



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

June 7, 2026

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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

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- Guest Pastor: *Rev. Matthew Montgomery*
- Order of Service: Divine Service Setting 4 *LSB pg. 203*
- Hymns: 728 ~ 782 ~ Communion: 618, 621, 611 ~ 861

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

- ✠ Sharon Damman *Organist* ✠ Stryker Oyer, Kenlee Coressel *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Joe Badenhop, Nick Sonnenberg *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop *Altar Guild* ✠

VICAR INSTALLATION SERVICE – Today we formally welcome *Vicar Jonathan Pietrowski* to his role at St. John. *Rev. Aaron Bueltmann* will perform the Vicar installation at the beginning of today's service, and Church Council will host a reception for Vicar and his family in the Fellowship Hall following the service. A warm and blessed welcome to the Pietrowskis!

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES – We are happy to announce that Thursday Evening Worship services will resume for the summer this Thursday, June 11th at 7 p.m. This service 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.

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

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	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
Mon.	6:00 PM	Church Council Meeting
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Worship Service
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship Service with Communion Following the Service Adult Bible Study

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*
- ❖ *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 05/31/2026	\$4,570.00	\$165.00	\$200.00

Attendance: 146

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.

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.

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!).

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 and registration. 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.

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.

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

THE OHIO DISTRICT LCMS is seeking to fill the position of Chief Financial Officer. This is a full-time, professional position (non-called). The position reports to the Ohio District Board of Directors. The job description and contact information are on the Narthex table for anyone interested.

WANTED – JAVA JOY HOSTS – We are looking for a few people or groups of people to host JAVA JOY on the second Sundays of the remaining months of 2026. Please remember that hosting does not need to cost you anything, and hosting guidelines are available with the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Thank you to those who provide this service for the fellowship and enjoyment of your church family.

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.



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

Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School



GOOD NEWS FOR PRESCHOOL FAMILIES!! – St. John Preschool has been awarded grant funding to help cover program costs for the 2026–27 school year. Thanks to this support, tuition will be significantly reduced for enrolled preschoolers. We are grateful for this opportunity to make our preschool more affordable for families while continuing to provide a high-quality early childhood education. *Depending on final enrollment numbers, families may have little to no tuition cost!* Applications will be available soon. This opportunity is available to both families already enrolled and to those new to St. John. For more information about our school, enrollment, or to schedule a tour, contact our Principal, Miss Tracy Germann, at tgermann@sjl.org. Please share this opportunity with anyone you think may be interested!

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.

NOW HIRING – St. John Lutheran School is looking for a passionate and dedicated **3rd Grade Teacher** as well as a one-day-a-week **Music 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 Tracy Germann at tgermann@sjl.org.

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.
- ✦ **SAVE THE DATE!** The 18th Annual Stephanie Kossow Memorial Golf Outing will be held at White Pines Golf Course on Sat., July 25th. Forms are available on the Narthex table.
- ✦ **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. **Please return any bottles to the box on the Narthex table by this coming Thursday, June 11th, if you'd like your donations delivered with the rest of the church's.**

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Thought for the Week...

Where God has placed you, there He gives you neighbors to love and serve.

"Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him."

1 Corinthians 7:17