

NOVEMBER 2025

# THE ST. JOHN NEWS



## SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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

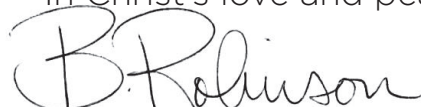
## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Bret and I always try to press upon our children the importance of family. The importance of family only gets more obvious and more obvious as time goes on. We also tell them family doesn't have to be only those related by blood; friends can sometimes have a more important role than our relatives and be considered family. Family is those that we depend on, those we take care of and love and those who do the same for us.

Of course, family is important every day of our lives, but the holidays are an extra special time think about your family, to reach out and touch base and to spend time with your family.

This world is crazy and there are is a lot of chaos right now. My hope for all of you is that you are able to take a break from the chaos, slow down, and enjoy your family.

In Christ's love and peace,

  
Becky Robinson

## FROM THE PASTOR



*"Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer*

*and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*  
Philippians 4:4-7 NRSV

We are living in anxious times that tests our endurance, our patience and perhaps even our faith. As illness, troubles in relationships, challenges with raising children and political divisions introduce enormous stresses in our lives we may wonder where God is amid the messes and challenges in our lives. The answer is that God right there with you in all of it. The crucified and risen Christ is beside you, with you, in you in every circumstance in life and has promised to be with you always bringing you peace where peace seems absent.

The Apostle Paul wrote the letter to Philippians while in prison. On the surface of things, things were not going really well for Paul as he sat in a dark dreary prison cell. Yet despite of those circumstances Paul wrote these powerful words to his brothers and sisters in Christ in Philippi, bringing them hope and encouraging them to "live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ" (1:27).

On Thanksgiving Day, we will pause to give thanks to God for the many blessings in our lives. It will be easy for some to name things that they are thankful for as the smells of food being prepared fills the room and they gather with family and friends around the table. For others Thanksgiving Day is a challenge as they deal with scarcity, illness, grief and loneliness. The truth for all of us is that God is always present with you in all circumstances and desires a loving relationship with you through prayer.

Pray to God always, in good times and in the bad. Pray to God offering thanks for your many blessings. Pray to God when you are challenged, when you are disappointed, when you are angry, when you are grieving, when you are confused, knowing that God does hear your prayers. As you pray to God your relationship with God becomes stronger, more real, more present in your daily life. When you pray continually to God you come to know God better, you learn to rely upon God and as Paul says, "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (4:7). When you lift your joys and concerns to God you learn rely upon God as the source of peace of mind rather than your human experience.

I pray that you live knowing God is with you always. That you remember to pray to God in all circumstances and experience the peace that can come only from God. Have a blessed Thanksgiving. You are blessed!

Peace,  
*Pastor Wayne Gallipo*

## FROM THE MANY DESKS OF CAROL GARMAN



**MUSIC NEWS** | We will begin rehearsing Christmas Eve music soon. If you are interested in singing with the Christmas Eve Choir this year, please contact Carol Garman. We had a choir loft full last year & hope it will be just as full this year! We will begin rehearsing the music Wednesday, December 3.

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** | We are beginning to plan for the annual December children's Advent/Christmas program. If your child(ren) is interested in participating, please let Stacey or Carol know.

**KID'S CLUB** | Kids' Club will begin meeting weekly again Thurs., Nov. 6, 3:45-5. Any child age Kindergarten-4th grade is welcome to join us for snack, Bible story, crafts, music activities & games. Transportation is available from Fairfield Elementary for those who attend school there. For more information, contact Carol Garman 717-476-0923.

**ADOPT A CHILD FOR CHRISTMAS** | We will be getting information for Adopt a Child For Christmas by the end of November. This is an opportunity to provide Christmas gifts & gift cards for some families in our area who are struggling financially. Watch bulletin for details. For more info, contact me or Stacey Haynes.

### UPCOMING DATES

November 2 (Sun) All Saints Sunday

November 23 (Sun) Congregational meeting after the service

November 30 (Sun) First Sunday in Advent

*Carol*

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***With One Voice and Hand Bell Choir*** Meets Wednesday evenings—singers at 6:45PM and ringers at 7:30PM. New members are always welcome. WOV sings twice a month for worship services as schedules allow and bells ring for worship services every 4-6 weeks as schedules allow.

***Children's Choir*** Children's choir practices during Sunday School & Kids Club and sing for worship once a month.

*For more information, contact Carol Garman at 717.476.0923.*

## GETTING TO KNOW THE CHURCH COUNCIL; SANDY KUMP



Hello St. John!  
My name is Sandy Kump. I am a Fairfield native, and I grew up attending Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church in Fountaindale, Pa.

I transferred to St. John after my marriage to Dave in 1983.

Early in my life, I had the privilege of running track with the Fairfield Striders. My coaches Bil Gilbert and Dick Straup had a positive impact on my life.

I have a degree in Mechanical Drafting and worked as a Mechanical Draftsman until I became a mom. I was a stay-at-home mom with my two children, Troy and Megan.

Throughout the next several years, I had many part-time jobs which included driving school children, waitressing at Hickory Bridge, working the phone room at Ski Liberty, and then, I was elected as the Tax Collector for Hamiltonban Township.

I became the Office Manager for Fleetwood/York Gasket & Seal and later retired to babysit my grandchildren and act as caregiver for my parents.

I currently hold the Treasurer's position here at St. John, and I have been an active member of the St. John Church Council since 2023. My role is to update the council on financial matters, as well as the regular duties of a council member.

I have a very active schedule, and I very much enjoy being a part of the St. John family.

## WOMEN OF ST. JOHN

The Women of St. John held a craft workshop where they decorated wooden trees that will be for sale at their craft table during the craft fair. They have also been finalizing vendor requests and set up plans for the event. There are twenty-two craft vendors signed up, there will be baked goods for sale, as well as their famous ham & bean and chicken soup for sale by the quart.

Don't forget to come out and start your holiday shopping on November 8!

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*Come join the fellowship and support our ministry to church and community.*

*We meet monthly, on the 1st Tuesday at 10:00AM (more often if projects such as event set-up, crafting, kitchen prep, cooking, stocking & organizing needs to be done).*

*2025 meeting dates are Nov. 4 and Dec. 2.*

*For more information, contact Nancy Miller or Linda Sanders.*



## RUTH'S HARVEST



We started the school year with a lower number of students participating in the Ruth's Harvest-Fairfield (RH-F) backpack program than we anticipated, but that didn't last long. We are currently packing bags for 45 students. Thirty-one (31) elementary students, 10 middle school students and 4 high school students are receiving RH-F bags each week.

As you may have read in the Gettysburg Times a few weeks ago, the Gettysburg Community Foundation awarded the RH-F program with a grant of \$2,500.00. What a surprise and a blessing that was! In one year, we are required to provide the foundation with a report on how the grant money was used to support the students in our community. With that in mind and given the current government shutdown that has resulted in the suspension of paychecks for federal employees and the impending loss of government supported food programs, the RH-F board voted to extend the backpack program to additional students that may not have previously qualified for the weekend bags of food. (One of our previously established criteria for receiving the backpacks was that a student needed to be eligible for free or reduced lunches.) This will be a temporary extension to the RH-F program but will continue while the need exists. The extra food certainly will not take the place of a paycheck or other food programs, but we are hopeful it will help the students and families in this current situation.

We have received many greatly needed donations this year for which we are incredibly grateful, but it's amazing how quickly those donations of food items and monetary contributions disappear when we're providing food for 45 students. With rising food prices and so many people in need, we've been unable to purchase many of our food items from the Pennsylvania Food Bank in Harrisburg, but we have some very thrifty shoppers who are continually on the look-out for best-buys, taking advantage of sales and coupons!

We appreciate your continued support of the RH-F program. You are making a difference in the lives of those students receiving the weekly bags.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linn Wichowski*

## FAMILY MINISTRIES

Thank you to Troy Kump and his family for donating the pumpkins for pizza and pumpkins.

Family Ministries will sponsor the Advent Breakfast again this year. It will be Sunday November 30th following worship. We will have pancakes, bacon and we will be asking for volunteers to bring a breakfast casserole to share.





## **“FROM OUR LIPS TO GOD’S EARS”: LEARNING ABOUT PRAYER**

In chapter 18 of Luke’s gospel, the parable of the widow and the unjust judge, we heard how Jesus taught the disciples about the need to pray continually without losing heart. That passage inspired a lot of discussion in our church community, along with some heartfelt confessions about our lack of confidence about prayer. What is the right way to pray? And what are the right things to pray for? How do we feel God’s presence in prayer?

Advent is a season of “waiting.” As we prepare for our remembrance of the birth of Jesus, let’s spend some of our time cultivating our knowledge about prayer and inviting a “waitful” attitude, in which we learn to be patient and calm, without anxiety and restlessness. It also sounds like the perfect antidote to the craziness of the holiday season.

St. John’s will offer an Advent Prayer Series beginning on November 25th. We’ll gather in the sanctuary each Tuesday evening at 7:00PM for four weeks. Each week, we’ll have a brief and practical teaching about some aspect of prayer, followed by the recitation of Evening Prayer together. Our general outline will be: November 25th on the theme of Presence; December 2nd on the theme of Heart; December 9th on the theme of Wisdom and discernment; and December 16th on the theme of Communion. All members of our congregation are welcome, along with any community members who might like to share in our experience. If you have any questions, ask Pastor Wayne or Julie Falk.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV  
4

Women of St. John  
Social Hall  
10:00AM

NOV  
8

Craft Fair & Bake Sale  
Social Hall  
9:00AM-3:00PM

NOV  
10

Council Meeting  
Social Hall  
6:30PM

NOV  
30

Advent Breakfast  
Social Hall  
Directly after service

## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS *(If you see them, wish them Happy Birthday!)*

NOV 2 BRIDGET RUNK

NOV 13 SUE HALL

NOV 15 AMARA DINDINO  
IVAN DINDINO

NOV 16 CORA CLICK  
LIDA FITZ

NOV 18 SCOTT FITZ

NOV 20 KELLY DELONG

NOV 22 BENNETT CONN

NOV 24 SUSIE KUMP

NOV 25 JEFF SIMMONS

NOV 27 JUDY SZAROWSKI

NOV 28 DEEDEE MEZGER

## CHURCH STAFF

INT. PASTOR | PASTOR WAYNE GALLIPO

ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR/CHILDREN PROGRAMS  
DIRECTOR | CAROL GARMAN

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR | KEELY GROFT

SEXTON | MARYJO GRAHAM

TREASURER | SANDY KUMP

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESIDENT | JOSH HAYNES

INT. VICE PRESIDENT | FRANCIS BASSETT

SECRETARY | KEELY GROFT

BARB BOOZ

CHRIS COOL

MIKE GAMER

SANDY KUMP

KEVAN TAYLOR

DAVE THOMAS