



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

July 6, 2025

VOL. 91

NO. 25

Rev. Gary Bender, TIM
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: “**The Nurture of God**” *Isaiah 66:10-14*

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

Hymns: **684 ~ 895 ~ Communion: 763, “Sons of God” (projected) ~ TLH #578 (projected)**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

You are among Christian friends today. We all have come to the Lord’s House to hear what He has to say and to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. We pray that His grace will touch and move you. If you are a visitor, we ask that you fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack, and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave this morning. Your presence is a blessing to us.



SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman *Organist* ✠ Kenlee Coressel, Zeek Kramer *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Diane Von Deylen, Lou Ann Rosebrock, Nicole Stier *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. Take a copy for your personal or family use, and feel free to also pick up a copy to share with a friend!

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

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study
Mon.	5:15 PM	School Board Meeting
Tues.	6:00 PM	Church Council Meeting
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship Service
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 1:30 PM	Worship Service with Communion Following 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*

FINANCIAL FACTS:

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 6/29/2025	\$4,360.00	\$170.00	\$395.00

ATTENDANCE: 29 Thurs.; 102 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 *The Lord Grants Peace and Life to His Church*.

The Lord restores Jerusalem, His Church, because she is the mother of His children, whom He comforts “as one whom his mother comforts” (Is. 66:13). We are “satisfied from her consoling breast” with the pure milk of the Word, and we “drink deeply with delight from her glorious abundance” (Is. 66:11). The messengers of Christ bestow such gifts upon His Church. For He sends them out “as lambs in the midst of wolves” (Luke 10:3), bearing in their bodies the sacrifice of His cross, by which “the kingdom of God has come near” (Luke 10:9, 11). Wherever He enters in with this Gospel, Satan is cast out and falls “like lightning from heaven” (Luke 10:18). Thus, we do not “boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Gal. 6:14). Rejoicing in this Gospel, we “bear one another’s burdens” in love, according to “the law of Christ” (Gal. 6:2).

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.

HOW ABOUT HOSTING A JAVA JOY? Every second Sunday of the month, we seek hosts for **Java Joy**, a time of refreshment and fellowship following the service. Hosting **Java Joy** does not have to be expensive – you are welcome to reimburse some or all of your expenses, if you wish, from the ‘kitty’ – so please don’t let that hold you back. There is a sign-up sheet on the narthex table for all the second Sundays of the year. Please sign up, and pick up a sheet of guidelines under the sign-up sheet.



CHURCH COUNCIL will meet this Tuesday, July 8th, at 6 p.m.

SCHOOL BOARD will meet this Monday, July 7th, at 5:15 p.m.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM – The Women of Freedom will be meeting Tues., July 15th at 7:00 PM in the north end Fellowship Hall. All ladies welcome!

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.



LOOKING FOR A SUMMER READ? – Stop in and check out the books available in the church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary. The library has something for everyone—devotionals, individual book-of-the-Bible studies and guides, reference books, and books that cover a variety of topics like marriage/parenting, mission work, cultural issues, and more. The books in this library have been screened to assure that they are true to the Word of God and can be trusted to be theologically sound. To borrow a book, just take it with you, and then return it to the basket when you’ve finished reading.

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.



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 (to 419-598-8961 or churchsecretary@sjl.org) by 9 a.m. on Wednesday for the coming Sunday’s bulletin.

“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.

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.

HOMEMADE ICE CREAM SOCIAL – On Sun., July 20th from 11am – 1pm, Zion Lutheran Church in Ridgeville Corners will be hosting a homemade Ice Cream Social at the church. They will be serving hot chicken sandwiches, hot dogs, cheesy potatoes, cole slaw, baked beans, pie/cake, and a beverage. Freewill donation and carryout available. Come and enjoy!

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...

Beat the heat—come sit in the shade of the Almighty.

“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.” Psalm 91:1