyone absent on Sept. 14th. Order forms will be available shortly after school starts.
- ✓ **SCRIP PROGRAM** will be offered again this school year. Anyone willing to help the PTL with this fundraiser can contact *Kristyn Honemann* at 419-592-0643.
- ✓ **FREEDOM'S FLOCK** – St. John's after school program will begin at 3:00 PM on the first day of school, August 23. The Freedom Flock Director will be *Miss Mary Rettig*. Please contact Miss Rettig to pre-register your child(ren) and pay the \$15 per family registration by August 23, if possible. You can also access the Freedom's Flock Handbook and Registration/Medical forms on FastDirect. **If any adult or student (16 or older) would like to volunteer to help with the program, you may contact the director.**
- ✓ **EMERGENCY PROCEDURE AND EARLY CLOSING FORMS** will be available on a table outside the school office as a handout on Sun., Aug. 20th. They can be completed and turned in prior to the start of school or on the first day of school. Write all family members on one card.
- ✓ **STATE FUNDS** is to be filled out by parents, one per family, listing the names of your children and their grade level. We need to keep this in our files every year as required by the State of Ohio. Return this form the first day of school.
- ✓ **SCHOOL REFERRAL LETTERS & CARDS** – We are again offering “School Referral Discounts” to all school families encouraging them to help “market” St. John Lutheran School to their friends and neighbors. The referral letters and cards are available in the school office for any St. John member that may wish to help “market” our school within the community. We look forward to growing God's kingdom through St. John Lutheran School.

CONNECTED

JOHN 15:1-5