



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 NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

- Opening Hymn: **818 In Thee Is Gladness**
- Confession and Absolution *LSB pg. 151*
- Opening Versicles *LSB pg. 260*
- Old Testament Cantic *LSB pg. 261*
- Holy Scripture Readings (*Psalm chanted responsively*)
- Common Responsory
- Catechism *LSB pg. 264* and Responsive Readings of Commandments 4-6 *LSB pg. 321*
- Hymn of the Day: **573 Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee**
- Sermon: *Vicar Jon Pietrowski*
- Offering
- Prayers of the Church
- New Testament Cantic *LSB pg. 266*
- Benedicamus and Benediction
- Closing Hymn: **696 O God, My Faithful God**

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* ✠ Brynnleigh Kehnast, Piper Speiser *Acolytes* ✠
✠ Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop *Ushers* ✠
✠ Deb Wachtman, Nancy Short, Kathy Gruenhagen *Altar Guild* ✠

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.

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship Service New Member Class (open to all!)
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread from Heaven</i> Food Pantry Distribution
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
- ❖ *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 07/19/2026	\$7,900.00	\$245.00	\$879.00

Attendance: 158

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

– If you are interested in helping with St. John weddings, see the sheet on the Narthex table for more information and a sign-up form.

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!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – We are pleased to share that our VBS students collected **\$135.50** in offerings for *Orphan Grain Train*. The congregation will match that amount, bringing this year's VBS donation to **\$271.00**. God has richly provided for us, and we are grateful for the opportunity to share His love with those in need.

One final, big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make VBS 2026 such a wonderful success! More than **70 students** joined us for *Tropical Trek*, where they learned how Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Photos from each day of VBS can be found on the **St. John School Facebook page** if you would like to see some of the fun and learning that took place throughout the week.

'BREAD FROM HEAVEN' will have its monthly food distribution on Monday at 5:30 p.m. If you have donations, they may be placed in the box in the hallway next to the cry room. *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.*

SHARE THE BOUNTY – Has your garden produced a bounty of beans? A crush of cucumbers? An excess of eggplants? If you've got more than you can use, consider sharing the bounty with your friends at church. There is a table outside under the carport where you can drop off any garden produce you can't use, and you can also pick up what you can use. It's a wonderful way to share the blessing!

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.

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

ALTAR FLOWERS – Anyone who wishes to place flowers on the altar for Sunday worship, please contact *Nancy Glaser* at 419-906-0963. **The price for flowers through the Women of Freedom is now \$30.00.** Checks are payable to *Women of Freedom*. Please call Nancy either way; if you would like the Women of Freedom to order the flowers or if you are going to take care of ordering the flowers yourself. Please also contact the church office with any note to be put in the bulletin.

IF YOU'RE EVER IN A PINCH and could use a little help, the ***Good Neighbor Fund*** is there to assist you too! Please don't be bashful about asking – everything is strictly confidential. Just give the church office a call, and we'll see what we can do.

ST. JOHN WEBSITE – Did you know you can listen to Vicar Jon's sermons and access current and past bulletins online? Just click on "St. John YouTube Channel" or "Worship Service Resources" on the home page of sjl.org.



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.*

NEW 3RD GRADE TEACHER – We are excited to announce the hiring of our new third-grade teacher. *Mrs. Crystal Pleasant* will be joining our team this school year. She is in our prayers as she begins serving our students and school community. We are thankful that God has provided another caring Christian educator to help nurture our students academically and spiritually.

NOW HIRING – St. John Lutheran School is looking for a **Music Teacher** to join our team. This position would be just one day each week during the school year! 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 Germann at tgermann@sjl.org.

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.

AREA EVENTS

♦ **Pre-Sale Drive-Thru BBQ Rib Meal by Ridgeville Fire & Rescue** -- Thursday, August 27th, 3 - 7 p.m. Full Rack - \$30.00; Half Rack - \$20.00 plus two sides. **Tickets must be purchased in advance – deadline is August 16 – and must be presented at time of pick-up.** For tickets, contact Eric Riefers at 419-966-0227, Steven Bostelman at 419-592-6420, Lucas Hesterman at 419-388-3453, or any Department member.

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Thought for the Week...

No bad news can outweigh the Good News.