



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

March 1, 2026

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NO. 09

Pastoral Vacancy

Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church Office: 419-598-8961

School Office: 419-598-8702

Church Website: www.sjl.org

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Guest Preacher: Rev. Matthew Montgomery

Order of Service: Divine Service Setting Three *LSB pg. 184*

Hymns: 596 v. 1, 3, 6 ~ 971 ~ Communion: 628, 555 v. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 ~ 921

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome in the name of the Lord. We pray that through this time of stillness and song, prayer and proclamation, you may experience the Spirit of God at work in your life. May God richly bless your worship today! 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. If you do not have a local church home, we extend a warm invitation to you to become a part of our church family.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Elaine Buenger, *Organist* ✠ Stryker Oyer, Westen Cowell *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dave Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Deb Wachtman, Nancy Short, Kathy Gruenhagen *Altar Guild* ✠

ST. JOHN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST –

The congregation is invited to come down to the Fellowship hall after the service this morning for the annual Pancake Breakfast and open house! *See more details in the "from the Classroom to the Congregation" section.*



CONGRATULATIONS! – Yesterday, February 28th, *Wyatt Leatherman and Hannah Wachtman* were united in marriage at St. John. May God bless the new Mr. and Mrs. Leatherman!

Now, My children, live together as heirs of life (LSB 922). ♥

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE: The Ohio District has received our Convertible Vicar application. Our paperwork is all set for Spring placement; now we wait to hear back at the end of April.

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: <https://74058984.view-events.com>

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 10:30 AM 1:00 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Confirmation class meets until 11:15 <u>School Pancake Breakfast and Open House</u> School Board Meeting
Mon.	10:00 AM	Ladies' Bible Study
Tues.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
Wed.	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service; Offering: Dakota Boys' and Girls' Ranch <i>Guest Preacher: Seminarian Josh Gerken</i> <i>Organist: Sharon Damman</i> <i>Acolyte: Owen Stier</i> <i>Ushers: Denny Bockelman, Dave Myles, Tim Badenhop</i> <i>Altar Guild: Deb Wachtman, Nancy Short, Kathy Gruenhagen</i>
Thurs.	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Breakfast
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 1:00 PM	Worship Service with Communion Following Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "the LAMP"; Confirmation class meets until 11:15 Gerald BusyFingers 4-H Meeting

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*

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 02/22/2026	\$7,696.00	\$1,255.00	\$485.00

ATTENDANCE: 126

Ash Wednesday: Attendance - 106; Contributions for *Orphan Grain Train* - \$1,207.00

Memorials in Honor of LaVern Volkman - \$860 for the Endowment Fund, Stewardship Designation

2025 END-OF-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS – The 2025 individual offering totals (yellow 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.

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS – It's time again to order Easter flowers. We are now taking orders for the various flowers to purchase "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone special in your life. Pink order forms are inserted in today's bulletin. Drop your order form and payment (to St. John Lutheran Church) into the container on the narthex table, or return it to the church office. **Order deadline is Wed., March 11th.** No later orders.



MISSING COAT – Did someone take the wrong coat home last Sunday, February 22? It was a men's black wool dress coat with a button closure. There was a black coat with a zipper closure left on the coat rack in the back of the church. Please check to see if you took the wrong coat home.

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.

DIRECTORY UPDATES – There are addresses and phone numbers in the Annual Report directory that need updated. Call the church office or email churchsecretary@sjl.org with updates.

LADIES, JOIN US FOR A LENTEN BIBLE STUDY! – We will meet in the Church Cry Room at 10 a.m. on 4 Mondays in March (Mar. 2nd thru Mar. 23rd). The topic is *The Women at the Cross*.

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY – Men's Bible Breakfast will meet on Thursday mornings in Lent at 6:30 AM. It's a great way to start your day! Good food, good friends, and the good Word!

MIDWEEK SERVICES – Join us each Wednesday in Lent at 7 p.m. Seminary Student Joshua Gerken will preach a series on some of the traits of Jesus. This year's offerings will benefit: March 4- *Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch* | March 11- *Worship Anew* | March 18- *Lutheran Hour Broadcast* | March 25- *Filling Home Napoleon Campus*.

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. 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).

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.



From the **Class**room to the **Congregation**

Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School



OPEN HOUSE – This year’s School Open House is **today!** This will run from **10:30am until 1:00pm.** There will also be a **Pancake Breakfast 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.

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!

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.



AREA EVENT –

- ❖ The Ridgeville Township Fire Department is hosting its annual **Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on Sun., March 1st, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Ridgeville American Legion.** Free will donations will go toward fire and rescue equipment.

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Thought for the Week...

Prayer takes our troubles to God. Faith leaves them there.