St. John Lutheran Church

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

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship ◆ Stewardship ◆ Mission

October 25, 2026

VOL. 92 NO. 43

Vicar Jonathan Pietrowski
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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

REFORMATION DAY (*observed*)

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

- Opening Hymn: **578 *Thy Strong Word***
- 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: **566 *By Grace I'm Saved***
- Sermon: "The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel"
  Vicar Jon Pietrowski
- Prayer of the Church
- Offering
- Service of the Sacrament *beginning on LSB pg. 208*
- Distribution Hymns: **617 *O Lord, We Praise Thee***
  556 *Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice*
- Benedicamus and Benediction *LSB pg. 212*
- Closing Hymn: **656 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God***

WELCOME VISITORS!

If you are our guest this morning, it is a joy to have you with us! We thank God this day for His work through Martin Luther. May God reform us and renew us as we seek His purposes under the power of this Gospel. 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* ✠ Emma Damman, Laney Damman *Acolytes* ✠
✠ Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel *Ushers* ✠
✠ Deb Von Deylen, Elaine Buenger, Teresa Weller, Pat Mahnke *Altar Guild* ✠

THANK YOU TO PASTOR AARON BUELTMANN for joining us this Reformation Day to consecrate the elements for the Lord's Supper!

***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!

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	**Communion Service** *Reformation Observed* All-Ages Sunday School, "the LAMP" Confirmation Class (6-8 grades)
Mon.	 5:30 PM	Grades 5, 6, and 7 @ Camp Lutherhaven Mon.-Wed. *Bread from Heaven* Food Pantry Distribution
Wed.	7:30 PM	Adult Choir Practice
Fri.	**8:30 AM**	**School Chapel (Reformation)** with Prayer Pals Activity to Follow
Sun.	**9:00 AM** 10:15 AM 11:30 AM	**Communion Service** *All-Saints' Day* 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 10/18/2026	$12,394.81	$155.00	$265.00

Attendance: 147

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##**

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.

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.

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!



ALL SAINTS' DAY – Next Sunday, Nov. 1st, we will remember with thanksgiving those of our St. John faith family who were called to glory since our last celebration of All Saints': ***Irma Rohrs, Lawrence Behrmann, LaVern Volkman, Robert Stockman, Weldon Meienburg,*** and ***Stan Gerken***. We will place white roses near the baptismal font. Following the service, their families may take a rose as a remembrance of their departed loved one.



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.

POINSETTIA SALE – It's hard to believe that it is already time to start planning for the Christmas season. One order of business is the poinsettia sale— green order forms are inserted in today's bulletin. The deadline for orders will be Tues., November 10th. You may turn your form and cash/check payable to *St. John Lutheran Church* in the box on the Narthex table, the black lockbox by the school entrance, or bring them into the church/school office. Be sure to fill in the line, "In Loving Memory of" or "In Honor of" if applicable. This information will be published in the bulletin the Sunday the poinsettias are placed in the sanctuary (12/20).

THE NOMINATION PROCESS – The Stewardship Board would like to announce that letters have been 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!**



LWML CHRISTIAN LIFE WORKSHOP – The annual Fall LWML Christian Life workshop will be held on Saturday, November 7, at Emmaus, Wauseon. 8:30 AM-9:00 AM - Check-in and Continental Breakfast | 9:00 AM-11:15 AM - Program. No registration required! Flyers are available on the Narthex table.

'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.

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.

BIRTHDAY CALENDAR READINGS – You may notice that there are no assigned readings on the birthday calendar after November 14. That's because November 14 marks the completion of the book of Revelation and, with it, the entire Bible! If you've been following along with the daily readings, congratulations! You've read through the entire Bible in just over three years!

As we approach the end of the year, we look ahead to special festivals, Advent, and the new year. This is a great time to find a new reading plan or devotional routine. The desk and racks in the narthex have a variety of helpful devotional resources, including Portals of Prayer, Bible-in-a-year reading plans, and other devotionals. Advent devotionals will also be available soon, so stay tuned!



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

Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School



UPCOMING PRAYER PALS EVENT – This **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!

PTL PIZZA FUNDRAISER – This week kicks off our PTL's annual *Brick N Brew Pizza Fundraiser*. Order forms are available on the Narthex table, and orders and payment are due by November 2.

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.

BASKETBALL SIGN UP information is available on the Narthex table.

AREA EVENTS

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

"Proclaim the wonders God has done, How His right arm the vict'ry won, What price our ransom cost Him!"

— Martin Luther, from "*Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice" (LSB 556, stanza 1)*