

# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

October 26, 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)

### REFORMATION SUNDAY

Sermon: Guest *Seminarian Kyle Bliss*

Order of Service: Printed Service Folder (*Ivory Insert*)

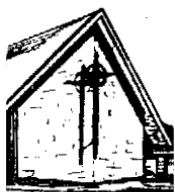
Hymns: **656 ~ 556 v. 1-4, 7 ~ 578 ~ 837**

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### WELCOME

*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 with us! We thank God this day for His work through Martin Luther. May God reform us and renew us as we seek His purposes under the power of this Gospel. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you, and place it in the basket at the door as you leave.*

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

- ✘ Sharon Damman *Organist* ✘ Alana Naveau, Stryker Oyer *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow *Altar Guild* ✘

**WALKING WITH JESUS** – Wilbur “Willie” Joost passed away on October 18, 2025, at the Defiance CHP inpatient hospice center. His funeral was held here at St. John on Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Please keep his family in your prayers: his loving wife, Irene; children, Randy (Rachel) Joost, Renee (Tim) Hodson, and Donna Joost; son-in-law, Tim Eberle; grandchildren, Melanie, Kacie, and LeAnn; great-grandchildren, Brynlee and Oaklynn; and a sister, Connie (Art) Roehrig. Willie now walks with Jesus, and his confirmation verse reminds us of God’s love and promises for all who believe: *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.* John 3:16

**WELCOME, BABY ROY!** – We rejoice with parents Jordan and Alison Myles at the birth of their son Roy James Myles on September 10, 2025. The family will be having a private baptism ceremony; Roy’s sponsors are Kipp and McKenzie McCann and grandparents are Dave and Sara Myles, Jim Grooms, and Suzie Cotter.



# *In God's House This Week*

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

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	<b>Reformation Worship Service</b> Sunday School; Adult Bible Study Confirmation class after church until 11:15
Mon.	5:30 PM	NO SCHOOL – Professional Development <i>Bread from Heaven</i> Food Pantry Distribution
Wed.	7:00 PM	Adult Choir Practice
Fri.	8:30 AM	<b>School Chapel for Reformation</b>
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	<b>Communion Service</b> <b>Voters' Meeting after Worship</b> Budget Committee Meeting after Voters' Meeting Sunday School; Confirmation class after church until 11:15

**AFTER-CHURCH OPPORTUNITIES** – **Adult Bible Study** will meet in the cry room. Thank you to *Seminarian Bliss* 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.

**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 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

<b>FINANCIAL FACTS:</b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 10/19/2025	\$8,611.00	\$255.00	\$225.00

**ATTENDANCE: 171**

**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.



**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.

**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 *The Son of God Has Set Us Free from Sin and Death by His Grace*.

“Wisdom is justified by her deeds” (Matt. 11:19), and the true Wisdom of God, Christ Jesus, the incarnate Son, justifies us by His deeds. He prepares His way by the preaching of repentance, but He has suffered the violence of the Law and voluntarily handed Himself over to violent men, that we might eat and drink with Him in His kingdom and “remain in the house forever” (John 8:35). For He is “a friend of tax collectors and sinners” (Matt. 11:19), and He has rescued us by His grace from the slavery of sin and death. By the proclamation of His eternal Gospel “to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people” (Rev. 14:6), “the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law” (Rom. 3:21), “that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus” (Rom. 3:26). And by hearing the Gospel of Christ Jesus, “whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith” (Rom. 3:25), “you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:32).

**VOTERS’ MEETING NOTICE** – After the service next **Sun., Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>**, there will be a special voters’ meeting where the Call Committee will give an update on the call process and make a recommendation to make a call that will need voter approval.

**ALL SAINTS’ DAY** – Next Sunday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will remember with thanksgiving those of our St. John faith family who were called to glory since our last celebration of All Saints: **Elaine Mahnke, Judy Okuly, Lowell Petzoldt, and Willie Joost**. We will place white roses near the baptismal font. Following the service, their families may take a rose as a remembrance of their departed loved one.

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** – The *Portals of Prayer* disappeared from the desk quickly this quarter! If you were not able to get one, there are a number of other materials available. On the desk in the Narthex, there is a green sheet that outlines a few digital options, such as apps from *the Lutheran Hour*, *LWML*, and others. The *Project Connect* pamphlets in the rack by the desk cover a variety of topics. Today’s bulletin includes an insert with our monthly calendars, which include a daily Bible chapter reading. There are also a variety of devotionals and in-depth studies that are free to borrow from the Church Library shelves in the hallway by the conference room. Lastly, Advent will be here before we know it, and we will have a daily devotional put out for that season in a few weeks.

**POINSETTIA SALE** – It’s hard to believe that it is already time to start planning for the Christmas season. One order of business is the poinsettia sale— green order forms are inserted in today’s bulletin. The deadline for orders will be Tues., November 11<sup>th</sup>. You may put your form and cash/check payable to *St. John Lutheran Church* in the box on the Narthex table or turn them into the church office. Be sure to fill in the line, “In Loving Memory of” or “In Honor of” if applicable. This information will be published in the bulletin the Sunday the poinsettias are placed in the sanctuary.

**CARD SHOWER** – Rev. Ken Schroeder, Pastor at St. John from 1979-1997, recently suffered a stroke that is affecting his left side (he is left-handed). He will be in a care facility until ready to go home. Please keep him in your prayers and consider sending an encouraging note to him and his wife as he recovers. Their mailing address is: **Pastor and Bepie Schroeder 662 Willow Lane Frankenmuth, MI 48734**

**LWML CHRISTIAN LIFE WORSHOP** – On Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, Zion Lutheran Church (20141 CR-X Napoleon) will be hosting the 2025 Fall LWML Christian Life Workshop from 8:30-11:15 a.m. Breakfast is provided, and the program will focus on the Lutheran Heritage Foundation's work. There is a flyer with more information on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



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

*Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School*



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

**PTL PIZZA SALE** – PTL is holding a pizza fundraiser that will run through November 3<sup>rd</sup>. They are selling 12in. thin crust pizzas from Brick-N-Brew. Order forms can be found on the Narthex table and turned into the school 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)).

**RECENT FIELD TRIPS** – What a wonderfully busy time! Many of our classes recently took their first field trips. Our preschoolers visited Johnston's farm, where they learned about apples and pumpkins. The first and second graders, who have been learning about how to read maps in the classroom, took their learning into the real world to map their way to the library, courthouse, and Kidz Kingdom. The kindergarten students took a trip to the Valentine Theatre in Downtown Toledo, where they saw a play, *Ada Twist, Scientist and Friends*. Thank you to all parents who volunteered to make these field trips happen. Field trips help students connect their learning to the world in which they live.

**A NOTE FROM MISS GERMANN** – *The 3-6 graders have not gone on a field trip yet, but I know they are planning some for the future. These older students are such role models. This week, I noticed them sitting with students who seemed lonely at lunch. I also saw them help younger students in their Faith Families make Martin Luther's rose out of waffles and fruit as a wonderful reminder of our faith. These students are learning to lead and help those around them as Jesus would have us do. I am very proud of them.*

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

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*Thought for the Week...*

**God doesn't need your good works, but your neighbor does. –Martin Luther**