



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

July 20, 2025

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Rev. Gary Bender, TIM  
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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Church Website: [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)

### **SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Sermon & Text: “**St. John’s Mission**” *Colossians 1:21-29*

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

Hymns: **685 ~ 852 ~ 606 ~ 620 ~ 763**

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### **WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS**

*Welcome! We are here at the Savior’s invitation; therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, receiving mercy and finding grace to help in every time of need. If you have no church of your own, we invite you to make this your home church. If you are a visitor, please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and place it in the basket at the door on your way out.*

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### **SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✘ Elaine Buenger *Organist* ✘ Erin Damman, Alana Naveau *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Diane Von Deylen, Lou Ann Rosebrock, Nicole Stier *Altar Guild* ✘

**ADULT CONFIRMATION** – This morning we welcome *Joshua and Alicia Wakefield* as members of St. John. The couple completed new member classes with Pastor Gary, and today they publicly affirm their faith. Please welcome them to the St. John family!

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

**THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP** is at 7 p.m. in the north end of the Fellowship Hall. *This Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, will be the final Thursday service of the summer due to being in-between pastors.*

## *In God's House This Week*

Online church calendar: <https://74058984.view-events.com>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Communion Service Voters' Meeting
Thurs.	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Worship Service - <i>final Thurs. service of the Summer</i>
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship Service Farewell <i>Java Joy</i> for Pastor Gary and Millie Bender

**PASTORAL EMERGENCIES** – In the event you require emergency pastoral care, please call Pastor Gary at 989-770-0005. *Note: After Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Gary will no longer be this contact person. Please contact Pastor Kramer at 567-277-1339 with any care requests after the 27<sup>th</sup>.*

**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
- ❖ Leroy Miller recovering from injuries
- ❖ Marilyn Meyer recovering from knee surgery

**LCMS NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING** – A number of our youth and chaperones are currently in New Orleans at the LCMS Youth Gathering. Please keep them in your prayers this week 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 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**FINANCIAL FACTS:**

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 7/13/2025	\$8,744.63	\$150.00	\$145.00

**ATTENDANCE: 26 Thurs.; 126 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](mailto:lkgerken@henry-net.com). Dave can be reached at 419-438-1844 or [davevd21@gmail.com](mailto: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 Word of Christ Is the One Thing Needed*.

“The LORD appeared to [Abraham] by the oaks of Mamre” (Gen. 18:1) and received his hospitality. But Abraham received the gracious promise of a son. Though Abraham and Sarah were very old, nothing is “too hard for the LORD” (Gen. 18:14). His Word appointed the time and fulfilled the promise. In the same way, the Lord Jesus “entered a village” and received Martha’s hospitality (Luke 10:38). “Martha was distracted with much serving” because she was “anxious and troubled about many things” (Luke 10:40–41), but her sister, Mary, “sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to his teaching” (Luke 10:39). The service of love is no sin, but “one thing is necessary” for both faith and love — the Word of Christ (Luke 10:42). Thus, the ministers of Christ are sent “to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints” (Col. 1:25–26). *“He who has ears to hear, let him hear” (Matt. 11:15).*

**SHARE THE BOUNTY** – Has your garden produced a bounty of beans? A crush of cucumbers? An excess of eggplants? If you’ve got more than you can use, consider sharing the bounty with your friends at church. There is a table outside under the carport where you can drop off the garden produce you *can’t* use, and you can also pick up what you *can* use. It’s a wonderful way to share the blessing!

**PASTOR GARY’S FAREWELL** – Please plan to be here next Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

THANK  
YOU!

**LUTHERAN HOUR BROADCAST** – A donation has been made by the Women of Freedom to sponsor a radio broadcast of the Lutheran Hour program. This broadcast will air today, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Locally, you may listen to the Lutheran Hour on WMTR 96.1 fm, Archbold at 7:30 am or on WNDH 103.1 fm, Napoleon at approximately 8:30 am every Sunday. *If you wish to sponsor a Lutheran Hour broadcast and personalize a message (memorial, anniversary, etc.) on WNDH, contact Carlan Badenhop at 419-822-1298 for details on date availability and cost.*

**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 on the bottom of the right bookshelf when you’ve finished reading.

**PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS** for this 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!

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://worshipanew.org).*



**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](mailto:churchsecretary@sjl.org)) by 9 a.m. on Wednesday for the coming Sunday's bulletin.

**SAVE THE DATE!** The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Stephanie Kossow Memorial Golf Outing will be held at White Pines Golf Course on Sat., July 26<sup>th</sup>. Forms are available on the Narthex table.

**HOMEMADE ICE CREAM SOCIAL** – **Today., July 20<sup>th</sup> from 11am – 1pm, Zion Lutheran Church in Ridgeville Corners** is 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...*

**Keep the faith, but don't keep it to yourself!**