St. John Lutheran Church

FREEDOM TOWNSHIP 16035 CO. RD. U ◆ NAPOLEON, OH 43545

Serving Christ in Freedom

Worship ◆ Stewardship ◆ Mission

October 11, 2026

VOL. 92 NO. 41

Vicar Jonathan Pietrowski
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church Office: 419-598-8961
School Office: 419-598-8702
Church Website: www.sjl.org

THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Order of Service: *Printed LWML Insert* with modified Morning Prayer LSB pg. 235
Hymns: **"To God be the Glory"** *projected* **~ 514 The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us ~ 855 For all the Faithful Women v. 1, 12, 3 ~ "Serve the Lord with Gladness"** *projected*

WELCOME VISITORS!

You are among Christian friends today. We have all come to the Lord's house to hear what He has to say and to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. We pray that His grace will touch and move you. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack and drop it into the baskets at the doors as you leave today.

WE ARE RECOGNIZING LWML SUNDAY THIS MORNING! – There will be a congregational mite collection, other special aspects during the worship service, and refreshments hosted by the Women of Freedom following the service. Follow along in the printed service folder.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

✠ Sharon Damman *Organist* ✠ Brayton Kruse, Casen Niese *Acolytes* ✠
✠ Carey Damman, Scott Van Valkenburg, Mike Maassel *Ushers* ✠
✠ Deb Von Deylen, Elaine Buenger, Teresa Weller, Pat Mahnke *Altar Guild* ✠

ALTAR FLOWERS this morning are presented in honor of the wedding of *Tyler Badenhop* and *Breanna Boysel.* The two were joined in Holy Matrimony here at St. John yesterday by *Rev. Stephen Niermann.* Congratulations and blessings to the new Mr. and Mrs. Badenhop! *What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.* Mark 10:9

***PORTALS OF PRAYER* BOOKLETS** for Oct., Nov., and Dec., are available on the desk in the Narthex. These brief, daily devotions are available in a pocket-sized booklet and a large print version. Please take one for yourself and family, and feel free to take an extra copy to share with a friend!

In God's House This Week		*Online church calendar: https://74058984.view-events.com*
Date	***Time***	***Activities***
TODAY	**9:00 AM** 10:15 AM 11:30 AM	**Worship Service** *with observance of LWML Sunday* All-Ages Sunday School, "the LAMP" Confirmation Class (6-8 grades)
Mon.		NO SCHOOL – Staff Professional Development
Tues.	 6:00 PM	NO SCHOOL – Staff Professional Development Church Council Meeting
Wed.	7:30 PM	Adult Choir Practice
Thurs.	6:30 AM	Men's Bible Breakfast
Sun.	**9:00 AM** 10:15 AM 11:30 AM 1:30 PM 4:00 PM	**Communion Service** All-Ages Sunday School, "the LAMP" Confirmation Class (6-8 grades) Vicar Leading GenaCross Chapel LYF Meeting 4 p.m. Jr. High | 5 p.m. H.S.

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*
- *Zoe Pietrowski* as she recovers from a concussion
- *Brent Damman (brother to Carey)* suffering from back pain
- 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 09/27/2026	$8,021.75	$513.75	$488.75
Attendance: 168			
Rec'd 10/04/2026	$13,135.00	$622.00	$532.00
Attendance: 151			

Gifts given in memory of *Wes Moll*: $25.00

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##**

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.

HELP US KEEP OUR RECORDS UP-TO-DATE – Keeping contact information current can be a challenge for any organization, and the church is no exception! If you've recently moved, changed your phone number, or updated your email address, please let our office know by contacting Leah at 419-598-8961 or churchsecretary@sjl.org. Thank you for helping us keep our system up-to-date.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE! – Choir practices have resumed for the season at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. We encourage anyone interested in joining the choir to come; they will be happy to see you! Thank you to *Jon Buenger* for directing the choir and to each choir member for sharing musical talents. They hope to see you there and invite you to bring a friend.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Everyone is invited to join for fellowship, refreshments, and Sunday School following the service this morning! We'll all begin together next to the gym and then break off into age groups, with Vicar Jon leading the Adult Bible study.

- **THE "LAMP"** will meet across the road at the Youth and Family Center after the service. This is a Bible study and social time group for all high schoolers and college-aged youth. Come to feed your body and your soul!
- **CONFIRMATION CLASS** will now be meeting after Sunday School at 11:30 on Sundays.

NEXT LYF MEETING – The Jr. High and High School LYF groups will have their next meeting on Sunday, October 18th, at the Youth & Family Center. Jr. High (Grades 6–8): 4:00 PM | High School (Grades 9–12): 5:00 PM. We'll be decorating pumpkins — bring a friend!

"MY DEVOTIONS" booklets for the fall season are available on the desk in the Narthex. Please help yourself to a copy for each of your children. Created for elementary-age children, *My Devotions* help build devotional habits through Scripture readings, prayers, activities, and age-appropriate reflections.

LADIES, SAVE THE DATE! – The annual Fall LWML Christian Life workshop will be held on Saturday morning of November 7th at Emmaus, Wauseon. Flyers are available on the Narthex table.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS – *Vicar Jon* has open office hours at St. John each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. He can be contacted at pastor@sjl.org, through the church office line, or by his cell at 419-309-2420. NOTE: This week, church secretary *Leah Saylor* will be in the church office on Tuesday and Wednesday 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.

AREA EVENTS

- **St. Paul Liberty Center** is hosting a free will offering **soup and pie dinner** fundraiser on **Sun., October 25th.** See the flyer on the bulletin board in the Narthex for more information.
- **National "Wreaths Across America" Day** will be on **December 19th.** There are sponsorship forms on the Narthex table for anyone looking ahead who'd like to sponsor a wreath to be placed on a veteran's grave marker.

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Thought for the Week…

The LWML has been around for over 80 years, and this year, St. John's own Ladies' Aid celebrates 80 years of service! We give thanks to God for the faithful women He has put in place for "such a time as this" throughout the years to serve Christ and their neighbors in love.

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

Notes & Updates from St. John Lutheran School

FALL FESTIVAL AND TRUNK OR TREAT – Once again, the Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat will be combined into one special event for our church and school families! Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 24 from 10 am - 12 noon for a Fall fellowship event including fun activities for children, a hayride, an opportunity to visit the Scholastic Book Fair, and a nature presentation by representatives from Camp Palmer!

Want to be a "Trunker"? Anyone who wants to participate as a "Trunker" by decorating your car trunks or hatchbacks can sign up in the school/church office or on the orange sheet on the Narthex table. Trunkers may dress up in costumes to supply candy, treats, and/or games right out of your trunk for all the Trunk-or-Treaters who may come our way.

UPCOMING PRAYER PALS EVENT – On **Friday, October 30th,** we will have our first Prayer Pals event of the season! The school is having a Reformation Chapel Service at 8:30 a.m., and everyone is welcome to attend Chapel. Following the service, we invite all Prayer Pals to stay for about 30 minutes to meet with their Prayer Pal in the sanctuary and participate in an activity to kick off the year together. There is a table in the Narthex where congregation Prayer Pals can pick up a letter that includes their assigned student's name and grade as well as information for the year.

GRANDPARENTS' DAY – We're looking forward to welcoming the grandparents of St. John School students on **Friday, October 23rd**. Grandparents are invited to join their grandchildren for a special morning together from 9:30–11:30 a.m., with activities, crafts, the book fair, and more. We'll wrap up the morning with Chapel before an early dismissal at 11:30 a.m.

HAWK'S COMMUNITY DAYS – A very BIG thank you to all who took part in the Hawk's Community Days fundraiser! The owner said St. John raised the most money of any event he's done this year. You all raised $500.00 for the school which will be used to support students in a variety of ways, from assisting with the cost of camp to purchasing new things for classrooms and new playground toys. Thank you!

SPIRITWARE SALE – There are flyers on the Narthex table for those interested in purchasing any St. John Lutheran School spiritware. Orders are due by October 16th.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL COACHING – St. John is looking for a new girls' basketball coach for the upcoming basketball season. Anyone interested should contact Joe Badenhop at joebadenhop@yahoo.com or 419-438-5435.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP – Memberships are now being taken for the '26-'27 Athletic Booster Club. Prices are $20.00 for a couple and $10.00 for an individual. Make checks payable to *St. John Boosters* and turn them in to the school office. Forms are available on the Narthex table or outside the office. Join today to help out the children's athletic program.

SCHOOL CHAPEL – Parents and church members are always welcome to attend our regular school chapel services on Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. throughout the school year.