St. John Lutheran Church

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

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship ◆ Stewardship ◆ Mission

January 18, 2026

VOL. 92 NO. 03

Pastoral Vacancy
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Guest Preacher, Rev. Matthew Montgomery
Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting Four (LSB pg. 203)
Hymns: **688 ~ 402 ~ [Communion: 622, 606} ~ 702**

****

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to St. John Church! "I sought the Lord and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears" (Ps. 34:4). Let us seek the Lord together this day. Let us offer up our fears and doubts, that we may go forth strengthened and empowered for another week. If you are visiting us today, know that we are honored by your presence. 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 doors as you leave.

****

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

✠ Elaine Buenger, *Organist* ✠ Westen Cowell, Stryker Oyer, *Acolytes* ✠
✠ Dennis Showman, Dean Badenhop, Richard Elling, *Ushers* ✠
✠ Diane VonDeylen, Nicole Stier, LouAnn Rosebrock, *Altar Guild* ✠

A FAITHFUL SERVANT: On Sunday, January 11th, *Lawrence Behrmann*, 96, passed away at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab, Napoleon. Lawrence's funeral was held here at St. John Lutheran on Thursday, January 15th at 11:00 AM, with burial following in St. John Lutheran Cemetery. Lawrence was a "man of God" and showed this in his everyday life. Please keep Darrel and his extended family in your prayers at this time of mourning for them.

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.

In God's House This Week		*Online church calendar: https://74058984.view-events.com*
Date	***Time***	***Activities***
TODAY	**9:00 AM** 10:15 AM 4:00 PM	**Communion Service** Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; Confirmation class meets in the fellowship hall until 11:15 LYF Meeting (*see bulletin note*)
Mon.		**NO SCHOOL** – MLK, Jr. Day observed
Tues.	**8:35 AM**	**School Chapel**
Wed.	7:00 PM	Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	5:30 PM	B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:30 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs. St. Mary's (H)
Sun.	**9:00 AM** 10:15 AM	**Worship Service** 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
- 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.

LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BULLETINS are always available on the table in the narthex. The Children's Bulletins are coordinated with the Bible texts for each Sunday and provide activities that tie in with the weekly themes.

2025 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT – It's time to start getting your reports ready for the 2025 Church Annual. The secretaries of the different organizations are asked to write up a summary of the year's activities, and treasurers should submit their financial report for their organization. If you need your offering contribution information prior to the distribution of the Annual Report, please call Financial Trustee, *Ryan Bostelman*, at 419-770-2029. **Please turn your reports in to Leah Saylor (e-mail churchsecretary@sjl.org or drop it in her office mailbox) at your earliest convenience.**

DIRECTORY UPDATES – There are addresses and phone numbers in the Annual Report directory that need updated. If you (and/or your adult children) have address changes; or **if you have eliminated your land line telephone and only have cell phone numbers**, please call the church office at 419-598-8961 or email churchsecretary@sjl.org with updated information. Thank you!

LYF MEETING - The Jr. High and High School LYF group will be having their next meeting today 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 01/11/2026	$6,528.00	$302.00	$308.00

ATTENDANCE: 125

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.

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.

✠ ✠ ✠

Thought for the Week…

If your life stinks, we have a "pew" for you.

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 Thursday, January 29 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.

TOLEDO ZOO PRAIRIE PROJECT UPDATE: On Friday, January 9 three representatives from the Toledo Zoo came to help the students start seeding the prairie. Yes, that's right the students were able to start seeding the prairie. After a short presentation out in the very strong wind (luckily no one blew away) the students were given handfuls of seeds to spread around the prairie area. We learned about what types of plants would grow in the prairie as well as what types of animals we might see in the prairie. The students heard about how any snow we might get would be good for the seeds to get them activated. They were introduced to the ideas of the difference between native and non-native plants and how the prairie would be beneficial for animals, plants and even us. They talked about how the prairie would provide oxygen for us, how the long roots of the native grasses would be a natural filter for our water, and how the bees would be pollinators, which would be good for helping more plants grow. What a wonderful opportunity for 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!