



St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP

16035 Co. Rd. U ♦ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship • Stewardship • Mission

May 17, 2026

VOL. 92

NO. 20

Pastoral Vacancy

Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church Office: 419-598-8961

School Office: 419-598-8702

Church Website: www.sjl.org

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- Guest Pastor: *Rev. Matthew Montgomery*
- Order of Service: Divine Service Setting 4 *LSB pg. 203*
- Hymns: **525 ~ 539 ~ Communion: 613, “Blessed Assurance” projected ~ 653**

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

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. 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.



SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✘ Elaine Buenger *Organist* ✘ Westen Cowell, Zac Kramer *Acolytes* ✘
- ✘ Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel *Ushers* ✘
- ✘ Deb Von Deylen, Elaine Buenger, Teresa Weller, Pat Mahnke *Altar Guild* ✘

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION – Next **Sunday, May 24th**, we invite high school

graduates to gather with us in the worship service for graduate recognition. We’ll remember your confirmation theme, 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, or bring one into the office during the school day by May 20th.



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 Jon on the table in the Narthex. He is finishing some things up at Seminary, beginning to meet with leadership at St. John, and will formally join us at the beginning of June.

Date	Time	Activities
TODAY	9:00 AM 10:15 AM 1:00 PM	Communion Service Sunday School; Adult Bible Study; "the LAMP" <i>Gerald Busyfingers</i> 4-H Meeting
Mon.		4 y/o Preschool Graduation
Tues.	1:30 PM 7:00 PM	Last Day of 4 y/o Preschool (1/2 Day) School Student Variety Show Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	4:30 PM	Last Day of 3 y/o Preschool School Track and Field Day End-of-Year Celebration / Cookout / Cornhole Tournament
Thurs.	6:30 AM	Last Day of School & School Chapel @ 10:30 AM Men's Bible Study
Fri.		Teacher Work Day
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship Service with Graduate Recognition 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*
- ❖ *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*

MEMORIAL GATHERING – *Anne Rausch* passed away on May 11th. A memorial gathering will be held on Tuesday, May 19th, from 3p.m.-7p.m. at Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home in Napoleon. Please keep Anne's family and loved ones in your prayers during this time of loss. *In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northwest Ohio.*

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$11,710.59	\$500.00	\$961.54
<u>Rec'd 05/03/2026</u>	\$6,393.00	\$422.00	\$397.00
Attendance: 237			
<u>Rec'd 05/10/2026</u>	\$6,729.00	\$242.00	\$308.00
Attendance: 182			

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##**



WOMEN OF FREEDOM MEETING – The Women of Freedom welcome all ladies of the church to the meeting this Tuesday, May 19th at 7 p.m.

HONORING SERVICE AND SACRIFICE – As our nation observes Armed Forces Day (May 16) and Memorial Day (May 25), we remember with gratitude those who serve and those who have given their lives in service to our country. Information about the *LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces* is available on the Narthex table. You may wish to support this ministry with a special donation and/or remember our chaplains, active-duty servicemen and women, veterans, and their families in your prayers in the coming weeks.



WANTED – JAVA JOY HOSTS – Thank you to *the Stewardship Board* for hosting Java Joy in honor of mothers last week! We are looking for a few people or groups of people to host JAVA JOY on the second Sundays of the remaining months of 2026. 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 in the Narthex. Thank you for providing this wonderful service for the fellowship and enjoyment of your church family.



VBS SAVE THE DATE RESCHEDULED – **Vacation Bible School** is now scheduled for the week of **July 13th-17th**. The theme this year is “*Tropical Trek: Jesus Comes to Seek and Save.*” More details to be announced next week!

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



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

Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School



EAGLE NEWS: The Eagle News publication was distributed after church last Sunday. If you did not get a copy, there are extras on the Narthex table. Check out what our students have been up to!

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 "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.

SCHOOL'S OUT THIS WEEK! – On Wednesday, May 20th, our students will enjoy a track and field day during school and then a cookout in the evening. **May 21st is the last day of school for K-6th.** There will be an end-of-year chapel at 10:30 a.m. with an early dismissal to follow at 11:30 a.m. The last few weeks have been filled with events and field trips to end the school year on a high note. We praise God for these students and ask Him to bless this week and their summer break ahead!

NOW HIRING – St. John Lutheran School is looking for a passionate and dedicated **3rd 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.

ENROLLMENT IS OPEN – *Help us spread the word!* St. John Lutheran Preschool and K-7th are accepting enrollment applications for next school year. Anyone interested in enrolling for the first time should contact the school office at 419-598-8702 for more information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – PTL is looking for volunteers to assist with cooking and set up for a school end-of-year cookout on May 20th at 4:30 p.m. An additional grill is needed. **We are also looking for a few extra sets of Cornhole boards/bags to borrow for the event.** If you are interested, please reach out to PTL President Josh via phone or text at 419-419-8065.

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Thought for the Week...

If God had a wallet, your picture would be in it.