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

September 2026

COMING IN SEPTEMBER:

September 6: worship time changes to 9:15 AM
September 9: Basket Assembly
September 13: Outdoor Worship & Picnic
September 18: Community Free Dinner
September 20: Rally Day & Harvest Home

LOOKING AHEAD…
10/2 & 3 – Fall Basket Social
10/18 – Coffee Hour
10/21 – Boscov's Friends Helping Friends
10/30 – Halloween Hot Dog Stand

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: We will be moving our regular worship time to 9:15 AM beginning 9/6/26. Sunday School (time TBD) will resume with Rally Day on 9/20/26.

Sunday, September 6, 2026 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost
Ezekiel 33:7-11 The prophet's responsibility to warn the people
Psalm 119:33-40 I desire the path of your commandments.
Romans 13:8-14 Live honorably as in the day
Matthew 18:15-20 Reconciliation in the community of faith

Sunday, September 13, 2026 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost
OUTDOOR WORSHIP & PICNIC at 10:30 AM
Genesis 50:15-21 Joseph reconciles with his brothers
Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13 Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy.
Romans 14:1-12 Accepting diversity in the community of faith
Matthew 18:21-35 A parable of forgiveness
in the community of faith

Sunday, September 20, 2026 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

RALLY DAY & HARVEST HOME

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 A house of prayer for all peoples
Psalm 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, September 27, 2026 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

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

FACEBOOK LIVE WORSHIP WILL BE RETURNING SOON!

We are currently scheduling an upgrade of our equipment and will keep you posted when we can resume our weekly online worship.

Keep watching for more details.

Council Minutes on July 13, 2026 at 7:00 pm

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

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

Council Meeting Minutes of June 8, 2026

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

Treasurer/Finance Report (May 2026)

- Stacey made a motion, seconded by Curtis, to approve the financial reports. The motion carried.
- The Ladies Aid has donated $10,000 to the church from their fundraisers.

President's Report:

Mike received phone calls from various pastors concerning the upcoming schedule of Sundays. Council recommended that Pastor Hacker preach at least 2 times/month. Mike will contact the pastors. Services will be at 9:15 beginning in September.

Pastor's Report:

None- on vacation

Committee Reports:

Property:

- Deiter Brothers service plan began July 1. Annual maintenance is scheduled for August 26th. We are paying $671/month for the oil.
- Lehigh County Authority will perform a water line inspection on 8/3/26.
- The 3-year periodic test of elevator is due by 9/30/26. Reading Elevator will send out a proposal the beginning of August and we will schedule a date.
- A discussion was held concerning changing the fluorescent light bulbs to LED's, phasing them in over time.
- Air conditioning was repaired this week. Bill to follow.

Christian Education/Sunday School:

- Vacation Bible School is being held at the UCC church in July13-17 from 1-3:30.
- Blessing of the Backpacks date is August 23rd, as school begins the next day.
- Sunday School will follow church services beginning with Rally Day on September 20th.

Worship and Music:

- Beth Stottmeister has requested off on August 23rd. Melanie Werley will be our supply organist.
- Pastor Wimmer's last day will be August 23rd.
- Currently no one is covering worship on August 30th. Beth has offered to do a Hymn Sing.
- Worship time will change to 9:15 on September 6th.
- 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 Ziegel's church to join us. Council feels the pavilion is too small to accommodate that many people.

Staff Support:

Reviews upcoming.

Stewardship:

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

Ladies Aid

- Kuhnsville car wash-tickets are $10 and may be used for any car wash, to be used anytime. We get to keep $3 of every ticket sold. Please see Donna Kressin to purchase now through August 2nd. The tickets will be available for pick up the following Sunday.
- Vince's Food Truck and Bake Sale rescheduled for August 27th. There is a sign-up in the narthex to provide baked goods.
- Basket Social scheduled for October 2nd & 3rd. We have letters printed if anyone wants to help solicit local businesses for donations. Sign-up is in the narthex. Basket assembly dates (8:30 am-12pm) 7/20, 8/6, 9/9.
- Ladies turned over $10,000 to the church General Fund from their fundraisers.

Old Business:

- PP&L – Matthew has been shopping for a new supplier. No decision has been made as of yet.

- Council vacancy has been filled by Carla Malantonio. She will fill the remainder of Sara's term through November 2027. Welcome back Carla!
- Nate from ESG-Entertainment services Group provided a quote for the sound system and getting us it up to resume an online worship option. ($1,343.49 plus a laptop we will supply) This was emailed to council May 22. Money for this project will come from the Helga Howard Fund and Jessica Wentz, who has offered to contribute. (She has been contacted.) Matt Kressin has procured the necessary laptop. His company MCS Industries has donated a used laptop computer. Carla made the motion, seconded by Bob, to move forward with this project by ESG. The motion carried.

New Business:

- Linda Gery has requested vacation days on Friday, July 24 and possibly also Monday, July 26th. Council granted the request.
- Our high school graduates are offered a chance to apply for the Grace Perry Scholarship, set up by Marjorie Rossi in honor of her granddaughter Grace Perry. As Marjorie Rossi has passed, council reviewed the request by Abbie Luipersbeck. Abbie will be attending Kutztown University. As she fulfilled all of the requirements Carla made a motion, seconded by Bob, to grant the scholarship. The motion passed.

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

Next council meeting: Monday August 3, 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.

Upcoming Events/Opportunities:

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

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 worshiping 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).

Harvest Home Sunday will be on Sunday, September 20th. If you are interested in contributing to the display, please have your canned goods and produce to the church by 9:00 AM on Saturday, September 19th. All proceeds and other donations will be given to the local food bank. See Carol Moyer with any questions.

Basket Social – preview night on Friday, October 2nd (6-8pm), event on Saturday, October 3rd (10am to 2pm). Tickets may be purchased/placed both days, take-out food items will be available only on the 3rd. Ticket pricing (1 sheet = 25 tickets): 1 sheet/$10, 2 sheets/$20, 3 sheets/$25. *Winners will be drawn at the end of the event and contacted by phone.* A sign-up sheet for baskets and needed items is in the narthex. Please be aware of expiration dates on any perishable donations. Items DO NOT need to be in a basket/wrapped – we will be happy to assemble them for you. Monetary donations may be handed to Jeanette Holtzhafer or Carol Moyer. Next basket assembly date is 9/9 (8:30 AM-12 PM) – help is needed.

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.

Choir Rehearsals will resume each Thursday at 7 PM beginning September 10th. Please speak with Beth Stottmeister (Director of Music) if you are interested in joining the choir.

Thank You…

- To those who helped with the basket assembly in July & August. The next date is September 9th - join us.
- To everyone who continues to donate to Plant-A-Row. All of the produce is going to help our neighbors in need at St. Paul's Food Pantry in Trexlertown, and is greatly appreciated!
- 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.

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 with Rally Day on September 20th!** Keep watching for details – coming soon. We hope to see you all there. *We are always looking for volunteers who may be interested in being teachers or helpers for the upcoming year. Clearances are required and info packets can be found in the narthex. Please consider this ministry and contact the office if you would like to help.*

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

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