

St. John News

St. John Lutheran Church

August 2026

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WORSHIP IN THE PARK

Sunday, August 23rd



Mark your calendar for Sunday, August 23rd as we gather to worship and celebrate God's blessings at the beautiful Carroll Valley Park. Worship will begin at 10 a.m. in front of the event building. Please bring a covered dish and/or dessert to share. Everyone is welcome! Members of Flohr's Church are invited to join us. Be sure to sign up in the Gathering Area so we know you'll be attending. If you would like to help with planning or assist during the picnic, please sign up on the Social Hall bulletin board.

TALENT SHOW

Sunday, August 30th

Our annual Talent Show/ Ice Cream Social will be held Sun. Aug. 30, at 6:00 pm. We need audience members and participants! Acts do not need to be sacred, but should be in good taste. If you are interested in sharing a talent (music, story telling, magic, card tricks, joke telling, dance, gymnastics, art projects), please let Carol Garman know. This is your chance!!

SUMMER KIDS' ACTIVITIES

Sunday, August 9th

Gather the kids! There will be activities for the kids after the worship service. 10:15-11:15 am. Friends, relatives, neighbors are welcome.

August 2026

Christian Ed Committee

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9TH

Our Christian Ed Committee is the group that helps plan and lead Sunday School. We will meet Aug. 9, immediately following the kids activities (11:15am).

If you are interested in helping out with Sunday School this year, you are welcome to attend.

For more info on the kids activities or the Christian Ed meeting, please contact Carol Garman or Stacey Haynes.



Jack Runk - August 6

Bob Fitz - August 6

Nic Wheeler - August 7

Marion DePinto- August 7

John Bevilacqua - August 9

Ruthie Fitzgerald - August 11

Addison Yingling - August 11

Roy Gamer - August 14

Dawn Cool- August 15

Evelyn Robinson - August 15

Alex Kump - August 17

Easton Sanders - August 18

Evan McGlaughlin - August 21

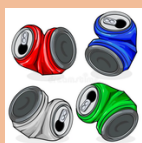
Tasha Sanders - August 25

Shelley Wheeler - August 28

Gail Sorenson - August 31

Aluminum Can Collection

We will continue to collect clean aluminum cans throughout the summer. You can drop them off in the box close to the phone in the fellowship hall. Proceeds go to purchase supplies for Kid's Club and Sunday School.



Worship & Music Committee

The Worship & Music Committee will meet Tuesday, August 18 at 9:30 am to plan for fall worship services. If you would like to help out, please plan to attend this meeting.



Ruth's Harvest- Fairfield

Food insecurity doesn't disappear when school ends for the summer. In fact, it actually may become a more severe problem because there are no school breakfasts or lunches.

When we initially provided backpacks of food to food insecure students in the Fairfield Area School District, we talked to school personnel about the possibility of also providing a summer food program through the school. That didn't work out because there wasn't a solution for getting the weekly backpacks of food to the individual students.

A few years later, however, Wesley Chapel began a summer food program for students who received backpacks from Ruth's Harvest-Fairfield (RH-F) during the school year. Their program also includes each student's family members. Through the school counsellors letters from Wesley Chapel were sent to the families inquiring if they would benefit from a food assistance program during the months of June, July and August. Those who responded agreed to provide the number of people in their family and their names and addresses. This summer numerous families responded to the letter, and Wesley Chapel volunteers now deliver monthly food supplies to those families during the three-month summer break. 51 students and family members are currently benefiting from this program.

The RH-F Board of Directors has voted each year to support the efforts of Wesley Chapel because it is a program that serves the students who had received RH-F backpacks during the school year as well as their families. This year we donated \$750.00 to Wesley Chapel to support this food program.

So, while we are taking a break from packing the weekly bags that are distributed through the school, we continue to support the food insecure students in the Fairfield area through the Wesley Chapel program.

May the Lord continue to bless us with the ability to support food insecure students through the kindness and generosity of the Fairfield community.

Respectfully submitted with gratitude,
Linn Wichowski



Women of St. John Report

At our June meeting we voted to cover the publication cost of the new St. John Directory as part of our continuing service to St. John and feel blessed to have the funds available to make this happen. We also voted to sponsor the Newsletter for a month.

We are excited to share that we have a new Card Ministry here at St. John. If you know someone within our St. John family who may need a card of encouragement, condolence, get well etc. please contact the church office or Donna Bacarella.

Our 3rd annual Craft Fair is fast approaching. Mark your calendars for November 7th and watch the bulletin and newsletter for more details in the coming months.

If you are a woman of the St. John family please consider joining us and know that you are welcome! We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am in the Social Hall. Questions about the Women's Ministry? See Sue Hull, Linda Sanders or Dawn Cool.

Property Report

- Thanks to Doug and Susie Kump for mowing, weeding, spraying and taking care of our grounds.
- An exterminator was called in to spray around the interior and exterior of the building due to "bug issues".
- Fairfield Landscaping has been doing repairs and trimming through out the grounds, around the church and the office.
- Pavers, bricks and stones have been removed, and new grass planted in the area between the 2 buildings. Doug Kump has been watering it regularly to help with growing.
- We've been dealing with high humidity levels in the music room. Currently we have a dehumidifier running to help keep this in check.
- The street sign had some lighting issues that were addressed. New and brighter bulbs were installed.
- We are in the process of obtaining our permit to complete the front porch project at the church office.
- The leak in the bell tower area has been corrected. Painting contractor was notified to repaint the areas in the sanctuary that were stained from the leaking. This was all completed.
- With the sexton position currently being open, there are several areas of opportunity to assist us in keeping our building clean and neat. Please consider lending a hand until we can fill the position. A few minutes here and there will help tremendously.



Making Melodies!



Thank you to everyone who shared their music talents during worship services in July. There are still opportunities for solos, duets etc. Contact Carol Garman if you are interested or you know someone who might be.

WOV and Bells will begin their regular season with food & fellowship Wednesday, September 2nd. Regular rehearsals will resume Wednesday, September 9th. New members welcome!

Blessing of the backpacks



Join us Sunday, August 16th during worship to bless the backpacks, children, and teachers in our congregation and community as they prepare to return to school for another year. There are invitations at the usher's stand for you to take and invite friends and family that are preparing for a new school year.



Above are some pictures from our VBF Week Potluck dinner! It was a joy to spend the week with these amazing kids. It was fun to be able to share what they learned with their parents, friends and members from our congregation. Thank you to all who participated and attended!

Pastor's Message

“Be still and know that I am God.” (And you're not!) Psalm 46:10 NRSV

When I was in seminary I was invited to be included in a weekly spiritual care group. Professor Emeritus Rev. Dr. Bill Smith invited us into his office where the lights were dimmed and comfortable chairs were arranged in a circle in his round office. He invited us to sit, close our eyes and relax. He went so far as to say that it was OK to doze off, which is a special treat for a seminary student wrestling with a heavy load of difficult theological reading and deadlines for assignments. Dr. Smith would speak softly as he walked around the room inviting us to let go of the many things cluttering our minds. He quoted Psalm 46:10 as he invited us to relax, let go, and give the stress, the confusion, the anxiety and fear to God.

“Be still, and know that I am God! I added the parenthetical “And you're not!” And what a relief that is!

A classmate translated the verse from Hebrew to English as, “Stop striving, and know that I am God.” I like that translation a lot. Psalm 46 reminds me that God is there, ever-present and ever-loving. You are loved without condition as you live with the joys and concerns of life. While you wrestle with the realities and challenges of stretched budgets, health, relationships etc. there is one thing you do not need to wrestle with. God's love for you is unshakable. It is trustworthy at all times. Nobody, and nothing can take God's love away from you. Therefore you do not need to worry about it and you do not need to work to keep it! Stop striving and let God be God. Let God do what God always does, God loves you! Believe what Paul says in Romans 8:1, “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Wow! In your baptisms you were made God's child, God's beloved. Later in chapter 8 Paul tells us that because we are God's adopted children, we are joint heirs with Christ! Romans 8 ends with the promise that nothing can separate us from the Love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, as you wrestle with the many challenges in life, I invite you to take time to be still, to relax and close your eyes and meditate on those wonderful words from Psalm 46:10, “Be still, and know that I am God.” Rest in those words. Make the sign of the cross on your forehead to remind yourself that you are a baptized and beloved child of God. As you do, may the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ wash over you and bring you peace.

Peace,

Pastor Wayne

Call Committee Update

In July, the Call Committee completed a final draft of the Ministry Site Profile. The next step will be to meet with Pastor Beth Martini, Assistant to the Bishop of the ELCA Lower Susquehanna Synod and the Council at St. John to review the Ministry Site Profile. The purpose of the review is to bring together the leaders who know the congregation well in order to point out weaknesses or inaccuracies in the profile, as well as to suggest ways to strengthen the profile. This meeting is in the process of being scheduled.

Once the Ministry Site Profile has been approved, it will be uploaded to the ELCA websi. Once it has been uploaded to the site, ELCA Pastors from across the country will have the opportunity to view our Ministry Site Profile and decide if they would be interested in a call to our congregation. I will continue to keep the congregation informed throughout the call process as we let the Holy Spirit guide us in finding our next Pastor at St. John.

Please feel free to ask either myself, or any of the members of the Call Committee any questions you might have. I would once again like to thank the Call Committee members - Lisa Simmons, Linn Wichowski, Julie Falk, Larry Hull and Cory Runk for all of their hard work and dedication.

Peace,

Mike Gamer

Recipes Wanted!

It has been suggested that we include a recipe in the newsletter each month. If you have a favorite dish, please share it with Barb or Stacey and tell us a little bit about why it's special.



Last year's picnic after our outdoor service.

Sign-Ups

Are you looking to sign up for an event or to volunteer at St. John?

Sign ups for volunteer opportunities to help serve our church and worship are found on the welcome table in the gathering area found right outside the sanctuary.

Sign ups for events or activities at St. John are found on the "News and Events" bulletin board found in the fellowship hall.



Pasta Dinner and Entertainment

We had an amazing evening with great fellowship and music. A special thank you to Rob and Pat Lewis for their wonderful music they provided after dinner. As always, no one went hungry with all the amazing pasta dishes and desserts. Thank you to those who provided dishes and attended!



Council Corner- July Meeting

Council Corner- July 2026 Meeting

The last council meeting was held on July 13, 2026. Council members present were Josh Haynes, Frances Bassett, Barb Booz, Sandy Kump, Tammy Deardorff, Sue Hull, Mike Gamer, and Chris Cool. Pastor Wayne was on vacation.

At the beginning of each meeting, we share where we have seen God. Members shared that they saw Him in the beautiful weather we were having, in the magnificent power of Niagara Falls, being blessed by having a meal paid for, and in His protection during a car accident that was so close to being terrible, but wasn't.

The Treasurer's report included explanations for some of the funds that we have. Money that is not designated for a specific purpose when memorials are given is transferred into the general fund after 5 years. The interest earned in the American Fund account is re-invested into the same account. For the first six months of this year, our income has been less than our expenses in five of the six months, ranging from **-\$1,133** to **-\$7,810**. We were in the black in March due to Cash Day. Our sexton, Mary Jo "MJ" Graham has submitted her resignation. MJ will be finished on July 19, 2026. We will need to hire a new person. There will be a change to the job description by adding PA clearance.

A resignation letter from Sandy Kump as Treasurer was presented. Sandy will continue in her position until December 31.

The Call Committee has finished the Ministry Site Profile.

The Women of St. John generously paid for the new directories.

If you have any questions or concerns about Church matters, please contact any council member. You are welcome to attend meetings which are held on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

2026 Church Council Members

President- Joshua Haynes
Vice President- Frances Bassett
Secretary- Barb Booz
Treasurer- Sandy Kump
Chris Cool
Mike Gamer
Tammy Deardorff
Sue Hull

