



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 EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

- Opening Hymn: **827 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling**
- Confession and Absolution
- Introit
- Kyrie
- **Gloria in Excelsis** *LSB* pg. 204
- Salutation and Collect of the Day
- Holy Scripture Readings *Psalm chanted responsively*
- Nicene Creed
- Hymn of the Day: **772 In Holy Conversation**
- Sermon: "The Scope of God's Redemption" Vicar Jon Pietrowski
- Prayer of the Church
- Offering
- Service of the Sacrament *beginning on* *LSB* pg. 208
- Distribution Hymns: **617 O Lord, We Praise Thee;**
- **636 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness**
- Benedicamus and Benediction *LSB* pg. 212
- Closing Hymn: **923 Almighty Father, Bless the Word**

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

- ✠ Elaine Buenger Organist ✠ Zac Kramer, Jovi Sonnenberg Acolytes ✠
✠ Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop Ushers ✠
✠ Deb Wachtman, Nancy Short, Kathy Gruenhagen Altar Guild ✠

WELCOME, BABY BOY! – Brady and Scarlette Gerken had their baby BOY, Maverick Leo Gerken, on July 8th. They are all doing great. Larry and Krista are thrilled to be first-time grandparents. What a blessed new addition to the Gerken family. Congratulations!

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 1:00 PM	Communion Service New Member Class (open to all!) Gerald BusyFingers 4-H Meeting
Tues.	7:00 PM	Women of Freedom Meeting
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Worship Service
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship 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 07/12/2026	\$7,003.00	\$257.00	\$208.00

Attendance: 132

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)

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

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 from 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.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM MEETING – The July meeting of the *Women of Freedom* is this Tuesday, the 21st, @ 7 p.m. Bible study in the Quarterly, page 18. Walk-ins welcome!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – VBS 2026 was a huge success! Over 70 students joined for the *Tropical Trek* to learn how Jesus comes to seek and save! There are photos from each day on the St. John School Facebook page if you'd like to take a look at some of the fun.

A few special THANK YOUS go to:



- The VBS Team: *Andrea Oyer* heading it up; *Vicar Jon and family* opening/closing and involvement; *Kelly Sonnenberg* engaging the students with the Bible stories; *Megan Bostelman* leading us in song and activities; *Brittney Hughes* leading our youngest explorers each day; *Josh & Alicia Wakefield* with the fun-filled games; and all of our adult and jr./high school helpers.
- St. John church members for their donations and prayers of support as we enjoyed a faith-filled week of fun.
- The awesome students who came and to the parents who faithfully sent their children to learn about Jesus!

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.

LCMS NATIONAL CONVENTION – The 69th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is happening now, July 18–23, at the Phoenix Convention Center in Arizona. The convention theme is "**Christ Is Risen Indeed.**" Representatives from across the Synod will gather for worship, fellowship, and to prayerfully consider resolutions concerning the work and witness of the LCMS. A workbook, schedule, livestream information, and more are available at lcms.org/convention/national for those interested in following along.

LAST CHANCE! – 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.

LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BULLETINS are always available on the table in the narthex. Feel free to grab them to use in church or to take home after the service.

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 **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. 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 – Grades K-7 at St. John are also accepting enrollment applications for the coming 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.*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – Our prayer is that our school families are soaking up the sun and enjoying their summer. Looking ahead, here are a few “save the dates”:

- **Sun., August 23rd** - “Blessing of the Backpacks” and Back to School Fellowship Breakfast
- **Wed., August 26th** - First Day of School K-7th with opening Chapel at 8:35
- **Tues., September 8th** - First Day of 4 y/o Preschool
- **Wed., September 9th** - First Day of 3 y/o Preschool

AREA EVENTS

- ✦ **THE 18th ANNUAL Stephanie Kossow Memorial Golf Outing** will be held at White Pines Golf Course this Saturday, July 25th. Forms are available on the Narthex table.
- ✦ **COMMUNITY CONCERT AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL** on Saturday, July 25th at St. John Defiance. Christian recording artist *Jennie Williamson* will be performing at 1:30, with games and ice cream to follow. A flyer with details is on the bulletin board.

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Thought for the Week...

To avoid drifting away, stay anchored to the Rock.