



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

June 22, 2025

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Rev. Gary Bender, TIM
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

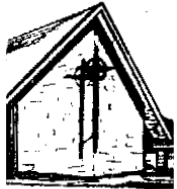
Sermon & Text: **“God Calls: Here I Am!”** *Isaiah 65:1-9*

Order of Service: Prayer and Preaching *LSB pg. 260*

Hymns: **744 ~ 570 ~ 922**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome in the name of the Lord. We pray that through this time of stillness and song, prayer and proclamation, you may experience the Spirit of God at work in your life. 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 this morning. If you do not have a local church home, we extend a warm invitation to you to become a part of our church family- talk to Pastor Gary about joining us. Your presence is a blessing.



SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Elaine Buenger *Organist* ✠ Maxton Howard, Zeek Kramer *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Joe Badenhop, Nick Sonnenberg *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop *Altar Guild* ✠

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented this morning from the wedding of *Damian Helm* and *Carlie Kruse*. The two were married here at St. John yesterday; may God bless their union as they begin life together as husband and wife! *And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment* (Philippians 1:9).



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	Worship Service Adult Bible Study Ohio LCMS District Convention begins and runs Sun.-Tues.
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread from Heaven</i> Food Pantry Distribution
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship Service
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 1:30 PM	Worship 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 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* recovering from injuries

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 6/15/2025	\$6,868.00	\$165.00	\$220.00

ATTENDANCE: 30 Thurs.; 139 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!

PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR – In today’s Scripture readings we hear that *Jesus Brings Release from the Bonds of Sin, Death and the Devil*.

The Lord finds those who did not seek Him or ask for Him. He spreads out His hands “to a rebellious people” (Is. 65:2) and calls them to be His people and to dwell in peace upon His holy mountain (Is. 65:9). For wherever Jesus Christ enters in, Satan is cast out. Those who were enslaved and driven mad by the assaults and accusations of the devil are set free by the Word of Christ. He drowns and destroys the old Adam in us with the waters of Holy Baptism and thereby brings us out of death into life. No longer naked in our shame, living “among the tombs” (Luke 8:27), we are brought into the Lord’s house, fully clothed by Christ; He has come in “the fullness of time” (Gal. 4:4) to fulfill the Law on our behalf and to redeem us from its every accusation. Therefore, having been justified by His grace through faith in His Gospel, “you are no longer a slave, but a son” (Gal. 4:7).

LWML SUMMER QUARTERLIES are in and available in the tract rack in the Narthex! All ladies are welcome to take copy.

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

GOOD NEWS FROM ST. JOHN SCHOOL! – We are pleased to welcome two new teachers to our staff at St. John: our new preschool teacher, Miss Kelsie Drewes, and our new part-time first grade teacher, Miss Elizabeth Myers. Both teachers are excited to get into their classrooms, prepare for students, and get going once August arrives. What a blessing to have both of them join our team. We praise God for always providing!

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.

‘BREAD FROM HEAVEN’ – Our food pantry’s next distribution will be tomorrow, June 23rd, at 5:30 p.m. A note to St. John members needing food assistance – If you could use food assistance from our food pantry, please speak with *Pastor Bender*. We are required by the *Northwestern Ohio Food Bank* to keep a record with your name, but pastor will keep your record separate and absolutely confidential.

Contributions can be made at any time. Monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your offering envelope). Food donations for our pantry can be dropped off in the box by the Archives display cases. Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated. Thank you so much! As we learn in the meaning of the Fifth Commandment, “*We should fear and love God that we...help and support our neighbor in every physical need.*” (*Small Catechism*)

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.



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.



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 enrolled full time in a four-year undergraduate program at any accredited university. Visit www.Pierstorf.org to complete the online application by June 30, 2025.

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.

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.



◆ **CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH IN HOLGATE!** They are celebrating 150 years! Check out the bulletin board for details about their celebration.

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...

God calls us not because we deserve it but because He delights to redeem.