

St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

June 28, 2026

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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 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Order of Service: Prayer and Preaching *LSB pg. 260*

- Opening Hymn: **584 Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing**
- Confession and Absolution *LSB pg. 151*
- Opening Versicles *LSB pg. 260*
- Old Testament Canticle *LSB pg. 261*
- Holy Scripture Readings *Psalms spoken responsively*
- Common Responsory
- Catechism *LSB pg. 264* and Responsive Readings of the First Three Commandments *LSB pg. 321*
- Hymn of the Day: **848 Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service**
- Sermon: *Vicar Jonathan Pietrowski*
- Offering
- Prayers of the Church
- New Testament Canticle *LSB pg. 266*
- Benedicamus and Benediction
- Closing Hymn: **655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word**

WELCOME VISITORS!

Welcome in the name of the Lord. We pray that through this time of stillness, song, prayer, and proclamation, you may experience the Spirit of God at work in your life. 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 this morning. If you do not have a local church home, we extend a warm invitation to become a part of St. John. Talk to Vicar Jon about joining us.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Bethann Gerken *Pianist* ✠ Jovi Sonnenberg, Brynnleigh Kehnast *Acolytes* ✠
✠ Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Joe Badenhop, Nick Sonnenberg *Ushers* ✠
✠ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop *Altar Guild* ✠

WOMEN OF FREEDOM SERVICE PROJECT – This Tuesday, **June 30th**, from **10 a.m. to noon**, the ladies will gather in the North end of the Fellowship Hall for their summer service project. They will be making small, fleece pillows for local Fire, Rescue, Sheriff and Police Departments to give to children in crisis situations. All are welcome to come; no sewing skills needed - bring shears (scissors) and a willing spirit. Pizza and ice cream will be provided for lunch!

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: <https://74058984.view-events.com>

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 1:00 PM	Worship Service New Member Class (open to all!) - @ the Youth and Family Center <i>Gerald BusyFingers</i> 4-H Meeting
Tues.	10:00 AM	Women of Freedom Service Project
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Worship Service
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Communion Service New Member Class (open to all!)

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
- ❖ 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
<u>Rec'd 06/21/2026</u>	\$7,551.00	\$225.00	\$205.00

Attendance: 160 (126 Sun. / 34 Thurs.)

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)

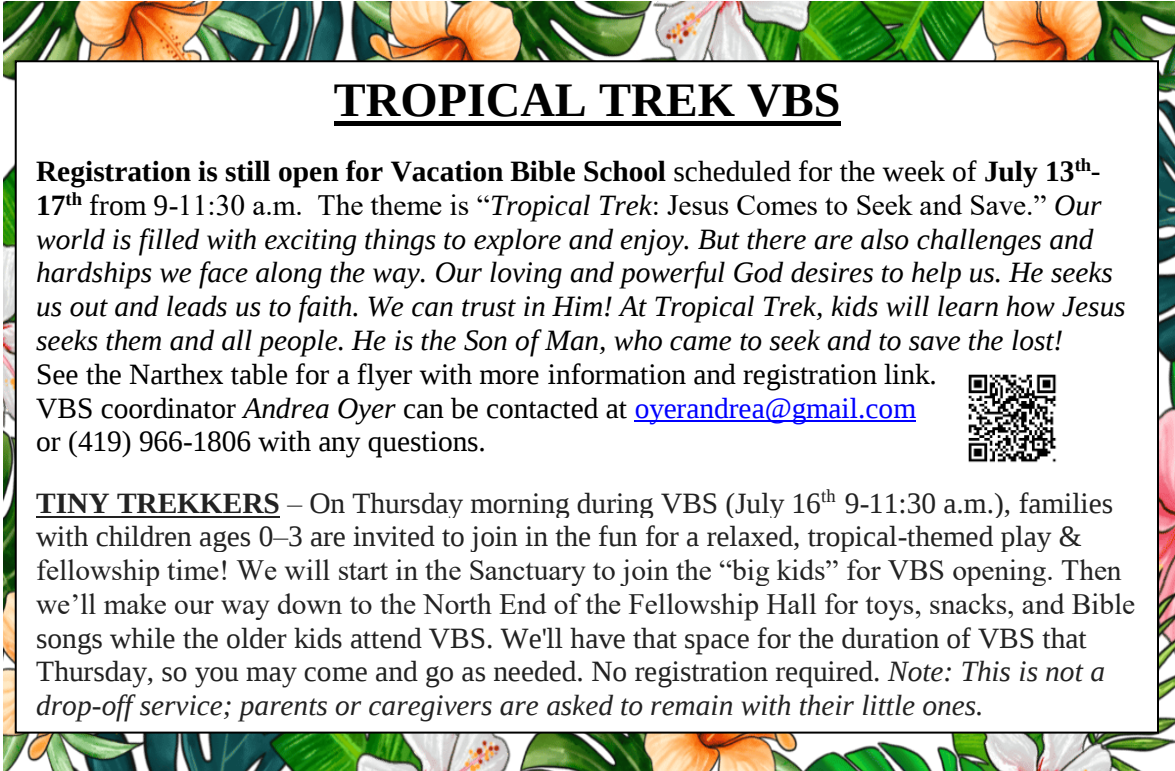
THE LWML SUMMER QUARTERLY is available in the tract rack in the Narthex. Ladies, help yourselves!

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: 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.*

REV. KENNETH SCHROEDER was called home to his Lord and Savior on June 20th. He passed away peacefully, surrounded by loving family. Rev. Schroeder spent the majority of his pastoral career here at St. John. For those wishing to send sympathy cards, they may be addressed to *Beppie Schroeder* at 662 Willow Lane Frankenmuth, MI 48734.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES – Vicar Jon will be leading New Member Classes beginning **today, June 28th**, during the Adult Bible Study hour following the service. The first class will meet across the road at the Youth and Family Center this morning. 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 classes**. 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.



TINY TREKKERS – On Thursday morning during VBS (July 16th 9-11:30 a.m.), families with children ages 0–3 are invited to join in the fun for a relaxed, tropical-themed play & fellowship time! We will start in the Sanctuary to join the “big kids” for VBS opening. Then we’ll make our way down to the North End of the Fellowship Hall for toys, snacks, and Bible songs while the older kids attend VBS. We’ll have that space for the duration of VBS that Thursday, so you may come and go as needed. No registration required. *Note: This is not a drop-off service; parents or caregivers are asked to remain with their little ones.*

THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES – We are happy to announce that Thursday services have resumed for the summer on Thursdays at 7 p.m. Each Thursday evening service will be held in the sanctuary and will be the same as the coming Sunday’s morning service. On communion weeks, we will have a guest Pastor to ensure that Communion can be served on the Thursdays prior to communion Sundays. *Pastor Kern* will be back at St. John this Thurs., July 2nd!

HANDCRAFTED CROSS – We are seeking a new home for a stone cross that was handcrafted by Mr. Lowell Petzoldt. As we reorganize in preparation for the coming school year, we would love to see this piece enjoyed and appreciated by someone in our church family. If you are interested or have a use for it, please contact the church office.

PORTALS OF PRAYER for July, August, and September are available on the desk in the Narthex. My *Devotion* booklets for kids are also available!

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.

WEDDING FACILITATOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY – The elders are seeking a few people to volunteer as “Wedding Facilitators” to assist at St. John weddings and rehearsals. More information and a sign-up sheet can be found on the Narthex table.



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 grades 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.

ANOTHER VBS OPPORTUNITY – St. Peter Lutheran Church in Florida (K980 County Road 17D) has extended an invitation to their Vacation Bible School for any families interested! It will run July 6th-9th 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. A flyer with sign-up information is on the Narthex table.

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Thought for the Week...

What is right is not always popular, and what is popular is not always right.