

St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

August 25, 2024

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Rev. Gary Bender, TIM Pastor
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

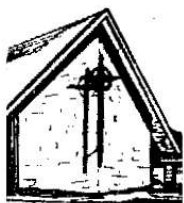
Cell: 989-770-0005; Church: 419-598-8961
School: 419-598-8702
Church Website: www.sjl.org

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Where Is Your Heart" *Mark 7:1-13*
Order of Service: Service of Prayer & Preaching (pg. 260)
Hymns: 865 ~ 395 ~ 575

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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Bethann Gerken, *Pianist* ✘ Anna Sausser, Erin Damman ✘
- ✘ Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers, David Badenhop, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Deb Von Deylen, Teresa Weller, Elaine Buenger, *Altar Guild* ✘

MEET THE PASTOR: Pastor Gary is encouraging every member of St. John to "Meet the Pastor." He will be at the church on Sunday morning, September 8, after church and again at 6:30 PM. These two gatherings will all be held in the North End Fellowship Hall. He will also host another "Meet the Pastor" on Monday, September 9, at 1:30 PM in the sanctuary. This will be an opportunity to get to know him personally, find out what the Transition Interim is about, and share some thoughts about the future of St. John. Please take advantage of one of these opportunities to meet Pastor Gary.

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: we will meet in the NORTH END of the fellowship hall from now on.**



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 Adult Bible Study
Mon.	5:30 PM 6:00 PM	<i>Bread from Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution Parent Information Night (until 7:30 PM)
Tues.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
Thurs.	8:45 AM 7:00 PM	PS4 Preview Day #1; 10:30 AM PS4 Preview Day #2 Thursday Evening Worship with Communion (in the sanctuary)
Fri.	8:45 AM	PS3 Preview Day #1; 10:30 AM PS3 Preview Day #2
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study

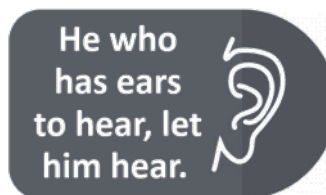
PASTORAL EMERGENCIES – In the event you require emergency pastoral care, please call Pastor Gary at 989-770-0005.

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
- ❖ Willie Joost, who underwent surgery this past week

PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR – In today's Scripture readings we hear that *The True Tradition of the Church Is the Ministry of the Gospel of Christ Jesus, Her Savior*

The true tradition of the Church is the Gospel, which is the preaching and administration of Christ Jesus. Other traditions, although not commanded by God, may serve and support that sacred tradition of the Gospel. But the Church dare not “[reject] the commandment of God” in order to establish or hold to “the tradition of men” (Mark 7:8–9). Sinful people attempt to draw near to the Lord “with their mouth” and to honor Him “with their lips,” while their hearts are far removed from Him (Is. 29:13). Yet, He is “the Holy One of Israel,” who brings about salvation by His cross. Therefore, “the wisdom of their wise men shall perish,” but “the deaf shall hear” and “the eyes of the blind shall see” (Is. 29:14–19). This mystery of Christ is profound, for He is the husband of the Church, and He is her Savior. Not because of any works that she has done, but solely for the sake of His great love, He “gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word” (Eph. 5:25–26).



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

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.

MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION for 7th & 8th Graders begins in one 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 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.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 08/18/24	\$7,579.44	\$335.00	\$140.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday (8/15/24) – 22; Sunday (8/18/24) – 181

LWML QUARTERLIES: Please stop by the tract rack at the narthex table and pick up a copy of the Quarterly for Fall 2024. These are available for any ladies of the congregation, and have a lot of good articles inside...along with a Bible study too.

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!!

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT: All parents are urged to join us on Mon., August 26th from 6-7:30 PM for an informational night. Teachers will also have informational sessions for parents only.

PRESCHOOL PREVIEW DAY: On Thurs., Aug. 29th at 8:45 and 10:30 AM there will be Preview Day for the 4-yr old preschoolers and parents. On Fri., Aug. 30th at 8:45 and 10:30 AM will be Preview Day for the 3-yr old preschoolers.

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!



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.



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!

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.*

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!

'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, pasta, soup, saltines and any crackers.** Any contributions are always greatly appreciated.

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Thought for the Week...

Every season brings a reason to rejoice!