



# St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

## Serving Christ in Freedom

*Worship • Stewardship • Mission*

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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](http://www.sjl.org)

### **THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

- Guest Pastor: *Rev. Matthew Montgomery*
- Order of Service: Matins *LSB pg. 219*
- Hymns: “**Borning Cry**” ~ “**For the Beauty of the Earth**” ~ **556 v. 1, 5, 8-10 ~ 941 ~ 895**

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### **WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS AND ALL MOTHERS**

God speaks to us, and we listen and respond with our hymns, prayers, and praises. Together we bless the Lord, whose purpose is to save us and keep us in His faithful flock. He is the God of Grace and the God of Glory. We also ask His blessing on all the mothers who are with us today. If you are visiting with us this morning, please fill out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave today.

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### **SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✠ Sharon Damman *Organist* ✠ Kenlee Coressel, Piper Speiser *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Deb Von Deylen, Elaine Buenger, Teresa Weller, Pat Mahnke *Altar Guild* ✠

### **WE WELCOME ANOTHER LAMB TO GOD’S FLOCK!** –

This morning we are excited to witness the Baptism of *Eli David Lamb*, infant son of *Jared and Jessica (Damman) Lamb*. Eli was born on March 27, 2026. Eli will be baptized at the start of the service this morning by Rev. Montgomery. Eli’s sponsors are *Curtis and Sarah Wilson* and *Jacob and Nicolle Lamb*.

*I am Jesus' little lamb; ever glad at heart I am, for my Shepherd gently guides me, knows my need and well provides me, loves me ev'ry day the same, even calls me by my name.*  
(LSB 740 v. 1)



**MOTHER’S DAY JAVA JOY** – After worship, the Stewardship Board is hosting a Mother’s Day *Java Joy*. There will be some special coffees and treats for all of our moms and for all of us who love our moms. Truly, they are more precious than rubies! (Prov. 3:15)

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM	<b>Worship Service with Communion Following</b>
	10:15 AM	Mother's Day <i>Java Joy</i> hosted by the Stewardship Board Sunday School; Adult Bible Study; "the LAMP"
Tues.	8:35 AM	<b>School Chapel</b>
	6:00 PM	Church Council Meeting
Thurs.	7:00 PM	<b>Circuit Ascension Day Service @ Zion Ridgeville</b>
Sun.	9:00 AM	<b>Communion Service</b>
	10:15 AM	Sunday School; Adult Bible Study; "the LAMP"
	1:00 PM	<i>Gerald Busyfingers</i> 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
- ❖ *Nancy Nemoyer* and *Larry Mahnke* recovering from heart procedures
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson*, *Jason Rohrs*, *Jordan Lange*, *Joshua*, and *Kyle*

**THANK YOU FOR PRAYERS** – *Nancy Nemoyer* would like to thank everyone for their prayers and cards as she continues her recovery from heart surgery. It means so much!

<b>FINANCIAL FACTS:</b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 04/26/2026	\$7,607.28	\$150.00	\$295.00

**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##**



**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](mailto:churchsecretary@sjl.org) or 419-598-8961.

**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.

**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.

**CIRCUIT ASCENSION DAY SERVICE** – Zion Lutheran Church in Ridgeville (20141 County Road X) will be hosting this year’s circuit Ascension Day service at 7 p.m. **this Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**. Please plan to join as churches in our circuit gather together for this special service!



*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” And when [Jesus] had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. Acts 1:8-9*

**CONVERTIBLE VICAR UPDATE** – Vicar *Jonathan Pietrowski* was assigned to St. John during the Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne’s spring assignment service. There is a photo and letter from Vicar Pietrowski on the table in the Narthex. We look forward to having him join us in June!

**“A MOTHER’S PRAYER”** – There are several copies of an article titled *A Mother’s Prayer* by John Murphy Ball on the Narthex table; help yourself to a copy! “Monica never quit praying for her son. God’s answer overwhelmed her.” *Reprinted with permission from the May, 1999 issue of The Lutheran Witness*. This article is a great encouragement to praying mothers and also to all who pray for others. God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine!

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION** – On **Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>**, we invite high school graduates to gather with us in the worship service for graduate recognition. We’ll remember your confirmation theme, we’ll ask you about your plans for the future, and commend those plans to God in prayer. In the meantime, we’d appreciate having a picture of each graduate that we can project during the recognition. Email them to Leah at [churchsecretary@sjl.org](mailto:churchsecretary@sjl.org), or bring one into the office during the school day by May 20<sup>th</sup>.



**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 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>. 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.



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

*Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School*



**ST. JOHN'S GOT TALENT** – You've heard of *America's Got Talent*? On Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m., our students will show that they've got talent too in our "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.

**NOW HIRING** – St. John Lutheran School is looking for a passionate and dedicated **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher** to join our team. If you love working with students in a Christ-centered environment and are excited to make a difference, we'd love to hear from you! Submit your resume, cover letter, and references to Miss Germann at [tgermann@sjl.org](mailto:tgermann@sjl.org)

**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-6<sup>th</sup> is May 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be an end-of-year chapel on the 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 a.m. followed by an early dismissal at 11:30. *4-year-old preschool will end on May 19<sup>th</sup>, and 3-year-old preschool will end on May 20<sup>th</sup>.*

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** – PTL is looking for volunteers to assist with cooking and set up for a school end-of-year cookout on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. An additional grill is needed. If you are interested, please reach out to PTL President Josh via phone or text at 419-419-8065.

## AREA EVENTS

- ◆ **BBQ CHICKEN DINNER** – On Sun., May 17<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. until gone, the Ridgeville Fire Dept. Auxiliary will be hosting a Drive-thru Chicken BBQ at the fire station. Freewill donation! Proceeds will go towards fire and rescue equipment.
- ◆ **BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN** – Each year from Mother's Day to Father's Day, the CPC Women's Health Resource (a local Christian pregnancy help center) collects change in baby bottles to support their mission sharing the Gospel and helping families in Northwest Ohio. If you'd like to participate, you may take a bottle from the Narthex table to fill in the coming weeks and return it to the box or to the church office.
- ◆ **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for the *Friends of Orphan Grain Train* Bake Sale, Food Stand, & Thrift sale at the Florida, Ohio, Fire Station on June 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> during the Historic Route 424 Yard Sales. Stop in to enjoy great food from the lunch stand or baked items and help support this worthy cause! The Florida Fire Station is located on Rt. 424 in Florida, OH.

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*Thought for the Week...*

**A mother's love is a sample of God's love for us.**