



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

October 27, 2024

VOL. 89

NO. 43

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

REFORMATION DAY (observed)

Sermon & Text: "Abide In the Word" *John 8:31-36*

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 656 ~ 582 ~ 655 ~ 587 ~ 819 vs. 1,4,5

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING CHURCH *We thank God this day for His work through Martin Luther to bring to light the Gospel of Jesus. May He reform us and renew us as we seek His purposes under the power of this Gospel. The church gathers under the Gospel of Christ. It is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and place it in the basket at the door as you leave today. May the Lord bless our worship.*



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Kenlee Coressel, Westin Cowell ✠
- ✠ Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel, Ian Rosebrook *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow *Altar Guild* ✠

REFORMATION SUNDAY – Today we mark Reformation Sunday. On October 31st, 1517 Martin Luther nailed 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church, Germany intending to start a debate within the church about some of its teachings and practices. His challenge to the church instead sparked a movement that celebrated liberty in Christ and in the Good News of His life, death and resurrection for our salvation. Through His servant, Martin Luther, God brought to light the saving truth of His Gospel, and that truth sets us free indeed. **“A mighty fortress is our God!”**



NEW MEMBER CLASSES are beginning today and continuing for the next five Sundays. These will be held in the Fellowship Hall – North End from 1:30 – 3:30 PM. If you know of anyone else interested, please have them come to this session. These will continue thru Sun., Nov. 24th.

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

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM	Reformation Worship Service
	10:20 AM	Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
	1:30 PM	New Member Class (<i>see note</i>)
	4:00 PM	Trunk or Treat (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Mon.	5:30 PM	NO SCHOOL – Teacher Professional Development <i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Tues.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
Wed.	6:15 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class (<i>until 7:30 PM</i>)
	7:00 PM	Adult Choir Practice
Fri.	4:00 PM	Girls' Basketball practices begin (<i>until 5:30 PM</i>)
Sat.	10:00AM	Fall Festival (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
	4:00 PM	Chipotle Fundraiser (<i>see bulletin note</i>)
Sun.	2:00 AM	Daylight Saving Time Ends
	9:00 AM	All Saints & Communion Service
	10:20 AM	Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp"
	1:30 PM	New Member Class

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 and Cheryl Yaw*, for health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *Marietta Damman and Willie Joost*, dealing with health related concerns

PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR – In today's Scripture readings we hear that *The Son of God Has Set Us Free from Sin and Death by His Grace*

"Wisdom is justified by her deeds" (Matt. 11:19), and the true Wisdom of God, Christ Jesus, the incarnate Son, has justified us by His deeds. He prepares His way by the preaching of repentance, but He has suffered the violence of the Law and voluntarily handed Himself over to violent men, that we might eat and drink with Him in His Kingdom and "remain in the house forever" (John 8:35). He is "a friend of tax collectors and sinners" (Matt. 11:18–19), and He has rescued us by His grace from the slavery of sin and death. By the proclamation of His eternal Gospel "to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people" (Rev. 14:6), "the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law" (Rom. 3:21), "that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus" (Rom. 3:26). And by the hearing of that Gospel of Christ Jesus, "whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith" (Rom. 3:25), "you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31–32). ***"He who has ears to hear, let him hear" (Matt. 11:15).***

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.

TRUNK OR TREAT – Today 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. Be sure to stop in and enjoy all the activities happening and goodies being passed out.

NEXT SUNDAY IS ALL SAINTS – On that day we will remember with thanksgiving those of our faith family who were called to glory since our last celebration of All Saints:

All Saints Sunday

Renee Petzoldt, Arlene Gerken, Alan Gruenhagen, Steven Norden, and Elaine Hesterman. We will place a white rose near the baptismal font in remembrance of our sisters and brothers in faith from St. John. Following the service, a family member may take a rose as a remembrance of their departed loved one. "For all the saints who from their labors rest, Who Thee, by faith before the world confessed, Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia!"

LWML FALL CHRISTIAN LIFE WORKSHOP - The Women of Freedom are invited to the Fall Workshop for LWML to be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church Youth Center, 1075 Glenwood Ave., Napoleon, on Saturday, Nov. 7th with registration at 8:30 AM and the program from 9-11:30 AM. The Bible study by Rev. Jacob Stuenkel will be "Comfort and Hope...to share." Flyer on bulletin board.

LWML MITES: LWML Sunday will be celebrated on November 10th. The Lutheran Women Missionary League joyfully proclaims Christ, supports missions and equips women to honor God by serving others. Our mites and prayers bring the love and hope of Jesus to those in need in our own state and all over the world. There will be a congregational mite collection, so please begin to set aside your mites to be given on LWML Sunday. So for now, please start collecting your mites. Thank you!

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS: The loss of a loved one can hit especially hard at the holidays. Are you filled with dread as Thanksgiving and Christmas approach this year? Should we keep the same

traditions or try something new? Do I even want to be with people? Eat a Thanksgiving turkey? Or put up a tree? Is that OK? Even for Christians who have the hope of eternal life, this earthly life and our grief can overwhelm us. The GriefShare "Surviving the Holidays" evening will give the opportunity to view a video of experts and other grievers, to participate (or just listen) in discussion questions, and to receive a free "Survival Guide" to take home. Our session is in the Youth & Family Center, on Thursday, November 21, from 6-8 pm, followed by an optional half hour craft, 8 - 8:30 p.m. in acknowledgement of your grief and in memory of your loved one. Volunteers are invited to support the in-reach and outreach of our *GriefShare* ministry, in particular by - providing snacks, helping to design and print or distribute flyers, referring a

grieving friend. Pre-registration for this session is recommended, but not required, so we have enough Survival Guide booklets with helpful tips for the season. www.GriefShare.org - find a group. Or [www.https://www.griefshare.org/events/248771](https://www.griefshare.org/events/248771).



TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK: Remember to turn your clocks back this coming weekend, Sunday, November 3rd at 2:00 AM. Daylight saving time ends! *Schlaf Gut!*

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 10/20/24	\$4,691.00	\$150.00	\$290.00

ATTENDANCE: Thursday (10/17/24) – 37; Sunday (10/20/24) – 141

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!

SAVE THE DATE: **Tuesday, Nov. 19th at 6:30 PM** the Women of Freedom will be having an early Advent and Christmas kickoff party for ALL LADIES of St John in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for a potluck of Christmas snacks, fun games, skits, singing and fellowship! See you there!

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, face painting, hayride, and cider & donuts 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.

CHIPOTLE SCHOOL FUNDRAISER: Plan to make a day of it and after the Fall Festival, please join us at Chipotle's in Defiance from 4 - 8 PM for some of their delicious food. You can plan to order online or eat-in. A percentage of the sales will be given to St. John School, but you have to be sure to use the code shown here **Z7AFHFQ** in order for the school to get credited for the sale. You can also pick up a flyer with all the information at the narthex table.

PENNY DRIVE: The fifth grade student council will be holding a penny drive for Hurricane Helene and Milton starting November 4th through the month of November. Each class will bring in coins and put it in their classroom's penny jar. The winning class will receive a pizza party. Congregation members are welcomed and encouraged to donate to any class every Sunday in the back of the church. The fifth grade students are also accepting donations such as, individually wrapped toothbrush/toothpaste, band aids (common household bandages), and travel sized shampoo and conditioner to donate to the survivors of Hurricane Helene and Milton.

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.

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. There will be no bussing or Freedom Flock After Care on Nov. 7th due to the early dismissal.

Grandparents' Day for the PS3-yr-old class will be held the day before on Wed., Nov. 6 from 10-11:20.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR: St. John School book fair will be held Nov. 3-8. 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 OPENING :

- **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. 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.

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.

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS need to be turned in to the office by Wednesday of each week in order to be included in the Thursday and Sunday bulletin. Please note this. Thank you!

ST. JOHN WEBSITE: Did you know you can listen to *Pastor Gary's* sermons on the internet? Just click on "St. John YouTube Channel" or "Worship Service Resources" on the Home Page.

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS: For anyone wishing to place flowers on the altar for Sunday worship, please contact *Nancy Glaser* at 419-906-0963. **NOTE:** **The price for flowers through the Women of Freedom is now \$30.00.** Please make checks payable to Women of Freedom. Remember that it is your responsibility to call Nancy either way; if you would like the Women of Freedom to order flowers or if you are going to take care of ordering them yourself. This will alleviate any confusion.

IF YOU'RE EVER IN A PINCH and could use a little help, the *Good Neighbor Fund* is there to assist you too! Please don't be bashful about asking – everything is strictly confidential. Just give the church office a call, and we'll see what we can do!

'BREAD FROM HEAVEN' – A note to St. John members needing food assistance – If you could use food assistance from our food pantry, please speak with *Pastor Gary*. We are required by the *Northwestern Ohio Food Bank* to keep a record with your name, but pastor will keep your record separate and absolutely confidential.

Contributions can be made at any time. Monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your offering envelope). Food donations for our pantry can be dropped off in the box by the Archives display cases. **Food items especially needed at this time are: Soups, and saltines & any crackers.** Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated. Thank you so much! As we learned in the meaning of the Fifth Commandment, *"We should fear and love God that we...help and support our neighbor in every physical need."* (*Small Catechism*)

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 **today 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.

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...

To know the strength of the anchor, you need to feel the storm.