



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

June 14, 2026

VOL. 92

NO. 24

Vicar Jonathan Pietrowski
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church Office: 419-598-8961
School Office: 419-598-8702
Church Website: www.sjl.org

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Order of Service: Matins (LSB pg. 219)

- Opening Hymn: **826 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying**
- Invocation and Confession of Sins
- Opening Versicles *stand* (LSB pg. 219)
- Venite (LSB pg. 220)
- Holy Scripture Readings *Psalm spoken responsively*
- Responsory (LSB pg. 221)
- Office Hymn: **571 God Loved the World So that He Gave**
- Sermon: *Vicar Jonathan Pietrowski*
- Canticle (LSB pg. 223)
- Offering
- Prayer with Kyrie (LSB pg. 227)
- Benedicamus and Benediction (LSB pg. 228)
- Closing Hymn: **830 Spread the Reign of God the Lord**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*Now is the hour of worship.
God speaks to us, and we
listen and respond with our
hymns, prayers, and praises.
Together we bless the Lord
who saves us and keeps us in
His faithful flock. He is the
God of Grace and the God of
Glory. If you are our guest
today, please fill out the blue
Rite of Fellowship card from
the pew rack in front of you,
and drop it in the baskets at
the doors as you leave.*



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Elaine Buenger *Organist* ✠ Owen Stier, Zac Kramer *Acolytes* ✠
✠ Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Joe Badenhop, Nick Sonnenberg *Ushers* ✠
✠ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop *Altar Guild* ✠

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.

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.

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

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*
- ❖ *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 06/07/2026	\$10,239.95	\$240.00	\$485.00

Attendance: 187

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)

OPPORTUNITY FOR 2026-27 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 higher education who live in the State of Ohio. Information is on the Narthex table. **The deadline for complete application submission is June 30th.**

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.

WELCOME, VICAR JON AND FAMILY! – Last Sunday, we formally welcomed *Vicar Jon Pietrowski* to his role at St. John. Going forward, he will have open office hours at St. John each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. As a Convertible Vicar, he will serve our congregation under the supervision of *Rev. Aaron Bueltmann* of St. John Stryker. Vicar Jon may be contacted for prayer requests, counsel, or other matters you would typically bring to your pastor.

Note: As we transition from weekly guest pastors to the consistent leadership of Vicar Jon, we ask for your patience and prayers during this adjustment period. Over the coming weeks, you may notice a few changes to our services, bulletin formats, and other routines as we learn to work together and settle into new patterns of ministry. Thank you for your grace, patience, and support during this exciting new chapter in the life of our congregation.

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES – We are happy to announce that Thursday Evening Worship services have resumed for the summer each Thursday at 7 p.m. Services will be held in the sanctuary. Each Thursday evening service will be the same as the coming Sunday's morning service with one exception: on communion weeks, we will have a guest Pastor to ensure that communion can be served on the Thursdays prior to communion Sundays.

This coming Thursday, June 18th, **Pastor Kern** will be leading the Thursday Service at St. John Freedom, while Vicar Pietrowski travels to lead the service at St. John Stryker (*St. John Stryker is on a 2nd and 4th Sunday Communion schedule, opposite of St. John Freedom*).

NEW MEMBER CLASSES – Vicar Jon will be leading New Member Classes beginning on **Sunday, June 28th**, during the Adult Bible Study hour following the service (around 10:15 a.m.). The classes will run for **ten weeks** and are open to everyone in the congregation—both those exploring new membership and also current members who would enjoy a refresher. If you are interested in the class but unable to attend on a Sunday morning, please contact Vicar Jon; he is happy to arrange a mid-week catch-up session.

To help families participate, **we hope to offer nursery care during the class**. If you would be willing to volunteer to watch the participants' children, there is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex table.

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.

TROPICAL TREK VBS – **Registration is open for Vacation Bible School** scheduled for the week of **July 13th-17th**. The theme this year is “*Tropical Trek: Jesus Comes to Seek and Save.*” *Our world is filled with exciting things to explore and enjoy. But there are also challenges and hardships we face along the way. Our loving and powerful God desires to help us. He seeks us out and leads us to faith. We can trust in Him! At Tropical Trek, kids will learn how Jesus seeks them and all people. He is the Son of Man, who came to seek and to save the lost!*



See the bulletin board for a flyer with more information and registration link. VBS coordinator *Andrea Oyer* can be contacted at oyerandrea@gmail.com or (419) 966-1806 with any questions.

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.

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.

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.



From the **Class**room 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.

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Thought for the Week...

The Lord who has shown us mercy also sends us to show mercy.