



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

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School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 419-270-8863
Church Website: www.sjl.org

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Let Love Be Genuine" *Romans 12:9-21*

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Three (LSB pg. 184)

Hymns: 980 ~ "Quenched by the Water Living," "Beloved,"

(Communion: 851, 845) ~ 857

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We welcome all who have come to worship our God with us today! Each day we live is a priceless gift from God, loaded with possibilities to learn something new, to gain fresh insights into His great truths. May we be showered with those blessings as we together profess His Name today. If you are a visitor, please fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠

✠ Ted Ripke, Bob Norden, Elmer Maassel, Denny Behnfeltd, *Ushers* ✠

✠ Deb Wachtman, Kathy Gruenhagen, Nancy Short, *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.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY! A brand new season of Sunday School instruction will get underway next Sunday, Sept. 10. Sunday School is a key component of our ministry to the children. It is an educational time for them to study God's Word, hear both Law and Gospel, and come together to more deeply understand our faith in Jesus. Please pray for our Sunday School and its leaders and staff, that together we may grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord.

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: <https://74058984.view-events.com>

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Class
Mon.		NO SCHOOL – Labor Day
Tues.	8:20 AM 8:35 AM 9:30 AM	Preschool begins for PS 4/5 year olds School Chapel <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study
Wed.	8:20 PM 5:00 PM 6:15 PM	Preschool begins for PS 3 year olds School Board Meeting Midweek Confirmation Class (until 7:30 PM)
Thurs.	6:30 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Bible Study Breakfast Thursday Evening Worship
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service with Communion following Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"

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
- ❖ *The family of Delmar Maassel*, who grieve Delmar's passing last week. Delmar was the son of St. John's former pastor, Rev. George Maassel, and brother to surviving siblings Richard and Miriam.
- ❖ *Lydia Schroeder*, who was installed last week as a teacher at St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, Ann Arbor, MI. May God richly bless her ministry to her students for years to come!
- ❖ *The congregation of Good Shepherd of the Deaf – Toldeo*, as they receive and install their new pastor this morning, Rev. Matthew Bergstresser. St. John has supported this congregation substantially, and they wanted us to know, and to thank us for our prayers and financial support.
- ❖ *James & Haley (Gruenhagen) O'Neil*, on the scheduled delivery of their first child on Friday, September 1st. May God be with them and bless them!

Bible Study



MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY RESUME THIS THURSDAY!

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 it, and why. **Men's Bible Breakfast is set for this Thursday, September 7, at 6:30 a.m. We hope you can join us!**

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, Sept 5th. 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 just 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!



THURSDAY EVENING IN 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).

MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION for 7th & 8th Graders is officially underway. We will meet every Wednesday evening thru early May (with the single exception of the Wednesday after Christmas). The normal class time is 6:15 to 7:30 pm, although during Advent and Lent those times will change. **It's going to be a great year together as we become more familiar with the Scriptures and the story of salvation that fills its pages from front to back!**

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 in the narthex. See flyer!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 8/27/23	\$6,204.00	\$125.00	\$215.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 27; Sunday – 107

MEMORIALS for *Lorna Von Deylen* – St. John Lutheran Home Fund - \$955.00;
St. John Lutheran Memorial Fund - \$643
St. John Endowment Fund – School Acct. - \$93.00

WOMEN OF FREEDOM: The next meeting of the Women of Freedom will be held at 7:00 PM on Tues., Sept. 19th. The LWML Quarterlies and ODEs are available now in the tract rack in the narthex. Please pick up your copy today. We hope to see you at the meeting on the 19th!

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!



'BREAD FROM HEAVEN' – A note to St. John members needing food assistance – If you could use food assistance from our food pantry, please speak with *Pastor Niermann*. We are required by the *Northwestern Ohio Food Bank* to keep a record with your name, but pastor will keep your record separate and absolutely confidential.

Contributions can be given at any time: monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your church envelope). Non-perishable **food items can be dropped off any time**. Because of your generous donations, we are able to help 25+ families each month. Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated. Food items can be placed in the box in the hallway.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP: Membership is now being taken for the Athletic Booster Club. Prices are \$20.00 for a couple and \$10.00 for an individual. Make checks payable to St. John Boosters and send to school with your child. Forms are available on the narthex table or contact any of the Booster officers. Join today and help out the children's athletic program.

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.

LYF KICKOFF EVENT: Join us for a new year of Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) in the Upper Room at the Youth and Family Center starting on **September 17th**. Junior High (4-6th grade) @ 4:00pm; High School @ 5:00pm.

Now that you have the first LYF meeting on the calendar, check your mailbox for more information on upcoming LYF dates and times. Didn't get anything in the mail? Come to the first meeting and we'll get you on the list! Invite your friends too. Questions? Contact Todd Wachtman at twachtman@sjl.org or 419-766-0345.

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...

Don't just count the days; make the days count!

"So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom." (Psa 90:12)

"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time." (Eph 5:15-16)