



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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Vicar Jonathan Pietrowski
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Order of Service: Divine Service Setting IV LSB pg. 203

- Opening Hymn: **725 Children of the Heavenly Father**
- Confession and Absolution
- Introit
- Kyrie
- **Gloria in Excelsis** LSB pg. 204
- Salutation and Collect of the Day
- Holy Scripture Readings *Psalm spoken responsively*
- Nicene Creed
- Hymn of the Day: **659 Lord of Our Life** (to the tune of LSB 439)
- Sermon: *Vicar Jonathan Pietrowski*
- Prayer of the Church
- Offering
- Service of the Sacrament *beginning on LSB pg. 208*
- Distribution Hymns: **642 O Living Bread from Heaven;**
602 The Gifts Christ Freely Gives
- Benedicamus and Benediction *LSB pg. 212*
- Closing Hymn: **685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus**

WELCOME VISITORS!

Happy Father's Day!... a special, grateful welcome to our visitors and all fathers this morning. We bless and cherish the strong, reliable and confident men who provide for their families in various ways. If you are visiting with us this morning, please fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you. Simply drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave today. If you do not have a local church home, we extend a warm invitation to become a part of our church family.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Elaine Buenger *Organist* ✠ Piper Speiser, Alana Naveau *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Joe Badenhop, Nick Sonnenberg *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop *Altar Guild* ✠

THANK YOU, REV. MONTGOMERY! – This morning is *Rev. Matthew Montgomery's* last official Sunday with us now that Vicar Jon has been installed. As a show of gratitude for the many weeks he filled our pulpit, led Bible studies, and baptized several new little members, the church council will be hosting a Java Joy reception. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after the service as we thank Rev. Montgomery for his faithful service among us!

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM	Communion Service
	10:15 AM	<i>Java Joy</i> Reception for Rev. Matthew Montgomery Adult Bible Study
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread from Heaven</i> Food Pantry Distribution
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Worship Service
Sun.	9:00 AM	Worship Service
	10:15 AM	New Member Class (open to all!)
	1:00 PM	<i>Gerald BusyFingers</i> 4-H Meeting

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* for health concerns
- ❖ *Nancy Nemoyer* and *Larry Mahnke* recovering from heart procedures
- ❖ *Rev. Ken Schroeder* in Hospice Care, as he prepares to be joined with his Lord
- ❖ 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 06/14/2026	\$14,242.00	\$752.00	\$208.00

Attendance: 162

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.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS – Vicar Jon will have open office hours at St. John each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. He 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. Vicar Jon may be contacted for prayer requests, counsel, or other matters you would typically bring to your pastor. Secretary 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.

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 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.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES – Vicar Jon will be leading New Member Classes beginning next **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 midweek 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.

TROPICAL TREK VBS – Registration is still open for Vacation Bible School scheduled for the week of **July 13th-17th** from 9-11:30 a.m. The theme 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 Narthex table 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.

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.

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.

‘BREAD FROM HEAVEN’ will have its monthly food distribution on Monday at 5:30 p.m. Donations of non-perishable food 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 questions can be directed to Denny Damman at 419-966-2687.



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 grade 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...

Today we thank God for fathers who lead with humility, serve with love, and point their families to Christ.