

# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

September 21, 2025

VOL. 91

NO. 38

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)

### **FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Sermon: Guest *Rev. Dr. Carl Rockrohr*

Order of Service: Divine Service Setting One *LSB pg. 151*

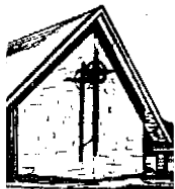
Hymns: **894 ~ 781 ~ 786 ~ Communion: 619, 537, 785 ~ “Give Thanks” (projected)**

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **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* ✠ Piper Speiser, Stryker Oyer *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Derek Damman, Greg Kehnast, Ian Rosebrook *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karan Niebergall, Karen Lulfs, Kaylee Buchhop, Ronda Wentworth *Altar Guild* ✠

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are placed this morning in celebration of Jim and Nancy (*Hoffman*) Hogrefe’s 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They were married here at St. John on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1965. We join them in praising God for their years together thus far and pray for blessings on the years to come!

#### **AFTER-CHURCH OPPORTUNITIES** –

- **Adult Bible Study** will meet in the cry room. Thank you to *Pastor Rockrohr* 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.

**LYF KICKOFF** – Join us for a new year of Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) **TODAY**, September 21<sup>st</sup> 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!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
TODAY	9:00 AM	<b>Communion Service</b>
	10:15 AM	Sunday School; Adult Bible Study Confirmation class after church until 11:15
	4:00 PM	LYF Kickoff Meeting (Grades 6-8 at 4 p.m.; Grades 9-12 at 5 p.m.)
Mon.	5:30 PM	<i>Bread from Heaven</i> Food Pantry Distribution
Tues.	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>School Chapel / Pastries with Prayer Pals and Parents</b>
Wed.	7:00 PM	School Vision/Hearing Screenings
		Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.		School Vision/Hearing Screenings
Sun.	9:00 AM	<b>Worship Service</b>
	10:15 AM	Sunday School; Adult Bible Study Confirmation class after church until 11:15
	10:30 AM	LYF Ice Cream Social

**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

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 9/14/2025	\$4,801.00	\$287.00	\$223.00

**ATTENDANCE: 132**

**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).

**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 *The Lord Is Rich in His Grace and Mercy*.

Because God, our Savior, “desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:4), He urges “that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people” (1 Tim. 2:1). Christians should so pray “without anger or quarreling,” but “adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control” (1 Tim. 2:8, 9). For the Lord does not forget “the poor of the land” (Amos 8:4). He remembers them according to the foolishness of the cross. “For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God” (Luke 16:15). Though we try to justify ourselves “before men,” God knows our sinful hearts and calls us to repentance (Luke 16:15). Though we are “not strong enough to dig,” and we are “ashamed to beg” (Luke 16:3), He justifies us by His grace and welcomes us into His “eternal dwellings” (Luke 16:9). More shrewd than even “the sons of this world” (Luke 16:8), He requires His stewards of the Gospel to bestow forgiveness freely. ***“He who has ears to hear, let him hear” (Matt. 11:15).***

**CHOIR PRACTICES** have resumed. Choir will meet again this Wed., September 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 ICE CREAM SOCIAL** – The LYF will be hosting its annual Ice Cream Social next Sunday, **September 28<sup>th</sup>**, 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.

**THE WOMEN OF FREEDOM** invite the congregation to help them share with those in need. *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; collection boxes are by the Narthex table.

**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.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR LWML SUNDAY** – We are planning on recognizing LWML Sunday on October 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be a congregational mite collection, **so please begin to set aside your mites to be given on that Sunday!** There will be other special aspects of the service, and *Java Joy* will be hosted by the Women of Freedom following the service.

**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!





# From the **Classroom** to the **Congregation**

*Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School*



**PASTRIES WITH PARENTS AND PRAYER PALS** – Parents and Prayer Pals of St. John School students, please join us for a **reuniting event** this Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> 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* at (419) 598-8702.

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW JANITOR** – We welcome *Mrs. Melissa Vogelsong* to our team as the custodian for the school. Melissa joined our team in early September and is working hard to make sure the school is clean and sanitized for our students. Welcome Melissa!

**PTL DETERGENT FUNDRAISER** – The *Profitable Solutions* detergent fundraiser is sponsored by the PTL and runs **Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>**, 2025. It involves selling bulk laundry detergent (including pods!), softener, scent booster, dish soap, dishwasher pods and trash bags! You will be receiving 42% more detergent (350-500 loads!) for the same price you'd pay in store! Information sheets and order forms are on the Narthex table. Please direct any questions to *Nicole Stier* at 419-966-7376.

**THANK YOU, GRANDPARENTS!** – This past week was filled with such JOY as we welcomed grandparents to visit St. John. Grandparents enjoyed the day visiting classrooms, playing putt-putt and bowling in the gym, making a variety of crafts with their grandchildren and of course enjoying a snack. We ended the day with chapel by sharing God's Word and singing with voices filled with JOY. We thank all the grandparents for taking time to come be with their grandchildren and support St. John.

**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.

## **AREA EVENTS**

- ◆ **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 27<sup>th</sup>**. Feel free to take a copy of one of the flyers on the Narthex table for more information or to register.
- ◆ **THE ST. MARTIN'S CONCERT SERIES** opens with an organ recital performed by Matthew Wachtman on **Sun., Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.** at 203 S. Defiance St. in Archbold. More details on this and other concerts at St. Martin's are on the bulletin board in the Narthex

✂ ✂ ✂

*Thought for the Week...*

**You can't control the length of your life, but you can control its depth.**