



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

June 1, 2025

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Rev. Gary Bender, TIM  
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Cell: 989-770-0005; Church: 419-598-8961  
School: 419-598-8702  
Church Website: [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)

### SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Order of Service: Divine Service Setting Three *LSB* pg. 184

Hymns: 525 ~ 953 v. 3 ~ Communion: 623, 680 ~ 650

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#### **WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS**

Welcome to every member, friend, and visitor. You have entered this church, not as a stranger but as a guest of God. May your worship here enable you to see your Savior more clearly and follow Him more nearly. Please fill out a blue pew card from the rack in front of you and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave today. If you have no church home of your own, we invite you to speak to our Pastor about joining the St. John family.

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#### **SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✘ Elaine Buenger *Organist* ✘ Westen Cowell, Erin Damman *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Joe Badenhop, Nick Sonnenberg *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop *Altar Guild* ✘

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented today in honor of Don and Karan Niebergall’s 57<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. *And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.* (Colossians 3:14)



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** – Registration is open for our *Epic Australian Adventure* Vacation Bible School! It will run June 9<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. 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](mailto:oyerandrea@gmail.com). This program is free to all, so invite a friend to join the adventure!



☆ **There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex table for those who would like to donate supplies for VBS.** Please drop off these items to the church office by Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship Service
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 1:30 PM	Worship Service with Communion Offered Following the Service Adult Bible Study Gerald Busyfingers 4-H Meeting

**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
- ❖ Eli Damman recovering from heart surgery
- ❖ A praise to God and thanks to all who have been praying for William Niebergall— he is doing well!
- ❖ Leroy Miller injured in a boating incident

**FINANCIAL FACTS:**

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 5/25/2025 - Yet to be counted. <b>ATTENDANCE: TBD</b>			

**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](mailto:lkgerken@henry-net.com). Dave can be reached at 419-438-1844 or [davevd21@gmail.com](mailto: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 *Jesus is with us in His Holy Christian Church*.

On the night when He was betrayed, Jesus interceded for His Church — for His apostles and all who believe in Him through their word — that all of His disciples “may become perfectly one” in the Father and the Son (John 17:21–23). For Jesus became flesh and dwells among us in order to reveal the Father and His name, to share with us the glory of His righteousness, and to bring us to the Father in Himself. As the Father loved the Son from “before the foundation of the world” (John 17:24), so He loves the whole world (John 17:23, 26). Through the apostolic witness to the Baptism, cross and resurrection of Jesus (Acts 1:21–22), the Lord gathers His disciples throughout the world “with one accord” as one body in Christ (Acts 1:14). And so with one voice and by one Spirit, His Bride prays, “Come” (Rev. 22:17). And He comes to us. He gives us “the water of life without price” to wash our robes and quench our thirst (Rev. 22:17); He feeds us from “the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit” (Rev. 22:2) *“He who has ears to hear, let him hear” (Matt. 11:15).*

**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](mailto:churchsecretary@sjl.org).



**THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP** services have resumed each Thursday at 7 p.m. in the north end of the Fellowship Hall. These services will be a preview of the upcoming Sunday’s service.

**LWML SUMMER QUARTERLIES** are in and available in the tract rack in the Narthex!

**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 17<sup>th</sup>. 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 15<sup>th</sup> in the back of church if you are planning to go, so reservations can be made.

**THE CPC WOMEN’S HEALTH RESOURCE** is hosting its annual baby bottle fundraiser. There is 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.

**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](mailto:tgermann@sjl.org).

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

**LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BULLETINS** are always available on the table in the narthex. There are also large-print hymnals that may be borrowed during service. The Children's Bulletins are coordinated with the Bible texts for each Sunday and provide activities that tie in with the weekly themes.

**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](mailto: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.

**PIERSTORF COLLEGE FUND** – The Pierstorf College Fund is a one-of-a-kind pan Lutheran financial aid program that provides interest-free loans to all Lutherans pursuing a higher education who live in the State of Ohio. These loans are specific to students who are or will be enrolled full time in a four-year undergraduate program at any accredited college or university. For information, visit [www.Pierstorf.org](http://www.Pierstorf.org) to complete the online application. Application deadline is June 30, 2025. Questions can be emailed to [Pierstorf@messiahfp.org](mailto:Pierstorf@messiahfp.org).

**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](http://sjl.org).

**SAVE THE DATE!** The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Stephanie Kossow Memorial Golf Outing will be held at White Pines Golf Course on Sat., July 26<sup>th</sup>. Forms are available on the Narthex table.

### **AREA EVENTS**

- ◆ **CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH IN HOLGATE!** They are celebrating 150 years! Check out the bulletin board in the back of the church for details about some events St. John Holgate is hosting in the coming weeks.
- ◆ **FRIENDS OF ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN** will be hosting a Bake Sale, Food Stand, & Thrift sale at the Florida Ohio, Fire Station on June 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> 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 that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith... On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.** *Excerpt from Martin Luther's Explanation of the Third Article of the Apostle's Creed*