



St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor: Reverend Daniel Warntz

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From the Pastor's Desk

“Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ Λόγος, καὶ ὁ Λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν Θεόν, καὶ Θεὸς ἦν ὁ Λόγος” = In the Beginning was the Logos, and the Logos was with God and the Logos was God. John 1:1

This verse from the beginning of the Gospel of John is so familiar to us because it is used during the lighting of the candles on Christmas Eve and during the Divine Mass on Christmas Morning. But what exactly does John mean by the “Logos”? How can Jesus, who was born a human baby, be known as this Logos even from the beginning of Creation when his Father spoke all the heavenly bodies and the world into being and why is this important to us during the season of Christmas.

In Greek Philosophy, Logos began to appear in usage around 500 BC where it was associated with mathematics and logic. ‘Logos’ means, “to put in order” or ‘to account for something’. For philosophers like Aristotle, he used it in the context of sentences and the logic structure behind an argument and in setting up a debate to prove one’s position. After Alexander the Great introduced Hellenistic culture into the land of Israel, the Jewish spiritual leaders picked up on using Logos as a means of explaining how God interacts with the world around them. It wasn’t a far leap to go from the Jewish understanding of Logos to the Gospel of John in which the author of John turns the ‘discourse’ into the “Living Word” to explain how Jesus co-existed with God and the Holy Spirit and how God spoke the world into being through Jesus, the Divine Logos. Logos being used in this context as the order of Creation as perceived by God.

It seems very confusing to think of Jesus as a ‘Divine Word’, and that troubled Martin Luther. He changed the meaning of Logos from a verb to a noun which reflected more of what Luther perceived as the “Word of God” being Jesus as the fulfillment of Scripture. However future Lutheran Reformers will adjust Luther’s understanding of Jesus as the “Word” to being a “Living Word”, meaning that Jesus is the will of the Father in an incarnate form, spoken into being to fulfill God’s purpose. The Logos is also referenced in the Gospel of Luke, but it is used more as a description of the teaching of Jesus rather than a formal title for Jesus as the writer of John used it.

No matter how we explain what “Logos” is, the main idea to remember is that in the Trinity the Father, Son and Holy Spirit all co-existed and that God called all things into being through the Son and guided by the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the Word of God,

both in Scripture and the spoken Word thus why Jesus said that heaven and earth may pass away but His Word will never pass away. The Word is the same yesterday, today and forever, just as God's promises are sure and eternal. So even today, when we hear the words again about "Glory to God in the Highest and Peace to God's people on Earth", we know that someday, we will have peace, the peace that only God can give, will reign over all of God's Creation. Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year from all of us at St John's Lutheran Church. – Amen

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Hanging of the Greens will take place during worship on **December 7th**. It will be held during worship.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Girl Scout Troop 32452 is sponsoring a Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 6th from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Breakfast is for anyone. Cost is Adults-\$10.00, Children 10yrs and under \$8.00.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational meeting will be held on **December 14, 2025** **immediately following worship**. Items on the agenda include **Election of Council Members, Appointment of Nominating Committee, and Approval of the proposed 2026 Plan for Ministry (Budget)**. All voting members are encouraged to attend. A voting member is a confirmed member of the congregation who has both communed and has a record of contribution for the current or preceding year.

BLOOD DRIVE

Our next scheduled blood drive will be on **Monday, December 15th from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM**.

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 a place where someone can get a free meal without judgment or discrimination. It relies solely on the generosity and donations of others and volunteers. We continue to serve between 108 and 120 meals per Saturday. Upcoming meals will be held on December 12th and January 10th, and February 14th from 10:30am – Noon.

Welcome Table will again be giving Christmas cookie bags to our guests at the December 13th meal. Please have your donations to the church by 12:30 on December 11th.

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 Thursdays

before the meal from noon to 1:30 PM, and Saturday, the morning of after 9:00 AM (unless otherwise announced) for other times please contact Lydia

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 December 14th and January 11th. 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! There are also sign-up sheets in the rear of the sanctuary. Looking forward to seeing you!

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

After a brief hiatus, The Grief Support Group will meet **on Wednesday, February 25th 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.

CHICKEN & WAFFLES

Thank you to all who helped make the November 1st Chicken & Waffle dinner a success. The profit for this dinner was \$2,498.30. 10% of the profit is being donated to a scholarship in Lea Grace Adams name that will be given to a Central Columbia senior. Also, donations were collected that night totaling \$2,323.00. So, a total of \$2,572.83 will be given to the school in Lea's name to be used for the scholarship. The scholarship will be for \$1000.00 a year, so that total will fund the scholarship for 2 1/2 years. Thank you everyone for your help!

THANKS FROM CAMP LOUISE

The Board members of the Friends of Camp Louise want to thank you for your generous donations of paper products. It will give our 2026 season a great start. Please come up next summer and see our camp!

CHRISTMAS THRU NEW YEARS

The office will be closed on **Christmas Day, December 25th**. Pastor will not be in the office between **December 25th and New Years Day**, but will be available by phone or text for Pastoral concerns.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Kyle Moroney 1
Geraldine Troy 6
John Kishbaugh 16
Deborah Kishbaugh 17
Sharon Bachman 17
Marlene Karchner 23

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Irene Johnson 1
Ralph Evans 2
William Hower 8
James Turner 14
Wendy Zajac 17
Mark Yoder 18
Diane Young 18
Christian Ferro 28
Gail Utt 28

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PO Box B
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
DECEMBER 2025 / JANUARY 2026
9:00 am

Hanging of the Greens

Welcome Table

Blood Drive

Annual Congregational Meeting