



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

July 5, 2026

VOL. 92

Vicar Jonathan Pietrowski
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

NO. 27

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

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

- Opening Hymn: **605 Father Welcomes**
- Confession and Absolution
- Introit
- Kyrie
- **Gloria in Excelsis** *LSB pg. 204*
- Salutation and Collect of the Day
- Holy Scripture Readings
- Nicene Creed
- Hymn of the Day: **331 The Advent of Our King**
- Sermon: *Vicar Jonathan Pietrowski*
- Prayer of the Church
- Offering
- Service of the Sacrament *beginning on LSB pg. 208*
- Distribution Hymns: **622 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared** (interlude between verses 1-4 and 5-8);
684 Come unto Me, Ye Weary
- Benedicamus and Benediction *LSB pg. 212*
- Closing Hymn: **966 Before You, Lord, We Bow**

WELCOME VISITORS!

You are among Christian friends today. We all have come to the Lord's House to hear what He has to say and to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. We pray that His grace will touch and move you. If you are a visitor, we ask that you fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack, and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave this morning. Your presence is a blessing.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

✠ Sharon Damman *Organist* ✠ Sadie Bickel, Emma Damman *Acolytes* ✠
✠ Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop *Ushers* ✠
✠ Deb Wachtman, Nancy Short, Kathy Gruenhagen *Altar Guild* ✠

A NEW LITTLE BLESSING – Todd and Chris Hesterman are excited to share that they have been blessed with a new grandson! *Ira Obadiah David Hesterman* was born to Joe and Bailey (and big brother Tyland) on June 25th.

PORTALS OF PRAYER for July, August, and September are available on the desk in the Narthex. My *Devotion* booklets for kids are also available. Please help yourself, and take one to share!

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Communion Service New Member Class (open to all!)
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Worship Service
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship Service with Communion following the 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
- ❖ *Zoe Pietrowski* as she recovers from a concussion
- ❖ 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 06/28/2026	\$10,930.00	\$275.00	\$195.00

Attendance: 148 (114 Sun. / 34 Thurs.)

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.*

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*)

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.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES – Vicar Jon is leading New Member Classes in the Fellowship Hall during the Adult Bible Study hour following the service. The classes run Sundays June 28th to August 30th 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 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.

THANK YOU, LADIES! – The Lindas (*Meyer and Riefers*) want to extend a **great big thank you** to all the ladies who joined in the service project on Tuesday. Together they made over 55 pillows for local Police, Fire & Rescue, and Sheriff departments to distribute to children in crisis. It was a lot of fun and such a blessing to get together in fellowship and service!

TROPICAL TREK VBS

Registration is still open for Vacation Bible School scheduled for next week **July 13th-17th** from 9-11:30 a.m.

Come, and invite your friends! 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.*

LOOKING FOR A SUMMER READ? – Check out the books available in the church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary. The library has something for everyone— devotionals, individual book-of-the-Bible studies and guides, reference books, and books that cover a variety of topics like marriage/parenting, mission work, cultural issues, and more. The books in this library have been screened to ensure that they are true to the Word of God and can be trusted to be theologically sound. To borrow a book, just take it with you, and then return it to the basket when you’ve finished reading.

HANDCRAFTED CROSS – We are seeking a new home for a stone cross that was handcrafted by Mr. Lowell Petzoldt. We would love to see this piece enjoyed by someone in our church family. If you'd like to pick it up, it is located on the East side of the dividing wall in the Fellowship Hall.

THE LWML SUMMER QUARTERLY is available in the tract rack in the Narthex.

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.



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

Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School



GOOD NEWS FOR PRESCHOOL FAMILIES!! – For the 2026–2027 school year, grant funding is available to cover the **full cost** of Preschool and Pre-K tuition for enrolled students. This unique opportunity allows families to experience the individualized attention, close-knit community, and intentional kindergarten preparation that define a St. John education at no cost to their family. *There are no income requirements or eligibility restrictions. ~ Funding is available on a first come, first served basis and subject to availability. ~ This funding is only available to Preschool and Pre-K enrolled students.*

Applications are available on the Narthex table. 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 – St. John Lutheran K-7th grades are also 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. *With the Ohio EdChoice program, many students are eligible to attend St. John with little to no tuition cost.*

AREA EVENTS

- ✦ **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.
- ✦ **HOMEMADE ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND AMERICA 250 CELEBRATION** on Friday, July 17th 5:30-7 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Ridgeville. A flyer with details is on the bulletin board.

✂ ✂ ✂

Thought for the Week...

As we celebrate our nation this weekend, we especially rejoice that we are free to proclaim the freedom Christ has won for all who trust in Him.