

# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

June 2, 2024

VOL. 89

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

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181  
School: 419-598-8702  
Church Website: [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)

### SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Clay Pot Pastors" 2 Corinthians 4:7

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 904 ~ 528 ~ 589 ~ (Communion: 684, 527, 811, 563, 912) ~ 941

Adult Choir: "This Is My Story, This Is My Song" (see yellow insert in bulletin)

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### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*Welcome to every member, friend, and visitor. You have entered this church, not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. May your worship here enable you to see your Savior more clearly, love Him more dearly, follow Him more nearly, and serve Him more sincerely. If you have no church home of your own, we invite you to join the St. John family. Please fill out a blue pew card from the rack in front of you and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave today.*

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### SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘ Brayden Damman, Maxton Howard, *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Neil Badenhop, Doug Dietrich, Nick Sonnenberg, Joe Badenhop, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Gruenhagen, Deb Wachtman, Nancy Short, *Altar Guild* ✘

ALTAR FLOWERS today are in honor of Pastor Niermann's retirement. May Pastor be blessed in his retirement, as he has been a blessing to our congregation for the past 25+ years. His loving service to us has been very much appreciated. We are so grateful and wish him nothing but the best!

### PASTOR'S RETIREMENT SERVICE AND DINNER – Today

Later this week Pastor Niermann will be retiring from full-time ministry and from the pastoral office at St. John Lutheran. This morning Pastor will preach his farewell sermon and administer the sacrament for us one last time. A door offering as a gift for Pastor will be received. After worship we will proceed to the Ridgeville Legion Hall where there will be some time before dinner to greet Pastor and to mingle. The retirement dinner will begin at 12:00 noon.

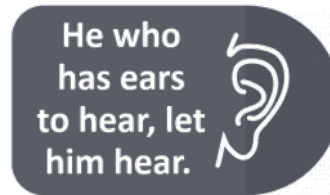
SUNDAY SCHOOL: There will be no Sunday School during the months of June, July, and August. We will resume Sunday School on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

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	10:00AM 12:00PM	<b>Communion Service &amp; Pastor's Retirement</b> Pastor's Retirement Celebration ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Mon- Fri.	9:00 – 11:30AM	Vacation Bible School
Sun.	9:00 AM 1:30 PM	Worship Service w/Communion following 4-H Meetings – Gerald Busy Fingers & Cloverbuds

**MATTERS FOR PRAYER** – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- ❖ *Melba Elling, Norma Damman, Elaine Hesterman, and Elaine Mahnke* at Genacross
- ❖ *Lawrence Behrmann*, at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Irene Joost and Leona Durham*
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Carmon, Jared Dishop, Jordan Lange*
- ❖ *Lowell Petzoldt*, for health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *Steve Miller*, recuperating at home from back surgery
- ❖ *Alan Gruenhagen*, now receiving home hospice

**PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR** – In today's Scripture readings we hear that **Christ Jesus Is the Sabbath Rest that Remains for the People of God Forevermore.** The Lord brought the sons of Israel out of Egypt “with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm,” in order to give them rest (Deut. 5:15). When He commanded them to “observe the Sabbath day,” therefore, it meant not doing “any work” but resting in His works (Deut. 5:12, 14). So has the same Lord, Jesus Christ, come in the flesh to fulfill the Law and to become our Sabbath Rest. As David “entered the house of God,” and not only “ate the bread of the Presence” but “also gave it to those who were with him” (Mark 2:26), the Lord Jesus entered the Holy of Holies as our great High Priest, in order to feed us with His flesh as the true bread of the Presence of God. As “lord even of the Sabbath,” He works “to do good,” to heal and “to save life” (Mark 2:28; 3:2, 4). He brings us out of sin and death and gives us rest in His own crucified and risen body. Though it is given “in jars of clay,” the life of Jesus is thereby manifested in our bodies (2 Cor. 4:7–11). ***“He who has ears to hear, let him hear” (Matt 11:15).***



**ARCHIVES DISPLAY:** The Archives Committee members have put up a display of past Confirmation classes ranging from classes who would have celebrated their 80th anniversary to those classes celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Come and check it out in the side hallway by the church.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 05/26/24	\$6,592.00	\$420.00	\$220.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Thursday (5/23/24) – 34; Sunday (5/26/24) – 133

**NOTES FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS** – Please take note of the following.

- **THURSDAY SERVICES** - There will be no Thursday service this week. Thursday services will resume the following week on June 13 in north end of the fellowship hall.
- **SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY** – There will be no Sunday Bible study today or next Sunday, June 9. We will resume Sunday Bible study on Sunday, June 16. This will be led by Rev. Ted Rellstab as we take a *Longer Look at the Lessons*. Each Sunday is a self-contained study, so if you miss a week, you can still jump right back in the following Sunday.
- **PASTORAL EMERGENCIES** – In the event you require emergency pastoral care, please call Rev. Charles Kramer at 567-277-1339.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS THIS WEEK**

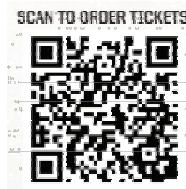
It's not too late to register your child. VBS is this week, Monday to Friday, from 9:00 to 11:30 each morning. Our theme this year is, **CELEBRATE THE SAVIOR**. In a fair-like setting we will learn about lots of people who celebrated Jesus: the wise men, the healed paralytic, the witnesses of the resurrection, and more. Of all the blessings God gives us, His Son, Jesus is the biggest reason to celebrate. Join us for the best fair of them all! To enroll a student, or to volunteer as a helper, please visit our VBS website at [vbsmate.com/stjohnsfreedomvbs24](http://vbsmate.com/stjohnsfreedomvbs24)

- A link for our VBS website is also provided on our homepage at [sjl.org](http://sjl.org).
- **VBS fliers are on the narthex table. Pick up a few to use as invitations for others!**

**LUTHERAN NIGHT WITH FORT WAYNE TINCAPS** – Tuesday, June 18

What's more fun than a bunch of Lutherans enjoying an evening of baseball? Answer: A bunch of Lutherans singing "A Mighty Fortress" together!

But still, the baseball is fun too! **The Fort Wayne Tincaps are sponsoring a Lutheran Night Outing.** Use the scan code to unlock all the benefits --- \$12 tickets (\$1 of which will be donated to the *Care Package Program of Worship Anew.*); \$2 concessions including hot dogs, popcorn, soft drinks, and pizza slices; entrance into a drawing for \$50 (website: [fevo-enterprise.com/event/Lutherannight6](http://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Lutherannight6)). The choir of Concordia Lutheran High School in Fort Wayne will sing the national anthem. Organize yourselves into groups and order tickets together to ensure adjacent seating. Game time is at 7:05 p.m. and there will be fireworks after the game. Travel time from St. John is 1 hour, 15 minutes.



**LWML INGATHERING:** The Women of Freedom are collecting new, greeting cards for the LWML State Convention Ingathering Mission. Examples of cards can be Thinking of You cards, Just A Note cards, any encouraging cards, etc. Please place them in box on the narthex table labeled "LWML Cards" and they will be taken to the Convention. Thank you!!

**SUMMER SAVE THE DATE!!-** The Women of Freedom will be heading to Special Grounds Coffee in Wauseon on June 18th at 10 AM for a tour of the facility, followed by social time and brunch/lunch at Special Grounds. This will take the place of the June Women of Freedom meeting. Everyone invited!

**LWML SUMMER QUARTERLIES** have arrived and are available in the tract rack by the narthex table. Pick up your copy today!

**MY DEVOTION BOOKLETS** for the next quarter, *June, July, and August*, are available on the desk in the narthex. These are nice kid-friendly family devotions. Take time to be together and grow in your faith. Pick up a copy today!

**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:** Please note the church office hours during the summer months are Tuesday thru Friday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Closed over the lunch hour and all day on Mondays. If making a special trip, please call 419-598-8961 or 598-8702 to guarantee someone will be here.

**FULL-TIME SCHOOL SECRETARIAL POSITION:** **We are now accepting resumés from anyone interested in applying for the full-time position of School Secretary.** This is a fulltime position, working year-round. Requirements are a high school diploma, an accounting background, a good familiarity with Word, Excel, and Google Drive, computer use, and the ability to maintain a strict confidence. An Associate Degree in the secretarial field is a bonus. Applicants must be willing to submit a résumé, obtain a background check, supply three references, and must adhere to the religious beliefs of St. John Lutheran Church. Resumes should be emailed to [tgermann@sjl.org](mailto:tgermann@sjl.org), or dropped off at the school office.

**PART-TIME CHURCH SECRETARY POSITION** – **We are currently seeking applicants for a part-time church secretary.** This job would involve working two days per week (probably later in the week). Required are a high school diploma, an accounting background, a good familiarity with word processing, data base and computer use, and the ability to maintain a strict confidence. An Associate Degree in the secretarial field is a bonus. Applicants must be willing to submit a résumé, obtain a background check, supply three references, and must adhere to the religious beliefs of St. John Lutheran Church. If you know someone interested, please call the church office at 419-598-8961.

**PIERSTORF COLLEGE FUND:** The Pierstorf College Fund is a one-of-a-kind pan Lutheran financial aid program that provides interest-free loans to all Lutherans pursuing a higher education who live in the State of Ohio. These loans are specific to students who are or will be enrolled full time in a four-year undergraduate program at any accredited college or university. For information, visit [www.Pierstorf.org](http://www.Pierstorf.org) to complete the online 2024-2025 application. Application deadline is June 30, 2024. Questions can be emailed to [Pierstorf@messiahfp.org](mailto:Pierstorf@messiahfp.org).

**IF YOU'RE EVER IN A PINCH** and could use a little help, the *Good Neighbor Fund* is there to assist you too! Please don't be bashful about asking – everything is strictly confidential. Just give Pastor Niermann a call, and we'll see what we can do!

**'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 made at any time. Monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your offering envelope). Food donations for our pantry can be dropped off in the box by the Archives display cases. **Food items especially needed at this time are: spaghetti sauce, noodles, soup, saltines and any crackers.** Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated.

**REPORT CARDS:** End of the year report cards can be viewed in FastDirect as of Mon., June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**ANNUAL SCHOOL CLEANING DATES** have been set for Mon., July 22 and Wed., July 24 starting at 5:00 PM both nights. Please read the Parent Participation Policy in FastDirect with all the details about family requirements for School Cleaning. The carpets will be cleaned on Tues., July 23, so no cleaning is done on Tuesday.

**ST. JOHN GIRLS B-BALL OPEN GYMS:** Coach Schroeder will be holding open gyms for girls who are going into Grades K-6 next school year. These will be held at St. John from 10 – 11:30 AM on the following dates: July 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24. Informational flyers are available on the narthex table. Any questions...call Coach Schroeder at 419-591-6655.

**UPDATE - PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT** – St. John Lutheran Preschool is still accepting enrollment applications for 2024-25 school year. The 4-yr old class still has open spots, and the 3-yr old class also has availability for next year. Anyone interested in enrolling your child in our preschool program should contact the school office at 419-598-8702 to request enrollment papers.

**TURN YOUR OLD USED CELL PHONE INTO A GIFT FOR THE POOR AND FOR YOUR CHURCH!**

Informed sources tell us that the average American household has 5 to 6 old unused cell phones lying around. Now you can put those phones to good use AND keep them out of the landfills. Bring them to church and deposit them in the large white box in the narthex. They will be forwarded to a company that sorts them and prepares them to be given to poor families for emergency use, and sends us a check. Old cell phones range in value from \$1 up to \$50.



**WORSHIP ANEW:** Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. produces a weekly, 30-minute Lutheran broadcast worship service called *Worship Anew* (formerly *Worship For Shut-Ins*). Each service includes music, scripture readings, prayers, and a pastor delivering a message that is designed to feel one-on-one to the viewer. They look forward to the continuation and expansion of this ministry in the years to come. Lutheran Ministries Media would like to thank you for your prayers and support of God's work through *Worship Anew*. Broadcasts can be viewed every Sunday on: *Toledo's WTVG (CW) Channel 13.2 at 10:30 AM.*

**THE LUTHERAN HOUR** – Locally you can listen to the Lutheran Hour Ministries broadcast on WMTR 96.1 FM, Archbold at 7:30 AM or on WNDH 103.1 FM, Napoleon at approximately 9:00 AM every Sunday. They cover many interesting topics relevant to today's issues.

**SAVE THE DATE!** The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Stephanie Kossow Memorial Golf Outing will be held at White Pines Golf Course on **Sat., July 27<sup>th</sup>**, with a 1:00 PM shotgun start. Forms available soon!

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**Food For Thought...**

**Not all wounds are obvious. Walk gently in the lives of others.**

*"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude." (1 Cor. 13:4)*

Thank you Pastor Niermann for your dedicated  
ministry in serving St. John Lutheran Church.

**A TRULY AMAZING**

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**— PASTOR —**

*is hard to find*

**DIFFICULT TO PART WITH**

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**— AND —**

**IMPOSSIBLE TO  
FORGET**

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