

St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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Pastoral Vacancy

Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church Office: 419-598-8961

School Office: 419-598-8702

Church Website: www.sjl.org

HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

- Guest Pastor: *Rev. Matthew Montgomery*
- Order of Service: *Displayed on the Screens*
- Hymns: “**Borning Cry**” ~ 507 ~ 506 ~ 940 ~ 953

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to every member, friend, and visitor. You have entered this church, not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. May your worship here enable you to see your Savior more clearly and follow Him more nearly. Please fill out a blue pew card from the rack in front of you, and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave today. If you have no church home of your own, we invite you to join the St. John family.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Elaine Buenger *Organist* ✠ Owen Stier, Brynnleigh Kehnast *Acolytes* ✠
✠ Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel *Ushers* ✠
✠ Deb Von Deylen, Elaine Buenger, Teresa Weller, Pat Mahnke *Altar Guild* ✠

A WELCOME ADDITION TO GOD'S FAMILY! – This morning we are thrilled to welcome *George Mitchell Hogrefe*, infant son of *Mitchell & Alison Hogrefe*, to God's family. George was born on February 13th, 2026, in Wauseon. George will be baptized at the start of the service this morning by Rev. Montgomery. Welcome, little George!



ALTAR FLOWERS are presented this morning in honor of Don and Karan Niebergall's 58th wedding anniversary. We praise God for the time they've shared and ask His blessings on the time to come!

VICAR INSTALLATION SERVICE – Next Sunday, June 7th, we will formally welcome *Vicar Jonathan Pietrowski* to his role at St. John. He will be installed during the worship service, and Church Council will host a reception for him and his family in the Fellowship Hall following the service. Please join us as we give a warm St. John welcome to the Pietrowskis!

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; "the LAMP"
Mon.	5:15 PM	School Board Meeting
Thurs.	9:30 AM	Infant/Toddler Play Date
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 1:00 PM	Communion Service and Installation of Vicar Jonathan Pietrowski Reception for Vicar Pietrowski and Family <i>Gerald BusyFingers</i> 4-H Meeting

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

VICAR CONTACT INFORMATION – Vicar Jon will be utilizing the pastor@sjl.org email address. He can be contacted there, through the church office line, or by his cell at 419-309-2420.

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*

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 05/24/2026	\$5,925.00	\$230.00	\$185.00

Attendance: 157

Memorials given in honor of *LaVern Volkman* - \$785 to the St. John Memorial Fund - Stewardship

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* - 419-579-0918)

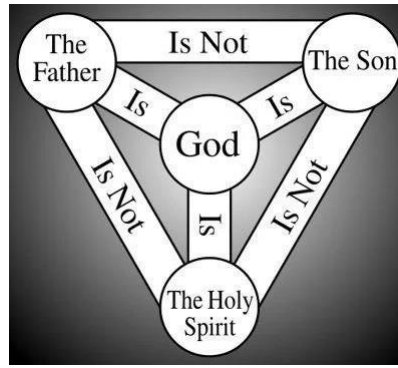
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS – Leah Saylor is in the church office on Wednesdays and Thursdays from around 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Bulletin submissions are due by 9 a.m. on Wednesdays to churchsecretary@sjl.org or 419-598-8961.

SUNDAY SCHOOL & "THE LAMP" will break for the Summer and meet again after Labor Day.

PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR: HOLY TRINITY

SUNDAY – In today’s readings, we hear that *The Holy Triune God Recreates Us in the Image and Likeness of Christ Jesus*.

The holy Triune God “created the heavens and the earth,” and “behold, it was very good” (Gen. 1:1, 31). However, after Adam and Eve fell into sin and plunged God’s good creation into decay and death, the Son of God would be “delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God” to be “crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men” (Acts 2:23). As Jesus “received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:33), He also raises up all the baptized and pours out the Spirit upon them through the preaching of His Gospel. He sends out His apostles to “make disciples of all nations” by “baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” and “teaching them to observe all that [He has] commanded” (Matt. 28:19–20). Through such baptizing and teaching — Gospel and Sacraments — the holy Triune God recreates us in the image and likeness of His Incarnate Son, Jesus, the Christ, and behold, it is “very good” (Gen. 1:31).



ORDER OF SERVICE – A printed order of service is not included in today’s bulletin. The full liturgy, hymns, and readings will be displayed on the sanctuary screens as usual. We hope this may help simplify preparation and reduce paper usage while still allowing everyone to follow the service comfortably. A significant portion of today’s service for Holy Trinity Sunday involves the responsive reading of the Athanasian Creed. This will be displayed on the screens, and the creed may also be found on LSB page 319.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES – Vicar Jonathan Pietrowski will now be the one to lead upcoming new member classes. Dates and times have not yet been set, as he would like to try to accommodate the interested individuals’ schedules, but we are looking to start mid to late June. If you have already been in contact with Vicar Jon or an elder about the classes, stay tuned! If you have not been in contact but are interested, please let Leah in the church office know, so that you can get involved in the scheduling discussion. We will make an announcement when dates and times get set, so anyone who wants to join in can (the classes will be open to new members and also to current members who want a refresher!).

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES – We are happy to announce that Thursday Evening Worship services will resume for the summer on June 11th at 7 p.m. These services will be held in the sanctuary in order to utilize both the organ and the screens. Each Thursday evening service will be the same as the coming Sunday’s morning service.

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 this 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.

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 board for a flyer with more information. 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. **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.

SEEKING YARD WORK HELP – *Ruth Moll* is looking for someone who would kindly be willing to help take care of lawn mowing and yard work at her home on CR-T. Please call her (no texting or messages) at 419-276-7078 if you are interested in helping her out.

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.

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 LWML SUMMER QUARTERLY is available in the tract rack in the Narthex. Ladies, help yourselves!

AREA EVENTS

✦ **BLOOD DRIVE** – Mon., June 8th from noon – 6 p.m. at the Ridgeville American Legion. Walk-ins welcome or you can call 1-800-RED CROSS to schedule an appointment.

✦ **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...

If you are wearing a spirit of heaviness, try on a garment of praise!