



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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PENTECOST SUNDAY

Sermon & Text: “**Confusion & Babel – The Need for Pentecost**” *Genesis 11:1-9*

Order of Service: Morning Prayer *LSB pg. 235*

Hymns: **502 ~ 496 v. 1-3 ~ 497 ~ 496 v. 5-6 ~ 489**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Now is the hour of worship. God speaks to us, and we listen and respond with our hymns, prayers, and praises. Together we bless the Lord who saves us and keeps us in His faithful flock. He is the God of Grace and the God of Glory. If you are our guest today, please fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you, and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave.



SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Bethann Gerken *Pianist* ✘ Anna Sausser, Anika Rosebrock *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 Larry and Krista Gerken’s 30th wedding anniversary on June 10th. “*This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you*” (John 15:12)



LOVE IS IN THE AIR – We also rejoice with *Mitchell Hogrefe* and *Alison Burch* on their marriage ceremony conducted at St. John yesterday, June 7th. Many blessings to the Hogrefes!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – Our *Epic Australian Adventure* kicks off tomorrow! It will run Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. To register your student(s), scan the QR code. If you have questions, please contact Andrea at (419)966-1806 or oyerandrea@gmail.com.



☆ **There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex table for those who would like to donate supplies for VBS.** Please bring these items to the church office today.

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	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
Mon.	9:00 AM	Vacation Bible School Mon.-Fri. 9-11:30 AM
Tues.	6:00 PM	Church Council Meeting
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship Service
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
- ❖ Eli Damman recovering from heart surgery
- ❖ 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	\$6,510.00	\$200.00	\$390.00
ATTENDANCE: 152			
Rec'd 6/1/2025	\$9,278.00	\$828.00	\$433.00
ATTENDANCE: 134			

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!

PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR – In today’s Scripture readings we hear that *The Holy Spirit Gives Peace*.

Following the flood, Noah’s descendants failed to spread out and fill the earth as God had spoken. Rather, they exalted themselves; with “one language and the same words” (Gen. 11:1), they spoke proudly and arrogantly. The Lord humbled them by confusing “the language of all the earth,” dividing and dispersing the people (Gen. 11:9). That dispersal was reversed on Pentecost Day (the 50th day of Easter), when God caused the one Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to be preached in a multitude of languages. “At this sound the multitude came together” (Acts 2:6), for the preaching of Christ is the primary work of the Holy Spirit, whereby He gathers people from all nations into one Church. The Holy Spirit teaches and brings to our remembrance the words of Jesus, which are the words of the Father who sent Him. These words bestow forgiveness and peace to those who keep and hold on to them in love for Jesus. “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid” (John 14:27) *“He who has ears to hear, let him hear” (Matt. 11:15).*

ADULT BIBLE STUDY continues to meet over the summer. Join us after worship as we take a “Longer Look at the Lessons.” Each session is a self-contained study, so if you miss a week, you can jump right back in the following Sunday.

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 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!

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.

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

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.

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.

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. Hosting guidelines are available with the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS – Please note the church office hours during the summer months remain as Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, closed over the lunch hour. The school secretary will be in from roughly 7 AM to 2 PM each weekday in June except Wednesdays. If making a special trip, please call 419-598-8961 to guarantee someone will be here. Bulletin submissions will now need to be submitted (churchsecretary@sjl.org) by 9 a.m. on Wednesday for 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 to complete the online application. Application deadline is June 30, 2025.

BLOOD DRIVE – The Ridgeville American Legion is holding its blood drive on Mon., June 9th from Noon – 6PM at the Legion Hall located on County Road 19 outside of Ridgeville Corners, OH. Walk-ins welcome or you can call 1-800-RED CROSS to schedule an appointment.

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

OTHER AREA EVENTS

✦ **LUTHERAN NIGHT WITH FORT WAYNE TINCAPS – Tuesday, June 24th at 7:05 PM.**

The Fort Wayne Tin Caps Baseball Team is sponsoring a Lutheran Night Outing. Scan the QR code to unlock all the benefits --- \$12 tickets (\$1 of which will be donated to the Camp Lutherhaven.) and \$2 concessions. Organize yourselves into groups, and order tickets together to ensure adjacent seating. Game time is at 7:05 p.m. and there will be fireworks after the game. Travel time from St. John is 1 hour, 15 minutes.



✦ **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.

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...

Pride seeks a name for itself; the Spirit gives us a name we could never earn.