

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1028 Church Street, PO Box 966
Fogelsville, PA 18051-0966



www.stjohns-fogelsville.org

Church Phone: (610) 395-5535

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October 2025

COMING IN OCTOBER:

October 3 & 4: Fall Basket Social

October 17: Pines Dinner Theater

October 19: Coffee Hour

October 22: Boscov's Fundraiser

October 31: Halloween Hot Dog Stand



LOOKING AHEAD...

11/1 - Christmas Craft Night

11/9 - Congregational Meeting (Budget & Elections)

11/14 - Community Free Dinner

11/22-23 - Thanksgiving Sides Sale

11/26 - Joint Thanksgiving Eve Service (held at UCC)

Thank you to everyone who completed a “**NEWSLETTER QUESTIONNAIRE**”! If you have already selected your preference, great, if not it is not too late – simply let us know if you wish to receive your copy by email, pick up in the narthex, or continue through postal mail.

You may change your preference at any time.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

Dear St. John's Members and Friends,

God's blessings to you all! This is Pr. Mark Wimmer and I have been asked by the Bishop's office to serve as your Bridge Pastor at St. John's. My time of service will be the next few months during which time I will walk with you through the beginning of your transition in pastoral leadership. My responsibilities will primarily be in the leading of worship on Sundays (along with Pr. Tom Lichner on an occasional Sunday), visitation as needed, and consulting in the call/transition process as it begins to unfold.

The calling of new pastoral leadership will take many months. It involves the gathering of information about the parish, your community setting, the resources available for ministry, and the development of a vision for ministry. All these factors will determine the type of pastor you will seek. The number of pastors available for call is not great causing this congregation and others like you to be nimble in your thinking and open to new ways of staffing in providing the pastoral partnership you seek.

This will be a time of challenge for St. John's. In my limited time here though, I have seen the presence of good and solid leadership both in the membership volunteers as well as the staff. You enjoy a spirited worship and even laugh at my humorous reflections! All positive attributes that will aide you greatly in the time ahead.

I shall be in consistent contact with the Bishop's office about "next steps" and will communicate frequently with your leadership. I will be in the office most Wednesdays and am available for conversation and questions as schedule allow. Please call on me if I can be of any assistance.

Peace and Blessings,
Pr. Mark Wimmer

Mission Statement

We, the members of St. John's Lutheran Church, Fogelsville, desiring to be blessed together with Word and Sacrament and to become more perfectly the Body of Christ in the world, do hereby commit ourselves to a mission which involves: increasingly creative and meaningful worship; developing additional opportunities for Christian Education; intentional witnessing to our congregation and community; Christ-centered social ministries and; promoting a more effective stewardship program which helps people to become better aware of what we have to offer and where we have needs.

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but shall have everlasting life."
John 3:16*

HOSPITALIZED OR HOMEBOUND??

Please be assured that visitation and Home Communion are always available at St. John's. Contact us if you or a family member desires the sacrament or a visit.

*Contact the church office when you are hospitalized.
Thank you to those who have been keeping us updated!*



Join us for worship!!!

In order to remain in voting status as a member of St. John's we must have record of your communion at least once each year through the completion of a communion card (found in every pew). We ask that you please take a moment to fill out one of these cards if you have not already done so.



We email readings, prayers, and other resources each Friday so that you may reflect from home. Contact us to be added/removed from this list.

**Catechetical Class at 9 AM, Sunday School class at 9:30 AM
In-house services begin at 10:30 AM**

Facebook Live broadcasts have been paused until further notice.

Sunday, October 5, 2025 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Wicked surround righteous; wait for the Lord
Psalms 37:1-9 Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord.

2 Timothy 1:1-14 Guard the treasure entrusted to you:
faith and love in Christ

Luke 17:5-10 Faith the size of a mustard seed

Sunday, October 12, 2025 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c Naaman washes in the Jordan and is cleansed
Psalms 111 I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart.

2 Timothy 2:8-15 If we die with Christ, we will live with Christ

Luke 17:11-19 One leper made clean by Jesus gives thanks to God

Sunday, October 19, 2025 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 32:22-31 Jacob's struggle with the angel:

I'll not let go until you bless me

Psalms 121 My help comes from the Lord, maker of heaven and earth.

2 Timothy 3:14—4:5 In the presence of Christ the judge,
proclaim the message

Luke 18:1-8 The widow begs for justice; God grants justice
to those who cry to him

Sunday, October 26, 2025 – Reformation Sunday

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22 Jerusalem will be defeated

Psalms 84:1-7 Happy are the people whose strength is in you.

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 The good fight of faith

Luke 18:9-14 A Pharisee and tax collector pray together

Council Minutes August 11, 2025 at 7:00 pm

Present: Keri Ann Divers, Mike Divers, Ken Divers, Stacey Divers, Neola Geschel, Mike Herman, Sara Kleba, Donna Kressin, Matthew Kressin, Carla Malantonio, Lynn McMillen and Curtis White

Mike Divers called the meeting to order.
Neola led us in prayer.

Council Meeting Minutes of July 14, 2025

Carla made a motion, seconded by Neola, to approve the minutes of the July 14 meeting. The motion carried.

Treasurer/Finance Report (July 2025)

Carla made a motion, seconded by Donna, to approve the financial reports. The motion carried.

President's Report:

- The Rev. Dr. F. Thomas Lichner has agreed to help us with worship services twice a month (except in September). He has given us dates through the end of the year. Big thank you to Neola and Rich who continue to help lead services.
- The following council members end their term this year: Carla Malantonio, Neola Geschel, Matthew Kressin (can reup for another term), and Mike Herman. We need to look for new members.

Pastor's Report: N/A

Committee Reports:

Finance:

- Pastor Nelson is removed from the Morgan Stanley accounts.
- Budget committee needs to meet to make a budget for next year.

Property:

- Apollo Gas will install the shut-off valves in the kitchen then Superior can switch out the tank.

Christian Education/Sunday School:

- Vacation Bible School date was held on July 26th from 9-2. We had 16 children participating with 10 volunteers. It was a success.
- Bible Study led by Sara Kleba to be held on 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:00 pm in the adult Sunday school room.

Youth Ministry:

Worship and Music:

- Beth Stottmeister is off on August 24th. Cindy Geho will supply.
- Worship returns to 10:30 AM on September 7th.
- Joint outdoor worship and picnic on September 7th at Breinigsville Park. Pr. Denise from St. John's UCC will lead the service. The pavilion has been reserved. We need a coordinator, Curtis has volunteered.
- Rally Day is scheduled for September 14th at 9:00

Staff Support:

- Reviews upcoming.

Evangelism:

Stewardship:

- The next Community Free Dinner is scheduled on September 19, 2025 sponsored by Ladies Aid (chicken pot pie)

Ladies Aid:

- Basket social scheduled for October 3rd and 4th. We have letters printed if anyone wants to help solicit local businesses for donations. Sign-up is posted in the narthex. Basket assembly dates are August 5 and August 26.
- Vince's Cheesesteaks Food Truck is coming back to St. John's parking lot on August 21. Pies and baked goods are also up for sale. Sign-up in the narthex.
- Boscov's Friends Helping Friends on October 22nd. Booklets are on sale now at \$5.00.

Constitution & Bylaws report:

- On hold for the present time.

Other Reports:

Endowment Fund:

Old Business:

- Facebook Live is paused for now. The church laptop has been tested and it can be used to record if we can find a place to put it and get volunteers to start/stop it each Sunday.
- Budget Committee- we need volunteers to meet to create the budget. It needs to be approved at the October 13th council meeting, before congregational approval in November.
- Defibrillators need new batteries. Carla is ordering.

New Business:

- Snowplow contract needs to be reviewed and signed.
- Discussion concerning Catechetical program this year. Letters need to be sent out. Still to be determined.
- We received a phone call with a request for a “Town Hall” meeting Melissa Sullivan is advocating for homeowners of manufactured homes and the rise of lot rent affecting over 3,000 families in Lehigh County. They have spoken with LAMPa (Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania) who suggested reaching out to local churches. We need more information, and it is likely our multipurpose room is not large enough.

Pastor Jean Huber joined us following the meeting. She gave us a list of what is involved in the call process. Of the 16 steps we are at step one. She has found an interim pastor available to start on August 31, 2025 and end at the end of November. The council will meet with this pastor (Pastor Mark Wimmer) on Monday, August 25 to discuss a contract.

Pastor Huber also discussed a new idea 6261. It involves grouping 6 small congregations, 2 pastors, 6 licensed lay ministers, and 1 deacon. A presentation of this will be held on September 9 at St. James Coopersburg at 7:00. Some council members will attend to get more information.

A motion was made by Neola, seconded by Sara, to close the meeting. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Next council meeting: Monday September 8th at 7 pm

Respectfully submitted by,
Donna Kressin, council secretary

*All minutes from past meetings are
available in the church office.*

Special Council Meeting - August 25, 2025 at 7:00 PM

A special council meeting was held to meet with prospective bridge pastor, Pastor Mark Wimmer. All council members were present except Lynn McMillen. President Mike Divers opened the meeting and Neola led us in prayer.

Pastor Wimmer comes to us with 45 years in the ministry with a varied background. He is presently retired from full time ministry. He is married with grown children and grandchildren. He and his wife Lisa reside in Bethlehem. Pastor Wimmer and his wife also enjoy acting as tour guides from late November through early January for the Moravian historical area in Bethlehem.

Pastor Wimmer spent time getting to know the individual members of council and what areas each served the congregation. He asked what we expected of him, and he shared what we could expect from him. He would be able to give us 12-15 hours/week (including Sunday morning) for \$50 an hour. Some mileage would also be requested. His job is to keep the status quo until we get an interim pastor. He is not looking to

change anything, just keep us going. He said his preaching style is narrative, laced with humor, and may include current events that are tied in.

At the end of the meeting, he said he would be happy to spend about 3 months with us, ending at the end of November. He led us in prayer and left us to discuss his offer.

After some discussion Neola made a motion, seconded by Curtis, to enter into a contract with Pr. Wimmer. The motion carried unanimously.

President Mike Divers will be in touch with Pastor Wimmer to set the details. He would begin September 14 and end in November. Dates Pastor Lichner has already promised would be negotiated in the contract.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Mike, seconded by Curtis.



A Few Things to Keep in Mind:

✝ **Food Card Sales:** ½ of the profit from the food card sales will go towards the Restoration Fund, the other ½ will be sent to Second Harvest Food Bank. Thank you for your continued support of this fundraiser. Stop by the office during the week to make a purchase (Giant, Weis or Redner's).

✝ **2025 Address Directories are available in the narthex.** You may also request a PDF copy by calling the church office.

✝ **Weekly Email** - If you would like to be added, please send us a note to: stjohns.lutheran@verizon.net.

✝ **Flowers & Bulletins:** Bulletins - \$15.00; Flowers - \$48.00 for two vases. Feel free to contact the office with any questions or special requests. Charts are posted in the narthex.

✝ **2025 Offering Envelopes** are still available for pick-up. You may pick up a box (with your assigned number) for the year. Please feel free to take them to friends and family. Envelopes have been moved to the church office.


✝ **Methods of giving** include offering envelopes, bank bill pay, and through our website with credit/debit card. Info about the different forms of donation is on our website.


✝ In order to remain in **voting status as a member of St. John's** we must have record of your communion at least once each year by home communion or at an in-house service. Please fill out a communion card, found in each pew.


✝ **Cookbooks** – \$5 each, please pick one up in the narthex or Fellowship Hall. The proceeds will benefit the Restoration Fund.


✝ **Redner's Receipts** - We are still participating in the "Sav-A-Tape" program at Redner's Market. Deposit tapes in the narthex.

Thank You...

 To everyone who contributed towards the Harvest Home display and to all of those who helped set up the altar. Produce and perishables items were sold after worship. Together we collected \$250 to donate to Lowhill & St. Paul's Food Banks.

 To all who helped with Rally Day and to our Sunday School teachers and helpers for 2025-26. We are looking forward to another great year.

 To everyone who helped with the September Community Free Dinner, and to all who donated. This continues to be a successful outreach to the community due to all your hard work.

 To Curtis White for coordinating our Annual Picnic. And a big thanks to all who attended and brought food.

- 🌿 To Lisa Herman, Dave Neimeyer, Keri-Ann Divers, and Mike Divers for preparing the 2026 Budget (which will be presented to the congregation on 11/9/25). Watch for a letter with details.
- 🌿 To Beth Furman for collecting and delivering all the garden donations for Plant-A-Row... and to all who brought their extra produce this season!
- 🌿 To all our volunteers who continue to help during Sunday in-house services acolyting, welcoming visitors, reading, etc.
- 🌿 To everyone who continues to support St. John's by donating online, through Simply Giving, or with your checks/envelopes!
- 🌿 To all who have designated their Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. John's Church.

Upcoming Events/Opportunities:

Fall Basket Social - preview night on Friday, October 3rd (6-8pm), event on Saturday, October 4th (10am to 2pm). Tickets may be purchased/placed both days, take-out food items will be available only on the 4th. Ticket pricing (1 sheet = 25 tickets): 1 sheet/\$10, 2 sheets/\$20, 3 sheets/\$25. *Winners will be drawn at the end of the event and contacted by phone.* A sign-up sheet for baked goods is in the narthex. Monetary donations may be handed to Jeanette Holtzhafer or Carol Moyer.



Pines Dinner Theater – We have seats reserved for Friday, October 17th to see “Lucky Stiff” (reservations and \$ due October 1st) and Friday, December 12th to see “Christmas at the Pines” (reservations and \$ due December 1st). Dinner begins at 6 PM, the show is at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$70 each - including dinner, show and gratuity. *Please note the new location: Shops at Cedar Point, 315 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown.* Contact Neola Geschel with any questions or to make reservations.

Bosco's Friends Helping Friends shopping passes are now available for Wednesday, October 22nd, 8 AM-11 PM (IN-STORE ONLY). Your donation of \$5 to St.



John's Ladies Aid will entitle you to receive 25% off most items purchased that day. This is a great way to begin holiday shopping! See any Ladies Aid member to purchase one.

St. John's will be hosting their usual **Halloween Hot Dog Stand** on Friday, October 31st from 6 to 8 PM. More details will follow as Halloween approaches. For now, mark your calendars and let Dave Neimeyer know if you can help (484-378-2725 or dave@neimeyer.org). A sign-up list for supplies will be posted in the narthex soon.

Christmas Craft Night – Join us on November 1st at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Invite your friends and family for an evening of craft making. All ages are welcome. Bring your favorite snacks, we will provide the soda/drinks. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those who are interested.



All Saints Sunday will be celebrated on November 2nd. We will remember by name those from our congregation who have died since November 3, 2024 and also celebrate the newest members of St. John's who were baptized this past year. If you would like to remember loved ones in either the video or bulletin, please contact the church office no later than October 26th.

Community Free Dinners – dinners will continue on the 3rd Friday, every other month (except November- 2nd Friday). The last 2025 dinner will be held on November 14, sponsored by Bob & Sharon Snyder. Anyone interested in volunteering please call the church or contact Bob Neumoyer (570-386-3045 or nrh14@ptd.net). *Cash donations or purchased items will be gladly accepted from donors who possibly would like to help but are unavailable to attend.*



Homemade Thanksgiving Sides Sale - Looking to add some St.



John's favorites to your meal? Place your orders for the following: 3lbs. potato filling in a conveniently packaged, oven ready aluminum baking pan for \$10.00. (Remove the lid, put the container in the

oven, bake, and enjoy!) Homemade applesauce will be available in quarts for \$8.00 each. Bacon dressing is available to order in a pint for \$6.00 or a quart for \$8.00. We will be taking orders from October 12th thru November 2nd, or until orders are filled - see Carol Moyer. We can use help to prep/cook/package orders on November 20th & 21st beginning at 8:00 AM. PICK UP: Saturday, Nov. 22nd from 9 AM to 12 PM. Church members may also pick up their orders after worship on Sunday, Nov. 23rd.

Monday Evening Bible Study - The Monday evening bible study will be meeting the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7 pm in the Adult Sunday School room. We are working our way through The Twelve Disciples, LifeGuide Topical Bible Studies by Douglas Connelly. If you would like to purchase the book, it is available at Christianbook.com. All are welcome whether or not you are able to read the section for the week! If you have any questions please email Sara Kleba at Kleba004@umn.edu, or talk to her after church.

There will be **3 new openings on our Congregation Council**, starting in November. Terms run for three years.

Council meets on the second Monday of each month.

Meetings usually last about 60-90 minutes.

We will also be looking for 1 **Endowment Fund trustee** to begin in January. This is also a three-year term.

Meet as announced.

If you can serve, or have more questions about the duties, please contact Mike Divers.



Youth Update

- ✝ We are still looking for any youth that may be interested in serving as **bell ringers, acolytes, or crucifers**. You can use SignUp Genius to chose a date to serve.
- ✝ **Thank you to everyone who joined us for Rally Day!** All are welcome to join Sunday School on Sunday mornings at **9:30 AM**. Please speak with Carla Malantonio if you need information about the Catechetical Class (7th & 8th grade students).
- ✝ Don't forget to visit us at the **Hot Dog Stand** located in front of Strohl's Automotive on Main Street. Everyone is invited to stop by during trick-or-treat hours (6-8 PM) on Friday, October 31st.

Also, check out the "Youth Page" on our website!!!



**The Greater Allentown
CROP Hunger Walk
and Allentown Food Bank Drop-Off**

**Sunday, October 19, 2025,
1:30 p.m.**



**St. Timothy Lutheran Church
140 S. Ott St., Allentown, PA 18104**

**Register, donate, or find more
information** about the life-saving
work of Church World Service at

www.crophungerwalk.org/Allentown



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