



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U • NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

September 22, 2024

VOL. 89

NO. 38

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

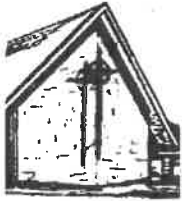
Cell: 989-770-0005; Church: 419-598-8961
School: 419-598-8702
Church Website: www.sjl.org

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "Servant Greatness" *Mark 9:30-37*
Order of Service: Service of Prayer & Preaching (pg. 260)
Hymns: 446 ~ 851 ~ 950

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* ✘ Erin Damman, Brynnleigh Kehnast ✘
- ✘ Ted Ripke, Denny Behnfeldt, Bob Norden, Elmer Maassel, *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kaylee Buchhop, Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, Karan Niebergall, *Altar Guild* ✘

FLOWERS BY THE ALTAR today are placed by the children of Delbert Damman in celebration of his 90th birthday. May God bless HIM with many more years of health and happiness. Congratulations and Happy 90th Birthday Delbert!

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.

PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS for the quarter of October, November, and December are on the desk in the narthex. There are also large print copies available.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM	Worship Service
	10:20AM	Adult Bible Class; Sunday School
	4:00 PM	LYF Kickoff Meeting (Jr. Hi at 4pm); High School at 5pm
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tues.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
Wed.	9:00 AM	School Pictures (PS3-yr old, Kindergarten thru Gr. 5)
	6:00 PM	Family STEM Night (<i>see note</i>)
	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>)
	8:00 PM	Adult Choir Practice begins
Thurs.	9:00 AM	School Pictures (PS4-yr old)
	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship
Sun.	9:00 AM	Worship Service
	10:20AM	Adult Bible Study; Sunday School
	10:30AM	LYF Ice Cream Social (<i>see bulletin note</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 and Willie Joost, dealing with health related concerns*
- ❖ *Cheryl Yaw, recently diagnosed with cancer and will undergo surgery in the future*

PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR – In today's Scripture readings we hear that ***Our Father Cares for His Children with the Gospel of His Son***

The sinful heart is filled with “bitter jealousy and selfish ambition” (James 3:14), which causes hostility, quarrels and conflicts, even among those who are fellow members of the Body of Christ. This should not be so! Rather, God “opposes the proud” with His Law, in order to humble them unto repentance; He “gives grace to the humble,” in order to exalt them by His Gospel of forgiveness (James 4:6–10). This true “wisdom from above” is found in the gentleness, mercy and peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who humbled Himself and sacrificed Himself for the salvation of sinners (James 3:17). He was “like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter,” committing Himself to God, His Father, “who judges righteously, who tests the heart and the mind” (Jer. 11:19–20). Therefore, “after three days,” His Father exalted Him by raising Him from the dead (Mark 9:31). In Holy Baptism, He takes disciples of all ages into His arms like little children. In receiving Him through repentance and faith in His forgiveness of sins, they receive from His Father a share in the glory of His cross and resurrection (Mark 9:36–37).

He who
has ears
to hear, let
him hear.



A HEARTFELT THANKS: The family of *Harriet Schroeder* would like to thank the entire St. John congregation for the support given and shown to them with the loss of their mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. This is such a difficult time for all of them, but they are comforted with the outpouring of cards, prayers, and well-wishes extended to them at this time. They ask for your continued prayers as they begin to adjust to the enormous change in their lives. God bless each one of you! Signed, The families of *John (Cynette) Schroeder, Marc Schroeder, Susan (Todd) Mavis, Julie (Michael) Carvton, and Matt (Shawna) Schroeder*

A THANK YOU also from *Willie Joost* for all the cards sent and prayers given on his behalf for his recent surgery and recuperation. He appreciates your thoughts and kindness at this time.



ADULT BIBLE CLASS - 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.

THE LAMP (Youth Bible Study) is getting ready to start up classes this year. The Lamp will not be in session on the Sundays that the LYF meetings are being held. The devotion and topic will be done at the LYF meeting. We want to welcome all youth and young adults to join us at the Youth Center across the road for Bible Study, snacks, games, discussions and fellowship!! Staying in God's Word is so important in this crucial time in life!



Please note that due to the Kickoff meeting today and the Ice Cream Social (hosted by the LYF) next Sunday, the first Lamp Bible Study will be October 6th. See you there!

LYF KICKOFF - Join us today for a new year of Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) 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!



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.

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 09/15/24	\$7,590.00	\$335.00	\$205.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday (9/12/24) – 31; Sunday (9/15/24) – 159

VENMO IS HERE! Exciting News...St. John now accepts donations via Venmo! We are thrilled to announce that you can now make your offering donations using Venmo! Simply scan the QR code beside this announcement with your Venmo app to go directly to our donation page.



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.

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!

PTL DETERGENT FUNDRAISER: The dates for the fundraiser are Sept. 23 – Oct. 4, 2024. This *Profitable Solutions* Liquid Laundry Detergent & Fabric Softener fundraiser is sponsored by the PTL. It involves selling bulk laundry detergent (including pods!), softener, scent booster, dish soap, dishwasher pods and trash bags! All products are comparable to name brands. You will be receiving 42% more detergent (350-500 loads!) for the same price you'd pay in store! Information sheets and order forms will be available next Sunday. Please direct any questions to Nicole Stier at 419-966-7376. We look forward to another successful campaign!

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.

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER NEEDED: St. John is currently looking for a long-term sub for Grades 1&2 from October 2nd thru December 20th. If you know of anyone or you are interested in this, please contact the school at 419-598-8702 or email Principal Tracy Germann at tgermann@sjl.org

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!



ST. JOHN CHURCH LIBRARY – Stop in and check out the number of books available in the church library. 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. 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>

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.

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.**



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!

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.

A REMINDER: If you are the LAST person to leave the building at the end of the day or after a meeting, etc., please make sure that the hallway and restroom lights are turned off and that the main entry doors (*where the buzzer is located*) are closed. With a tight budget, every little bit of electrical savings will benefit the church and closing the doors assures the safety of the building. Thank you!

COUNCIL MINUTES – This is just a reminder that council meeting minutes are not published until they are approved a month later. If you would like to read about the most recent council meeting, an unofficial and unapproved copy of the minutes is available for viewing in the church office, usually within a week after the meeting.

LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BULLETINS are available today on the table in the narthex. The Children's Bulletins are coordinated with the Bible texts for each Sunday, and provide activities that tie in with the weekly themes. Pick one up today for your child.

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!

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.

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.

AREA EVENTS:

- ❖ **St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Archbold, OH** will be hosting Organ Mania on **Sun. Sept. 29th**, with a pipe organ show-and-tell demo from 2:00 – 3:45 PM; followed by a pipe organ pops concert with Matt Gerhard at 4:00 PM. This is part of their 2024-2025 Concert Series.
- ❖ Mark your calendars for **St. Paul – Napoleon's Annual Vendor Market** on **Sat., Nov. 16th** from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM in the gymnasium. You can shop from various vendors and enjoy lunch from their concessions. There are still open slots for vendors. If interested in being a vendor, contact Faith Wiechers at fwiechers@stpaulnapoleon.org.

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Thought for the Week...

We use duct tape to fix everything. God used nails.