



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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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Guest Preacher: Rev. Ted Rellstab
Sermon & Text: "A Question of Authority" *Matthew 21:21-32*
Order of Service: *Printed Service Folder*
Hymns: 904 ~ 538 ~ 655~ [Communion: 625, 531] ~ 857

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

You are among Christian friends today. We all have come to the Lord's House to hear what He has to say and to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. We pray that His grace will touch and move you. 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

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘ Evelyn Szabo & Erin Damman ✘
- ✘ Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel, Carey Damman, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Pat Maassel, Kathy Behnfeldt, Anita Badenhop, *Altar Guild* ✘

WELCOME, REV. TED RELLSTAB – This morning we are pleased to welcome back to St. John Rev. Ted and Deb Rellstab. As always, we are thankful for his service to us all, and pray that his preaching of God's Word and administration of the Sacrament will edify and feed the body of Christ, to our growth in faith and in love for one another. Welcome again, Rev. & Mrs. Rellstab!

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY will meet this morning in the fellowship hall - north end. Rev. Rellstab will lead us in *A Longer Look at the Lessons* as we delve more deeply into the same Scriptures we hear today in worship. We hope you can join us!

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	Communion Service Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; The Lamp
Tues.	8:35 AM 9:30 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel <i>GriefShare</i> Support Group Stewardship Board Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class (until 7:30 PM)
Thurs.	6:30 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Bible Study Breakfast Thursday Evening Worship
Sat.	9:00 AM	Workday at the Youth & Family Center (see note)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service w/Communion following (LWML SUNDAY) 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
- ❖ *The Jon & Heather Eiden Family* (Chris Hesterman's niece), going thru major surgery on Tuesday following breast cancer, and Jon having a heart catheterization on Thursday.

A "HEARTY" THANKS: Ruth Moll would like to thank everyone who sent get-well cards and prayers on her behalf during her pacemaker implant procedure. She especially thanks Pastor Niermann for his visits and prayers. Also, many thanks to those who sent her cards in honor of her 90th birthday. She thoroughly enjoyed each one of them!

THE LAMP (Youth Bible Study) begins today! However, 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!



LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER: We reached out to The Ability Center in Toledo to see if they would be interested in the extra wheelchair and gurney being stored in our First Aid room. The Ability Center accepted our donation offer, but we would have to deliver them to the Center. If there is anyone interested in making this day-trip to Sylvania, please get in touch with Joyce in the church office as soon as possible. Removing them from the First Aid room will free up a lot of space.

YOUTH & FAMILY CENTER WORKDAY! Please consider coming to help at the "workday" at the YFC on Sat., Oct. 7th beginning at 9:00 AM. We will be focusing on the two upper storage rooms.



BACK TO THE COMMUNION RAIL – This morning we are heading back to the altar and Communion rail! 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 take note of these procedures:***

- If you just cannot make the two steps to the rail, please notify an usher that you desire to receive the Sacrament from the pew, so they can let the pastor know. You will be communed first.
- Ushers will dismiss communicants, lectern side first, in groups of 7 or so, to fill half of the Communion rail on your respective side.
- As the group ahead of you is welcomed to the Lord's Table, the next group from the pulpit side will be ushered forward to fill the other side of the Communion rail, and so on.
- After each table is dismissed, communicants make their way back to the outside of the lectern or pulpit and back down the side aisles. A basket to receive empty individual cups will be on stands as you dismiss.
- 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.

GRIEFSHARE - COMING TO ST. JOHN THIS TUESDAY

GRIEFSHARE 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 commissioned Deaconess of the LCMS. You can learn more details on our **GRIEFSHARE** registration web page at: 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.



Bible Study



MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE THIS THURSDAY

This week we conclude our study, ***Lost Books?*** (a Lutheran Hour Ministries video-based Bible study). We will explore the fascinating apocryphal Gospels of Thomas and Judas. While many people put a lot of stock in such books, it is clear when you actually read them why the church rejected them from the earliest of days, and why

they're not even worth the paper to print them. Knowing what did ***not*** make it into the *canon* of Scripture (the list of Bible books that 'measured up') and why strengthens our appreciation for the books that ***did*** make it. **Men's Bible Breakfast is set for this Thursday, October 5, at 6:30 a.m. We hope you can join us!**

FINANCIAL FACTS:

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 9/24/23	\$5,980.00	\$360.00	\$495.00

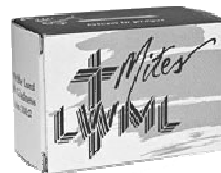
ATTENDANCE: Thursday –19; Sunday – 153



NEXT SUNDAY IS LWML SUNDAY - No organization within our church body has done more over the years, or contributed more funding to support the mission of the church, than the **Lutheran Women's Missionary League**, the official women's auxiliary of the LCMS. By means of the *Mighty Mites* given by LWML women in church basements and fellowship halls over decades, the LWML has

funded missions to the tune of tens of millions of dollars, to the great blessing and salvation of people around the globe. We thank God for their ongoing ministry in the larger church and right here at St. John. To all the women of St. John, there aren't many organizations to which you can belong that are making an eternal impact like the LWML. Would you consider joining us?

- **Special note:** *Next Sunday all women and LWML members are encouraged to bring mite offerings – loose money already in a 'Mite Box' or that you might find laying around or in pockets or purses – to be offered during the worship service. A complete list of the missions that these mites are currently funding will be in next Sunday's bulletin.*



TRUNK OR TREAT – Four weeks from today

We had such a good time last year that we're offering it again. **On Sunday, October 29 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. we will turn our parking lot into a Halloween Trunk-or-Treat** for all the children of our church, school and community.



Our first order of business is to sign up 'Trunkers' – all of you who will decorate your car trunks or hatch backs, and maybe costume up for this event, to supply candy and treats for all the Trunk-or-Treaters who may come our way. This is also a mission event that introduces families and children to this body of Christ at St. John, and elevates our presence in the community. Would you consider doing this as a service to the children? **Sign up in the narthex to be a Trunker!**

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!



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!

EAGLE NEWS: The Eagle News publication will be available today as you leave the service. It is also available online via FastDirect. Just go to <http://www.fastdir.com/stjohnfreedom/>, click on “Links” at the top of the page, then click on “Eagle News-September” in the “Everybody” column.

JAVA JOY HOSTS are needed for next Sunday as well as the second Sundays of November and December. 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!

PTL DETERGENT FUNDRAISER: **The deadline is this Fri., Oct. 6th!** 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>

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.

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.

'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.

ST. JOHN WEBSITE: Did you know you can listen to *Pastor Niermann's* sermons on the internet? Just click on "St. John YouTube Channel" or "Worship Service Resources" on the Home Page. There is also a "For Kids" tab which allows you to listen to previous Children's Sermons at St. John.

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!

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.

SIGNS, SIGNS, EVERYWHERE A SIGN! Tell your friends and neighbors about St. John Lutheran School by picking up a corrugated plastic yard sign in the back of the church. Place it in your front lawn or other obvious place to promote the school. Thank you for telling others about our school!

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.

AREA EVENT: Mission Fest – Orphan Grain Train Presentation hosted by Zion Lutheran Church, 20-141 County Road X, Ridgeville Corners, OH on Sunday, Oct. 15th. There will be a meal at 11:30 AM, followed by the Orphan Grain Train presentation at about 12 PM. All are welcome!

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Food For Thought...

A parent's life is a child's guidebook.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." (Prov 22:6)