ST. JOHN'S
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
est. 1760

EAGLES WINGS

NEWSLETTER

Community Together | 2026 | AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

Pastor's Reflection

As I write this, it is hard to believe that summer is already beginning to fade. Soon the backpacks will come out of the closet, teachers will be putting the finishing touches on their classrooms, and family calendars will once again begin to fill. The rhythm of life shifts from vacations and relaxation to planning, preparation, and a season that often feels wonderfully busy.





The church experiences that same rhythm.

August and September have always been a time of new beginnings. As our schedules become more structured, we also have an opportunity to rediscover the importance of gathering together—not simply because our calendars tell us to, but because God created us to live in community. (Cont. p2)

Save the Date: 9/13

Get your ducks in a row! Join us for Rally Day and God's Work. Our Hands. on Sunday, September 13th starting at 9am. Enjoy a delicious Breakfast, Fellowship, Service, & Worship!

(Continued)

That is going to be our focus in the year ahead: ***Community Together.***

Throughout the coming months, you'll notice new imagery, new language, and a renewed emphasis on what it means to be the Body of Christ together. Our hope is simple. We want to encourage one another, spend time with one another, pray with one another, and grow in faith with one another. In a world that often pulls us apart and encourages us to live increasingly isolated lives, the church continues to be one of the few places where people of every generation gather around the same table, hear the same Word, sing the same songs, and are reminded that we belong to something much bigger than ourselves.

Community happens in many ways. It happens during worship on Sunday mornings. It happens in Faith Formation classes, Bible studies, youth gatherings, fellowship events, service projects, and around tables where conversations become friendships. Every time we gather in Jesus' name, we are strengthened for the work God has called us to do.

As you read through this newsletter, I encourage you to keep a calendar nearby. You'll find many opportunities in August and September to reconnect, serve, learn, celebrate, and simply enjoy being together as God's people.

One of the highlights will be **Rally Day** and **God's Work, Our Hands** *Sunday on September 13*, when we officially kick off our fall ministry season. It will be more than just another event on the calendar—it will be an invitation to recommit ourselves to our shared life of faith and to discover new ways to participate in the ministry of St. John's. Whether you've been here for decades or you're just finding your place among us, there is a place for you in this community.

As summer gives way to fall, my prayer is that we don't simply become busy again. Instead, may we become intentional about making time for what matters most: worshiping together, growing together, serving together, and walking together as followers of Jesus Christ.

I can't wait to see what God has in store for us this fall.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Shawn







God's Work. Our Hands.



Help Us Build 30 CWS Cleanup Buckets!

On Sunday, September 13, St. John's Lutheran Church will once again participate in the ELCA's annual God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. This special day is an opportunity for us to put our faith into action by serving our neighbors in practical and meaningful ways. One of our featured service projects this year is assembling 30 Church World Service (CWS) Cleanup Buckets. These buckets are distributed to families and communities recovering from natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and other emergencies. Filled with essential cleaning supplies, each bucket becomes a tangible reminder that they are not alone and that God's people care for them during difficult times. We invite everyone to help by donating one or more of the specific items needed to complete these cleanup buckets. To make giving easy, we have created an online sign-up where you can select the items you would like to provide.

Sign up here:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F054FACA72BAAF58-64902808-cwscleanup#/

SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 13TH

Rally Day - 2026

Get your ducks in a row! Join us as we welcome back to Sunday School and Service! Starting September 13th at 9:00am we will enjoy Breakfast, Fellowship, Service, & Worship!





Upcoming Events

Community Outdoor Worship: Aug 23rd

Join us for Community Outdoor Worship at East Berlin Community Park on ***Sunday, August 23rd*** starting at 10:00am. There will also be a Donut Social after the service!

Rain or Shine. Please bring chairs or blankets to sit on.



The following Congreations that are Participating are: Zwingli, St. John's, Trinity, Paradise, and Emmanuel.

2026 Golf Outing: Aug 29th

The 2026 Annual St. John's Golf Outing will now take place on **Sunday, August 29th** with a 7:30am shotgun.

This year we will be playing at the Hickory Heights Golf Course and supporting our Diaper Bank Ministry. We are asking that each 4-some participating in the event donate 4 packs of diapers (different sizes). Mulligans & Raffle Prizes awarded for donations! Lunch and drinks included!

4-Person Scramble / $235 per team. Sign-Ups are located in the Fellowship Hall.





We invite all rising 5th through 8th graders to join us for an unforgettable weekend filled with faith, friendship, games, music, worship, campfires, and plenty of fun. Alive is a chance to step away from the busyness of everyday life, grow in your relationship with God, and make lasting memories with friends from across our churches. There will be more than 150 campers at this event and St. John's plans to send six to ten kids. We hope you will join us!

For registration information, contact Pastor Shawn or Deacon Amy.

Prayer Concerns

For our homebound members:
Gloria Breighner, Dorothy Hoffheins, Ruthetta Baker, Mary LaRue, Earl Swope, Joan Folmer, Marlin & Jean Baker

For those serving the larger church:
Dr. Stephan J. Swanson and Jodi Lynn Swanson, RN - missionaries

For persons who are ill or hospitalized:
Judy Klunk (sister of Gloria Breighner) - receiving care for Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease
Marie Smith – congestive heart failure

For persons undergoing treatment for Cancer:
Lisa Polhman (friend of the Sharrer family) - receiving care For breast cancer
Scott Dentler - receiving care for cancer
Tammy Moore - receiving care for cancer
Chuck Gabrielson - receiving care for lung cancer
Kathy Smith (Lorna Runk's niece) - receiving care for throat cancer

Prayer List Notice

To help keep our prayer list current, names will remain in the church bulletin for one month and will then be removed unless we are notified that continued prayers are requested. If you would like a name to remain on the prayer list beyond one month, please contact the church office or let us know before the end of that period. Thank you for helping us keep our prayer list up to date while continuing to lift one another in prayer.

Faith Formation
9:00am to 9:45am
Fellowship (before and after)

Worship
10:15am

Pastoral Staff
Pastor Shawn Berkebile
Deacon Amy Mambu



Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday, 9am-2pm

Pastor: Monday through Thursday 9am-12pm, or by appointment

Office email:
Katie@stjohnsatown.com

Pastor Shawn's email:
Shawn@stjohnsatown.com

Deacon Amy's email:
Amy@stjohnsatown.com

www.stjohnsatown.com