

St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

October 19, 2025

VOL. 91

NO. 42

Pastoral Vacancy

Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church Office: 419-598-8961

School Office: 419-598-8702

Church Website: www.sjl.org

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon: Guest *Seminarian Mark Langton*

Order of Service: Divine Service Setting 3 (*without Communion*) *LSB pg. 184*

Hymns: 769 ~ 772 ~ 727

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

The Lord calls all of us to a new way of living under His wonderful grace in our Savior. If you are our guest this morning, it is a joy to have you worship with us. Please fill out the blue 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

- ✘ Elaine Buenger *Organist* ✘ Westen Cowell, Owen Stier *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow *Altar Guild* ✘

AFTER-CHURCH OPPORTUNITIES – **Adult Bible Study** will meet in the cry room. Thank you to *Seminarian Langton* for leading this! **Sunday School** will open in the Fellowship Hall then disperse to classrooms. **Confirmation Class** will meet in the Conference Room this week due to the book fair.

NO COMMUNION THIS MORNING – Because we do not have a pastor to consecrate the elements during the service today, we will refrain from celebrating Holy Communion. Holy Communion will commence again on our designated first and third Sundays of the month for the rest of the year.

LYF MEETING TONIGHT – The Jr. High and High School LYF groups have their next meeting **TODAY, 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**



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 on Saturday morning.

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 4:00 PM	Worship Service Sunday School; Adult Bible Study Confirmation class after church until 11:15 LYF Meeting (Jr. High 4:00 PM High School 5:00 PM)
Mon.		School Book Fair runs 10/20-10/25
Tues.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	School Chapel Women of Freedom Meeting
Sat.	10:00 AM	Fall Festival / Trunk or Treat 10-Noon
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship Service 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 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 10/12/2025	\$6,009.00	\$1,054.25	\$969.25

ATTENDANCE: 140

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 – *Krista Gerken* (419-966-2596 or lkgerken@henry-net.com) and *Dave VonDeylen* (419-438-1844 or davevd21@gmail.com.) are happy to provide more information to anyone who has questions about the endowment fund or interest in making a donation.

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.

SAVE THE DATE – The Women of Freedom will be hosting their annual Ladies' Christmas Party on Tues., November 18th. More details to come!

PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR – In today’s Scripture readings we hear that *Faith Clings to the Word and Promises of God and Perseveres in Prayer*.

“Left alone,” Jacob wrestled through the night with the Lord, “until the breaking of the day” (Gen. 32:24). Though “Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him” (Gen. 32:25), he would not let go until the Lord blessed him. At times, we, too, strive with God; He strives with us and blesses us by grace. So Jesus teaches us “always to pray and not lose heart” (Luke 18:1). Jesus speaks of “a judge who neither feared God nor respected man” and of a widow “who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary’” (Luke 18:2–3). Because of her persistence, the judge agreed to “give her justice” (Luke 18:5). Our Lord dispenses justice generously and swiftly, giving “justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night” (Luke 18:7). He does so according to the Gospel. Therefore, His ministers are to persevere faithfully in their vocation, in what they “have learned and have firmly believed” (2 Tim. 3:14). On the basis of “the sacred writings” (2 Tim. 3:15), they are to “preach the word” at all times and not lose heart (2 Tim. 4:2).

REFORMATION CHAPEL – The congregation is invited to join the students of St. John Lutheran School at our **Reformation Chapel Service** on Friday, October 31st beginning at 8:30 a.m. Worship will be in the sanctuary; everyone is welcome!

ADULT CHOIR will NOT have practice this Wed., October 22nd.

THE WOMEN OF FREEDOM will have their next meeting **this Tues., Oct. 21st, at 7 p.m.** All ladies are welcome! This is a mite ingathering meeting. We will also have a special guest— Sue Hasselbring, the Ministry Catalyst of *International Student Ministry Inc.* (ISM Inc.). She will share with us about “The Gift of Being With,” how God is with us and wants us to show his love by being with others: the sick, the lonely, international students, our grandchildren. Sue will also share about how ISM Inc. ministers among the one million international students and scholars at universities in the United States. There are flyers with more information about this ministry on the Narthex table.

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 in boxes by the Narthex table.

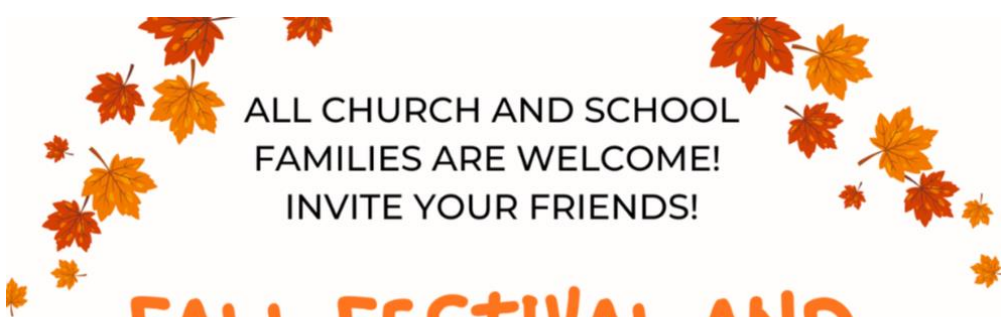
SPIRIT WEAR – Order forms for St. John School Spirit Wear are available on the Narthex table. This is not a fundraiser, just a way to get new St. John gear before basketball season if you want any.

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. Please also send Leah anything that needs to go on the church calendar.

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Thought for the Week...

Suggestion: Only pray on days that end in "y".



ALL CHURCH AND SCHOOL
FAMILIES ARE WELCOME!
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!

FALL FESTIVAL AND TRUNK OR TREAT

SATURDAY, OCT. 25
10AM - 12 NOON

St. John Lutheran Church and School
16035 County Road U, Napoleon, OH

-KIDS GAMES - HAY RIDE - DONUTS-
- DISPLAYS FROM CAMP PALMER -



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
THE SCHOOL OFFICE 419-598-8702

** Want to be a "**Trunker**" for Trunk or Treat? 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. **