



St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor: Reverend Daniel Warntz

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From the Pastor's Desk

By the time you are reading my column for the newsletter, over 850 delegates from across the ELCA will be meeting in Phoenix, Arizona for the 2025 Churchwide Assembly. Every three years, delegates are elected at Synod Assemblies to come together and discharge the business of the National Church and to hold elections for Church wide Council and other Committees. This year the elections will be very important as the delegates are electing a new Presiding Bishop and a Churchwide Secretary. Bishop Eaton, who was elected in 2013, will be completing her second six-year term is not running for re-election and therefore, the Assembly will be choosing a new Bishop to be the head of the ELCA. This is a very crucial and critical time for the ELCA as it faces many obstacles both inside the church and influences outside of the church from society and current events. Does the Church elect a Bishop who will guide us into a new path for the future or continue on the same course which has been followed since the formation of the ELCA since 1988. The choice that the delegates make will impact both you and I and the ELCA for years to come.

Such a decision can have a great impact for the future, as we begin our Fall Worship schedule, we have a chance to make a new start, a new beginning for our congregation. September 7th is "God's Work our Hands" Sunday in which we take a day to help our neighbors in the community. Last year, we collected food for the New Beginnings Recovery Center for their annual Thanksgiving meal for recovering members and their families. We are still looking at several options for projects this year, but if you have any suggestions, please let I or anyone on Council know so we can plan accordingly for the project.

Once again, this Fall, we will be offering Bible study and starting the fifth season of "The Chosen". We will probably have these groups on Thursday afternoons as we have had in the past and will start on September 11th. As part of the Synod Initiative, "Go Tell it In the Mountains", we will also be premiering a new Book Club study. We will taking a book recommended by Synod, to study about our spiritual life, mission work of the church and how to talk about our faith in the world today and each week, discuss a chapter in the book. If you are interested in this new Book Club, it will probably begin during the morning either Tuesday or Thursdays and let Pastor Dan know you would like to be a part of the group. The books will be provided at no cost.

As part of the Initiative we will be trying some new worship ideas during the Fall to further enhance the worship experience and to explore our faith in a deeper sense. It's how do we take the faith from the pew to the world around us and through

each day to enrich each other. It promises to be a fun and spiritual time as we walk this journey together as church during a time of self-discovery and development of a deeper sense of faith in our community. Invite your friends and neighbor during our Fall worship season as we start with a new beginning and to discover who and where our faith is leading us in the future.

BLOOD DRIVE

Our next scheduled blood drive will be on **Monday, August 18th from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM.**

FELLOWSHIP & EVANGELISM

CANNED GOODS COLLECTION

The first Sunday of each month has been designated as “Fill the Shelves” Sunday.

St. John's will continue to collect canned goods and non-perishable items for Columbia County Volunteers in Medicine. Your generosity is supporting a vital and much appreciated ministry in our community. ***(St. John's is the only church to support CCVM regularly.)*** You can place your items in the collection bags at any of the church entrances. ~ Thank You! **(Please remember to check the expiration dates on your donations)*

THE WELCOME TABLE is a place where someone can get a free meal without judgment or discrimination. It relies solely on the generosity and donations of other's and volunteers. In April/May we served 108 / 96 meals. **Upcoming meals will be held on August 9th, and September 13th from 10:30am – Noon.**

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH for your dedication and support to this ministry!

Sign-up sheets are in the rear of the sanctuary, or you can call Lydia (570-204-2516) to volunteer. ***Please Note: Drop off times for donations in August will be on Saturday morning only after 9:00 AM. In September drop off times will be Friday's from 5:30 – 6:00 before the day of the meal and Saturday, the morning of, at 9:00 am. (unless otherwise announced)***

GATHERING TIME

Gathering time has been very enjoyable. We are meeting some new friends and catching up with our old friends! We look forward to our next Gathering-times on **August 10th and September 14th.** There will be light refreshments.

If you would like to volunteer to bring a light snack (cookies, donuts, cake) please give the office or Lydia Ferro a call and we'll get sign you signed up! Looking forward to seeing you!

August 10th, 2025 – Hymn Sing & Gathering Time

August 14th, 2025 Fellowship & Evangelism meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Directory of Congregants – If you would like to send a card to a fellow member, please call the church office for further information.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

After a summer hiatus, The Grief Support Group will meet **on Wednesday, September 17th at 7:00 PM**. Anyone who has experienced grief due to the recent or past death of a loved one is welcome to attend. This is an informal group whose purpose is to talk about any issues group members may be experiencing related to loss. Refreshments will be served.

BELL & CHOIR PRACTICES TO RESUME

We will resume Bell & Choir practices beginning on **Thursday, September 11th. Bells at 6:00 PM and Choir at 7:00 PM**. We always welcome new members. No experience required!

Pictured with Joe Snedecker or “Go Joe” in front of the German School, are Pastor Dan and Rebecca Warntz, Zena Lewoc, and Nancy Fisher. Joe was kind enough to help us promote Wreaths Across Americas which will take place on **December 13th**.





Thanks to all who contributed hygiene products to be distributed to Church World Service. Pictured are USSWO members creating 200 individual packs to be distributed to those most in need. In October we will meet to prepare all for shipping along with Blankets which will be collected on **Blanket Sunday, October 5th**.

A graphic with the text "Happy Birthday!" in a large, green, bubbly font with white polka dots. The text is set against a red background with a yellow-to-red gradient and scattered yellow star-like bokeh lights.

Happy
Birthday!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Julia Evans 4
Evan Johnson 6
Elizabeth Shotwell 13
Cindy Powlus 26
Darlene Turner 29
Margaret Mylin 31

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Michelle Bahlavooni 6
Christine Kemp 6
Charles Trotman 6
Hans Detterbeck 8
Dorothy Hons 10
Sherri Kishbaugh 10
Karen Diltz 13
Denise Moroney 15
Julie Adams 16
Paul Zajac 17
Eva Moyer 22
Emily Johnson 22
Gail Hugick 28

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Mifflinville, Pa. 18631

St. John's Mission Statement

*"We the people of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church,
celebrate God with us as we worship, learn, grow and serve."*

Upcoming Events:

Worship

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2025 - 9:00 am

Hymn Sing & Gathering Time

Blood Drive

Bells & Choir resumes