



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

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NO. 30

Rev. Gary Bender, TIM
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Cell: 989-770-0005; Church: 419-598-8961
School: 419-598-8702
Church Website: www.sjl.org

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: “**The Lord’s Prayer**” *Luke 11:1-13*

Order of Service: Variation on Divine Service Setting Five *LSB pg. 213 + insert*

Hymn: 766

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.



SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Bethann Gerken *Pianist* ✘ Westen Cowell, Piper Speiser *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Diane Von Deylen, Lou Ann Rosebrock, Nicole Stier *Altar Guild* ✘

PASTOR GARY’S FAREWELL – This morning Pastor Gary will lead us in worship and preach a sermon one last time at St. John as our Transition Interim Pastor. Join us after worship 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. We greatly appreciate Pastor Gary’s work in this transition to deliver pastoral care, provide stability, explore our congregation’s identity and mission, and help us prepare for calling the next pastor to St. John.

Thank you
MAY GOD BLESS YOU

A REMINDER – We will not be gathering for *Thursday Evening Worship* for the remainder of the summer due to being in-between pastors. After August 3rd, *Adult Bible Study* will also be “on hold.”

In God's House This Week

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

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship Service Farewell <i>Java Joy</i> for Pastor Gary and Millie Bender
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread From Heaven</i> Food Pantry distribution
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 1:30 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study Gerald Busyfingers 4-H Meeting

PASTORAL EMERGENCIES – After Sunday, July 27th, Pastor Gary will no longer be this contact person. Please contact **Pastor Kramer** at 567-277-1339 with any emergency pastoral care requests.

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, 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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS – *Mark and Brenda Elling* would like to thank everyone for the outpouring of prayers, cards, and support. They are home from Columbus, which Mark says “is nothing short of a miracle.” We praise God for this miracle and pray for Brenda’s continued healing!

FINANCIAL FACTS:

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 7/20/2025	\$6,518.00	\$215.00	\$455.00

ATTENDANCE: 29 Thurs.; 123 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 Prayer of the Church is the Voice of Faith*.

Jesus catechizes His disciples in the way of faith by teaching them how to pray. He promises us: “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Luke 11:9). If earthly fathers know how to give good gifts to their children, “how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him” (Luke 11:13). Thus, father Abraham was bold in his prayer because he believed the gracious promise of the Lord, that he would “surely become a great and mighty nation” (Gen. 18:18). When we pray in Jesus’ name, we also hold “fast to the Head” (Col. 2:19), “rooted and built up in him and established in the faith” (Col. 2:6–7). ***“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!

‘BREAD FROM HEAVEN’ – Our food pantry’s next distribution will be tomorrow, July 28th, at 5:30 p.m. (A note to St. John members needing food assistance – If you could use assistance from our food pantry, please call the church office. We are required by the *Northwestern Ohio Food Bank* to keep a record with your name, but we 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. Thank you so much!

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!

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.

SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING – “Thank you to all voters for your attendance and support at the recent special voter's meeting. We are looking forward to working with the Toledo Zoo to install the native prairie. We are excited for the many learning opportunities this will provide for the students of St. John.” –Miss Tracy Germann

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.



GIRLS' BASKETBALL COACHING – As you may have heard, Mrs. Shawna Schroeder has decided to step down from her role as head basketball coach at St. John. Shawna has faithfully filled this role for many years, and her joy and leadership have had great impacts on the girls in our church and school! She is a blessing and will certainly be missed. With this news, **St. John is looking for a new girls' basketball coach for the upcoming basketball season.** Anyone interested should contact *Joe Badenhop* at joebadenhop@yahoo.com or 419-438-5435.

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.*



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. 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. School office hours vary but will be picking up as the school year approaches. If making a special trip, please call ahead to make sure someone will be here.

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...

Jesus taught us to pray "Thy will be done," not "My will be done."