St. John Lutheran Church

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

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship ◆ Stewardship ◆ Mission

November 8, 2026

VOL. 92 NO. 45

Vicar Jonathan Pietrowski
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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

THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Order of Service: Matins (LSB pg. 219)

- Opening Hymn: **348 *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns***
- Opening Versicles (LSB pg. 219)
- Venite (LSB pg. 220)
- Holy Scripture Readings
  - *Choir Anthem:* ***"Beautiful Savior"***
- Responsory (LSB pg. 221)
- Office Hymn: **663 *Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray***
- Sermon *Vicar Jon Pietrowski*
- Te Deum **941 *We Praise You and Acknowledge You***
- Offering
- Prayer with Kyrie (LSB pg. 227)
- Benedicamus and Benediction (LSB pg. 228)
- Closing Hymn: **717 *Eternal Father, Strong to Save***

WELCOME VISITORS!

Welcome! We are here at the Savior's invitation; therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, receiving mercy and finding grace to help in every time of need. We invite you to come to worship with us at any time. If you have no church of your own, we invite you to make this your home church. Please fill out the attendance 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

✠ Bethann Gerken *Pianist* ✠ Emma Damman, Laney Damman *Acolytes* ✠
✠ Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Joe Badenhop, Nick Sonnenberg *Ushers* ✠
✠ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop *Altar Guild* ✠

NEXT WEEK *Pastor Alex Knowles,* a PhD candidate at Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne, will be joining us again, this time to preach and lead Communion. His wife, *Deaconess Susan Knowles*, will also be joining us to give a presentation during the Adult Bible Study hour. As the Director of Deaconess Formation at CTSFW, she brings a wealth of experience to share with us. Please plan to stay after church for this special presentation!

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	**Worship Service** All-Ages Sunday School, "the LAMP" Confirmation Class (6-8 grades)
Mon.	3:00 PM	Basketball Practice (Boys' after school to 5 | Girls' 5:30-7)
Tues.	**8:30 AM** 5:30 PM 6:00 PM	**School Chapel** Girls' Basketball Practice Church Council Meeting
Wed.	3:00 PM 7:30 PM	Boys' Basketball Practice Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	 5:30 PM	½ Day of School for Parent-Teacher Conferences Girls' Basketball Practice
Fri.		No School – Parent-Teacher Conferences
Sun.	**9:00 AM** 10:15 AM	**Communion Service** Sunday School; Special Presentation by *Deaconess Susan Knowles*

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
- *Merle McKnight (mother of Kathy Pietrowski)* recovering from surgery following a broken hip
- 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 10/25/2026	$7,554.00	$430.00	$345.00
Attendance: 124			
Rec'd 11/01/2026	$6,868.44	$120.00	$110.00
Attendance: 174			

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##**

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 garden produce you can't use, and you can pick up what you can.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS – **Please note that Vicar Jon will be taking the week off** beginning Monday, November 9th through Sunday, November 15th. Vicar will be in Fort Wayne for the week but can be reached by phone or email (419-309-2420 | pastor@sjl.org) with any pastoral concerns. *Pastor Alex Knowles will be leading our service on Sunday the 15th.*

Church secretary *Leah Saylor* will be in on Wednesday and Thursday this week 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.

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.

- **THE "LAMP"** will meet across the road at the Youth and Family Center after the service.
- **CONFIRMATION CLASS** will now be meeting after Sunday School at 11:30 on Sundays. **Note: Confirmation class will not be held next Sunday, November 15th.** Also, mark your calendars that we will **not** meet on December 27th and January 3rd.

UPCOMING LYF MEETING – The Jr. High and High School LYF groups will have their next meeting on Sunday, November 15, at the Youth & Family Center.



Jr. High (Grades 6–8): 4:00 PM | High School (Grades 9–12): 5:00 PM. We will be having a Thanksgiving feast — bring a friend!

VETERANS' DAY – This Wednesday is Veterans' Day, so this morning we especially give thanks to God for the men and women who have served our nation in the armed forces. We ask God to bless and protect those who continue to serve, and to bring comfort, healing, and peace to veterans who bear wounds of body or mind from their service.

- **FREE RESOURCES** – The latest issue of *So Help Me God*, the newsletter of LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces, is available by the military board in the Narthex. Lutheran Hour Ministries also offers Bible studies, devotions, and other resources especially for veterans that can be found online at lhm.org/veterans.
- **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA** – National *Wreaths Across America* Day will be observed on Sat., December 19. Sponsorship forms are on the Narthex table for those who would like to sponsor wreaths to be placed at veterans' grave markers in honor of their service.

POINSETTIA SALE – Green order forms for Christmas poinsettia flowers are on the Narthex table. **The deadline for orders is this 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).

SEEKING STORAGE SPACE – Kathy Pietrowski is looking for some clean and dry storage space to store fabric from her clothing store. If anyone has some extra space available for several months or knows of a local spot, please contact her through email (kathy@kpea.co) or by call or text (419-309-4949).

GIVING ENVELOPES FOR NEW MEMBERS – If you are a new member (through classes or transfer) and would like offering envelopes for the remainder of 2026, please contact Ryan Bostelman at 419-770-2029, and he will add you to the list.

IT'S CHRISTMAS CHEER TIME AGAIN! – *Henry County Christmas Cheer* is beginning its annual campaign for monetary donations only for the purchase of food for low income and needy persons in Henry County. If you would like to make a donation, please mail your donation to Henry County Christmas Cheer PO Box 193 Liberty Center, OH 43532. If you are in need of assistance and would like to sign up for the program, forms are available on the Narthex table. Applications must be returned by Friday, November 13.

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!

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

Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School

THANK YOU, PRAYER PALS! – Thank you to all of our congregational prayer pals who were able to join us for our Reformation event. The students enjoyed the fellowship and had fun building our own fortress out of Scripture verses as a reminder that *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*! Thank you for helping our children grow in faith and showing them that they are surrounded by a church family that cares for them.

SCHOOL CHAPEL OFFERING – In October, our School Chapel offering was designated to the LWML. The students got their own mite boxes and enjoyed collecting their change (and dollars!) throughout the month. **The Chapel offering total for October was $529.38!** Thank you to our students (and other chapel guests) who contributed to support this ministry.

Lutheran Women in Mission

School Chapel is typically held each Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. Congregation members and parents are always welcome.

BASKETBALL SIGN UP information is available on the Narthex table along with game schedules.

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.

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Thought for the Week…

We don't know when He will come, but we know His promise is sure.
Keep your lamps burning!