



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

October 8, 2023

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NO. 41

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
School: 419-598-8702 Cell: 419-270-8863
Church Website: www.sjl.org

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (LWML Sunday)

Sermon & Text: "Lift Up Your Heads, O Gates" *Psalm 24:7*

Order of Service: *Printed Service Folder*

Hymns: 644 ~ [Baptism: 594] ~ 575 ~ 527 ~ 653

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to the services of God's House and the fellowship of our congregation. Enter in stillness...know that the Lord is God. Listen in reverence...it is God who has made us. Sing with delight...it is God who hears us. Speak with conviction...there is no other God. Depart in peace...it is God's gift for you. Serve with joy...it is your gift to God. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship attendance 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 & Zeek Kramer ✘
- ✘ Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel, Carey Damman, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Pat Maassel, Kathy Behnfeldt, Anita Badenhop, *Altar Guild* ✘

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

– We rejoice with *James & Haley O'Neil* as they present for Holy Baptism their infant son, **Jack William O'Neil**. Jack was born on September 3rd at the Fulton County Health Center in Wauseon. His baptismal sponsors are Bree Murdock (James' sister) and Luke Gruenhagen (Haley's brother). Jack's grandparents are Alan & Lori Gruenhagen, John & Joan Murdock, Kevin & Louise O'Neil. Congratulations to James & Haley and their loved ones as they welcome Jack into their family, and offer him to be part of God's family in this holy washing. *May the good work which God begins today in Jack be brought to completion on the day of Jesus Christ!*



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		<i>Online church calendar: https://74058984.view-events.com</i>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service w/Communion following (LWML SUNDAY) <i>Java Joy</i> ; Adult Bible Class; Sunday School; The Lamp
Tues.	8:35 AM 10:00AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel <i>GriefShare</i> Support Group Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>)
Thurs.	7:00 PM	NO SCHOOL – Ohio District Teacher’s Conference - Cleveland Thursday Evening Worship with Communion
Fri.		NO SCHOOL – Ohio District Teacher’s Conference - Cleveland
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; 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

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


If God’s people are a vineyard, then God is the owner of that vineyard, and those charged to tend His vineyard are its tenants. But not all tenants are good. Indeed, the priests and kings of Old Testament Israel, and the religious leaders of Jesus’ day, wrested this vineyard from the Lord in order to tend to it in *their* way. Prophets tried to warn these wicked tenants, but the tenants only turned against them to kill them. They even killed the owners own Son!



If today had been a regular Sunday, we would have read and heard all about this in the appointed Scripture readings. But not all is lost. We will take a look at these readings in Bible study this morning after worship. Please join us for *A Longer Look at the Lessons.*

JAVA JOY THIS MORNING is being hosted by the **St. John Women of Freedom**, in honor of this LWML Sunday and our celebration of *Women in Mission*. We thank them for providing this; as well as for all that they do in our congregation and internationally through the LWML. Please stop out in the front hallway this morning and enjoy fellowship time with one another over coffee, juice and treats.

Java Joy hosts are still needed for November and December (second Sundays). If you would like to sign up to host, please do so in the narthex. A sheet with guidelines is available as well. Remember, hosting Java Joy for our St. John family does not need to cost you anything. You can reimburse yourself from the Java Joy kitty if you wish.



Lutheran Women in Mission

Today we celebrate *Women in Mission* through the LWML! It is not an overstatement to say that without the work of the LWML, mission work in our church body would be severely curtailed. Through the tireless work and generous giving of LCMS women, an incredible variety of mission work has been funded that has made Christ known to untold numbers of people around the globe, to the salvation of souls and to the glory of God.

The *Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)* is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions. The Mission Statement of the LWML reads, "*As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.*" You are strongly encouraged to be part of this work by joining our congregation's women's auxiliary, *The Women of Freedom*. Along with everything they do for our church, they also support the missions and ministries of the LWML.

The primary funding source for all of the mission work supported by the LWML is the "Mite Offering." Mites are those little bits of money from here and there that add up to big things for the Gospel (over \$100 million of mission support since 1942). Mites are collected regularly by LWML women in special little boxes. **Today, ALL women AND MEN, whether or not you have one of these boxes, are encouraged to give a mite offering.** If you've got a few bucks in your wallet, or some loose change in your purse, bring it forward this morning during the offering and leave it in the large mite box up front. Your gift, added to the gifts of women all around the nation, will do "MITE-ee" things for the kingdom!



THE LAMP (Youth Bible Study) We want to welcome all youth and young adults to join us at the Youth Center across the road for Bible Study, discussions, and fellowship!! The Lamp is always good food for the soul and body! Staying in God's Word is so important in this crucial time in life!

As things are changed a bit, 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.



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. The first session was held last Tuesday, but it's not too late to join for the next 12 sessions.

The group is led by our member, *Nancy Nemoyer*, a commissioned Deaconess of the LCMS. You can learn more details on our **GRIEF SHARE** 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.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 10/01/23	\$26,635.00	\$140.00	\$180.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday –40; Sunday – 112

TRUNK OR TREAT – Three 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!**

SCHOOL COOK: Since we have not found a cook, we would like to try something different. The students will still continue to bring packed lunches, but we would like to make Friday's a special day. By this, we would ask anyone (even a business) to consider donating or buying a Friday lunch for about 25 students. We would be grateful for anyone wanting to do this; however, we would not expect you to provide/donate the lunch (unless that is what you prefer). We would reimburse you for all or part of the lunch you would be preparing. If interested, contact Miss Germann at tgermann@sjl.org or call Joyce in the school office.

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>

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.

EAGLE NEWS: The Eagle News publication is available today at the narthex table. 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.

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!

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.

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.

AREA EVENTS:

- **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!
- **Country Corner Craft Show & Chili Cook-Off** hosted by St. John Lutheran – Stryker, 23120 US Hwy 6, Stryker, OH, on **Sat., Oct. 21st** from 9:00am – 3:00pm. See flyer!
- **A Soup & Pie Dinner** will be held at St. Paul Lutheran, Liberty Center, OH on **Sun., Oct. 29th** from 11:30am – 1:30pm (or until gone). Soups are bean, chili, vegetable, and noodle soup; along with hot chicken, pulled pork, and hotdogs, homemade salad bar and pies too! Freewill offering! Proceeds going to the LCMS churches in Maui to help those in need. See flyer!

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Food For Thought...

There’s a hidden blessing in every struggle.

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,

because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.” (James 1:2)

2021-2023 LWML MISSION GRANT DISTRIBUTIONS

Give All Thanks and Praise to God!

2021–2023 LWML Mission Goal: \$2,150,000

LWML MITES AND MISSION GRANTS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Missions currently being funded by LWML Mites

1. Orphan Grain Train Servant Center, U.S. \$100,000
2. A Healing Space for At-Risk Children — Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, ND \$100,000
3. Serving God's Children with Special Needs — Journeys Lutheran School, Milwaukee, WI \$100,000
4. Fortifying Faith in Those with Vision Impairment — Lutheran Braille Workers \$100,000
5. Disaster Response Team — Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler, TX \$50,000
6. Mobile Kitchen — Forged by Fire Services, Gulf Coast Region, U.S. \$85,000
7. Upheld by God's Hand, Mental Health Outreach — LCMS Life Ministry \$96,500
8. Expanding Gospel Proclamation Worldwide — Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO \$100,000
9. Equipping Young Leaders — LCMS Youth Ministry \$50,000
10. Set Apart To Serve — LCMS Office of Pastoral Education \$100,000
11. Lutheran Women in Mission Finish the Job — Ministry in Mission, Haiti \$85,000
12. Sharing Christ Crucified with High School Youth — Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans, LA \$35,000
13. Water and the Word — Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya \$80,000
14. Enhancement of Deaf Ministry and Outreach — Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society, U.S. \$47,000
15. Feeding Haitian Children Through Gospel and Meals — Trinity HOPE \$58,082
16. Care for Street Children of Western Kenya — Capstone Ministries \$50,000
17. Nurturing Faith for the Aging — Lutheran Ministries Media (Worship Anew) \$100,000
18. Zoe's Home Support — Zoe's Home, Trinity Lutheran Church, Clinton, MO \$75,000
19. Tanzania Children's Homes — Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, Africa \$74,500
20. Sharing Christ with Women and Children in Kazakhstan — Lutheran Hour Ministries \$100,000
21. Healthy Together: Healthy Workers, Healthy Church — Lutheran Family Services, U.S. \$106,000
22. Expanding Gospel Outreach to Hispanics in U.S. — Lutheran Hour Ministries \$100,000
23. A Legacy of Love for Special Needs Children — Lutheran Special Education Ministries, U.S. \$100,000
24. God's Word for Central and South American Missions — Lutheran Heritage Foundation \$100,000
25. Bringing God's Word to India — India Bible Translation Project \$100,000
26. Life Connection Events and Kits — Lutherans for Life \$70,000
27. Siouxland Lutheran Hispanic Ministry — Hope Lutheran, South Sioux City, NE \$50,000
28. Growing Our Place: Care for Special Needs Students — Our Place After School Care, Inc., NE \$20,000
29. Repairs for St. Paul's Lutheran School — St. Paul Lutheran School, Cullman, AL \$50,000
30. Showering Love on the Least of These — Mercy Holistic Ministry, CA \$100,000
31. PARTIAL Breaking Generational Poverty in Detroit — Camp Restore Detroit, MI \$58,988.62