

JULY 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

So much for anybody taking any downtime! Seems as June was just as busy as any other time at St. John, it was so bustling that I blinked and June was gone! Members of the church were into so many things, from VBS to the yard sale to Donuts with Dads to setting up prayer stations and the list goes on. If you haven't had the chance to find all the stations in the prayer hunt, please go check them out, they will be up through July, they are really interesting!

As we enter the full-fledged season of summer, I pray that you all can sit back, relax and enjoy some quality family time, whether that's actual family, friend family or church family!

In Christ's love and peace,


Becky Robinson

FROM THE PASTOR; MAKING CHRIST KNOWN



A visitor coming to worship with us will open the bulletin and read that St. John's mission is to make Christ known. Making Christ known is a very fine mission

statement and one that we as disciples of Christ should pursue. But how do we make Christ known in our community? Other related questions are what does Christ look like? What does Christ sound like? How does knowing Christ feel? What difference does knowing Christ make in my life?

Perhaps the most powerful evangelical tool you have for making Christ known in the community is how you live your life. What do people see you do? How do they see you treating the people around you? What do they hear you say? How do they see you responding to situations around you? Are you living your life as a follower of Christ? Do the people around you sense the love in Christ in you? How you live your life, how you treat your neighbors, how you interact with people around you, how you treat the earth we live on is truly your greatest witness for Christ in the community around you.

The same is true for St. John Lutheran Church as a congregation. If you were to ask people in the community to finish the sentence, "St. John Lutheran Church is the place that....." how would they complete the sentence? How are we as a congregation being the presence of Christ in the community?

I encourage each of you to reflect on how you live your life as a reflection of God's love for you and the people around you. As a congregation I encourage you to look for ways that you can love and serve the neighbors around you. How would you like to have the people in the community finish the sentence, "St. John is the place that....."? Having answered that, what must we do to make that happen?

Peace to you all as we move into the summer season. Go in peace to live your life as a reflection of God's love in the world.

Peace,

Pastor Wayne Gallipo

Are you curious about our Lutheran faith? Would you like to explore the Bible? Would you like to learn more about Martin Luther and the reformation? Would you like to learn what Luther taught us about the creeds we use in worship? The Ten Commandments? What we believe about Holy Communion and Holy Baptism? Pastor Wayne would like to offer confirmation classes beginning in the fall. This is traditionally offered for our youth leading to Affirmation of Baptism after they have completed their study but he would like to offer this for all ages whether you are already confirmed or not. This will be a two year program and will meet after worship during the school year. If you are interested please sign up on the signup sheet in the gathering space.

GETTING TO KNOW THE CHURCH COUNCIL; KEVAN TAYLOR



For those of you who don't know me, my name is Kevan Taylor. I've been a member of this church since before the merger that occurred in

the 1960s. I was born on July 7, 1958,

and baptized in the Methodist Church in Gettysburg. My family then began attending this church, where I was later confirmed.

While in high school, I was very active in the youth group (Luther League) and also served on the call committee that brought Rev. David Huntsberger to us. After graduating from Fairfield High School in 1976, I enlisted in the Navy, serving for four years. Returning to Fairfield after leaving the Navy, I went to work at the local grocery store for the following four years.

During that time, I served on the Church Council. I then went to work for the Federal Government as a firefighter for the next 30 years. During that time, I was married at St. John, and served as co-treasurer with my wife. Both of my daughters were baptized and confirmed here as well. For the past 7 years, I have served on the Church Council.

I have enjoyed growing up in this church and experiencing all the different changes that have taken place here over the years. I pray to see the church grow again to what it has been in the past.

THE RUNKS GET BAPTIZED!

Some of St. John's newest members, Jack and Henry Runk, were baptized on June 8! What a special day and we congratulate the Runk Family!



2025 LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD ASSEMBLY; FROM JULIE FALK

I was recently privileged to represent St. John's at the annual assembly of the Lower Susquehanna Synod from June 5th through 7th. Our synod is one of 65 across the nation and serves as part of the system of shared governance that characterizes the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. At synod assemblies, ideas and policies filter up from the local level of parishes and conferences to the synods, each led by a bishop—and possibly all the way to the Church Council of the ELCA, which also meets annually. Bishop James Dunlop has served the Lower Susquehanna for 12 years and plans to retire this summer. So, our main task at the assembly was the election of a new bishop, along with debate about a few policies pertinent to clergy assignments throughout the synod.

It felt like important work to join the 500 other representatives at the assembly in this work. We met at St. Matthew's in York, a large church and facility that held the attendees well and tended to their needs with generosity and good cheer. The election of the bishop was presented beautifully as an experience of discernment, trusting to God and faith to raise the candidate meant to provide spiritual and organizational leadership to the synod for at least the next six years. From the whole population of rostered ministers, the results of an open nomination process narrowed the choices down to seven. We spent nearly a whole day interviewing those seven candidates. Then a vote narrowed the slate down to three finalists. Another whole day was spent with those three, asking questions, hearing answers, and hearing what was most important in their hearts and minds. The final vote enabled us to arrive at the Reverend Stephen Herr, of Christ Lutheran in Gettysburg, as our next bishop. I must say that all the candidates left a deep and positive impression. If some of those who were not elected this time rise up through the process in the years to come, the future bodes well for us in the quality of our spiritual guides.

Another highlight of the experience was the worship service on the second day, at which the bishop gave a powerful sermon. We used the Of the Land and Seasons liturgy, written just for our synod by Reverends Stephen and Beth Folkemer some years ago. Stacey Haynes and I were fortunate to play in the 22-instrument band up on the altar. It was literally a blast, as we were seated between the pipes of the great organ! Five hundred voices singing out loud and proud is an experience not to be missed!





FROM THE MANY DESKS OF CAROL GARMAN

MUSIC NEWS | Thank you to our musicians who have shared their talents during the month of June.

There are still dates available for any musicians who would like to provide special music for Sunday morning services. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please contact me.(717-474-0923.

YARD SALE | A big thank you to everyone who helped out at our annual yard sale. We worked hard but had a lot of time to fellowship and catch up with people in the community. The yard sale brought in \$1,300!

ANNUAL TALENT SHOW | Our annual Talent Show & Ice Cream Social will be held August 23 OR 24, depending on availability of participants. Anyone is welcome to participate (instrumental & vocal musicians, story telling, gymnastics, dance, magic tricks, jokes, poetry, skits etc.) Acts do not need to be sacred, but do need to be in good taste.

Community members are welcome to participate as well! If you are interested in sharing a talent, or know someone who is, please contact me at 717-476-0923.

UPCOMING DATES

In July, we will team up with family ministry and hold a family water night at the church, July 2nd. 6-8PM Friends & relatives welcome!

Sunday July 20th and Aug. 17th, we invite children & youth, preschool age and above to hang out after the service for some fun activities 10:15-11AM

July 2 (Wed) Family Water Fun Night

July 20 (Sun) Kids & Youth activities after worship service, 10:15-11

Aug. 17 (Sun) Kids & Youth activities after worship service, 10:15-11

Aug 23 OR 24 (Sat OR Sun) Talent Show and Ice Cream Social TBD

Aug. 31 (Sun) Outdoor Worship Service at Carroll Valley Park followed by picnic



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CHRISTIAN ED | We held our God's Farm Vacation Fun week here at St. John the week of June 23rd. We talked about Joseph (Old Testament) and how he trusted God even through all of the challenges he faced. We also talked about the fruits of the spirit.

We had 27 children preschool age through 5th graders, 4 youth helpers, and many adult helpers throughout the week. Thank you to helpers, participants and their families for a great week!

Carol






COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Please take a look at some other events happening
in the church and within 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

 **Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors**
July 1 at 12:19 AM · 🌐

FAIRFIELD NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS INVITES YOU TO GAMES WITH GRANDS ON JULY 16TH FROM 10-12 AT HAMILTONBAN TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARK, 4020 BULLFROG ROAD, FAIRFIELD.

GRANDPARENTS AND GRANDKIDS CAN PLAY GAMES TOGETHER AND OTHER GRANDS IN THE PAVILION. BRING SOME GAMES YOU ENJOY AND INVITE SOME FRIENDS TO COME ALONG! ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!



POTLUCK & PLOT TWIST

JOIN FAMILY MINISTRIES ON
SUNDAY, JULY 27TH AT 5PM
FOR A POTLUCK DINNER AND A LIVE
GAME OF CLUE.
SEE STACEY WITH
QUESTIONS!



PRAYERS REQUESTED

+ Continue to pray for conflicts all over the world; such as South Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE!

Applications for the Women of St. John's craft fair vendors are available in the gathering area and on our website, under 'Upcoming Events'!!

THANK YOUs

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

+ Thank you to Doug and Susie Kump for mowing the church lawn. It always looks amazing!

+ Thank you to Bret Robinson for straightening the concrete parking stops in the parking lot.

+ Thank you to our sexton, Paula. June was a very busy month and she was constantly rearranging her schedule so she would not interfere with the goings on in the church.

+ The Women of St. John would like to thank all who donated "goodies" for the bake sale during the yard sale.

INTERESTED IN SUMMER CAMP? THERE'S STILL TIME AND ST. JOHN MAY BE ABLE TO HELP WITH THE COST!

There is still time if you are looking to register your child in summer camp at Camp Nawakwa or Kirchenwald, the church has some funds to help aid the expense for families. Please complete their [online registration form](#) or their [pdf form](#) and make a copy to give to a council member.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

PAGE | Saint John Lutheran Church

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 2 Water Fun Night
6:00 - 8:00PM

JULY 20 Kids & Youth Activities
After Service
10:15 - 11:00AM

JULY 14 Council Meeting
Social Hall
6:30PM

JULY 27 Potluck & Plot Twist
Social Hall
5:00PM

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

JULY 5 BARBARA KERSTETTER

JULY 7 KEVAN TAYLOR

JULY 10 SAMANTHA BROWN
RACHEL KERSTETTER

JULY 13 JIM PHILLIPS

JULY 15 HARLAN HAYNES

JULY 20 SHIRLEY ALEXANDER

JULY 21 JOHN MEZGER

JULY 28 ED HARTZELL
DENISE SANDERS
DANNY SANDERS JR.

CHURCH STAFF

INT. PASTOR | PASTOR WAYNE GALLIPO

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

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR | KEELY GROFT

SEXTON | PAULA SEBOLD

TREASURER | SANDY KUMP

COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESIDENT | JOSH HAYNES

VICE PRESIDENT | BRET ROBINSON

SECRETARY | CATHY CONN

FRANCIS BASSETT

BARB BOOZ

CHRIS COOL

MIKE GAMER

KEVAN TAYLOR

DAVE THOMAS

