



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

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Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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### **FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Sermon & Text: "Ezekiel? Not Me!" *Ezekiel 33:7-9*

Order of Service: Morning Prayer (LSB pg. 235)

Hymns: **869 ~ 528 ~ "O Lord, Lift Up Your Prophets" ~ 527**

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### **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.*

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

✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠

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

✠ Deb Wachtman, Kathy Gruenhagen, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✠

**A BABY BOY!** Congratulations to *James & Haley O'Neil* as they were blessed with the safe delivery of little *Jack William O'Neil* on Sunday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> at Fulton County Health Center. Mother and child are doing well and are home. James and Haley are enjoying their new little bundle of joy. Grandparents, Alan & Lori Gruenhagen will be getting lots of cuddle time with Jack too. Congrats and God's blessings to the O'Neil family!

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS TODAY!** A brand new season of Sunday School instruction gets underway this morning. 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.

**LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY** will not meet this Tuesday so that Pastor Niermann can attend the circuit 'Winkel,' a monthly meeting of the pastors in our circuit. We will meet two more times on Tuesdays in September (19 & 26). Current study leaflets are available in the narthex for our next session.

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM	<b>Worship Service</b> with Communion following <i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.	7:00 PM	PTL Meeting
Tues.	<b>8:35 AM</b> 7:00 PM	<b>School Chapel</b> Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class (until 7:30 PM)
Thurs.	9:00 AM <b>7:00 PM</b>	School Pictures taken for PS-4/5, Kindergarten, Gr. 1-7 <b>Thursday Evening Worship with Communion</b>
Fri.	9:00 AM	School Pictures taken for PS 3-yr olds
Sat.	9:00 AM	LWML Fall Retreat (see bulletin note)
Sun.	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:20AM 4:00 PM	<b>Communion Service</b> Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Jr High LYF, followed by High School LYF at 5:00PM ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )

**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 Encil Rebeau*, who passed away suddenly last week. May God give comfort to the family at this time of grief for them

**THANK YOU!** St. John School would like to thank everyone who participated in the Hawk's Community Day fundraiser held on August 19<sup>th</sup>. We received a check for \$432.28, which was 10% of the total sales that day. They are amazed every year when they see the overwhelming support given by our church and school toward this fundraiser. We hope they include us again next year. Thanks again...and stay tuned!

**JAVA JOY TODAY!** Every second Sunday of the month, we host **Java Joy** following the worship service. Please join us in the side hallway today for refreshments and fellowship. The hosts today are the **St. John teachers and staff**, and we thank them for their service.



**Java Joy** hosts are still needed for **October, November, and December**.

Hosting **Java Joy** does not have to be expensive – you are welcome to reimburse some or all of your expenses, if you wish, from the 'kitty' – so please don't let that hold you back. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for you to get involved. Pick up the guidelines sheet when signing up. Thank you for hosting!

**MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION** for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders is officially underway. We 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. *Students, please take note – worship summary forms are on the table in the narthex. 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!*

**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.

**WOMEN OF FREEDOM:** The next meeting of the Women of Freedom will be held at 7:00 PM on Tues., Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>. 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 19<sup>th</sup>!

**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 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 (6-8th 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](mailto:twachtman@sjl.org) or 419-766-0345.

**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).

**LWML FALL RETREAT** – The Fall Retreat will be held on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 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!

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 9/03/23	\$9,450.00	\$202.00	\$268.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Thursday – 34; Sunday – 110

**ATHLETIC NOTE:** On Mon., Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM there will be an informational meeting in the fellowship hall for parents of both boys and girls St. John basketball players (Public and Parochial) in Grades 3-6. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend so team interest can be gathered. Please call Joe Badenhop at 419-438-5435 with any questions prior to the meeting.

**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.

**'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.

**POSITION NEEDED:** 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).

**ST. JOHN CHURCH LIBRARY** – Stop in and check out the number of books available in the church library. 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. 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>

**WORSHIP ANEW:** Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. produces a weekly, 30-minute Lutheran broadcast worship service called Worship Anew. 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...**

**“There is nothing worth living for, unless it is worth dying for.” -Elisabeth Elliot**

*“For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” (Phil 1:21)*