

# St. John News

April 2024

## **Your Pastor, SEZ...**

*On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you." John 20:19-21*

I like how the resurrected Jesus meets the needs of his disciples. There they are, terrified and confused, locked up in a room together for fear of being arrested by the same people who killed Jesus. They have heard wild reports all day—Jesus' body is missing, the tomb is open, and some women even claim they have seen Him! But they themselves are still in doubt and fear.

And then Jesus comes to them and declares, "Peace be with you!" It's a standard greeting, but it's also exactly what they need first of all—the peace that comes from knowing that God has you in His hands and everything will ultimately be all right. Then He shows them His hands and side, where He carries His wounds from the cross. Why? So they can be sure that this is Jesus Himself. There He is, their own dear Lord and teacher - alive and well.

And then the commission. Jesus sends them out to pass on these same gifts of peace and joy to the people of the world, to everyone who will believe in Him. He gives them the Holy Spirit to be with them forever—and with Him.

As Jesus' disciples in this time and place he gives us these gifts today - peace, joy, forgiveness, and his presence with us through the gifts of his Word and in Baptism and Communion. He knows that we will go through many hard times while we are waiting for his return. Jesus refuses to let us go through suffering alone. And so he gives us himself even now as we wait for the day he returns in glory.

**Christ is risen! Alleluia! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

In the love of Jesus,

✠ *Pr. Scott Zimmerman*

### **April Worship**

#### **April 7 ~ Easter 2 B**

Theme: *Doubting Thomas*

Texts: Acts 4:32-35 ~ 1 John 1:1-2:2 ~ John 20:19-31

#### **April 14 ~ Easter 3 B**

Setting: *Of the Lands and Seasons*

Theme: *The resurrected Jesus shares a fish breakfast with the disciples*

Texts: Acts 3:12-19 ~ 1 John 3:1-7 ~ Luke 24: 36b-48

#### **April 21 ~ Easter 4 B**

Theme: *Good Shepherd Sunday*

Texts: Acts 4:5-12 ~ 1 John 3:16-24 ~ John 10:11-18

#### **April 28 ~ Easter 5 B**

Theme: *I Am the Vine, you are the branches*

Texts: Acts 8:26-40 ~ 1 John 4:7-21 ~ John 15:1-8

### **Upcoming:**

**May 5<sup>th</sup> Church Music Sunday**

# THANK YOU!

## Wednesday Bible Study

Beginning April 10<sup>th</sup> we will begin a new study: *Six Key Events of the Old Testament*.

Join us at 9:30 for an hour of discussion. Coffee and “goodies” are always provided. We will be discussing: the Creation; Cain & Able; The Flood; The Tower of Babel; the Call of Abraham; The Exodus and the 10 Commandments. All are invited to join in the study.

## Camp Nawakwa Summer Camp Open House April 14, 2:00-4:30 pm

Our Lutheran camp is hosting an open house. All are invited to visit Camp Nawakwa in Arendtsville on Sunday, April 14 anytime between 2-4:30pm. Take a tour of camp with members of their summer staff and see what camp is all about. As a bonus, they will give a \$10 gift certificate for the camp store to every brand new camper!



## Sites Higher-Education Scholarship Fund

The Sites Scholarship Fund was started many years ago by late member, Leonard Sites. The goal of the

one-time scholarship is to help support an active member, who is a graduating high school senior, to further their education either at a college or trade school. Any graduating high school senior, who is an active member of St. John, is invited to apply. Contact the Church Office to receive an application.

Deadline to submit an application is Monday, June 1, 2024.

- ~Chris Cool and his crew for facilitating the painting of the Nave
- ~ Altar Guild and everyone who helped with our seasonal decorations
- ~The Women of St. John for a delicious Easter Breakfast
- ~Dave Thomas and the kitchen crew for a great St. Patrick's Day dinner.
- ~Thank you to DeeDee Mezger, Shelly Wheeler, Kevan Taylor, and Sue Hall for helping to decorate the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday.
- ~Thank you to Dawn Cool, Cathy Conn, and John Bevilacqua for completing our 2023 St. John Financial Review.
- ~Thank you to Sandy Kump for providing the information needed to complete the review.
- ~Thank you to Susie and Doug Kump for trimming and mowing the lawn at St. John.
- ~Thank you to Fairfield Landscaping for clearing the sidewalks and parking lot this past winter.
- ~Thank you to Bret Robinson and Roger Semplak for installing the new light in the bell tower.
- ~Thank you to everyone who helped prepare the Sanctuary for painting and to David Kump, Bob Luty, and Roger Semplak for refastening the pews after the painting was completed.
- ~Thank you to all members and friends of St. John for your continued support of the many building related projects that have been completed.

## Safe and Sane Party 2024 for HS Seniors

The Fairfield High School Class of 2024 Safe and Sane Committee is sponsoring a graduation party for the graduating seniors following graduation in May. The purpose of this party is to provide a safe and controlled environment in which to celebrate this special event. Since there are no monies provided by Fairfield School District, the committee holds fundraisers and seeks donations from our community. If you would like to make a donation, please mail your contribution to: FHS Class of 2024 Safe and Sane Committee, c/o Amy Baker, 15 Lower Trail, Fairfield, PA 17320. Checks should be made payable to: FHS Class of 2024 Safe and Sane.

## Did you know?....

**With the approval of Council and under the direction of Chris Cool and the Building Committee. Over the past year or so the lighting in the Sanctuary and Gathering area was improved. The Sanctuary painting was completed in time for Palm Sunday and Easter. A new ice machine was installed in the kitchen. All fire extinguishers have been tested. Plumbing issues in the men's and women's restrooms were repaired. New "transition strips" were installed in the Choir Room. Currently, quotes to repair the front porch of the Office Building are being secured.**



On Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup> (St. Patrick's day) we held a supper in his honor. More than 40 people attended, and a good time was had by all! Special thanks to the Kitchen crew who prepared a wonderful supper. And Frances Bassett along with Lisa Sturges who created crafts for the kids.



Those for Whom We Pray - Craig, Barb, Judy, Christine, Ashley, Justin, Bob, Jim, Charlie, Essie, Audrey, Jim, Jim & Mary Lou, Charles, Savannah, Garnetta. Help us keep the prayer list updated. Please let the office know of any names that should be added or that can be removed. Names will stay on the list for 30 days.



Camp Nawakwa-summer is approaching! Lots of activities and opportunities happening at camp! Too much to put in the bulletin. See the ushers stand or Stacey Haynes for a flyer with some of their upcoming fundraisers/events!

Bring a friend Sunday- Enjoy Sunday worship with your friends! We invite everyone to invite a friend to join us for 9am worship on Sunday, April 21st! Light refreshments for all, and goodie bags for our guests!

Strawberry Hill Hike- Family ministry will be hiking the Quarry Trail at Strawberry Hill the first weekend in May. Exact times and day to be determined. Look in the bulletin for more information. All are welcome to join as we admire God's creation in nature. The trail does have an incline to get to the top. See Stacey for more information.



### Music News

Thank you to everyone who shared their musical talents in worship during March, especially those who participated in the Palm Sunday procession music and the Easter anthem. New members are always welcome in our choirs. WOV(adults & teens) rehearse Weds 6:45-7:30 Hand Bells(adults & teens) rehearse Weds. 7:30-8:15 Children's Choir rehearses during Sunday School & Kids Club Solos/duets-instrumental or vocal are welcome!



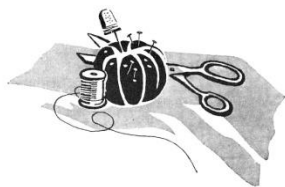
Our Sunday School classes continue to meet on Sunday mornings 10:15-11:15. Guests & visitors are

welcome to join us anytime. Activities for the kids include Bible story, games, crafts & musical adventures. For more information, contact Carol Garman or Stacey Haynes.

Kids Club meets Thursdays, right after school until 5pm for Bible stories, games, crafts, snacks & musical activities. It is open to children K-4th grade. Transportation is available from Fairfield Elementary. Contact Carol for more info(717-476-0923) There will be no Kids Club Mar. 28th..

Thank you to everyone who is bringing aluminum cans in to support Kids Club. Please place your clean cans in the box in fellowship hall or in the one in chapel hallway.

Mark you calendar!  
Music Sunday is May 3rd during the morning worship service.



The Women of St. John will be hosting its first ever craft fair this coming fall! Details will follow but start crafting so you can earn a little

extra cash for Christmas!

**Annual Yard Sale**

**Our annual yard sale will be June 14th & 15th. Set up June 13th. Mark your calendars & start cleaning out those closets! Contact Carol Garman or Barb Booz for more info.**



**Vacation Fun Week**

St. John's Vacation Bible Fun Week will be the week of June 24th, 6-8pm Mon-Thurs and tentative Friday evening family night. Children ages preschool through 5th grade are welcome. Activities include Bible stories, crafts, games, & music. Students 6th grade and above are welcome to come as helpers. Adult helpers will be needed as well. For more info contact Stacey Haynes or Carol Garman.

**Ruth's Harvest-Fairfield – April 7, 2024**

Seven more packings to go as of this writing, and another school year for Ruth's Harvest-Fairfield (RH-F) will be in the bag (pun intended)!

We received donations of over 400 food items from the church sponsored St. Patrick's Day party on March 17, and from the pictures posted on the bulletin board, it looks as if everyone who could attend had a great time. Many thanks to all those who have donated food items for RH-F.

As this school year draws to a close, the number of bags packed has dropped from a high of 72 bags per week to 62 bags per week. This number is still the highest number we've had at this time of year in any of the eight years we've packed bags for students in the Fairfield Area School District. We continue to pack special bags for those students who cannot have food dyes in their food items, for other students who have significant allergies to peanuts and cinnamon, and to kindergarten students for whom the bags of food were just a little too heavy for them to carry. We check every food item for the presence of food dyes, peanuts and cinnamon.

We substitute Nutella for peanut butter, and students who can't have food dyes, don't receive Jell-o because all Jell-o has food dye of one color or another. You might be surprised, because I know I was, that so many of our prepackaged foods have food dye just to make them more pleasing to the eye and our palates. Also interesting is that many European countries have banned the use of dyes in food because of the negative impact dyes can have on some people.

We also provide smaller portions of some foods for kindergarten students to decrease the weight of the bags. Examples include: smaller Chef Boyardee, smaller cans of soup, smaller juice boxes, etc. We are still in need of certain food items for the final weeks of school.

Specific needs at this time are:

Green beans – individual cups,

Corn - individual cups

Mixed fruit - individual cups

Peaches - individual cups

Peanut Butter to Go

Cereal – individual boxes

As always, thank you very much for all the donations we have received this year in food items, monetary contributions and time. This outreach could not continue without your help and that of the community as a whole.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linn Wichowski





*Christ has risen!*

