



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

August 10, 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

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon: Guest Pastor *Rev. Carl Rockrohr*

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

Hymns: **555 v. 1, 3, 5, 10 ~ 743 ~ 700**

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 visiting with us, please fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack, and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Elaine Buenger *Organist* ✠ Brynneigh Kehnast *Acolyte* ✠
- ✠ Dave Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Deb Von Deylen, Elaine Buenger, Teresa Weller, Pat Mahnke *Altar Guild* ✠

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 17th**. We will forward the names of these pastors to the district for their consideration.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – Surprise! We **will** be having Adult Bible Study following the service this week and next. Thank you, *Rev. Rockrohr*, for offering and leading this.

YOUTH GATHERING GRATITUDE – Our youth and leaders are back from New Orleans, where they had an awesome time at the LCMS National Youth Gathering! They have placed thank-you cards on the Narthex table with some photos from their trip and a thank you message. If you were not here to get one in your bulletin last week, please take a copy!

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship Service with Communion Following Adult Bible Study
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study

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
- ❖ *Stan Gerken* for health concerns

THANK YOU FOR THE PRAYERS – “*I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, well-wishes, and cards I received during my knee replacement surgery. I am very grateful to God for all His blessings and to all of you for your support!*” –Marilyn Meyer

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 8/3/2025	\$9,301.22	\$155.00	\$105.00

ATTENDANCE: 138

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!

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.

PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR – In today’s Scripture readings we hear that *The Lord Is Surely Coming to Give You His Kingdom*.

The Lord Himself was Abraham’s shield and great reward. For “the word of the LORD came to him” and sustained the patriarch’s faith in the face of death (Gen. 15:4). By divine grace, Abraham “believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness” (Gen. 15:6), on account of the holy Seed, Christ Jesus. To that one old man, the Lord granted “descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore” (Heb. 11:12). The Lord is likewise faithful to you. It is His glad desire “to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32). Therefore, “do not be anxious about your life,” but instead “seek his kingdom” (Luke 12:22, 31). Set your heart on that treasure. “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning ... for the Son of Man is coming” (Luke 12:35, 40). *“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!



LOOKING FOR A SUMMER READ? – Check out the books available in the church library, located in the hall next to the sanctuary. 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.

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.

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 or 419-438-5435.



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...

Give to God what is right, not what is left.

News and Notes for the Upcoming School Year

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – On Sunday, August 24th, we will be having the annual “ **blessing of the backpacks**” during the church service for all students returning to school, **any school!** Following worship, the school board is sponsoring a “**back to school brunch**” in the fellowship hall. All church and school families are welcome!

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.

HIRING NOW – St. John Lutheran School has staff positions open: **short and long-term substitutes, school cook, and music teacher.** Interested candidates, contact Tracy Germann at tgermann@sjl.org.

Other important dates/notes for St. John school:

- **The 1st Day of School** for St. John is Thurs., Aug. 21st
 - All church and school families are welcome to join us for our **Opening Chapel Service** at 8:35 a.m. this day!
- **School Parent Night / Sweet Start** – there will be a meeting for parents of students grades K-6 on Tues., Aug. 19th from 4:30-6 p.m. in the north end of the cafeteria. There will be time for questions, signing up for volunteer opportunities, and an informational session with your child’s teacher. *At this event, you may also drop off school supplies and enjoy a sweet treat with us!*
- **Preschool Preview Days** will be Thurs., Aug. 28th for the 4-year-old class and Fri., Aug. 29th for the 3-year-old class. These provide an opportunity for parents and preschoolers to visit the classroom before the first day of school and receive information for the year.
- **School Pictures** will be taken by *Pictures by Marisa* this year and are scheduled for Wed., Sept. 17th at 9 a.m. for the 3-year-old preschool and K-6. On Thurs., Sept. 17th, Marisa will be back to take photos for the 4-year-old preschool class and anyone who missed picture day. Order forms will be made available shortly after school starts.
- We will once again be utilizing **Digital Academy** as our communication system. Back to school forms are available in your account; please have these completed.
- **Booster Memberships** are available for the 2025-26 school year. \$20.00 for a couple and \$10.00 for a single. Blue forms are available in the rack by the school office door.
- **SCRIP** will be offered again this school year. Any questions can be directed to *Kristyn Honemann* at 419-966-0207.
- **Freedom Flock**, St. John’s afterschool program, will begin at 3 p.m. on the first day of school. This year’s director is Miss Elle Mohler. If you will be utilizing this program, please contact Erica in the school office to pre-register your child(ren) and pay the \$15 per family registration. The handbook and registration forms are available in the rack outside the office and will also be available on school supply drop-off night.