

ST. JOHN NEWS

St. John Lutheran Church

July 2026

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VBS

Vacation Bible Fun Week

Vacation Bible Fun week went very well again this year. We had 20-22 kids each evening and lots of help! Thank you to everyone who participated or helped out in any way. We would not have been able to do it without all of our amazing helpers!

The week was filled with lots of stories, crafts, games and snacks!

Monday, the kids learned about God's love by helping others.

Tuesday was about God's love through creation and through Jesus dying on the cross for us.

Wednesday the kids spent time in the belly of a whale and learned about showing God's love by forgiving others.

And finally, Thursday, the kids learned about God's love and sharing with others.

Our pot luck meal to end the week was a hit! We had 40 people attend that included kids, family friends, and congregation members! After the meal, participants sang some of the songs & shared the Bible verses they learned throughout the week. See some of our pictures from the fun week on page 4.



Wren Carder - July 3
Barbara Kerstetter - July 5
Kevan Taylor - July 7
Cory Runk - July 8
Samantha Brown Baker - July 10
Tom Sanders, Jr. - July 13
Luke Joyner - July 14
Harlan Haynes - July 15
Katie Deardorff - July 16
Shirley Alexander - July 20
Julie Falk - July 20
Dan Sanders, Sr. - July 20
John Mezger - July 21
Ed Hartzell - July 28
Dan Sanders, Jr. - July 28
Denise Sanders - July 28

Yard Sale

Thank you to everyone who helped out & donated items for the yard sale in June. We brought in \$940.00 and had a chance to catch up with friends and neighbors in the process!

Summer Kids Activities

Sunday, July 12th following worship, we will be having a variety of activities for children from 10:15-11:15am. Neighbors, grandchildren, friends are invited to join us! Questions- See Stacey Haynes or Carol Garman.

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.



Picnic in the Park August 23rd

Our second annual Worship in the Park service will be held on August 23, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. We look forward to worshipping outdoors with the sights and sounds of nature all around us. We have invited the members of Flohrs Lutheran Church to join us in this worship and fellowship opportunity. There will be more details about the service in the coming weeks. Please see any council member with questions. **There is a sign-up sheet for a committee to plan the ins and outs of this day to help everything run smoothly. Please consider helping out!

TALENT SHOW AND ICE CREAM

Our annual talent/variety show and Ice Cream Social will be scheduled in August, according to the schedules of those wishing to participate. If you would like to share your talent or know someone who might, (singing, playing an instrument, dancing, doing gymnastics, telling stories, doing magic tricks) please contact Carol Garman at 717-476-0923.



2026 ST. JOHN DIRECTORY

It has been a long process to create a new St. John directory for our church family. From the beginning we decided to include everyone who is a member of our present St. John family, whether they were “official” members or not. There were many steps involved. A form was generated to gather updated contact information. Then, I took pictures over a period of three to four (or five) months. I had time to edit and format the pictures, some of which were submitted. All of the information from the forms was typed into the section for the back of the directory. Once everything was ready, I submitted the pictures to Bream’s Print Shop. It took a while for all of the pictures to be entered into a format for each page. After that, the information section in the back was put in. It took quite a few copies until we think we have it right! So much editing! Bream’s is top notch in what they do! Many thanks to Cheri Stultz for all of her help! Hopefully the directory will serve as a useful resource to our congregation. I truly enjoyed each step along the way.

Barb Booz



Volunteer Opportunities

To the right is a list of open dates that we are open for some volunteers to help with worship. Please take a look at the dates and sign up on the table in the gathering area.

If you are looking for assistance on finding the right fit, please see a council member.

Acolytes- July, August, September

Communion Assistant- July 19, August 16, 23

Ushers- July 5, 12, 19, 26, August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Offering Counters- July, August, October



We had wonderful fellowship after worship on Sunday, July 5th to celebrate America's 250th. Thanks to David Thomas and Donna Bacarella !

Women's Report

Our chicken corn soup and baked goods sale at the St. John yard sale was a success. Thank you to everyone who prepared the soup, donated baked goods, set up, manned the bake sale table and cleaned up! We raised just over \$600.00 from this endeavor which allows us to continue our service to St. John and to our community.

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.

Making Melodies!

Thank you to everyone who shared their musical talents during worship in June. A big thank you to the choirs, vocalists, and Josh Haynes for their music on June 7.



There are still opportunities for vocal and instrumental solos, duets etc in July and August. Contact Carol Garman if you are or know someone who might be interested in sharing their talents.

Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Thank you for supporting FNHN Fairfield's June Food Pantry themed monthly bags.

Kennies Market's staff graciously ordered and prepared 29 bags containing strawberries, shortcake, and whipped topping for the June 19 delivery. Your continued generosity enables the Pantry to provide a little something special for its clients, and it is greatly appreciated.



“Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common.” Acts 4:32 NRSV

Dear people of St. John Lutheran Church,

It is summer and it is time for vacations and activities that take you to places near and far. Joy and I just returned from a trip to Tacoma, WA to see Joy's son Carl and then to Victoria, BC, Canada to see my younger son Eric and his family. It was a delightful but hectic trip and Joy and I came home exhausted and sick! We are about to drive to our family lake cabin on the North Shore of Lake Superior, about an hour north of Duluth, MN, where we plan to do almost nothing but relax and enjoy the peace and quiet. Wherever your travels take you I pray that you enjoy your time away, but know that while you are away, the ministry here at St. John Lutheran Church continues thanks to your support.

In the book of Acts, the young church was coming together, and it says that they shared all they had in a common purse. Later in Acts 4:34 it says, “There was not a needy person among them.” This was true because they all generously contributed to the common purse. I am not asking that you give all you have to St. John, but I am asking that you prayerfully consider your stewardship of God's resources. Do you consider all that you have as gift from God?

My late wife and I took Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University course years ago. In the first lesson Ramsey is holding a home budget and he says, “But pastor, after I pay the mortgage, car loan, groceries etc. there is nothing left for the church.” He then turns the paper over and says the problem is that your budget is upside down. Recognizing that all you have is from God, your home budget should start with giving a portion back to God. Your home budget is a spiritual document. In it you will discover your priorities.

The ministry here at St. John depends upon your continued generosity. While you are away the needs of the ministry here continue. We still need to pay the staff and pay utility bills. I'm asking that you find a way to continue your support of the ministry while you are away. Joy and I support various ministries each month through automatic online giving.

Know that you are all greatly appreciated and I do hope your activities this summer bring you joy, relaxation, time with family and friends, and new adventures. The ministry here at St. John will continue while you are away thanks to your generous support. Have a great summer!

Peace,
Pastor Wayne Gallipo



Pictures show work that was done to assess and repair the leak in the bell tower.



Church Property Update

- Thanks to Doug and Susie Kump for mowing and taking care of our grounds.
- A leaky faucet in the women's restroom was repaired.
- There were ant issues in the kitchen. Ant traps were set in place.
- Fairfield Landscaping has been busy with repairs and trimming through out the grounds, around the church and the office.
- We have plans for Fairfield Landscaping to eliminate the stones and pavers in the area between the 2 buildings and to replace them with top soil and grass.
- Recently, a leak was discovered in the bell tower area. Water eventually made its way onto the freshly painted walls of the sanctuary. Herbs Exteriors was contacted and all the much needed exterior repairs were performed. Our painting contractor will evaluate and prepare an estimate in the near future. Our property insurance company was contacted. An adjuster will soon be assessing the situation to determine if a claim is in order.
- A special congregational meeting was held to discuss replacement of the front porch of the office building. It was voted on and passed. This work will be completed by Herbs Exteriors in the next few months.

Thanks to everyone for all your support and help with matters to keep our facility functioning especially our sexton MJ.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee continued to meet in June, and we are getting closer to the completion of the Ministry Site Profile. Once it has been completed, the Call Committee will present the Ministry Site Profile to the Church Counsel. After it has been approved by the Counsel, the Ministry Site Profile will be submitted to the Synod to be published on the ELCA website. Once it has been published, Pastors who are seeking a new call will be able view our Ministry Site Profile on the website.

We would like to thank the congregation again for completing the Call Committee surveys in May, as the information provided in the surveys has been very valuable to the completion of the Ministry Site Profile. The Call Committee is committed to ensuring that the congregation has a say in the selection of the next Pastor at St. John, and your responses to the survey have been a great help in identifying the qualities you are seeking in our next Pastor.

As Call Committee Chairman, I will continue to keep the congregation informed throughout the call process. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions!

Thank you again to the members of the Call Committee - Cory Runk, Julie Falk, Larry Hull, Linn Wichowski and Lisa Simmons for their dedication and commitment to serving on the Call Committee.

Peace,

Mike Gamer