



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

June 15, 2025

VOL. 91 NO. 24

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

TRINITY SUNDAY

Sermon & Text: **“The Wisdom of God”** *Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31*

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

Hymns: **940 ~ 578 ~ Communion: 609, 617 ~ 717**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS & ALL FATHERS!

Happy Father’s Day!... a special, grateful welcome to our visitors and all fathers this morning. We bless and cherish the strong, reliable and confident men who provide for their families in various ways. If you are visiting with us this morning, help us get to know you better by filling out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you. Simply drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave today.



SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Elaine Buenger *Organist* ✠ Piper Speiser, Brayden Damman *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Joe Badenhop, Nick Sonnenberg *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop *Altar Guild* ✠

BAPTISM THIS MORNING – Today we rejoice to witness the Baptism of *Aubrey Mae Wakefield*. Aubrey was born to Josh and Alicia Wakefield on May 12, 2025. We celebrate with Aubrey’s parents, big siblings, Elijah and Charlotte, and sponsors, Lonnie and Dawn Sumner and Matthew Wakefield, as Aubrey is born anew by water and the Spirit. *May the good work that God begins today in Aubrey be brought to completion on the day of Jesus Christ!*



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.

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.

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study
Tues.	10:00 AM	Women of Freedom Outing (see bulletin note)
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship Service
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship 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 Julie (Kern) Patterson for health concerns related to cancer*
- ❖ *Praise that Cheryl Yaw is cancer-free! Prayers for her continued health and recovery.*
- ❖ *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 6/8/2025	\$7,131.97	\$227.00	\$138.00

ATTENDANCE: 32 Thurs.; 116 Sun.

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 *The Triune God Reveals Himself in Christ Jesus*.

The divine Word of the Father also is the holy wisdom who “was beside him, like a master workman,” who “was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always” (Prov. 8:30). This Word became flesh and suffered death in order to bestow life by the preaching of His Gospel “to the children of man” (Prov. 8:4). He honors the Father, and the Father glorifies Him by raising Him from the dead, so that all who keep His Word “will never see death” (John 8:51). Long ago, “father Abraham rejoiced” in the day of Christ, for “he saw it and was glad” (John 8:56). Though Christ was “crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men,” “God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death” (Acts 2:23, 24). As He “received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:33), so it is by and through the Son that God the Father pours out the Holy Spirit upon His Church.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL THANK YOU– VBS 2025 was a huge success! The *Epic Australian Adventure* reminded us that Jesus Calls, Leads, Teaches, Saves, and Sends us to go and share the Good News of His love and forgiveness. We had over 60 students and staff join us this past week. THANK YOU to: *Andrea Oyer* for heading it up; *Kelly Sonnenberg* for engaging the students into the Bible Story each day; *Megan Bostelman* for leading us in song and conducting some very cool science experiments; *Brittney Hughes* for leading our youngest explorers each day; *Josh & Alicia Wakefield* for the fun-filled games; and all of our junior high and high school helpers. A very special thank you to all of our members for the donations and prayers of support as we enjoyed a faith-filled week of fun.

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.



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

A DAY OUT WITH THE WOMEN OF FREEDOM – This Tuesday, 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 TODAY (June 15th) in the back of church if you are planning to go, so reservations can be made.

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.

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.

WORSHIP ANEW is a weekly, 30-minute Lutheran broadcast worship service. Each service includes music, scripture readings, prayers, and a pastor delivering a message that is designed to feel one-on-one to the viewer. Broadcasts can be viewed every Sunday on: *Toledo's WTVG (CW) Channel 13.2 at 9:30 a.m., DirectTV Channel 377 at 9:30 a.m., or anytime online at worshipanew.org.*



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.

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...

A father who follows God gives his children a road map for life.

“In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:6