

# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

August 4, 2024

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Pastor Gary Bender, TIM Pastor  
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Cell: 989-770-0005; Church: 419-598-8961  
School: 419-598-8702  
Church Website: [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)

### ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "True Bread of Life" *John 6:22-35*  
Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Three (pg. 184)  
Hymns: 907 ~ 918 ~ [Communion: 633, 702] ~ 662

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### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*Welcome! We are here at the Savior's invitation; therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, receiving mercy and finding grace to help in every time of need. If you are a visitor, please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the new rack in front of you and drop it into the baskets at the door as you leave.*

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

- ✠ Bethann Gerken, *Pianist* ✠ Brayden Damman, Zeek Kramer ✠
- ✠ Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, David Badenhop, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Deb Von Deylen, Teresa Weller, Elaine Buenger, *Altar Guild* ✠

**INSTALLATION and WELCOME RECEPTION FOR PASTOR BENDER:** St. John is excited to have the installation of our Transitional Interim Minister (TIM), Pastor Gary Bender, today. Ohio District President Kevin Wilson is with us today to preside over the installation of Pastor Bender. There will then be a welcome reception for Pastor Bender in the fellowship hall following today's service. We look forward to getting to know Pastor Bender and welcoming him to St. John, as well as to the Henry County community. There will be light refreshments served as we enjoy a time of fellowship with Pastor Bender and each other. Hope to see you there!

**SUMMER ADULT BIBLE CLASS** is cancelled this morning so that everyone can enjoy the meet & greet with Pastor Bender in the fellowship hall. Our class will resume on Sunday, August 11.

**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.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM	<b>Communion Service and Installation of TIM Pastor Gary Bender</b>
	10:20AM	Welcome Reception for Pastor Bender in fellowship hall
	1:30 PM	4-H Meetings: Gerald Busy Fingers and Cloverbuds
Mon.	5:15 PM	School Board Meeting
Thurs.	7:00 PM	<b>Thursday Evening Worship</b>
Sun.	9:00 AM	<b>Worship Service</b> w/Communion following
	10:15AM	Adult Bible Study

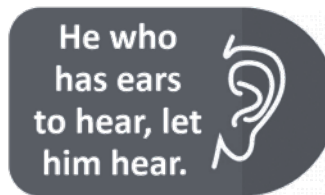
**PASTORAL EMERGENCIES** – In the event you require emergency pastoral care, please call Rev. Gary Bender at 989-770-0005.

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

- ❖ *Melba Elling and Norma Damman*, at Genacross
- ❖ *Lawrence Behrmann*, at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Irene Joost, Leona Durham, and Elaine Mahnke*
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Carmon, Jordan Lange*
- ❖ *Lowell Petzoldt*, for health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *Marietta Damman*, recuperating at Fulton Manor following hip surgery
- ❖ *Elaine Hesterman*, moved to Defiance Area Hospice this past week

**PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR** – In today's Scripture readings we hear that *Jesus Is the True and Living Bread from Heaven*

Having rescued Israel “out of the land of Egypt” (Ex. 16:6), the Lord manifested His glory and made Himself known to His people. He fed them with “meat to eat” in the evening and with “bread from heaven” in the morning (Ex. 16:4, 8, 12). But now, the “true bread from heaven,” which the Father gives to you, is the Son, “who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world” (John 6:32–33). Whoever comes to Him “shall not hunger,” and whoever believes in Him “shall never thirst.” He is “the bread of life,” who gives Himself to you as “the food that endures to eternal life” (John 6:27, 35). By the gracious working of God, you believe in Him by the calling of one Spirit through the Gospel, so that you also have “one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all” (Eph. 4:4–6). As you eat His one body in the Holy Supper, so you belong to the one Body of His Church, in which you “are to grow up in every way into him who is the head” (Eph. 4:15). ***“He who has ears to hear, let him hear” (Matt 11:15).***



<b>FINANCIAL FACTS:</b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 07/28/24	\$12,205.00	\$40.00	\$435.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Thursday (7/25/24) – 41; Sunday (7/28/24) – 93

**MARK YOUR CALENDER FOR HAWK'S COMMUNITY DAYS:** Coming in September (Sat., Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>) will be Hawk's Community Days. On that day, Hawks will donate 10% of their sales to St. John Lutheran School. We will have flyers available as it gets closer. Let's keep up the great support shown for St. John, by ordering your favorite food at Hawk's Pizza on Sat., Sept. 14th.

**ANOTHER TRY!!!**- The Women of Freedom are going to try their summer outing to Special Grounds Coffee in Wauseon again, on **Tues., Aug. 20th at 10 AM**, beginning with a tour of the facility, followed by social time and brunch/lunch at Special Grounds. Please call Sharon Damman or Linda Riefers if you need a ride there and also you make bring a guest. **All ladies of St John are invited!**

**MISSION IN-GATHERING:** The Women of Freedom are beginning a mission in-gathering for sewing fabric to be given to Care and Share in Archbold, and Orphan Grain Train in Napoleon. We will be collecting through Tues., September 17th. Please place material in marked box in the Narthex. Thank you for helping supply these hard working organizations who help so many in need!!

**SHARE THE BOUNTY** – Has your garden produced a bounty of beans? A crush of cucumbers? An excess of eggplants? 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!



**LARGE PRINT HYMNALS** available for your use on the narthex table. Pick one up and use it during worship, then return it to the table after worship. We hope these will be a blessing to you!

**SCHOOL JANITOR POSITION OPEN** – St. John Lutheran School is seeking an individual to fill the janitorial position for the school. This person is responsible for ordering supplies, daily cleaning of the school proper, cafeteria, hallways, restrooms, etc. This would average 15 hours per week. Applicant must submit references and obtain a background check. Please contact the school office at 419-598-8702 or Principal Germann at [tgermann@sjl.org](mailto:tgermann@sjl.org).

**PROJECT CONNECT** – There are many free booklets in the rack in the narthex. Be sure to check for some informative reading. Some titles are: “*Alzheimer’s: Facing the Loss of a Lifetime*,” “*Talking with God*,” “*Forgiveness is a Choice*,” “*Talking Openly with Kids*,” “*Setting Priorities*,” “*Your Place in God’s Plan*,” “*Stressed but Connected*,” “*Beyond Divorce*,” “*For Better, For Worse*,” “*What Is Faith in Jesus?*” and many more. These booklets are furnished through the Lutheran Hour Ministries.

**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.



**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.

**ST. JOHN CHURCH LIBRARY** – Stop in and check out the growing number of books available in the church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary. The books in this library have been screened to assure that they are true to the Word of God and can be trusted to be theologically sound. To borrow a book, just take it with you, and then return it to the basket when you've finished reading. A complete list of the books in the church's library can be found by clicking on the "Book Inventory" link on the library page of our church's website. <http://www.sjl.org/library.html>

**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.*

**'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 Bender*. 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.

**HEARING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE:** If hearing in worship has been a problem for you, pick up one of the receiver units for our hearing assistance system. An usher will assist you and you'll hear much more clearly. (*Also, please let us know how the system is working for you.*)

For those who use the hearing assistance system regularly and for the sake of hygiene, we ask that you claim one of the ear buds as your own and keep it with you in your purse, pocket, etc. Bring it with you when you come to church, and simply plug it into one of the receivers. At the end of the service, unplug the ear bud to take with you until the next time.

**OHIO ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN:** The Ohio Division OGT is located in the north end of the Culligan Water Conditioning building on Independence Drive in Napoleon. Someone is usually there to receive items on the first Tuesday of the month from 9:30-11:30 AM. If you need to drop off items at another time, please contact *Nancy Helmke* (419-758-3539), *Diann Meyer-Grieser* (419-267-3485), or *Vicki Grieser* (419-445-2986), and they will be happy to meet you and open the facility to receive your donations! PLEASE do not drop off items at the warehouse when it is closed. Thank you!

**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 the church office a call, and we'll see what we can do!

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*Thought for the Week...*

**Our needs may be great, but God is greater!**