St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP 16035 CO. RD. U ◆ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship ◆ Stewardship ◆ Mission

January 4, 2026

VOL. 92 NO. 01

Pastoral Vacancy
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church Office: 419-598-8961
School Office: 419-598-8702
Church Website: www.sjl.org

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Guest Preacher, *Rev. Matthew Montgomery*
Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting One (LSB pg. 151)
Hymns: "We Three Kings" **~ 410 ~** [Communion: An Epiphany Hymn, **397, 376**] **~ 412**

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A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to our worship service here at St. John. If we can be of service to you in any way, please speak to our Pastor. If you are looking for a church to call home, please consider joining this church where we seek to help each other grow in faith, in love, and in service. Simply fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the baskets at the door as you leave.

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SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Kenlee Coressel, Emma Damman, *Acolytes* ✠
✠ Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Richard Elling, *Ushers* ✠
✠ Diane VonDeylen, Nicole Stier, LouAnn Rosebrock, *Altar Guild* ✠

CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN – We mourn the loss of our sister in Christ, **Irma F. Rohrs**, 95, who passed away on Christmas Day. Irma's funeral was held at St. John Lutheran Church on Tuesday, December 30th at 11:00 AM, with Rev. Stephen Niermann officiating. The committal service was held at St. John Lutheran Cemetery following the funeral service. We all know that Irma got the best Christmas gift this year, but please keep her family, Karen (Dave) Mohler and David Rohrs, along with their families in your prayers at this time.

FLOWERS ON THE PIANO TODAY: **Todd & Chris Hesterman** have provided flowers on the piano in honor of their 40th Wedding Anniversary, which is today, January 4th. Please congratulate them as you leave the service today. Congratulations to the Hestermans!

PORTALS OF PRAYER for the next quarter, *January*, *February*, and *March* are available on the desk in the narthex. Pick up a copy today!

In God's House This Week		*Online church calendar: https://74058984.view-events.com*
Date	***Time***	***Activities***
TODAY	**9:00 AM** 10:15 AM	**Communion Service and Installation of Officers** Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Confirmation class after church until 11:15
Mon.	8:20 AM	SCHOOL RESUMES
Tues.	8:35 AM 5:15 PM 7:00 PM	**School Chapel** School Board Meeting Stewardship Board Meeting
Thurs.	5:00 PM	Basketball: Gr 4-6 Boys vs. Monclova Christian (H)
Sun.	**9:00 AM** 10:15 AM	**Worship Service with Communion Following** Sunday School; Adult Bible Study; "The Lamp" 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*
- *Brenda Elling, Anne Rausch,* and *Julie (Kern) Patterson* for health concerns related to cancer
- *Stan Gerken* and *Rev. Ken Schroeder* for health concerns
- Military: *Eric Maassel, Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Jordan Lange, Joshua,* and *Kyle*

INSTALLATION OF 2026 CHURCH OFFICERS – This morning we give thanks to God for the people who lend their time and talents to the Lord's service as officers in our congregation. We offer gratitude to those who are leaving their respective offices for a job well done and to those who are being installed today for the New Year 2026. May God bless our service to Him in His kingdom, whether in a formal office or in our own ways and vocations.

Please note that if you are currently serving a multi-year term of office, you have already been installed and do not need to present yourself for installation again.

LIST OF 2026 CHURCH OFFICERS*:*

ELECTED: **Vice Pres.** – *Brad Rosebrook*
Treasurer – *Cathy Gerken;* **Financial Trustee** – *Diane Norden*
Elder – *Glenn Badenhop, Derek Damman*
Stewardship Board – *Teresa Damman, Joyce Wiechers*
Board of Education – *Micah Behnfeldt, Steve Marshall, Alicia Wakefield,* (take office in July 2026)
Alt. Delegate Synod – *Todd Hesterman*
APPOINTED **Secretary** – *Sara Myles* **Church Deacon –** *David Badenhop*
Trustee – *Doug Dietrich, Matt Schroeder;* **Cemetery Sexton** – *Ben Kruse*
Cemetery Board – *Brady Gerken, Dave Rosebrock, Mitchell Kruse*
Asst. Sunday School Supt. – *Nicole Stier*

THE 2026 USHER (blue) & ALTAR GUILD (pink) SCHEDULES are available and can be picked up on the narthex table. Thanks again to all who are willing to be of service to the Lord at St. John.

WOMEN OF FREEDOM – When you pick up your 2026 program booklet, please pick up the next copy of the Quarterly and ODE's available in the tract rack in the narthex. There's always good reading in both of these magazines.

KEEPING 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. This continues until January 16th. You can hang your donations on the "giving tree" in the Narthex.

2026 FLOWER CALENDAR is posted in the narthex. If you wish to sign up for a certain Sunday to place flowers on the altar or the piano, sign your name on that Sunday and then about two weeks before that date, call *Nancy Glaser* at 419-906-0963 to let her know if you are getting your own flowers or if you want the Women of Freedom to take care of them. **The price for the flowers through the Women of Freedom is $30.00.** Remember that it is your responsibility to contact *Nancy Glaser.* Also, please contact the church office with the information for the bulletin the week before you are placing the flowers in church. This will ensure that you are not forgotten or overlooked.

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTICE: In the event that church services need to be cancelled due to weather related (or other) circumstances, please refer to the 3 different ways below to be notified:

1. Go to the church Facebook page at **St. John Lutheran Church**
2. Go to the church website at **www.sjl.org**
3. Tune in to **WTVG Channel 13 - Toledo**

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	$11,710.59	$500.00	$961.54
Rec'd 12/28/2025	(unavailable)		

ATTENDANCE: TBD

Christmas Eve: Home Fund— $7,223.89; Attendance: 247
Christmas Day: Home Fund— $2,490.00; Attendance: 118

BE A JAVA JOY HOST IN 2026! Would you like to be a JAVA JOY host on the second Sunday of one of the months of 2026? Sign up now at the narthex table! Please remember that hosting does not need to cost you anything – you may reimburse yourself from the Java Joy kitty. Hosting guidelines are available with the sign-up sheet. Thank you for providing this service for your church family!

2026 OFFERING BOXES –There are still several boxes that need to be picked up by members. Please pick yours up, and may God prosper the work of our hands and the giving of His people! If someone did not get a box and wants one, contact *Jerry Langenhop at 419-966-3473 or* lahop@bright.net and we'll make sure one will be assigned.

SPECIAL GUEST JANUARY 11TH: On January 11th following the worship service, we will have a special guest, John Lewis, who will present information on mission work in Kenya.

AN EASY OPPORTUNITY TO BENEFIT ST. JOHN SCHOOL: What if you could give more without it costing more? What if that giving helped St. John School? Learn about contributing to the Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization (LSGO), recognized as a charitable organization by the IRS, by seeing the purple sheet on the narthex table or going to https://www.lsgoohio.org/

LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT – How You Can Help? If you have used prescription or nonprescription glasses or sunglasses in your drawers, desk, or closet, you can donate them now! Children's glasses are especially needed. Both plastic and metal frames are accepted. There is a box under the narthex table for the collection of these used glasses.

A REMINDER: If you are the LAST person to leave the building at the end of the day or after a meeting, etc., please make sure that the hallway and restroom lights are turned off and that the main entry doors (*where the buzzer is located*) are closed. With a tight budget, every little bit of electrical savings will benefit the church and closing the doors assures the safety of the building. Thank you!

THE LUTHERAN HOUR – Locally you can listen to the Lutheran Hour Ministries broadcast on WMTR 96.1 FM, Archbold at 7:30 AM or on WNDH 103.1 FM, Napoleon at approximately 9:00 AM every Sunday. They cover many interesting topics relevant to today's issues.

PROJECT CONNECT – There are many free booklets in the rack in the narthex. Be sure to check for some informative reading. Some titles are: *"Alzheimer's: Facing the Loss of a Lifetime," "Talking with God," "Forgiveness is a Choice," "Talking Openly with Kids," "Setting Priorities," "Your Place in God's Plan," "Stressed but Connected," "Beyond Divorce," "For Better, For Worse," "What Is Faith in Jesus?"* and many more. These booklets are furnished through the Lutheran Hour Ministries.

OHIO ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN: The Ohio Division OGT is located in the north end of the Culligan Water Conditioning building on Independence Drive in Napoleon. Someone is usually there to receive items on the first Tuesday of the month from 9:30-11:30 AM. If you need to drop off items at another time, please contact *Nancy Helmke* (419-758-3539), *Diann Meyer-Grieser* (419-267-3485), or *Vicki Grieser* (419-445-2986) and they will be happy to meet you and open the facility to receive your donations! PLEASE do not drop off items at the warehouse when it is closed. Thank you!

VENMO IS HERE! Exciting News…St. John now accepts donations via Venmo! If you need internet access, use our guest Wi-Fi **SJL Open** with the password **sjleagles##** Then scan the QR code to visit our donation page.

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Thought for the Week…

God came to live with us so we could live with Him.