

St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

May 3, 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 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

- Guest Pastor: *Rev. Stephen Niermann*
- Order of Service: *Printed Ivory Insert*
- Hymns: **478 ~ 526 ~ Communion: 687, 861, 633 ~ 950**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

A warm welcome to all, especially friends and relatives of our Confirmation Class. If you are visiting with us this morning, help us get to know you better by filling out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and dropping it in the baskets at the door as you leave today.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Elaine Buenger *Organist* ✠ Stryker Oyer, Jovi Sonnenberg *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Deb Von Deylen, Elaine Buenger, Teresa Weller, Pat Mahnke *Altar Guild* ✠

FLOWERS ON THE PIANO – Today we remember and honor the day our dear *Ryan Rosebrock* was called home to his heavenly resting place. Though he is deeply missed, he is never forgotten. His beautiful smile, joyful spirit, and the many memories he gave us continue to bring warmth and smiles to our hearts. We hold on to the promise that one day we will meet again.

- *Randy, LouAnn, Michael, Samantha, Axel, Peyton, Michelle, Ryan, Lucy, Kate, and Henry*

CONVERTIBLE VICAR UPDATE – Last Tuesday, the Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne had its assignment service. Vicar *Jonathan Pietrowski* was assigned to St. John. He has a few things to wrap up at Seminary and will be installed as vicar at St. John likely sometime in June. Vicar Pietrowski is from Genoa, OH; he is married with 4 children. He is excited to join us, as we are to have him! We praise God for this assignment and for His faithfulness to St. John in this process.

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Confirmation Sunday Communion Service Sunday School; "the LAMP"
Mon.	5:15 PM	School Board Meeting
Tues.	8:35 AM	School Chapel
Fri.	6:30 AM 6:00 PM	Men's Bible Study Mother / Daughter Tea at St. John School
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship Service with Communion Following Sunday School; Adult Bible Study; "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*

THANK YOU FOR PRAYERS – *Larry Mahnke* is doing well after his major heart surgery. He and Pat would like to extend their gratitude to all who have prayed and to those who sent cards.

FINANCIAL FACTS:

	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 04/26/2026	<i>to be published at a later date</i>		

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.

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.

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.

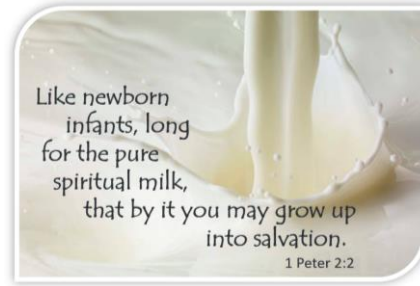
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Welcome to the Lord's House on this Confirmation Sunday!

ALTAR FLOWERS this morning are presented in honor of our 2026 Confirmands. We rejoice today as they confess their Christian faith and receive the Lord's Supper for the first time. This is a day of rejoicing for them and for this congregation! Our catechumens are:

- ✦ **Kenlee Coressel** – daughter of Eric and Jordan Coressel, Brandon & Kayla Jackman | Psalm 37:5
- ✦ **Westen Cowell** – son of Bobby & Kara Cowell | Philippians 4:13
- ✦ **Brynnleigh Kehnast** – daughter of Greg & Jenna Kehnast | Joshua 1:9
- ✦ **Alana Naveau** – daughter of Andrew & Aimee Naveau | Proverbs 4:23
- ✦ **Piper Speiser** – daughter of Scott & Kylie Speiser | Matthew 6:34

Please keep them in your prayers, that God may strengthen them in faith to life eternal!



THANK YOU – The 8th Grade Confirmation Class would like to extend its sincere thanks to Ms. Mary Rettig for faithfully teaching Confirmation Class and guiding us throughout this year. We also thank Pastor Niermann for leading the Confirmation service and for his support and encouragement as we prepared our statements of faith. *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom.* (Colossians 3:16)

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WEDDING FACILITATOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY – The elders are seeking a few people to volunteer as “Wedding Facilitators” to assist at St. John weddings and rehearsals. The position description and sign-up sheet can be found on the Narthex table. Any question can be directed to Denny Damman at 419-966-2687.



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!

MISSING DISHES? – There are a few dishes and platters that were left in the church/school kitchen. They are on the Narthex table. If they are yours, please grab them after church.

OPPORTUNITY FOR 2026 COLLEGE STUDENTS – The *Pierstorf 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.

ENDOWMENT GIFTS – 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. *Krista Gerken* (419-966-2596 or lkgerken@henry-net.com) and *Dave VonDeylen* (419-438-1844 or davevd21@gmail.com) are happy to provide more information to anyone who has questions about the endowment fund or interest in making a donation.



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

Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School



MOTHER-DAUGHTER TEA – Daughters preschool–8th grade and their mothers are invited to a Mother–Daughter Tea on Thursday, May 7th, from 6:00–7:30 p.m. A light supper will be served. Dress up in lace and pearls, and even a hat if you wish! Please RSVP to the school office at (419) 598-8702 or sign up in the narthex.

CONSTRUCTION NIGHT – Thank you to all who came out for Father-Son Construction Night. It was a fun evening of father-son bonding and fellowship.

ST. JOHN'S GOT TALENT – You've heard of *America's Got Talent*? On Tuesday, May 19th at 1:30 p.m., our students will show that they've got talent too in our very own "St. John's Got Talent" variety show. God has given everyone unique abilities, and we want to share those with each other! Members of the congregation are invited to join in the audience and come see the acts our students will be putting on.

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.

JUST A FEW MORE WEEKS! – The last day of school for K-6th is May 21st. 4-year-old preschool will end on May 19th, and 3-year-old preschool will end on May 20th.

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Thought for the Week...

Christians never outgrow their need for spiritual milk.