



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

February 1, 2026

VOL. 92

NO. 05

Pastoral Vacancy

Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church Office: 419-598-8961

School Office: 419-598-8702

Church Website: www.sjl.org

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Guest Preacher: Rev. Matthew Montgomery

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting 1 (LSB pg. 151)

Hymns: 694 ~ 842 ~ [Communion: #69 (projected), 701, 731] ~ 698, vs. 1&2

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

The Psalmist wrote: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the House of the Lord.'" We are happy to have you with us. Whether someone invited you or you came by yourself, we are glad to share this House of the Lord with you.

Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to the pastor and by filling out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you. Simply drop it into the baskets at the doors as you leave today.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Alana Naveau, Brynneleigh Kehnast, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop, Denny Bockelman, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kaylee Buchhop, Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, Karan Niebergall, *Altar Guild* ✠

VOTERS' MEETING – Two weeks from today, on Sunday, February 15th, the voters' assembly will meet in the fellowship hall after worship. A primary piece of business will be to receive the report from the Endowment Fund Committee and vote on the disbursement of this year's endowment earnings. In addition, the annual school report will be given, and the Audit Committee will report their findings.

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY – Join us bright and early this

Thursday morning (2-05) at 6:30 a.m. for **Men's Bible Breakfast**. It's a great way to start your day! Good food, good friends, and a good Word from God!



ARCHIVES DISPLAY: The St. John Archive Display has been transformed recently. Please stop by and check out the section of pictures of students from the current school year. Then, you can a trip down "memory lane" with the remaining sections of the display. This will surely stir up many memories as you look at the pictures and read the various articles. Thank you to the Archives Committee for sharing these with us.

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp" Confirmation class meets until 11:15
Tues.	8:35 AM 4:30 PM	School Chapel B-ball: Gr 4-6 Girls; 5:30 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys vs. St. Paul – Napoleon(H)
Thurs.	6:30 AM 5:30 PM	Men's Bible Breakfast B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:30 PM Gr 4-6 Boys vs. Solomon (H)
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship Service Sunday School; Adult Bible Study Confirmation class after church until 11:15 Super Bowl Sub Sale following the service

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*

CONVERTIBLE VICAR UPDATE: The Call Committee held an interview with Vicar Pietrowski and it went very well. He engaged our interview with enthusiasm as he explained his background, talked about his family, and elaborated on his seminary studies. His home congregation in Elmore, OH apparently has a lot in common with the way we conduct our services as our normal practices were what was familiar to him.

Our next step is to send the vicar application to the Ohio District, and we will do so in February. The vicarage must be for 12 months. The start date would be flexible based on his and our preferences. Upon completing the vicarage, there would be a few more steps to the process prior to calling the vicar as our pastor. The majority of these steps would be handled by the Seminary, creating the proper paperwork needed to ordain and install the vicar.

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 **TODAY**, February 2nd. Payment is due when you pick up your subs. Checks can be made payable to St. John LYF. Super Bowl sub sales help raise money for the youth group's expenses. Thank you for supporting our LYF group!



STEWARDSHIP BOARD is looking for 2 individuals to apply for a Thrivent Action Team (card) for the supplies needed for the Easter bags that are prepared on Easter morning. If you are able to help with this, please contact Board President *Jackie Rosebrock* at 419-966-0148. Thank you!

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK (adjusted) – January 26– February 1, 2026

Due to the winter weather and many cancellations this past week, the NLSW activities had to be adjusted. As a result, not today, but next Sunday, Feb. 8, the students will join our worship service to “Sing and Serve!”

A SPECIAL NLSW ACTIVITY TODAY! To help spread JOY throughout our school, **we invite congregation members to visit the table in the narthex today** and write a joyful note (or two...or three!) to a student, teacher, or even an entire class. Don't know the name of a student??? Simply write a message and your note will still be delivered. Notes could be a prayer, a word of encouragement, or simply a joyful greeting to brighten someone's day. Thank you for helping us celebrate our Lutheran school and for sharing the wonderful JOY of Jesus with our students!

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!

ALL LADIES! A 'Service Project' is planned for **Tuesday, February 17th** for all ladies and guests to participate. We will be sorting items for the *Orphan Grain Train* followed by lunch at TOP DOG in Napoleon.

- Please arrive at the O.G.T. building located on the east side of Culligan - Napoleon @ 9:30am.
- A fellowship luncheon will follow at noon at TOP DOG restaurant located at the corner of County Rd. R and Oakwood Ave.
- Transportation will be provided for those not wishing to drive themselves...
Call Linda Meyer at 419-579-0135 or Linda Riefers at 419-966-8436 / 419-267-3366
- Sign-up sheet for a lunch count on the narthex table, but 'walk-ins' are welcome!

LEGOS DONATION! St. John Lutheran School will be having a Family Lego Night on Thurs., Feb. 19th from 6:30 – 7:30PM. In order to be able to entertain everyone there, we would like to ask that anyone who has Legos that are no longer being used, to donate them to the school. These will be used for this Lego night, but they will then be kept by the school for future fun projects.

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.

LSGO – It is tax time and not too late to make a donation to the LSGO (Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization). Here is more information:

- Go to this URL to make your donation: <https://lsgoohio.org/about/>
- The State of Ohio recently updated the legislation to specify that donors can make a gift to an SGO and qualify to receive the tax credit at any time before they file their taxes for the year. In any given year, the donor has the option to contribute up to the federal filing deadline of April 15.
- You will also have a dollar for dollar reduced **state income tax** liability up to \$750 per filing individual or \$1,500 as a couple. You make the donation, your tax dollars come back to you, and the donation goes to a student at St. John. It will cost you nothing out of your pocket to make a difference at St. John Lutheran School!
- Your donation will provide scholarships to St. John students.
- Questions??? Please call or email Tracy at 419-598-8702 / tgermann@sjl.org; Joyce Wiechers at 419-579-4265 (leave message).

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
<u>Rec'd 01/25/2026</u>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

ATTENDANCE: Service cancelled due to inclement weather

USE OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL OR YOUTH CENTER – If you would like to use the Fellowship Hall or Youth Center for any occasion on a certain date this year, **please contact the church office at 419-598-8961 or churchsecretary@sjl.org**. In addition to calling the office, you may want to check availability on the online church calendar at www.sjl.org

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.

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.



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Thought for the Week...

T G I F – Today God Is First.