



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

February 15, 2026

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NO. 07

Pastoral Vacancy

Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church Office: 419-598-8961

School Office: 419-598-8702

Church Website: [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)

### THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Guest Preacher: Rev. Matthew Montgomery

Order of Service: Divine Service, Setting 4 (LSB pg. 203)

Hymns: 414 ~ 413 ~ [Communion: 620, 585] ~ 821

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### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*We invite you to celebrate God's love as we pray to a Heavenly Father who cares for us and as we hear His powerful Word to us. If you do not have a local church home, we extend a warm invitation to you to become a part of our church family. Please 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* ✠ Kenlee Coressel, Piper Speiser, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop, Denny Bockelman, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Kaylee Buchhop, Ronda Wentworth, Karen Lulfs, Karan Niebergall, *Altar Guild* ✠

**VOTERS' MEETING TODAY** – Following today's service, the voters' assembly will meet in the fellowship hall. 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.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup>) will be discussed.

**2025 END-OF-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS** – The 2025 individual offering totals (green sheets) are available on the narthex table. These will also be printed in the Church Annual Report. We hope this helps those members in need of this information for tax purposes. If you have any questions on your yearly contribution information, please call Financial Trustee Ryan Bostelman 419-770-2029.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM <b>NOTE:</b>	<b>Communion Service</b> Sunday School; Adult Bible Study Today...Confirmation class will meet in the Conference Room by the church. Dismissal at the usual time of 11:15
Mon.	7:00 PM 9:30 AM	NO SCHOOL – Presidents' Day LWML Service Project
Wed.	8:35 AM 7:00 PM	<b>School Chapel – Ash Wednesday</b> <b>Ash Wednesday Communion Service</b>
Thurs.	6:30 AM 6:30 PM	Men's Bible Study Breakfast LEGO Family STEM Night ( <i>see bulletin note</i> )
Fri. - Sun.		NWOLL Basketball Tournament at Trinity - Toledo
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	<b>Worship Service</b> Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "The Lamp"; Confirmation class meets 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*

**CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE:** The Convertible Vicar application was submitted/(mailed) as of Wednesday (2-11). We will now await further information from the Ohio District.

**THANK YOU** to *Larry Mahnke* and *Dean Maassel* for their efforts this winter in keeping the church and school parking lot cleared of snow. They have been kept very busy this winter season and Spring is another month away. A special thanks to *Denny Von Deylen* for clearing the parking area at the Youth & Family Center also. These three men donate their time, equipment to get this job done, and the cost of the fuel to run the equipment after each snowfall. It is greatly appreciated especially on these bitter cold days! Thank you for being willing servants here at St. John. God is good!

**ALL LADIES!** A 'Service Project' is planned for **Tues., Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>** 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 on the east side of Culligan - Napoleon @ 9:30am.
- 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 lunch count on the narthex table, but 'walk-ins' are welcome!

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

**Thursday morning** 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!



**ENDOWMENT NEWS!** St John Lutheran Church is blessed by the generosity of members and friends who support our mission. We are pleased to share that our Endowment Fund can now receive gifts of commodities, grain, and publicly traded securities (*such as stocks or mutual funds*). These types of gifts can offer significant tax advantages for donors. When you donate commodities or appreciated equities directly—rather than selling them first—you may be able to:

- ✓ Avoid capital gains tax on the sale
- ✓ Deduct the fair market value of the gift (*if you itemize*)
- ✓ Support the long-term ministry of our church in a meaningful way

This can be a wise and faithful way to steward the resources God has entrusted to you.

If you are interested in making a gift of grain, commodities, or securities, our Endowment Committee can guide you through the simple process. We also encourage you to consult your tax advisor to understand how these gifts may benefit your individual situation.

<b><u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u></b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 02/08/2026	\$5,047.00	\$227.00	\$213.00

ATTENDANCE: 195

**MEMORIALS** – *Lawrence Behrmann*: St. John Lutheran Church - \$1,335.00; St. John Lutheran Endowment Fund – School Acct. - \$96.00; The Lutheran Hour - \$375.00; Lutheran Home of Mercy – Williston, OH - \$20.00

**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](mailto:tgermann@sjl.org); Joyce Wiechers at 419-579-4265 (leave message).

**2025 CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT** – Please be sure to get your reports turned in to Leah Saylor. The secretaries of the different church organizations are asked to write up a summary of the year's activities, and treasurers should submit their financial report for their organization.

## AREA EVENTS

- ✦ **THE CHICKEN PIE DINNER** at the Ridgeville American Legion Post #454 is today, **Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>** serving dine-in and carryout from **11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**



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

*Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School*



**LEGOS DONATION!** St. John Lutheran School will be having a Family Lego Night on **Thurs., Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>** 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 1<sup>st</sup>!

**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!

**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 20<sup>th</sup>. Again...THANK YOU ALL!!

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*Thought for the Week...*

**One of the best ways of saying "I love you" is being a good listener!**