



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 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

- Opening Hymn: **730 *What Is the World to Me***
- Confession and Absolution
- Introit
- Kyrie
- ***Gloria in Excelsis* *LSB* pg. 204**
- Salutation and Collect of the Day
- Holy Scripture Readings *Psalms Spoken Responsively*
- Nicene Creed
- Reception of New Members (projected)
- Hymn of the Day: **826 *Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying***
- Sermon: "Fairness vs. Grace" Vicar Jon Pietrowski
- Prayer of the Church
- Offering
- Service of the Sacrament *beginning on* *LSB* pg. 208
- Distribution Hymns: 555 ***Salvation unto Us Has Come* (v. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9; *I the Lord of Sea and Sky* (inserted and projected)**
- Benedicamus and Benediction *LSB* pg. 212
- Closing Hymn: **821 *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus***

WELCOME VISITORS!

We pray that you will experience the warmth of Christian fellowship, the inspiration of worship, and the peace that comes from an awareness of God's presence. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack and drop it into the baskets at the doors as you leave today.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Elaine Buenger *Organist* ✠ Owen Stier, AJ Stier *Acolytes* ✠
✠ Derek Damman, Greg Kehnast, Mitchell Kruse, Todd Kruse *Ushers* ✠
✠ Karan Niebergall, Karen Lulfs, Kaylee Buchhop, Ronda Wentworth *Altar Guild* ✠

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION – During the service today, September 20th, we rejoice to receive 6 new members who completed the new member classes this summer with Vicar Jon: *Logan Badenhop*, *Tyler Badenhop*, *Wyatt Leatherman*, *Alison Myles*, and *Tracy and Julie Myers*. We are grateful for the time and attention they dedicated to these classes, and we are excited to formally welcome them as members of St. John!

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM	Communion Service
	10:15 AM	All-Ages Sunday School
	1:30 PM	Vicar leading Chapel Service at GenaCross
	4:00 PM	LYF Kickoff (Grades 6–8 at 4:00 PM, Grades 9–12 at 5:00 PM)
	5:30 PM	Confirmation Class (6-8 grades)
Mon.	3:15 PM	PTL Meeting
Tues.	8:30 AM	School Chapel
Sun.	9:00 AM	Worship Service
	10:30 AM	LYF Ice Cream Social
	6:00 PM	Confirmation Class (6-8 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 09/13/2026	\$5,074.00	\$197.00	\$308.00

Attendance: 151

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##**



ALTAR FLOWERS – Anyone who wishes to place flowers on the altar for Sunday worship, please contact *Nancy Glaser* at 419-906-0963. **The price for flowers through the Women of Freedom is now \$30.00.** Checks are payable to *Women of Freedom*. Please call Nancy either way, if you would like the Women of Freedom to order the flowers or if you are going to take care of ordering the flowers yourself. Please also contact the church office with any note to be put in the bulletin.

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 IS BACK! –We will meet together as one group in the south hallway, in front of the gym, for opening and fellowship before splitting into age-appropriate classes for Pre-K through adults. Vicar Jon will teach the adult class.

“Java Joy” is being phased out and replaced with a weekly time of fellowship with coffee and donuts at the start of the Sunday School hour. We look forward to growing together in God’s Word and enjoying fellowship as a church family! *There will be no Sunday School next Sunday, the 27th, so that everyone can enjoy the LYF Ice Cream Social!*

LYF KICKOFF – Join us as we kick off a new year of Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) **TODAY**, 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!

Note: there will be a meal at 5 p.m. for the 6th-8th graders, and Confirmation class will begin at 5:30 this day so that the students may attend both LYF and Confirmation class.

LYF ICE CREAM SOCIAL – The LYF will be hosting its annual Ice Cream Social next 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!

BAPTISMS LAST WEEK – On Thursday, September 17th, Wyatt Leatherman and Emeri Louise Dachenhaus were baptized here by Rev. Aaron Bueltmann from St. John Stryker. We give thanks to God for the gift of Holy Baptism and pray that He would continue to strengthen them in faith throughout their lives.

THE LATEST LWML QUARTERLIES AND ODES ARE IN! – Ladies are welcome to stop by the tract rack at the Narthex table to pick up copies.

SAVE THE DATE FOR LWML SUNDAY – We are planning on recognizing LWML Sunday on October 11th. There will be a congregational mite collection, so please begin to set aside your mites to be given on that Sunday! There will be other special aspects of the service, and the Women of Freedom will be furnishing refreshments afterward.

“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.

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!



LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT – How You Can Help If you have used **prescription or nonprescription** glasses or sunglasses in your drawers, desks, or closets, you can donate them now! Children's glasses are especially needed. Both plastic and metal frames are accepted. There is a box on the table in the narthex for the collection of these used glasses.

PROJECT CONNECT – There are free booklets in the rack in the Narthex next to the desk, many just restocked! These booklets are part of a program called “Project Connect” through the Lutheran Hour Ministries. They cover a variety of theological questions, hardships that can happen in life, and struggles with particular sins. Some titles are: “*Alzheimer’s: Facing the Loss of a Lifetime*,” “*Talking with God*,” “*Journey Through Addiction*,” “*Helping Your Child Welcome Others*,” “*Setting Priorities*,” “*Your Place in God’s Plan*,” “*Stressed but Connected*,” “*Beyond Divorce*,” “*For Better, For Worse: Maintaining a Healthy Marriage*,” “*What Is Faith in Jesus?*” and many more.

ST. JOHN CHURCH LIBRARY – Stop in and check out the growing number of books available in the church library, located in the hall next to the Sanctuary. The books in this library have been screened to ensure that they are true to the Word of God and can be trusted to be theologically sound. To borrow a book, just take it with you, and then return it to the basket when you’ve finished reading.

DIGITAL DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES – Many beloved ministry organizations, such as *the Lutheran Hour* and *Worship Anew*, make digital resources available to those who prefer to access devotions and podcasts right from their mobile devices. Search these links in your browser, or search the titles in your app store to download or learn more:

- *Connected by Lutheran Hour Ministries* Mobile App (free!): www.lhm.org/apps/
- *LWML* Mobile App (free!): www.lwml.org/app
- *KFUO Radio* Mobile App (free!): www.kfu.org/apps/
- *Worship Anew* Mobile App (free!): worshipanew.org/about/download-our-app
- *InPrayer* by CPH Mobile App (free to download, various subscriptions available for purchase in the app, including *Portals of Prayer*): www.cph.org/inprayer

IF YOU’RE EVER IN A PINCH and could use a little help, the ***Good Neighbor Fund*** is there to assist you too! Please don’t be bashful about asking – everything is strictly confidential. Just give the church office a call, and we’ll see what we can do.

AREA EVENTS

- ✦ **St. Martin’s Concert Series** continues on September 27th at 3 p.m. with a hymn festival led by Dr. David Cherwien. See the flyer on the bulletin board!
- ✦ **National “Wreaths Across America” Day will be on December 19th.** There are sponsorship forms on the Narthex table for anyone looking ahead who’d like to sponsor a wreath to be placed on a veteran’s grave marker.

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Thought for the Week...

Thank God that He doesn't give us what we deserve!



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

Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School



PRAYER PALS PREP – Our congregation-member-to-school-student “Prayer Pals” program will return for the school year soon! For those unfamiliar, each of our St. John PreK–7th grade students is assigned a St. John congregation member “Prayer Pal” who prays for him/her throughout the year, and vice versa. There are typically a few in-person events where congregation members come to the school for prayer and fellowship with their student prayer pal.

In preparation for our first event (to be announced soon!), the first order of business is to update the partners list. There are students who have left and a whole new group of preschoolers and other new students who will need a congregational partner. **There is an orange sheet on the Narthex table for anyone who does not currently have a prayer partner and would like to join the program.** We have around 15 more students than congregation members signed up, so please prayerfully consider joining in!

If you already have a student prayer pal but want to be taken off the list for whatever reason, please contact Leah at 419-598-8961. She will be in touch with everyone in the coming weeks to either confirm that your prayer pal is the same as last year or to update you on who you’ve been assigned to.

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 in to 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.

PROJECT 24 – WAMBA ARTICLE – A few years ago, you may remember that we raised money to support a Lutheran school in Wamba, Kenya. This project, called Project 24 – Wamba, gave us the opportunity not only to support the school financially, but also to build a special connection with the students there. Our students wrote letters to the children at the school in Wamba, and they wrote back to us! Through their letters, we learned about their school, their daily lives, the foods they enjoy, and so much more. It was a wonderful way for our students to learn about and connect with children from another part of the world. This year, we are especially blessed to have LCMS photojournalist *Erik Lunsford* visiting our school toward the end of September. He will be here to learn more about and share the story of our connection with Project 24 – Wamba.

In honor of this visit, our chapel offerings this month will go toward supporting the Project 24 school in Wamba. We are excited to continue this special partnership and grateful for the opportunity to help provide support and encouragement to our brothers and sisters in Christ in Kenya.

SCHOOL DISMISSAL PARKING – To help us out, please avoid parking in any of the yellow parking spots during the school dismissal time. This allows the buses and staff a better view of the parking lot at dismissal. Thank you!

Christ's Care
FOR CHILDREN:
KENYA