

# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

September 28, 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)

### **SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Sermon: Guest *Seminarian Nash Ringquist*

Order of Service: Matins *LSB pg. 219*

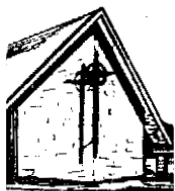
Hymns: **730 ~ 741 v. 1, 3, 4, 8 ~ 673**

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#### **WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS**

*You are among Christian friends today. We have all 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. 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.*

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

- ✠ Elaine Buenger *Organist* ✠ Alana Naveau, Jovi Sonnenberg *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Derek Damman, Greg Kehnast, Ian Rosebrook *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Karan Niebergall, Karen Lulfs, Kaylee Buchhop, Ronda Wentworth *Altar Guild* ✠

**LYF ICE CREAM SOCIAL** – The LYF is hosting its annual Ice Cream Social after worship **today, 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.



#### **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.

**PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS** for *Oct., Nov., and Dec.*, are available on the desk in the Narthex. These brief, daily devotions are available in a pocket-sized booklet and a large print version. Please take one for yourself/family, and feel free to take an extra copy to share with a friend!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
TODAY	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<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
Tues.	<b>8:35 AM</b>	<b>School Chapel</b>
Wed.	7:00 PM	NO SCHOOL Wed., Thurs., Fri. – <i>LEA Convention</i> Adult Choir Practice
Sun.	<b>9:00 AM</b> 10:15 AM	<b>Communion Service</b> Sunday School; Adult Bible Study 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* 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 9/21/2025	\$16,525.00	\$640.00	\$325.00

**ATTENDANCE: 168**

**DONATIONS IN MEMORIAL OF LOWELL PETZOLDT (as of 9/24/25): Total of \$10,611.00**  
*(Breakdown: St. John Lutheran Church Memorial Fund – \$650.00; Good Neighbor Fund – \$600.00; St. John Lutheran School Memorial Fund – \$4,140.00; St. John Lutheran Endowment Fund (School) – \$5,221.00)*

**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 *Our Help Is Not in Worldly Riches*.

“The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side,” and “the rich man also died and was buried” (Luke 16:22). The poor man Lazarus, who knew many bad things on earth, began to be comforted forever, whereas the rich man, after a lifetime of good things, began to be “in anguish” (Luke 16:25). Therefore, “woe to those who are at ease in Zion” (Amos 6:1), for “the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away” (Amos 6:7). The wealthy are urged “not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches,” but “to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share” (1 Tim. 6:17–18). Covetous desire for what God has not given is idolatry and “a root of all kinds of evils” (1 Tim. 6:10). Contentment belongs to faith, by which the Christian has “great gain” in godliness (1 Tim. 6:6). ***“He who has ears to hear, let him hear” (Matt. 11:15).***

**CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE** – The Call Committee has received its new call list from the office of the Ohio LCMS District President, and their deliberations have begun. Please keep this process in your prayers as we seek the next pastor to shepherd our flock at St. John!

**CHOIR PRACTICES** have resumed. Choir will meet again this Wed., October 1<sup>st</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!

**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.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR LWML SUNDAY** – We are planning on recognizing *Lutheran Women in Mission* on Sunday, 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!** You can collect them in a container of your own, or pick up a purple and white mite box from the Narthex table. There will be other special aspects of the service on Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, and *Java Joy* will be hosted by the Women of Freedom following the service.

➤ *The Mite Box is based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4). Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national mission grants and implement the LWML program. Read more about mites at [www.lwml.org/mites](http://www.lwml.org/mites)*

**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.

**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!



**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.



**BASKETBALL PARENT MEETING** – On Mon., October 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, there will be a meeting for the parents of any boy or girl from St. John School and/or church in grades 4-6 interested in playing basketball this year. Any questions can be directed to *Joe Badenhop* at [joebadenhop@yahoo.com](mailto:joebadenhop@yahoo.com) or 419-438-5435.

**GIRLS' BASKETBALL COACHING** – St. John is looking for a new girls' basketball coach for the upcoming basketball season. Anyone interested should contact *Joe Badenhop*.

**ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE** – 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.

**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](mailto:tgermann@sjl.org)).

**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!

**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!

**LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT** – If you have used prescription or nonprescription glasses or sunglasses in your drawers, desk, or closet, you can donate them in the box on the Narthex table. Children's glasses are especially needed. Both plastic and metal frames are accepted.

### **AREA EVENTS**

- ◆ **THE ST. MARTIN'S CONCERT SERIES** opens with an organ recital performed by Matthew Wachtman **today, 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

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*Thought for the Week...*

**The true measure of a person's wealth is what he or she has invested in eternity.**