

# 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  
WED 9:30AM

KIDS CLUB  
SEPT-MAY | THURS 3:45-5PM

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

I want to start off by thanking all of those who contributed to my first issue of 'The St. John News' and didn't mind my pestering them for information! I actually received so much that I had to put some aside for next month's newsletter.

As we continue in our efforts, outside of just service, pushing St. John to grow, I hope this can be a well-rounded and informative resource of everything each of our committees are up to every month. They all do so much and I know that even I learned something by reading through everybody's contributions!

I also want to thank everybody who helps to make St. John what it is and all those who put their hard work and time into the various programs that we do in order to evangelize in our community.

In Christ's love and peace,

*B. Robinson*  
Becky Robinson

## MEET THE NEW INTERIM PASTOR; PASTOR WAYNE



Pastor Wayne Gallipo was born and raised in Aberdeen, SD. He married his high school sweetheart Debbie and together they raised two sons. His older son Travis, wife Lisa and granddaughter Aubrey live in Sioux Falls, SD. His younger son Eric, wife Kristy, granddaughter Stella and grandson Cody live in Victoria, BC, Canada. Debbie was diagnosed with lung cancer and died in April of 2018. At the time of her death Pastor Wayne and Debbie were approaching their 42nd wedding anniversary. Pastor Wayne married his longtime friend Rev. Joy Gonnerman in 2019. Joy is studying for a PhD in Public Theology and Witness at United Lutheran Seminary. Joy has a son, Carl Norquist who is on the staff at Holden Village, a Lutheran camp in the mountains of central Washington State.

Pastor Wayne is a retired United States Navy Chief Petty Officer and a graduate of Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. His first call was as Associate Pastor at Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer in Watertown, SD. He was then called to be the Associate Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Tea, SD. After the senior pastor there moved on he was called to be the Senior Pastor at Trinity. While at Trinity his wife was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer and Pastor Wayne resigned to care for Debbie. He was asked to help a small rural congregation, St. Peter Lutheran Church, as they discerned their future. The congregation decided to bring the ministry to a close and Pastor Wayne walked with them through that process. He was then called to be the Senior Pastor at St. Dymas of South Dakota. St. Dymas is an ELCA congregation inside of the walls of the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls and the Mike Durfee State Prison west of Yankton, SD. Pastor Wayne retired while at St. Dymas and moved to Sioux City, IA. He was asked to serve as a part time Interim Pastor at St. John Lutheran Church in Sioux City. After his wife was accepted as a student at United Lutheran Seminary Pastor Wayne resigned his call at St. John and moved to Gettysburg where he lives on the United campus.

Pastor Wayne enjoys riding bicycles, fishing, reading and baking. Joy is an accomplished knitter, weaver, spinner and pretty much anything to do with fiber, yarn or strings. We are enjoying living in the Gettysburg community with all of the history, great restaurants and coffee shops.



## WOMEN OF ST. JOHN

The Women of St. John keep themselves very busy doing many things for the community. The following is a 2024 ministry in review...

- Serving meals monthly at the Fairfield Lions Club dinner meeting.
- Easter Season - each week during Lent we distributed, per household, objects that symbolize the journey Christ made for us.
- Sponsored and hosted the Easter Breakfast with an attendance of 70.
- Donated a variety of critical supplies that went to the hurricane Helene victims in North Carolina via transport organized by the Hickory Bridge Farm owners.
- Our first Craft Fair was held in November. We advertised and attracted 16 vendors; setting up tables that filled our Social Area. In addition, we had soup and baked items for sale. We hope to organize another such event in 2025.
- Sponsored the Mitten Tree - with congregational donations we were able to distribute locally through Gettysburg SCCAP and Fairfield Elementary School.
- Health Kits - 40+ tote bags were made & health items were packed in each to be sent home with children within the Fairfield Elementary School district. Thank you to our congregation for assisting with kit items.
- Christmas Bags for Shut-Ins - packed & delivered.
- Holiday meals and prep items were purchased for anonymous local families.
- Made donations to World Central Kitchen, Fairfield Fire Company, Cash Day and Christmas Wreaths.



Our programs were funded by but not limited to - Thriven Action Team, Craft Fair, Soup sales, Fairfield Lions Club, Funeral meals & monetary donations.

*Come join the fellowship & support our ministry to church and community.  
We meet monthly, on the 1st Tuesday at 10:00AM.  
For more information, contact Nancy Miller or Linda Sanders.*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL | KIDS CLUB



Sunday school is going well. We average around 12 students each week in our two children's Sunday school classes. Thank you families for your support!

Kids Club is going strong! We have 10-15 attending. Thank you to our teen & adult helpers! Soon the Kids will be crafting valentines to give Neighbors Helping Neighbors, which will deliver them to local nursing homes and recipients of Meals on Wheels.



We had 16 kids from both Sunday school and Kids Club share the message of the new super hero born in Bethlehem, in "A Super Christmas" skit in December. They worked hard and did a great job! Thank you to all our kids, parents and all who came to support our kids!

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**Children's Sunday School** Any children preschool-12th grade are welcome to join us Sunday mornings from 10:15-11:15AM for bible stories, crafts, games, snack and musical activities. Friends are welcome, too!

For more information, contact Carol Garman at 717-476-0923 or Stacey Haynes at 717-398-7877.

**Kids Club** Any children K-4th grade are welcome to join us Thursdays from 3:45-5PM for bible stories, crafts, games, snack and musical activities. Older children are welcome to join as helpers. Friends and homeschoolers are welcome, too!

Transportation is available from Fairfield Elementary.

NO Kids Club if Fairfield Area School is canceled or there is an early dismissal.

**Aluminum Cans for Kids Club** Thank you to anyone who is bringing in their aluminum cans. Proceeds go towards supplies for Kids Club. Collection box can be found in Fellowship Hall.

For more information, contact Carol Garman at 717-476-0923.



## FROM THE DESK OF THE MUSIC DIRECTOR



In January, the Hand Bell Choir visited SpiriTrust Lutheran, a senior living community in Gettysburg. But there was more than just bells, we also did sing-a-long songs and played a duet on the piano.

Thank you to all of our young people who were part of “A Super Hero Christmas” program in December. You did a **super** job!

Thank you to all of our musicians who shared their talents during worship in January!

There are always opportunities available for vocal or instrumental solos, duets, etc. Let me know if you know of someone who might be willing to share their talents!

*Carol Garman*



***With One Voice and Hand Bell Choir*** Meets Wednesday evenings—singers at 6:45 and ringers at 7:30. 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.*

## RUTH'S HARVEST

Ruth's Harvest-Fairfield started the 2024-2025 school year with 43 students in the Fairfield Area School District receiving weekend bags of food items. That number dropped to 39 in October and has remained consistent since then. As you may recall, we were providing food items to 72 students last school year so the decrease to 39 students is a significant number. We're unclear why there has been such a drop in participation in the program, but we know that Ruth's Harvest-Gettysburg and Littlestown have also seen a decline in participants.

In past years we have been fortunate to be able to purchase many of the food items needed for the bags from the Pennsylvania Food Bank in Harrisburg. This year, however, the availability of food items from the Food Bank has been extremely limited. They simply have not had most of the items we needed and were previously able to purchase at a lower price point. This shortage at the Food Bank necessitated the purchase of items from local retailers at a higher cost. We continue to provide seven meals and snacks for the weekend to students who are food insecure.

Once again, thank you for your continued and generous support to Ruth's Harvest-Fairfield both in food donations and monetary gifts. We are doing what the Gospels tell us to do, reaching out with love to those in our community.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linn Wichowski*

## FAMILY MINISTRIES

In December, Family Ministries held a cookie walk which was open to both members and the public. We want to send a huge 'Thank You!' to all who baked and donated cookies, they were delicious! The cookie walk brought in over \$400 which will go towards funding other family ministry activities and events planned throughout the year.



And speaking of other events—come join the Family Ministries group for a soup and chili cook-off on Sunday, February 16th at 4PM! Sign up to bring a soup or chili in the gathering area. Don't worry if you aren't culinary inclined, come and help judge! In fact, bring a friend! All are welcome to come and enjoy the yummy soups and chili!

Have any questions or comments for Family Ministries? Would you like to do a particular activity or event? Feel free to contact Stacey or Becky!



## PROPERTY COMMITTEE

It's been a busy year at the church. Here is a list of tasks we have accomplished in the 2024 calendar year:

- Replaced all expired Carbon Monoxide detectors throughout the buildings
- Had all the fire extinguishers inspected and replaced as required
- Addressed repairs and recharging of aging air conditioning units
- Replaced fill lines in rest rooms plus small additional plumbing issues
- Installed new technology lighting in our current light fixtures throughout the sanctuary
- Installed additional track lighting in the sanctuary and hand bell area
- Secured damaged beams in the attic area of the sanctuary
- Addressed cracking and staining in various areas of the sanctuary
- Primed and painted the entire sanctuary
- Continuous shrub and lawn maintenance

We would like to thank everyone for their generous donations of money, time and talents to be able to do all that we have done.



### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: TAMMY DEARDORFF



Tammy was born and raised in the Gettysburg/Fairfield area and she always attended church in Fairfield. As a result of the two Fairfield church's (UCC & Zion Lutheran) merging years ago, she was baptized Reform and confirmed Lutheran.

Tammy just completed her 2nd Council term, the latter as Council President. She follows in the foot steps of her Dad & Mother (Paul & Anet Cluck) who were very active in this church family. We thank Tammy very much for volunteering so much of her time!



# COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Please take a look at some other events happening in our community.**

*Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. -Acts 2:46-47 NIV*

## LOOKING FOR SUMMER ACTIVITIES?

Summer is around the corner! Registration is open for summer camp at Camp Nawakwa and Kirkenwald!

Haven't been to camp? Want to check it out? Attend one of their open houses! Both Camp Nawakwa and Camp Kirkenwald are holding summer camp open houses March 16th and April 6 from 2 to 4:30PM.

Looking for a summer job? Camp Nawakwa is looking for summer staff.

Camp Nawakwa is more than just camp! They host other events throughout the year for the community! Check them out!

Visit their website for more details.  
<https://www.lutherancamping.org>



NAWAKWA SUMMER 2024

## ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT SPAGHETTI DINNER

St. Mary's Church will be holding an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner in the parish hall on Sunday, February 16 from 3:00 to 6:00PM. Dinner includes spaghetti, meatballs, sausage, salad, bread stick, drinks and dessert. Carry-outs are available. The cost is \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 6 to 12 and under 6 free. All are welcome and no reservations are needed. For additional information call 717-642-8815.



# THANK YOUs

There are always *many* things to be thankful for. Here are some special shoutouts from great members to other great members.

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Thank you to everyone who have been helping with snow removal and de-icing the church sidewalks & parking lot.

Thank you to our Sunday school teachers for their faithful service.

Thank you to ushers, altar guild, acolytes, musicians, communion assistants and anyone else who assists with Sunday morning worship services.

Thank you to Dawn, Becky, Tammy and any one else for covering secretarial duties during this time with no secretary.

Thank you to the sexton who has been doing a super job. It's great to come into the church and to see that it is so well taken care of.

*Do you have a special thank you? Let Becky know! Or put a note in the "Newsletter" mailbox in the office.*

# ADDITIONAL NOTES

*+ Various items have been showing up on the table in the chapel hallway and Sunday school tables. Things like bubble wands and a big bag of crayons. If you drop off items you wish to donate, please put a note on it as to who it is for. We don't want to claim it if its there for some one else to pick up.*

## SOUP SALE TO BENEFIT HILLSIDE MINISTRY

WHERE: St. John Social Hall

WHEN: February 9, 2025  
9:00AM - ?

WHAT: Noodle  
Cream of Broccoli  
Shrimp Chowder

*Come out and support a worthy cause!*

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK!**

**PAGE** | Saint John Lutheran Church

**GROUP FOR MEMBERS** | St. John Lutheran Church Fairfield, PA

## UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB  
4

Women of St. John  
Social Hall  
6:30 PM

FEB  
10

Council Meeting  
Social Hall  
6:30 PM

FEB  
16

Chili Cook-off  
Social Hall  
4:00 PM

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

FEB 1 DAVE BOOZ

FEB 16 MARK DEARDORFF  
BRIAN WHEELER

FEB 3 MARY LOU HAMMETT

FEB 18 MATHEW BOLLINGER

FEB 8 LARRY HULL

FEB 21 CAROLINE KUMP

FEB 9 CAROLYN KANE

FEB 27 PAIGE SZAROWSKI

FEB 12 MARY BETH MOORE

FEB 14 MILLY WEATHERLY

### CHURCH STAFF

**INT. PASTOR** | PASTOR WAYNE GALLIPO

**ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR/CHILDREN PROGRAMS  
DIRECTOR** | CAROL GARMAN

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR** | TBD\*

**SEXTON** | PAULA SEBOLD

**TREASURER** | SANDY KUMP

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

**PRESIDENT** | JOSH HAYNES

**V.PRESIDENT** | BRET ROBINSON

**SECRETARY** | CATHY CONN

CHRIS COOL

RUTHIE FITZGERALD

MIKE GAMER

FRANCIS BASSETT

KEVAN TAYLOR

DAVE THOMAS

\*Office Administrator interviews were held the week of 1/27 and the hiring committee plans on recommending a candidate to the council next week (the week of 2/3).

