

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
Church E-mail: stjohns.lutheran@verizon.net
The Rev. Matt Hacker, Designated Pastor

August 2026

COMING IN AUGUST:

August 6: basket assembly

August 23: Blessing of the Backpacks
& Coffee Hour to honor Pr. Wimmer

August 27: Vince's Cheesesteak Food Truck
& Bake Sale



LOOKING AHEAD...

9/6 – worship times changes to 9:15 AM

9/13 – Outdoor Worship & Picnic

9/18 – Community Free Dinner

9/20 – Rally Day & Harvest Home

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,

As we look toward the beginning of fall, we also look forward to the beginning of a new relationship between Nativity Lutheran Church and St. John's. Understandably, many people have questions about how this arrangement will work. First, let me introduce myself. I am Pastor Matt Hacker, and I have been overjoyed to meet many of you already. I look forward to meeting even more of you in the weeks ahead. My associate, Pastor Harry Heffelfinger, will also occasionally respond to pastoral needs from St. John's. In time, I hope you will get to know him as well; I know he is eager to meet you.

Below are answers to some frequently asked questions about this new relationship.

What will Sundays look like?

To make Sundays work well, both councils—Nativity's and St. John's—adjusted worship times. Worship at St. John's will be held at 9:15am Nativity will move its year-round services to 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. so that I, or occasionally Pastor Harry, can lead worship at St. John's at 9:15 a.m. We believe we will be able to provide this coverage on a regular basis. In the rare event that we cannot, Council will arrange for pulpit supply, whether through Eucharistic Ministers or other supply pastors. Our goal is to provide strong continuity, which is helpful for any church community to thrive.

What about non-Sunday services?

There are approximately nine special services during the year, and I feel confident that Pastor Harry or I can cover eight of them on a regular basis. There will need to be further discussion about the Easter sunrise service.

How much will this cost?

The charge for a Sunday service is the same whether St. John's pays Nativity Church or individual pastors. Work done outside of worship services is invoiced individually on an hourly basis, and checks are issued to Nativity once a month. This should result in a cost that is either the same as before or lower.

When does this arrangement begin?

Weekday pastoral coverage began in May, and worship service coverage will begin on August 30.

I hope this helps clarify the relationship and answer some of the questions that the office and Council have been hearing. If you have additional questions, please reach out to the office, a council member, or to me directly at 610-295-3471. Please note that, like many of you, I receive many spam calls, so if I do not answer right away, please leave a message and I will get back to you.

The Rev. Matt 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: Summer Worship is at 9:30 AM.

We will be moving our regular worship time to 9:15 AM beginning 9/6/26.

Sunday School (to be held AFTER worship) will resume with Rally Day on 9/20/26.

Sunday, August 2, 2026 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5 Eat and drink that which truly satisfies

Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21 You open wide your hand and satisfy the
desire of every living thing.

Romans 9:1-5 The glory of God's people Israel

Matthew 14:13-21 Christ feeding five thousand

Sunday, August 9, 2026 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:9-18 The Lord speaks to Elijah on Mount Horeb

Psalms 85:8-13 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying.

Romans 10:5-15 Hearing and confessing the word of faith

Matthew 14:22-33 Jesus walking on the sea

Sunday, August 16, 2026 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 A house of prayer for all peoples

Psalms 67 Let all the peoples praise you, O God.

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 God's mercy to all, Jew and Gentile

Matthew 15:21-28 The healing of the Canaanite woman's daughter

Sunday, August 23, 2026 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Blessing of the Backpacks & Coffee Hour to honor Pr. Wimmer

Isaiah 51:1-6 The enduring foundation of God's salvation

Psalms 138 O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever.

Romans 12:1-8 One body in Christ, with gifts that differ

Matthew 16:13-20 The profession of Peter's faith

Sunday, August 30, 2026 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost

HYMN SING

Jeremiah 15:15-21 God fortifies the prophet against opposition

Psalms 26:1-8 Your love is before my eyes;

I have walked faithfully with you.

Romans 12:9-21 Live in harmony

Matthew 16:21-28 The passion prediction and rebuke to Peter

FACEBOOK LIVE WORSHIP

WILL BE RETURNING SOON!



Have you been missing the opportunity to watch our morning worship when you are sick or traveling? The wait is soon over!

We are working on upgrading our equipment and sound system so that we can resume our weekly broadcasts. If you are interested in helping to keep this ministry going, we will be looking for volunteers to help us on Sunday.

Contact the office for more info.

Council Minutes on June 8, 2026 at 7:00 pm

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

Absent: Lynn McMillen, Doug Moyer, Carla Malantonio

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

Council Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2026

Curtis made a motion, seconded by Stacey, to approve the minutes of the May 11 meeting. The motion carried.

Treasurer/Finance Report (May 2026)

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

President's Report:

- A shrub was removed from the side of the church.
- Beth Sell has been having health issues and is unable to work. Her husband has been fulfilling her duties in her absence.
- Curtis made a motion, seconded by Bob, to nominate Matt Kressin for vice president to replace Sara Kleba. The motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Hacker will be on vacation June 26-July 12. Pastor Hefflefinger from Nativity Lutheran will cover in case of emergencies.
- A motion to change our Sunday service from 10:30/9:30 to 9:15 year-round was made by Stacey, seconded by Bob. The motion carried. This would allow Pr. Hacker to preach at our church between his services at Nativity at 8 and 10:30 (pending approval from his council)

Committee Reports:

Property:

- Deiter Brothers service plan was discussed. On a motion by Mike, seconded by Stacey, we will choose the yearly fee of \$390 which includes the annual maintenance visit and filter. The motion carried.
- Fire extinguisher inspection was held and we passed the inspection.

Christian Education/Sunday School:

- Vacation Bible School will be held at the UCC church in July 13-17 from 1-3:30. Registration information is in the bulletin. Topic is ancient Rome. We are invited.

Youth Ministry:

Worship and Music:

- Choir's last Sunday is June 14th before their summer break.
- Pr. Hacker & Pr. Wimmer to do a pulpit exchange on June 14.
- Beth Stottmeister has requested off on June 28th and August 23rd. Melanie Werley will be our supply organist.
- Breinigsville Park pavilion is reserved for September 13th for our outdoor worship and picnic with St. John's UCC. Pr. Denise will lead worship. She has proposed inviting Zeigel's Church to join us. Details are still being worked out.

Staff Support:

- Reviews upcoming.

Stewardship:

- July 17, 2026 Community Free Dinner will be sponsored by the Divers family. (meatball sandwiches)

Ladies Aid:

- Father's Day Brunch on June 14th after worship. Sign up in the narthex for interest and items to bring.

Old Business:

- PP&L – Matthew has been shopping for a new supplier. After the discussion Matt will consult with Stan Tansits for his insight.
- The community homeschooling group has decided to meet elsewhere more central to the families' location.

- Council vacancy has been filled by Carla Malantonio. (Either the remainder of Sara's term through November 2027 or a new 3-year term TBD) Welcome back Carla!

New Business:

- Nate from ESG-Entertainment services Group provided a quote for the sound system and getting us set up to resume an online worship option. (\$1,343.49 plus a laptop we will supply) This was emailed to council May 22. After a discussion on how to pay for this, it will be split between a bequest from the Helga Howard Fund and Jessica Wentz, who has offered to contribute. Bob made this motion, seconded by Stacey. The motion carried.
- Pr. Hacker has a conflict for our meeting time. Curtis made a motion, seconded by Mike, to change the meeting night to the first Monday of the month. The motion carried.
- We will continue to monitor the situation with our sexton. She meets with a specialist in July and may require surgery.
- Verizon phone upgrades- our current phone plan 2-year agreement has ended, and new rates are in effect resulting in a \$60/month increase. We could have some savings by converting our 2 office lines to digital voice with a convertor (elevator needs to remain analog). Council needs more information before making that decision.

A motion was made by Stacey, seconded by Curtis, to close the meeting. The meeting ended with prayer.

Next council meeting: Monday July 6, 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.

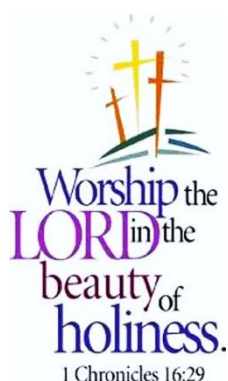
† In order to remain in **voting status as a member of St. John's** we must have record of your communion at least once each year by home communion or at an in-house service. Please fill out a communion card, found in each pew.

† **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.

🌿 Thank You... 🌿

- 🌿 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 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.



Special thanks to our Ladies Aid for their recent contribution of \$10,000 toward St. John's General Fund! This gift comes from the fundraising efforts and hard work of our Ladies Aid members throughout the year.

Upcoming Events/Opportunities:

St. John's is once again a drop off point for **Plant a Row Lehigh Valley** for the summer of 2026. Produce drop off will



continue every Monday thru mid-September. Please place donations in the cooler near the office door.

There is 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.

Ladies Aid Fundraiser: Kuhnsville Car Wash – Tickets cost \$10 and can be applied to any car wash, to be used anytime. We get to keep half of the money! See Donna Kressin to purchase (NOW thru August 2nd), tickets will be available to pick up after the 2nd.

Blessing of the Backpacks – This year we invite all students (teachers too) to bring your backpack/bag to worship with you on August 23rd. We will include a special blessing during the service to help prepare you for another year of learning!



Everyone is invited to **coffee hour** after worship on Sunday, August 23rd, to honor Pr. Wimmer on his last Sunday at St. John's.

Vince's Cheesesteak Food Truck will be coming back to our church parking lot! Stop by and support this fundraiser on Thursday, August 27th 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 is in the narthex, if you would like to provide a treat. Share with your friends and family...help us spread the news!



Worship Time Change – service changes to our new worship time of 9:15 AM on September 6th.

Outdoor Worship Service/Church Picnic – On Sunday,



September 13th, we will have an outdoor worship service at the Breinigsville Park at 10:30 AM, followed by our annual picnic. This event will again be held together with the congregation of St. John's UCC.

Bring your lawn chairs and a salad/dessert to share, if you are able (please sign-up in the narthex). Come and enjoy worshipping outside in God's creation, followed by good food, fellowship and fun.

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 September 18th, sponsored by Ladies Aid. Anyone interested in volunteering please call the church or contact Bob Neumoyer (570-386-3045 or nrich14@ptd.net).

Basket Social – Our annual Basket Social is not until October 2nd & 3rd, but we are busy preparing! We have begun



distributing 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. Basket assembly dates: 8/6 & 9/9 (8:30 AM-12 PM). Help is needed – all are invited to join us!

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends shopping passes are now available for Wednesday, October 21st, 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.

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.
- ✝ **Blessing of the Backpacks** – This year we invite all students (teachers too) to bring your backpack/bag to worship with you on August 23rd. We will include a special blessing during the service to help prepare you for another year of learning!
- ✝ **Sunday School resumes with Rally Day on September 20th!** Keep watching for details – coming soon. We hope to see you all again in the fall. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

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



LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE U.S. SEVERE STORMS

SPRING 2026

ELCA.org/disaster

Severe weather has affected communities in many parts of the United States this spring, leaving a trail of damage that will require significant cleanup, long-term recovery.

As you know, Lutheran Disaster Response is present in moments like these not only at the outset of an emergency, but in the months and years that follow. We are listening closely to local leaders and walking alongside synods, congregations and trusted community partners who know their neighbors best. Together with these local partners, we

are helping coordinate responses to immediate needs while also preparing for the long road ahead — debris removal, repair and rebuilding, disaster case management, and the ongoing emotional and spiritual care so many survivors need.

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to this and other disasters, whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts designated for “U.S. Severe Storms” will be restricted to and used in full (100%) for those affected by disasters across the country.

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Yes, I want to help!

- ☐ Lutheran Disaster Response \$_____ DDG0060
- ☐ Lutheran Disaster Response: U.S. Severe Storms \$_____ DDG0074

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Email address _____

Give through your congregation or make your check out to the ELCA, write “Lutheran Disaster Response” or “U.S. Severe Storms” on your check’s memo line and send to:

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gifts Processing Center,
P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009**



Evangelical
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