St. John Lutheran Church

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

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship ◆ Stewardship ◆ Mission

February 8, 2026

VOL. 92 NO. 06

Pastoral Vacancy
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Guest Seminarian: Nash Ringquist
Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting 3 (LSB pg. 184)
Hymns: **563 ~ 578 ~ 650**
Children's Choir: "Beyond Every Mountain"

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WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome to every member, friend, and visitor. You have entered this church, not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. May you who enter here find rest, forgiveness, and strength. May your worship here enable you to see your Savior more clearly, love Him more dearly, follow Him more nearly, and serve Him more sincerely. If you have no church home of your own, we invite you to join the St. John family. Simply fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it into the baskets at the doors as you leave today.

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SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

✠ Elaine Buenger, *Organist* ✠ Sadie Bickel, Emma Damman, *Acolytes* ✠
✠ Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop, Denny Bockelman, *Ushers* ✠
✠ Kaylee Buchhop, Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, Karan Niebergall, *Altar Guild* ✠

2026 CONFIRMATION CLASS MEETING: The Confirmation Class of 2026 and their parents will meet with Pastor Niermann on Sun., Feb. 22, at 11:15am in the north end of the Fellowship Hall. Very important matters regarding Confirmation (which is being held on Sunday, May 3rd) will be discussed.

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK (adjusted) – Due to the winter weather, the NLSW activities had to be adjusted. As a result, St. John students will be handing out bulletins, collect the offering, and speak at the end of today's service. They are excited to "Sing and Serve" today!

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.

In God's House This Week		*Online church calendar: https://74058984.view-events.com*
Date	***Time***	***Activities***
TODAY	**9:00 AM** 10:15 AM 1:00 PM	**Worship Service** Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp"; Confirmation class meets until 11:15; Super Bowl Sub Sale following the service Gerald Busy Fingers 4-H Meeting
Mon.	7:00 PM	PTL Meeting
Tues.	**8:35 AM** 6:00 PM	**School Chapel** Church Council
Thurs.	6:30 PM	School – Family Lego STEM Night (until 7:30 PM)
Sun.	**9:00 AM** 10:15 AM	**Communion Service** 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, Napoleon
- *Rozella Gruenhagen* and *Bob Nemoyer* at Vancrest, Holgate
- *Lois Arps,* at Genacross – Assisted Living, Napoleon
- 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*

VOTERS' MEETING – One week 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.

SUPER BOWL SUBS– If you pre-ordered subs, TODAY is the pickup day. Stop at the kitchen after worship, and take your subs home with you. Payment is due when you pick up your subs with checks made payable to St. John LYF. Thank you for supporting the LYF!

ALL LADIES! A **'Service Project'** is planned for **Tues., Feb. 17th** for all ladies and guests to come. 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!

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!

FINANCIAL FACTS:	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	$11,710.59	$500.00	$961.54
Rec'd 01/25/2026	$1,620.00	$55.00	$185.00
ATTENDANCE: Service cancelled due to inclement weather			
Rec'd 02/01/2026	$11,300.00	$480.00	$320.00
ATTENDANCE: 181			

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.

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).

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

Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School

SCHOOL COOK UPDATE: Yes, you read that correctly! Sandy Fowler, will be joining the staff of St. John on **February 17th** as the school cook. The school parents are ecstatic that she will be preparing great lunches for their children. Welcome aboard Sandy!

DADDY / DAUGHTER DANCE: St. Paul has invited us to attend a Daddy – Daughter Dance they are hosting on **Fri., Feb. 13th from 6-8 PM.** The theme is "Diamonds & Denim."

RED RAMBLER COFFEE FUNDRAISER: The students of St. John are hosting a coffee fundraiser through the Red Rambler Coffee Shop in Wauseon, OH. Order forms are on the narthex table and will be taken until **Friday, Feb. 13th**. Orders are expected to be delivered on Friday Feb. 20th. What a nice way to enjoy the month of February! Go ahead and try out a new flavor of coffee this month!

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.

NWOL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT - The 2025-2026 NWOL Tournament will be held at Trinity Lutheran School, Toledo, from **February 20-22.** The St. John Eagle Grades 4-6 girls' and boys' basketball teams will be playing in this tournament. GO EAGLES!

OPEN HOUSE – **March 1st** is the date of this year's School Open House. This will run from **10:30am until 1:00pm.** There will also be a **Pancake Breakfast that day from 10:30am – noon**. Invite a friend, and come check out our school! Meet the teachers, tour the classrooms, check out the family activities in the gym, and sign up for door prizes too. Your door prize entry could win you a free enrollment fee for the 2026-2027 school year. See the flier in today's bulletin for all the information. Hope to see many of you March 1st!

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WINDOW: If you're driving through Napoleon during February, take notice of the display in the Chamber window on Perry Street. St. John Lutheran School is being highlighted during the month of February.

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Thought for the Week…

Be an organ donor – give your ♥ to Jesus!