



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 CO. RD. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

August 9, 2026

VOL. 92

Vicar Jonathan Pietrowski
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

NO. 32

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

THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Order of Service: Matins (LSB pg. 219)

- Opening Hymn: **715 Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me**
- Invocation and Confession of Sins (LSB pg. 151)
- Opening Versicles (LSB pg. 219)
- Venite (LSB pg. 220)
- Holy Scripture Readings
- Responsory (LSB pg. 221)
- Office Hymn: **544 O Love, How Deep**
- Sermon: "A Humble Discipleship" Vicar Jon Pietrowski
- Cantic (LSB pg. 223)
- Offering
- Prayer with Kyrie (LSB pg. 227)
- Benedicamus and Benediction (LSB pg. 228)
- Closing Hymn: **739 Precious Lord, Take My Hand**

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, Stryker Oyer *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. Even if it looks done, please still be attentive to any signage to "keep off" or "do not enter." There are a few more steps in the process before it will be ready for foot traffic. Thank you!



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 with Communion Following New Member Class (open to all!) <i>Gerald BusyFingers</i> 4-H Meeting
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Worship Service
Sat.	11:00 AM	Weldon Meienburg Funeral
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* 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:

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 07/26/2026	\$10,267.40	\$305.00	\$305.00
Attendance: 172 (45 Thurs./127 Sun.)			
Rec'd 08/02/2026	\$7,285.00	\$250.00	\$110.00
Attendance: 193 (67 Thurs./126 Sun.)			

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!

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 have a brief confirmation parent meeting on Sunday, August 23rd, after the service at the front of the sanctuary.

ACOLYTE TRAINING – Following the services on August 23rd and 30th, we will be having brief “acolyte training” sessions. **All incoming 6th and 7th graders in Confirmation are asked to attend one of these sessions.** It would be much appreciated if some of the 8th graders would stick around as well each morning to help train their new classmates. Thank you! *Vicar Jon and Miss Rettig*

GENACROSS CHAPEL – Vicar Jon will be leading chapel services at GenaCross in Napoleon every third Sunday beginning Aug. 16th at 1:30. If you would be interested in joining him as a song leader and/or a piano player, please let him know.

LWML FALL RETREAT – The LWML Fall Retreat will be held on September 19th at St. John, Stryker. Registration forms will be available soon. We are responsible for providing some of the (breakfast) refreshment items. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. The ingathering will be art supplies to create art kits for the Migrant Center. Requested items are: *Colored Pencils, 12 and 24 count; Broad tip markers, 10 count; Slim markers, 10 count; Colored Flair Pens, 10 or 12 count; Spiral Notebooks, college and wide ruled; 12-inch rulers; Ink pens, blue or black ink; Pencil Sharpeners; Coloring books for elementary age children*

THANK YOU FROM REV. AND MRS. MONTGOMERY – There is a “thank you” card from the Montgomerys displayed on the Narthex table.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES – **Note: There will be no new member class on August 23rd.** 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.

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!

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.**

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.



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!

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.*

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.

AREA EVENTS

✦ **Pre-Sale Drive-Thru BBQ Rib Meal by Ridgeville Fire & Rescue** -- Thursday, August 27th, 3 - 7 p.m. **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...

A disciple's confidence comes not from the absence of storms but from the presence of Christ.