



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

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

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

- Opening Hymn: **902 Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now**
- Confession and Absolution
- Introit
- Kyrie
- **Gloria in Excelsis** LSB pg. 204
- Salutation and Collect of the Day
- Holy Scripture Readings *Psalm Chanted Responsively*
- Nicene Creed
- Hymn of the Day: **843 Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive**
- Sermon: "Greatness in the Kingdom" Matthew 18:1-14
Vicar Jonathan Pietrowski
- Prayer of the Church
- Offering
- Service of the Sacrament *beginning on* LSB pg. 208
- Distribution Hymns: **511 Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment**
915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us
- Benedicamus and Benediction LSB pg. 212
- Closing Hymn: **686 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

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* ✠ Jovi Sonnenberg, Braelyn Kehnast *Acolytes* ✠
✠ Derek Damman, Greg Kehnast, Mitchell Kruse, Todd Kruse *Ushers* ✠
✠ Karan Niebergall, Karen Lulfs, Kaylee Buchhop, Ronda Wentworth *Altar Guild* ✠

WELCOME, REV. DR. GRIME! – This morning we welcome *Rev. Dr. Paul Grime* from the Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. Rev. Dr. Grime will lead the Service of the Sacrament as well as give a special presentation following the service. He will speak in the Fellowship Hall (North End) on the 20th anniversary of the LSB. He served as the chairman of the executive committee for the hymnal beginning in the late 1990s and was one of the leaders in putting it all together. Please plan to stick around after worship and hear what he has to share!

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Communion Service Presentation by <i>Rev. Dr. Paul Grime</i>
Mon.		No School – Labor Day
Tues.	8:30 AM 6:00 PM	4 y/o Preschool First Day School Chapel Church Council Meeting
Wed.		3 y/o Preschool First Day
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 6:00 PM	Worship Service Sunday School Kickoff (all ages) Confirmation Class (6 th -8 th grades)

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
- ❖ *Zoe Pietrowski* as she recovers from a concussion
- ❖ *Brent Damman* (brother to *Carey*) suffering from back pain
- ❖ 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	\$9,942.00	\$170.00	\$475.00

Attendance: 234

Rec'd 08/30/2026

to be published next week

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF – After the worship service next Sunday, **September 13th**, we will kick off our new Sunday School year with an **all-ages gathering!** We will meet together as one group in the south hallway, in front of the gym, for opening and fellowship and to go over our plan for the coming Sunday School year.

In the weeks to follow, we will begin together as an all-ages group before splitting into age-appropriate classes for Pre-K through adults. Vicar Jon will teach the adult class. Each week will include a time of fellowship with coffee and donuts in the south hallway. We look forward to growing together in God's Word and enjoying fellowship as a church family! *Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities as the Sunday School year gets underway.*

CONFIRMATION CLASSES will begin next 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!

THURSDAY EVENING worship services have concluded for the season.

THE LWML FALL QUARTERLY IS IN! – Stop by the tract rack at the narthex table to pick up a copy of the LWML Quarterly for Fall 2026. These magazines have nice articles and Bible studies and are available to all ladies.



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.*

ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP – Memberships are now being taken for the ‘26-‘27 Athletic Booster Club. Prices are \$20.00 for a couple and \$10.00 for an individual. Make checks payable to *St. John Boosters* and turn them into the school office. Forms are available on the Narthex table or outside the office. Join today to help out the children’s athletic program.

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.

DATE CHANGE! 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. 19th**, Hawk’s 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.

AREA EVENTS

- ✦ The **CPC Women’s Health Resource** is hosting its annual Walkathon and 5K Run on Sat., September 19th from 9 a.m.-noon in Bryan. See flyer on the bulletin board for more information.
- ✦ **St. Martin’s Concert Series** continues on September 27th. See the flyer on the bulletin board!

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Thought for the Week...

This Labor Day weekend, we give thanks to God for the gift of meaningful work and the blessing of time to rest and recharge!