



# 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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### **TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Sermon & Text: "I Can Do All Things" *Philippians 4:13*

Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting One (LSB page 151)*

Hymns: 803 ~ "Rejoice in the Lord Always" ~

(Communion: "Invited, Lord, by Boundless Grace" ~ 737) ~ 818

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### **WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS**

*Now is the hour of worship. God speaks to us and we listen and respond with our hymns, prayers and praises. Together we bless the Lord whose purpose is to save us and keep us in His faithful flock. If you are new to our community, we hope you will consider making this your church home. Fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the new rack in front of you and drop it in the baskets by the doors as you leave.*

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

- ✘ Bethann Gerkan, *Pianist* ✘ Nolan Bickel & Maxton Howard ✘
- ✘ Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel, Carey Damman, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Pat Maassel, Kathy Behnfeldt, Anita Badenhop, *Altar Guild* ✘

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

Joy is a strong theme in our Scripture readings today. Joy is very much needed in a world full of tragic news and sad events. Joy that is not dependent upon things happening around us. Joy that comes from the Lord. This was the joy of St. Paul, which was his even in a prison cell.

We hope you can join us as we take a look at these readings in Bible study this morning after worship. Please join us for ***A Longer Look at the Lessons.***

**THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES ENDING FOR THE SEASON** –Thursday evening, October 19, will be the final Thursday evening service of the year, so that we may come together in worship for two very special upcoming Sundays – **Reformation Sunday** on October 29, and **All Saints Sunday** on November 5. During the "Festival Half" of the church year when we commemorate the seasons of Advent and Lent with special mid-week services, and celebrate the great festivals of Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost, we will not have Thursday evening services. Thursday services will resume on the first Thursday of May, 2024.

In God's House This Week		Online church calendar: <a href="https://74058984.view-events.com">https://74058984.view-events.com</a>
Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM	<b>Communion Service and Installation of Mr. Stephen Benson</b>
	10:20AM	Adult Bible Study; Sunday School
	4:00 PM	LYF Meetings (see bulletin note)
Tues.	8:35 AM	<b>School Chapel</b>
	10:00AM 7:00 PM	GriefShare Support Group Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class (until 7:30 PM)
Thurs.	6:30 PM	Men's Bible Study Breakfast
	7:00 PM	<b>Thursday Evening Worship</b>
Sun.	9:00 AM	<b>Worship Service</b>
	10:20AM	Special Voters' Meeting
	10:20AM	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



*Lutheran Women in Mission*

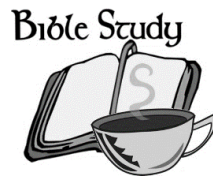
Thank you to everyone who celebrated the *Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)* last Sunday, and gave a Mite Offering to support the many world-wide missions funded through the LWML. Our gifts, small though they may have been, will add up to do great things in the Lord's kingdom.

Thank you also to the Women of Freedom and LWML for hosting Java Joy last Sunday. Your kind service and your tireless work in missions is a blessing to us all, and we are grateful! May God continue to bless the work of *Lutheran Women in Mission!*

**LYF MEETING TODAY:** There will be LYF meetings today as follows: Jr High (Grades 6-8) @ 4:00pm and High School (Grades 9-12) @ 5:00pm.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE THIS THURSDAY, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30am**

**Will the real Santa Claus please stand up?** Christmas is already in the stores, so at our men's breakfast Bible study we'll delve into the matter of who was the historical character at the origins of the Santa Claus legend. It may surprise you. Join us as we take a look at the LHM video-based Bible study, **"The Real St. Nick: Legend or Lie."** We hope you can join us!



**SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING:** On Sun., Oct. 22 following the worship service, there will be a brief Voters' Meeting in the sanctuary to discuss and/or decide on the possibility of adding padding to the church pews. The quote received was at a cost of approximately \$35,000-\$38,000.

**THE NOMINATION PROCESS BEGINS** – The Stewardship Board would like to announce that they will soon be sending letters out to members of our congregation asking if they would be willing to serve in one of the offices of our congregation. Please keep this process in your prayers and if asked, please give it serious consideration. **We are so thankful to God for all those who choose to serve!**

**UPCOMING SUNDAYS OF NOTE** – As we approach the end of October, there are a few special Sundays coming up for which we hope you will join us...

- **REFORMATION SUNDAY** – Sunday, Oct. 29 – Celebrating the great Reformation for the church when God brought the Gospel to light again through His servant, Martin Luther;
- **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY** – Sunday, Nov. 5 – Commemorating the faithful who have gone before us, with a special remembrance of our brothers and sisters in faith from St. John who departed this life in the last year to be with the Lord in glory.



**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 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](http://www.griefshare.org/groups/175717) (this link is also on our church webpage, *sjl.org*). It is never too late to join us.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 10/08/23	\$8,238.00	\$172.00	\$362.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Thursday –26; Sunday – 126

**TRUNK OR TREAT** – Two 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!

**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](mailto:tgermann@sjl.org) or call Joyce in the school office.

**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](mailto:honemann@embarqmail.com).

**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.

#### **AREA EVENTS:**

- **Mission Fest – Orphan Grain Train Presentation** hosted by Zion Lutheran Church, 20-141 County Road X, Ridgeville Corners, OH is today. 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. 21<sup>st</sup>** from 9:00am – 3:00pm. See flyer!
- **A Soup & Pie Dinner** will be held at St. Paul Lutheran, Liberty Center, OH on **Sun., Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>** 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!
- **St. Martin's 2023-2024 Concert Series** kicks off on **Friday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm with *Marty's Birthday Bash Hymn Festival*. This celebrates Martin Luther's 540<sup>th</sup> birthday with hymns of the church year spanning 1529-2023. Traditional Lutheran hymns will be presented as well as music from across the globe with the help of St. Martin's own musicians. Come ready to sing! The church is located at 203 S. Defiance Street, Archbold, OH. See flyer on bulletin board.

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#### **Food For Thought...**

**“Autumn teaches us the beauty of letting go. Growth requires release—it's what the trees do.”**

*“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.” (Isa 40:8)*