

# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

August 3, 2025

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Pastoral Vacancy

Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church Office: 419-598-8961

School Office: 419-598-8702

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

### EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon: Guest Pastor *Rev. Gary Bernath*

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

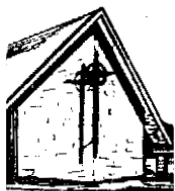
Hymns: **730 ~ 782 ~ Communion: 629, 761 ~ 850**

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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**

- ✠ Bethann Gerken *Pianist* ✠ Kenlee Coressel, Piper Speiser *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dave Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Deb Von Deylen, Elaine Buenger, Teresa Weller, Pat Mahnke *Altar Guild* ✠

**A NOTE FROM PASTOR GARY** – Pastor Gary and Millie wish “to thank the members of St. John for all your support, well wishes, cards and gifts at the time of our farewell. We will miss you and the ministry here. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless you. Thanks for everything.”

**CALL LIST NOMINATIONS** – We are once again taking nominations of pastors to be added to our call list, as the call committee has requested a new slate of candidates from the district. Do you know a pastor that would be a good fit at St. John? Simply fill out a nomination form, available on the table in the narthex, and turn it in to Leah in the church office **by August 17<sup>th</sup>**. We will forward the names of these pastors to the district for their consideration.

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
TODAY	9:00 AM	<b>Communion Service</b>
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Study
	10:15 AM	Confirmation Class Informational Meeting
	1:30 PM	Gerald Busyfingers 4-H Meeting
Sun.	9:00 AM	<b>Worship Service with Communion Following</b>

**PASTORAL EMERGENCIES** – 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

**FINANCIAL FACTS:**

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 7/27/2025	\$8,152.00	\$515.00	\$525.00

**ATTENDANCE: 24 Thurs.; 152 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!

**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.

**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!

**PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR** – In today’s Scripture readings we hear that *Faith in Christ Is Rich Toward God*.

To live for earthly things “is vanity and a striving after wind,” and work that is driven by such vanity “is an unhappy business” (Eccl. 1:13–14). The man who lives like that has nothing to show for “all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun ... all his days are full of sorrow” (Eccl. 2:22–23). So, too, your “covetousness, which is idolatry” (Col. 3:5), makes a god out of that which cannot give you life or happiness. For “one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions” (Luke 12:15). But “Christ who is your life” (Col. 3:4), in giving you Himself, gives you all the wealth of heaven. Instead of striving to lay up treasures for yourself, be “rich toward God” in Him (Luke 12:21). *“He who has ears to hear, let him hear” (Matt. 11:15).*

**CONFIRMATION MEETING** – After worship **today**, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, there will be a meeting in the cry room regarding confirmation plans for the coming school year. All incoming 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents are asked to attend.

**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!



**ENROLLING NOW** – The school year begins August 21<sup>st</sup>, so the countdown is on! 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).

**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).



**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 around 15 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](mailto:joebadenhop@yahoo.com) or 419-438-5435.

**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 ensure 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.

**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.

**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).*



**SYNOD POSITION NOMINATIONS** – The national LCMS is preparing for convention next summer and seeks nominees for positions such as *Secretary of the Synod, LCMS Boards for National and International Mission, Concordia Publishing House Board of Directors, Concordia University System Board of Directors*, and more. For more information, see the flyer on the narthex table.

**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](mailto: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.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** – Anyone who wishes to place flowers on the altar for Sunday worship, please contact *Nancy Glaser* at 419-906-0963. **NOTE: The price for flowers through the Women of Freedom is now \$30.00.** Please make checks payable to *Women of Freedom*. Remember that it is your responsibility to call Nancy either way; if you would like the Women of Freedom to order the flowers or if you are going to take care of ordering the flowers yourself. Please also contact the church office with any "in memory/honor of" notes to be put in the bulletin. This will alleviate any confusion.

**OHIO ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN** – The Ohio Division OGT is located in the north end of the Culligan Water Conditioning building on Independence Drive in Napoleon. Someone is usually there to receive items on the first Tuesday of the month from 9:30-11:30 AM. If you need to drop off items at another time, please contact *Nancy Helmke* (419-758-3539), *Diann Meyer-Grieser* (419-267-3485), or *Vicki Grieser* (419-445-2986), and they will be happy to meet you and open the facility to receive your donations! PLEASE do not drop off items at the warehouse when it is closed. Thank you!

**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...*

**The best things in life aren't things.**