



FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

# Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

October 22, 2023

VOL. 88

NO. 43

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

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## TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "I Am the Lord, and There Is No Other" *Isaiah 45:5*

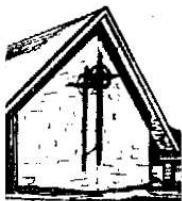
Order of Service: *Service of Prayer & Preaching (LSB pg. 260)*

Hymns: 940 ~ 745 ~ 525 ~ 819

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**A WARM WELCOME TO OUR** *The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest this morning, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. Please help us get to know who you are by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew 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**

- ✘ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✘ Anika Rosebrock & Erin Damman ✘
- ✘ Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel, Carey Damman, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Pat Maassel, Kathy Behnfeldt, Anita Badenhop, *Altar Guild* ✘

**SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS** is cancelled this morning as the congregation gathers for a Special Voters' Meeting. We will resume next Sunday with our study session, *A Longer Look at the Lessons*.

**SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING TODAY** following the service. This will be held 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.

**THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES HAVED ENDING FOR THE SEASON** –This past Thursday evening, October 19, was the final Thursday evening service of the year, so that that congregation 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.

<b>In God's House This Week</b>		Online church calendar: <a href="https://74058984.view-events.com">https://74058984.view-events.com</a>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:20AM	<b>Worship Service</b> Special Voters' Meeting Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tues.	8:35 AM 10:00AM	<b>School Chapel</b> <i>GriefShare</i> Support Group
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class ( <i>until 7:30 PM</i> )
Fri.	7:45 AM	Donuts with Dads ( <i>until 8:15am</i> ) End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Grading Period
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:00 PM	<b>Reformation Worship Service</b> Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Trunk-or-Treat in church parking lot ( <i>until 5:30PM</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

**SATURDAY BAPTISMS** – We rejoice with sisters Jessica Allen and Abigail (Abby) Doctor (daughters of Eric & Teresa Weller) who presented their children on Saturday for Holy Baptism.

- **Andrew & Jessica Allen's daughter is McKenna Rae**, born on January 25 at the Fulton County Health Center, Wauseon. McKenna's sponsors are Abigail Doctor, Maggie Weller, Jessica Buchenberg, and Austin Jay Perry. Grandparents are Eric & Teresa Weller, and Robert & Roberta Allen.
- **Steve & Abby Doctor's daughter is Benelli Ann**, born on August 11 at the Bryan Hospital in Bryan. Benelli's sponsors are Jessica Allen, Holly Adams, and Maggie Weller. Grandparents are Eric & Teresa Weller, Stephen Doctor, and Judy Bowman.



We rejoice with these families as they celebrate the new birth of their children into the family of God by this holy washing. May the good work that God has begun in Benelli and McKenna be brought to completion on the day of Jesus Christ when God's saints will receive the promised inheritance of heaven!

**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!**

**NEXT TWO SUNDAY** – 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.



Both of these Sundays are *Festivals* of the church, so Holy Communion will be celebrated at both.



**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE PLANS** – The children's service comes early this year, on **Sunday, Dec. 17** (one week before Christmas Eve). We have scheduled the service a little earlier as well at 5:00 p.m. since there is school the following day. The script is ready, and its time to begin identifying the children who will be participating so that parts can be assigned. Here are a few things to note:

- **Parents, please sign up your children.** There is a form in the narthex to let us know your children will be participating.
- Music rehearsing will begin right away at SJLS, and soon in Sunday School.
- Full rehearsals will begin during Sunday School on the Sunday after Thanksgiving and for the following Sundays through Dec. 17.
- We are looking for a person or team of people who can lead and direct rehearsals. Please speak with Pastor Niermann to review the script if interested.

**SAVE THE DATE(S):**

- ❖ **Sunday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM** we would like to recognize Pastor Niermann for his 25 years of service to the St. John congregation. We will honor him with a potluck meal (which he really enjoys). Plan to attend and congratulate Pastor Niermann on his special day!
- ❖ **Sunday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2-5 PM** the Women of Freedom will be hosting their Christmas Party with the theme, "Party with a Purpose." There will be snacks and treats provided. This is open to any of the women in the congregation. We hope you can make it!

**LADIES OF ST. JOHN:** The 2024 Booklet for the *Women of Freedom (LWML)* is being edited. All women of the Lutheran Church are considered members of the LWML. If you would like to be listed as an *active* member, please contact *Linda Riefers*. Call 419-267-3366 or e-mail [rie307w@bright.net](mailto:rie307w@bright.net). Current members please note any change of address or phone contact; and also, if you would like to have your e-mail added. *Women of Freedom* meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of the month with no meetings in January, February, June, August and December. Special optional activities are planned in February, June, and December. We serve funerals on request and volunteer our services as needed in the church. A warm welcome to any and all!

**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!

**TRUNK OR TREAT – One week from today**

‘Trunkers,’ it’s not too late to sign up and join the fun! Next 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.



**If you’d like to help us provide this service to our community, sign up now as a ‘Trunker.’** The idea is to provide treats out of your trunk, and maybe even a little game for the kids. If you’d like, you can decorate your vehicle in a Halloween theme, and maybe even wear a costume. Trunk-or-Treat is also an outreach 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? **Please sign up in the narthex to be a Trunker!...continue reading**

**BOOK FAIR:** Come check out the St. John Book Fair before or during Trunk-or-Treat. Come find a wonderful treat with a new book! The book fair will be open from 3:30-5 PM on Sunday, October 29. Interested in helping out at the book fair contact Miss Germann at [tgermann@sjl.org](mailto:tgermann@sjl.org) or call the school office at 419-598-8702. We hope to see you there. Happy Reading!!

**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. The group is 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](http://www.griefshare.org/groups/175717) (this link is also on our church webpage, [sjl.org](http://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 10/15/23	\$13,332.79	\$120.00	\$290.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Thursday –25; Sunday – 134

**GIRLS’ BASKETBALL:** The 2023-2024 basketball season is fast approaching with girls’ practices scheduled to begin on Monday, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> from 4-5:30 PM. The 4-6 grade teams (both boys and girls) will consist of any active church member’s children that are currently in grades 3 to 6 and are interested in participating this year. **Girls practices are Mon/Wed/Fri from 4-5:30 PM.** Please contact Coach Schroeder at 419-591-6655 if your child is interested.

**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).

**ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP:** St. John Athletic Booster membership drive is underway. Fees remain the same as in the past with \$20 for husband/wife; \$10 for a single membership. Make checks payable to *St. John Boosters*. Forms available on the narthex table.

**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.

**'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.

#### **AREA EVENTS:**

- **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!
- **Filling Fall Fling** hosted by the Filling Home Women's Guild will be held on Sat., Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM – 3:00 PM in the Therapy Center Gymnasium located at N160 St Route 108, Napoleon. See flyer for all the details.
- **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.
- **Napoleon Zone Christian Life Workshop** will be held on Sat., Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM at St. Paul Lutheran, Liberty Center, 8074 County Road T. Join us in fellowship and Bible study! See posted flyer!

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

**Fall leaves are beautiful, but God's blessings are breathtaking!**

*"And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." (John 1:16)*

# COLORING PAGE

