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
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The Rev. Matt Hacker, Designated Pastor

October 2026

COMING IN OCTOBER:

October 2 & 3: Fall Basket Social
October 18: Coffee Hour
October 21: Boscov's Fundraiser
October 30: Halloween Hot Dog Stand

LOOKING AHEAD…

11/7 - Christmas Craft Night
11/8 - Congregational Meeting (Budget & Elections)
11/13 - Community Free Dinner
11/19-22 - Thanksgiving Sides Sale
11/25 - Joint Thanksgiving Eve Service (held here)
11/29 – Community Tree Lighting

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: worship time is now 9:15 AM
Sunday School after worship (about 10:30-11 AM)

Sunday, October 4, 2026 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7 The song of the vineyard
Psalm 80:7-15 Look down from heaven, O God;
behold and tend this vine.
Philippians 3:4b-14 Nothing surpasses the value of knowing Christ
Matthew 21:33-46 The parable of the vineyard owner's son

Sunday, October 11, 2026 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 25:1-9 The feast of victory
Psalm 23 You prepare a table before me,
and my cup is running over.
Philippians 4:1-9 Rejoice in the Lord always
Matthew 22:1-14 The parable of the unwelcome guest
at the wedding feast

Sunday, October 18, 2026 – 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 45:1-7 An earthly ruler as the instrument of God's will
Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13] Ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Thanksgiving for the church
at Thessalonica
Matthew 22:15-22 A teaching on giving to the emperor and God

Sunday, October 25, 2026 – Reformation Sunday

Jeremiah 31:31-34 I will write my law in their hearts, says the Lord
Psalm 46 The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
Romans 3:19-28 Justified by God's grace as a gift
John 8:31-36 Jesus says, Continue in my word and you will know

There will be **4 openings on our Congregation Council**, starting in November. Terms run for three years. Council meets on the first Monday of each month. Meetings usually last about 60-90 minutes.

We will also be looking for 1 **Endowment Fund trustee** to begin in January. This is also a three-year term. Meet as announced.

If you can serve, or have more questions about the duties, please contact Mike Divers.

Council Minutes August 3, 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: Carla Malantonio, Lynn McMillen, Doug Moyer

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

Council Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2026
Curtis made a motion, seconded by Stacey, to approve the minutes of the July 13 meeting. The motion carried.

Treasurer/Finance Report (May 2026)
Ken made a motion, seconded by Stacey, to approve the financial reports. The motion carried.

President's Report:
Pastor Hacker will preach weekly beginning August 30th. Services will be at 9:15 beginning September 6th.

Pastor's Report:
Pastor or occasionally his assistant, will be covering every Sunday beginning August 30th.

Committee Reports:
Finance:

- We have been notified of a $500 bequest from the estate of John L. Strauss, to be received during the next 8-12 months.

Property:

- Lehigh County Authority performed a water line inspection today. We have no lead pipes leading into the church. We passed.
- Deiter Brothers annual maintenance is scheduled for August 26th.
- The 3-year periodic test of elevator is due by 9/30/26. Reading Elevator will send out a proposal at the beginning of August and we will schedule a date. The new law will require yearly inspections.

Christian Education/Sunday School:

- Vacation Bible School was held at the UCC church in July 13-17 from 1-3:30. We sent $125 to cover expenses, as well as a member donation of $50.
- Blessing of the Backpack's date is August 23rd, as school begins the next day.
- Sunday School is still in the process of deciding on a time, due to the change of worship time. A final decision will be made after consulting with the parents and teachers.

Youth Ministry:
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.
- Pastor Hacker is covering worship beginning on August 30th. Beth has offered to do a Hymn Sing at some time during the service. Pastor Werley and Pastor Mitchell will be available to cover in the future if needed. All dates will be passed by President Mike Divers.

- 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. Curtis will coordinate with Larry at the UCC church.
- Choir rehearsal will begin September 10th, Thursdays at 7pm.
- Harvest Home will be on September 20th. There is no coffee hour in September. Next coffee hour is October 18th.

Staff Support:

- Reviews upcoming.
- Beth Sell, our Sexton, had back surgery on July 23rd. She will have a 6–8-week recovery. Her husband has resumed her duties.

Evangelism:

Stewardship:

- September 18, 2026 Community Free Dinner will be sponsored by Ladies Aid. (Chicken pot pie)

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. As we did not sell a large number, a decision was made to purchase 50 certificates and sell them until they are gone. Donna Kressin will take care of this.
- 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-and 9/9.

Old Business:

- PP&L – Matthew has been shopping for a new supplier. After much discussion and consultation with Stan Tansits, Ken made a motion, seconded by Bob, to keep the variable rate plan in place for now. We get a 25% rebate after sticking with them for a year. (about $1500)

- Nate from ESG-Entertainment services Group said the quote made in May is still valid. The contract has been signed and ESG will schedule us when they are available.

New Business:

- Budget Committee needs to be formed to make the budget for 2027. KeriAnn will contact former volunteers to see if they are available. (Lisa Herman, Jess Moyer). They are looking to meet in September.

The meeting ended with prayer.
Next council meeting: Monday September 14, 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:

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. Monetary donations may be handed to Jeanette Holtzhafer or Carol Moyer.

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.

It's time to get ready for our 2026 **Halloween Hot Dog Stand**. We'll be passing out free hot dogs, drinks, and snacks on Friday Oct 30th from 6 to 8 PM (or while supplies last) at the former Strohl's garage. We'll need help moving supplies from the church to Strohl's and getting set up, starting at 4 PM. A sign-up list for donations and helpers is posted in the narthex. If you need more information, please contact Dave Neimeyer at 484-378-2725 or dave@neimeyer.org.

Christmas Craft Night – Join us on November 7th at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Invite your friends and family for an evening of craft making. All ages are welcome. Bring your favorite snacks, we will provide the soda/drinks. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those who are interested.

All Saints Sunday will be celebrated on November 1st. We will remember by name those from our congregation who have died since November 2, 2025. If you would like to remember loved ones in either the video or bulletin, please contact the church office no later than October 25th.

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 November 13th, sponsored by Bob & Sharon Snyder. Anyone interested in volunteering please call the church or contact Bob Neumoyer (570-386-3045 or nrich14@ptd.net).

Homemade Thanksgiving Sides Sale - Looking to add some St. John's favorites to your meal? Place your orders for the following: 3lbs. potato filling in a conveniently packaged, oven ready aluminum baking pan. (Remove the lid, put the container in the oven, bake, and enjoy!) Homemade applesauce and bacon dressing will also be available. We will be taking orders soon – watch for more info or see Carol Moyer. We can use help to prep/cook/pack orders on November 19th & 20th beginning at 8:00 AM. PICK UP: Saturday,

November 21st from 9 AM to 12 PM. Church members may also pick up their orders after worship on Sunday, November 22nd.

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.

Thank You…

- To everyone who contributed towards the Harvest Home display and to all of those who helped set up the altar. Produce and perishables items were sold after worship to support local food banks.

- To all who helped with Rally Day and to our Sunday School teachers and helpers for 2026-27. We are looking forward to another great year.

- To everyone who helped with the September Community Free Dinner, and to all who contributed. Special thanks to Eagle Point Farmer's Market for the donation of potatoes. This continues to be a successful outreach to the community.

- To Curtis White for coordinating our Annual Picnic. And a big thanks to all who attended and brought food to share.

- To Lisa Herman, Dave Neimeyer, Jessica Moyer, Keri-Ann Divers, Mike Divers and Pr. Matt for preparing the 2027 Budget (which will be presented to the congregation on 11/8/26). Watch for a letter with details.

- To Beth Furman for collecting and delivering all the garden donations for Plant-A-Row… and to all who brought their extra produce this season!

- 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.

- **Thank you to everyone who joined us for Rally Day!** All are welcome to join Sunday School on Sunday mornings after worship at **10:30 AM**. All are welcome, bring your friends!

- Don't forget to visit us at the **Halloween Hot Dog Stand** located in front of Fogelsville Motor Works on Main Street. Everyone is invited to stop by during trick-or-treat hours (6-8 PM) on Friday, October 30th.

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

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