



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

October 12, 2025

VOL. 91

NO. 41

Pastoral Vacancy

Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church Office: 419-598-8961

School Office: 419-598-8702

Church Website: www.sjl.org

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon: Guest *Seminarian Nash Ringquist*

Order of Service: Prayer and Preaching *LSB pg. 260* with LWML Sunday Recognition (insert)

Hymns: “**Serve the Lord with Gladness**” ~ 855 v. 1, 12, 3 ~ 827 ~ 653

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Now is the hour of worship. God speaks to us, and we listen and respond with our hymns, prayers, and praises. Together we bless the Lord whose purpose is to save us and keep us in His faithful flock. If you are new here, we hope you will consider making this your church home. We ask that all guests please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you, and drop it in the baskets by the doors as you leave.



SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Sharon Damman *Organist* ✘ Kenlee Coressel, Brynneleigh Kehnast *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow *Altar Guild* ✘

WE ARE RECOGNIZING LWML SUNDAY THIS MORNING! – There will be a congregational mite collection, other special aspects during the worship service (see yellow bulletin insert), and *Java Joy* hosted by the Women of Freedom following the service.



AFTER-CHURCH OPPORTUNITIES – **Adult Bible Study** will meet in the cry room. Thank you to *Seminarian Ringquist* for leading this! **Sunday School** will open in the Fellowship Hall then disperse to classrooms. **Confirmation Class** will meet in the North End of the Fellowship Hall.

NO COMMUNION NEXT WEEK – Because we will not have a pastor to consecrate the elements during the service next Sunday, October 19th, we will refrain from celebrating Holy Communion that day. Holy Communion will commence again on our designated first and third Sundays of the month for the rest of the year.

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM	Worship Service ~ LWML Sunday
	10:15 AM	<i>Java Joy</i> hosted by the Women of Freedom following the service Sunday School; Adult Bible Study Confirmation class after church until 11:15
Tues.	8:35 AM 6:00 PM	School Chapel Church Council Meeting
Wed.	7:00 PM	Adult Choir Practice
Sun.	9:00 AM	Worship Service
	10:15 AM	Sunday School; Adult Bible Study Confirmation class after church until 11:15
	4:00 PM	LYF Meeting (Jr. High 4:00 PM High School 5:00 PM)

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 and Bob Nemoyer* 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 and Nancy Nemoyer* for health concerns

FINANCIAL FACTS:

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 10/5/2025	\$5,364.00	\$180.00	\$150.00

ATTENDANCE: 116

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

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!

PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR – In today’s Scripture readings we hear that *Faith Returns Thanks to God and Worships Him in the Person of Christ Jesus*.

Jesus comes in mercy and, by His Word, heals you in body and soul. “Go and show yourselves to the priests,” for you are cleansed (Luke 17:14), and you are granted access to the Lord’s temple. It is “at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks” (Luke 17:16), that you worship God, for Christ Jesus is your great High Priest; His body is the true temple. In Him, you “find rest, each of you in the house of her husband” (Ruth 1:9), for the Lord has “visited his people and given them food” (Ruth 1:6). The person of Jesus Christ lodges Himself in holy food — bread and wine for believers to eat and drink. You lodge where Jesus lodges; His Father is your God, His people are your people. Death cannot part you from Him because His death and resurrection are eternally yours through Holy Baptism. “Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead” (2 Tim. 2:8). As surely as death could not hold Him, so surely “the word of God is not bound” (2 Tim. 2:9). His Gospel is entrusted “to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2), so that you “may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 2:10). Such is the confession of faith for all the saints, who believe, teach and confess the one Lord and Savior — Jesus Christ. *“He who has ears to hear, let him hear” (Matt. 11:15).*

LYF MEETING COMING UP – The Jr. High and High School LYF groups will have their next meeting on **Sunday, October 19th**, at the Youth & Family Center. We’ll be decorating pumpkins — bring a friend! **Jr. High (Grades 6–8): 4:00 PM | High School (Grades 9–12): 5:00 PM** 

LYF LEADERSHIP ADDITION – *A note from Todd and Tina Wachtman:* We are so grateful for the opportunity to serve the youth of St. John Lutheran Church through our Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) program. Over the past three years, we’ve been blessed to lead both our Junior High (grades 6–8) and High School (grades 9–12) LYF groups. We’re excited to share that **Kelly Sonnenberg** and **Jenna Kehnast** have graciously stepped forward to assist us with the Junior High LYF group! We are thrilled to have them join the team and bring their energy and love for our youth into this ministry. We (Todd and Tina) will continue to serve as overall LYF leaders, overseeing both groups. Please join us in thanking Kelly and Jenna for their willingness to serve and in praying for God’s continued blessings on our LYF program and all our youth!

CHOIR PRACTICES have resumed. Choir will meet again this Wed., October 15th, at 7 p.m. We encourage anyone interested in joining the choir to come; they will be happy to see you!

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE – Our call list has been narrowed down, and the call committee is reaching out to set up interviews with three candidates. Please continue to pray for this process!

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.

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. 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



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 25th 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.



PTL SOAP SALE – Did you forget to place your soap sale order? In order to get free shipping, we need a few more orders, so if time got away from you and you still want to order, the soap sale has been extended until Mon., October 13th. Forms are on the Narthex table and can be turned in to the school office. Any questions, please direct them to *Nicole Stier* at 419- 966-7376.

EAGLE NEWS – The *Eagle News* publication was passed out after church last Sunday. There are a few copies left on the Narthex table if you missed it and want to pick one up.

THE NEW PRAIRIE SIGN has been installed; check it out!

THE SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR is coming up October 20th to 25th in the North End of the Fellowship Hall. It will be open throughout the week during school hours as well as during Fall Festival/Trunk-or-Treat.

LUTHERAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION CONVOCATION – Our St. John Lutheran School teachers had an amazing few days at the National LEA Convocation in St. Louis, Missouri, from October 1–4! They were inspired by keynote speakers, energized through breakout sessions, and encouraged by the fellowship shared with other Lutheran educators from across the country. Feel free to check out the St. John Lutheran School Facebook page to see photos from the trip!

SPIRIT WEAR – Order forms for St. John School Spirit Wear are available on the Narthex table. This is not a fundraiser, just a way to get new St. John gear before basketball season if you want any.

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).



Thought for the Week... **Have an attitude of gratitude.**