



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

April 26, 2026

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Pastoral Vacancy

Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church Office: 419-598-8961

School Office: 419-598-8702

Church Website: www.sjl.org

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

- Guest Pastor: *Rev. Dr. Matthew Buse*
- Order of Service: *Printed Insert*
- Hymns: 711 ~ 709 ~ **“The Lord My Pasture Shall Prepare” (inserted) ~ 740 ~ 710**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

CHRIST IS RISEN – HE IS RISEN INDEED! We greet those who are visiting with us today in the name of our Risen Savior. We are gathered as a community of Christians; our center is Jesus Christ. We are here to know again the touch of His forgiving and healing hand. Please help us get to know who you are by introducing yourself to those around you and by filling out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack and dropping it in the baskets at the doors as you leave.



SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Bethann Gerken *Pianist* ✘ Sadie Bickel, Emma Damman *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Derek Damman, Greg Kehnast, Mitchell Kruse, Todd Kruse *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Karen Germann, Diana Kruse, Mary Kossow *Altar Guild* ✘

ALTAR FLOWERS are placed this morning in loving memory of *Robert Lee Stockman*. Robert was called to his eternal rest on April 16, 2026. His funeral service will be held here at St. John tomorrow, April 27th, at 11 a.m. Interment will be private in the church cemetery.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – Following today’s service, Pastor Buse will be leading a special Adult Bible Study in the cry room where he will share about mission work



VBS SAVE THE DATE – **Vacation Bible School** is scheduled for the week of June 8th - 12th. The theme this year is *“Tropical Trek: Jesus Comes to Seek and Save.”* More details to be announced in the coming weeks!

In God's House This Week

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

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School; "the LAMP"; Confirmation class meets until 11:15
Mon.	11:00 AM 5:30 PM	Funeral Service for <i>Robert Stockman</i> <i>Bread from Heaven</i> Food Pantry Distribution
Tues.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
Fri.	6:00 PM	Confirmation Questioning
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Confirmation Sunday Communion Service Sunday School; "the LAMP"

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
- ❖ *Nancy Nemoyer* and *Larry Mahnke* recovering from heart procedures
- ❖ 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 04/19/2026	\$8,766.00	\$220.00	\$225.00

ATTENDANCE: 139

VENMO IS HERE! Exciting News... St. John now accepts donations via Venmo! Scan the QR code or search @sjlfreedom to visit our donation page. If you need internet access, use our guest Wi-Fi **SJL Open** with the password **sjleagles##**



THE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT is available on the Narthex table. If you didn't get your directory updates in, please still let Leah (churchsecretary@sjl.org) know if you have any changes.

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.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS – Leah Saylor is in the church office on Wednesdays and Thursdays from around 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Bulletin submissions are due by 9 a.m. on Wednesdays to churchsecretary@sjl.org or 419-598-8961.

CALL PROCESS UPDATE – Vicars from the Fort Wayne Seminary will receive their placements during the assignment service **this Tuesday**, April 28th at 7 p.m. If you'd like to watch the service, it will be streamed on the CTSFW Facebook and YouTube pages (search: www.youtube.com/@ctsfw). After we receive our placement, our call committee will be able to set up a time to get the vicar started at St. John. Thank you all for your prayers and patience in this process!

PORTALS OF PRAYER BOOKLETS for April/May/June are on the Narthex desk. Help yourself, or grab some to pass along! Large print copies are also available.

CONFIRMATION is next week! Our 2026 catechumens are: *Kenlee Coressel, Westen Cowell, Brynnleigh Kehnast, Alana Naveau, and Piper Speiser*. We will gather in the fellowship hall at 6:00 p.m. on Friday for their questioning; the congregation is invited to join! Then on Sunday, we will witness their confirmation and first Communion. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to make the good confession of faith and to participate with us at the Lord's Table.

'BREAD FROM HEAVEN' will have its monthly food distribution on Monday at 5:30 p.m. *If you are a member of St. John and could use food assistance from our food pantry, please contact the church office. We are required by the Northwestern Ohio Food Bank to keep a record with your name, but your record will be kept separate and absolutely confidential.* Thank you to those who run our food pantry and those who donate food to help meet this need in our community!

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT – *Help us spread the word!* St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for next school year. Anyone interested in enrolling their child in our preschool program should contact the school office at 419-598-8702 for more information.

LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BULLETINS are always available on the table in the narthex. Feel free to grab them to use in church or to take home after the service.

OPPORTUNITY FOR 2026 COLLEGE STUDENTS – The *Pierstorff College Fund* is a one-of-a-kind Lutheran financial aid program that provides interest-free loans to all Lutherans pursuing a higher education who live in the State of Ohio. These loans are specific to students who are or will be enrolled full time in a four-year undergraduate program at any accredited college. All types of students are eligible: those continuing education after high school, second career applicants, those continuing education after a gap, etc. Information is on the Narthex table.

AREA EVENT

- ❖ **St. Paul Lutheran Church** (8074 CR-T Liberty Center) is hosting its **annual Chicken BBQ today**, April 26th, from 11-1:30 p.m. \$13 per plate— ½ chicken with baked beans, cole slaw, roll, & cookie. Drive-thru only. See the flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

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Thought for the Week...

In the care of the Good Shepherd, we lack nothing that truly matters.