

OCTOBER 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

Autumn is upon us, the air is getting chilly and leaves are starting to fall. It's the time of year when you hang around the campfire with friends, making s'mores and enjoy the slowing of time. It's the time of year to take a breather and reset, take a walk, perhaps even renew your faith in Christ.

St. John has always had a difficult time slowing down; the members just stay too busy. A new year of Sunday school has begun, Kids' Club will soon start, Pippinfest weekend just passed, events like Pizza & Pumpkins the Women's craft fair are coming up and the hall is always bustling with people volunteering for meals, meetings and figuring out ways to help our neighbors.

With everything that is dominating the news lately, I implore all of you to get involved. Bring a friend or a neighbor. It is the perfect time to start anew.

In Christ's love and peace,


Becky Robinson

GETTING TO KNOW THE CHURCH COUNCIL; CHRIS COOL



My name is Chris Cool. I graduated from Fairfield High School in 1979. I'm originally from Emmitsburg,

Maryland, where my parents always made sure I attended Sunday school every week. This was at the Methodist church. My family was devoutly Methodist. We moved to Fairfield in 1968, and I went to school with lots of kids that attended St. John Lutheran. I was very jealous of them and the activities they constantly were attending. In high school, I began to start attending some of these events with Dawn. We were married in this church in December of 1980, and I have been coming here ever since.

Previously, I attended church when it was convenient for me. Then one day Pastor Burk, a former St. John pastor, said something to me that totally changed the way I looked at church. He asked me if I ever visited my father. I answered, regularly if not every day. He then asked, how do you think your father would feel if you didn't

follow that schedule? He would be hurt, I replied. Pastor Burk then asked if I thought my Heavenly Father would feel the same way about visiting him. I was so taken back I'm not sure I ever answered him. From that day on I have looked at church and the Good Lord differently.

Attending church weekly is important for me. I feel it gives me at least one hour a week that I can have peace and comfort from the world around us today. It's dedicated time to visit with my Father. That thought brings me great joy and motivates me to be there.

I'm so grateful for my church family and friends. A few years ago, I was asked to be part of the church council. I had been asked previously over the years but always declined. I thought it was finally time to do my part and get involved. It has been a real learning experience to see what really is involved in making church happen. I've learned there is something everyone can do. My hope is our church will continue grow, learn, and cherish what we have and how it all works.



FROM THE MANY DESKS OF CAROL GARMAN

KID'S CLUB | Kids' Club will resume meeting Thursday, November 6, 3:45-5:00PM for students K-4th grade. Crafts, games, Bible stories, music activities. Older students are welcome to come as helpers. Transportation from Fairfield Elementary is available. For more info, contact me at 717.476.0923.

THANK YOU | Thank you to everyone who shared their music talents for worship services during September.

Thank you to everyone who helped out with Rally Day Sunday School Activities. Everyone had a great time!

CHRISTIAN ED | Sunday School is back in session for all ages Sundays 10:15-11:15AM. Come join us & bring a friend!

UPCOMING DATES

October 12 (Sun) Harvest Home Sunday, Of the Lands and Seasons liturgy, please bring donations for Fairfield Food Pantry or Ruth's Harvest.

October 26 (Sun) Reformation Sunday

November 2 (Sun) All Saints Sunday

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.

FAMILY MINISTRIES

PIZZA AND PUMPKINS | Join us for an evening of pizza and pumpkin decorating/painting, Sunday October 26 from 5:00-7:00PM. Sign up sheet is on the board in the fellowship hall. While not required, a side/dessert/drink to share is always welcome! Friends and family welcome! Questions? See Stacey Haynes.

WOMEN OF ST. JOHN

Per usual, The Women of St. John always kept themselves busy this past month meal planning for upcoming Fairfield Lions Club dinner meetings and finalizing plans for the upcoming craft fair.

CRAFT FAIR & BAKE SALE | The craft fair/soup & bake sale will be held on Saturday, November 8, from 9:00AM-3:00PM. Vendor applications are still being accepted, there are a few spaces still available. Visit the church web site at www.stjohnfairfield.net under upcoming events for the application and set-up details. Homemade soup and baked goods will be on sale through the duration of the fair.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | We feel it is important that all members have access to the Newsletter. We are happy to begin sponsoring mailing to members who are unable view thru computer access as well as those who are homebound. If you wish to have future newsletters mailed to you (and did not receive Septembers) please contact the church office at 717.642.5822 and let us know. We can add you to the mailing listing.

CROCHETING | Are you interested in learning to crochet or continue crocheting with a group? Please contact Frances at 717.491.7298 (see her in church, text or call) if interested. She hopes to organize a class beginning in January.

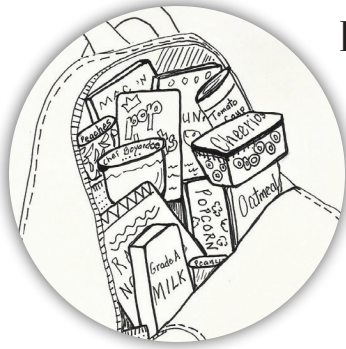
† Nancy sends in a special thank you for all the prayers, cards and phone calls she received after her recent surgery and recovery.

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 Oct. 7, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2.

For more information, contact Nancy Miller or Linda Sanders.



RUTH'S HARVEST

A new school year has begun! We just completed our third packing of the 2025-2026 school year, packing 31 bags for food insecure students in the Fairfield Area School District. It's a lower number than we anticipated, but the school counselors advised that the number will likely increase as permission paperwork is returned to the school from parents/guardians.

We've had generous donations of food items from many of the local churches (to include St. John, of course) and several individuals. The Feed Bag has donated several items, and Matt Booz, son of Dave and Barb Booz, has once again generously donated boxes of saltine crackers (individually wrapped 2 packs) and individual packets of mayonnaise for inclusion in the bags. We also received a monetary donation from the Lions Club. Thank you to Matt, the Lions Club and all the others who have donated food items or have made monetary contributions to Ruth's Harvest-Fairfield.

St. John is scheduled to pack the weekend bags of food on November 24. That's the Monday prior to Thanksgiving, so mark your calendars if you think you can assist with the packing. The time has not yet been determined, but it will probably be 3:00PM or 3:30PM. I'll have a sign-up sheet for packing volunteers at the beginning of November. Packing only takes about 30 minutes so it's not a huge commitment of time, but the students receiving the bags certainly do appreciate them.

Barb Booz created a hand-out list of the items we include in the weekly bags. That list is available on a table in the café area. We try to vary what the students receive, so while some items are weekly, others are varied every other week.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of Ruth's Harvest-Fairfield.

May the peace of God be with each of you.

Respectfully submitted,

Linn Wichowski

St. John started the new Sunday school year by having Rally Day, full of fun, awesome face paint, games and prizes!



Pippinfest was last weekend; praise God the weather was much better than last year! Per usual, St. John made soups and delicious apple fritters!





UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT
7

Women of St. John
Social Hall
10:00AM

OCT
13

Council Meeting
Social Hall
6:30PM

OCT
26

Pizza & Pumpkins
Social Hall
5:00-7:00PM

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

(If you see them, wish them Happy Birthday!)

OCT 11

KAREN KOONTZ

OCT 21

VIRGINIA MILLER

OCT 12

BARB BOOZ

OCT 27

CHUCK
SZAROWSKI JR

OCT 18

CHUCK
SZAROWSKI

OCT 31

SAVANNAH
BOLLINGER

OCT 20

JENNA TAYLOR

DAVE THOMAS

KEVAN TAYLOR

MIKE GAMER

CHRIS COOL

BARB BOOZ

FRANCIS BASSETT

SECRETARY | KELLY GROFT

VICE PRESIDENT | TBD

PRESIDENT | JOSH HAYNES

COUNCIL MEMBERS

TREASURER | SANDY KUMP

SEXTON | TBD

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR | KEELY GROFT

PROGRAMS DIRECTOR | CAROL GARMAN

ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR/CHILDREN

INT. PASTOR | PASTOR WAYNE GALLIPO

CHURCH STAFF