

St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

September 15, 2024

VOL. 89

NO. 37

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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

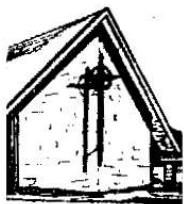
Sermon & Text: "Helplessness" *Mark 9:14-29*

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Three (pg. 184)

Hymns: 545 ~ 846 ~ [Communion: 688, 537, 563] ~ 923

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Warm greetings and love in Christ are extended to all members and guests. We trust that you will experience the warmth of Christian fellowship, the inspiration of worship and the peace that comes from an awareness of God's presence. May we be showered with those blessings as we together profess His Name today. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it into the baskets at the doors as you leave today.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Maxton Howard, Kenlee Coressel ✠
- ✠ Ted Ripke, Denny Behnfeldt, Bob Norden, Elmer Maassel, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kaylee Buchhop, Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, Karan Niebergall, *Altar Guild* ✠

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM – We rejoice with *Jared & Jessica* (nee Damman) *Lamb*, as they present for Holy Baptism their infant daughter, **Avery Ann Lamb**. Avery was born on May 31, 2024, at the Fulton County Health Center in Wauseon. Her baptismal sponsors are Joe & Krista Howard and Nick & Lauren Lamb. Congratulations to Jared & Jessica as they welcome Avery into their family, and offer her to be part of God's family in this holy washing.



ADULT CHOIR – Come one, come all... Adult Choir will be starting practices on Wed., Sept. 25th in the church balcony. This first practice will start at 8:00 PM, but all remaining Wednesday practices will start at 7:00 PM. We encourage anyone interested in joining the choir to come on the 25th and each Wednesday thereafter. We are blessed to have the adult choir back again offering anthems of praise to God. We thank Jon Buenger for his direction of the choir, and each choir member for blessing us with their music.

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 Class; Sunday School
Tues.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	9:00 AM 6:15 PM	Vision & Hearing Screening (PS3, K thru 5) Midweek Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>)
Thurs.	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Bible Study Breakfast Vision & Hearing Screening (PS4) Thursday Evening Worship
Sat.	9:00 AM	LWML Fall Retreat at St. John Lutheran - Stryker
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 4:00 PM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School LYF Kickoff Meeting (Jr. Hi at 4pm); High School at 5pm

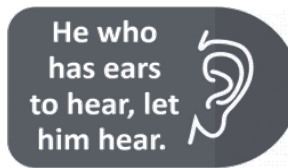
PASTORAL EMERGENCIES – In the event you require emergency pastoral care, please call **Pastor Gary at 989-770-0005.**

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 and Willie Joost*, dealing with health related concerns
- ❖ *Cheryl Yaw*, recently diagnosed with cancer and will undergo surgery in the future
- ❖ *Bev Elling*, who had hernia surgery at Henry Co Hospital on Sept. 12th

PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR – In today's Scripture readings we hear that ***Christ Jesus Delivers Us from Sin, Death and the Devil***

Those who teach the Word of God “will be judged with greater strictness” (James 3:1) because it is by the Word that saving faith is obtained, whereas false doctrine always threatens to destroy Christian faith and life. The tongue “boasts of great things,” whether for good or evil (James 3:5). In fallen man, “it is a restless evil, full of deadly poison” (James 3:8). But anyone who bridles his tongue with the Word of God, who “does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man” (James 3:2). It is Christ who opens His ear to the voice of His Father, so that, with “the tongue of those who are taught,” He is able to sustain the weary “with a word” (Is. 50:4–5). Entrusting Himself to His Father, even to death, He is not put to shame but is vindicated in His resurrection (Is. 50:6–9). By His faith and faithfulness, He casts out the “mute and deaf spirit” from us (Mark 9:25). He has compassion on us and helps us, so that we are not destroyed but cleansed from every evil and raised up from death to life (Mark 9:22–27). ***“He who has ears to hear, let him hear” (Matt 11:15).***





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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: A brand new season of Sunday School has begun. 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. Pray for our Sunday School and its staff, that together we may grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord.

ONE-ON-ONE meetings with Pastor Gary: As part of the information gathering for the Transition Interim Ministry, Pastor Gary would like to meet with as many families of St. John as is possible. He has set aside two weeks (Sept. 30 - Oct. 13) for these interviews. You will fill out a questionnaire ahead of time and sign up for a 45-minute visit with Him. Sign-up sheets and questionnaires are in the church office. Please sign-up, pick up a questionnaire (one per person), and plan to share your thoughts and ideas with Pastor Gary. Thanking you in advance for your time.

MIDWEEK CONFIRMATION 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.

JAVA JOY HOSTS are needed for the second Sundays of the months. Sundays still available in 2024 are November and December. With gratitude to everyone who has hosted in the past, we ask if you would please consider taking a turn at providing this wonderful fellowship opportunity to this body of Christ. It doesn't have to cost you anything. Sign up in the narthex!

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 09/08/24	\$17,830.00	\$277.00	\$473.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday (9/05/24) – 26; Sunday (9/08/24) – 127

MEMORIALS for *Elaine Hesterman*: St. John Endowment Fund – Youth Account - \$2,919.00

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.

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 deadline has passed, but you can still register by calling Gretchen Etzler at 419-758-3521.

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!!

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.

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!



FAMILY STEM NIGHT: Please join us on Wed., Sept. 25th from 6:00 – 7:00PM for an evening of fun and games with STEM activities for the entire family! Feel free to bring a guest! This will be held in the school cafeteria. There will be light refreshments.

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.

PTL DETERGENT FUNDRAISER: Stay tuned... The PTL will again be hosting the Profitable Solutions Detergent fundraiser this fall. More details will be available soon.

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!

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.

CHURCH HISTORY BOOKS – If at any time during the year you need a gift for a current or former member of St. John, why not consider one of our Church History Books. This book is full of interesting facts about St. John's and is available in the church office at a cost of \$12.00.

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.

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.

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Thought for the Week...

A church is a gift from God; assembly required.

COLORING PAGE

