



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

July 13, 2025

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NO. 26

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Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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School: 419-598-8702
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FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: “What Does ‘I Am the Lord’ Mean?” *Leviticus 19:9-18*

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

Hymns: **848 ~ 854 (tune: 441) ~ 691**

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 whose purpose is to save us and keep us in His faithful flock. He is The God of Grace and The God of Glory. 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.



SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Elaine Buenger *Organist* ✘ Brynneigh Kehnast, Brayden Damman *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 today. Join us as we take a “Longer Look at the Lessons.” Adult Bible Study will not meet for the rest of July after this week.

THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP services will continue for two more weeks at 7 p.m. in the north end of the Fellowship Hall. These services are a preview of the upcoming Sunday’s service. *Thursday, July 24th will be the final Thursday service of the summer due to being in-between pastors.*

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 1:30 PM	Worship Service with Communion Following Adult Bible Study Gerald BusyFingers 4-H Meeting
Tues.	7:00 PM	Women of Freedom Meeting
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship Service
Sat.		LCMS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans runs July 19-23
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Communion Service Voters' 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
- ❖ *Marilyn Meyer* undergoing knee surgery on July 14th

FINANCIAL FACTS:

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 7/6/2025	\$10,595.00	\$527.00	\$263.00

ATTENDANCE: 30 Thurs.; 133 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 Is Our Good Samaritan*.

The Law commands that “you shall love the Lord your God” with all your heart, soul, mind and strength (Luke 10:27), and that you shall “love your neighbor as yourself” (Lev. 19:18). Love fulfills the Law because love does no harm to the neighbor. Christ Jesus is the Good Samaritan, who with divine compassion saves you from all evil. He takes your sin and death upon Himself and bears these in His body to the cross. He binds up your wounds with the healing balm of His Gospel, and He brings you into His Church, where He takes care of you at His own expense (Luke 10:34–35). By such mercy, He proves “to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers” (Luke 10:36). Therefore, “you go, and do likewise” (Luke 10:37). By “your faith in Christ Jesus” and “because of the hope laid up for you in heaven” (Col. 1:4–5), you have the same love for others as the Lord Jesus has for you. ***“He who has ears to hear, let him hear” (Matt. 11:15).***

LCMS NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING – On Saturday, a number of our youth and chaperones will be traveling to New Orleans to attend the LCMS Youth Gathering. Today we will have a special “send-off” during the worship service. Please keep them in your prayers throughout the time of the gathering that they would grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, and would be equipped for service and ministry in His name. Please pray also for their safe homecoming on the 23rd.

SPECIAL VOTERS’ MEETING – There will be a special voters’ meeting in the Sanctuary after worship on Sunday, July 20th, to discuss and vote on a proposal for a native prairie installation as an educational opportunity for St. John students.

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

SAVE THE DATE FOR PASTOR’S FAREWELL – Please plan to be here on July 27th as Pastor Gary will lead us in worship and preach a sermon one last time at St. John as our Transition Interim Pastor. Join us also after worship on the 27th for a “*Farewell Java Joy*” reception to thank Pastor Gary and Millie Bender for their time and service at St. John and send them off with blessings.



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.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIPS – Here is an opportunity to encourage and help young people prepare for service to the church as pastors, teachers, lay workers, deaconesses, and parish workers! \$500 per year Women of Freedom Scholarships are available to any student of our congregation preparing for full-time church work in the Lutheran church. For more details, you may contact Sharon Damman at 419-966-2164.

LOOKING FOR A SUMMER READ? – 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.



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 (to 419-598-8961 or 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.

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...

Being a neighbor is less about where we live and more about how we love.