



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

May 24, 2026

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NO. 21

Pastoral Vacancy

Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church Office: 419-598-8961

School Office: 419-598-8702

Church Website: www.sjl.org

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

- Guest Pastor: *Rev. Jeffrey Kazmierski*
- Order of Service: Divine Service Setting 3 without Communion *LSB pg.184*
- Hymns: **913 ~ 497 ~ 965**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS & VETERANS

On Memorial Day Weekend, we remember with reverence and thanksgiving those who gave their lives for our country. We gather to worship our Lord Jesus, who gave His life for all of us. If you are a visitor today, please fill out the blue pew card in front of you, and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave. *Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13*



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Elaine Buenger *Organist* ✠ Alana Naveau, Jovi Sonnenberg *Acolytes* ✠
✠ Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel *Ushers* ✠
✠ Deb Von Deylen, Elaine Buenger, Teresa Weller, Pat Mahnke *Altar Guild* ✠

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented this morning by the loving family of *Diana Kruse* in celebration of her 80th Birthday! We join them in giving thanks to God as Diana celebrates this special day.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION – This morning we invite high school graduates to gather with us in the worship service for graduate recognition during the prayers of the day. We'll ask them about their plans for the future and commend those plans to God in prayer. *If we happened to miss you or didn't get a photo, please still come up and join us to share your plans!*



The 2026 graduates' 2022 Confirmation theme was: "Hearts Fixed Where True Joys Are Found." It is our prayer that as they celebrate the joys of this milestone and excitement of future plans, they may keep their hearts fixed on the true, everlasting joy found in Christ!

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship Service with Graduate Recognition Adult Bible Study; "the LAMP"
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread from Heaven</i> Food Pantry Distribution
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; "the LAMP"

PASTORAL EMERGENCIES – Please contact **Pastor Kramer** at 567-277-1339 with any emergency pastoral care requests.

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

- ❖ *Melba Elling* and *Norma Damman* at Genacross, Napoleon
- ❖ *Rozella Gruenhagen* and *Bob Nemoyer* at Vancrest, Holgate
- ❖ *Lois Arps* at Genacross – Assisted Living, Napoleon
- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Irene Joost*, *Leona Durham*, and *Marlene Showman*
- ❖ *Julie (Kern) Patterson* for health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *Stan Gerken* and *Rev. Ken Schroeder* for health concerns
- ❖ *Nancy Nemoyer* and *Larry Mahnke* recovering from heart procedures
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson*, *Jason Rohrs*, *Jordan Lange*, *Joshua*, and *Kyle*

FINANCIAL FACTS:

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 05/17/2026	\$7,952.00	\$480.00	\$375.00

Attendance: 138

VENMO IS HERE! Exciting News... St. John now accepts donations via Venmo! Scan the QR code or search @sjlfreedom to visit our donation page. If you need internet access, use our guest Wi-Fi **SJL Open** with the password **sjleagles##**



SHUT-IN COMMUNION – Anyone who cannot make it to church and would like Holy Communion given to them in their home may contact one of our elders to schedule a communion visit. (*Denny Damman* - 419-966-2687; *Rich Elling* - 419-598-8216)

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS – Leah Saylor is in the church office on Wednesdays and Thursdays from around 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Bulletin submissions are due by 9 a.m. on Wednesdays to churchsecretary@sjl.org or 419-598-8961.

LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BULLETINS are always available on the table in the narthex. Feel free to grab them to use in church or to take home after the service.

OPPORTUNITY FOR 2026 COLLEGE STUDENTS – The *Pierstorf College Fund* is a one-of-a-kind Lutheran financial aid program that provides interest-free loans to all Lutherans pursuing a higher education who live in the State of Ohio. Information is on the Narthex table.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY will gather after the service today. Thank you to *Rev. Kazmierski* for offering this and leading us in God's Word.

HONORING SERVICE AND SACRIFICE – As our nation observes Memorial Day, we remember with gratitude those who have given their lives in service to our country. Information about the *LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces* is available on the Narthex table. You may wish to support this ministry with a special donation and/or remember our chaplains, active-duty servicemen and women, veterans, and their families in your prayers this day.



TROPICAL TREK VBS– Vacation Bible School is now scheduled for the week of **July 13th-17th**.



The theme this year is “*Tropical Trek: Jesus Comes to Seek and Save.*” See the bulletin insert for more information about registration and lessons to look forward to! VBS coordinator Andrea Oyer can be contacted at oyerandrea@gmail.com or (419) 966-1806 with any questions.

DID WE FIND A PIECE OF YOUR FAMILY HISTORY? – A stack of beautiful, German-language St. John baptism and confirmation certificates from the early 1900s was discovered in storage. These documents have been placed on a table in the Narthex for members to look through. **If you recognize a family name or believe one may belong to your relatives, please take it home.** We would love for these special pieces of family and congregational history to be reunited with the families to whom they belong.

CONVERTIBLE VICAR UPDATE – Vicar *Jonathan Pietrowski* was assigned to St. John during the Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne's spring assignment service. There is a photo and letter from Vicar Jon on the table in the Narthex. He met with leadership at St. John and spent time with our school students this last week. His installation at St. John is planned for Sunday, June 7th.

‘BREAD FROM HEAVEN’ will have its monthly food distribution on Monday at 5:30 p.m. If you have donations, they may be placed in the box in the hallway. If you are a member of St. John and could use food assistance from our food pantry, please contact the church office. We are required by the Northwestern Ohio Food Bank to keep a record with your name, but your record will be kept separate and absolutely confidential.

WEDDING FACILITATOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY – The elders are seeking a few people to volunteer as “Wedding Facilitators” to assist at St. John weddings and rehearsals. The position description and sign-up sheet can be found on the Narthex table. Any question can be directed to Denny Damman at 419-966-2687.

MY DEVOTION BOOKLETS for the next quarter, June, July, and August, are available on the desk in the narthex. These are nice kid-friendly family devotions. Pick up a copy today.

THE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT is available on the Narthex table. If you didn't get your directory updates in, please still let Leah (churchsecretary@sjl.org) know if you have any changes.

PLAYTIME AT THE PAVILION – St. John families with little ones: you're invited to a relaxed play date for infants/toddlers/preschoolers and their caregivers. We'll gather on Thursday, June 4th, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the Petzoldt Pavilion and church/school playground. We'll begin with a moment of scripture and prayer. Then the kids can enjoy free play and a light snack while parents enjoy iced coffee and a bit of fellowship. *No registration needed ~ snacks and coffee provided ~ older siblings are welcome.* Any questions, call Leah in the church office at 419-598-8961.



From the **Classroom** to the **Congregation**

Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School



SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER! – Last Wednesday, our students enjoyed a track and field day during school and then a cookout in the evening. Thank you to all the staff, parents, and volunteers who made these events possible! May 21st was the last day of school for K-6th. We praise God for St. John staff and students and ask Him to bless their summer break!

NOW HIRING – St. John Lutheran School is looking for a passionate and dedicated **3rd Grade Teacher** to join our team. If you love working with students in a Christ-centered environment and are excited to make a difference, we'd love to hear from you! Submit your resume, cover letter, and references to Miss Germann at tgermann@sjl.org.

ENROLLMENT IS OPEN – *Help us spread the word!* St. John Lutheran Preschool and K-7th are accepting enrollment applications for next school year. Anyone interested in enrolling for the first time should contact the school office at 419-598-8702 for more information.

AREA EVENTS

- ✦ **A MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE** to remember those who served our country will be held on Mon., May 25th at 10:30 AM at the Ridgeville American Legion. Brad Glanz will be the guest speaker, and a free-will chicken dinner will be served after the ceremony.
- ✦ **BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN** – Each year from Mother's Day to Father's Day, the CPC Women's Health Resource (a local Christian pregnancy help center) collects change in baby bottles to support their mission sharing the Gospel and helping families in Northwest Ohio. If you'd like to participate, you may take a bottle from the Narthex table to fill in the coming weeks and return it to the box or to the church office.

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Thought for the Week...

The Spirit who came at Pentecost still gives faith, life, and courage to Christ's Church today.