



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

November 9, 2025

VOL. 91

NO. 45

Pastoral Vacancy

Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church Office: 419-598-8961

School Office: 419-598-8702

Church Website: www.sjl.org

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon: Guest *Rev. Matthew Montgomery*

Order of Service: Matins *LSB pg. 219*

Hymns: **904 ~ 716 ~ 941 (in place of Te Deum) ~ 917 v. 1, 2, 3**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome! We are here at the Savior's invitation; therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, receiving mercy and finding grace to help in every time of need. We invite you to come to worship with us at any time. If you have no church of your own, we invite you to make this your home church. If you are a visitor, please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you, and drop it in the basket by the door as you leave this morning.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

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

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

WELCOME TO GOD'S FAMILY, CALLIE JEAN! –

We rejoice with parents *James and Haley O'Neil* at the birth of their daughter *Callie Jean O'Neil* on August 29, 2025. Callie will be baptized at the start of the service this morning by *Rev. Montgomery*. Her sponsors are *Alex Gruenhagen* and *Owain O'Neil*.



He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship Service with Communion Following Sunday School; Adult Bible Study Confirmation class after church until 11:15
Mon.	5:00 PM	PTL Meeting Girls' Basketball Practice
Tues.	8:35 AM 5:00 PM 6:00 PM	School Chapel and Veterans' Day Event Girls' Basketball Practice Church Council Meeting
Wed.	7:00 PM	Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	4:30 PM	Girls' Basketball Practice
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 4:00 PM	Communion Service Sunday School; Adult Bible Study Confirmation class after church until 11:15 LYF Meeting <i>Jr. High</i> 4:00 p.m. / <i>High School</i> 5:00 p.m.

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* 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	\$24,208.36	\$160.00	\$795.00
ATTENDANCE: 166			
Rec'd 11/2/2025	\$11,374.00	\$315.00	\$280.00
ATTENDANCE: 214			

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 VonDehlen* (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 *The Triune God Curbs Evil and Overcomes Death with Resurrection.*

Christians live as “sons of God, being sons of the resurrection” (Luke 20:36), for the Lord our God “is not God of the dead, but of the living” (Luke 20:38). “Those who deny that there is a resurrection” (Luke 20:27) neither know the Scriptures nor the power of God, but the baptized faithful know “that the dead are raised” (Luke 20:37). For the Lord, who was and is and is to come, knows Israel’s sufferings and has “come down to deliver them” (Ex. 3:8). Moses reveals the name of Yahweh to God’s chosen people, by which He is “remembered throughout all generations” (Ex. 3:15). In contrast to that sacred remembrance of His name, St. Paul warns against the antichrist, who “takes his seat in the temple of God” (2 Thess. 2:4). That lawless man preaches and practices the activity of Satan. Christians, however, are comforted by the coming of the Lord Jesus, who slays the antichrist and refutes his false doctrine “with the breath of his mouth” (2 Thess. 2:8). By His preaching, “stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught” (2 Thess. 2:15). Hear, receive and believe God’s promise of love, comfort and good hope. *“He who has ears to hear, let him hear” (Matt. 11:15).*

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SERVICE – It is time to start thinking about the Children’s Christmas Service. We need to know how many children are planning on being part of the Christmas service on Sun., Dec. 21 at 7:00 PM. The deadline to sign up is Fri., Nov. 14th. This is a combined church/school event, with practices being held on Sundays after church during the Sunday School hour. A sign-up sheet is on the Narthex table for parents to sign up your children who will be participating. You can also call the church office to get signed up. The first practice will be November 30, and they will continue each of the following Sundays, December 7, 14, and 21.

POINSETTIA SALE – Green order forms for Christmas poinsettias are on the Narthex table. **The deadline for orders is this 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.

LYF MEETING – The Jr. High and High School LYF groups will have their next meeting next **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!



THANK YOU FROM THE JOOST FAMILY – The family of Willie Joost wanted to thank everyone for the cards, prayers, and support they’ve received in the past few weeks. They would also like to thank everyone who served on the day of the funeral, including the ladies of the church for the wonderful luncheon and *Pastor Kramer* for a very nice service.

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**

CHURCH SECRETARY MATERNITY LEAVE – *Leah Saylor* will be starting maternity leave sometime in the next few weeks through mid-February. *Joyce Wiechers* has generously agreed to step back into the Church Secretary role while Leah is out. Joyce and Leah will be working together for a few days, and then Joyce's regular hours will be Wednesday & Thursday from 8:30am - 2:30pm. Joyce will have access to Leah's e-mail, so please continue to use churchsecretary@sjl.org and the church office line (419-598-8961) for any communications or bulletin notes. **NOTE:** Bulletin notes will still need to be submitted by Wednesdays at 9 a.m.

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.

COLD WEATHER IS COMING! – Will you help keep our neighbors warm? The Women of Freedom invite the congregation to share with those in need. We continue to collect **new winter hats, scarves, and gloves/mittens for all ages** for *Together We Can Make a Difference* Initiatives. You can now hang your donations on the “giving tree” in the Narthex.



IT'S CHRISTMAS CHEER TIME AGAIN! – Henry County Christmas Cheer is beginning its annual campaign for monetary donations **ONLY** for the purchase of food for low income and needy persons in Henry County. If you would like to make a donation, please mail your donation to Henry County Christmas Cheer PO Box 193 Liberty Center, OH 43532. If you are in need of assistance and would like to sign up for the program, forms are available on the Narthex table.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA – The Ridgeville Sons of the American Legion are asking you to join them in their mission to place “wreaths across America” in 2025. National Wreaths Across American Day is Sat., Dec. 13, 2025. Sponsored wreaths are placed on grave markers at state and national veterans’ cemeteries, as well as at local, community cemeteries each December. Wreath Sponsorship forms and more information is available on the narthex table. Wreaths may also be sponsored online at www.wreathscrossamerica.org/OH0229P or via the QR code on the sponsorship form. **Order deadline is November 15th.**

ALTAR FLOWERS – Anyone who wishes to place flowers on the altar for Sunday worship, please contact *Nancy Glaser* at 419-906-0963. **NOTE: The price for flowers through the Women of Freedom is now \$30.00.** Please make checks payable to *Women of Freedom*. Remember that it is your responsibility to call Nancy either way; if you would like the Women of Freedom to order the flowers or if you are going to take care of ordering the flowers yourself. Please also contact the church office with any “in memory/honor of” notes to be put in the bulletin. This will alleviate any confusion.

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Thought for the Week...

The One who made you can mend you.



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

Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School



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!** There will be light refreshments to follow the program. Please have your student wear red, white, or blue.

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!

GIRLS' BASKETBALL – St. John girls' basketball is open to all 3rd-6th grade girls. Practices will start Tuesday, November 4th. Practice times will be as follows: Mondays-5-6:30PM, Tuesdays 5-6:30PM and Thursdays 4:30-6PM. If you any questions, please contact Kara Cowell at 419-583-0546.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL PHOTOS – We are looking for girls' basketball photos from 2005 to the present. If you have any to share, please email them to info@sjl.org.

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.

MUSIC TEACHER – We are excited to announce that Miss Elizabeth Myers will be adding music teacher to her job title. Miss Myers has agreed to begin teaching music class starting November 14th. We are looking forward to bringing back music class for the students.

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. 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).

TRUNK OR TREAT THANK YOU – Thanks to everyone for all of their hard work and help to make the Fall Festival/Trunk-or-Treat day a success. We are blessed with amazing teachers, staff, parents, and congregation members that make St. John a great place to be.

HIRING NOW – St. John Lutheran School has staff positions open: **short and long-term substitutes and school cook**. Interested candidates, contact Tracy Germann (tgermann@sjl.org).

COLORING PAGE

God Bless
our Veterans

