

# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

August 11, 2024

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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)

### TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: “True Bread – Part 2” *John 6:35-51*

Order of Service: Matins, (pg. 219)

Hymns: 534 ~ 411 ~ 685

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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. He is The God of Grace and The God of Glory. If you are visiting with us today, please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave this morning.*

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

✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠

✠ Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, David Badenhop, *Ushers* ✠

✠ Deb Von Deylen, Teresa Weller, Elaine Buenger, *Altar Guild* ✠

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are placed today in celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of *Denny & Deb Damman* which was yesterday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. May God continue to bless them with many more happy, healthy years of marriage. Congratulations to the Dammans!

**HEAVEN SENT** – *Elaine Hesterman*, 89, passed away on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at Defiance Area In-Patient Hospice. Elaine’s funeral will be held at St. John on Tues., August 13 at 11:00 AM. Burial will follow in the St. John Lutheran Cemetery. We remember her husband, Ron, and children, Randy, David (Candi), and Todd (Chris) at this difficult time for them. We pray for God to give them peace knowing that Elaine is no longer struggling with her health.

**OFFICE HOURS:** The church and school office hours are back to “full strength” as of this week...Monday thru Friday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Closed over the lunch hour. 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 10:20AM	Worship Service w/Communion following Adult Bible Study
Tues.	11:00AM	Funeral Service – Elaine Hesterman ( <i>Visitation at 10:00 AM</i> )
Thurs.	7:00 PM	<b>Thursday Evening Worship with Communion</b>
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15AM 10:30AM 11:15AM	<b>Communion Service and Blessing of the Backpacks</b> Adult Bible Study Classrooms open to meet the teachers ( <i>see School Notes</i> ) Back to School Picnic ( <i>see School Notes</i> )

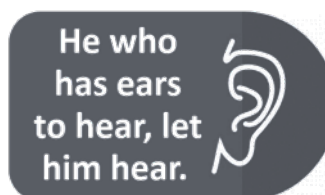
**PASTORAL EMERGENCIES** – In the event you require emergency pastoral care, please call Rev. Gary Bender at 989-770-0005.

**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

**PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR** – In today's Scripture readings we hear that *The Lord Jesus Feeds Us with His Flesh, in Order to Strengthen Us with His Own Life*

God the Father sent His Son into the world, so that the world might have life in Him. Now He “draws” you to His Son, Christ Jesus, by the preaching of His Gospel. “Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father” comes to Jesus, who will never cast him out but “will raise him up on the last day” (John 6:44–45). He is “the bread of life,” who “comes down from heaven” in the flesh, that you may eat of Him and “live forever” (John 6:48–51). Although “the journey is too great for you,” in the strength of this food you shall come to “the mount of God.” Do not be afraid, and do not despair, but “arise and eat” (1 Kings 19:5–8). And “no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds” (Eph. 4:17), but “walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us” (Eph. 5:2). In Him, you have been “created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness” (Eph. 4:24). Therefore, “be imitators of God, as beloved children” (Eph. 5:1), by “forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you” (Eph. 4:32). ***“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 08/04/24	\$7,077.00	\$235.00	\$210.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Thursday (8/01/24) – 40; Sunday (8/04/24) – 114



**SUMMER ADULT BIBLE CLASS** - This morning we will take “A Longer Look at the Lessons.” These week-by-week studies take a more in-depth look at the Scripture readings that are read in worship that morning. Each Sunday is a study unto itself, so that if you have to miss one Sunday, you can easily pick up again the following Sunday. **Please join us in the fellowship hall.**

**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!



**‘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.

**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.

**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>

**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!

**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!

**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.

**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.*

**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...*

**New pastor, but under same management for 2000 years.**

## **SCHOOL NOTES**

- ✓ **SCHOOL OFFICE** will be open from 8:30 – Noon on Mon., Aug. 19.
- ✓ **1st DAY OF SCHOOL** for St. John is Wed., Aug. 21, with classes beginning at 8:20 AM. Students arriving after that time will need to report to the school office.
- ✓ **OPENING CHAPEL SERVICE** will be Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:35 AM in the church, conducted by *Pastor Gary Bender*. Following the service, *Principal Tracy Germann* will welcome our new students. **All families are welcome to attend!**
- ✓ **CLASSROOM VISITS & PICNIC** – (PS, Gr. K-8) On Sunday, August 18 following the 9:00 AM Worship Service all classrooms will be open for students and families to drop off school supplies. There will be a Back to School Picnic held at 11:15am for all students and families of the school and church. Please join us!
- ✓ **SCHOOL PARENT NIGHT** – There will be a meeting for parents of grades K-8 on Mon., Aug. 26 from 6 – 7:30 PM in the cafeteria (north end). There will be time for questions, signing up for volunteer opportunities, and an informational session with your child's teacher.
- ✓ **PRESCHOOL PREVIEW DAY** – Preschool parents are invited to attend Preschool Preview Day on Thurs., Aug. 29 (4-year old preschool) and Fri., Aug. 31 (3-year old preschool). A sign up for times will be coming home soon. This is a day to visit your child's classroom with your child for a short amount of time before the first day of school. A variety of information will be given regarding arrival/dismissal, lunch, volunteering, etc...
- ✓ **PARENT HANDBOOKS:** The 2024-25 Parent Handbook will be printed and available for each family at the Back to School event on Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ **LUNCH PROGRAM** – The Lunch Program is still being determined. Students will need to pack lunches until a cook is hired. Milk can be purchased for 50¢ per carton. Lunch prices will remain the same as last school year.
- ✓ **SCHOOL PICTURES** will be taken by *Pictures by Marisa* this year and are scheduled for Wed., Sept. 18 at 9:00 AM for 3-year old preschool class and Gr. K-5 students, and Thurs., Sept., 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM for the 4-year old preschool class and anyone absent on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>. Order forms will be available shortly after school starts.

## **SCHOOL NOTES** (continued)

- ✓ **DIGITAL ACADEMY / FASTDIRECT** – This year we will be using a new communication system called Digital Academy. It will replace FastDirect. Back to school forms are available to be completed in your Digital Academy account. Please have these completed prior to the first day of school.
- ✓ **BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP** – St. John Booster membership for the 2024-25 school year are: \$20.00 for husband and wife; \$10.00 for single.
- ✓ **SCRIP PROGRAM** will be offered again this school year. Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to *Kristyn Honemann* at 419-966-0207.
- ✓ **FREEDOM'S FLOCK** – St. John's after school program will begin at 3:00 PM on the first day of school, August 21. The Freedom Flock Director will be *Miss Mary Rettig*. Please contact Miss Rettig to pre-register your child(ren) and pay the \$15 per family registration by August 21, if possible. The Freedom's Flock Handbook and Registration/Medical forms are available in the rack outside the school office.
- ✓ **EMERGENCY PROCEDURE AND EARLY CLOSING FORMS** will be available on a table outside the school office on Sun., Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>. They can be completed and turned in prior to the start of school or on the first day of school.
- ✓ **STATE FUNDS** is to be filled out by parents, one per family, listing the names of your children and their grade level. We need to keep this in our files every year as required by the State of Ohio. Return this form the first day of school.

