



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

August 20, 2023

VOL. 88

NO. 34

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor  
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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### **TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** (Outdoor Service & Mission Festival)

Sermon & Text: "My House Will be Called a House of Prayer for All Peoples" *Isaiah 56:7*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: **409 ~ 816 ~ 799 ~ 832** ~ [Communion: **827,729**] ~ **837**

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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. But above all, we invite you to come to worship with us at any time. If you are a visitor, please introduce yourself to the pastor as you leave the worship service this morning.*

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

✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist (pre-recorded)* ✠

✠ Dave Badenhop, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, Denny Von Deylen, *Ushers* ✠

✠ Karen Lulfs, Kaylee Buchhop, Karan Niebergall, Ronda Wentworth, *Altar Guild* ✠

**WEDDING CONGRATS!** God's blessings to Jessica Damman and Jared Lamb, who were married here yesterday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM. We wish them many years of happy marriage, and may God preserve them in every trial! Congratulations Jessica and Jared!

**SUMMER SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS** is cancelled this morning so that we can gather for our special congregational meal after worship. Sunday Bible Study will resume next Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.

**THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES RETURN TO THE SANCTUARY** – Now that school is back in session and the fellowship hall is back to its normal configuration, our Thursday evening services will return to the sanctuary. Thursday services are at 7:00 p.m., and are always a preview of the coming Sunday. As always, we encourage everyone to sit forward and on the left (pulpit) side.

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	9:30 AM 10:45AM 11:00AM	<b>Outdoor Mission Festival; Blessing of the Backpacks</b> Meet the Teacher; Drop off supplies Congregational Meal; SJL School classrooms open
Mon.	9:00 AM	Teacher's Meeting & Luncheon
Tues.	9:00 AM 9:30 AM	Teacher Work Day <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study
Wed.	8:20 AM	First Student Day of School; 8:35 AM Opening Chapel Service
Thurs.	<b>7:00PM</b>	<b>Thursday Evening Worship</b> (back in the Sanctuary)
Sun.	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM	<b>Worship Service</b> Adult Bible Class

**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
- ❖ *Steve & Abby (Weller) Doctor*, on the birth of their daughter, *Benelli Ann*, on Friday, Aug. 11<sup>th</sup> at Bryan Community Hospital
- ❖ *Bev Elling*, hospitalized this week for surgery for a displaced hip

**LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY** --- JUDGMENT DAY

*LifeLight* will meet this Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will be discussing *Lesson five* of our *End Times* study, “Judgment Day.”

Perhaps nothing is more frightening than the prospect of standing before a judge to be sentenced, knowing you are guilty of every charge brought against you. As Hebrews 10:31 says, “*It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*”

Yet we are not without hope! Over and over again these same Scriptures assure us of grace in Christ, who bore the judgment of sin to the cross and paid its price. The day of judgment therefore looks very bright, and the church welcomes its coming with the final prayer of Scripture, “*Come quickly, Lord Jesus.*” (Rev. 22:20)

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 just come and join us. 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!



*LifeLight*

**MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION** for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders begins in a week and a half on **Wednesday, August 30, at 6:15 p.m.** in the East Room of the *Youth & Family Center*. For our first class, pastor would like to have parents attend for the first 15 or 20 minutes for a brief orientation for the year ahead, and to answer any questions. The students will then remain for the rest of the class session until 7:30 p.m.

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

- **Outdoor Service** - Scripture teaches us that it's not just Christians who bear witness to God, but so does nature itself! (*Psa 19:1-6; Rom 8:3-4*). It is good to be in nature's sanctuary this morning, under the skies that proclaim His handiwork, warmed by the sun which He has caused to rise. Indeed, "*His mercies are new every morning!*" (*Lam 3:23*) Most of all, His mercy has been extended to us in the rising of His Son, through whom He has redeemed us and all people! "***Come, let us worship!***"
- **Welcome Rev. Chuck & Karen Tessaro** – It is our privilege this morning to welcome Rev. Chuck & Karen Tessaro. In 1985 the Tessaros first set foot in Nigeria, where there are over 500 different language groups. They serve with multiple local translation teams including teams for the Ikwerre, Yala, Kukele and Gokana languages. These teams also promote literacy and serve in their local community as teachers and helpers.

The Tessaros met and married at Concordia College, Ann Arbor, Michigan. By the time Chuck had graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN, their family had grown to four. Called to serve on a translation team in Nigeria, the Tessaros spent a year at the Summer Institute of Linguistics in Texas before heading for Africa.

Since finishing the Eleme New Testament in 2002 and assisting with the consultant checking of the Ikwerre New Testament in 2010, Chuck and Karen are principally responsible for mentoring LBT's International Associates in Nigeria and training and consulting with various Old Testament translation teams.

Currently, among other projects, Rev. Tessaro is working with Mr. Mike Nicol to translate the Small Catechism into the Gokana language, a project for which we have solicited your gifts. Mike is with us today as well to share music for our worship.
- **Blessing of the Backpacks** – Students returning to school, any school, are invited forward with their backpacks. First, Rev. Tessaro will have a message that will have them singing a Gokana children's song. After that we will have the **Blessing of the Backpacks**, with prayer for them, for their teachers, and for our schools. They will all receive a Bible verse key ring for their backpacks.
- **Congregational Fellowship 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 today students can also stop by the classroom and drop off their supplies for the first day of school on Wed., Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**LWML FALL RETREAT** – The Fall Retreat will be held on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, at St. John Family Center, Stryker, beginning at 9 AM. Registration begins at 8:30 AM. Registration fee is \$15.00 which includes lunch. Registration forms are available on the table in the narthex. Sign up deadline is Friday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>. See flyer on the bulletin board.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 8/13/23	\$8,612.40	\$270.00	\$225.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Thursday – 25; Sunday – 110

**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!

**DAILY 15-MINUTE BIBLE STUDY**... The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily 15-minute verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon. Pastor Weedon will be leading a study this week on The Macedonian Call; The Conversion of Lydia; Paul and Silas in Prison and The Philippian Jailer Converted in Acts 15 and 16. Listen at your convenience at [thewordendures.org](http://thewordendures.org), the LPR mobile app or your favorite podcast.

### Bible Study



**MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY** will resume on the first Thursday of September. We will pick up again with our study, *Lost Books?* (a video-based Bible study). This study considers why some ancient writings failed to make the cut for inclusion, why other texts most definitely met the standard, and why others, including those "gospels" found in the last century, came up short. Knowing what did *not* make it into Scripture strengthens our appreciation of what *did* make, and why. **Men's Bible Breakfast is set for Thursday, September 7, at 6:30 a.m. We hope you can join us!**

**LCMS DISASTER RESPONSE** – There is a lot going on right now in our nation that is causing human misery and suffering, and presenting as Christians a way of extending God's mercy and love. With a gift to LCMS Disaster Response, you can join your resources with those of thousands of other donors to make a difference in the lives of the people who are suffering right now because of the massive fires on the island of Maui. To learn more about what's going on, visit the LCMS Disaster Response webpage at: <https://www.lcms.org/disaster> Use the "GIVE NOW" link to make a gift.



**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!



**LYF ICE CREAM SOCIAL** – The LYF will be hosting its annual Ice Cream Social on Sun., Sept. 24, with serving from 10:30 to Noon in the Fellowship Hall. On the menu: *Chicken Sandwiches, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Chips, Beverage* and *Schwan's Ice Cream*. Freewill offering! Carryout available also! The youth will be raising funds for upcoming group events and service projects. Come out and help support the youth of our congregation!

**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.

**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 fulltime 7th & 8th grade teacher. 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. **Mrs. Pat Kramer will be teaching Math and Religion for 7<sup>th</sup> grade.** **Mrs. Char Weber will be returning as the Music teacher for Grades K-7.**

**POSITION NEEDED:** In other hiring news, we continue to search for a **School Cook**. Interested in being the school cook, but not every day??? Perhaps a couple of volunteers would want to team up to prepare lunch together. 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](mailto:tgermann@sjl.org). Until the cook position is filled, students will need to pack a lunch each day. Milk will be available for purchase.

## **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. 23<sup>rd</sup> 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) Today 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](http://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.
- ✓ **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., 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM for the 4/5-year old Preschool class and Gr. K-7; and Fri., Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM for 3-year old Preschool class and anyone absent on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>. 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. 20<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**CONNECTED**  


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**JOHN 15:1-5**