



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 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Printed Order of Service (*ivory insert*)

- **Hymns:** 688 ~ 425 ~ 692 ~ 718
- **Sermon:** “The Cost of Discipleship” *Vicar Jon Pietrowski*

WELCOME VISITORS!

Now is the hour of worship. Christ has called us to follow Him and gives us all we need for life and salvation in Him. The treasure of life with Him is greater than any earthly treasure we could gain. 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

- ✠ Sharon Damman *Organist* ✠ Sadie Bickel, Emma Damman *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dave Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow *Altar Guild* ✠

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented this morning in honor of the wedding of *Lucas Damman* and *Kolleen Boland*. The two were married here at St. John yesterday by *Rev. Stephen Niermann*. Blessings on the new Mr. and Mrs. Damman!



ACOLYTE TRAINING – Following the service this morning, we will be having a brief “acolyte training” session. **All incoming 6th and 7th graders in Confirmation who did not attend last week are asked to attend this morning.** It would be much appreciated if some of the 8th graders would stick around to help train their new classmates. Thank you! *Vicar Jon and Miss Rettig*

NEW MEMBER CLASSES – This morning will be our last new member class! All are welcome to join in the Fellowship Hall in the Adult Bible Study hour.

THIS THURSDAY, September 3rd, will be the final Thursday service of the season.

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM	Worship Service
	10:15 AM	Acolyte Training Session
	10:15 AM	New Member Class (open to all!)
Mon.	6:00 PM	School Parent Information Night
Tues.	8:30 AM	School Chapel
Wed.		Preschool Preview Day
Thurs.		Preschool Preview Day
	7:00 PM	Final Thursday Worship Service of the Summer
Sun.	9:00 AM	Communion Service

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* following her heart procedure
- ❖ *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 08/23/2026	<i>to be published next week</i>		

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)

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.

THANK YOU

to everyone for your patience and attention to signage as the hallway floor was being redone. All entrances and hallways are again available as usual!

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF – Families, mark your calendars for a Sunday School Kickoff after the worship service on Sunday, September 13th.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES will begin on Sunday, September 13th at 6 p.m. at the Youth and Family Center. *If you have a student entering 6th, 7th, or 8th grade and you have not signed up or attended the parent meeting, please contact Vicar Jon to make sure your student gets added to the list!*

“MY DEVOTIONS” booklets for the fall season are available on the desk in the Narthex. Please help yourself to a copy for each of your children. Created for elementary-age children, *My Devotions* help build lasting devotional habits through Scripture readings, prayers, activities, and age-appropriate reflections.

GENACROSS CHAPEL – Vicar Jon will be leading chapel services at GenaCross in Napoleon every third Sunday at 1:30. If you would be interested in joining him as a song leader and/or a piano player, please let him know. The next service will be September 20th.

LWML FALL RETREAT – The LWML Fall Retreat will be held on September 19th at St. John, Stryker. Registration forms are on the Narthex table and are **due September 5th**. 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*

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!

LYF KICKOFF – Join us as we kick off a new year of Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) on Sunday, September 20th at the Youth and Family Center! Junior High (Grades 6–8) will meet at 4:00 PM, and High School (Grades 9–12) will meet at 5:00 PM. We especially look forward to welcoming our new 6th graders! Bring a friend and come join us for a great year of LYF!

LYF ICE CREAM SOCIAL – The LYF will be hosting its annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, September 27th, with serving from 10:30 AM–Noon in the Fellowship Hall. On the menu: chicken sandwiches, hot dogs, baked beans, chips, beverages, and, of course, ice cream! Freewill offering. Carryout will also be available. Proceeds help support our LYF meetings, activities, and future youth gatherings. Come enjoy lunch and ice cream while supporting the youth of our congregation!

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Thought for the Week...

Christ calls us to leave behind what keeps us from following Him.



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

Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School



Our School Theme this year is “**Rooted in Christ,**” based on Colossians 2:6-7 — *Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.*



THANK YOU to the School Board for putting on a wonderful *Back to School Brunch* last Sunday and to everyone who joined to help us kick off the 2026-2027 school year!

IMPORTANT DATES –

- **School Parent Information Night** - Mon., August 31st at 6 p.m.
- **Preschool Preview Days** – September 2nd and 3rd
- **No School on Labor Day** – Mon., September 7th
- **First Days of Preschool** – September 8th (4 y/o) and September 9th (3 y/o)

SCHOOL CHAPEL – Parents and church members are always welcome to attend our regular school chapel services on Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. throughout the school year.

STAFF UPDATES – We are happy to announce that *Mrs. Crystal Pleasant* and *Mrs. Brandi Myers* have joined our staff this school year. Mrs. Pleasant will be serving as our full-time 3rd grade teacher, and Mrs. Myers will be serving part-time as our Title 1 educator.

Mrs. Bonnie Niermann has retired from St. John School after many years of faithful service. We pray blessings for her in this new season. Mrs. Niermann wore many hats from her joyful care with students to her creative event planning. She was truly a gift to our school and will be missed in our halls!

HAWK’S COMMUNITY DAYS – Mark your calendars! Hawk’s Pizza and Drive-Thru has invited us again to be part of their Community Day fundraiser. On Saturday, Sept. 12th, Hawks will donate 10% of their sales to St. John Lutheran School.

AS A REMINDER, especially with school back in session, please help us respect our teachers’ spaces and materials. Children and visitors should be accompanied by an adult member when using the gym, classrooms, or other spaces. Please do not remove or use classroom or gym supplies without permission from the appropriate teacher. We appreciate everyone’s help in caring for these spaces and the resources entrusted to our school.