

# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

**Serving Christ in Freedom**  
*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

October 29, 2023

VOL. 88 NO. 44

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

**REFORMATION DAY (observed)**

Sermon & Text: “Just Call Me Eleutherius” *John 8:31-36*

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: **578** ~ “A New Song Be By Us Begun” ~ [Communion: **582, 566, 655**] ~ **656**

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**A PRAYER UPON ENTERING CHURCH** *We thank God this day for His work through Martin Luther to bring to light the Gospel of Jesus. May He reform us and renew us as we seek His purposes under the power of this Gospel. The church gathers under the Gospel of Christ. It is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and place it in the basket at the door as you leave today. May the Lord bless our worship.*

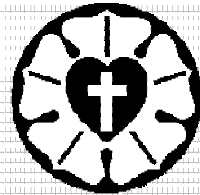
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**SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Evelyn Szabo & Zeek Kramer ✠
- ✠ Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel, Carey Damman, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Pat Maassel, Kathy Behnfeldt, Anita Badenhop, *Altar Guild* ✠

**REFORMATION SUNDAY** – On October 31, our culture is focused on candy and things that go bump in the night. As Lutheran Christians, however, we have something far more significant to celebrate. October 31<sup>st</sup> is **Reformation Day**, which commemorates the greatest movement of God’s Spirit since the days of the Apostles through one of the influential people in all of history, Martin Luther. As a German Augustinian monk, Luther struggled by his own works to create a right relationship with God but could never find peace and be satisfied that he had done enough. When God revealed the pure Gospel to him, Luther was finally set free. We are justified by the grace of God alone for the sake of Christ alone. These insights spurred Luther to try to reform the church of his day, but he ended up sparking a reformation that changed the world.



Today, Luther’s legacy lives on in the creeds and confessions of the evangelical Lutheran church and of Protestant bodies worldwide. As we consider his importance this Reformation Day, let us equip ourselves to be knowledgeable proclaimers and defenders of biblical truth. May we be eager to preach the gospel of God to the world and thereby spark a new reformation of church and culture.

**In God's House This Week**Online church calendar: <https://74058984.view-events.com>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:00 PM	<b>Reformation Communion Service</b> Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Trunk-or-Treat in church parking lot (until 5:30PM)
Mon.	6:30 PM	Scholastic Book Fair Week ( <i>ends on Friday</i> ) Boys' Basketball Meeting ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Tues.	8:35 AM 10:00AM	<b>School Chapel</b> <i>GriefShare</i> Support Group
Wed.	3:15 PM 6:15 PM	Laundry Detergent pickup ( <i>until 5:00 PM</i> ) Midweek Confirmation Class ( <i>until 7:30 PM</i> )
Thurs.	8:30 AM 11:00AM 12:00PM	Grandparents' Day until 11AM ( <i>Preschool 4/5, Grades K thru 7</i> ) Early Dismissal Staff Professional Development ( <i>ALICE Training</i> )
Fri.	10:00AM	Grandparents' Day until 11:20 AM ( <i>Preschool 3-yr olds</i> )
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	<b>All Saints Service with Communion</b> 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.
- ❖ *Marian Damman*, who broke a hip in a fall and is recovering from surgery to repair the injury.

**NEXT SUNDAY - ALL SAINTS SUNDAY** – Sunday, Nov. 5

Next Sunday we commemorate the saints in Christ who have gone before us, with thanks to God for their salvation through Christ our Lord. On this day each year we place a white rose near the baptismal font in remembrance of our sisters and brothers in faith from St. John who departed this life in the last year to be with the Lord in glory. This year we remember especially...

Esther Layton  
Walter Rosebrock  
Marvin Gruenhagen  
Darrel Bockelman



Hildegard Ludemann  
Lorna Von Deylen  
Larry Rohrs

***An eighth rose will be placed in remembrance of all our Christian loved ones*** who died in Christ since November 1<sup>st</sup> (All Saints Day) last year. If a Christian friend or family member of yours passed away during that year, please write their name on the list in the narthex, to be included in our remembrance of the saints.

**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!

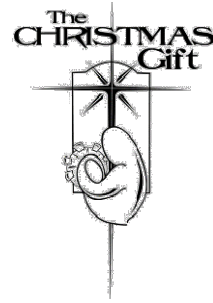
## TRUNK OR TREAT – TODAY

Thank you to everyone who signed up to be ‘Trunkers’ to provide a fun evening to children of our church, school and community. Trunk-or-Treat is this afternoon from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.



- **If you’d still like to join the fun as a ‘trunker,’** please just bring your goodies (and a child’s game if you’d like) and join us!
- **In the event of inclement weather,** we will move this event indoors to tables in the hallways. If this decision is made, we could use some help to set up tables after worship this morning. Thank you!
- **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 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!!

**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 it’s 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. Alternatively, SJLS parents can sign up their children by simply responding to the email from Principal Germann.
- Music rehearsing will begin right away at SJLS, and soon in Sunday School.
- The first rehearsal and read-through will take place on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, Nov. 26. Rehearsals take place during the Sunday School hour on the Sundays of December (3, 10 and 17).

We are looking for a person or team of people who can lead and direct rehearsals. Please speak with Pastor Niemann to review the script if interested.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 10/22/23	\$8,543.00	\$335.00	\$290.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Thursday –42; Sunday – 145



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS** – Remember to set your clocks **BACK** one hour next Saturday evening before bed. If you don’t, you’ll end up at church an hour early, which isn’t all bad. After all, we rejoice with King David whenever anyone says, “*Let us go to the house of the Lord*” (Psa 122:1). And if you get here early, you can be “*a doorkeeper in the house of your God*” (Psa 84:10) and greet everyone else who **did** set their clocks back! ☺

**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 are available on the narthex table.

## Opportunities for Growth in Faith this week...

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

“Abide in my word,” says Jesus, “and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (from today’s Gospel reading). True freedom is not about indulging the desires of the flesh, but involves both **hearing** God’s Word and **abiding** in God’s Word.

We hope you can join us for Bible study this morning as we take a look more deeply at today’s readings. Please join us for *A Longer Look at the Lessons*. The coffee is on!

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!



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.

MEN’S BIBLE BREAKFAST CANCELED THIS WEEK – In order to make way for the annual SJLS Book Fair in the north fellowship hall, the Men’s Bible Breakfast will be cancelled this week. We will meet again on Thursday, November 16.

### SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS – Coming Thursday, November 16

The holidays present unique challenges for people who are grieving.

- “Should I hang his stocking even though he’s not here anymore?”
- “I feel like I just want to hibernate through the season, but I keep getting invitations.”
- “She always decorated the tree, so I just can’t bring myself to put one up this year.”

To help you cope, we are offering “*Surviving the Holidays*,” a single session event by *GriefShare* to support and equip you with coping tools for the holiday season. At this two-hour event you’ll see a video with folks sharing their struggles, meet people with whom you can discuss your experiences (or just listen), and receive a holiday survival guide with practical tips for facing the holidays after loss.

**This session will be held on the Thursday prior to Thanksgiving, November 16, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** and will be led by our *GriefShare* leader, Nancy Nemoyer. More details will be available next Sunday, but for now please mark the date on your calendar. Feel free to extend the invitation to anyone you think may benefit.



**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!

**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!

**LAUNDRY DETERGENT ARRIVAL:** Please make a note that if you ordered items from the laundry detergent fundraiser, they will be delivered on Wed., Nov. 1st. A specific delivery time has not been given to us yet. We hope to have it staged and ready for you to pick up between 3:15 and 5PM, but this is subject to change. If you are not able to pick up on Wednesday, Nov. 1st, you can pick up on Thursday (11-02) during the school day (8am - 4pm). Thank you all for supporting this fundraiser!

**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!**

**BOYS ATHLETIC NOTE:** **On Mon., Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM there will be a mandatory meeting** in the fellowship hall for parents of boys interested in playing basketball for St. John. This is open to Public and Parochial boys in Grades 3-6. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend so team interest can be gathered. Please call Joe Badenhop at 419-438-5435 with any questions prior to the meeting.

**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.

**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).

**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.

**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA:** The Ridgeville Sons of the American Legion are asking you to join them in their mission to place "wreaths across America" in 2023. National Wreaths Across American Day is Sat., Dec. 16, 2023. Sponsored wreaths are placed on grave markers at state and national veterans' cemeteries, as well as at local, community cemeteries each December. Wreath Sponsorship forms and more information is available on the narthex table. Wreaths may also be sponsored online at [www.wreathscrossamerica.org/OH0229P](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/OH0229P) or via the QR code on the sponsorship form. **Order deadline is Wed., Nov18th.**

**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.

**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 are 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...**

**"The true treasure of the church is the most holy gospel of the glory and grace of God."**

*Thesis no. 62, from Luther's 95 Theses*

*"The fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure." (Isaiah 33:6)*