

ST. JOHN NEWS



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH



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www.stjohnfairfield.net



**Sunday Worship Service
9AM**

Pastor's Report

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19 NRSV

I have been talking about discipleship lately. The verse quoted above is a part of Jesus' great commission that sends you out into the world as the body of Christ to make disciples, to be the presence of Christ in the world. You are called to go and make disciples, not members, and there is a major difference in the two.

A disciple of Christ is one who is focused on the teaching of Christ and living their lives

as Christ would have them live. They live their lives as a reflection of the love of Christ in the world for all around them to experience and benefit from. A member on the other hand is largely focused on the club they belong to. Their actions, their giving, their focus is on maintaining the club and paying the bills.

St. John Lutheran Church is not only a club; it is a gathering of disciples of Jesus Christ focused on helping each other grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and then sharing the love of Christ with the people around them in their community and beyond.

As disciples of Christ, we acknowledge that all that we

have is gift from God. "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers." Psalm 24:1-3 NRSV. There is important, vital, and life-giving ministry happening at St. John that depends upon your generous giving. Ruth's Harvest, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Kids Club, Hillside Personal Care and your Family Ministry are among the ways that you as a congregation reach out into your community bringing life giving. food, tooes wo would otherwise go without.

(Continued on page 2)

Hillside

On the third Wednesday and Thursday of each month (except September because of Pippenfest) you can find the Kitchen Helpers cooking a fine meal for the folks at the Hillside Nursing Home in Greenstone. Meals range from chicken cordon bleu to picnic burgers with all the trimmings. All holidays are celebrated and represented with appropriate fixin's. The 4th of July included red, white and blue parfaits. Thanksgiving brings turkey, filling, gravy, mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie. Each holiday month includes thoughtful gifts. The emphasis is on fresh and nutritious meals that are rare at Hillside. This stewardship provides those less fortunate with food that many of us take for granted. After the meals are prepared, they are delivered to Hillside. All food provided is purchased from your generous contributions.

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These ministries also serve to nurture the youth and family of St. John by providing a healthy Christ-centered community and environment for growth in their understanding of Christ and their role in the world as a disciple of Christ. You are also providing space for local scouting programs and other organizations needing a meeting place.

I invite you to prayerfully consider your giving to St. John Lutheran Church. Your family budget is a spiritual document. In it you will see where your priorities lie. St. John is not a club; there are no dues required to belong. We are a gathering of disciples of Christ who support the vital ministry of this congregation. The community around you experiences the love of Christ through you and the vital industries you support.

Will you take time to pray about your financial support of this ministry knowing that through your giving you are touching lives and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. Your giving enables us to go and make disciples.

In Christ,

Pastor Wayne



**Weekly adult Bible
study: Wednesdays
at 9:30AM**

Rally Day

Sunday School for all ages resumes September 13th. 10:15-11:15. Activities for our young people include crafts, Bible stories, games & musical activities. No Sunday School September 27th due to Pippenfest activities.



Confirmation

Pastor Wayne will meet with confirmation students the first & third Sundays of each month during the Sunday School Hour.





Music Corner

BY CAROL GARMAN

With One Voice and Hand Bell choirs will kick off the new season with food & fellowship at Barb & Dave Booz's house Weds. Sept. 2, 6:30 pm. Regular rehearsals begin Weds. Sept. 9, 6:45 for singers and 7:30 for ringers. New members welcome!

Children's Choir will practice during Sunday School.

Opportunities are available for instrumental & vocal solos, duets etc.

October is around the corner!

St. John will once again be handing out candy for the Halloween Trick or Treaters! Starting in October, we will have a box in the Narthex for donations of candy.

Anyone is welcome to come hand out candy, October 31. We typically decorate the church porch. Bring a chair and come enjoy the evening! Feel free to dress up in costume!

Welcome, Mark Miller!

We are pleased to announce that the position of church sexton has been filled! We welcome Mark Miller as our new custodian. Mark is retired from law enforcement, and has worked as a part-time custodian at St. Joseph's in Eldersburg, Md.

Call Committee Update

On August 24th, Pastor Christopher Suehr (Dean of the Gettysburg Conference) met with the St. John Call Committee, Josh Haynes, Francis Bassett and the Call Committee at Flohr's Lutheran Church to have a discussion on potentially entering into an agreement, should we decide to move forward with sharing a full time Pastor. I was encouraged by the conversation, and we will be meeting again in the near future to continue the discussion. The Call Committee is still in the process of scheduling a meeting with Pastor Beth to review our Ministry Site Profile. I will continue to provide updates to the Congregation throughout the call process.

I would once again like to thank our Call Committee Members - Lisa Simmons, Linn Wichowski, Cory Runk, Julie Faulk and Larry Hull for their hard work and dedication as we do this important work for our Congregation.

Please feel free to ask either myself, or any of the members of the Call Committee any questions you might have.

- Mike Gamer

Ruth's Harvest- Fairfield

Another school year has begun. I know that because every morning and every afternoon I hear the big yellow school buses as they pass the house picking up and dropping off students. I also know school has begun because if I'm on the road and running late, I always get behind a bus that's picking up or dropping off a student every 30 feet! Of course that's a bit of an exaggeration, but that's the way it feels as I look at my watch and realize I should have left the house 10 minutes earlier if I wanted to be on time.

Once again, Ruth's Harvest-Fairfield (RH-F) board members will do the first packing of the year. Our first packing for the 2026-2027 school year will be on September 15 with the delivery to the schools on September 17. A mid-September packing date allows the school counselors time to get responses from the letters they send to the student parents or guardians inquiring if they wish their child/children to receive the RH-F weekend backpacks of food.

Just today I received an email from the middle school counselor advising me that at this time there are 12 middle school students and one high school student who wish to receive the weekend bags.

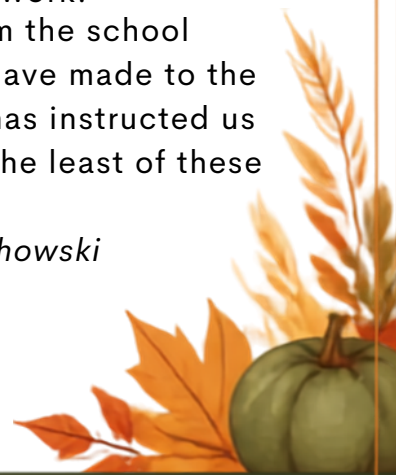
Last week we conducted our "beginning of the year" inventory of food items currently in the pantry and checked expiration or "best by" dates to determine our immediate needs for the first packing.

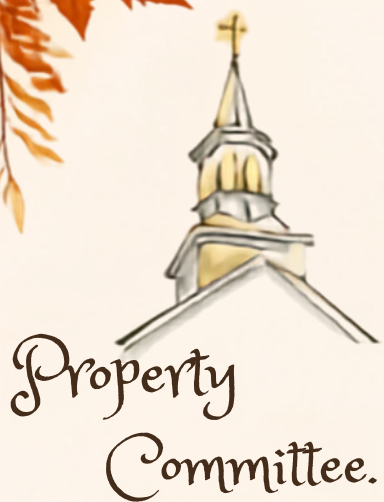
This week we will be inspected by an individual from the Pennsylvania South Central Food Bank in Harrisburg to ensure we are following the food safety and handling guidelines required by our certification. The thought of an inspection is a bit nerve racking to me (a leftover feeling from government inspections of past years), but I know they want us to succeed in providing support to food insecure students, and additional information or tips is always welcome.

So...once again I'm asking you to think of our food insecure Fairfield Area School District students as you do your grocery shopping. Every donation of food items or a monetary contribution is helpful in silencing the sounds of a rumbling, hungry tummy. When you don't know if you'll have anything to eat during the weekend when there are no school breakfasts or lunches, it's very hard to concentrate on schoolwork.

Your past support has been amazing and every year, we hear from the school counselors and teachers of the difference these backpacks of food have made to the students who receive them. With your help we are doing what God has instructed us to do in Matthew 25:40 (NIV) "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Linn Wichowski





Property Report

Just as we take care of our homes, the church must be maintained too. Thank you to Chris Cool for the continued monitoring, maintenance checks, repairs, investigating, paperwork, patience and time he has spent taking care of our church's physical needs.

- 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 throughout 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 permits to complete the front porch project at the church office.
- The leak in the bell tower area has been corrected. The painting contractor was notified to repaint the areas in the sanctuary that were stained from the leaking. This painting was completed and paid for by an anonymous donor.
- The ice machine was leaking and was repaired.
- There is a choir loft lighting issue that has to be addressed. The old light fixture has been removed and a new assembly will be mounted soon.

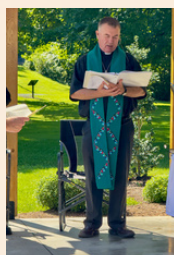
Blessing of the Backpacks

On August 30, students and a few parents brought their backpacks to church to have them blessed for the coming school year.





We had a wonderful service at Carroll Valley with our friends from Flohrs Lutheran Church on Sunday, Aug. 23. Afterwards, we enjoyed fellowship over a covered-dish lunch. It was a beautiful day and everyone had a great time!



Annual Talent Show- August 30



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.



Family Ministry

Watch the bulletin for more details for our October, November and December events!

We will be planning our Pizza and Pumpkin night, Friendsgiving and our Cookie Walk. See Stacey Haynes if you are interested in helping to plan!



Women of St. John Report

We voted to cover the publication cost of 85 new St. John Directories 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 the month of September and the altar flowers for an upcoming week.

August 11th was a busy day. Members of the Women's Ministry, as well as many other members, of St. John joined together to process 50 dozen (!) ears of corn from a local farm for the freezer. This corn will be used for church related events such as Chicken Corn soup for Pippinfest.

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, condolences, 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.



Thank You!

- Chris and Dawn Cool would like to extend a special thank you to Sue Kiefer and to Lisa Sturges for taking over flower watering duties for us during the times we were out of town in July and August.
- Heartfelt thanks to Dawn Cool for planting and maintaining the beautiful flowers around the outside of the church.
- Thanks to the large group of volunteers who helped to husk, boil, cut, and freeze corn for soup for Pippinfest!
- Big thanks to Doug and Susie Kump for mowing, weeding, and spraying our grounds.
- Thanks for all who shared their musical talents in August.
- Special thanks to our *Of The Land and Seasons* musicians.
- Thank you to everyone who participated or cheered everyone on at the talent show!
- Thank you to everyone who helped at our outdoor worship service- leading, setting up and cleaning up!
- Acolyte volunteers
- Usher volunteers
- Money counters

God's Work, Our Hands

Sunday, September 13, is an annual day of service for ELCA congregations. This year we will be collecting personal care & miscellaneous items to give to residents at Comfort Care & Hillside. Lists are available on one of the tables in the gathering area, Please place items in the marked boxes in fellowship hall by September 13th. Our Sunday school children will be filling bags with some of the items & making cards. Adult help is welcome! For more information, please contact Sue Hull, Carol Garman or Stacey Haynes.

Happy Birthday

September Birthdays

2 David Thomas
2 Linda Sanders
9 Eddie Deadorff
13 Charlotte Robinson
17 Amanda Crevier Beckner
20 Josh Haynes
23 Sherri Yingling
25 Doug Newell
28 Bob Luty



**We are very happy to welcome
our newest members, Margaret
Coogle and Anna-Mae Kobbe!
May God bless you!**