



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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SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "I Forgive You" *Genesis 50:15-21*

Order of Service: Divine Services, Setting Four (LSB pg. 203)

Hymns: **915 ~ 845 ~** (Communion: "To God Be the Glory", **611**) ~ **843**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Warm greetings and love in Christ are extended to all members and guests. We trust that you will experience the warmth of Christian fellowship, the inspiration of worship and the peace that comes from an awareness of God's presence. May we be showered with those blessings as we together profess His Name today. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it into the baskets at the doors as you leave today.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Cayden Ruffer & Brayden Damman ✘
- ✘ Ted Ripke, Bob Norden, Elmer Maassel, Denny Behnfeldt, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Deb Wachtman, Kathy Gruenhagen, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✘

THE LAMP (Youth Bible Study) is changing things up a bit this year. The Lamp will not be in session on the Sundays that the LYF meetings are being held. The devotion and topic will be done at the meeting. We want to welcome all youth and young adults to join us at the Youth Center across the road for Bible Study, snacks, games, discussions and fellowship!! Staying in God's Word is so important in this crucial time in life! Come join us for food for the soul and body!



- *Please note that due to LYF meeting and the Ice Cream Social (hosted by the LYF), the next Lamp will be October 1st. See you there!*

Bible Study



MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY – Join us bright and early this

Thursday morning at 6:30 AM for Men's Bible Breakfast. It's a great way to start your day! Good food, good friends, and a good Word from God! It's the best part of waking up!

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM	Communion Service
	10:20AM	Adult Bible Class; Sunday School
	4:00 PM	Jr High LYF, followed by High School LYF at 5:00PM (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.	6:30 PM	Athletic Parent Information Meeting (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Tues.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
	7:00 PM	Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	9:00 AM	Hearing, Vision, Scoliosis Screenings (PS3, Gr. K-7)
	5:30 PM	Family Game Night (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class (until 7:30 PM)
Thurs.	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Study Breakfast
	9:00 AM	Hearing, Vision, Scoliosis Screenings (PS3)
	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship
Sun.	9:00 AM	Worship Service
	10:20AM	Sunday School
	10:30AM	LYF Ice Cream Social (<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*, recovering at home after surgery for a displaced hip
- ❖ *The family of Larry Rohrs*, who grieve the passing of Larry on Mon., Sept. 11th. Larry is the brother of Norma Damman and Irene Joost. Please keep them in your prayers as well.
- ❖ *Ruth Moll*, recovering at home after pacemaker implant surgery

SUMMER SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS --- *A Longer Look at the Lessons.*

LCMS theologian Martin Franzmann wrote, “There is a *Must* of forgiveness in the disciple’s life. . . . Forgiveness is the ground the disciple walks on, and the air he breathes.” Forgiving and being forgiven are at the very core of the Christian faith, and are two of the most difficult things for sinful pride to handle. In the best tradition of Joseph, may God teach us the grace of forgiveness!

A Longer Look at the Lessons are 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.

LYF KICKOFF EVENT: Join us today for a new year of LYF in the Upper Room at the Youth and Family Center. Junior High (6-8th grade) meets at 4:00pm; High School at 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.

SUNDAY SPECIAL TREAT! Today after the service, you are all invited to the fellowship hall for a special treat of soft serve ice cream and toppings. Feel free to stop down and enjoy a little sweetness before you get on with your day.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM: The next meeting of the Women of Freedom will be held at 7:00 PM on Tues., Sept. 19th. The topic will follow page 22 of the Quarterly. The Quarterlies and ODEs are available in the tract rack in the narthex. Please pick up your copy. We hope to see you at the meeting.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT: Please join us on Wed., Sept. 20th from 5:30 – 7PM for an evening of fun and games for the entire family! Feel free to bring a guest! This will be held in the school cafeteria. There will be light refreshments of hotdogs, chips, apples, and lemonade or water provided.

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!



BACK TO THE COMMUNION RAIL – Starting October 1, the elders and church council have decided it's time for us to return to the altar and communion rail for the reception of Holy Communion. The altar reminds us of both Christ's sacrifice and of the table from which He distributes the fruits of His sacrifice, His very body and blood given and shed for us. The Communion Rail is an extension of the altar that brings us to His table, as

suggested by the words of the liturgy, "*Let us draw near with a true heart.*" While standing back from the altar does not in any way diminish the power or effectiveness of the Sacrament (its power is derived from the word and promise of Christ), kneeling or standing at the altar assists us in those moments with our Lord in better hearing His words, "*for you, for the forgiveness of sins,*" and in reflecting upon His amazing gift.

As we return to the communion rail, please note the following:

- If you need assistance navigating the two steps to the Communion rail, an usher stands ready to help you. Just let them know when you are dismissed from the pew.
- If you just cannot make those two steps, please notify one of the ushers that you desire to receive the Sacrament from the pew, so they can let the pastor know.

NATIONAL OFFERING REPORT – For a number of weeks this summer we gathered your gifts for this triennium's *National Offering*, for the translation of Christian books to be distributed around the globe. Our congregation's contribution to this offering totaled \$2,684. **The synod reported last week that that combined national offering received at the convention was over \$350,000**, with more still coming in. It is exciting to think about people all over the world receiving the gift of the Gospel in their own language because of this offering and our contribution to it! ***Praise God from whom all blessings flow!*** And thank you again to all who gave so generously to bless so many!

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 again on September 26.

LENDING A HAND IN MAUI – The fires in Maui have taken 110 lives, many others are still missing, and thousands of lives have been upended. First, your prayers are requested for these people. Secondly, the *Orphan Grain Train (OGT)* is mobilizing to provide humanitarian assistance by sending much-needed items to the area, including food, water, wheelchairs, etc. Ways to give a gift to help *OGT* in this effort are:



- **MAIL YOUR GIFT** to the *OGT* regional office: **Orphan Grain Train – Ohio Division**
Note “MAUI” on the memo line **P.O Box 74**
Ridgeville Corners, OH 43555
- **HALF-MATCH YOUR GIFT THROUGH THRIVENT** – *OGT* has partnered with Thrivent to provide a half match for your gift, \$1 for every \$2 given, up to a \$250,000 cap, or October 11, the sooner of the two. For information, please visit: <https://thrivent.cotribute.co/events/837539/detail>

Orphan Grain Train is a recognized service organization of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. Last year alone OGT shipped over \$44 million worth of aid, often in cooperation with Lutheran Hour Ministries, LCMS World Mission, LCMS World Relief, and other Christian ministries.



COMING TO ST. JOHN – GRIEF SHARE

GRIEF SHARE is a grief and loss support ministry to help those dealing with grief by giving them valuable, Christian-based guidance and tips leading to healing, comfort, and peace of mind. It is a 13-week support group ministry to

help you move through the grief process. The group will be led by our member, *Nancy Nemoyer*, a trained commissioned Deaconess of the LCMS. Full details will be published in next week’s bulletin, but for now the plan is to meet on Tuesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. in the *Youth & Family Center East Room*. This new ministry at St. John will be an excellent way for us to reach out in the community to invite people through our doors to share with them the hope we have in Christ.

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!



KEEPING COLLEGE STUDENTS CONNECTED TO JESUS – The Ohio District has launched a webpage to make it easier for college students in the Ohio District to find congregations near their campus and to get involved. The site has a complete directory of all Ohio colleges and universities and supporting congregations, and even includes a referral feature that connects students to a local LCMS church. Once a referral is complete, the student will receive a warm welcome and an invitation to attend church and any activities. Scan the QR code and check out the webpage today!



Or go to: <https://oh.lcms.org/missions-ministries/ministries/college-campus-ministry>

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 9/10/23	\$7,841.08	\$250.00	\$345.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 37; Sunday – 127

JAVA JOY HOSTS are needed for the second Sundays of the last three months of the year. With gratitude to everyone who has hosted in the past, we ask if you would please consider taking a turn at providing this wonderful fellowship opportunity to this body of Christ. It doesn't have to cost you anything. Sign up in the narthex!

ATHLETIC NOTE: On Mon., Sept. 18th 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.

PTL DETERGENT FUNDRAISER: Stay tuned... The PTL will again be hosting the Profitable Solutions Detergent fundraiser this fall. More details will be available soon.

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: 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.

ST. JOHN SCRIP: SCRIP order forms are available on the narthex table. Please turn those orders in to the office on Wednesdays, with payment to *St. John School PTL Scrip Program*. The gift cards will be sent home the following week on Tuesday. Payment must accompany orders. Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.

'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.

COLLECTING STAMPS: The LWML is collecting stamps “For Missions.” A box is on the table in the narthex. Here is what you do: Cut the stamps from the envelopes allowing ¼ inch margin or more around the stamp. The stamp may not be damaged and the perforations around the stamp must be perfect. You need not trim the stamp; we have someone who trims and sorts the stamps. Do not remove stamps from envelopes, albums, and older postcards. An “old” postcard is usually from 1930 or before. The most valuable stamps are commemorative, foreign, and stamp denominations larger than 46 cents. Collecting stamps is an easy way to participate in a mission project sponsored by the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League.

LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT – How You Can Help? If you have used prescription or nonprescription glasses or sunglasses in your drawers, desk, or closet, you can donate them now! Children’s glasses are especially needed. Both plastic and metal frames are accepted. There is a box under the narthex table for the collection of these used glasses.

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>

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS need to be turned in to the office by Wednesday of each week in order to be included in the Thursday and Sunday bulletin. Please note this. Thank you!

IF YOU’RE EVER IN A PINCH and could use a little help, the *Good Neighbor Fund* is there to assist you! Please don’t be bashful about asking – everything is strictly confidential. Just give Pastor Niermann a call, and we will see what we can do for you!

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.

CHRISTIAN CONCERT: Bethlehem/St. Mark Lutheran Churches are hosting a Christian concert by Winona Avenue at the Tinora Performing Arts Center on Sunday, Sept. 24th from 6:30 – 8 PM. Seats are first-come first serve and doors open at 6 PM. There will be a freewill offering at the door to offset costs. To learn more about Winona Avenue, you can go to winonaavenue.com. There is a flyer on the bulletin board in the narthex as well.

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Food For Thought...

“Relying on God has to start all over every day, as if nothing has yet been done.” –C.S Lewis

“It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:22-23)