

# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

August 31, 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)

### TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon: Guest *Seminarian Joshua Gerken*

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

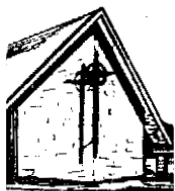
Hymns: **902 ~ 706 ~ 837**

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#### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*You are among Christian friends today. We all have come to the Lord's House to hear what He has to say and to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. We pray that His grace will touch and move you. If you are a visitor, we ask that you fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you, and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave this morning. Your presence is a blessing to us. If you have no church home of your own, we'd love to have you join St. John!*

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

- ✘ Elaine Buenger *Organist* ✘ Kenlee Coressel, Erin Damman *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Dave Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Deb Von Deylen, Elaine Buenger, Teresa Weller, Pat Mahnke *Altar Guild* ✘

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES** are scheduled to start back up **next Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**, after the worship service. Sunday School will open in the Fellowship Hall before dispersing to the classrooms. Confirmation will meet in the North End of the Fellowship Hall.

➤ *Confirmation students are asked to bring a 1-inch binder, an ESV Bible, and Luther's Small Catechism to class. You may purchase the Bible and/or Catechism on your own or use copies you already have. If you'd like to purchase these through the church office, please contact Leah Saylor.*

**MY DEVOTION BOOKLETS** for *Sept., Oct., and Nov.*, are available on the desk in the narthex. These are kid-friendly and are great for kids' individual or family devotion time. Pick up a copy today!

**LWML QUARTERLIES** – Stop by the tract rack at the narthex table to pick up a copy of the *LWML Quarterly* for Fall 2025. These have nice articles and Bible studies and are available to all ladies.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
<b>TODAY</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
Mon.		<i>NO SCHOOL – Labor Day</i>
Tues.	<b>8:35 AM</b>	First day of 4 y/o Preschool <b>School Chapel</b>
Thurs.		First Day of 3 y/o Preschool
Sun.	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:15 AM	<b>Communion Service</b> Sunday School Confirmation class after church until 11:15

**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* and *Julie (Kern) Patterson* for health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *Stan Gerken* for health concerns
- ❖ *Lowell Petzoldt* in hospice care

**FINANCIAL FACTS:**

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 8/24/2025	\$11,505.86	\$275.00	\$195.00

**ATTENDANCE: 174**

**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.



**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).

**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!

**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!



**PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR** – In today’s Scripture readings we hear that *We Are Humbled and Exalted by the Cross of Christ*.

“Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,” Jesus proclaims, but “he who humbles himself will be exalted” (Luke 14:11). For your hope is in the name of the Lord, who humbled Himself unto death on the cross and was exalted in His resurrection. So, are you humbled by His cross, and “at the resurrection of the just,” He will say to you, “Friend, move up higher” (Luke 14:10, 13–14)? By His grace, the King will honor you “in the presence of a noble,” where your eyes will gaze upon the Prince, His dearly beloved Son (Prov. 25:7). As He has dealt so graciously with you, “do not neglect to do good and to share what you have” (Heb. 13:16), and “do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers” (Heb. 13:2). Humble yourself and exalt your neighbor. *“He who has ears to hear, let him hear” (Matt. 11:15).*

**THE FINAL REPORT FROM THE TRANSITION TASK FORCE** has been approved by council, and copies are available to the congregation on the Narthex table. This report details the past, present, and future of St. John based on the interviews, workshops, questionnaires, etc. completed during our transition between pastors.

**THE WOMEN OF FREEDOM** have two opportunities to share with those in need, and the congregation is invited to join them! Collection boxes will be labeled and in the back of church for:

1. *Together We Can Make a Difference* Initiatives is in need of **new winter hats, scarves, and gloves/mittens for all ages**. We will be collecting up until Christmas, but cold weather will be arriving before we know it, so we will begin now.
2. *Orphan Grain Train* is in need of **new undershirts, underwear, and socks**. These will be collected for the ingathering for the Women in Mission (LWML) Fall Retreat to be held on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> at St. John, Stryker.



**LWML FALL RETREAT** – As noted above, this year’s LWML Defiance/Napoleon Zone Fall Retreat will be held on Sat., September 20<sup>th</sup> at St. John Stryker. The event will run from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The theme is “He Restoreth my Soul” based on Psalm 23:2. Registration forms are on the Narthex table—they are due by September 12<sup>th</sup> to Marlene Cripe (1969 Redwood Dr. Defiance, OH 43512) with a \$15 luncheon fee.

**GRANDPARENTS’ DAY IS COMING SOON** – On Mon., Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, our school will celebrate our grandparents. Grandparents of the 4-year-old preschool class as well as grandparents of students in grades K-6 are invited to come to school from 1:00-2:45 p.m. for fun activities and a Chapel service. Grandparents’ Day for the 3 y/o preschool class will be held on Fri., September 12<sup>th</sup> from 10-11 a.m.

**CHURCH OFFICE VACATION NOTICE** – The Church Secretary will be out of office from Wed., Sept. 10 through Wed., Sept. 17. She will be in to work on Mon., Sept. 8 and Tues., Sept. 9, and will return to work Thurs., Sept. 18 and Fri., Sept. 19. The school office will be open as usual, and Pastor Kramer may be contacted for pastoral emergencies. *Please note the following adjusted bulletin announcement submission deadlines:*

- Submissions for Sun., Sept. 14 should be turned in by 9:00 a.m. on Tues., Sept. 9.
- Submissions for Sun., Sept. 21 should be turned in by 9:00 a.m. on Thurs., Sept. 18.

**HAWK'S COMMUNITY DAYS** – Hawk's Pizza and Drive-Thru has invited us again to be part of their Community Day fundraiser. On Saturday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, Hawks will donate 10% of their sales to St. John Lutheran School. Let's keep up the great support shown for St. John and this local small business by ordering your favorite food at Hawk's Pizza on Saturday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>.

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

**ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP** – Memberships are now being taken for the '25-'26 Athletic Booster Club. Prices are \$20.00 for a couple and \$10.00 for an individual. Make checks payable to **St. John Boosters** and turn them into the school office. Forms are available on the Narthex table or outside the office. Join today to help out the children's athletic program.

**SCRIP AT ST. JOHN** – The SCRIP campaign has begun and will run for the remainder of the school year. For those that don't know, SCRIP is a program where you can purchase gift cards through our PTL for full face value, and a percentage of your purchase is returned to our school. They work for both in-store purchases and online shopping. PTL works through a company that purchases these gift cards in bulk from participating retailers. Think ahead— if you give out gift cards for birthdays, Christmas, or other occasions, consider purchasing them from PTL instead of at the store, so that a portion of that sale stays with St. John Lutheran School. Order forms are available outside the school office and by the table in the Narthex. Please feel free to share with family and friends. Payment must accompany orders and checks should be made out to St. John PTL. Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to SCRIP Coordinator *Kristyn Honemann* (419-966-0207 or [honemann@embarqmail.com](mailto:honemann@embarqmail.com)).

**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.

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*Thought for the Week...*

**A person is never so empty as when he is full of himself.**