

St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

September 1, 2024

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NO. 35

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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

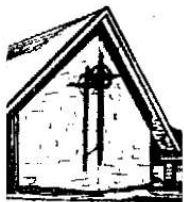
Sermon & Text: "The Defiled Heart" *Mark 7:14-23*

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Four (pg. 203)

Hymns: 566 ~ 559 ~ [Communion: 620, 744] ~ 924

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We welcome all who have come to worship our God with us today! Each day we live is a priceless gift from God, loaded with possibilities to learn something new, to gain fresh insights into His great truths. May we be showered with those blessings as we together profess His Name today. If you are a visitor, please fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘ Cayden Ruffer, Brayden Damman ✘
- ✘ Ted Ripke, Denny Behnfeldt, Bob Norden, Elmer Maassel, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kaylee Buchhop, Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, Karan Niebergall, *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 WeekOnline church calendar: <https://74058984.view-events.com>

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study
Mon.		NO SCHOOL – Labor Day
Tues.	8:20 AM 8:35 AM	PS4-yr old Preschool begins School Chapel
Wed.	8:20 AM 6:15 PM	PS3-yr old Preschool begins Midweek Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>)
Thurs.	8:45 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Bible Study Breakfast Thursday Evening Worship with Communion (<i>in the sanctuary</i>)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:20AM 6:30 PM	Worship Service w/Communion following Sunday School begins "Meet the Pastor" (<i>Fellowship hall – north end</i>) "Meet the Pastor" (<i>Fellowship hall – north end</i>)

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

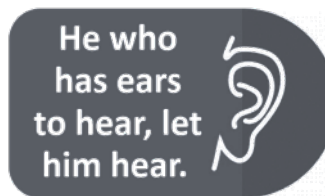
MATTERS FOR PRAYER – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- ❖ *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
- ❖ *Richard & Bev Elling*, who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on September 31st

PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR – In today's Scripture readings

we hear that ***We Are Cleansed and Sustained by the Word of God***

Wickedness and evil come "from within, out of the heart," and that is what defiles a person (Mark 7:21–23). Hence, we cannot save ourselves, because we are sinful and unclean from the inside out. But as the Lord Jesus "declared all foods clean" (Mark 7:19), so He cleanses us by His Word, the preaching of repentance and the forgiveness of sins. Therefore, "listen to the statutes and the rules" of the Lord, "and do them, that you may live" (Deut. 4:1). For His Word is righteous, and to live according to it is "your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples" (Deut. 4:6). Cling to His Word, and also teach it "to your children and your children's children" (Deut. 4:9). Put on this "armor of God" by hearing and heeding what He speaks to you, that you may "stand firm" in the evil day (Eph. 6:11–13). Gird yourself with the righteousness of Christ, by faith in the "gospel of peace," and take up "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God," by confessing Christ Jesus and "praying at all times in the Spirit" (Eph. 6:14–18). ***He who has ears to hear, let him hear*** (Matt 11:15).



SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY! A brand new season of Sunday School instruction will get underway next Sunday, Sept. 8. Sunday School is a key component of our ministry to the children. It is an educational time for them to study God's Word, hear both Law and Gospel, and come together to more deeply understand our faith in Jesus. Please pray for our Sunday School and its leaders and staff, that together we may grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord.

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!

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 08/25/24	\$10,172.91	\$225.00	\$450.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday (8/22/24) – 38; Sunday (8/25/24) – 128

Bible Study



MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY RESUME THIS THURSDAY!

Join us bright and early this Thursday, Sept. 5th at 6:30 AM for Men's Bible Breakfast. It's a great way to start your day! Great food, good friends, and a good Word from God! It's the best part of waking up! **We hope you can join us!**

LWML FALL RETREAT – The Fall Retreat will be held on Saturday, September 21st, at St. John – Stryker Family Center, beginning at 9 AM. Registration begins at 8:30 AM. Registration fee is \$15.00 which includes lunch. Registration forms are available in the narthex. See flyer!

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!!

HAWK'S COMMUNITY DAYS: Hawk's Pizza and Drive-Thru have invited us again to be part of their Community Day fundraiser. So on Sat., Sept. 14th be sure to place a food order with Hawk's. On that day, Hawks will donate 10% of their sales to St. John Lutheran School. Flyers will be coming next week. 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!



ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP: Membership is now being taken for the Athletic Booster Club. Prices are \$20.00 for a couple and \$10.00 for an individual. **Make checks payable to St. John Boosters** and send to school with your child. Forms are available on the narthex table or contact any of the Booster officers. Join today and help out the children's athletic program.

LYF ICE CREAM SOCIAL – The LYF will be hosting its annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, Sept. 29, with serving from 10:30 to Noon in the Fellowship Hall. On the menu: *Chicken Sandwiches, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Chips, Beverage* and *Schwan's Ice Cream*. Freewill offering! Carryout available also! The youth will be raising funds for upcoming group events. Come out and help support the youth of our congregation!

HOW ABOUT HOSTING A JAVA JOY? Every second Sunday of the month, we seek hosts for *Java Joy*, a time of refreshment and fellowship following the service. Hosting *Java Joy* does not have to be expensive – you are welcome to reimburse some or all of your expenses, if you wish, from the 'kitty' – so please don't let that hold you back. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for all the second Sundays of the year. Please sign up, and pick up the sheet of guidelines under the sign-up sheet.



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!

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.

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Thought for the Week...

To win in a relationship...don't keep score!