

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



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November 2025

COMING IN NOVEMBER:

All of November: LMD Christmas Ingathering

November 8: Christmas Craft Night (*new date*)

November 9: Congregational Meeting

November 14: Community Free Dinner

November 20-23: Thanksgiving Sides Sale

~~**November 26:** Thanksgiving Eve Service~~ *cancelled*

November 30: Community Tree Lighting



LOOKING AHEAD...

12/8 - Christmas Party

12/12 - Pines Dinner Theater Show

12/14 - Christmas Program

12/24 - Christmas Eve Service

12/28 - Lessons & Carols

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,

Martin Luther held that a Christian is a member of two kingdoms. There is the spiritual kingdom that is governed by the Gospel and the Holy Spirit. The citizens of this kingdom are those baptized into Christ and whose faith is a gift from God. Signs of the spiritual kingdom are the Gospel and the means of Grace (baptism and Holy Communion.)

The Kingdom of the world is also of God and is ruled through law and civil authority. The citizens of this kingdom are both Christians and non-Christians. This is a kingdom of laws meant to provide peace, order and stability to our world. "Christians, although belonging to the spiritual kingdom inwardly, are bound to obey and participate in the worldly kingdom for the sake of their neighbors and the maintenance of good order."

One of the ways we participate is by virtue of our ability in this country to vote. To choose those who write our laws and provide for the common good is our responsibility as a citizen of this world and an act that not only benefits us but our neighbor as well. Voting is an act of faith in the God who desires peace and wholeness for the country and creation in which we live.

Casting your ballot then is not only a privilege, it is a responsibility. Who or what we vote for is a matter of conscience. The words and acts of Jesus are what mold our conscience. What we do on November 4th matters a great deal to a great many people. Pray for God's guidance as you go to the polls.

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, November 2, 2025 – All Saints Sunday

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 The holy ones of the Most High
shall receive the kingdom

Psalm 149 Sing the Lord's praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Ephesians 1:11-23 God raised Christ from the dead and
made him head over all the church

Luke 6:20-31 Jesus speaks blessings and woes

Sunday, November 9, 2025 – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Job 19:23-27a I know that my Redeemer lives and I shall see God

Psalm 17:1-9 Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me under
the shadow of your wings.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 The coming of the Lord Jesus

Luke 20:27-38 Jesus speaks of the resurrection; God of the living

Sunday, November 16, 2025 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Malachi 4:1-2a A day of blistering heat for the arrogant; a day of
healing sun for the righteous

Psalm 98 In righteousness will the Lord judge the world.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Do not be idle, but do what is right
for the sake of Christ

Luke 21:5-19 Jesus speaks of wars, endurance, betrayal,
and suffering for his sake

Sunday, November 23, 2025 – Christ the King Sunday

Jeremiah 23:1-6 Coming of the shepherd and righteous Branch
who will execute justice

Psalms 46 I will be exalted among the nations.

Colossians 1:11-20 Hymn to Christ, firstborn of all creation; peace
through his blood

Luke 23:33-43 Jesus is crucified between two thieves: you will be
with me in Paradise

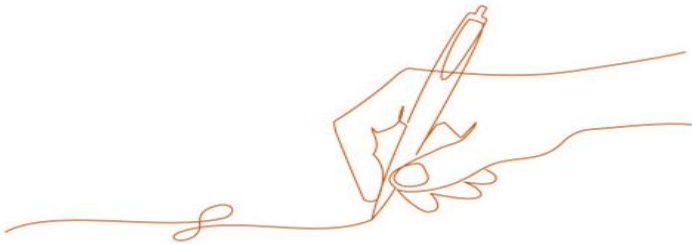
Sunday, November 30, 2025 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5 Weapons of war transformed
into instruments of peace

Psalms 122 I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

Romans 13:11-14 Salvation is near; time to wake from sleep

Matthew 24:36-44 The sudden coming of the Son of Man



Council Minutes - September 8, 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 and Curtis White
Absent: Lynn McMillen

Mike Divers called the meeting to order.

Mike led us in prayer.

Council Meeting Minutes of August 11, 2025 & August 25, 2025
Carla made a motion, seconded by Stacey, to approve the minutes of the July 14 meeting with the change that Mike Herman was absent. The motion carried. Carla made a motion, seconded by Neola, to accept the minutes of the special council meeting August 25. The motion carried.

Treasurer/Finance Report (August 2025)

- Carla made a motion, seconded by Donna, to approve the financial reports. The motion carried.
- Carla made a motion, seconded by Mike Herman, to replace our debit card with a secured credit on our money market account at New Tripoli bank with a limit of \$2000. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report:

Pastor Mark Wimmer will begin on September 14th. He will meet with Linda in the office on Wednesday, September 10th. Pastor Lichner will continue to preach some Sundays.

Pastor's Report: N/A

Committee Reports:

Finance:

- Budget Committee will meet on September 16th at 6:00PM
- Church checking account has been compromised. Old account is now closed and a new account opened and funds have been transferred.

Property:

- Gas tank needs to be changed and refilled. (Sharp energy and Superior for estimates)

Christian Education/Sunday School:

- Rally Day "Anchored in Hope" and Sunday School teacher installation is scheduled for September 14th
- Sponsoring coffee hour on October 19th
- Homebound project on October 26th

Youth Ministry:

Worship and Music:

- Choir rehearsals have resumed
- Harvest Home on September 14th
- Joint Thanksgiving Eve Service on November 26th at St. John's UCC church

Staff Support:

- Reviews upcoming.

Evangelism:

- Halloween Hot Dog Stand on October 31st. Dave Neimeyer is coordinating. He is contacting Berks for hot dog donations.

Stewardship:

- The next Community Free Dinner is scheduled on September 19th, 2025 sponsored by Ladies Aid (chicken pot pie). Last community free dinner is scheduled on November 14th (sponsored by Bob and Sharon Snyder-turkey BBQ)
- 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 was a success. Waiting to hear from Vince's for total proceeds.
- 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:

- Defibrillators have new batteries and pads. Thanks Carla.

- Facebook Live is paused for now. Do we plan to continue? Decision on hold.
- Carla will teach the catechetical program this year, with help from Neola. Need to choose curriculum and send letters to families.
- 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 that is affecting over 3,000 families in Lehigh County. The decision was that our facility was not adequate for the number who may attend.

New Business:

- Review Pastor health benefit options for 2026 as we must do this in October. Assuming we will not have a full-time pastor in place, on a motion by Matthew, seconded by Carla, the council chose the Value HDHP 4000. The motion carried.

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

Next council meeting: Monday
October 13th at 7 pm

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

Respectfully submitted by,
Donna Kressin, council secretary



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. **New charts for 2026 coming soon!**

✝ **2026 Offering Envelopes** - You will again be able to pick up a box (with your assigned number) for the year. **Envelopes will be located in the back pews of the church beginning 11/30/25.**

✝ **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.

✝ **Christmas ornaments are on sale again!** These gold keepsakes have a picture of St. John's Church printed on the front and come packaged in a box. See any Ladies Aid member to purchase one – only \$5 each. There are also some available in the narthex and Fellowship Hall.

✝ **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 the Ladies Aid for their tireless work in fundraising and planning events to support St. Johns.
- ✿ To everyone who supported our Basket Social- those who donated baskets/items, volunteers that assembled baskets, those that brought baked goods and food, and to everyone who helped sell tickets and lunch items. Everyone stepped up to help make the Basket Social run smoothy and your help was greatly appreciated!
- ✿ To everyone who provided baked goods and all who helped bake pies for the Vince's food truck date here at St. John's... and to all who supported this fundraiser. We raised \$1,675!!
- ✿ 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:

All Saints Sunday will be celebrated on November 2nd. If you would like to remember loved ones in either the video or bulletin, please contact the church office ASAP.



Christmas Craft Night – Join us on November 8th (note the new date) 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.



A **congregational meeting** will be held on Sunday, November 9th, for budget approval and the election of Council members. Please plan to attend.

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 nrich14@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 NOW 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.

We are participating in the **Lehigh Mission District Christmas Ingathering**. St. John's is responsible for \$50 in cash and individual gifts, as well as any other items we chose to donate for the YMCA Warming Station and the Boys & Girls Club of Allentown- lists of requested small items are available in the narthex. The Angel Tree will also be in the narthex again this year. Select an "angel" and write your name next to the number you selected on the sign-up sheet. Boxes will be placed around the church for your other donations. Any contributions will be appreciated, but please adhere to the requirements on the lists. *All items must be here by November 23rd*. If you have a question, please see Carla Malantonio.



Poinsettias may now be ordered for Christmas Eve.

The cost is \$12 each (red, white, pink or marble). The deadline for orders is November 30th. Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex or contact the church office.

Community Tree Lighting – Sunday, November 30th at 6:00 PM at the Fogelsville Playground. Please join us.



The Christmas Party, sponsored by Ladies Aid, will be held on Monday, December 8th at 6:30 PM – everyone is invited! Get into the holiday spirit by sharing a covered dish dinner, singing carols and enjoying a special visit from St. Nick. Parents are responsible for gifts for their children, marked with the children's names. You may also bring a non-perishable item for the food bank. Join us for a fun-filled evening.

Pines Dinner Theater – We have seats reserved for 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 - includes 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.

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, LifeGuideTopical 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. We will also need **2 new Endowment Fund trustees** to begin in January. One is a two-year term, other is a three-year term. If you can serve, or have more questions about the duties, please contact Mike Divers.

LEHIGH MISSION DISTRICT CHRISTMAS INGATHERING



Collection boxes will be placed around the church sanctuary.

The **Angel Tree** is in the narthex again this year!
Select an “angel” and write your name next to the number you selected on the sign-up sheet. Please bring the gifts wrapped or in gift bags, NO bows, with the angel firmly attached.
Topton Home requested their gifts NOT be wrapped.

We are also responsible for \$50 in cash – see Carla Malantonio.

Boys & Girls Club of Allentown:

Christmas Plates

Christmas Napkins

Plastic Cups (cold drinks)

Plastic Utensils

(Knives, Forks & Spoons)

Plastic Tablecloths

Christmas Candy

Candy Canes

PERSONAL ITEMS:

Bar Soap

Shampoo (medium sized)

Socks for Boys & Girls

(all sizes)

Over ⇨

YMCA Warming Station:

Instant Coffee

Powdered Creamer

Paper Plates

Paper Bowls

Coffee Cups (disposable)

MUST BE NEW:

Men's Underwear (Size: Medium-XL)

Women's Underwear (Size: Medium-XL)

Men's Socks

Women's Socks

Amazon Wishlist: <https://a.co/fh9WUAG>

Please have all items in church by November 23rd.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

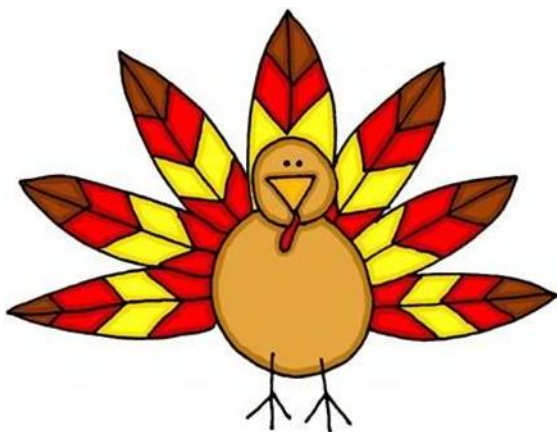




Youth Update

- ✝ 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.
- ✝ **Join us for Sunday School!** Everyone is welcome to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM. We have classes for toddlers through 6th grade. Please speak with Carla Malantonio if you need information about the Catechetical Class (7th & 8th grade students).
- ✝ Mark your calendars now for the **Christmas Program** “A Shepherd’s Story” on Sunday, December 14th during 10:30 AM worship. All Sunday School children will be participating. They will be practicing during SS hour and additional rehearsals – watch for dates/times.

Also, check out the “Youth Page” on our website!!!



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