

# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

October 5, 2025

VOL. 91

NO. 40

*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)

### **SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Sermon: Guest *Rev. Dr. Carl Rockrohr*

Order of Service: Divine Service Setting 4 *LSB* pg. 203

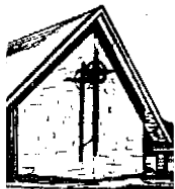
Hymns: **857 ~ 843 ~ Communion: 637, Choir - A Communion Meditation, 616 ~ 924**

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

*Welcome to the service of God's House and the fellowship of our congregation. Enter in stillness...know that the Lord is God. Listen in reverence...it is God who has made us. Sing with delight...it is God who hears us. Speak with conviction... there is no other God. Depart in peace...it is God's gift for you. Serve with joy... it is your gift to God. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship attendance card from the pew rack in front of you, and drop it into the baskets at the doors as you leave today.*

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

- ✦ Elaine Buenger *Organist* ✦ Brynnleigh Kehnast, Emma Damman *Acolytes* ✦
- ✦ Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel *Ushers* ✦
- ✦ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow *Altar Guild* ✦

**NEXT WEEK IS LWML SUNDAY!** – We are planning to recognize *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 next week!** 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)*

**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 then disperse to classrooms. **Confirmation Class** will meet in the North End of the Fellowship Hall.

## *In God's House This Week*

Online church calendar: <https://74058984.view-events.com>

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Time</b>         | <b>Activities</b>  |
|-------------|---------------------|--|
| TODAY       | 9:00 AM<br>10:15 AM | <b>Communion Service</b><br>Sunday School; Adult Bible Study<br>Confirmation class after church until 11:15  |
| Mon.        | 5:15 PM<br>6:00 PM  | School Board Meeting<br>Basketball Parent Interest Meeting   |
| Tues.       | 8:35 AM<br>4:15 PM  | <b>School Chapel</b><br>Technology Committee Meeting   |
| Wed.        | 7:00 PM             | Adult Choir Practice   |
| Sun.        | 9:00 AM<br>10:15 AM | <b>Worship Service with Communion Following ~ LWML Sunday</b><br><i>Java Joy</i> hosted by the Women of Freedom following the service<br>Sunday School; Adult Bible Study<br>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*, *Leona Durham*, and *Marlene Showman*
- ❖ 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 9/28/2025                | \$6,208.00  | \$190.00         | \$360.00      |

**ATTENDANCE: 148**

**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. It's a wonderful way to share the blessing this harvest season.

**PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR** – In today’s Scripture readings we hear that *We Walk by Faith, and Not by Sight, in the Peace of Christ’s Forgiveness.*

We are surrounded by “destruction and violence” (Hab. 1:3) because the Law “is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth” (Hab. 1:4). In fact, the Law cannot rescue us from our enemies; it is our fiercest enemy of all. Therefore, not by sight, experience or feeling, nor by works, “the righteous shall live by his faith” (Hab. 2:4). “Temptations to sin are sure to come” (Luke 17:1), but as often as we sin, the Lord rebukes us, turns us to repentance and forgives us. We pray that He would thus “increase our faith” (Luke 17:5). And indeed, He does! Though we are His “unworthy servants” (Luke 17:10), He prepares His Supper for us, dresses us properly and gives us His body and blood to eat and drink. He appoints pastors for us, “by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 1:1). For the Gospel brings “life and immortality to light” (2 Tim. 1:10). This we believe. Therefore, “follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard,” by which He guards you “in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 1:13).

**FALL FESTIVAL AND TRUNK OR TREAT** – This year we are combining the Fall Festival with

Trunk or Treat to make an extra special event for church and school families! **Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to noon** for a Fall fellowship event including fun activities for children, a hayride, an opportunity to visit the Scholastic Book Fair, and a nature presentation by representatives from Camp Palmer!



Want to be a "**Trunker**"? Anyone who wants to participate as a "Trunker" by decorating your car trunks or hatchbacks can find the sign-up sheet on the Narthex table or in the school/church office. Trunkers may dress up in costumes to supply candy, treats, and/or games right out of your trunk for all the Trunk-or-Treaters who may come our way.

**CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE** – The Call Committee has received its new call list, and their deliberations have begun. Please keep this process in your prayers as we seek our next pastor!

**CHOIR PRACTICES** have resumed. Choir will meet again this Wed., October 8<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!

**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.

**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.

**BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS REMINDER** – Leah Saylor is in the church office on Wednesdays and Thursdays. She can be reached by phone at 419-598-8961 or by e-mail at: [churchsecretary@sjl.org](mailto:churchsecretary@sjl.org). Bulletin submissions need to be turned in by 9 a.m. on Wednesdays in order to be included in the coming Sunday’s bulletin.



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

*Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School*




**EAGLE NEWS:** The *Eagle News* publication will be available today as you leave the service. Take a copy on your way out to see what our students have been up to!

**THANK YOU!** – St. John School would like to thank everyone who participated in the Hawk’s Community Day fundraiser held on September 13<sup>th</sup>. We received a check for \$480.00, which was 10% of the total sales that day. They are amazed every year when they see the overwhelming support given by our church members and school families toward this fundraiser.

**PASTRIES WITH PRAYER PALS AND PARENTS** was a success! On Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, we started our day in chapel after connecting students with prayer pals. Pastor Scheiwe from St. Paul led us in prayer and song and shared God’s Word with us. Then we moved down to the Fellowship Hall for donuts and time to get to know our prayer pals. We ended the day with everyone sharing a prayer together. What a wonderful thing to know that someone is praying for you. So many new relationships are forming, and everyone is filled with JOY looking forward to the next meeting of students and prayer pals. Thank you to all who came that foggy morning to join us!

**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).

 **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*.

**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!

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*Thought for the Week...*

**Man’s way leads to a hopeless end. God’s way leads to an endless hope!**