



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

September 27, 2026

VOL. 92

Vicar Jonathan Pietrowski
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

NO. 39

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

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Order of Service: Responsive Prayer 2 LSB pg. 285 modified

- Opening Hymn: **915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us**
- Opening Versicles
- Readings *Psalm spoken responsively*
- Sermon Hymn: **702 My Faith Looks Up to Thee**
- Sermon: "Have This Mind, But Not This Mind"
Vicar Jon Pietrowski
- Offering
- Kyrie
- Lord's Prayer
- Apostles' Creed
- Versicles
- Collect of the Day, Additional Collects, Morning Collect
- Benedicamus and Blessing
- Closing Hymn: **923 Almighty Father, Bless the Word**

WELCOME VISITORS!

You are among Christian friends today. We have all 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. 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

✠ Sharon Damman *Organist* ✠ Brayton Kruse, Lyla Myles *Acolytes* ✠
✠ Derek Damman, Greg Kehnast, Mitchell Kruse, Todd Kruse *Ushers* ✠
✠ Karan Niebergall, Karen Lulfs, Kaylee Buchhop, Ronda Wentworth *Altar Guild* ✠

REMEMBERING OUR BROTHER IN CHRIST – We give thanks to God for the life of *Stan Gerken*, who went to be with his Lord on Sunday, September 20, 2026. Stan's funeral was held here on Friday. Please keep Cathy, his children, grandchildren, and siblings in your prayers during this time of loss. Stan's confirmation verse reminds us where our hearts and hope belong: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." *Matthew 6:33*

In God's House This Week

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

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:30 AM 6:00 PM	Worship Service LYF Ice Cream Social Confirmation Class (6-8 grades)
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread from Heaven</i> Food Pantry Distribution
Tues.	8:30 AM	School Chapel
Thurs.	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Breakfast
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 6:00 PM	Communion Service All-Ages Sunday School 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*
- ❖ *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 09/20/2026	\$7,026.00	\$320.00	\$460.00

Attendance: 185

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.

LYF ICE CREAM SOCIAL – The LYF will be hosting its annual Ice Cream Social this morning, 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! **NOTE:** *There will be no Sunday School today, so that everyone can enjoy the LYF Ice Cream Social! We'll resume next Sunday after the service.*

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY – Men's Bible Breakfast is back for the season! Join us each first and third Thursday morning at 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for Men's Bible Breakfast. It's a great way to start your day! Good food, good friends, and a good Word from God!



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! You may use a container of your own, or there are extra mite boxes available on the Narthex table. There will be other special aspects of the service on the 11th, and the Women of Freedom will be furnishing refreshments afterward.

✝ *The Mite Box is based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4). Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national mission grants and implement the LWML program. Read more about mites at www.lwml.org/mites.*

PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS for Oct., Nov., and Dec., are available on the desk in the Narthex. These brief, daily devotions are available in a pocket-sized booklet and a large print version. Please take one for yourself/family, and feel free to take an extra copy to share with a friend!

“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 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!



‘BREAD FROM HEAVEN’ will have its monthly food distribution on Monday at 5:30 p.m. Donations of non-perishable food may be placed in the box in the hallway. If you are a member of St. John and could use food assistance from our food pantry, please contact the church office. We are required by the Northwestern Ohio Food Bank to keep a record with your name, but your record will be kept separate and absolutely confidential.



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.

HELP US KEEP OUR RECORDS UP-TO-DATE – Keeping contact information current can be a challenge for any organization, and the church is no exception! If you’ve recently moved, changed your phone number, or updated your email address, please let our office know by contacting Leah at 419-598-8961 or churchsecretary@sjl.org. Thank you for helping us keep our system up-to-date.

AREA EVENTS

- ✦ **St. Martin’s Concert Series** continues today, 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...

Here, the Saints win every Sunday.