

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



[www.stjohns-fogelsville.org](http://www.stjohns-fogelsville.org)

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# December 2025

## COMING IN DECEMBER:

**December 7:** Community Tree Lighting

**December 8:** Christmas Party

**December 12:** Pines Dinner Theater Show

**December 14:** Christmas Program

"A Shepherd's Story" & Coffee Hour

**December 24:** Christmas Eve Service

**December 28:** Lessons & Carols



## LOOKING AHEAD...

1/16 – Community Free Dinner

1/25 – Annual Congregational Meeting

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.*

# 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, December 7, 2025 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Isaiah 11:1-10** From David's line, a ruler bringing justice and peace

**Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19** May the righteous flourish;

let there be an abundance of peace.

**Romans 15:4-13** Live in harmony, welcoming one another

**Matthew 3:1-12** A voice cries: Prepare the way of the Lord

### **Sunday, December 14, 2025 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Christmas Program "A Shepherd's Story" & Coffee Hour**

*A special Christmas musical performance with songs and narration that tells the story of Jesus' birth, expressing the joy and wonder of Christmas.*

**Sunday, December 21, 2025 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Isaiah 7:10-16** The sign of Immanuel

**Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19** Let your face shine upon us,  
and we shall be saved.

**Romans 1:1-7** Paul's greeting to the church at Rome

**Matthew 1:18-25** A God near at hand

**Wednesday, December 24, 2025 – Christmas Eve**

7:00 PM Communion service with Candlelighting

*In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child.  
Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share  
the light of Christ with the whole world.*

**Sunday, December 28, 2025 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

Lessons & Carols

*In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright  
with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest."  
Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace  
is born among us.*



**REMINDER!!! Church cancellations** will be displayed on  
WFMZ TV (or [wfmz.com](http://wfmz.com)) on mornings of bad weather.  
You can also call the church office and listen to the  
answering machine, it will relay cancellations.



# **Council Minutes - October 13, 2025, at 7:00 pm**

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

Absent: Mike Divers, Ken Divers

Mike Herman called the meeting to order.

Pastor Wimmer led us in prayer.

## **Council Meeting Minutes of September 8<sup>th</sup>**

Neola made a motion, seconded by Stacey, to approve the minutes of the September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion carried.

## **Treasurer/Finance Report (August 2025)**

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

## **President's Report:**

Council openings begin in November. The following members are going off: Carla Malantonio, Mike Herman, and Neola Geschel. Matt Kressin will accept a second term. On a motion made by Curtis, seconded by Sara, council elections will take place next meeting, November 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **Pastor's Report:**

- Pastor summarized our thoughts from the last meeting concerning priorities while he is here. Morale (being a stabilizing presence) and working to increase awareness and participation in church life were the most concerning, followed by assisting with the call process, reconstitute live streaming, and visiting the shut-ins.
- Scheduling considerations- 1) neither Pastor Wimmer nor Pastor Lichtner are available on Nov. 2 and 2) scheduling the Thanksgiving Eve service is an issue. On a motion by

Carla, seconded by Mike Herman, there will be no service this year. The motion carried. We are invited to the UCC Thanksgiving event on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, following worship.

- Options for pastoral call were discussed at length. Options include full-time, part-time (12-15 hours a week), 6261 (a new idea of grouping congregations with pastors, lay ministers, and a deacon), reforming our original relationship with St. John's UCC, or create a multipoint parish with other Lutheran partners or full communion partners.

## **Committee Reports:**

### Finance:

- A motion to approve the budget for 2026 was made by Neola, seconded by Carla. The motion carried. It will be presented to the congregation at the meeting on November 9.
- Credit card vs debit card update: The bank could not offer us one.

### Property:

- Annual elevator inspection was completed.
- Fire inspection completed and passed.
- Sharp Energy – paperwork has been completed for the new propane provider. Option for smart club program was discussed.

### Christian Education/Sunday School:

- Sponsoring coffee hour on October 19<sup>th</sup>
- Homebound project on October 26<sup>th</sup>

### Youth Ministry:

### Worship and Music:

- All Saints Sunday on November 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Community Tree Lighting on November 30<sup>th</sup>
- Christmas Program "A shepherd's Story" by Pam Andrews, on December 14<sup>th</sup> during worship
- Christmas Eve will be a single service. Time TBA

### Staff Support:

- Reviews upcoming.

#### Evangelism:

- Halloween Hot Dog Stand on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Dave Neimeyer is coordinating. Berks is donating hot dogs. Weis is donating \$50 for buns. List of items still needed is in the narthex. Rain date- Nov. 1

#### Stewardship:

- Last Community Free Dinner is scheduled on November 14<sup>th</sup> (sponsored by Bob and Sharon Snyder- turkey BBQ)

#### Ladies Aid

- Basket Social was a success.
- Boscov's Friends Helping Friends on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Booklets are on sale now at \$5.00.
- Lehigh Mission District Christmas Ingathering" Angel Tree and giving lists will be available soon. This year we are supporting the Warming Station and the Boys and Girls Clubs.

#### Constitution & Bylaws report:

- On hold for the present time.

#### **Other Reports:**

- Thanksgiving sides Sale in November (prep 20-21, pickup Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> or Sunday after church service).
- Christmas Craft Night on November 8<sup>th</sup> by Jeff and Rich Ludwig-Dicus. Sign up in the narthex.

#### Endowment Fund:

#### **Old Business:**

- Facebook Live is paused for now. Do we plan to continue? Decision on hold.
- Pastor's health benefit selection cannot be added on the Portico portal without a target date of an expected new hire as pastor. Since we have not begun the call process and do not have this information we must wait until we have a candidate in place. We will be able to make a selection at that time.

### New Business:

- New member request- Priscilla Tansits (to be received through affirmation of faith, coming from St. Joseph the Worker RC Church)
- Discussion of use of church laptop for future basket socials

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

Next council meeting: Monday November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm

Respectfully submitted by,  
Donna Kressin, council secretary

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

***Council Updates:*** *Thank you to Carla Malantonio, Mike Herman and Neola Geschel, who just completed their terms. We also thank Matt Kressin for renewing his term on Council. And, we welcome Doug Moyer and Bob Neumoyer, who have agreed to serve.*

***There is still 1 open Council seat if anyone is interested!***







## 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).

✝ **2026 Address Directories will be printed soon.** Please have all changes into the church office by December 14<sup>th</sup>. Copies will be available in the narthex in early January. You may also request a PDF copy by email.

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

✝ **Flowers & Bulletins:** Bulletins - \$15.00; Flowers - \$50.00 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 are now posted – note the flower price increase.**

✝ **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 through the end of December.**

✝ **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 everyone who donated gifts, items and monetary contributions towards the Lehigh Mission District Christmas Ingathering. Special thanks to Carla Malantonio and Carol Moyer for coordinating and to Karen Smith for help with the Angel Tree.
-  To everyone who helped with the Thanksgiving Sides fundraiser, and to all who supported it!
-  A collective "thank you" to everyone who has made the Community Free Dinners so successful this year, we could not do it without you! Bob & Becky Neumoyer and Dave Neimeyer continue to do a wonderful job coordinating the growing dinners. Check the narthex for the 2026 schedule.
-  To Sara Kleba for leading the Monday night Bible Study group. They have concluded for the year, but watch for info about when they may resume.
-  To Jeff & Rich Ludwig-Dicus for running our Craft Night. It was a fun evening, enjoyed by all.
-  To everyone who helped with this year's Halloween Hot Dog Stand. Special thanks to Dave Neimeyer for coordinating; and to

Keith & Kim Snyder, Keller Funeral Home, Berks Meats, Strohl's Automotive, UMT and Wayne & Debbie Capwell for their support.

- 🌿 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:

**Community Tree Lighting** – Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM at the Fogelsville Playground. Please join us. We are also invited to join St. John's UCC at their Feast of St. Nicholas celebration earlier that day at 2:30 PM

The annual **Christmas Party** will be held on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> to see “Christmas at the Pines” (reservations and \$ due December 1<sup>st</sup>). 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.

**Reminder to ALL Sunday School parents** to bring your children each Sunday to learn their songs for the December 14<sup>th</sup> Christmas Program “A Shepherd’s Story” by Pam Andrews. Children will be learning the music during 9:30 AM Sunday School. There will also be Thursday evening rehearsals on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 PM & December 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM (pizza dinner before we practice). If you have questions, email Beth at [musiclab1@yahoo.com](mailto:musiclab1@yahoo.com).



We would like to invite everyone to bring their favorite Christmas cookies to share for the **coffee hour** after worship on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Christmas Eve Service (Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>) at 7:00 PM.** This year we will only be holding one service, which will include the candle lighting and several special musical selections.



**Your help is needed at our Christmas Eve worship!** We also need families/individuals to light the advent candles. Please consider volunteering by using SignUp Genius.

**Annual Reports - ALL CHURCH COMMITTEES/GROUPS:** Annual Reports will be out before you know it! Please have all information to the administrative assistant no later than January 4<sup>th</sup>.



**Please plan to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 25, 2026.** Your thoughts and views are important!

  
**Jesus**  
**is the reason for the**  
**season**



# 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Please speak with Carla Malantonio if you need information about the Catechetical Class (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students).
- ✚ Reminder to ALL Sunday School parents to bring your children each Sunday to learn their songs for the December 14<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Program “A Shepherd’s Story” by Pam Andrews**. Children will be learning the music during 9:30 AM Sunday School. There will also be Thursday evening rehearsals on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 PM & December 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM (pizza dinner before we practice). If you have questions, email Beth at musiclab1@yahoo.com.

REMINDER – No Sunday School on December 28<sup>th</sup>!

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





# **COMMUNITY FREE DINNER 2026 SCHEDULE:**

**January 16, 2026**

**March 20, 2026**

**May 15, 2026**

**July 17, 2026**

**September 18, 2026**

**November 13, 2026**

Free dinners are held on Fridays, beginning at 5 PM.

**CURBSIDE PICKUP** – while supplies last

*They will continue on the 3rd Friday, every other month (except November-2nd Friday).*

All are welcome...bring your families and your neighbors!!

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**Sponsors are needed – sign up in the narthex!!!**

# God's Global Barnyard

An animal can make a world of difference for a family in need. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops and offspring to sell at the market. With one gift, you can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.



## Cow

A cow's milk, meat, fertilizer and calves can quickly strengthen a family's financial security.

\$500



## Chicks

Chicks begin laying eggs at just a few months old, offering nutritious, protein-rich meals for families who are hungry.

\$10



## Goat

Fresh milk from a goat is very nutritious and can be used to make products like yogurt and cheese to sell at the market.

\$50



## Honeybees

Bees pollinate plants and boost crop growth — helping the wider community. Soaps and candles can be made from their wax and sold at the local market.

\$20



## Pig

Within months after birth, piglets grow to weigh over 200 pounds — bringing a big payoff at the market.

\$30



## Fish Farm

A fish farm and training in good business economics can provide a lifetime of meals for a community.

\$250

**Give through your congregation by visiting [ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts) or by sending a check to ELCA Good Gifts, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.**  
Please indicate your gift in the memo line of your check.

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