



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

August 2, 2026

VOL. 92

Vicar Jonathan Pietrowski
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

NO. 31

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

THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

- Baptismal Hymn: **“Borning Cry”** Projected
- Baptism of Maverick Leo Gerken LSB pg. 268
- Opening Hymn: **936 Sing Praise to the God of Israel**
- Introit, Kyrie, and **Gloria in Excelsis** LSB pg. 204
- Salutation and Collect of the Day
- Holy Scripture Readings *Psalm chanted responsively*
- Hymn of the Day: **642 O Living Bread from Heaven**
- Sermon: “Praise God for Creation and New Creation - Psalm 136” Vicar Jon Pietrowski
- Prayer of the Church
- Offering
- Service of the Sacrament *beginning on LSB pg. 208*
- Distribution Hymns: **629 What Is This Bread;**
“Invited, Lord, by Boundless Grace” (inserted)
- Benedicamus and Benediction LSB pg. 212
- Closing Hymn: **924 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing**

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 ✠ Alana Naveau, Piper Speiser Acolytes ✠
✠ Dave Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers Ushers ✠
✠ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow Altar Guild ✠

PARDON OUR DUST – Please use the east entry doors under the carport to enter the building until further notice. In preparation for the coming school year, there is much work being done on the school side of the building. One major project right now is the tile flooring in the hallway by the classrooms. The floor where the tiles are removed gets quite sticky, and we do not want that material tracked anywhere throughout the building. Please be mindful of any signage to “keep off” or “do not enter.” Thank you!



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 1:00 PM	Worship Service with Communion Following New Member Class (open to all!) <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
- ❖ *Zoe Pietrowski* as she recovers from a concussion
- ❖ *Ruth Moll*, *Kathy Moll* and family mourning the recent passing of *Wes Moll*
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson*, *Jason Rohrs*, *Jordan Lange*, *Joshua*, and *Kyle*

FINANCIAL FACTS:

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
<u>Rec'd 07/26/2026</u>	<i>to be published after end-of-month financials are processed</i>		
<u>Gifts in memory of Robert Stockman:</u> \$175.00			

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 can be contacted at pastor@sjl.org, through the church office line, or by his cell at 419-309-2420. 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.

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)

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!

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!

ALTAR FLOWERS this morning are placed by the grandparents and great-grandparents of *Maverick Leo Gerken* in celebration of his Baptism. Maverick was born to *Brady and Scarlette Gerken* on July 8, 2026. This morning, we rejoice to witness God welcoming Maverick into His family through the gift of Holy Baptism, and we are blessed to welcome him into the family of faith here at St. John. Rev. Aaron Bueltmann will administer this Sacrament at the beginning of the service. Maverick's sponsors are *Gavin Gerken* and *Emersyn Gerken*. God's blessings on little Maverick!



MORE REASON TO REJOICE – We also rejoice to announce that *Trevor Reece Badenhop*, son of *Logan and Emma (nee Kuhlman) Badenhop*, was baptized by Rev. Aaron Bueltmann on Thursday, July 30th. He was born May 1, 2025. His sponsors are *Kipp and McKenzie McCann*. Welcome, welcome, Trevor!

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION – Vicar Jon plans to begin confirmation classes in September after school resumes. **If you have a student entering 6th, 7th, or 8th grade this fall, please add your contact information to the blue form on the Narthex table.** Beginning this year, confirmation instruction will include 6th graders in addition to the 7th and 8th graders. We will be in touch in the coming weeks to schedule a parent meeting and discuss the plan for this year's classes. We will also be scheduling a brief “acolyte training” for the incoming 6th and 7th graders, so they can be included on the September schedule and going forward.

CHURCH OFFICE VACATION NOTICE – The Church Secretary will be out of office the week of August 24th. Vicar Jon and the school secretary will be available as usual. **Please note that any bulletin announcements for August 23rd and/or 30th will be due by 9 a.m. on Wed., August 19th.**

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.

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...

Yesterday. Today. Forever. God's steadfast love endures.



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

Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School



BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSINGS AND BRUNCH! – On Sunday, Aug. 23rd, during the worship service, we will observe the “Blessing of the Backpacks” for all students returning to school, any school. Have your student bring his/her backpack for a special blessing and time of prayer for the school year. Following the service on Aug. 23rd, School Board is hosting a “Back to School Brunch” in the fellowship hall. Church and school families are invited to join! Meet staff members, tour classrooms, drop off supplies, and enjoy a delicious brunch as we kick off a new school year!

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”:

- **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

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.