

# ST. JOHN NEWS



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

office@stjohnfairfield.net

www.stjohnfairfield.net

Sunday Worship Service  
9AM

## *A Letter From The Pastor*

BY WAYNE GALLIPO

HAPPY EASTER!!

*"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing." Galatians 2:19b-21 NRSV*

Happy Easter to you all! In the cross, Jesus demonstrated the depth of his love for you and all of creation. Through Jesus's death on the cross and then resurrection from the grave, sin, death and the devil lost their power over you. Jesus took that burden from you. The weight of sin and death has been removed from you. You need not live in fear of condemnation, Jesus rescued you

from that fear. You have been set free. Peace, ultimate peace is forever yours. But that can be hard to believe.

I often hear people saying things like, "But don't I have to do something? Don't I have to confess? Don't I have to repent? Don't I have to follow the law? The incredible answer to those and similar questions is NO! As Paul says in Galatians, "[You] have been crucified with Christ." Or as he says in Romans 6:4, "Therefore [you] have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so [you] too might walk in newness of life." The late Dr. Gerhard O. Forde, professor of Systematic Theology at Luther Seminary said it this way, "To the age-old question, 'what shall I do to be saved?' The confessional answer is shocking; 'nothing! Just be still; shut up and listen for once in your life to what God Almighty, creator and redeemer is saying to his world and to you in the death and resurrection of his Son! Listen and believe!" Salvation is not your work

to do, Jesus has done it for you. You are saved by God's freely given, unearned, undeserved gift of grace. This seems too good to be true, and if it were a human giving this gift, perhaps you would have reason to be cautious. But this gift comes from God who loves you without limits.

People of St. John, you are loved unconditionally. Your salvation, your freedom, your ultimate peace is a done deal! God gave it freely to you. Rejoice and live your life confident in your status with God sent into the world to share the good news and love your neighbors without fear.

Peace,

*Pastor Wayne Gallipo*

## Note from the Editors

BY BARB BOOZ AND STACEY HAYNES

We hope that you enjoyed our first issue that was printed mid-February. We are experimenting with different formats to see what looks best. Since the church does not have a color printer, we had Bream's Print Shop run off 30 copies for us. This would be enough to mail to our shut-ins and to have for those members who do not have email accounts. As always, the newsletter will be available online on the church website and will be emailed to members through the office. Please contact Stacey Haynes or Barb Booz for any suggestions!

## Family Ministry

Join us Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm for a Garden Party. We will have flower pots to paint, plants to put in your flower pots and mug bird feeders to make.

Thank you to all who attended and brought food for our chili and soup pot luck!



## Card Ministry

Donna Bacarella has generously volunteered to begin a card ministry for our St. John family! She designs and makes beautiful cards by hand. Donna will be sending out birthday greetings as well as Get Well wishes and Sympathy cards. Many thanks to Donna for her talents and her generosity!

## Happy Birthday!

Troy Kump- April 1  
Quinn Carder- April 1  
Briar Carder- April 1  
Martha Fitz- April 4  
Lisa Sturges- April 11  
Abigail Kump- April 20  
Melanie Brown- April 24  
Ron Bollinger- April 25  
Katie Kump- April 25



Sunday School  
Sept-May 10:15AM

Adult Bible Study  
Sept- May Wed 9:30AM

Kids Club  
Nov- May Thurs. 3:45-5PM



## *Music Corner*

BY CAROL GARMAN

With One Voice (teens & adults)- Wednesdays at 6:45pm. We sing during worship twice a month as schedules allow. Music reading skills are not required.

Hand Bell Choir (teens & adults)- Wednesdays at 7:30pm. We ring during worship once a month as schedules allow. Music reading skills are helpful but not required. Training is available!

Children's Choir- We practice during Sunday School and Kid's Club.

Vocal or instrumental duets/solo opportunities are available as well! Please see Carol if interested or if you know someone who might be.

Thank you to everyone who shared their talents during worship services in February & March.



*Stacey and Andrea Haynes sing a duet during church offering.*



*Picture to left: Handbell choir playing during worship.*

*Picture to right: Carol Garman and Stacey Haynes sing "This Little Light of Mine" for the Children's Sermon.*



# Sharing Your Talents

There are SO many opportunities to share your talents here at St. John! We have a wonderful group of members who volunteer their time and talents to serve God by performing different jobs here at church and beyond in the community. If you would be interested in helping out, just let us know.

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” 1 Peter 4:10

**TEACH SUNDAY SCHOOL**      **FOOD PANTRY**  
**SERVE COMMUNION**   **VISIT SHUT-INS**   **PLAY BELLS**  
**PLAY PIANO/ORGAN**   **RUTH'S HARVEST-FAIRFIELD**  
**SERVE ON COUNCIL**   **SING IN CHOIR**   **USHER**

## Stewardship

**HELP WITH MAINTENANCE**   **KITCHEN HELP WITH MEALS**  
**SPONSOR FLOWERS**   **LECTOR**   **SHARE MUSICAL TALENTS**  
**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**   **VOLUNTEER KIDS' CLUB**  
**COUNT OFFERING**   **LAY MINISTER**   **DECORATE SANCTUARY**  
**BREAD SPONSOR**   **HELP WITH NEWSLETTER**   **OFFERING**

## Women of St. John

The Women of St. John will prepare Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday following the service. Please plan to attend and bring your appetite.

Our current community outreach includes:

- Donation of \$100 to the Fairfield EMS/Fire Company.
- Donation of \$1,500 to the Fairfield Area School District Lunch Program. These monies will be applied to students in need who presently have negative lunch account balances.
- We will shop and privately deliver grocery items to local families in need so that they may enjoy a special Easter Holiday meal. Food insecurity is an ongoing concern in our area. If you know of someone in need or if you would like to make a monetary donation towards these holiday meals, please contact Sue Hull, Linda Sanders, Susie Kump or Dawn Cool.

We continue to prepare monthly meals for the Fairfield Lions Club and are continuing to plan for our upcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Craft Fair on November 7<sup>th</sup>. More details in the coming months. Mark your calendars!

Our group meets the first Tuesday of every month at 10am in the social hall. Please join us!

## Vacation Bible School

We will be having a planning meeting at St. John Sunday, April 12 at 11:30am. We are looking for people to help plan, decorate and to run stations for the week.

## Evening Bible Study

We are starting a monthly Bible study in the evening. If you are interested, please see Stacey Haynes. The first Bible study will be held Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30pm.



# Marriage Retreat

Josh and Stacey Haynes and Bridget and Cory Runk joined Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church for their Annual Marriage Retreat at White Sulphur Springs Christian Retreat Center in Manns Choice, PA. The weekend's theme was Prayer and Marriage. There was a total of 26 couples in attendance from several churches in the Gettysburg, Orrtanna and Rouzerville area.

*This was a great experience connecting closer together as a couple and with God. I look forward to attending the retreat next year!*

*Stacey Haynes*



# Palm Sunday 2026





# Council Corner

Highlights from the March Church Council Meeting on March 8, 2026

We had a guest speaker, Chuck Szarowski, Jr., representing Habitat For Humanity. Chuck is looking for volunteers for a group sponsored by CRS Insurance, to do some physical work and also is needing a group to prepare lunches along the way. Habitat is working on two houses, one in Littlestown and a new one in Gettysburg which will be located across from the hospital. We will post information about volunteering for this worthy cause as soon as we get it.

Treasurer's Report- At this point in 2026, we are low on finances. This is normal for this time of the year. We had one Sunday that we had no service and another Sunday we had inclement weather with low attendance. Also, we had a large expense for repairing the boiler.

Call Committee- The council and committee met with Pastor Beth from the synod and Pastor Wayne. The group discussed different possibilities for our future. One option for us would be to form a parish with another church. We would retain our separate identities and many details would be worked out. A second option would be to hire a full-time pastor, however, it is suggested that a church would need to have an annual operating budget of \$165,000.00 or more for that. A salary package for a first call seminarian would be around \$100,000.00 total. This includes salary and benefits. A plus for us is having the seminary close to us. Another option would be to hire a part-time pastor. The call committee voted at their last meeting to recommend to the council to move forward to explore all options that are viable and appropriate for our church in search of a permanent pastor for St. John. The council approved their recommendation.

Cash Day- After discussion, the council decided to designate cash day for funds in preparation for replacing our aging air conditioning units. One unit's replacement would cost approximately \$10,000. One unit was repaired last year.

Women of St. John- An Easter Breakfast will be prepared for after the service by the women. Groceries will be gathered for six needy families for an Easter Dinner. A gift certificate for a restaurant will be given to the fire victims. A donation of \$1,500 was given to the FASD for payment of students' school lunch bills. Easter eggs are in the gathering area with items listed inside for restocking the pantry. Newsletters were mailed to shut-ins. Lions Club dinner menus are planned.

## St. John's Missions:

- Ruth's Harvest- Two members of Marsh Creek Church will be taking over the organization and inventory of the pantry! This is a very important and busy job.
- Neighbors Helping Neighbors- The next clothing give-away is April 25. April 14 will be the next meeting and everyone is welcome. It is held at St. John. Easter Crafts will be made on March 31 for Meals-on-Wheels recipients and the nursing home.
- Kid's Club is going very well. There is an average attendance of 7 – 12 children.
- Hillside Personal Care- Easter Baskets will be assembled for residents.
- Family Ministry- Plans include: April- Garden Party- decorating pots, planting, May- a hike to the quarry at Strawberry Hill, Mother's Day – make a small gift. There were discussions for starting a monthly Bible Study.

# Thank you!

- To those who helped decorate the church for Easter Service
- Women's group for cooking Easter Breakfast
- Handbells and choir for beautiful music
- Everyone who helped build our bulletin board of "Where have you seen God?"
- Acolyte volunteers
- Usher volunteers
- Money counters
- Those that provide refreshments after worship



*Where have you seen God today bulletin board.*

## Easter Flashback!

Do you recognize any faces from these Easter pictures from the past?



2017



2016