



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

March 15, 2026

VOL. 92

NO. 11

Pastoral Vacancy

Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church Office: 419-598-8961

School Office: 419-598-8702

Church Website: www.sjl.org

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Guest Preacher: Rev. Matthew Montgomery

Order of Service: Divine Service Setting 4 *LSB pg. 203*

Hymns: **907 ~ 571 ~ Communion: 629, 743 ~ 643**

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* ✠ Kenlee Coressel, Jovi Sonnenberg *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dave Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Deb Wachtman, Nancy Short, Kathy Gruenhagen *Altar Guild* ✠



LYF MEETING TODAY – The Jr. High and High School LYF groups will meet this evening, March 15th, 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.

YOUTH “MY DEVOTIONS” BOOKLETS for March, April, and May are on the desk in the narthex. Pick one up for each of your children today!

SPRING BREAK – This week, our school students and staff will be enjoying some time off for a Spring Break. Please pray for the safety of all who travel and for everyone to return to school the following week refreshed and ready to take on the rest of the school year! Of course, if you have a student Prayer Partner, please keep including him or her in your prayers as well.

In God's House This Week

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

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM	Communion Service
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "the LAMP"; Confirmation class meets until 11:15
	4:00 PM	LYF Meeting (Jr. High @ 4, High School @ 5)
Mon.		NO SCHOOL this week for Spring Break
	10:00 AM	Ladies' Bible Study
Tues.	7:00 PM	Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	7:00 PM	Midweek Lenten Service ; <i>Offering: The Lutheran Hour Broadcast</i> <i>Guest Preacher: Seminarian Josh Gerken</i> <i>Organist: Elaine Buenger</i> <i>Acolyte: Stryker Oyer</i> <i>Ushers: Dave Badenhop, Denny Von Deylen, Jerry Short, Dan Wiechers</i> <i>Altar Guild: Deb Wachtman, Nancy Short, Kathy Gruenhagen</i>
	8:00 PM	Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Breakfast
Sun.	9:00 AM	Worship Service
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "the LAMP"; Confirmation class meets until 11:15
	1:00 PM	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: *Justin Atkinson*, *Jason Rohrs*, *Jordan Lange*, *Joshua*, and *Kyle*

FINANCIAL FACTS:

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 03/08/2026	\$9,983.51	\$247.00	\$253.00

ATTENDANCE: 125

Lent 2: Attendance - 78; Contributions for *Dakota Boys' and Girls' Ranch* - \$1,160.00

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.



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 is preaching a series on some of the traits of Jesus.

- March 18- "*Forgiving Savior*" | offering to benefit *Lutheran Hour Broadcast*
- March 25- "*Courageous Savior*" | offering to benefit *Filling Home Napoleon Campus*
- Maundy Thursday (April 2), Good Friday (April 3), and Easter (April 5) services will be led by Rev. Matthew Montgomery, with offerings going to the *St. John Home Fund*.
 - *Note: This year, Holy Communion will be celebrated at both the 7 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Easter services. There will be a breakfast and time of fellowship in between the two services as usual.*

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" *Psalm 122:1*

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEANING – Each year, we appoint three groups of members to help do a "spring clean" of the church. This year's list is available on the narthex table. Specific dates and times will be announced in the coming weeks, so if your name is on the list, please keep an eye out! If you feel you are not physically able to help with the cleaning or have another reason you'd like taken off the list, please let the church office know, so we can make a note of that. If you've participated before, thank you! If this is your first time, we are excited to have you be a part of it. This is a great opportunity to serve the church while also enjoying a time of fellowship with those in your group.

*****Group #3 will be cleaning this Saturday, March 21st, at 9:00 a.m. Please bring a bucket and some rags. The more the merrier! *****

A few Notes for the Ladies of St. John

- ❖ **WOMEN OF FREEDOM MEETING** – The March *Women of Freedom* meeting is this Tuesday, March 17th, at 7 p.m. in the North End of the Fellowship Hall. This month is a *Mites* month, and all ladies are welcome to attend!
- ❖ **WOMEN'S 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*. Even if you couldn't make it to the first two sessions, feel free to join for the next two!
- ❖ **THE SPRING LWML QUARTERLY** is available in the tract rack for any ladies to pick up a copy. *There are also a few leftover copies of the winter quarterly behind the new ones— help yourself!*
- ❖ **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** – The Napoleon Zone LWML Spring Rally will be held at St. Luke's (Wauseon) the morning of Saturday, April 25th. The theme is: "To God be glory ... to all generations forever and ever" from Ephesians 3:21. More details to come!

THRIVENT CLIENTS – Don't forget to direct 2025 Choice Dollars® prior to 3/31! If you're an eligible Thrivent client and have Choice Dollars available to direct, please call your Thrivent office or direct them online by visiting thrivent.com/thriventchoice. Keep up the good work! Your designations are making a difference here at St. John.

EAGLE NEWS – The *Eagle News* publication will be available today as you leave the service. Grab a copy, and see what the students of St. John school have been up to!

BE A JAVA JOY HOST IN 2026! Would you like to be a JAVA JOY host on the second Sunday of one of the months of 2026? Sign up now at the narthex table! Please remember that hosting does not need to cost you anything – you may reimburse yourself from the Java Joy kitty. Hosting guidelines are available with the sign-up sheet. Thank you for providing this service for your church family!

THE FLOWER CALENDAR for 2026 is posted in the narthex. 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.** It is your responsibility to contact Nancy Glaser. Also, please contact the church office with the information for the bulletin.

LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT – *How You Can Help?* If you have used **prescription or nonprescription** glasses or sunglasses in your drawers, desks, or closets, you can donate them now! Children's glasses are especially needed. Both plastic and metal frames are accepted. There is a box on the table in the narthex for the collection of these used glasses.

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.** In addition to calling the office, you may want to check the online church calendar at www.sjl.org and click on “Calendar.”

AREA EVENTS

- ❖ The **CPC Women's Health Resource** is hosting its annual Spring Benefit on Tues., April 14th at 5:30 pm in Archbold. There will be testimonies of God's handiwork, a keynote speaker, a meal, and opportunities to support the ministry. Registration is required. For more info, search “CPC Women's Health Resource” on Facebook, or call (419) 636-5692.
- ❖ **CAMP LUTHERHAVEN** has opened registration for its summer programs. Looking for a meaningful summer experience? Campers will spend their days experiencing God's creation while building friendships and faith. Programs are available for K-12 and families. For more information, visit lutherhaven.org. There are flyers on the Narthex table.

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Thought for the Week...

Forecast: The Son Reigns