St. John Lutheran Church

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

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship ◆ Stewardship ◆ Mission

November 15, 2026

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Vicar Jonathan Pietrowski
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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

THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

- Opening Hymn: **786 *Lord of All Good***
- 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: **508 *The Day Is Surely Drawing Near v. 1-4***
- Sermon: *Pastor Alex Knowles*
- Prayer of the Church
- Offering
- Service of the Sacrament *beginning on LSB pg. 208*
- Distribution Hymns: **637 *Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord*; "Sons of God" (inserted and projected); 508 *The Day Is Surely Drawing Near v. 5-7***
- Benedicamus and Benediction *LSB pg. 212*
- Closing Hymn: **660 *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus***

WELCOME VISITORS!

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 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

✠ Elaine Buenger, *Organist* ✠ Braelyn Kehnast, Lanny Cowell *Acolytes* ✠
✠ Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Joe Badenhop, Nick Sonnenberg *Ushers* ✠
✠ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop *Altar Guild* ✠

WELCOME PASTOR AND DEACONESS KNOWLES! – *Pastor Alex Knowles*, a PhD candidate at Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne, is leading us in worship this morning. His wife, *Deaconess Susan Knowles*, will give a presentation during the Adult Bible Study hour following the service. As the Director of Deaconess Formation at CTSFW, she brings a wealth of experience and insight. Please plan to stay after church for this special presentation! Thank you to the Knowleses for being with us this Lord's Day!

In God's House This Week		*Online church calendar: https://74058984.view-events.com*
Date	***Time***	***Activities***
TODAY	**9:00 AM** 10:15 AM	**Communion Service** Sunday School; Special Presentation by *Deaconess Susan Knowles*
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 Women of Freedom Ladies' Christmas Party
Wed.	3:00 PM 7:30 PM	Boys' Basketball Practice Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM 5:30 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast Girls' Basketball Practice
Sun.	**9:00 AM** 10:15 AM 11:30 AM	**Worship Service** All-Ages Sunday School; The LAMP Confirmation Class

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – The next Voters' meeting will be held after the service on Sun., December 6th. One prominent item of business is the presentation and discussion of the 2027 budget.

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
- *Tim Hodson* who recently suffered from a stroke
- 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 11/8/2026	$7,260.44	$255.00	$550.00

Attendance: 161

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* 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.

LYF MEETING – The Jr. High and High School LYF groups will meet today, 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!





This coming **Tuesday, Nov. 17th at 6:00 PM** the Women of Freedom will be having an Advent and Christmas kickoff party for ALL LADIES of St. John in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a potluck of appetizers, snacks, and desserts, so please bring your favorite to share. Also, please bring a wrapped gift to trade; it doesn't matter whether you tag your name on it or not. Regifting is allowed, as well as gently used items, or something new up to $5 value.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will not be held today and will resume next Sunday 11/22. Also, mark your calendars that we will **not** meet on December 27th and January 3rd.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE – The Children's Christmas Service is scheduled for Sun., Dec. 20 at 7:00 PM. The deadline to sign up is Mon, Nov. 23rd. This is a combined church/school event, with practices being held on Sundays after church during the Sunday School hour. A sign-up sheet is on the Narthex table for parents to sign up your children who will be participating, or you may scan the QR code to sign up online and get more information. The first practice will be November 29, and they will continue each of the following Sundays, December 6, 13, and 20.

LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS DECORATING – A day for decorating the sanctuary for Christmas has been set for Monday, November 30th (the Monday after Thanksgiving). We plan to begin around 6:15 p.m., and decorating usually can take one and a half hours. Everyone is welcome to come and join the fun!

SEEKING STORAGE SPACE – Kathy Pietrowski is looking for 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.

OUR THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP SERVICE is scheduled for Wednesday, November 25th, at 7 p.m. More details on that as well as information about the upcoming Advent season will be published in next week's bulletin!

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY – Join us this Thursday 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 NOMINATIONS 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!

LOCAL CHURCH JOB OPENING – St. Peter Lutheran Preschool in Florida is looking for a caring and reliable Preschool Aide to join their team. Part-time, no more than 15 hours a week. *Key Responsibilities: Assist with classroom activities and supervision, support children's play, learning, and daily routines, help maintain a clean and organized classroom. Requirements: High school diploma or equivalent, experience with young children preferred, a kind, flexible attitude and love for children.* To apply, email resumes to stpeterpreschool123@gmail.com.

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.

***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!

DIGITAL DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES – Many beloved ministry organizations make digital resources available to those who prefer to access devotions and podcasts right from their mobile devices. Search these links in a browser, or search the titles in the app store to download or learn more:

- *Connected by Lutheran Hour Ministries* Mobile App (free!): www.lhm.org/apps/
- *LWML* Mobile App (free!): www.lwml.org/app
- *KFUO Radio* Mobile App (free!): www.kfuo.org/apps/
- *Worship Anew* Mobile App (free!): worshipanew.org/about/download-our-app
- *InPrayer* by CPH Mobile App (free to download, various subscriptions available for purchase in the app, including *Portals of Prayer*): www.cph.org/inprayer

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Thought for the Week…

Don't bury your blessings!

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

Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School

BRICK N BREW PIZZA SALE – Over the past few weeks, our school community came together once again to collect pizza orders. Students and parents worked side by side to make pizzas and prepare them for pick up. Thanks to everyone's hard work and generosity, we raised over $1,000 to put toward new cafeteria tables and chairs! We also want to give a special thank-you to *Mr. Micah Behnfeldt* and Brick N Brew for hosting us and helping make this fundraiser possible. We are so thankful for the many blessings God has given us.

VETERANS' DAY – On Wednesday, our students had the privilege of learning from two U.S. Army veterans during a special Veterans' Day assembly. Together, these veterans represented more than 30 years of service to our country. They shared stories from their time in the Army, answered students' questions, and displayed several meaningful items from their military service, including various uniforms. Students also participated in Veterans' Day activities in their classrooms, taking time to learn about the sacrifices made for their freedom.

MILLER BROTHERS FIELD TRIP – Our 4th–7th grade students recently took a field trip to *Miller Brothers Construction*. They had the opportunity to learn about the company and experience several hands-on activities, including using the simulator to drive a truck around a track., taking a tour of the shop and learning more about the equipment, and operating an excavator (the students would probably tell you this was the BEST part of the trip)! We are thankful to Miller Brothers Construction for welcoming us, sharing knowledge, and giving our students such an exciting, hands-on learning experience.

THE NEXT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING will be held on Mon., November 30th at 5:15 p.m.

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 along with game schedules.

AREA EVENTS:

- **TOLEDO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT** – Wed., Dec. 16th at 7 p.m. @ St. Paul's Lutheran Church 16976 CR-Q1 Napoleon, OH. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased Mon.-Fri. 10a.m.-2p.m. in their church office (419-758-3522). $30 for adults, $20 for school-age, and free for 4 & under. A flyer with more information is on the bulletin board.
- **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA** – National *Wreaths Across America* Day will be observed on Sat., December 19. This will be the last week to pick up a sponsorship form on the Narthex table for if you'd like to sponsor a wreath to be placed at veterans' grave marker.