



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 TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

- Opening Hymn: **981 To Your Temple, Lord, I Come v. 1-3**
- Confession and Absolution LSB pg. 203
- Service of the Sacrament LSB pg. 208
- Distribution Hymns: **619 Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior**
570 Just as I Am, without One Plea

Omitting the Nunc Dimittis, we will end the Service of the Sacrament with the post-communion collect on LSB pg. 212. Then we will begin the Service of the Word on LSB pg. 208, starting with hymn 981.

- Hymn: **981 To Your Temple, Lord, I Come v. 4-7**
- Kyrie LSB pg. 204
- **Gloria in Excelsis** LSB pg. 204
- Salutation and Collect of the Day
- Holy Scripture Readings *Psalm chanted responsively*
- Nicene Creed
- Hymn of the Day: **770 What a Friend We Have in Jesus**
- Sermon: "Sounds like Good News" Vicar Jon Pietrowski
- Prayer of the Church
- Offering
- Benedicamus and Benediction LSB pg. 212
- Closing Hymn: **779 Come, My Soul, with Every Care verses 1, 4-6**

WELCOME VISITORS!

Now is the hour of worship. God speaks to us, and we listen and respond with our hymns, prayers, and praises. Together we bless the Lord who saves us and keeps us in His faithful flock. He is the God of Grace and the God of Glory. If you are visiting with us, please fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack, and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Elaine Buenger *Organist* ✠ Kenlee Coressel, Brynnleigh Kehnast *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dave Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow *Altar Guild* ✠

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: <https://74058984.view-events.com>

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 10:15 AM	Worship Service with Blessing of the Backpacks Confirmation Parent Meeting and Student Acolyte Training School Board-Sponsored Pancake Breakfast; School Supply Drop-off

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* for a follow-up heart procedure this week
- ❖ *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 08/09/2026	\$5,736.00	\$367.00	\$228.00

Attendance: 179 (33 Thurs./146 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)

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!

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.

WELCOME, PASTOR AARON! – Please note that our order of service is out of its typical order this morning. Pastor Aaron from St. John, Stryker, is here to consecrate Holy Communion at the beginning of our service before heading back to Stryker for his church’s service.

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!



BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSINGS AND BRUNCH! – Next 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!



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 next 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 today, 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 are on the Narthex table. 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.*

MIDWEEK SERVICES – Our final Thursday service of the summer is scheduled for September 3rd. With school resuming soon, please remember that congregation members are always welcome to join for the School Chapel services, typically at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesdays during the school year.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES – **Note: There will be no new member class on August 23rd, and the last class will now be September 6th.** Vicar Jon is leading New Member Classes in the Fellowship Hall during the Adult Bible Study hour following the service. 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – On Sunday, September 13th, we will be having an all-ages “Sunday School Kickoff”! More details to come.

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!

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.**



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.*

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Thought for the Week...

God has made room for you. Who can you make room for?