

St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

November 16, 2025

VOL. 91

NO. 46

Pastoral Vacancy

Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church Office: 419-598-8961

School Office: 419-598-8702

Church Website: www.sjl.org

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon: Guest *Rev. Matthew Montgomery*

Order of Service: Divine Service – Setting Four (*LSB pg. 203*)

Hymns: **733 ~ 508 ~ [Communion: 620, 809] ~ 663**


WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We welcome all who have come to worship our God with us today! Each day we live is a priceless gift from God, loaded with possibilities to learn something new, to gain fresh insights into His great truths. May we be showered with those blessings as we together profess His Name today. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you, and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave today.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Elaine Buenger, *Organist* ✘ Piper Speiser, Owen Stier *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Doug Dietrich, Neil Badenhop, Joe Badenhop, Nick Sonnenberg *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Deb Wachtman, Nancy Short, Kathy Gruenhagen *Altar Guild* ✘

LYF MEETING TODAY – The Jr. High and High School LYF groups will have their meeting today 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! 

COLD WEATHER IS HERE! – 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.

LADIES' CHRISTMAS KICKOFF - this coming **Tuesday, Nov. 18th at 6:00 PM** the Women of Freedom will be having an Advent and Christmas kickoff party for ALL LADIES of St. John in the Fellowship Hall. 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; it doesn't matter if you tag your name on it or not. Gifting is allowed, as well as gently used items, or something new up to \$3 value.

In God's House This Week

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

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM	Communion Service
	10:15 AM	Sunday School; Adult Bible Study Confirmation class after church until 11:15
	4:00 PM	LYF Meeting: Jr Hi; 5:00 PM Sr Hi
Mon.	5:00 PM	Girls' Basketball Practice
Tues.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
	5:00PM	Girls' Basketball Practice
	6:00 PM	Women of Freedom Advent/Christmas Kickoff
Wed.	7:00 PM	Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	4:30 PM	Girls' Basketball Practice
Fri.	11:30AM	School Family Thanksgiving Lunch
Sun.	9:00 AM	Worship Service
	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, Anne Rausch, and Julie (Kern) Patterson* for health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *Stan Gerken* for health concerns

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/09/2025	\$5,045.00	\$307.00	\$233.00

ATTENDANCE: 125

Memorials received for *Willie Joost*: St. John Endowment Fund – School Acct. - \$89.00;
St. John Church Memorial Fund - \$2,525.00

LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS DECORATING – A day for decorating the sanctuary for Christmas has been set for Monday, December 1st (the Monday after Thanksgiving). We plan to begin around 6:15 p.m., and decorating usually can take one and a half hours. Everyone is welcome to come and join the fun!

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.



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.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE – YOU CAN STILL SIGN UP! We need to know how many children are planning on being part of the Christmas service on Sun., Dec. 21 at 7:00 p.m. Please sign up today, or contact the church office this week. 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. The first practice will be November 30, and they will continue each of the following Sundays, December 7, 14, and 21.

THE NOMINATIONS PROCESS– The Stewardship Board would like to announce that letters have been sent to members of our congregation asking if they would be willing to serve in one of the offices of our congregation. Please keep this process in your prayers, and if asked, please give it prayerful consideration. **We are so thankful to God for all those who choose to serve!**



CARD SHOWER – Rev. Ken Schroeder, Pastor at St. John from 1979-1997, recently suffered a stroke that is affecting his left side. 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 soon 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.

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.

SCRIP - Plan to start your Christmas shopping! The SCRIP Order Form is included in today's bulletin. Thank you and happy shopping! Please turn those orders in on Wednesdays, with payment to *St. John School PTL Scrip Program*. Payment must accompany orders. Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to coordinator *Kristyn Honemann* at 419-966-0207 or honemann@embarqmail.com.

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. Wreath Sponsorship forms and more information is available on the narthex table.



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

Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School



VETERANS' DAY PROGRAM – On Tuesday, we gathered to honor God by starting the day with chapel. Then we showed thanks to our Veterans for their courage, dedication, bravery, and sacrifice in defending and protecting our great nation. Thank you to all the veterans who came to be part of this program and help us learn. A special thank you to Mr. Denny Behnfeldt and Mr. Ted Ripke for speaking to the students and sharing their stories. We are so grateful for your service and thankful for you taking time out of your day to share with us.

BRICK N BREW PIZZA SALE – A huge thank you to everyone who took part in the recent pizza sale fundraiser. We had a fun time making the pizzas, and we are sure you will enjoy having delicious pizza in the freezer ready to pop in the oven for a quick meal. Thank you for your support of St. John School. A special thank you to Brick N Brew and Micah Behnfeldt for hosting our pizza making.

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!

BASKETBALL PRACTICES – St. John girls' basketball (open to grades 3-6) practice times will be: Mondays-5-6:30PM, Tuesdays 5-6:30PM, and Thursdays 4:30-6PM. Any questions, please contact *Kara Cowell* at 419-583-0546. *Note:* the boys' coaches are still working on a regular practice schedule.

BASKETBALL SCHEDULES - The 2025-2026 St. John Eagle basketball schedules are posted on the church website and can be viewed on the church calendar. GO EAGLES!

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.

AREA EVENTS

- ◆ **SIBERIAN SOLSTICE CONCERT** – Sunday, Dec. 7th at 7 p.m. @ St. Caspar Catholic Church 1205 N. Shoop Ave. Wauseon, OH. There is a flyer on the bulletin board with more information about this free-will donation concert.
- ◆ **TOLEDO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT** – Wed., Dec. 17th at 7 p.m. @ St. Paul's Lutheran Church 16976 CR-Q1 Napoleon, OH. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased Mon.-Fri. 10a.m.-2p.m. in their church office (419-758-3522). \$30 for adults, \$20 for school-age, and free for 4 & under. A flyer with more information is on the bulletin board.

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Thought for the Week...

Worry does things to you. Prayer does things for you.