

# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

August 18, 2024

VOL. 89

NO. 33

Rev. 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)

### THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "True Bread – Part 3" *John 6:51-69*

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting 1 (pg. 151)

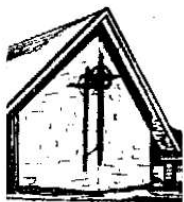
Hymns: 411 ~ 526 ~ [Communion: 625, 715, 629] ~ 817

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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. But above all, we invite you to come to worship with us at any time. If you are a visitor, please introduce yourself to the pastor as you leave the worship service this morning.*

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

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Anika Rosebrock ✠
- ✠ Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, David Badenhop, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Deb Von Deylen, Teresa Weller, Elaine Buenger, *Altar Guild* ✠

**OUR SINCERE THANKS:** Thank you to our St. John family for all your kind words, prayers and support in our time of grief. We are so blessed to know that we are not only loved by our Lord and Savior but also by our brothers and sisters in Christ here on earth. May God bless each and every one of you. Thank You and God Bless! *The Hesterman Family*

**BLESSINGS AND A PICNIC LUNCH!** Today during the worship service, we will observe the "Blessing of the Backpacks" for all students returning to school, any school. When instructed, please come forward with your backpack for a special "blessing," followed by a prayer for the students, for their teachers, and for our schools.

Following the service, students can stop by the classrooms and drop off their supplies for the first day of school on Wed., August 21<sup>st</sup>.

A back-to-school picnic will follow this in the fellowship hall around 11:15 AM. Please join us there!

## 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 Blessing of the Backpacks</b>
	10:20AM	Adult Bible Study
	10:20AM	Classrooms open to meet the teachers
	11:15AM	Back to School Picnic
Mon.	9:00 AM	Staff Meeting
Tues.	10:00AM	Digital Academy training (9-noon); Teacher Workday
		Ladies Outing to Special Grounds Coffee (see bulletin note)
Wed.	8:20 AM	First Student Day; 8:35 AM Opening Chapel
Thurs.	7:00 PM	<b>Thursday Evening Worship</b> (in the sanctuary)
Sun.	9:00 AM	<b>Worship Service</b>
	10:20AM	Adult Bible Study

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

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

- ❖ Melba Elling, Norma Damman, and Rozella Gruenhagen 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, and Cody Hoffman
- ❖ Lowell Petzoldt, for health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ Marietta Damman, now recuperating at home following hip surgery
- ❖ St. John School, for teachers and students, as they return to classes on Wed., Aug. 21<sup>st</sup>
- ❖ Willie Joost, who underwent surgery this past week

**PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR** – In today's Scripture readings we hear that *Jesus Is the Word and Wisdom of God, Who Gives You Life and Light in His Flesh.*

Jesus is the divine Word by whom all things were made, who has become flesh and dwells among us. He gives His flesh “for the life of the world,” not only as a sacrifice for sin but as “the living bread” from heaven (John 6:51). Eat His flesh and drink His blood (John 6:54–57), and no longer walk in the darkness of sin, but walk in His light. “Arise from the dead” and live in Him, because you are “light in the Lord” (Eph. 5:8, 14). Being filled with His Spirit, confess Him to “one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart” (Eph. 5:18–19). Fear, love and trust in Him, “and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness” (Josh. 24:14). For He has brought you “out of the house of slavery” by His cross and resurrection, and now He does “great signs” in your sight (Josh. 24:17). Indeed, He is the divine wisdom, who has built His house, prepared His feast and set His table; He bids you to recline and eat of His bread and drink of the wine He has mixed (Prov. 9:1–5). “*He who has ears to hear, let him hear*” (Matt 11:15).

He who  
has ears  
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him hear.





**ADULT BIBLE CLASS TODAY** - 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. **NOTE: Beginning today, we will meet in the NORTH END of the fellowship hall from now on.**

**THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES RETURN TO THE SANCTUARY** – Now that school is back in session and the fellowship hall is back to its normal configuration, our Thursday evening services will return to the sanctuary. Thursday services are at 7:00 p.m., and are always a preview of the coming Sunday. As always, we encourage everyone to sit forward and on the left (pulpit) side.

**SOMETHING IS BREWING!!!**- The Women of Freedom are going to Special Grounds Coffee in Wauseon, 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. Bring a guest too! **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!!

**MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION** for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders begins in two and a half weeks on **Wednesday, Sept. 4, at 6:15 p.m.** in the East Room of the *Youth & Family Center*. For our first class, Pastor Gary would like to have parents attend for the first 15 or 20 minutes for a brief orientation for the year ahead, and to answer any questions. The students will then remain for the rest of the class.

**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.

**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!



<b>FINANCIAL FACTS:</b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 08/11/24	\$4,865.00	\$217.00	\$233.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Thursday (8/08/24) – 25; Sunday (8/11/24) – 102

**WELCOME BACK!** This year we are thrilled to have 35 students in Grades K-5. An increase in enrollment of 13 students. Thanks be to God for this continued opportunity to share His word. Thanks also for the continued support of the congregation and school families.

As we begin this year, you will see a few new faces around the school. We welcome **Mrs. Cory Awwad** who will be teaching physical education both here and at St. Paul – Napoleon.

We also welcome **Miss Jady Fenstermaker** who will be our school cook and janitor for the 2024-2025 school year. Both of them are very excited to be coming on board. We are happy to have Mrs. Awwad and Miss Fenstermaker join the St. John staff.

**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.

**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...*

**Never run faster than your guardian angel can fly!**

## **SCHOOL NOTES**

- ✓ **1st DAY OF SCHOOL** at St. John is Wednesday, August. 21, with classes beginning at 8:20 AM.
- ✓ **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!**
- ✓ **LUNCH PROGRAM** – The hot Lunch Program is returning to St. John. Starting on Tues., Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Miss Jady Fenstermaker will be preparing lunches for the students. Students will need to pack lunches until Tues., Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Milk can be purchased for 50¢ per carton. Lunch prices will remain the same as last school year. Menus will be available soon.
- ✓ **CLASSROOM VISITS & PICNIC** – (PS, Gr. K-8) Today 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>.
- ✓ **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.

