St. John Lutheran Church · November 2026

St. John News



CHURCH OFFICE
office@stjohnfairfield.net

WEBSITE
www.stjohnfairfield.net

WORSHIP
Sunday Worship Service 9AM

Sunday School for preschool through adults is held every Sunday from 10:15–11:15am.

Weekly Adult Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 9:30am.

Pastor's Report

"As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. Colossians 3:12-15

As Thanksgiving Day approaches there are many blessings in our lives that we can pause to give thanks for. Joy and I are thankful for our families and friends. We are grateful for each other, for a place to live, our vocations, education, food, clothing and so many other things that we take for granted each day without a second thought.

In our nation today, with all the mixed messages bombarding us on social media, the news and TV, it is easy to lose sight of just how blessed we all are.You are truly blessed. The verses quoted above from the book of Colossians provides much needed advice for our dangerously conflicted world today. Words that I pray you can digest and keep close to your hearts.

You are blessed! You are God's chosen ones! That is true no matter what is going on in your life. It is true no matter how you voted, what your health situation is, no matter what condition your relationships are in, or anything else you can name. You are blessed! God chose you and God invites you to recognize that in yourself and in all the people you encounter in your life. God has chosen you and he has chosen "those people". What does that mean?

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Pastor's Report (cont. from page 1)

It means you are called to live as God's chosen one.It means you are called to be a blessing for others. God calls you to clothe yourself with love and experience the harmony that comes from living in that way. God tells to you bear with each other, and to forgive each other as God has forgiven you. Be like Christ for each other and experience the life Christ intended for all of us as one body joined together by Christ.

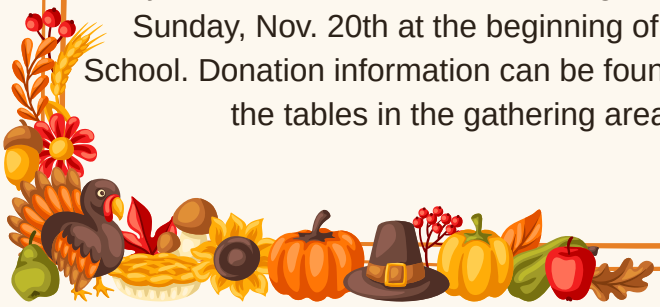
I wish a blessed Thanksgiving for all of you.

In Christ,

Pastor Wayne

College Goody Bags

We will be collecting items for college students again this year to be distributed around Thanksgiving. If you know of any college students who might appreciate a boost before finals, please let Stacey Haynes or Carol Garman know. Bags will be filled Sunday, Nov. 20th at the beginning of Sunday School. Donation information can be found on one of the tables in the gathering area.



Women's Ministry of St. John

As of the writing of this article the Women's Ministry is busy with last minute preparations for our 3rd Annual Craft Fair/Soup Sale/Bake Sale to be held on November 7th from 9-3. Thank you to all who assisted in the preparation, set up and day of our Nov 7th Craft Fair. A special thank you to all who provided homemade baked goodies for the bake sale table.

We continue preparing meals for the Lion's Club monthly and will be packing Ruth's Harvest Backpacks in an upcoming month. Plans are also being made to purchase and deliver Thanksgiving Meal groceries to local families in need.

*The women worked in the kitchen cleaning and organizing. It included a thorough cleaning of the gas stove, labeling and storing items in closed containers. We would like to remind you; to please be careful in using the stove, coffee pots, and dish washer. Don't forget to turn off appliances and faucets. If you borrow, please return in a timely manner.

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.



Music Corner

With One Voice and Hand Bell Choir
Our choirs are back into the routine of regular rehearsals and sharing their music during worship service. Both groups rehearse on Wednesday evenings. WOV at 6:45pm and bells at 7:30pm. New members are welcome!

Children's Choir- Children's choir will practice during Sunday School and Kids Club.

Opportunities are available for instrumental & vocal solos, duets, etc. If you know someone who might be interested in sharing their talents during Sunday morning worship service, please let me know!

Christmas Choir- If you are interested in singing with the choir for Christmas Eve, our first practice is Wednesday, November 18th, at 6:30pm. No practice November 25th, Thanksgiving Eve. For more information, please contact Carol Garman (717-476-0923).



Thank you to all our musicians who shared their talents with us during worship this past month.

Thank you to Chris Cool for all of his time and efforts in keeping our church in working order! He is very busy and dedicated.

Thank you to Troy Kump for donating beautiful pumpkins for our Pizza and Pumpkins night!

Thank you to the Call Committee for their continued service and time.

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee met with the Congregation on Sunday, October 4th to discuss the Call Process, and answer questions. Thank you to those who attended! We will continue to meet with the Congregation periodically throughout the call process to provide updates. Thank you again for your participation via the surveys that were distributed this past Spring, and through discussion with the various committees and ministries at St. John. The Call Committee is dedicated to ensuring that the Congregation is well informed of the call process, and we are always available to answer any questions.

Our Ministry Site profile is live on the Lower Susquehanna ELCA Website, and we are looking forward to receiving candidates who are looking for a call. The Call Committee meets on the first Thursday of every month in the Fellowship Hall at St. John. I would like to once again thank our Call Committee Members - Lisa Simmons, Linn Wichowski, Cory Runk, Julie Faulk and Larry Hull for their hard work and dedication as we move through the Call Process.

Peace,

Mike Gamer

Ruth's Harvest- Fairfield

The Ruth's Harvest-Fairfield (RH-F) backpack program continues to provide weekend food for 42 students in grades K-12 in the Fairfield Area School District. We've had packing volunteers from the RH-F Board of Directors, area churches, educators from the school district, a 4-H group, retired educators and a home school group. What a blessing to have so many individuals and groups willing to help.

We are in need of food donations such as Chef Boyardee cups and cans. (It doesn't have to be that brand name; that's just the best way to describe what is needed.), cans of chicken or tuna, individual cups of green beans, corn and carrots, peanut butter-to-go, and cups of fruit such as mandarin oranges, pears, mixed fruit or peaches. I know food prices are high and there are many organizations asking for help, especially at this time of the year, but even a small donation of food items or monetary assistance can help a student in need,

Recently, RH-F along with other student food programs in Adams County were recognized by the Adams County Child Advocacy Center. We received a certificate of appreciation for the food support we provide to FASD students. Four RH-F board members were able to attend the program where we were treated to a light dinner and several inspirational and informative talks from past and present Adams County Child Advocacy center employees and volunteers.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the RH-F program.
Gratefully,
Linn Wichowski



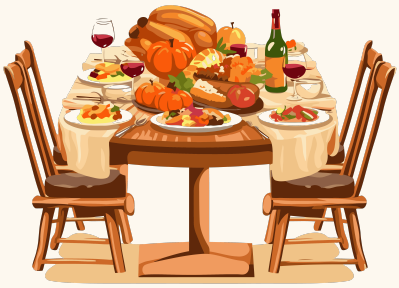
RH-F Board of Directors members Linda McMullen, Glenda Dayhoff, Brandi Fitez, and Linn Wichowski were recognized by the ACCAC for Ruth's Harvest-Fairfield.



Family Ministry

Friendsgiving Potluck-

Join us for our Friendsgiving on Sunday, November 22, from 4-7 pm. There is a sign up sheet in the fellowship hall. Turkey will be provided. Following dinner, at 5:30pm, Voices of Praise from Barts Centenary in Littlestown will provide contemporary music.



If you have any questions, or would like to help plan family ministry events, please see Stacey Haynes.

On Sunday, October 25th., we had our annual **Pizza and Pumpkins** evening. A great time was enjoyed by all who attended. We had a great assortment of pumpkins! Thanks very much to Troy Kump for donating them!











Halloween Treat Donations

St. John gave out many, many treats to trick-or-treaters in Fairfield on Halloween. Thanks to all who participated in handing out goodies, and thanks to everyone who donated sweet treats!



Lectors

Are you interested in reading the Lessons on Sunday morning? If so, please contact Dawn Cool by 11/16/2026 (717-642-5501 or coolsonwater@centurylink.net) to be included on the 2027 Lector Schedule. Those who were on the 2026 schedule, thank you for your service! You will be included on the 2027 schedule unless Dawn is contacted.



Treasurer's Position

St. John is looking for a new church treasurer as our current treasurer, Sandy Kump, will be resigning at the end of the year. This is a budgeted position. If you are interested in serving St. John in this capacity, please see Josh Haynes or members of the Personnel Committee (Sue Hull, Linn Wichowski, Linda Sanders, or Tammy Deardoff) for more information.





Altar Guild

Who sets up and cleans up communion? It's the Altar Guild. We all probably take it for granted, but there are many hands behind the scenes that make communion possible. Please consider signing up to serve on the Altar Guild. The 2027 schedule is being finalized. Contact Dawn Cool by 11/16/2026 if you are interested. or if you have questions. (717-642-5501 or coolsonwater@centurylink.net). This is a meaningful way to serve St. John that would take little of your time.

Pumpkin Snickerdoodles

INGREDIENTS-Dry

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon cornstarch
1 teaspoon cream of tartar
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon baking powder
1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon each ground nutmeg, ground ginger, and salt
1/4 teaspoon each ground cloves and ground allspice

INGREDIENTS-for creaming together

3/4 cup granulated sugar
2/3 cup packed brown sugar 12 T butter, at room temp.
1 large egg yolk
1/2 cup Libby's pumpkin puree
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract

INGREDIENTS-for rolling

¼ cup granulated sugar
1 tsp. ground cinnamon



1) Whisk together dry ingredients. Set aside.
2) Cream the butter and sugars on medium speed until fluffy, about 2 minutes.
3 Mix in the egg yolk, followed by the pumpkin and vanilla extract.
4) Slowly mix in the dry ingredients until combined
5) Cover the dough and chill for 3 hours.
6) Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.
7) Whisk together 1/4 cup sugar and 1 teaspoon cinnamon in a small bowl.
8) Using a 2-tablespoon cookie scoop, scoop the dough and roll it into a ball, then roll it in the cinnamon-sugar mixture to thoroughly coat.
9) Transfer the dough balls to the pans, spacing them 2 inches apart, with 6 per baking sheet.
10) Bake at 350 degrees until just set and the tops are starting to crack, about 10–13 minutes.
11) Cool on the baking sheet for 5 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

Submitted by Deb Bevilacqua

Adopt a Family for Christmas

We will once again be collecting Christmas gifts for children and families that are financially challenged. We need help typing up the lists. We usually get the information the third week in November and compile a list from each child's info sheet. If you would be willing to help out, please contact Carol Garman or Stacey Haynes.



Giving Tree (formerly the Mitten Tree)

The Giving Tree (formerly the Mitten Tree) will be in the gathering area from November 29th to December 13th to accept your gifts.Please "decorate" the tree with children's socks, PJ's mittens and hats. All will be delivered to the Fairfield Elementary School for children in need and SCCAP (South Central Community Action Programs). Thank you in advance from the Women's Ministry.





All Saints Day
November 1, 2026

This past year we lost three dear members of our St. John family. Roger Semplak, Robert Kerstetter, and Essie Gilmore were remembered during a special part of the service.

November Birthdays

Bridget Runk	2
Vanessa Landis	5
Anna-Mae Kobbe	7
Sue Hull	13
Amara Dindino	15
Ivan Dindino	15
Cora Click	16
Lida Fitz	16
Scott Fitz	18
Kelly Garman	20
Bennett Conn	22
Garrett Robinson	23
Susie Kump	24
Jeff Simmons	25
Judy Szarowski	27
Deedee Mezger	28

Kids' Club

Kids' Club will begin on Thursday, November 5th. We meet from 3:45-5pm for a snack, games, a Bible story, music activities and a craft. Transportation is available from the school. Contact Carol Garman for more information.





Sunday School Advent Skit

Our children in Kid's Club and Sunday School have begun to work on a Christmas skit that will be shared with the congregation in December. If your child is interested in being part of the skit, please let Stacey Haynes or Carol Garman know.