



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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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

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "The Pursuit of Righteousness" *Isaiah 5:1-6*

Order of Service: *See printed Service Folder*

Hymns: **912 ~ 575 ~ 645 ~ 761 ~ 644**

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.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠

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

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



SUMMER SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS resumes this morning with *A Longer Look at the Lessons*. These single session Bible studies are designed to give us a closer look at the same Scripture readings we heard in church that morning. We hope you'll join us as we grow together in the Word of God and in Christian fellowship.

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 to the left (pulpit side).

ELDERS MEETING is this Tuesday, August 29, at 7:00 pm. Among other things, the elders will discuss the schedule for Christmas this year.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Class
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread from Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tues.	9:30 AM 7:00 PM	<i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study Board of Elders Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class (until 7:30 PM)
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship with Communion
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service 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
- ❖ *Bev Elling*, receiving rehab care at Henry County Hospital after surgery for a displaced hip
- ❖ *Ken Honemann (Jeremy Honemann's father)*, who is hospitalized at St. V's after a heart attack and is awaiting triple bypass surgery

MY DEVOTION BOOKLETS for the next quarter, *September, October, and November*, are available on the desk in the narthex. These are nice kid-friendly for family devotions. Take time to be together and grow in your faith. Pick up a copy today!

LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY --- *The Resurrection*

LifeLight will meet this Tuesday, August 29nd. We will be discussing *Lesson six* of our *End Times* study, “The Resurrection.”

This morning, as we do so often, we will confess the words of the Apostles' Creed, “***I believe in the resurrection of the body.***” Despite confessing these words over and over, many Christians forget that being with the Lord upon death is not the end of life's journey for the child of God. There is more! The souls that are now with the Lord are awaiting the *End Times* when Christ will come again, will raise the dead, and with glorified flesh will bring His Church home to His kingdom of glory.

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



MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION for 7th & 8th Graders begins **this Wed., 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 and questions. The students will then remain for the rest of the class session until 7:30 p.m.

OUR GIFTS FOR GOKANA SMALL CATECHISM TRANSLATION PROJECT

Thank you to everyone who gave gifts for the translation of the Gokana Small Catechism. **Our congregation's total gift to this project totaled \$2,281.** Combined with gifts from our sister circuit congregations, our circuit will meet and exceed the goal for this project, which will allow other projects to be funded as well.

Inside the front cover of the *Gokana Small Catechism* enchiridion it reads, "Funding for the publication of this volume was provided by the churches in the Northwest Circuit 2 of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Ohio District." (That's us!) As Mike Nicol said, "One day in heaven you will meet some Gokana people and know you had a part in sharing the message that saved them." Soli Deo Gloria! To God Alone Be Glory!

LWML FALL RETREAT – The Fall Retreat will be held on Saturday, September 16th, at St. John Family Center, Stryker, and 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. 3rd. See flyer on the bulletin board.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 8/20/23	\$4,585.00	\$990.00	\$120.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – NA; Sunday – 175

MEMORIALS for *Larry Holers* – St. John Lutheran Home Fund - \$640.00

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.



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.

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!



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. Until the cook position is filled, students will need to pack a lunch each day. Milk will be available for purchase.

ST. JOHN CHURCH LIBRARY – Stop in and check out the growing number of books available in the church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary. The books in this library have been screened to assure that they are true to the Word of God and can be trusted to be theologically sound. To borrow a book, just take it with you, and then return it to the basket when you've finished reading. A complete list of the books in the church's library can be found by clicking on the "Book Inventory" link on the library page of our church's website. <http://www.sjl.org/library.html>

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.*

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!

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Food For Thought...

To know the Bible is to know its author.

"You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me." (Jesus, in John 5:39)