



St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor: Reverend Daniel Warntz

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From the Altar

As I sit here writing this article for the Fall newsletter, the old adage comes back to my memory. "The older you get, the faster the years roll by". It is hard to imagine we are already looking ahead to the Fall, with the return of football, cool nights and our regular calendar of worship activities. However, this year is going to have some interesting twists to it as certain events have occurred this year that nobody could have ever predicted in January that we would be at this point in the year.

First, the health status of some of our members has been an issue this year that we have had to address and adjust. With the initial hip breakage in the middle of January, to its complete failure in April, I am still struggling with trying to get everything approved by different doctors so that I can schedule the total hip replacement surgery. We are making progress, but it has seriously affected my ministry and will still be a factor come the Fall season. Hopefully, this issue can soon be resolved, but one has to follow the timeline set by the doctors and not rush it any quicker. Second, our Council President at FUEL has had a serious set-back with his surgery. He had a total knee replacement which has become seriously infected, and the surgeons had to go back in and remove everything. He is home recovering, but he is not allowed any visitors due to being very susceptible to infections. The council at FUEL has been working on how to conduct business for the rest of the year and the business of the church will continue. Despite these setbacks to some of our members, we continue to plan for a busy Fall with the following ministries:

Bible Study will begin at FUEL on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am starting September 9th. All are invited to attend our Bible study which is held upstairs in the main area. St. John's will start their Bible Study on Thursday, September 10th at 1:00 PM, with the movie study at 2:00 pm, downstairs in the Council room. Everyone is invited to come join us for these Bible studies and movie studies. We will also have bell and choir practices start at St. John's at a date to be announced by our Music Director.

Looking ahead, we will be having a "Blessing of the Pets" for both FUEL and St. John's on Sunday afternoon, October 4th, which is the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. Times to be announced at a later date. We are also blessed to be hosting a Seminary student this year who will be with us at St. John's and FUEL for September through next May. Her name is Becky Toth and she is a Seminary student from Bloomsburg who will be joining us as part of a class requirement for "on the job" training. She will be doing some of the Bible studies later and helping with other

worship activities as the year progresses. She will also introduce some of her own ministry ideas for us to try as part of her training, so this should be an exciting time for the year ahead.

Someone once remarked to a pastor that they just “didn’t get anything” out of attending church and they wanted to move to another church. The pastor asked the member, “so, you didn’t get anything out of church, what exactly did you put into the life and ministry of the church”? Church is not what one can get “out” but rather, church is what we do when we all come together, and we all contribute something to it of our own unique special gifts and talents. Think of church as a big empty cast iron kettle – unless many people contribute something into the pot, no one will be eating anything from the pot because there is nothing in it. When we all contribute then our pot will be overflowing and we are able to not only feed ourselves, but there will be plenty to feed those around us. Enjoy the rest of the fleeting summer and let’s get ready for an exciting Fall season!

Rev.. Daniel Warntz

FELLOWSHIP & EVANGELISM NEWS

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 held the second Saturday of each month. Our team of volunteers serves a free meal to those who visit us without judgment or discrimination. Supplies for the meal are provided by the generosity and donations of others. We continue to serve between 108 and 120 meals per Saturday.

Upcoming meals will be held on August 8th and September 12th from 10:30am – Noon.

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH for your dedication and support to this ministry! Sign-up sheets for The Welcome Table are in the rear of the sanctuary, or you can call Lydia (570-204-2516) to volunteer.

Please Note: Drop off times for donations will be announced on Sunday mornings. Other drop off times will be during regular office hours and Saturday, the morning of after 9:00 AM for other times please contact Lydia.

GATHERING TIME will continue on the second Sunday of the month following worship services. Please consider signing up for this enjoyable and relaxing time withing your fellow parishioners. We look forward to our next Gathering-times on August 9th and September 13th.

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 you signed up! There are also sign-up sheets in the rear of the sanctuary. Looking forward to seeing you!

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP-SUMMER HIATUS

The Grief Support Group will meet **on Wednesday, September 16th 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.

RAISE RIGHT

Now that the holidays are over, we will be submitting Raise Right orders once a month on the **Second Sunday of the Month**. Our next orders will be on **August 9th, and September 13th**. Thanks so much for supporting St. John's!

BLOOD DRIVE

Our next scheduled blood drive will be on **Monday August 17th, from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM**.

SHOE COLLECTION

The boy scouts will be collecting new or gently used shoes during the **month of August**. There will be a box placed in the sanctuary.

EDUCATION

There will be a meeting on **August 5th** to discuss the start of the school year and back pack blessing. VBS was a great success and very well attended.

As school is fast approaching we at St. John's are soon beginning our Sunday School schedule. Our first Sunday Will be Sept 13th. Looking forward to another year of stories, games, and crafts.

Praying all of you who are going to school have a great year!

JULY 5TH COLONIAL SERVICE





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Lydia Halczak's Confirmation



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Michelle Bahlavooni 6
Charles Trotman 6
Hans Detterbeck 8
Dorothy Hons 10
Sherry 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 2026

9:00 am

Blood Drive

Raise Right

Boy Scout Shoe Collection