

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



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The Rev. Matt Hacker, Designated Pastor

July 2026

COMING IN JULY:

July 13-17: VBS with St. John's UCC

July 17: Community Free Dinner



LOOKING AHEAD...

**8/20 – Vince's Cheesesteak Food Truck
& Bake Sale**

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 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: Summer Worship at 9:30 AM
Sunday School will resume in the fall.**

Sunday, July 5, 2026 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost



The 2026 semiquincentennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence arrives at a fraught time in the nation's history. While Sundays and Seasons and other ELCA worship resources in general refrain from commemorating Independence Day as a liturgical occasion outside of intercessory prayer, this milestone anniversary and its broader national context present a unique situation. In witness to the church's ardent stand against Christian nationalism in its various and insidious forms, and in response to implementing resolution CA25.05.25 of the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the Worship Resource Development Working Group of the ELCA Churchwide Organization and Augsburg Fortress has developed resources for this specific occasion that both celebrate and lament our nation's history, affirm the reality of the current moment, and seek to unite the diverse body of Christ for the life of the world.

Zechariah 9:9-12 The king will come in humility and peace
Psalms 145:8-14 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

Romans 7:15-25a The struggle within the self

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 The yoke of discipleship

Sunday, July 12, 2026 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:10-13 The growth of the word to accomplish
God's purpose

Psalms 65:[1-8] 9-13 Your paths overflow with plenty.

Romans 8:1-11 Live according to the Spirit

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 The parable of the sower and the seed

Sunday, July 19, 2026 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 44:6-8 There is no other God than the Lord

Psalms 86:11-17 Teach me your way, O Lord,
and I will walk in your truth.

Romans 8:12-25 The revealing of the children of God

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 The parable of the weeds

Sunday, July 26, 2026 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 3:5-12 Solomon's prayer for wisdom

Psalms 119:129-136 When your word is opened,
it gives light and understanding.

Romans 8:26-39 Nothing can separate us from God's love

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 Parables of the reign of heaven



Council Minutes May 11, 2026, at 7:00 pm

Present: Pastor Hacker, Mike Divers, Keri Ann Divers, Ken Divers, Stacey Divers, Lynn McMillen. Donna Kressin, Matthew Kressin, Doug Moyer, Bob Neumoyer, and Curtis White.

Guest: Cole Moyer

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

Catechetical Interview:

Council interviewed Cole Moyer concerning his readiness for confirmation. He successfully answered questions about himself and time in confirmation classes. He is recommended for confirmation.

Council Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2026

Curtis made a motion, seconded by Lynn, to approve the minutes of the April 13 meeting. The motion carried.

Treasurer/Finance Report (March 2026)

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

President's Report:

- Council met Pastor Hacker from Nativity Lutheran Church, Allentown. He introduced himself and talked about his varied background. He is a third-generation pastor, following his father and grandfather. He has a wife and 2 daughters. He has lived in a variety of states and has previous experience in the financial field.
- Following the meet and greet Ken made a motion, seconded by Stacey, to hire Pastor Matthew Hacker for approximately 5 hours a week at \$50/hour Monday through Thursday, (plus extra hours as needed) payable directly to Nativity Lutheran Church. We would also pay mileage at the IRS mileage rate to be paid quarterly directly to the pastor. The motion carried unanimously.

- Pastor Wimmer and Pastor Werley are scheduled to preach on Sundays through the summer.
- Mike asked Matt Kressin to search for a new rate for PPL.
- As Sara has resigned, he is looking for a vice president and asked Matt to consider it. Mike also asked Carla Malantonio if she would step in to fill the vacancy on council.

Committee Reports:

Finance:

- A final distribution check from the Estate of Helga Howard was received. On a motion by Doug, seconded by Stacey, \$3,024.20 will be deposited in the New Tripoli money market account.
- On a motion by Ken, seconded by Bob, we will investigate a possible memorial in Helga's name. Doug will ask John Moyer about a possible PA system.

Property:

- Deiter Brothers oil plan will renew on June 1st.

Christian Education/Sunday School:

- Confirmation on May 31st.
- End of the Year Party for Sunday school is on May 17th.
- Vacation Bible School will be held at the UCC church in July 13-17 from 1-3:30. Registration coming soon. Topic is ancient Rome. We are invited.

Youth Ministry:

Worship and Music:

- Confirmation on May 31 at 10:30 worship. Coffee hour to follow.
- Memorial Day worship at cemetery led by the UCC church on May 25.
- Worship time will change on June 7th. We will also honor choir and graduates on this date.
- Choir's last Sunday is June 14th before their summer break.
- Pr. Hacker & Pr. Wimmer to do a pulpit exchange on June 14.

- Breinigsville Park pavilion is reserved for September 13th for our outdoor worship and picnic with St. John's UCC. Pr. Denise will lead worship.

Staff Support:

Reviews upcoming.

Evangelism:

Stewardship:

- 2026 Community Free Dinner schedule was posted for 2026
- DBI Stiches is sponsoring the dinner on May 15. (bratwurst sandwiches)
- The Divers family will sponsor July. (meatball sandwiches)

Ladies Aid

- Cinnamon bun was a success.
- Kuhnsville car wash fundraiser thru May 24th
- Father's Day Brunch on June 14th after worship. Sign up in the narthex for interest and items to bring. We need 30 people or we will change it to a coffee hour.

Constitution & Bylaws report:

On hold for the present time.

Other Reports:

Endowment Fund:

Old Business:

- Inactive members – removed 7 names from the list.
- PP&L – shopping for a new supplier.
- We are still looking for a female representative for the following upcoming assembly. Rich Ludwig-Dicus is the male representative.

Northeastern Pennsylvania synod Assembly-

held June 4-6 at Split Rock Resort

- A community homeschooling group is looking for a weekly meeting place. They would need 3 classrooms for one day a week from 8-3. Donna met Pricilla Gonzolez and gave her a tour. Following a council discussion Stacey made a motion, seconded by Donna, to offer them the use of 3 classrooms and the multipurpose room one day a week for 24 weeks at a

cost of \$100/week. They would also have to have a COI (certificate of insurance). The motion passed.

New Business:

- A brief discussion was held regarding volunteers. We need to remind members they can sign up to volunteer on the website or by calling the church and asking to be put on the list.

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

Next council meeting: Monday, June 8, 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.

✚ **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 can still 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.

PA Child Protective Services Law and clearances reminder!!!



At the end of 2014 new laws took effect that required all employees and volunteers working with children to receive background checks (PA Act 31). **It is time to think about renewal of these checks – some volunteers MUST**

RENEW BEFORE YOUTH ACTIVITIES RESUME!!!

Contact our church office to check your current status and when you need to renew, or if you have any questions. Thank you!

Packets of info about clearances and requirements can be found in the narthex, info is also on our website.

🌿 Thank You... 🌿

- 🌿 To all who provided food for our Father's Day Brunch, and to Sharon Snyder for coordinating.
- 🌿 To our Choir Members: Donna Kressin, Carla Malantonio, Cindy Graf & Peggy Kriebel and Director of Music, Beth Stottmeister for sharing your musical talents throughout the year. We look forward to hearing your voices again in fall. Enjoy the summer!
- 🌿 To everyone who planted the geraniums around the outside of the church, and to those who donated the flowers.
- 🌿 To PA Lawn & Landscape for taking care of the garden beds and grass around the church.
- 🌿 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:

St. John's will once again be a drop off point for **Plant a Row Lehigh Valley** for the summer of 2026. Produce drop off days will continue every Monday from June 29th to mid-September. Please place donations in the cooler near the office door. There will also be a donation bin available in the narthex on Sunday mornings. Tomato Tip: They are best donated when a little under ripe! No split skins, please. Donations will be taken to St. Paul's Food Pantry in Trexlertown. Contact Beth Furman with any questions 717-364-5674.

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



Vince's Cheesesteak Food Truck will be coming back to our church parking lot! Stop by and support this fundraiser on Thursday, August 20th from 11:30 AM – 6:00 PM. \$1 from each sandwich sold will go to St. John's General Fund. We will also have pies and baked goods for sale (A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex, if you would like to provide a treat). Share with your friends and family...help us spread the news!

Basket Social – Even though our annual Basket Social is not until October 2nd & 3rd, 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 is in the narthex. 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 11th 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 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.
- ✠ **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 13th to July 17th, 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!!!

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES:

✚ **Isaac Jackovitz** – graduated from Northern Lehigh High School. He also recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Isaac will be attending Millersville University this fall to study Robotics and Automation Engineering.

✚ **Abbie Luipersbeck** – graduated from Northampton High School and will be attending Kutztown University.

✚ **Cassidy Snyder** – graduated from Northern Lehigh High School.

✚ **Meghan Holtzhafer** – graduated from Kutztown University.



Congratulations to our newest confirmands!

Statements of Faith and Thanksgiving

Cole Austin Moyer

My favorite person in the Bible is Jesus because he didn't want people to sin and so he helped people to not sin. Jesus also made sick people feel better. Jesus taught people love and forgiveness and inclusivity and taught people that they all should be given a chance at anything in life.

I know God is with me day by day because I pray to him almost every day on the bus ride to school. I know he is with me because I get to see the sunrise every morning on the bus and it reminds me that God is always with me. I know God is with me because I was in the woods hunting about two years ago and I prayed to God to let me see a deer in the woods and a doe came right up to my deer stand.

My core belief is when we die we go to heaven and not hell. My core belief is that we should all believe in God and we should all learn about him.

For me church is a place where I learn about God. Church is a place where I get to pray to God.

I will share my gifts with the parish by helping with the Community Free Dinners. I will help the parish by coming to church on some Sundays and being an acolyte if there is no one doing it. I will help the parish by helping to make sticky buns.

Brady William Sell

My favorite person in the Bible is David because he is one of the bravest people in the Bible. He defeated a very feared person, Goliath. David was just a small normal person, while Goliath was a huge, massive monster.

I know God is with me day by day because when I'm in school if I'm struggling with something I pray that God will help me. Also in sports he helps if I am struggling and not doing well.

My core belief is that Christians should try their best to go to church every Sunday.

For me church is a place where people go to pray to God and worship him.

I will share my gifts with the parish by attending church, taking communion, and contributing to the offering.

SUMMER 2026



BEAR CREEK CAMP

SUMMER CAMP:

Our week-long overnight program for grades 1-12 is designed to build an inclusive community, care for creation, promote adventure and fun, share faith, cultivate empathy, and develop leaders.

FAMILY CAMP:

Experience the many amazing things that camp has to offer with your family.

ARTIST'S RETREAT:

Surround yourself with the beauty of nature to support and inspire your art.

SESSION 1: June 21 - 26

SESSION 2: June 28 - July 3 *

SESSION 3: July 5 - 10 *

SESSION 4: July 12 - 17 *#

SESSION 5: July 19 - 24 *

SESSION 6: July 26 - 31 *

SESSION 7: August 2 - 7 *

SESSION 8: August 9 - 14 *

* Try Camp is available
(Sun. to Wed.)

+ Family Camp, Artist's Retreat

Rafting trip option available

**LEARN
MORE:**



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LEARN MORE AND REGISTER: bearcreekcamp.org

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