

The St. John News

February 2026

*Our mission is to
make Christ known.*



**Saint John
Lutheran Church**

717.642.5822

Office@stjohnfairfield.net

www.stjohnfairfield.net

Sunday Worship Service

9AM

Sunday School

Sept-May 10:15AM

Adult Bible Study

Sept-May Wed 9:30AM

Kids Club

Nov-May Thurs. 3:45-5PM

A Note from the Pastor

"And from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with whom I am well pleased; listen to him!'"
Matthew 17:5b NRSV

We have now traveled together through the season of Advent and Christmas and have received the great news of Emmanuel, God with us. We have seen Jesus revealed to us as John baptized him and God's Holy Spirit descended upon him with God's voice booming from the heavens saying "This is my Son, the Beloved, with him I am well pleased." And now, once again, at the transfiguration we hear God revealing Jesus' true identity, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with whom I am well pleased; listen to him!" There are many competing voices out there wanting our attention and devotion. Which ones are you following?

Continued on page 5

Saint John Lutheran Church
13 E. Main Street
Fairfield, PA 17320

Property and Building Updates

- Kitchen stove ventilation cleaning and inspection was completed.
- New exterior trim was installed on the door at the Chapel entrance.
- New rain and down spouting installed in the Chapel area.
- The parking lot light timer needed to be replaced.
- A problem with a carbon monoxide detector turned out to be a breaker issue. The breaker was repaired.
- A motion light was installed outside of the office entrance to improve lighting after dark.
- Fire extinguisher inspection was updated and performed.
- Mandatory state boiler inspection was completed.
- There were 2 small and 1 large snow events that needed addressed. Thanks to Fairfield Landscaping for snow removal and salting of walks.
- On Jan 22nd it was discovered we lost all heat to the sanctuary. The problem was a blower part that is not an off the shelf item. After ordering, shipping, and installing, we now have heat again. Unfortunately this all occurred during some of the coldest weather in years. Upon start up a burst water line was found in the front vestibule. This was capped, but will need to be addressed moving forward.



Thank you to everyone who helped in any way through all of this activity. Chris Cool, Property Committee Chairman



Midweek Lenten Devotion

Pastor Wayne will be sharing a short Lenten devotion Wednesday mornings, Feb. 25-Mar. 25 at the beginning of the Wednesday morning discussion group meeting which is at 9:30. Anyone is welcome to come to the devotions, you don't have to be part of the discussion group but you are always welcome to stay.

Women's Ministry Of St. John

Monthly Meetings held on the
1st Tuesday at 10:00 AM

Future meetings: March 3, April 7, May 5,
June 2



The meal planning is underway for this year's Fairfield Lions Club monthly dinner meetings that is prepared by our group and served prior to their business meeting.

If you know someone who does not have a computer or is homebound, please let us know, as we help distribute the newsletter to those members.

Classes have begun for knitting and crocheting. No need to sign up! Just join in any or all sessions for the next 6-8 weeks. No experience or tools needed. These no-stress sessions are held Tuesdays at 1:30pm in the fellowship area barring bad weather. See Frances at 717.491.7298 for any questions.

This Easter, we will be purchasing and delivering meal prep items to a few anonymous local families in need. This is something we currently do annually at Thanksgiving but have decided to broaden our scope.

The Women's group will be making a donation to the food services at Fairfield Area School District, which will be used to cover the cost of students who need help (for whatever reason) with their negative lunch balance accounts.

All women and their friends of St. John are welcome!

As other events and projects come up, we meet as needed to help with event set-up, kitchen prep, cooking, stocking and organizing.

SAVE THE DATES

Chili/Soup Potluck- Saturday, February 28th from 12-2:30PM. Sign up in Fellowship Hall.

Breakfast- Oatmeal/Cereal will be served after worship Sunday, February 22nd and March 22nd.

Annual Easter Breakfast- Sunday, April 5th

Following the Easter Service

Craft Fair/ Vendors, Soup & Baked Goods- Saturday, November 7th

Watch for details in the coming months

Council Corner

- At the first meeting of the year, Council officers were elected.
Joshua Haynes- Council President
Frances Bassett- Vice President
Sandy Kump- Treasurer
Barb Booz- Secretary
Other council members are Chris Cool, Tammy Deardorff, Sue Hull, Mike Gamer.
 - Pastor's Report- Pastor Wayne reported that confirmation class is going very well. The students are ready to study Exodus and Moses. As per his contract, Pastor Wayne will be away one weekend per month. The Rev. Dr. H. Lee Brumback will be filling in the second Sunday of each month.
 - Treasurer's Report- Sandy Kump reported that our finances ended up in the black for 2025 with a balance of approximately \$5,400.00. Cash Day will be coming up on Palm Sunday and we will be deciding on the target area for this year. We have a total of \$240,000 in all of the endowment funds.
 - A total of \$3,570 was sent to Flohr's Church for the family who lost their home and belongings in a fire in Orrtanna in November. We received a thank you note.
 - Stacey Haynes and Barb Booz have agreed to work on the newsletter. They will be collecting information and reports and plan to publish an issue mid-February.
 - Barb Booz has been taking pictures for the new directory. The first pictures were taken January 11, 2026.
 - Chris Cool reported on repairs and maintenance done around the church. A new timer was installed for the parking lot lights. Bags of salt were purchased and placed at each doorway, and a motion light was installed at the steps of the parsonage. We received an estimate on the decking project for the parsonage. It may be a little more costly than previously stated. (\$4,500) Fire extinguishers were inspected and passed, and the 3 boilers were inspected and were up to date. New project- we need a handrail to assist getting up to the lectern. This will be investigated. We are having a mouse problem. All refreshments will be moved to the social hall. Chris has been very busy and we greatly appreciate all that he does!
 - The Call Committee will be meeting after church on January 18. They will be going through the ministry site profile.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please talk to any of the Church Council members.

February Birthdays:

1	Dave Booz	16	Mark Deardorff
3	Mary Lou Hammett		Brian Wheeler
8	Larry Hull	18	Matthew Bollinger
9	Caroline Kane	21	Caroline Kump
12	Mary Beth Moore	27	Paige Szarowski
13	Isiah Fitzgerald	28	Bryce McGlaughlin
14	Millie Weatherly		

Continued from page 1

The season of Lent begins this year on February 18th, Ash Wednesday. Lent is a time when we pause to remember Jesus' time in the wilderness facing temptations. It is a time when we reflect on Jesus as he deliberately makes his way to Jerusalem and the cross. This year, in the season of Lent I invite you to reflect on what Jesus did not only for you, but for all people. I invite you to honestly reflect on the voices, the influences, the ideologies that influence how you live in and relate to the world around you. Are they in line with the one whom God called you to listen to? How does God's command to listen to Jesus impact your life as a disciple of Christ?

In Matthew 4:17 Jesus told us to "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." As I said on the 1st, repent does not mean listing your sins and feeling bad for them. No, repent here means to see the world through new eyes. It's a change of mind. It means you follow God's command to listen to Jesus above any other message that you may hear in the world. Sadly, too many people are being influenced by competing ideologies and following them because they are attractive. Because their friends are following them. Listening to Jesus may mean something inside of you needs to die. It may mean you need to recalibrate, to change your mind, to reconsider and prayerfully ask God to change your heart.

I realize that this is not easy but the situation in our nation today requires the Church to take a stand against the competing voices that push people away rather than gather them in. God has called you to listen to Jesus. To see the world through the loving, merciful, and compassionate eyes of Jesus. In this season of Lent read the Gospel of Matthew and pay close attention to Jesus welcomes in and who he speaks against.

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is wonderful news for all of you. Jesus, the Son of God has come! Repentance is a wonderful experience! It opens your eyes to the world as God sees it. It sets you free to love and serve your neighbors, all your neighbors. In this season of Lent, I invite you to prayerfully listen to the voice of Jesus and see the world as Jesus sees it.

Peace,

Pastor Wayne Gallipo



Upcoming Worship Services

Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026
@ 7PM

Maundy Thursday
April 2, 2026
@ 7PM

Good Friday
April 3, 2026
@ 3PM

Easter Sunday
April 5, 2026
Worship- 9am
Breakfast/Egg Hunt
after service

Music Corner

Music ministry opportunities: New members are always welcome!

With One Voice (teens & adults) meets on 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) meets on Wednesdays at 7:30-8:15PM. We ring during worship once a month as schedules allow. Music reading skills are helpful but not required. Training is available!

Children's Choir practices are during Sunday School and Kids' Club.

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

Easter Choir- Easter will be here before we know it! Our Easter Choir will begin rehearsing the first Wednesday in March 6:45-7:15PM. We will be rehearsing one anthem to sing Easter morning. If you enjoy singing, please consider joining us!

Carol Garman 717.476.0923

Our Hand Bell Choir went on a field trip January 10th and presented a concert to the folks at Spirit Trust in Gettysburg. We had a small, but very appreciative audience. Thank you ringers!



Church Directory

Don't forget to see Barb Booz to get your family's photo taken for our new church directory.

We have around 35 family photos taken. They are looking good! We hope to have all pictures taken by early March.

Thank you!

- Everyone who shared their music talents in December & January. Especially our musicians who provided music for Christmas Eve Prelude and service!
- To our young people who presented the children's program in church in December.
- The folks who keep our sidewalks clear & de-iced during storms.
- Everyone who helped decorate the sanctuary for Advent & Christmas. It was beautiful!
- To all who donated to help the family in Orttanna who lost their home to a fire. Between Social Ministry funds and your contributions, we were able to give them \$3,570.
- Special thank you to Chris Cool for going the extra mile to help fix and monitor the church and boiler while the sanctuary was without heat.
- Family Ministry for organizing the Advent Breakfast.
- Everyone that donated to the mitten tree and adopt a family.

Call Committee Update

The members of the Call Committee are Mike Gamer, Larry Hull, Julie Falk, Linn Wichowski, Cory Runk and Lisa Simmons.

The Call Committee has held two meetings so far, and we are off to a good start! We are currently looking at information on the Church Demographics, gathering a statistics of the community in terms of socio-economic status and we have begun the discussion on trends at St. John.

This information and more will be used to complete the Ministry Site Profile, which is a document that will be reviewed by the Synod. This document will be used to help lead us to a new Pastor, who will be the best fit for our Congregation. The Call Committee will keep the Congregation informed of our progress throughout the call process.

Can Collection:

We are still collecting aluminum cans. Proceeds go towards Kids' Club & Sunday school supplies. We brought in \$141.00 in can money in 2025. Thank you all who bring their cans! Collection box is in the Fellowship Hall under the bulletin board next to the phone.

Kid's Club

Kid's Club is open to any students in K-4th grade. They meet Thursdays (Nov.-May) 3:45-5PM for Snack, games, Bible stories, music activities and crafts. Church membership/attendance is not required. For more information, contact Carol Garman 717.476.0923



Those for Whom We Pray for- Jack H., Roy, Bob, Deb B., Mike M., Shirley A., Bill, Kelly, Mae, Patty, Dylan, Sam, Martha, Rosie, Ed, John, Craig, Judy, Bob, Charlie, Essie, Jim & Mary Lou, Nancy.

Ruth's Harvest- Fairfield

Through rain, snow, sleet and freezing rain, Ruth's Harvest-Fairfield volunteers pack and deliver weekend bags of food to those students within the Fairfield Area School District who are food insecure.

The number of backpacks we prepare weekly has so far, stayed consistent this year. We are currently packing 48 bags each week. The bags are usually packed on Tuesdays and delivered to the schools on Thursdays. Each bag contains approximately 25 food items. Additional items are added for long holiday weekends, and because of the lengthy winter break this year, an additional backpack was packed and delivered prior to the last day of school before the break. We also recognize each elementary student receiving a Ruth's Harvest-Fairfield bag with a card, a pencil and a special treat during their birthday week.

Thank you once again for your continued and generous support for the Ruth's Harvest-Fairfield backpack program. It is truly a worthy cause.

Respectfully submitted,
Linn Wichowski



Lower Marsh Creek



Retired Teachers



St. Mary's

St. John Lutheran Church

15 E. Main Street
Fairfield, PA 17320