

St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

October 20, 2024

VOL. 89

NO. 42

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

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "The Impossible Made Possible" *Mark 10:23-31*

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

Hymns: 730 ~ 555 vs. 1,2,4,9,10 ~ [Communion: 623, 712] ~ 850

**A WARM
WELCOME
TO OUR**

The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest this morning, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. Please help us get to know who you are by filling out the Rite of Fellowship card in front of you and drop it in the baskets by the doors as you leave.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Elaine Buenger, *Organist* ✠ Brynnleigh Kehnast, Brayden Damman ✠
- ✠ Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel, Ian Rosebrook *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow *Altar Guild* ✠

ALTAR FLOWERS this Sunday are placed by the family of *Jerry & Nancy Short* in celebration of Jerry & Nancy's 60th wedding anniversary. They were married on October 24, 1964, and have made lots and lots of memories over 60 years. We wish them many more happy years of marriage and memories together. Congratulations Jerry & Nancy!



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.

FINAL THURSDAY EVENING SERVICE CORRECTION: The final Thursday Service will be on October 24th this year. Please make note of this.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20 AM 4:00 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" LYF Meetings (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Tues.	8:35 AM 5:00 PM	School Chapel Pizza Hut Fundraiser (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Wed.	6:15 PM 7:00 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>) Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship (FINAL ONE)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20 AM 4:00 PM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Trunk or Treat (<i>see bulletin note</i>)

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

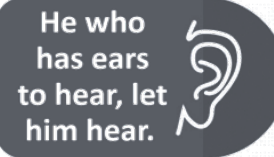
MATTERS FOR PRAYER – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- ❖ *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

LYF TODAY: The next LYF meeting is happening today at the Youth and Family Center. The Jr High (Gr 6-8) at 4:00 PM and the High School (Gr 9-12) at 5:00 PM. We will be decorating pumpkins. Bring a friend!!!

PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR – In today's Scripture readings we hear that *By the Voluntary Poverty of Christ, We Enter the Kingdom of God*

To love and trust in earthly wealth is vanity. For nothing of this earth will last forever, nor can any of it grant eternal life (Eccl. 5:10). But the one who trusts in God is "occupied with joy in his heart" and is able to sleep in peace, "whether he eats little or much," because he knows that the "days of his life" are "the gift of God" (Eccl. 5:12, 18–20). The person who trusts in riches cannot sleep, because he "shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand" (Eccl. 5:15). Therefore, it is difficult "for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God" (Mark 20:23). Indeed, it is impossible for man, yet "all things are possible with God" (Mark 20:27). Thus, the Rich Man, Jesus Christ, has made Himself poor and has gone through "the eye of a needle," through death and the grave, "to enter the kingdom of God" on our behalf (Mark 20:24–25). He is the "great high priest who has passed through the heavens" (Heb. 4:14), so that we may now enter His Sabbath rest by faith in His forgiveness (Heb. 4:3–9). *"He who has ears to hear, let him hear" (Matt. 11:15).*



IT'S PIZZA TIME! Get ready for a pizza buffet with servers you will never forget!! **Come to Pizza Hut in Napoleon on Tues., Oct. 22nd from 5-8PM** and experience the “best servers” on this side of the river. That would be the St. John School Staff! Bring your family and friends and enjoy the buffet. But don't forget to “tip the servers,” because all of your tips will benefit St. John School. The service that night can't be beat... We hope to see you there!

LWML MITES: LWML Sunday will be celebrated on November 10th. There will be a congregational mite collection, so please begin to set aside your mites to be given on that Sunday. Stay tuned for the actual date, but for now, please start collecting your mites. Thank you!

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 Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025 from 2:30 – 4:00 PM. 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 from 6:00 – 8:30 PM. Please let Nancy Nemoyer (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!

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!



<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 10/13/24	\$7,049.00	\$200.00	\$165.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday (10/10/24) – 22; Sunday (10/13/24) – 135

HURRICANE HELP is desperately needed right now! Please reference the insert in your bulletin today with all the information about ways to give. If you are not able to donate, please continue to pray for the many families that were impacted by both Hurricane Helene and Milton.

FALL FESTIVAL VOLUNTEER: A hayride is hopefully going to be planned for the Fall Festival on Sat., Nov. 2nd. If anyone would be interested or if you know of someone who would be available to provide (and drive) a tractor and wagon for this, please contact the school office or email Miss Germann at tgermann@sjl.org.

FALL FESTIVAL FUN: This year's Fall Festival will be held on **Sat., Nov. 2, 2024 from 10:00 AM until Noon**. This is for church and school families with children of all ages (PS – 8). Come and enjoy fun, fellowship, games, cider and donuts, and a hayride! 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.

TRUNK OR TREAT – NEXT SUNDAY!

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!**

SAVE THE DATE: **Tuesday, Nov. 19th at 6:30 PM** the Women of Freedom will be hosting their Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall. There will be snacks, finger food, and coffee/drinks provided. This is open to all women of the congregation. We hope you can make it!

SCHOOL & CHURCH SECRETARY UPDATE: We would like to announce the hiring of Mrs. Erica Musshel 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.

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.

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:** 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 This is a 3 hour daily position in charge of keeping the school clean.
- **Music Teacher:** If you know of anyone interested in taking on the role as music teacher, please let Miss Germann know. This will be an open position as of November 1st. 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.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL: The 2024-2025 basketball season is fast approaching with girls' practices scheduled to begin on Friday, November 1st, 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.

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.

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.

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 & 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.

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.

VENDORS FOR MARKET: **St. Paul – Napoleon's Annual Vendor Market on Sat., Nov. 16th** 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.

AREA EVENTS:

- **A Soup & Pie Dinner** will be held at St. Paul Lutheran, Liberty Center, OH on **Sun., Oct. 27th from 11:30am – 1:30pm (or until gone)**. Soups are bean, chili, vegetable, and noodle soup; along with hot chicken, pulled pork, and hotdogs, homemade salad bar and pies too! Freewill offering! Proceeds going to the youth going to the Nat'l Youth Gathering in New Orleans in 2025. See flyer!
- **Country Corner Craft Show** hosted by St. John Lutheran Church, Stryker, OH will be held on **Sat., Nov. 2nd from 9 AM – 3:00 PM**. St. John is located at the corner of Rt. 6 & 66, south of Four County Career Center. N160 St Route 108, Napoleon. See flyer for all the details.
- **Napoleon Zone Christian Life Workshop** will be held on **Sat., Nov. 9th at 8:30 AM** at St. Paul Lutheran Youth Center, 1075 Woodlawn, Napoleon. The theme is "Sharing Comfort & Hope." Join us in fellowship and Bible study! Damascus the Comfort Dog will there too. See posted flyer!

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...

Never run faster than your guardian angel can fly!