St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP 16035 CO. RD. U ◆ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship ◆ Stewardship ◆ Mission

October 18, 2026

VOL. 92 NO. 42

Vicar Jonathan Pietrowski
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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

THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

- Opening Hymn: **940** ***Holy God, We Praise Thy Name v. 1, 2, 5***
- 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: **781** ***We Give Thee but Thine Own***
- Sermon: "God's Powerful Word" *Vicar Jon Pietrowski*
- Prayer of the Church
- Offering
- Service of the Sacrament *beginning on LSB pg. 208*
- Distribution Hymns: **"*Invited, Lord, by Boundless Grace*"** (inserted and projected)**; 549** ***All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name***
- Benedicamus and Benediction *LSB pg. 212*
- Closing Hymn: **733** ***O God, Our Help in Ages Past***

WELCOME VISITORS!

The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest this morning, it is a joy to have you worship with us. Please fill out the blue card from the pew rack in front of you, and drop it in the baskets by the doors as you leave.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

✠ Sharon Damman *Organist* ✠ Henley Oyer, Stryker Oyer *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 have resumed for the season at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. 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.

THANK YOU TO PASTOR AARON BUELTMANN for joining us this week and next to consecrate the elements for the Lord's Supper!

In God's House This Week		*Online church calendar: https://74058984.view-events.com*
Date	***Time***	***Activities***
TODAY	**9:00 AM** 10:15 AM 11:30 AM 1:30 PM 4:00 PM	**Communion Service** All-Ages Sunday School, "the LAMP" Confirmation Class (6-8 grades) Vicar Leading GenaCross Chapel LYF Meeting 4 p.m. Jr. High | 5 p.m. H.S.
Mon.		School Book Fair runs Monday-Saturday
Tues.	**8:30 AM** 7:00 PM	**School Chapel** Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	7:30 PM	Adult Choir Practice
Fri.	9:30 AM	Grandparents' Day at St. John School
Sat.	10:00 AM	Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat
Sun.	**9:00 AM** 10:15 AM 11:30 AM	**Communion Service** *Reformation Observed* 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:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	$11,710.59	$500.00	$961.54
Rec'd 10/11/2026	$6,731.00	$357.00	$248.00

Attendance: 161

Gifts given in memory of *Stan Gerken*: $2,461.00 designated to the *St. John Endowment Fund*

THANK YOU – *I would like to sincerely thank everyone for the many expressions of love and support following the passing of my husband, Stan. Your cards, flowers, donations to the church endowment fund, and help with the funeral were deeply appreciated. Thank you for your prayers, kindness, and thoughtfulness during this difficult time. I am truly grateful for our caring church family.*

With heartfelt gratitude,

Cathy Gerken and Family

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.

UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES – The next two Sundays, we will observe special festivals in the church year. Please plan to join as we partake of the Lord's Supper together and give thanks for His redeeming work on our behalf.

- ✢ **Reformation** (10/25) – We will celebrate with beloved, time-honored hymns and a service centered on what the Reformation was all about: God's Word and Sacraments rightly taught and administered.
- ✢ **All Saints' Day** (11/1) – We will recognize those in our church who have gone to be with the Lord since our last celebration of All Saints' Day. Praise God that we do not grieve as those without hope! *Families of those who have passed will receive a white rose in honor of their loved ones.*

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!
- ➢ **CONFIRMATION CLASS** will now be meeting after Sunday School at 11:30 on Sundays.

LYF MEETING – The Jr. High and High School LYF groups will meet TODAY, October 18th, at the Youth & Family Center. Jr. High (Grades 6–8): 4:00 PM | High School (Grades 9–12): 5:00 PM. We'll be decorating pumpkins — bring a friend!

THE NOMINATION PROCESS – The Stewardship Board would like to announce that letters are being sent to members of our congregation asking if they would be willing to serve in one of the offices of our congregation. Please keep this process in your prayers, and if asked, please give it prayerful consideration. **We are so thankful to God for all those who choose to serve!**



***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 and family, and feel free to take an extra copy to share with a friend!

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.

LADIES, SAVE THE 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. Church secretary *Leah Saylor* is in 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.

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

Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School

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**. There is 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.** Thank you to all who signed up to participate in this church and school connection!

THE SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR is this week at St. John School. It will be open throughout the week during school hours as well as during Fall Festival/Trunk-or-Treat on Saturday morning.

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.

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.

AREA EVENTS

- **St. Paul Liberty Center** is hosting a free will offering **soup and pie dinner** fundraiser next **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.

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Thought for the Week…

Leaves fall. God's Word stands!

Once again, the **Fall Festival and Trunk or Trea**t will be combined into one special event for our church and school families!



Want to be a "Trunker"? Anyone who wants to participate as a "Trunker" by decorating your car trunks or hatchbacks can sign up in the school/church office or on the orange sheet on the Narthex table. Trunkers may dress up in costumes to supply candy, treats, and/or games right out of your trunk for all the Trunk-or-Treaters who may come our way.