

St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

May 25, 2025

VOL. 91

NO. 21

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Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon: “Apostle’s Creed – Third Article – I”

Order of Service: Matins *LSB pg. 219*

Hymns: 737 (v. 1, 3, 4, 6, 7) ~ 861 ~ 954 (v. 3) ~ 965

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS & VETERANS

On this Memorial Day Weekend, we remember with reverence and thanksgiving those who gave their lives for our country. We gather to worship our Lord Jesus, who gave His life for all of us. If you are a visitor today, please fill out the blue pew card in front of you and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave. *Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13*



SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman *Organist* ✠ Brynnleigh Kehnast, Alana Naveau *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Deb Wachtman, Nancy Short, Kathy Gruenhagen *Altar Guild* ✠

CONGRATULATIONS, 2025 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES! This morning we welcome the youth of St. John who are graduating from high school this year. We congratulate them this day and will take a few moments to interview each of them to learn of their plans for the future. We will also bless them and pray for them, that God would go with them in all their ways, and, above all, preserve them faithful and true in Christian faith and life until the coming of Jesus. **Congratulations to the High School Graduates of 2025!**

CIRCUIT ASCENSION DAY SERVICE – St. John Stryker will be hosting this year’s circuit Ascension Day service at 7 p.m. this coming Thursday, May 29th. Rev. Stephen Niermann will be preaching, and Holy Communion will be given. There will be ice cream provided afterwards.

THE TRANSITION TASK FORCE will have its next meeting this Tuesday, May 27th, at 7 p.m.

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study
Tues.	7:00 PM	Transition Task Force Meeting
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Ascension Day Service at St. John Stryker
Sat.	9:00 AM	Leadership Workshop
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study

PASTORAL EMERGENCIES – In the event you require emergency pastoral care, please call Pastor Gary at 989-770-0005. *NOTE ABOUT HOSPITALIZATION: If you are planning to spend time in a hospital (more than just out-patient) for surgery or other issues, please notify the Church Office or Pastor Gary, so he can arrange to visit you while you are there. He will need to know the dates involved and which hospital you will be staying at (preferably in writing). Thank you!*

MATTERS FOR PRAYER – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- ❖ *Melba Elling, Norma Damman, and Rozella Gruenhagen* at Genacross
- ❖ *Lawrence Behrmann* at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Irene and Willie Joost* and *Leona Durham*
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Carmon, Jordan Lange, Joshua, and Kyle*
- ❖ *Brenda Elling, Lowell Petzoldt, and Cheryl Yaw*, for health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *William Niebergall* undergoing heart surgery
- ❖ *Eli Damman* recovering from heart surgery

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 5/18/2025	\$6,158.00	\$140.00	\$280.00

ATTENDANCE: 215

ENDOWMENT FUND CONTACTS – Do you have questions about the St. John Endowment Fund? *Krista Gerken* and *Dave VonDeylen* are happy to provide more information to anyone who has questions or interest in making a donation. *Krista* can be reached at 419-966-2596 or lkgerken@henry-net.com. *Dave* can be reached at 419-438-1844 or davevd21@gmail.com.

MILITARY SERVICE BOARD – Do you know who is currently managing (or who was the last person to take care of) the military display in the Narthex? There are some changes to be made, and we aren't sure who is to make them. Anyone involved in this project or who has background information that may be helpful is encouraged to call Leah in the church office at 419-598-8961.


WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT EGG CARTONS for the organization "Together We Can Make a Difference." There is a collection box in the Narthex for clean, 12-count only egg cartons. Thank you!

MY DEVOTION BOOKLETS for the next quarter, June, July, and August, are available on the desk in the narthex. These are nice kid-friendly family devotions. Pick up a copy today.

PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR – In today’s Scripture readings we hear that *We Pray to the Father in Jesus’ Name*.

“In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). Jesus has opened the way to the Father so that “whatever you ask of the Father” in Jesus’ name, “he will give it to you” (John 16:23). We pray, therefore, in the confidence that we will be heard and answered, that our “joy may be full” (John 16:24). We pray because the Gospel has been preached to us and the Lord has opened our hearts to believe the Gospel (Acts 16:10, 14). We pray in the name of Jesus because we have been baptized into Him, as Lydia and her household were baptized (Acts 16:15). We have been healed, and we live and walk and pray in newness of life (John 5:8–9). For we stand upon the firm foundation “of the twelve apostles of the Lamb” (Rev. 21:14), and our temple is “the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb” (Rev. 21:22)

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP – Attention ALL Officers, Board members, and Committees, elected and appointed. Pastor Gary will lead a training workshop this Saturday, May 31st, from 9:00AM to 3:30 PM. Topics will include the Lifecycle of a Congregation, St. John’s Mission Statement, and the Bylaw Job Descriptions of all positions within the Congregation. Lunch will be included. **PLEASE PLAN TO BE THERE.**

FACEBOOK VOLUNTEER NEEDED! – We are looking for a volunteer to help manage our church Facebook page. This volunteer will create posts and share information about our worship services, events, etc. This can be done from the comfort of your own home as long as you have internet and a smartphone or computer! If you would need training or more information, we are happy to provide it. Anyone with interest or questions can email Leah at churchsecretary@sjl.org. 

THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP services have resumed. These services will be a preview of the upcoming Sunday’s service. One exception— we will not gather at St. John *Freedom* this Thursday May 29th but rather encourage you all to attend the Ascension Day service at St. John *Stryker*.

WANTED – JAVA JOY HOSTS – We are looking for a few people or groups of people to host JAVA JOY on the second Sundays of the remaining months of 2025. Please remember that hosting does not need to cost you anything – you may reimburse yourself from the Java Joy kitty. Also, hosting guidelines are available with the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Thank you for providing this wonderful service for the fellowship and enjoyment of your church family.

SAVE THE DATE for a day out with the Women of Freedom on June 17th. We will be touring Sarah’s Garden in Wauseon and if time permits The Fulton County Historical Museum. And of course we will be having lunch out at the Blue Ribbon Diner! All ladies of St. John are invited! We will meet at church at 9:30 to leave for Wauseon. Please sign up by June 15th in the back of church if you are planning to go, so reservations can be made.

THANK YOU, WOMEN OF FREEDOM! The Women of Freedom collected *over 800 diapers* to donate to the CPC Women’s Health Resource, a local pregnancy center ministry. What a blessing these will be to moms and babies in our community! Thank you very much, ladies.

THE CPC WOMEN’S HEALTH RESOURCE is hosting its annual baby bottle fundraiser. For the next few weeks, there will be a box of baby bottles on the Narthex table. If you’d like to donate to the pregnancy center, pick up a bottle, fill it with change, and return it to the church office by June 8th.

LUTHERAN WITNESS RENEWAL – It's time to renew subscriptions to the *Lutheran Witness* magazine for this year. **To subscribe or renew your subscription, simply place \$20.75 in an envelope, along with your name and address, and place it in the Sunday collection plate or bring it to the church office.** Deadline for subscriptions is May 26th.

MAGAZINE RACK IN THE NARTHEX – Speaking of magazines, visit the rack above the back table in the Narthex! There are magazines from Lutheran organizations such as our Seminaries, *Worship Anew*, *Lutherans for Life*, and many others. Anyone may freely borrow copies!

ENROLLING NOW – St. John Lutheran School is enrolling students preschool-grade 8 for the 2025-'26 school year. Interested families can contact Tracy Germann at 419-598-8702 or tgermann@sjl.org.

HIRING NOW – St. John Lutheran School has several staff positions open for the upcoming school year: **preschool teacher, part-time 1st and 2nd grade teacher, short and long-term substitutes, school cook, and music teacher.** Interested candidates, contact Tracy Germann at tgermann@sjl.org.

CHURCH SECRETARY DAYS – Leah Saylor is in the church office on Wednesdays and Thursdays. She can be reached by phone at 419-598-8961 or by e-mail at: churchsecretary@sjl.org. Bulletin submissions will now need to be turned in by end-of-day *Tuesday* in order to be included in the coming Sunday's bulletin.

ST. JOHN WEBSITE – Did you know you can listen to Pastor Gary's sermons and access current and past bulletins online? Just click on "St. John YouTube Channel" or "Worship Service Resources" on the home page of sjl.org.

AREA EVENTS

- ◆ **A MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE** to remember those who served our country will be held on Mon., May 26th at 10:30 AM at the Ridgeville American Legion. Barry Behnfeldt will be the guest speaker, and a free-will chicken dinner will be served after the ceremony.
- ◆ **FRIENDS OF ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN** will be hosting a Bake Sale, Food Stand, & Thrift sale at the Florida Ohio, Fire Station on June 5th & 6th during the Historic Route 424 Yard Sales. Stop in to enjoy great food from the lunch stand or baked items and help support this worthy cause! The Florida Fire Station is located on Rt. 424 in Florida, OH.

VENMO IS HERE! Exciting News...St. John now accepts donations via Venmo! If you need internet access, use our guest wifi **SJL Open** with the password **sjleagles##** Then scan the QR code to visit our donation page.



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Thought for the Week...

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – Registration is open for our *Epic Australian Adventure* Vacation Bible School! To register your student(s), please visit: <https://vbsmate.com/events/StJohnLutheranFreedom/30780> (or scan the QR code). If you have questions or are interested in volunteering to help with the program, please contact Andrea Oyer at (419)966-1806 or oyerandrea@gmail.com. This program is free to all, so invite a friend to join the adventure!



2025 Vacation Bible School

June 9-13 | 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Together we will journey through Bible stories to see how Jesus calls, leads, teaches, saves, and sends us! We'll enjoy songs, activities, crafts, and snacks on our *Epic Adventure*.



St. John Lutheran Church,
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