

St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

September 8, 2024

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NO. 36

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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

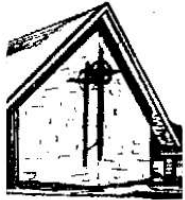
Sermon & Text: "Be Opened" *Mark 7:31-37*

Order of Service: Matins (pg. 219)

Hymns: 839 ~ 849 ~ 841

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* ✠ Anika Rosebrock, Anna Sausser ✠
- ✠ 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 come and "Meet the Pastor." He will be holding these meeting at three different times. Today, after the service, and again tonight at 6:30 PM, both of which will 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS TODAY! A brand new season of Sunday School kicks off today! 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.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM	Worship Service w/Communion following
	10:20AM	Sunday School begins
	10:20AM	“Meet the Pastor” (<i>Fellowship hall – north end</i>)
	6:30 PM	“Meet the Pastor” (<i>Fellowship hall – north end</i>)
Mon.	1:30 PM	“Meet the Pastor” (<i>Come to the sanctuary</i>)
	7:00 PM	PTL Meeting
Tues.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
	7:00 PM	Church Council Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>)
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship with Communion (<i>in the sanctuary</i>)
Sat.	All Day	Hawk’s Community Day Fundraiser (see flyer in bulletin)
Sun.	9:00 AM	Communion Service
	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
- ❖ *Willie Joost*, who underwent surgery this past week
- ❖ *Cheryl Yaw*, recently diagnosed with cancer and will undergo surgery in the future
- ❖ *The Matthew Schroeder Family* as they grieve the sudden loss of Matt’s mother, Harriet Schroeder as the result of a terrible car accident

ADULT BIBLE CLASS CANCELLED TODAY – due to the “Meet the Pastor” session in the fellowship hall.

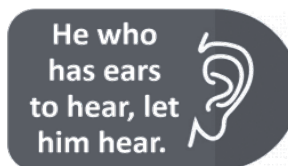
JAVA JOY TODAY! Please join us in the side hallway following the service today for refreshments and fellowship. The hosts today are the **St. John teachers and staff**, and we thank them for their service.



Java Joy hosts are still needed for **October, November, and December**.

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. Pick up the guidelines sheet when signing up.

PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR – In today’s Scripture readings we hear that *Our Merciful Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Does All Things Well*



The Lord proclaims the Gospel “to those who have an anxious heart” to comfort and encourage them with His presence. He comes not only with threats of “vengeance” and “recompense,” but with His gracious salvation (Is. 35:4). He opens “the eyes of the blind” and “the ears of the deaf,” and He loosens “the tongue of the mute” to “sing for joy” (Is. 35:5–6). Like water on thirsty ground, He speaks His life-giving Word to people of all nations. With His Word and the touch of His hand, He does “all things well,” so that you may now speak “plainly” (Mark 7:31–37). You confess the truth of God in Christ to the glory of His holy name, and you call upon His name in every trouble, confident that He will hear and answer. As you pray and confess with your tongue, so also “love your neighbor as yourself” (James 2:8). Show your faith “in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory,” by loving without partiality. For God has “chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom” (James 2:1–5). **“He who has ears to hear, let him hear” (Matt 11:15).**

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 is officially underway. We meet every Wednesday evening thru early May from 6:15 to 7:30 pm in the East Room of the Youth and Family Center. The only exceptions are that during Advent and Lent those times will change.

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 09/01/24	\$6,800.00	\$130.00	\$130.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday (8/29/24) – 33; Sunday (9/01/24) – 121

CONTACTING PASTOR GARY: For anyone wishing to contact Pastor Gary, you can either call his cell (989-770-0005) or email him at Pastor@sjl.org. He will be happy to help you out with any questions or concerns.

CONTENDING FOR TRUTH IN AN AGE OF ANTI-TRUTH...Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week’s subjects include: Vice President Kamala Harris on Abortion, A Parents’ Guide to Navigating Cultural Chaos, The Confusion Over Female Identity, Responding to Alternative Theories for Jesus’ Resurrection and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn, the LPR mobile app and a podcast provider.

HAWK’S COMMUNITY DAYS: It’s here, it’s here! **This upcoming 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. Small flyers are in today’s bulletin. Hawk’s is always eager to see how well we do with ordering from them on this day. We never let them down, so let's keep up the great support shown for St. John, by ordering your favorite food items again this year.

LYF KICKOFF - Join us for a new year of Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) on Sunday, September 22nd at the Youth and Family Center. Jr High (Grades 6-8) will meet at 4 PM and High School (Grades 9-12) will meet at 5 PM. Bring a friend!

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 and help support the youth of our congregation!

LCMS NYG: The National Youth Gathering planning is ramping up! For those attending, please bring a completed Youth Participant Worksheet to the first LYF meeting on September 22nd. These can be found online at <https://www.lcmsgathering.com> or see Todd or Tina Wachtman. A \$200 deposit will be due on October 20th. The LCMS Youth Gathering is July 19-23, 2025 in New Orleans. The Gathering is for youth participants between the ages of 14 – 19 at the time of the Gathering.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM: The next meeting of the Women of Freedom will be held at 7:00 PM on Tues., Sept. 17th. The LWML Quarterlies for Fall 2024 are available now in the tract rack in the narthex. Please pick up your copy today. We hope to see you at the meeting on the 17th!

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!

MISSION IN-GATHERING: The Women of Freedom are conducting 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!!

LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT – How You Can Help? If you have used prescription or nonprescription glasses or sunglasses in your drawers, desk, or closet, you can donate them now! Children's glasses are especially needed. Both plastic and metal frames are accepted. There is a box under the narthex table for the collection of these used glasses.

CUTLERY FOR SALE: The Women of Freedom sell Rada Cutlery products. These items are not on display for safety reasons. Check out the display board to see if you are interested in purchasing any of these items: Paring Knives, Stubby Butcher Knives, Pie Servers, Vegetable Peelers, Slicer Knives, Granny Forks, Carving Forks, Pizza Cutters, Tomato Slicer, and Small Spatula. Contact officers *Sharon Damman, Pat Maassel, or Nancy Glaser*, if you would like to purchase any of these items.

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.

SCRIP AT ST. JOHN: The *SCRIP* campaign has begun and will run for the remainder of the school year. For those that don't know, *SCRIP* is gift cards that you purchase through PTL for full face value. They work for both in store purchases and online shopping. PTL works through a company that purchases these gift cards in bulk from participating retailers. A percentage of the purchase stays with PTL. Think ahead--if you give out gift cards for Christmas consider purchasing them from PTL instead of at the store so that a portion of that sale stays with St. John Lutheran School. Order forms are available outside the school office. Please feel free to share with family and friends. Payment must accompany orders and checks should be made out to St. John PTL. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to the SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at honemann@embarqmail.com.**



COLLECTING STAMPS: The LWML is collecting stamps "For Missions." A box is on the table in the narthex. Here is what you do: Cut the stamps from the envelopes allowing ¼ inch margin or more around the stamp. The stamp may not be damaged and the perforations around the stamp must be perfect. You need not trim the stamp; we have someone who trims and sorts the stamps. Do not remove stamps from envelopes, albums, and older postcards. An "old" postcard is usually from 1930 or before. The most valuable stamps are commemorative, foreign, and stamp denominations larger than 46 cents. Collecting stamps is an easy way to participate in a mission project sponsored by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

HELP US KEEP UPDATED RECORDS – With the advent of cell phones, keeping current contact information is an issue for every organization these days, including the church. When people move or get a new phone number, they often don't think to update that information with us, often leaving us with no way to contact them for ministry related matters.

SIGNS, SIGNS, EVERYWHERE A SIGN! Tell your friends and neighbors about St. John Lutheran School by picking up a corrugated plastic yard sign in the back of the church. Place it in your front lawn or other obvious place to promote the school. Thank you for telling others about our school!

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...

If I'm okay and you're okay, then what was Jesus doing on the cross?

COLORING PAGE

