St. John Lutheran Church

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

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship ◆ Stewardship ◆ Mission

January 11, 2026

VOL. 92 NO. 02

Pastoral Vacancy
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Guest Preacher, *Seminarian Josh Gerken*
Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Three (LSB pg. 184)
Hymns: **594 ~ 407, vs. 1,3,5,7 ~ 537**

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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

✠ Elaine Buenger, *Organist* ✠ Zac Kramer, Alana Naveau, *Acolytes* ✠
✠ Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Richard Elling, *Ushers* ✠
✠ Diane VonDeylen, Nicole Stier, LouAnn Rosebrock, *Altar Guild* ✠

SPECIAL GUEST TODAY: Following today's service, we will have a special guest, John Lewis, who will present information on LCMS's mission involvement around the world.

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.

GOD IS GOOD! The St. John Lutheran Church Endowment Fund continues to grow through the grace of God. The million-dollar milestone was hit for the first time in 2024, closing with a "gifts, plus earnings total balance" of $1,006,420.73. **In 2025, another million-dollar milestone** was recognized in that "only gifts" to the Endowment exceeded $1 million. The yearend 2025 gifts are currently at $1,007,645.04.

"THE LAMP"- High school and young adults, please join us this morning for fellowship and food for the soul and body, as we will be serving breakfast along with our study of the Bible. Hope to see you across the road at the Youth Center to start your week off in a positive way. Come join us!

In God's House This Week		*Online church calendar: https://74058984.view-events.com*
Date	***Time***	***Activities***
TODAY	**9:00 AM** 10:15 AM **NOTE:**	**Worship Service** w/presentation on Kenya following the service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Confirmation class meets in the Conference Room until 11:15
Tues.	**8:35 AM** 5:30 PM 6:00 PM	**School Chapel** B-ball: Gr 4-6 Girls; 6:30 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs. Trinity (H) Church Council Meeting
Wed.	5:15 PM 7:00 PM	School Board Meeting Adult Choir Practice
Sun.	**9:00 AM** 10:15 AM 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Sunday School; Adult Bible Study; "The Lamp" Confirmation class after church until 11:15 LYF Meeting (*see bulletin note*)

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*

FROM CARDBOARD TUBES TO LIDS – See the "Classroom to Congregation" notes section at the end of the bulletin for more info.

2026 OFFERING BOXES – There are still a few who have not picked up their 2026 offering envelopes. Be sure to pick yours up today!

WOMEN OF FREEDOM – There are still a few 2026 Women of Freedom program booklets at the narthex table. 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.

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

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 put your donations in the box beside the narthex table. Thank you!

THANK YOU to those who graced our services over the Christmas holidays with their musical talents – *Elaine Buenger* and *Brynnleigh Kehnast* (organ); *Bethann Gerken, Lucy Weddelman,* and *Lakyn Kehnast* (piano); *Taylor, Lakyn, Braelyn,* and *Brynnleigh Kehnast, Jovi* and *Summer Sonnenberg,* and *Maisie* and *Larkyn Damman* (singing). Their voices, piano, and organ added to the glory of the season. - Thank you, *Sharon Damman*

AND NOW A SPECIAL THANK YOU to *Megan Bostelman* and *Andrea Oyer* for co-directing the Children's Christmas Service on December 21st. There were many positive comments on the program and the message it conveyed. Great job ladies!

LYF MEETING - The Jr. High and High School LYF group will be having their next meeting on Sunday, January 18th at the Youth & Family Center. The Jr. High (Grades 6-8) will meet at 4:00 PM followed by the High School (Grades 9-12) at 5:00 PM.

LYF SUPER BOWL SUB SALE – It's that time of year again for the LYF Super Bowl Sub Sale (pre-order only; order forms located in the back of the church). On Sunday, Feb. 8th, the subs will be available for pick up after the church service. **Orders are due February 1st.** Payment is due when you pick up your subs. Checks can be made payable to St. John LYF. Proceeds from the Super Bowl Sub Sale help support the youth group's activities and expenses. Thank you for supporting our LYF group!

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	$11,710.59	$500.00	$961.54
Rec'd 12/28/2025	$7,426.00	$195.00	$3,362.77
ATTENDANCE: 124			
Rec'd 01/04/2026	$5,546.00	$275.00	$25.00
ATTENDANCE: 172			

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**

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.

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

Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School

FROM CARDBOARD TUBES TO LIDS – Thank you to everyone who contributed wrapping paper tubes for an upcoming school event! We have plenty of those now, but next we will be needing LIDS for that same event! We are requesting CLEAN lids of all sizes. If it's a LID…we can use it! There will be a collection box in the narthex until Friday, February 20th. Again…THANK YOU ALL!!

LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK: Interested in helping us celebrate NLSW? NLSW is coming soon. The theme for Wednesday, January 28 of NLSW is *Making a Joyful Noise in our Community*. Would you be interested in sharing what you do at your job, with the St. John students? We are looking for volunteers to share a little bit about what they do and how their faith factors into being a community member (*maybe it is how you treat your employees, maybe it is helping out on a project with others and showing good teamwork, maybe it is being patient with your boss,etc….*) If you are interested in volunteering to help us with this project on Jan. 28 from 10:30-11:30, please contact Tracy Germann at tgermann@sjl.org or call the school office at 419-598-8702.

OPEN HOUSE – Mark your calendars for March 1st, as this is the date of this year's School Open House. Invite a friend, and come check out our school! More details to follow.

SIGNS, SIGNS, EVERYWHERE A SIGN! Tell your friends and neighbors about St. John Lutheran School by picking up a corrugated plastic yard sign in the back of the church. Place it in your front lawn or other obvious place to promote the school. Thank you for telling others about our school!

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!

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.

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).

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Thought for the Week…

God hears more than our word. He listens to our heart.