

St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

September 14, 2025

VOL. 91

NO. 37

Pastoral Vacancy

Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church Office: 419-598-8961

School Office: 419-598-8702

Church Website: www.sjl.org

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

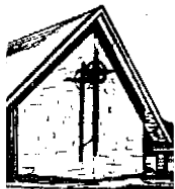
Sermon: Guest *Seminarian Nash Ringquist*

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

Hymns: **709 ~ 686 ~ 566 v. 1, 4, 6**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Warm greetings and love in Christ are extended to all members and guests. We trust that you will experience the warmth of Christian fellowship, the inspiration of worship, and the peace that comes from an awareness of God's presence. May we be showered with those blessings as we together profess His Name today. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it into the baskets at the doors as you leave today.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✂ Sharon Damman *Organist* ✂ Kenlee Coressel, Owen Stier *Acolytes* ✂
- ✂ Derek Damman, Greg Kehnast, Ian Rosebrook *Ushers* ✂
- ✂ Karan Niebergall, Karen Lulfs, Kaylee Buchhop, Ronda Wentworth *Altar Guild* ✂

JAVA JOY TODAY – It's the second Sunday of the month, and you know what that means: it's

JAVA JOY day! We thank our hosts, the **St. John School Teachers**, for providing this time for fellowship and refreshment. Please stop out in the front hallway after worship to enjoy! *Java Joy hosts are still needed for the remainder of the year. Sign-up sheets and guidelines are on the Narthex table for anyone interested.*



AFTER-CHURCH OPPORTUNITIES –

- **Adult Bible Study** will meet in the cry room. Thank you to *Seminarian Ringquist* for leading this!
- **Sunday School** has resumed and will open in the Fellowship Hall before dispersing to classrooms.
- **Confirmation Class** will meet in the North End of the Fellowship Hall. *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.*

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM	Worship Service with Communion to follow <i>Java Joy</i> hosted by St. John School Teachers after the service
	10:15 AM	Sunday School; Adult Bible Study Confirmation class after church until 11:15
Tues.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	7:00 PM	School Photo Day (3 y/o and K-6 th) Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.		School Photo Day (4 y/o and Make-Up Day)
Sat.	9:00 AM	LWML Fall Retreat @ St. John Stryker
Sun.	9:00 AM	Communion Service
	10:15 AM	Sunday School; Adult Bible Study Confirmation class after church until 11:15
	4:00 PM	LYF Kickoff Meeting

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 and Norma Damman* at Genacross
- ❖ *Rozella Gruenhagen* at Vancrest
- ❖ *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

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 9/7/2025	\$8,824.00	\$145.00	\$275.00

ATTENDANCE: 166

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. *Dave* can be reached at 419-438-1844 or davevd21@gmail.com.

SHARE THE BOUNTY – There is a table outside under the carport where you can drop off any of your garden produce that you *can't* use, and you can also pick up what you *can* use.

PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR – In today’s Scripture readings we hear that *Jesus Christ Is the Great Shepherd of His Sheep*.

“The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Tim. 1:15). As He had mercy on Paul, in order to “display his perfect patience” (1 Tim. 1:16), so also does He seek out His sheep “from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness” (Ezek. 34:12). To deliver His flock, He “will seek the lost, ... bring back the strayed, ... bind up the injured, and ... strengthen the weak” (Ezek. 34:16), and “they shall no longer be a prey” (Ezek. 34:22). He sets over them one great Good Shepherd, the Son of David, who “shall feed them and be their shepherd” (Ezek. 34:23). For Christ Jesus is the one man who, “having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them,” would “leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it” (Luke 15:4). When He finds the lost one and brings it home rejoicing, “the angels of God” and all the company of heaven rejoice with Him, with great joy (Luke 15:7, 10). ***“He who has ears to hear, let him hear” (Matt. 11:15).***

CHOIR PRACTICES will resume this Wed., September 17th, at 7 p.m. We encourage anyone interested in joining the choir to come; they will be happy to see you! Thank you to Jon Buenger for directing the choir and to each choir member for sharing musical talents!

LYF KICKOFF – Join us for a new year of Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) on Sunday, September 21st at the Youth and Family Center. Jr High (Grades 6-8) will meet at 4 p.m. and High School (Grades 9-12) will meet at 5 p.m. Bring a friend!

LYF ICE CREAM SOCIAL – The LYF will be hosting its annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, September 28th, with serving from 10:30 to noon in the Fellowship Hall. On the menu: Chicken Sandwiches, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Chips, Beverage, and Ice Cream. Freewill offering! Carryout available also! The youth will be raising funds for upcoming group events. Come and help support the youth of our congregation!

PASTRIES WITH PARENTS AND PRAYER PALS – Parents and Prayer Pals of St. John Lutheran School students, please join us for a **reuniting event** on Tuesday, September 23rd at 8:30 a.m. We’ll begin in the church, then **donuts** and a get-to-know-you time in the Fellowship Hall until 9:15 a.m. If you have a student Prayer Pal from last May, **please come!** Those are the students that should be in your **prayers** throughout this new school year. For more information, contact Bonnie Niermann (419) 598-8702.

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. 20th at St. John, Stryker.



LWML FALL RETREAT – This year’s LWML Defiance/Napoleon Zone Fall Retreat will be held on Sat., September 20th 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— the deadline has passed, but you may contact Marlene Cripe to see about registration.

THE NOMINATIONS PROCESS BEGINS – The Stewardship Board would like to announce that it is almost time to send out letters to members of our congregation asking if they would be willing to serve in one of the offices of our congregation. Please keep this process in your prayers, and if asked, please give it prayerful consideration. **If you are interested in a role and want to volunteer yourself to be nominated, please contact Leah in the church office,** and she’ll pass your name along to the Stewardship board. We are so thankful to God for all those who choose to serve!



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 (tgermann@sjl.org).



GIRLS’ BASKETBALL COACHING – 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.

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!

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.

CHURCH OFFICE VACATION NOTICE – The Church Secretary is out of office from Wed., Sept. 10 through Wed., Sept. 17. She will return to work this 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 email (churchsecretary@sjl.org) or leave a voicemail on the church line with any bulletin announcements before Thursday morning.

AREA EVENT

- ◆ **THE CPC WOMEN’S HEALTH RESOURCE** is hosting its annual Walkathon, 5K Run, and Family Fun Morning at the Bryan CPC Office on **Saturday, September 27th**. Feel free to take a copy of one of the flyers on the Narthex table for more information or to register.

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Thought for the Week...

The Good Shepherd knows, loves, seeks, and saves His sheep.