



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

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THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

- Opening Hymn: **892 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come**
- Confession and Absolution
- Introit
- Kyrie
- **Gloria in Excelsis** LSB pg. 204
- Salutation and Collect of the Day
- Holy Scripture Readings *Psalm Spoken Responsively*
- Nicene Creed
- Hymn of the Day: **691 Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing**
- Sermon: "When the Truth Hurts" Vicar Jon Pietrowski
- Prayer of the Church
- Offering
- Service of the Sacrament *beginning on LSB pg. 208*
- Distribution Hymns: **774 Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy; 680 Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise**
- Benedicamus and Benediction LSB pg. 212
- Closing Hymn: **918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer**

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

- ✠ Elaine Buenger *Organist* ✠ Jovi Sonnenberg, Carly Behnfeldt *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Carey Damman Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Deb Von Deylen, Elaine Buenger, Teresa Weller, Pat Mahnke *Altar Guild* ✠

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE! – Choir practices will start back up this Wed., Oct 7th, at 7:30 p.m. We encourage anyone interested in joining the choir to come; they will be happy to see you! Thank you to Jon Buenger for directing the choir and to each choir member for sharing musical talents. They hope to see you there and invite you to bring a friend.

EAGLE NEWS: The St. John School *Eagle News* will be available today as you leave the service. Grab a copy, and see what the students have been up to!

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 6:00 PM	Communion Service All-Ages Sunday School, "the LAMP" Confirmation Class (6-8 grades)
Mon.	5:15 PM	School Board Meeting
Tues.	8:30 AM	School Chapel
Wed.	7:30 PM	Adult Choir Practice
Fri.		<i>PTL Soap Sale orders due</i>
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 6:00 PM	Worship Service with observance of LWML Sunday All-Ages Sunday School, "the LAMP" 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:

Weekly Need

Rec'd 09/27/2026

Home Fund

\$11,710.59

to be published next week

Synod & Missions

\$500.00

Building Fund

\$961.54

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##**



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.

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.

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!



SUNDAY SCHOOL – Everyone is invited to join for fellowship, refreshments, and Sunday School following the service this morning! We'll all begin together next to the gym and then break off into age groups, with Vicar Jon leading the Adult Bible study.

- **THE "LAMP"** will meet across the road at the Youth and Family Center after the service. This is a Bible study and social time group for all high schoolers and college-aged youth. Come to feed your body and your soul!

Your word is a
lamp to my feet
and a *light*
to my path.

PSALM 119:105



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.

LWML SUNDAY – We will recognize LWML Sunday next week on October 11th. There will be a congregational mite collection, so please begin to set aside your mites! 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, 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.*

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.

LADIES, SAVE ANOTHER DATE! – The annual Fall LWML Christian Life workshop will be held on Saturday morning of November 7th at Emmaus, Wauseon. Flyers are available on the Narthex table.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS – Vicar Jon has 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.

AREA EVENTS

- ✝ **St. Paul Liberty Center** is hosting a free will offering **soup and pie dinner** fundraiser on **Sun., October 25th**. See the flyer on the bulletin board in the Narthex for more information.
- ✝ **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.



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

Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School



PTL DETERGENT FUNDRAISER – The *Profitable Solutions* detergent fundraiser is sponsored by the PTL and runs through October 9th. It involves the sale of bulk laundry detergent (including pods!), softener, scent booster, dish soap, dishwasher pods and trash bags. You will be receiving 42% more detergent (350-500 loads!) for the same price you'd pay in store! Information sheets and order forms are on the Narthex table. Please direct any questions to *Nicole Stier* at 419-966-7376. Order forms may be turned in to the office or placed in the black dropbox between the school's double doors.

UPCOMING PRAYER PALS EVENT – On **Friday, October 30th**, we will have our first Prayer Pals event of the season! The school is having a Reformation Chapel Service at 8:30 a.m., and everyone is welcome to attend Chapel. Following the service, we invite all Prayer Pals to stay for about 30 minutes to meet with their Prayer Pal in the sanctuary and participate in an activity to kick off the year together. Next Sunday, there will be a table in the Narthex where congregation Prayer Pals can pick up a letter that includes their assigned student's name and grade as well as information for the year.

GRANDPARENTS' DAY – We're looking forward to welcoming the grandparents of St. John School students on **Friday, October 23rd**. Grandparents are invited to join their grandchildren for a special morning together from 9:30–11:30 a.m., with activities, crafts, the book fair, and more. We'll wrap up the morning with Chapel before an early dismissal at 11:30 a.m.

SPIRITWARE SALE – There are flyers on the Narthex table for those interested in purchasing any St. John Lutheran School spiritware. Orders are due by October 16th.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL COACHING – St. John is looking for a new girls' basketball coach for the upcoming basketball season. Anyone interested should contact Joe Badenhop at joebadenhop@yahoo.com or 419-438-5435.

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.

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Thought for the Week...

**We don't do good works to earn God's love. We do them because, in Christ,
we already have it.**