



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

June 29, 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

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

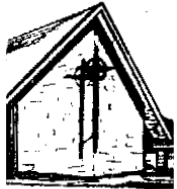
Sermon & Text: “**The Low Whisper**” *1 Kings 19:9b-21*

Order of Service: Matins *LSB pg. 219*

Hymns: **688 ~ 589 ~ 941 (Te Deum) ~ 819 v. 1, 5**

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

- ✠ Sharon Damman *Organist* ✠ Erin Damman, Alana Naveau *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Joe Badenhop, Nick Sonnenberg *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kathy Behnfeldt, Pat Maassel, Anita Badenhop *Altar Guild* ✠

ADULT BIBLE STUDY will gather in the Fellowship Hall after worship. Join us 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.

PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS for the next quarter, *July, August, September*, are on the desk in the back of the church. There are also large print booklets available for anybody to pick up.

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

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM	Worship Service
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Study
	1:30 PM	Gerald Busyfingers 4-H Meeting
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship Service
Sun.	9:00 AM	Communion Service
	10:15 AM	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 recovering from injuries*

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 6/22/2025	\$12,592.11	\$250.00	\$165.00

ATTENDANCE: 25 Thurs.; 109 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 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 *Christ’s Messengers Proclaim His Kingdom*.

When the prophet Elijah became discouraged and despaired of his life, “the word of the LORD came to him” (1 Kings 19:9b) and stood him “on the mount before the LORD” (1 Kings 19:11). The Lord made Himself known to the prophet — not in the impressive power of gale force winds, or in an earthquake, or in the fire, but in “the sound of a low whisper” (1 Kings 19:12). Today God reveals Himself to us through the frail preaching of the Gospel. The Son of Man sends “messengers ahead of him ... to make preparations for him” (Luke 9:52). Putting their hand to that plow of preaching, they “go and proclaim the kingdom of God,” and they do not look back (Luke 9:60, 62). What they preach is not the power of the Law with its “yoke of slavery,” but the power of God unto salvation through the Gospel of forgiveness, by which “Christ has set us free” (Gal. 5:1).

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.

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.*



IF YOU’RE EVER IN A PINCH and could use a little help, the *Good Neighbor Fund* is there to assist you too! Please don’t be bashful about asking – everything is strictly confidential. Just give the church office a call, and we’ll see what we can do.

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. If you have a school-related need, please contact Leah in the church office, and she will make sure the question or information is passed along. 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.

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...

**Elijah found God not in the fire or the wind, but in the stillness—
so might we.**

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*An Independence Day Prayer from
Lutheran Hour Ministries*



Lord of Our Nation,

America was founded by souls who had a thirst for religious freedom. We do them a disservice when we rewrite history to read: “they wanted freedom FROM religion.” For our foolish desire to be independent of You, I humbly ask Your forgiveness. As our nation celebrates its independence, I pray that You will allow us to give thanks for Name and so many others who are working to keep us free. I also ask that the Holy Spirit will help all of America’s citizens to recognize just how much we are dependent upon You. May each home — from the White House to the poorest tenement — recognize that every blessing we have begins and continues as a generous gift from Your providential hand. Let our country’s leaders bow before You so that You might raise them up and show to the world that we are Your people, and You are our God. In Jesus, let this be the prayer of our nation under God. Amen.

“Obey Me, and I will be your God and you will be My people. Walk in all the ways I command you, that it may go well with you” (Jeremiah 7:23)

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