



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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SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Good for the Gospel" *Philippians 1:12-14*

Order of Service: *Printed Service Folder*

Hymns: *811 ~ 664 ~ 838 ~ 924*

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* ✠ Anika Rosebrock & Anna Sausser ✠
- ✠ Ted Ripke, Bob Norden, Elmer Maassel, Denny Behnfeldt, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Deb Wachtman, Kathy Gruenhagen, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✠

FLOWERS TODAY:

- ♥ Altar flowers are placed in honor of the 68th Wedding Anniversary of *Ron & Elaine Hesterman* by Todd & Chris Hesterman and their family. They wish Ron & Elaine many more years together. Congratulations Ron & Elaine!
- ♥ Piano flowers are placed in honor of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of *Rodney & Jackie Rosebrock*. Their family and friends wish them many more happy, healthy years of marriage. Rodney & Jackie were married on September 22, 1973 here at St. John. Congratulations to the Rosebrocks!

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY is cancelled this morning as we gather for the LYF ice Cream Social. Our study will resume next Sunday!

PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS for the quarter of October, November, and December are on the desk in the narthex. There are also large print copies available.

In God's House This Week		Online church calendar: https://74058984.view-events.com
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:00 PM	Worship Service Sunday School LYF Ice Cream Social (see bulletin note)
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tues.	8:35 AM 9:30 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study School Board 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; 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*, recovering at home after surgery for a displaced hip
- ❖ *Ruth Moll*, recovering at home after pacemaker implant surgery

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 the Ice Cream Social (hosted by the LYF), the next Lamp will be October 1st. See you there!

LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY will meet this Tuesday for the final time as we conclude our summer study, *The End Times*. In this course of study we have explored what the Bible says about the *Last Things*, *Death and Dying*, *Heaven and Hell*, *Judgment Day*, *Resurrection*, and the *Signs of the Times*. **This week, in conclusion, we ask, "So What?"** What difference does it make if we are living in the end times? How does that affect the here and now of daily life? Do the Bible's teachings about the end of time have any real impact on how we live today? The Bible answers that being aware of the end times very definitely makes a difference in the way we live right now. How? Won't you join us as we talk about it? **LifeLight** meets this Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the East Room of the Y&FC. We hope you can come!



LYF ICE CREAM SOCIAL – Today the LYF is hosting its annual Ice Cream Social 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.

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 Fire” 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.

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!



COMING TO ST. JOHN OCTOBER 3RD – 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. You can read more details on the back page of today's bulletin, and even more details on our **GRIEF SHARE** registration web page at:

<https://www.griefshare.org/groups/175717> (this link is also on our church webpage, sjl.org)

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.

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!

PTL DETERGENT FUNDRAISER: The dates for the fundraiser are Sept. 20 – Oct. 6, 2023. This *Profitable Solutions* Liquid Laundry Detergent & Fabric Softener fundraiser is sponsored by the PTL. It involves selling bulk laundry detergent (including pods!), softener, scent booster, dish soap, dishwasher pods and trash bags! All products are comparable to name brands. You will be receiving 42% more detergent (350-500 loads!) for the same price you'd pay in store! Information sheets and order forms are available on the narthex table today. Please direct any questions to Nicole Stier at 419-966-7376. We look forward to another successful campaign!

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 9/17/23	\$6,339.00	\$100.00	\$370.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday – 47; Sunday – 114

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!

SCRIP: Plan to start your Christmas shopping! The SCRIP Order Form can be found in the tract rack in the narthex. Thank you and happy shopping! Please turn those orders in 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.

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.

'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.

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>

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Food For Thought...

God answers knee-mail.

*“This is the confidence we have in approaching God:
that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.” (1 John 5:14)*



You don't have to do this alone

Grief is a painful, confusing process, no matter what the circumstances. But you don't have to go it alone!

A *GriefShare* group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of

grief. At this 13-week support group program, you'll discover what to expect and what's "normal" in grief. At each weekly meeting, we'll view a video featuring respected counselors, pastors, and healthcare professionals on grief-related topics, plus we'll hear relatable personal stories of grief. After that is a small-group discussion to allow people time to talk, share support, and personally apply what they learned on the video. Everyone will receive a book to take home filled with valuable exercises for navigating their personal grieving process. Topics include:

- managing grief-related emotions such as loneliness, anxiety, sadness, anger, and regret;
- how to cope with the changes in your life and relationships;
- recognizing what's normal in grief and what to do if you feel stuck or hopeless;
- struggling with questions about God;
- finding a new path forward in life.

GriefShare group participants repeatedly share that they are comforted and encouraged by being with people who understand what they're going through. Whether your bereavement experience is recent or not so recent, this is an opportunity to be with people who understand what you're feeling. If you have experienced the death of a family member or friend, you are invited to attend.

To learn more and/or to register, please visit our *GriefShare* registration web page at: <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/175717> (this link is also available on our church website, sjl.org). Online registration is recommended to give you full access to *GriefShare* videos and resources, but if you prefer, you can register using paper forms available in the narthex.

**Meetings will be held in the Youth & Family Center East Room
Tuesdays starting October 3rd ♦ 10:00 to 11:30 am ♦ 13 meetings total**

Nancy Nemoyer, our *GriefShare* leader, is an LCMS Deaconess. She was the first director of our church body's Deaconess education program at Concordia University in River Forest, IL, a position that involved both administrative and teaching responsibilities.