

ST. JOHN NEWS

St. John Lutheran Church

June 2026

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We will hold our annual Talent Show & Ice Cream Social in August. Date to be decided according to schedule of those who are interested in participating. If you are interested in participating, please let Carol Garman know!



"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." James 1:17

Family Ministry

The family ministry group is looking for a few people to help plan some summer fun for families and kids to attend. If you are interested in helping to plan, prepare and attend these events, please see Stacey Haynes.





Our last Sunday School for kids for this school year was May 31st. Thank you to our teachers & families for all your support & service! We will meet a few times throughout the summer. More information to come!!



Green Hymnals

We still have a lot of green hymnals taking up storage space. If you would like one, please help yourself. They will be on one of the tables in the Gathering Area.



Nancy Miller	June 2
Lisa Simmons	June 4
Sue Kiefer	June 6
Henry Runk	June 11
Tammy Deardorff	June 13
Chris Cool	June 16
Becky Robinson	June 18
Sarah Simmons	June 19
Emma Simmons	June 19
Sandy Luty	June 24
Martha Scott	June 26
Steven McGlaughlin	June 29
Keely Groft	June 29



August 23rd Save the Date!

We will be worshiping and having a picnic in the Carroll Valley Park again like we did last year. We look forward to worshiping outdoors with the sound of nature around us. We have invited Flohrs Lutheran Church to join us in this worship and fellowship opportunity. More information will be coming in the next month. Please see a council member with any questions.



**Congratulations to the
seniors who are 2026
graduates!**

**Olivia Sanders
Brenden McDannell
Ally Phillips**

YARD SALE

It's Not Too Late!!

There are still lots of opportunities to help with the yard sale this year!

- Do you have items to donate?
- Do you have some spare time to help volunteer?
- Are you looking for a new treasure?

Help make this year's yard sale a success! We are accepting donations of gently used, clean items. Please drop them off anytime in the chapel hallway, marked "Yard Sale" or in the fellowship hall on June 11th. Help is needed especially for set up & clean up. Sign up sheet is in the Gathering Area. For more information about the yard sale, please see Carol Garman or Barb Booz.

VBS

Vacation Bible Fun Week

Do you know a child in Prek up to 5th grade? Hand them a registration form for VBS. Children don't need to be members to attend. This is held June 15-19th from 6-8pm.

Do you enjoy watching our children at church share the message and sing? New this year, we are trying a potluck meal on Friday at 6pm followed by a short review of songs and stories that the children learned through the week of VBS. All are welcome! A sign up sheet for dishes is in the fellowship hall. See Stacey Haynes if you have any questions.



Aluminum Can Collection

We will continue to collect clean aluminum cans throughout the summer. You can drop them off in the box close to the phone in the fellowship hall. Proceeds go to purchase supplies for Kid's Club and Sunday School.



*“Be still, and know that I am
God.” Psalm 46:10 NRSV*

My internship site was ten congregations that joined together to form one parish. There were four pastor, two interns and several authorized lay ministers all held together by one woman who was the office administrator and scheduler. When my late wife and I arrived, we discovered they were experiencing great turmoil and conflict. It was so bad that the four pastors were in deep disagreement over an issue to the point where the parish council asked them all to leave. The disagreement was tearing the parish apart. Worse, the disagreement was derailing the purpose for them to exist in the community. The disagreement had moved their focus from proclaiming the good news to spreading anxiety and hate. Amid all of that, my purpose for being there shifted from being an intern there to learn to an intern doing interim ministry. These people were hurting; they were anxious and fearful. They were looking for meaning and sadly, some were questioning their faith. Psalm 46 speaks to situations like this. We’ve all been there. Things happen in life that disrupt your life and the world doesn’t make sense and you wonder where is God.

Read Psalm 46 and notice God is present right at the center of the psalm, in the midst of the muck. Verse 5 says, “God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved.” On either side of the psalm is the chaos we all live with in life, violence in nature and violence among people. We’ve all lived through violent storms and recently frost that killed off orchards. The news is filled with stories of conflict, wars, and deep disagreements between people. These things can cast a veil over the good news. It can cause us to lose hope, to feel like God has abandoned us. Psalm 46 reminds us that God is present amid our challenges in life. It reminds us that God is always with us and in difficult times is our refuge.

Psalm 46:10, “Be still, and know that I am God.” is an invitation to rest in God’s loving arms. “Be still” is an invitation to abandon your struggles. A seminary classmate translated it “Stop striving”. I emphasized this psalm, and verse 10 specifically, to the parish as I preached. One congregation stenciled verse 10 on a wall in the sanctuary.

If you are struggling, if events around you are causing you to be anxious, read Psalm 46 and be reminded that God is present with you even when events around you are overwhelming. God invites you to turn your anxiety and struggles over to God and to wrest in God’s loving arms.

Peace,
Pastor Wayne Gallipo



Making Melodies!

Thank you to our choirs & musicians who provided music for us during our Sunday worship services. Over the summer, as our choirs take a well deserved break, there will be opportunities for instrumental & vocal solos, duets or small groups. If you know of anyone who would like to share their talents with us in worship, please contact Carol Garman.

Women of St. John

The Women of St. John will be selling chicken corn soup and baked goods at the St. John yard sale. Donations of baked goods are needed and should be dropped off in the church kitchen by the morning of June 12th.

We voted to sponsor the newsletter for a month and will plan to clean the kitchen stove and oven after Pippenfest.

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 7, 2026. More details in the coming months. Mark your calendars!

Please note that the date of our **June meeting has been changed to June 9th at 10:00 am** in the social hall. Please join us!

Church Property Update

Lots of work goes into the upkeep of the church. Many thanks to Doug and Susie Kump for all of their hard work and efforts in mowing and taking care of the outdoor grounds. Thank you to Josh Haynes and his helpers for repairing the front vestibule heater skirting that was damaged during the winter from frozen pipes.

The update and repairs to the office entrance has been completed with the help of Herb's Exteriors. Some minor repairs that have been taken care of include leaking connection on the ice maker, damaged toilet seat in nursery bathroom was replaced, exterior doors were lubricated and a pressure valve issue was fixed with the help Martz Plumbing to get heat in the church office.

In the coming weeks we will be having Fairfield Landscaping work on our yard and fill in landscape stone where it is needed. We are also in the process of getting a quote from Herb's Exteriors to take care of some much needed work on the front porch of the office building. More on this project to come.



Ruth's Harvest- Fairfield

As they say in the motion picture industry, "It's a wrap" when the filming is done. Although no filming took place, we packed the final Ruth's Harvest-Fairfield (RH-F) bags for the 2025-2026 school year on Tuesday, May 19, 2026. So, it's a wrap until we start again in September for the next school year!

We finished this year packing 49 bags; 33 for elementary students, 11 for middle school students and 5 for high school. While our total number of weekly bags wasn't as high as last year, we had a greater participation of middle and high school students. Although you may be tired of reading this, please know that this program would not be the success it is without your donations and the volunteers that come together each week to pack the bags. We couldn't accomplish this mission of serving food insecure students in the Fairfield Area School District without each of you at St. John and those within the Fairfield community!

On May 13, 2026, RH-F board members lead by Barb Booz and Linda McMullen hosted a small and very nice appreciation reception at St. John for the many volunteers who pack and deliver the bags to the schools each week. It was a chance for the board members to thank the volunteers for their efforts and for the individuals from different churches and organizations to get to know each other. There were flowers (provided by Barb Booz) and other tasty snacks. The cake, baked and decorated by Donna Baccarella, was a big hit with the volunteers and the board members alike.

My heartfelt thanks to each of you who have supported Ruth's Harvest-Fairfield in any way over the last 11 years. We've made a difference in the lives of many Fairfield students, and those students know the Fairfield community cares about them. Have a great summer, and you'll hear from RH-F again in the fall when the 2026-2027 school year begins.

God's blessings to you.

Respectfully,
Linn Wichowski



**Here are some of the kids
in our Kids' Club from
this school year!**

Volunteer Opportunities

Are you currently signed up for one of our volunteer opportunities? Invite a church friend to join you or try it out.

On Sunday, May 31st, we sang with the Children's Choir the hymn "Give Me Joy in My Heart. One verse we sang said, "Give me love in my heart, keep me serving". St. John functions through its volunteers. I encourage you to branch out and find an area of volunteering that fits your talents.

If you are looking for assistance on finding the right fit, please see a council member.

Below are dates that are still open for volunteers.

Acolytes- June 7, 14, 21

Communion Assistant- June 21, July 5, 19

Ushers- June 7, 14, 21, 28

Offering Counters- July, August, September, October





Thank you to all who helped and attended our first 5th Sunday Fellowship. We couldn't have done it without you! Our next 5th Sunday Fellowship will be August 30th. More information will be out closer to the date!

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee continued to meet in May, and we have been working on the Ministry Site Profile. We appreciate your responses to the surveys that have been placed in the Sunday bulletin throughout May. Your responses have been very helpful as we continue moving through the call process. This is your congregation, and you have a say in selecting our next Pastor at St. John.

Members of the Call Committee have also been attending a monthly zoom call with Pastor Beth Martini and Bishop Herr with the Lower Susquehanna Synod. These meetings also include members of Call Committees from other congregations in the surrounding area. The monthly meetings have been helpful in understanding and navigating the call process. Pastor Beth and Bishop Herr are very open to answering our questions, and providing wisdom and guidance.

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 serving on the Call Committee.

Peace,
Mike Gamer