

ST. JOHN NEWS

A Letter From The Pastor

BY WAYNE GALLIPO

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you should also love one another.” John 13:34 NRSV

Jesus said this to his disciples to help prepare them for life after he is no longer with them. Later in chapter 14 of John, Jesus tells them he is going to the place he has prepared for them, and they know the way. But Thomas admits he does not know the way. Thomas is thinking pragmatically and wants a road map or GPS coordinates that will show him the way. But Jesus is not talking about a place, Jesus is talking about himself and tells him, “I am the way.” He is not giving them directions to a specific address or destination as we so often interpret this text to mean. Jesus is talking about the indwelling of God, a relationship with God through his Son. The dwelling place is present through the Father’s incarnate presence in Jesus Christ and our trust that Jesus is indeed God’s Son. Like Thomas, we want concrete things that we can hold or experience. We want a destination. Jesus gives us something much better, something that is lasting, that is everlasting. Jesus points us to

relationships. As he prepares to leave Jesus says, “Love one another.” He is pointing us to relationships, not a place or a thing. What does that mean for us today?

Day to day concerns like politics, paying the bills, maintaining cars, lawn maintenance, the price of gas and groceries and so many other things crowd out what is truly important in life. Things that are life giving become secondary to the immediate demands on your time and resources. I experienced this when my father was dying and my sisters and I were gathered around his bed in the ICU. Prior to walking in that room there were many things crowding my mind at the time that demanded my focus and time. But as I stood there at my father’s side knowing that my time with him was very short, all those things that once seemed so important suddenly were not important at all in the moment. I realized my relationship with my father was far more important than all the secondary things that drew my focus away from what is important. Times like this serve as a very effective filter that separates the ultimate from the penultimate. Jesus is telling us that your relationship with God, with his Son Jesus Christ, with your family and

friends and everyone you encounter are of the ultimate importance. These relationships give life, meaning, and promise.

The mission of St. John Lutheran Church is to Make Christ Known. You make Christ known through relationships you have with each other and the community around you. At St. John you hear the good news of Jesus Christ and his love proclaimed each Sunday. Jesus calls you into a relationship with him and his Father and then sends you out to share that relationship with everyone you meet.

Peace,

Pastor Wayne Gallipo

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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Sunday Worship Service
9AM

Upcoming Dates:

Sunday, May 3- Of the Lands and Seasons Liturgy

Sunday, May 24- Pentecost

Sunday, May 30 - Holy Trinity, Breakfast after worship

Friday & Saturday, June 12 & 13- Church Yard Sale

Monday, June 15-19- Vacation Bible School

Kids Club

Last day for Kids Club for this season will be Thurs., May 7. Thank you to participants, helpers, families & anyone who helped out in any way. We had a great year!



Start cleaning out those closets. Our annual yard sale will be held Fri. & Sat., June 12th & 13th. Help is needed especially for set up on Thurs., June 11, 1-4pm, and Sat., June 13, for clean-up from 11:30am-?. Watch bulletin for more information.

Hillside Project

Each month, several St. John members create, prepare, and deliver 40 meals to the guests of Hillside Home.

The guests anxiously await these meals and are very appreciative of the variety of meals we prepare. We always try to feature seasonal items and an extra goodie for the residents. Financial contributions are always welcome for this meaningful project. Please mark your envelop "Hillside". Thank you

Happy Birthday!

Holly Joyner- May 4
Deb Bevilacqua- May 5
Margie Hartzell- May 5
Linn Wichowski- May 8
Adam Carder- May 9
Megan Kump Carder- May 9
Frances Bassett- May 14
David Kump- May 16
Makenzie Taylor- May 17
Sandy Kump- May 19
Mike Gamer- May 25
Kelli Szarowski- May 28
Andrea Haynes- May 29
Cody McGlaughlin- May 30

Fairfield Food Pantry

The Fairfield Area Food Pantry was created by the Fairfield Mennonite Church in 1970. They provide monthly food items for the area on the third Friday of every month.

Currently they serve about 35 families. The pantry is staffed entirely by 8-10 volunteers. They are always in need of non-perishable food items, paper supplies, and monetary donations. All donations are greatly appreciated. Please place in the boxes by the chapel door. For questions, please contact David Thomas.

Sunday School
Sept-May 10:15AM

Adult Bible Study
Sept- May Wed 9:30AM

Kids Club
Nov- May Thurs. 3:45-5PM

Music Corner

BY CAROL GARMAN

Our choir season is winding down. Thank you to all our choir members for your faithfulness, support and sharing your talents. A special thank you to our extras for Easter Sunday.

For our summer months we are looking for instrumental and vocal solos, duets, etc., to provide special music for Sunday morning worship services. If you are interested in sharing your musical talents or know someone who might be, please let me know!

Carol Garman 717-476-0923

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone for bringing in your aluminum cans to support our Kids Club & Sunday School ministries. We will continue to collect clean cans throughout the summer. Cans can be placed in the box near the phone in fellowship hall.

Thank you to all who helped prepare for Easter! There are many things that go on behind the scenes to make Easter Sunday special. Pastor, decorations, lilies, bell ringers, singers, trumpet, breakfast, children's egg hunt, ushers, offering counters, acolyte, and many more! Thank you to all! It could not be done without you!

Sunday Breakfast

The calendar has a funny way of putting 5 Sundays in a month every so often! Join us for a simple breakfast following worship in the months that have five Sundays. Our first breakfast will be Sunday, May 30th. See Stacey Haynes if you have any questions.

Evening Bible Study

We have started our evening bible study! Our next Bible study will be held Thursday, April 30th from 6:30-7:30pm. All are welcome! Bring a friend. This is a laid back bible study. The play room is open for kids to play while parents participate in the Bible study. If you have any questions, please see Stacey Haynes.



Galaxy Vacation Bible School

Explore the Galaxy at St. John for Vacation Bible School this summer! Monday, June 15-Friday, June 19 from 6-8pm.

The night will consist of Bible stories, games, crafts, snacks, music and more! This is open for kids from preschool- 5th grade.

New this year! Friday, June 19th, we invite the congregation, family and friends of our VBS group to join us for a pot luck evening meal. VBS participants will share stories and songs following the meal. A sign up sheet for dishes will be out closer to the time.

See Carol Garman or Stacey Haynes with any questions.

Garden Party

Sunday, April 26th we gathered for a garden party with flower pots and bird feeders.



Call Committee Update

The Call Committee is continuing to meet, and we are diligently working on completing the Ministry Site Profile. We are currently working on a small survey for the congregation, that will be placed inside of the bulletin once per week in May. Your responses will be very valuable to the us as we move through the call process to find a new Pastor for St. John.

Linn Wichowski and Mike Gamer attended a potato bar dinner at Flohr's Lutheran Church in McKnightstown, PA on 4/7 where we had an opportunity to get to know some of the members of their congregation. The congregation at Flohr's was very welcoming to Linn and I, and we look forward to sharing fellowship again with them in the future. We are optimistic about the potential to have a shared ministry with Flohrs, should our respective congregations decide to move forward together to call a 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!

I would like to thank the members of the Call Committee - Cory Runk, Julie Falk, Larry Hull, Linn Wichowski and Lisa Simmons for their dedication and commitment to this very important work for St. John Lutheran Church.

Peace,
Mike Gamer

Easter Pictures 2026





Women of St. John

The Women of St. John served breakfast on Easter Sunday following the service. It was well attended (approximately 80 attendees) and well received. Thank you to everyone who helped set up, cook, serve and clean up.

We purchased and privately delivered grocery items to 5 local families in need so they could enjoy a special Easter holiday meal.

We continue to prepare monthly meals for the Fairfield Lions Club and are continuing to plan for our upcoming 3rd annual Craft Fair on November 7th. More details in the coming months. Mark your calendars!

Our group meets the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00am in the social hall.
Please join us!



Property Committee

- March 15, there was no heat in the church office. Martz was able to talk Chris in doing the necessary work to get it working.
- A radiator cover is being installed in the vestibule
- The back porch and steps of the office have been replaced and look very nice.
- The Paschal Candle was not lighting. Chris cleaned it and filled it up.
- The double doors in the social hall weren't closing completely. That has been adjusted.
- The ice maker was leaking. It was fixed.
- Some extra stones are needed to fill in around the church. Chris and Ed Deardorff will assess what is needed.

Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors is a local group of volunteers that works together to benefit the community. Past activities have included distributing red medical folders to households in the Fairfield School District area to aid in finding information in case of emergency, transportation locally for those who no longer drive for medical appointments or to get groceries, spring and autumn clothing giveaways, and more. St. John has participated in the monthly themed treat bags for the Food Pantry, and supported the group by offering a meeting place.

Some upcoming events for the summer are an ice cream social and music for Senior Citizens at Carroll Valley Pavilion on June 3, at 2:00 which is free to participants. On June 15 is Games with Grands at Carroll Valley Commons from 6-7 for Grandparents and grandchildren of all ages. Bring your favorite games and enjoy time with family. On July 17 Walk, Talk, and Play for preschool age children will be held at Carroll Valley Commons from 6-7. This offers an opportunity for children and parents to meet new friends.

All are welcome to the Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors meetings. If you would like more information please check out the Facebook Page: Fairfield Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Council Corner

Highlights from the April Church Council Meeting held on April 13, 2026

Barb Hanna and Tom Stratton came to our meeting representing the Boy Scouts, asking for us to charter another unit, local Boy Scout Troop 76. We would be partnering with Scouting America as overseers. Troop 76 is currently chartered by the Fairfield Lions and had been meeting at the local firehall. Lately, a regular date has been hard to find for meeting. They would like to meet more often to get the scouts more involved. Presently they have 5 members. This troop used to be chartered by St. John. The council voted to approve sponsoring this troop.

Treasurer's Report- Sandy Kump printed out several spreadsheets showing different aspects of the budget, including Cash Day, Benevolence/Mission Support, Family Ministry, Music Ministry, and Hillside. A new contract was signed with Comcast for two years for \$249 for three phone lines and internet. We have a new router.

Newsletter- The second edition done by Barb Booz and Stacey Haynes was printed and shared on Easter Sunday. We got color copies printed by Bream's to share with our shut ins and to give to the congregation. They can be picked up at the main usher's stand. We plan to publish a monthly newsletter on the first Sunday of each month.

Directory- Finishing touches are being worked on for the new directory. Photos are being arranged and edited. The biggest job is collecting new information for the main part of the directory. This information includes members and non-members who regularly attend St. John and their contact information including address, email, and phone numbers. The info needs to be checked and rechecked! The directory is projected to be published in May.

Other council matters that were discussed are covered in the Call Committee report and the Property Committee Report in this newsletter.

Barb Booz
Council Secretary

