



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

November 2, 2025

VOL. 91

NO. 44

Pastoral Vacancy

Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church Office: 419-598-8961

School Office: 419-598-8702

Church Website: www.sjl.org

ALL SAINTS' DAY (observed)

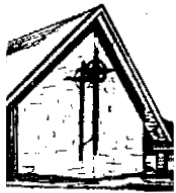
Sermon: Guest *Rev. Matthew Montgomery*

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

Hymns: **677** ~ **Choir Anthem: "What God Can Do"** ~ **Communion: 676, 411, 813 ~ 672**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

You are invited to worship with us in the quiet of prayer, in the joy of song, and in the desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we gather at the Lord's Table today, we also unite with all the saints to celebrate God's feast of victory. Here He nourishes us with the food and drink of the full assurance of our salvation in Him. 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 today.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman *Organist* ✠ Brynneleigh Kehnast, Emma Damman *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Joe Badenhop, Nick Sonnenberg *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Deb Wachtman, Nancy Short, Kathy Gruenhagen *Altar Guild* ✠

ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE – This morning we remember with thanksgiving our brother and sister saints who died in Christ since the last celebration of All Saints a year ago. Through faith in Christ, they conquered over sin and death to reign with Christ forever. We eagerly anticipate the day when we are reunited with them in glory. They are:

✠ **Elaine Mahnke** 1/2/2025

✠ **Lowell Petzoldt** 9/2/2025

✠ **Judy Okuly** 3/3/2025

✠ **Willie Joost** 10/18/2025

A white rose will be placed near the baptismal font in remembrance of our sisters and brothers in faith. Following the service, a family member may take a rose as a remembrance of their departed loved one.

VOTERS' MEETING – After the service **today**, Nov. 2nd, 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.

In God's House This Week

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

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM	Communion Service Voters' Meeting after Worship <i>The Budget Committee will meet after the Voters' Meeting</i>
	10:15 AM	Sunday School; Confirmation class after church until 11:15
Mon.	5:15 PM	Brick n Brew Pizza Fundraiser Orders Due School Board Meeting
Tues.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
Wed.	7:00 PM	Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Breakfast ½ Day of School / Parent-Teacher Conferences
Fri.		No School
Sun.	9:00 AM	Worship Service with Communion Following
	10:15 AM	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 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 10/26/2025	<i>to be published next week</i>		

ATTENDANCE: *to be published next week*

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.



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!

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.

PREPARING OUR EARS TO HEAR – In today’s Scripture readings we hear that *Saints Are Blessed in the Eternal Presence of Christ*.

“A great multitude ... from all tribes and peoples and languages” cry out, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne” (Rev. 7:9–10). Faith-filled saints from every place and time with unified voices eternally magnify the Lamb of God. As His beloved children, we, too, “shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2). Joined with the throng of angels and countless saints, we shall “serve him day and night in his temple” (Rev. 7:15). In our earthly tension vacillating between saint and sinner, faith and doubt, sacred and profane, we earnestly seek Jesus to calm our fears, comfort our spirits and forgive our sins. The Holy Spirit, through faith in Christ, propels us forward, fortifying us in Word and Sacrament, to our eternal home. In the midst of our constant struggle as believers, we need to be blessed. And so we are. The poor in spirit, the meek, the hungry, the thirsty, the merciful, the pure and the persecuted are all blessed, and we will most certainly inherit the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 5:1–12).

MEN’S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY – Join us this Thursday, Nov. 6th, at 6:30 a.m. for Men’s Bible Breakfast. It’s a great way to start your day! Good food, good friends, and a good Word from God!



VETERANS’ DAY PROGRAM – On Tuesday, November 11th, St. John School will be having a Veterans’ Day program honoring all those who have served in our nation’s military. We will begin with chapel at 8:35 a.m. followed with inspiring words from a couple of our local veterans. Our students will participate by offering expressions of gratitude for those who have given so much for our country. All veterans, parents, and congregation members are welcome to attend! (*Note: there will be no breakfast as previously indicated.*)

LYF MEETING – The Jr. High and High School LYF groups will have their next meeting on **Sunday, November 16th**, at the Youth & Family Center. **Jr. High (Grades 6–8):** 4:00 p.m. | **High School (Grades 9–12):** 5:00 p.m. We will be having a Thanksgiving feast — bring a friend!



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 Beppie Schroeder 662 Willow Lane Frankenmuth, MI 48734**

LWML CHRISTIAN LIFE WORSHOP – On Saturday, November 8th, 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.

PTL PIZZA SALE – PTL is holding a pizza fundraiser that will run through November 3rd. 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.

NO LONGER COLLECTING STAMPS – The LWML has been informed that they no longer need to collect stamps for missions. This is just a notice to any who have been collecting that we've removed the box from the Narthex table and will no longer be taking them. Thank you!

Christmas is 53 days away!

A few notes to keep in mind related to this upcoming season:

THE WOMEN OF FREEDOM CHRISTMAS PARTY will be on November 18th at 6:00 p.m. We will have a potluck of appetizers, snacks, and desserts, so please bring your favorite to share. Also, please bring a wrapped gift to trade. Regifting is allowed, as well as gently used items, or something new up to \$3 value.



POINSETTIA SALE – Green order forms for Christmas poinsettias were inserted in last week's bulletin, and more copies are on the Narthex table. The deadline for orders is Tues., November 11th. 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.

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.

SAVE YOUR CARDBOARD WRAPPING PAPER TUBES – As you prepare Christmas gifts, please save the cardboard wrapping paper tubes for an upcoming school project. There will be a collection box by the school entrance. Thank you!

SCRIP AT ST. JOHN – Do you give out gift cards at Christmas? Consider ordering them through our SCRIP program! For those that don't know, SCRIP is a program where you can purchase gift cards through our PTL for full face value, and a percentage of your purchase is returned to our school. They work for both in-store purchases and online shopping. PTL works through a company that purchases these gift cards in bulk from participating retailers. Order forms are available outside the school office and by the table in the Narthex. Please feel free to share with family and friends. Payment must accompany orders, and checks should be made out to *St. John PTL*. Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to SCRIP Coordinator *Kristyn Honemann* (419-966-0207 or honemann@embarqmail.com).

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...

Life is a gift from God. How we live it can be our gift to Him.