

# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

October 13, 2024

VOL. 89

NO. 41

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](http://www.sjl.org)

### TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "It's a Heart Issue" *Mark 10:17-22*

Order of Service: Matins (pg. 219)

Hymns: 901 ~ 694 ~ 941 ~ 392, vs. 1,3,5

\*\*\*\*\*

### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*Now is the hour of worship. God speaks to us and we listen and respond with our hymns, prayers and praises. Together we bless the Lord whose purpose is to save us and keep us in His faithful flock. If you are new to our community, we hope you will consider making this your church home. Fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the baskets by the doors as you leave.*

\*\*\*\*\*



### **SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✘ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✘ Piper Speiser, Erin Damman ✘
- ✘ Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel, Ian Rosebrook *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow *Altar Guild* ✘

**JAVA JOY THIS MORNING** is being hosted by the **St. John LYF**. Please stop out in the front hallway this morning and enjoy fellowship time with one another over coffee, juice and treats. Thanks to the LYF for hosting this month!

Java Joy hosts are still needed for November and December (second Sundays). If you would like to sign up to host, please do so in the narthex. A sheet with guidelines is available as well. Remember, hosting Java Joy for our St. John family does not need to cost you anything. You can reimburse yourself from the Java Joy kitty if you wish.



**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.

## In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: <https://74058984.view-events.com>

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20 AM	Worship Service with Communion following Java Joy; Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
Tues.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	6:15 PM 7:00 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class (until 7:30 PM) Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 7:00 PM	Men's Bible Study Breakfast Thursday Evening Worship with Communion
Sat.	10:00 AM	Committal Service— Renee Petzoldt
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20 AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp"

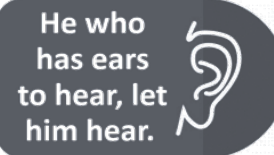
**PASTORAL EMERGENCIES** – In the event you require emergency pastoral care, please call Pastor Gary at 989-770-0005.

**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 *Christ Jesus Is the One and Only Good by Whom You Inherit Eternal Life*

The Lord is the Author and Giver of life, as well as a consuming fire of judgment against all "who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and turn aside the needy in the gate" (Amos 5:12). "Seek the LORD and live," therefore, by hating what is evil, loving what is good and doing what is just and right, according to His Word. "And so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you" (Amos 5:6, 14–15). Understand that "no one is good except God alone" (Mark 10:18). The life that you are called to live is found neither in your "great possessions," nor in your good works, but only in Christ Jesus. Let go of "all that you have" and follow Him, even unto death, and "you will have treasure in heaven" (Mark 10:21–22). Do not harden your heart against His voice, nor turn away from Him, lest you "fall away from the living God." Rather, hear and heed His call, cling to His Word and "exhort one another every day," that you may remain steadfast in Christ and "firm to the end" (Heb. 3:12–15). *"He who has ears to hear, let him hear" (Matt. 11:15).*



**THE LAMP (Youth Bible Study)** We want to welcome all youth and young adults to join us this morning at the Youth Center for Bible Study, discussions, and fellowship!! The Lamp is always good food for the soul and body! Staying in God's Word is so important in this crucial time in life!

As things are changed a bit, 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.

**SCHOOL & CHURCH SECRETARY UPDATE:** We would like to announce the hiring of Mrs. Erica Mussel as the new school secretary at St. John. Erica has served St. John as a long term sub for the past two years. The students are already familiar with Erica and greeted her with hugs when they saw her in the office. Erica will begin full-time employment with us on Nov. 1st. Welcome to the St. John staff, Erica!

The church secretary position has also been filled. Mrs. Leah Saylor will be joining St. John as the church secretary officially on Nov. 1st as well. Leah will be working part-time, two days per week. She will be coming in for a few days in October to familiarize herself with things. Please be sure to welcome Leah as you see her around the church and campus.

**REMEMBERING RENEE:** There will be a committal service for Renee Petzoldt on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, at 10 a.m. at St. John Lutheran Cemetery. Renee's ashes will be laid to rest, followed by light refreshments in the church's North End – Fellowship Hall. Anyone interested in attending should feel free to join the family. Renee's birthday is October 21.

**THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES ENDING FOR THE SEASON** –The October 31<sup>st</sup> Worship Service will be the final Thursday evening service of the year. Please make note of this.

**GRIEF SHARE** is a grief and loss support ministry to help those dealing with grief by giving them valuable, Christian-based guidance and tips leading to healing, comfort, and peace of mind. The weekly *GriefShare* classes will be starting on January 5, 2025. These classes will run for 13 weeks. The group is led by our member, *Nancy Nemoyer*, a commissioned Deaconess of the LCMS. This ministry at St. John will be an excellent way for us to reach out in the community to invite people through our doors to share with them the hope we have in Christ. Please relay this information to anyone you know who may be interested in receiving this support at the beginning of the new year.



**SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS (add'l GriefShare opportunity):** Volunteers are invited to support the in-reach and outreach of our *GriefShare* ministry, in particular, Surviving the Holidays on Nov. 21, at St. John. Please let Nancy Nemoyer ([nnemoyer@gmail.com](mailto:nnemoyer@gmail.com)) know if you can help by - providing snacks, helping to design and print or distribute flyers, referring a grieving friend, other ideas you might have, or by joining the *GriefShare* planning committee for our winter 13-week session. Thanks!

**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.

**EAGLE NEWS:** The Eagle News publication will be available today as you leave the service.

**THE NOMINATIONS PROCESS BEGINS** – The Stewardship Board would like to announce that they will soon be sending letters out to members of our congregation asking if they would be willing to



serve in one of the offices of our congregation. Please keep this process in your prayers, and if asked, please give it prayerful consideration. **We are so thankful to God for all those who choose to serve!** Your service in the Lord's name is never in vain, and it is deeply appreciated!

**FINANCIAL FACTS:**

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 10/06/24	\$8,375.00	\$552.00	\$488.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Thursday (10/03/24) – 31; Sunday (10/06/24) – 123

**TRUNK OR TREAT** – Two weeks from today

We had such a good time last year that we're offering it again. **On Sunday, October 27 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. we will turn our parking lot into a Halloween Trunk-or-Treat** for all the children of our church, school and community.



**Our first order of business is to sign up 'Trunkers'** – all of you who will decorate your car trunks or hatch backs, and maybe costume up for this event, to supply candy and treats for all the Trunk-or-Treaters who may come our way. This is also a mission event that introduces families and children to this body of Christ at St. John, and elevates our presence in the community. Would you consider doing this as a service to the children? **Sign up at the narthex table or in the school/church office to be a Trunker!**

**GRANDPARENTS' DAY:** On Thursday, November 7, we will celebrate our grandparents.

Grandparents of the 4-year-old preschool class, as well as grandparents of students in grades K-5 are invited to come to school from 9:30-12. From 9:30-11:30 there will be a variety of activities available as well as time to visit the book fair. From 11:30-12 we will head to the church for some songs and prayers. Students will be dismissed early that day. If your child's grandparents will be taking them home at noon after Grandparents' Day, please make sure to inform your child's teacher.

Grandparents' Day for the 3-year-old preschool class will be held the day before on Wednesday, November 6 from 10-11:20.

**FALL FESTIVAL:** This year's Fall Festival will be held on Sat., Nov. 2, 2024 from 10:00 AM until Noon. This will take place on the school playground area. It will be set up similar to last year. Games, treats, crafts and more will help us celebrate the season of fall. If you or anyone you know are interested in helping with this event, please call the school or email Miss Germann at [tgermann@sjl.org](mailto:tgermann@sjl.org).

**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.

**SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR:** St. John School book fair will be held Nov. 2-7. The book fair will be open during the Fall Festival, following church on Sunday and during grandparents' day. The book fair will also be open throughout the week for classes to visit. Thank you for your support of our book fair. We are able to increase the amount of books available for students to read in our library from funds raised during the school book fair. A lot of volunteer help will be needed, please call the office if you are interested in helping with the book fair.

**POSITION OPENINGS:**

- **Custodian:** Miss Jady Fenstermaker has stepped down from her role as the school janitor. We are in need of a custodian immediately. If you know of anyone who is interested, please reach out to Miss Germann at [tgermann@sjl.org](mailto:tgermann@sjl.org) This is a 3-hour daily position in charge of keeping the school clean.
- **Music Teacher:** Mrs. Char Weber has decided that she will be stepping down at the end of October from her role as the music teacher. We will miss her as the music teacher, her presence at St. John brought joy and such a variety of music lessons to the children. If you know of anyone interested in taking on the role as music teacher, please let Miss Germann know. This is a one day a week position responsible for teaching children in grades K-5 music according to the state standards. If you know of anyone for this position, please contact Miss Germann at [tgermann@sjl.org](mailto:tgermann@sjl.org).

**GIRLS' BASKETBALL:** The 2024-2025 basketball season is fast approaching with girls' practices scheduled to begin on Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, from 4-5:30 PM. Practice schedules available on the Narthex table. The 4-6 grade teams (both boys and girls) will consist of any active church member's children that are currently in grades 3 to 6 and are interested in participating. **Girls' practices are Tues/Wed/Fri from 4-5:30 PM.** Contact Coach Schroeder at 419-591-6655 if your child is interested.

**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.

**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!



**SCRIP:** Plan to start your Christmas shopping! The SCRIP Order Form can be found in the tract rack in the narthex. Thank you and happy shopping! Please turn those orders in on Wednesdays, with payment to *St. John School PTL Scrip Program*. The gift cards will be sent home the following week on Tuesday. Payment must accompany orders. Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at [honemann@embarqmail.com](mailto:honemann@embarqmail.com).

**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.

**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.

**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!

**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.

**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 EVENT:** **St. Paul – Napoleon’s Annual Vendor Market** on **Sat., Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>** from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM in the gymnasium. **There are still open slots for vendors.** If interested in being a vendor, contact Faith Wiechers at [fwiechers@stpaulnapoleon.org](mailto:fwiechers@stpaulnapoleon.org).

**VENMO IS HERE!** Exciting News...St. John now accepts donations via Venmo! To get started, simply log in to **SJL Open** internet and use password **sjleagles##** . Then scan the QR code beside this announcement to go directly to our donation page.



✘ ✘ ✘

*Thought for the Week...*

**A heart in tune with God can’t help but sing His praise!**