

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



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The Rev. Mark Wimmer, Bridge Pastor

# June 2026

## COMING IN JUNE:

- June 7:** worship time change,  
honoring our graduates & choir  
**June 9:** Beth's student piano recital  
**June 14:** Pulpit Exchange with Pr. Hacker  
& Father's Day Brunch



## LOOKING AHEAD...

- 7/13-17 – Vacation Bible School at St. John's UCC  
7/17 – Community Free Dinner

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...

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with all of you at St. John's, Fogelsville. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and to share a brief update on the relationship between Nativity Lutheran Church and St. John's.

By way of introduction, I grew up as an Army brat, spending much of my childhood in San Antonio, Texas. I attended Texas Lutheran University, where I met my wife, Rachel, and earned a B.A. in Political Science. After college, Rachel began seminary at Yale Divinity School while I worked in finance in New Haven and later New York City. When she completed her degree, I moved to Chicago for seminary while Rachel began her first call in Decatur, Illinois. Over the years, my ministry has taken me to congregations in Illinois, Nebraska, and Wisconsin, often serving churches in seasons of challenge, transition, and renewal before becoming senior pastor at Nativity in Allentown. Along the way, Rachel and I welcomed our daughters, Elizabeth in 2017 and Lydia in 2021.

That is enough about me—what about the relationship between Nativity and St. John's? I want to clarify where things stand today and briefly address what may be possible in the future. I understand that smaller congregations can sometimes feel cautious about partnering with larger churches, especially when there is concern about preserving local identity, traditions, and congregational culture. I want to be clear: this relationship is intended to be collaborative, not controlling. St. John's remains the first mover in the partnership. Your leadership identifies a need, and Nativity may accept, decline, or suggest an alternative depending on what we are able to provide. For example, when St. John's asked for weekday pastoral coverage while continuing to provide Sunday leadership for a time, we developed an arrangement in which Nativity is compensated for the time spent in support. If a service is not requested, it is not provided. In that sense, St. John's remains in control of the relationship and the scope of the support it receives.

Looking ahead, I understand there may be a need for Sunday coverage at some point in the future. That is something both Nativity and I are willing to explore, and I have already had an initial conversation with your leadership about that possibility. For now, we will continue to see where the future leads. If you have questions, concerns, or thoughts, please feel free to call or text me at 610-295-3471. You are also welcome to join us at church on June 14, when I will be there to preach and to answer any questions you may have. God's blessings to you all.

The Rev. Matthew Hacker,  
Designated Pastor



## 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 pastoral 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 and/or the pastor 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.**

**PLEASE NOTE: We will switch to our summer worship time (9:30 AM on Sunday mornings) beginning 6/7. Sunday School will resume in the fall.**

**Sunday, June 7, 2026 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*Honoring Choir & Graduates*

**Hosea 5:15—6:6** God desires steadfast love

**Psalms 50:7-15** Call upon me in the day of trouble, says your God.

**Romans 4:13-25** The promise to those who share Abraham's faith

**Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26** Christ heals a woman and raises a synagogue leader's daughter

**Sunday, June 14, 2026 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*Pulpit Exchange with The Rev. Matthew Hacker  
& Father's Day Brunch*

**Exodus 19:2-8a** The covenant with Israel at Sinai  
**Psalm 100** We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.  
**Romans 5:1-8** While we were sinners, Christ died for us  
**Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]** The sending of the Twelve

**Sunday, June 21, 2026 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Jeremiah 20:7-13** The prophet must speak despite opposition  
**Psalm 69:7-18** Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind.  
**Romans 6:1b-11** Buried and raised with Christ by baptism  
**Matthew 10:24-39** The cost of discipleship

**Sunday, June 28, 2026 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Jeremiah 28:5-9** The test of a true prophet  
**Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18** Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing.  
**Romans 6:12-23** No longer under law but under grace  
**Matthew 10:40-42** Welcome Christ in those he sends



**Council Minutes April 13, 2026, at 7:00 pm**

Present: Pastor Wimmer, Keri Ann Divers, Ken Divers, Stacey Divers, Lynn McMillen. Mike Divers, Donna Kressin, Matthew Kressin and Curtis White.

Guest: Brady Sell

Absent: Sara Kleba, Doug Moyer, Bob Neumoyer

Call to order: President Mike Divers called the meeting to order  
Pastor Wimmer led us in prayer.

**Council Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2026**

Stacey made a motion, seconded by Lynn, to approve the minutes of the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion carried.

## **Treasurer/Finance Report (March 2026)**

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

## **Guest- Brady Sell**

The council interviewed Brady Sell about his experiences in Catechetical class. He will be confirmed this spring.

## **President's Report:**

- Sara Kleba has submitted her resignation due to health issues.
- Pastor Lichner's last Sunday is April 19. We will have a coffee hour and cake to honor him for his many Sundays at St. John's. He is retiring.
- We signed a contract with Pastor Matthew Hacker from Nativity Lutheran Church on an hourly basis for office hours/baptisms, funerals, meetings, etc. We will pay Nativity directly so we will incur no benefits costs. Pastor Wimmer and Pastor Werley will preach on Sundays through the summer.

## **Committee Reports:**

### Finance:

No report.

### Property:

- Deiter Brothers oil plan will end in May. They have adjusted our payments for April and May to cover the balance we currently have. On a motion by Lynn, seconded by Stacey, we voted to keep the same Better Way Budget plan to begin June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Christian Education/Sunday School:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will receive Bibles on May 3 during church
- End of the Year Party for Sunday School is on May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Confirmation of 2 students is on May 31. Coffee hour to follow. Confirmands need to meet with Church Council for an interview prior to this date.
- Vacation Bible School will be held at the UCC church in July.

### Youth Ministry:

### Worship and Music:

- Coffee Hour to honor Pr. Lichner on April 19
- Confirmation on May 31 at 10:30 worship

- Memorial Day worship at cemetery led by the UCC church on May 25

Staff Support:

Reviews upcoming.

Evangelism:

Stewardship:

- 2026 Community Free Dinner schedule was posted for 2026
  - DBI Stiches is sponsoring the dinner on May 15.

Ladies Aid

- Cinnamon bun sale is April 12-14. Orders are due by March 29. Contact Carol Moyer. Cost \$10 each
- Mary Ann Donuts postponed - date TBA
- Kuhnsville Car Wash- (April 26 – May 24) Tickets cost \$10 and can be applied to any car wash. We get to keep half of the money.
- Mother/Daughter Banquet to be held May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the multipurpose room. Reservations due to Jeanette Holtzhafer by April 26

Constitution & Bylaws report:

On hold for the present time.

Other Reports:

Endowment Fund:

**Old Business:**

- Inactive member list reviewed by council. Voted on names to remove.
- PP&L – shop for a new supplier. Keeping it for now.
- We are still looking for a female representative for the following upcoming assemblies. Rich Ludwig-Dicus is the male representative.
  - 1 ***Lehigh Mission District Spring Assembly-*** Sunday, May 3 at 4:00 at the Lutheran Center
  2. ***Northeastern Pennsylvania synod Assembly-*** held June 4-6 at Split Rock Resort

**New Business:**

- A community homeschooling group is looking for a weekly meeting place. They would need 3 classrooms for one day a

week from 9-3. Donna will investigate this for more information before we can act on this request.

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

Next council meeting: Monday May 11, 2026, at 7 pm

Respectfully submitted by,  
Donna Kressin,  
Council Secretary

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



## 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. Stop by the office during the week to make a purchase (Giant, Weis or Redner's).

✝ **2026 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](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.

✝ **2026 Offering Envelopes** - You will again be able to pick up a box (with your assigned number) for the year. Envelopes have been moved outside the office door.







✝ **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 the Sunday School teachers, helpers and students for another wonderful year. We hope to see everyone in the fall!
-  To Rich Ludwig-Dicus, who served as our delegate for the LMD Assembly and Synod Assembly.
-  To everyone who continues to help with the Community Free Dinners – to those who coordinate, sponsor, donate items and volunteer their time. Special thanks for free-will donations from our dinner visitors and financial support from Keller Funeral Home, DBI Stiches and Thrivent.
-  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:

**Summer Worship Time Change** – Please note that we will be changing to our summer worship schedule on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Attention Graduates** - please let us know if you are graduating from high school, college, business or technical school. We will be honoring all our graduates on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Please call/email the office with your info ASAP.



**Father's Day Brunch** - We would like to invite everyone, especially the fathers (grand-fathers, fathers-in-law...all of you!) to join us after worship on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up in the narthex if you plan to attend, and for needed items. **Our new Designated Pastor, The Rev. Matthew Hacker will be with us this day - it is a great opportunity to meet him and introduce yourself!**

**Community Free Dinners** – The 2026 schedule is set, dinners will continue on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, every other month (except November- 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday). The next dinner will be held on July 17<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by The Divers Family Anyone interested in volunteering please call the church or contact Bob Neumoyer (570-386-3045 or nrich14@ptd.net).

**Basket Social** – Even though our annual Basket Social is not until October 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, it is not too early to start planning! We are also starting to distribute letters for donations. A sign-up sheet for baskets and needed items will be in the narthex soon. Monetary donations may be handed to Jeanette Holtzhafer or Carol Moyer. Keep watching for more info – help is needed.



**Pines Dinner Theater** – We have seats reserved for Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> to see “Christmas at the Pines: Up on the Housetop” (reservations and \$ due 11/22) Dinner begins at 6 PM, the show is at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$70 each - includes dinner, show and gratuity. BYOB no longer permitted. See Neola Geschel (610-395-1774) with any questions or to make reservations.



# Youth Palate

- ✦ 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.
- ✦ **Sunday School resumes in the fall!** We hope to see you all again in September. Enjoy your summer.
- ✦ **Vacation Bible School:** This summer we will take a journey back to ancient Rome as we learn the story of the first Christians who hid in the catacombs of Rome to worship, and we will hear from Paul while he's in prison. We are invited to join St. John's UCC for VBS at their church from July 13<sup>th</sup> to July 17<sup>th</sup>, from 1 PM to 3:30 PM. There will be a light lunch before we start. We are in need of a few helpers to play a Roman soldier and an early church leader for Bible time-contact the office if you are interested in helping. This will be an inter-generational program open to anyone ages 3 and up. Our 3-years-olds will need to have a parent/grandparent/guardian accompany them. Come join us for a week of adventure, learning and fun! For more info or to register call 484-553-6841.

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



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