

# News from the Pews

[www.stjohnscoplay.com](http://www.stjohnscoplay.com)

## January and February 2026

Jane Gillespie, Editor 610-264-1111 [stjohnscoplay@rcn.com](mailto:stjohnscoplay@rcn.com)

## Happy New Year!

The new year brings new challenges for St. John's. The Call Committee continues the process of the search for a Pastor. Regular scheduled meetings will begin in January and held on Tuesday nights. We have been fortunate to have had Supply Pastors for the last several weeks and we again have a compliment for the entire month of January. Some have been with us before. I personally enjoy the different preaching styles of our Supply Pastors. I feel it gives us an idea of what other congregations in the valley experience and will help mold the thoughts of what St. John's would like in our next Pastor. Come on in and worship with us and get a feel for yourself of the different style of the Pastors serving the Lehigh Valley. We'd love to see familiar faces each Sunday. The Pastors for February have not been assigned as of this time.

1/4/26 - The Rev. Elizabeth Haines  
1/11/26 - The Rev. Lauren Applegate  
1/18/26 - The Rev. Elaine Quincey  
1/25/26 - The Rev. Dennis Moore

St. John's hosted the Whitehall Coplay Hunger Initiative free community meal on Tuesday, November 18 in the Social Hall, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. We served approximately 95 meals to the needy and elderly in the Whitehall and Coplay community. We had several of our St. John's family volunteer to setup, tear down, and serve the delicious food donated by Bill Loy and the staff of Samuel Owens. Thank You Bill and Samuel Owens!!! Thank you also to the many congregation members who baked desserts for the event. We all agreed, St. John's will hold the same event next November 16<sup>th</sup>. Plan to join us next year if you can.

Your church council has four new members for 2026, Pam Bradley, Danette Weidner, Sheila Yudt-Gower, and Jane Ann Spieker. Thank you: Ken and Beth Napoli, Bill Gilfert, and Jeremy Snyder for your service on church council.

The Annual Congregational Meeting Part I was held on December 14<sup>th</sup>, where the new members of Church Council were officially nominated and approved and the 2026 Budget was approved. The Congregational Meeting Part II will be held January 18<sup>th</sup>, please plan to attend if you can.

We will once again hold our Ash Wednesday Disposition of the Ashes at 7:30 PM on February 18<sup>th</sup>. If we cannot guarantee a Supply Pastor for this service, your Church Council will conduct the service. More to come, watch in the bulletin.

*[continued on next page]*

## St. John's Lutheran Church

Coplay, Pennsylvania

Gregory Miller, Council President  
Cell Phone 610-393-9421

Church Office Phone: 610-262-6171

Church Office email: [stjohnscoplay@rcn.com](mailto:stjohnscoplay@rcn.com)

We will also once again hold the Mid-Week Lenten Soup, Bread, and Discussion Sessions, starting February 25<sup>th</sup> and running until March 25<sup>th</sup>. If you want to make soup or bread, please contact Karen Haines.

The First Annual St. John's Rummage Sale will be held in the Social Hall on Friday, March 13 and Saturday, March 14, 2026 from 8 AM to 2 PM both days.

Accepted Items, but not limited to:

- End tables, side tables, coffee tables
- Lamps and home décor
- Kitchenware and small appliances
- Books, CDs, DVDs, and games
- Children's toys
- Gently used bedspreads and blankets

Accepted items listed above can be dropped off at the church, use the kitchen entrance on Tuesday and Thursday, January 6 and 8, and 20 and 22, 2026 from 6 pm to 7:30 pm, Saturday, January 17, 2026 from 10 am to 2 pm, Tuesday, February 10 and 12, and Saturday, February 21, 2026 from 10 am to 2 pm.

If you can help with the donation collection, setup and day of sale volunteering, please contact Lisa Miller at 484-553-3050 or [leesae2765@yahoo.com](mailto:leesae2765@yahoo.com).

Respectfully,  
*Greg*  
Greg Miller  
Church Council President

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### MEMORIAL AND HONORARIUM FORM EASTER 2026

Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN BY: \_\_\_\_\_

ENVELOPE #: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

BUILDING IMPROVEMENT FUND OF ST. JOHN'S

CHURCH COOLING FUND OF ST. JOHN'S

MEMORIAL FUND OF ST. JOHN'S

ORGAN FUND OF ST. JOHN'S

GENERAL ACCOUNT OF ST. JOHN'S

\*\*\* DEADLINE FOR SPECIAL GIFTS IS MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup> \*\*\*  
(IN ORDER TO BE LISTED IN THE WORSHIP BULLETIN)

\*\*\* FORMS ARE BEING TAKEN BY ONDIE NEIFERT \*\*\*



## ***NOTE to all Staff, Chairpersons, Group Leaders, etc.:***

Please complete and submit your Annual Report as soon as possible after the first of the year (no later than Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>). They need to be compiled for Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, for members to take home after worship and read that week. Then members are encouraged to bring their Annual Reports with them for the Annual Congregational Meeting — Part Two (to be held on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, following worship). Help us know and celebrate all you've done!

**2025 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 4<sup>th</sup>**

**COPIES OF THE 2025 ANNUAL REPORTS AVAILABLE ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 11<sup>th</sup>**

**REVIEW OF ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2025  
AND ANY ADDITIONAL CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS  
AT  
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING — PART TWO  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 18<sup>th</sup>,  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP!**

## ***UNDECORATING***



We'll be taking down all our festive decorations on **Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>** after our worship service.

We need just as many helpers to "un-decorate" and put away the decorations as we do to put them up.

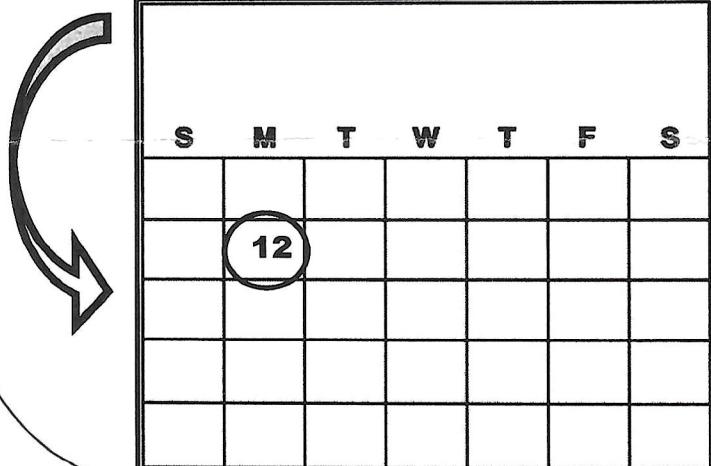
***Please help if you can!***

# Congregational Meeting News

At our Annual Congregational Meeting — Part One on December 21<sup>th</sup>, the following people were elected to serve on Church Council:

**Pamela Bradley**  
**Jane Ann Spieker**  
**Danette Weidner**  
**Sheila Yudt-Gower**

Also, at the Congregational meeting, the 2026 Church Council elected Gregory Miller as President, Jeffrey Reinhard as Vice President and Gayle Ganser and Kathleen Sandner as Co-Council Secretary.



The first 2026 Church Council meeting is on Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM, in the Social Hall, and every second-Monday-of-the-month thereafter.

## A REMINDER TO ALL ST. JOHN'S MEMBERS!

You are welcome to attend any Church Council meeting just to listen or to voice your opinion. These are not "closed" meetings (unless the Council goes into "executive session")! Simply let President, Greg Miller know that you would like to be heard, and come!

# Do you have a “standing order” for altar flowers?

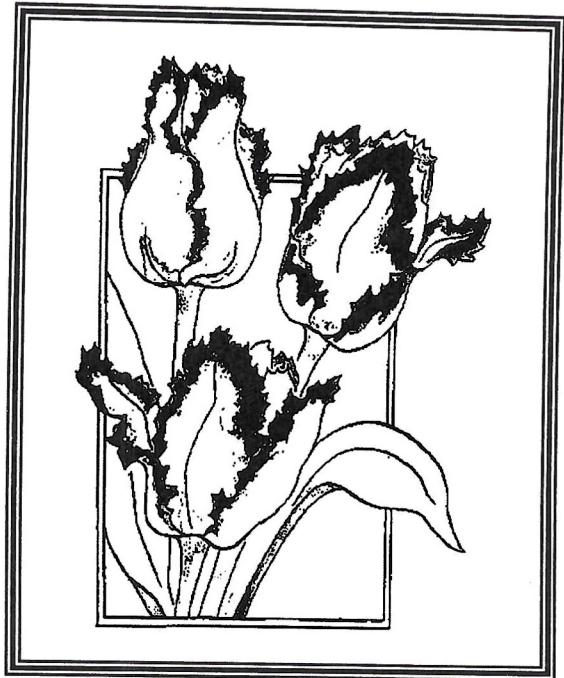
If you have a standing order for altar flowers, please check with me so we can be sure you have the Sunday(s) you want.

If you would like to have a standing order (your flower sponsorship remains "on the books" each year), please contact me.

The cost is \$30 per vase.

*Note: Please remember to take your flowers home with you. There are vases in the kitchen — just rinse and return the vases when you are finished.*

~ Antoinette Sehar  
610-390-6821



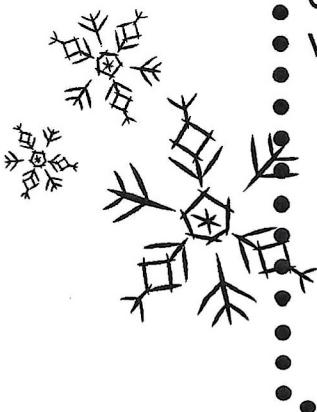
# SUNDAY BULLETIN SPONSORSHIPS

If you have had a "standing" request for bulletin sponsorship(s) in the past, or would like to sponsor a bulletin for a particular Sunday, please call me to confirm your special dates on the 2026 schedule.

The cost of bulletin sponsorship is \$10 per Sunday. Thanks!

~ Antoinette Sehar  
610-390-6821

- In the event of severely inclement weather, any cancellation(s) of our Sunday School and/or church can be viewed on:



- ★ [www.stjohnscoplay.com](http://www.stjohnscoplay.com)
- ★ Facebook:  
St.John'sLutheranCoplay
- ★ WFMZ-TV (only when conditions  
are extreme)

# 2025 Financial Statements

In an effort to save money and resources, we will only print giving statements by request. If you want to receive a giving statement, please contact Ondie Neifert at 610-216-9216 or [oneifert@rcn.com](mailto:oneifert@rcn.com).

As always, thank you for your gifts throughout the year — they make it possible for St. John's ministry in our congregation, in our community, and in the world!

**THANK YOU!**

*Your Finance & Stewardship Committee*

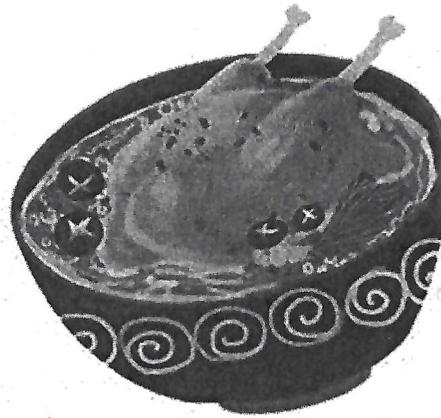
Facebook: St.John'sLutheranCoplay

# 2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please stop in the Social Hall to pick up your offering envelopes for 2026, if you haven't already done so. If you know that someone will be unable to pick up their envelopes, please deliver theirs to them.

**THANK YOU!**

The Finance and Stewardship Committee



**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**CHICKEN POT PIE**  
**Pick Up Dinner**  
**Sat, January 17<sup>th</sup>**

18 S. 3<sup>RD</sup> ST, COPLAY

**PRE-ORDERS ONLY**

Call Karen  
610-653-2816  
Deadline to order:  
Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup>

**MENU:** Chicken pot pie  
Creamed Cabbage  
Roll  
Dessert

**Drive through pick up 4-5:30 PM**

Free Will Donations are gratefully accepted  
to help defray the cost

and allow us to continue our mission of helping others.

# Sharing God's Love



**Sunday School**

**St. Valentine's Party**

Come one, come all,  
young and old, big and small,  
to St. John's Sunday School  
on February 15<sup>th</sup>  
during the regular 9:00 AM Sunday  
School hour!

We'll sing songs, play games, make crafts,  
eat snacks and learn about how St.  
Valentine showed God's love to all.



**Don't miss it!**  
**(and Bring Your Friends!)**

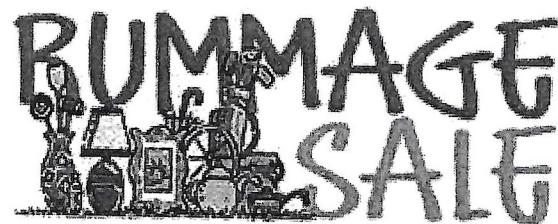
# **FIRST ANNUAL ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE**

St. John's First Annual Rummage Sale will be held on Friday, March 13 and Saturday, March 14 from 8 to 2pm on both days in the Social Hall. Proceeds will be used to support church programs and community outreach programs while providing fellowship and service opportunities for members and friends of the congregation.

**DONATIONS:** We welcome clean, gently used items in good working condition.

**Accepted Items, but not limited to:**

- End tables, side tables, coffee tables
- Lamps and home décor
- Kitchenware and small appliances
- Books, CDs, DVDs and games
- Children's toys
- Gently used bedspreads



**Items Not Accepted:**

- Clothing or shoes
- Large furniture or heavy items (couches, armoires, mattresses, etc.)

Accepted items listed above can be dropped off at the church, use the north Narthax.

**DROP OFF DATES:** Tuesday, January 6 and 20 from 6 to 7:30 pm  
Thursday, January 8 and 22 from 6 to 7:30 pm  
Saturday, January 17 from 10 to 2 pm  
Tuesday, February 10 from 6 to 7:30 pm  
Thursday, February 12 from 6 to 7:30 pm  
Saturday, February 21 from 10 to 2 pm

**SET UP DATES:**

Wednesday, March 11 and Thursday, March 12 from 5 to 8 pm.

If you can help with donation collections, setup and day of sale volunteering, please contact Lisa Miller at 484-553-3050 or [leesae2765@yahoo.com](mailto:leesae2765@yahoo.com). Sign-up sheets will be posted in the Narthax for volunteer opportunities.

Refreshments will be available for purchase on the days of the sale and provided by the Fellowship Committee.

**\*\*\*\*CASH ONLY\*\*\*\***

## Updated Member Information

MEMBER INFORMATION	
FIRST NAME	
NICKNAME	
MIDDLE NAME	
LAST NAME( S)	
TITLE	
SUFFIX	

WHAT CHANGED?	
HOUSEHOLD NAMES	
ADDRESS	
HOME PHONE	
CELL PHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
PASSED AWAY:	
DATE:	

THIS FORM WILL BE MAILED OUT QUARTERLY IN THE NEWSLETTER. IT WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE IN HANGING FOLDERS AT EACH NARTHEX. COMPLETED FORMS CAN BE PLACED IN THE HANGING FOLDERS IN EITHER NARTHEX OR MAILED TO ST. JOHN'S.

For internal purposes only:

Date this was entered in computer: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person who did entry: \_\_\_\_\_

## Christmas Poinsettias 2025

### Poinsettias in Memory of:

#### In loving memory of:

Louis and Rae Battenfield by Jerry and Rhonda Battenfield.  
Louis and Rae Battenfield by Amy, Joe, Joseph and Anna Ricker.  
Gary Battenfield by Jerry and Rhonda Battenfield.  
Gary Battenfield by Amy, Joe, Joseph and Anna Ricker.  
Charmaine Boyle by Jerry and Rhonda Battenfield.  
Jack and Fran Cranage by Jerry and Rhonda Battenfield.  
Tom and Janice Derkits by Jerry and Rhonda Battenfield.  
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Gartner by Darlene, Carrie and Jeffrey Wolf.  
David Gartner, Mary Ellen Laub and Jane Wechsler by Darlene, Carrie and Jeffrey Wolf.  
Russell and Doris Hall by their daughter, Cynthia Gilfert.  
Dr. and Mrs. James R. Heller by St. John's Church.  
Stephen Kosik Jr. by Dolly Lahr.  
John and Jesse Kosits by Jerry and Rhonda Battenfield.  
Loved Ones by Renee and Patrick Coyle.  
Betty L. MacAdam by her loving daughter, Karen Snyder.  
Eileen Mihocko by Jerry and Rhonda Battenfield.  
Allen and Bernice Reppert by Jerry and Rhonda Battenfield.  
Louise Rissmiller by her sister, Karen Snyder.  
Our parents, Inez and John Sehar by Ed and Antoinette Sehar.  
Our parents, Anne and Sam Senneca by Antoinette and Ed Sehar.  
Lee and Doris Sieger by Jerry and Rhonda Battenfield.  
Edith and Henry Stefany by their granddaughter, Karen Snyder.  
Patty Tomino by Jerry and Rhonda Battenfield.  
Matthew Yudt by Mom and Dad.



#### In honor of:

Christina and Eli Lathrop by Matthew Lathrop.

## Christmas Gifts 2025

### Giving for Building Improvement Fund:

#### In loving memory of:

Louis and Rae Battenfield by Jerry and Rhonda Battenfield.  
James and Charmaine Boyle by Lynne and Mark Matejicka  
and Family.



## Christmas Gifts 2025

### **Giving for Church Cooling Fund: In loving memory of:**

Stephen Kosik Jr. by Dolly Lahr

### **Giving for General Fund: In loving memory of:**

Our parents, Helen and William Betz by Nancy and Bill Betz and Family.  
Amy L. Cser Bogert by her mom, Cindy Cser.

Anna and Edwin Bradley by their daughter, Pamela and grandchildren, Matthew, Victoria, Emily and Eli.  
Harold and Margaret Brandt by Ruthann Brandt.

William and Katie Brandt by Ruthann Brandt.

Ronald Cortright by his wife, Alice Cortright and son, Josh.

Departed Loved Ones by Sam and Connie Beidleman.

Donald and Lucille Dreisbach Sr. by the Family.

Nicholas J. Fragnito Jr by Nancy and Bill Betz and Family.

Doris and Russell Hall by Cynthia Gilfert.

Our parents, Lucille and Roger Jones by Nancy and Bill Betz and Family.

Ellen and Karl Korsak by Sandy and Tom Tapler.

Ellen and Karl Korsak by Gail and Rollie Yudt.

Pat LeCompte by Sandy and Tom Tapler.

Pat LeCompte by Gail and Rollie Yudt.

Kenneth and Theresa Munsch by Scott.

Gary and Jody by their sister, Ondie Neifert.

Irvin and Dorothy Neifert by their daughter, Ondie Neifert.

John and Theresia Nickless by their daughter, Patricia Schadt.

John and Jean Quevy by Gary and their daughter, Rochelle Quevy Swoyer.

Susie Rape by Sandy and Tom Tapler.

Susie Rape by Gail and Rollie Yudt.

Cary Schadt by his wife, Patricia.

Our parents, John and Inez Sehar by Ed and Antoinette Sehar.

Our parents, Anne and Sam Senneca by Antoinette and Ed Sehar.

Matthew Yudt by Sandy and Tom Tapler.

Matthew Yudt by Gail and Rollie Yudt.

Anna and Roland Yudt, Sr. by Gail and Rollie Yudt.

### **Giving for Organ Fund: In loving memory of:**

Gary Battenfield by Jerry and Rhonda Battenfield.

All Loved Ones by Darlene, Carrie and Jeffrey Wolf.

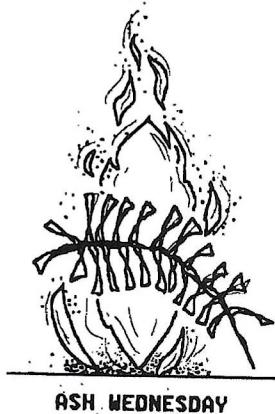


# ASH WEDNESDAY

We can only be forgiven if we admit our need for forgiveness. That takes true humility. It is this true humility that we symbolize through the Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday. This day, second only to Good Friday, is when we humbly acknowledge the depths of our sinfulness and our complete inability to overcome it. This day is for remembering and repenting.

Thanks to God and our Savior Jesus Christ it is also a day for renewal.

Please do join us for our annual worship service of **Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes**, on **Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 PM**. "I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord, "he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." (John 11:25)



## Lenten Self-Denial

It's such a simple thing, but the special offerings placed in our annual Lenten Self-Denial envelopes make a big statement about our ministry here at St. John's.

These special offerings are one of the significant ways we show our remembrance of and appreciation for our Lord's sacrifice for us. These special offerings help us reach out with this Good News of Salvation to those who don't yet appreciate it.

So, please be generous with your Lenten Self-Denial envelope — it's that unassuming pink one in your offering envelope box — and make a big difference on behalf of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thanks!

St. John's Lutheran Church, Coplay, PA  
Monday October 13, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ondie Neifert, Joe Danner, Gayle Ganser, Bill Gilfert, Greg Miller, Jeff Reinhard, Kathleen Sandner, Louise Hash,

Members Excused: Roni Dech, Renee Coyle, Nancy Recker, Jeremy Snyder

Announcements and Communications

- Clarification on American Club Catering- we can still provide our own food for the picnic.
- The bill for the copier will be forwarded to Nancy, it had been given to Joe.
- Janie is looking for updates for the newsletter.

The monthly meeting was held on Monday October 13, 2025. President Greg Miller called the meeting to order at 7:11PM.

Greg led the council in opening prayer.

After minutes from the September 8, 2025 meeting was read, Joe moved to approve the minutes. Jeff seconded. All ayes, minutes approved.

	Motion to Accept Report Made By	Motion Seconded By	Report Read—Motion Carried—Yes/No
PASTOR'S REPORT:	NA	NA	(Yes/No) NA
Summary from Pastor's Report:	NA	NA	NA
Financial Secretary's Report:	Jeff	Louise	Yes
Treasurer's Report:	Louise	Bill	Yes

COMMITTEE REPORTS	
Christian Education:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Rally Day went well, 13 children registered</li><li>Grateful for the return of the Yensers and Samantha Stahl providing our snacks</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will participate in the Halloween Parade 10/21. Thanks to Joe Danner for his truck and Jeremy Snyder for his trailer,</li> <li>• Halloween Party 10/26</li> <li>• Holy Communion and Confirmation classes are underway with Gayle Ganser and Kathleen Sandner teaching.</li> <li>• Christmas Program TBD</li> </ul>
Evangelism:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No meeting</li> <li>• Baptism to be scheduled and a potential new member.</li> </ul>
Fellowship:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baked Ziti is the next scheduled dinner</li> <li>• November will be the filling sale.</li> </ul>
Finance & Stewardship:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finances are better without the Pastor's salary.</li> <li>• Ondie will begin working on the budget and will present to the committee.</li> </ul>
Property:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parsonage and rental will be empty to start 2026.</li> <li>• Decision on new paint and carpet will be made when empty.</li> <li>• Don Driesbach will be contacted about snow plowing.</li> <li>• Property insurance has been renewed.</li> <li>• Decorating of the sanctuary will be 12/7- pizza provided for volunteers.</li> </ul>
Scholarship:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No report</li> </ul>
Social Media:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A second headset compatible with the new cordless microphone will be acquired.</li> </ul>
Social Ministry:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shut-ins have been determined.</li> <li>• Members of the committee will make periodic phone calls to shut ins</li> <li>• The committee will begin prepping for Christmas gifts at the end of October.</li> <li>• Next mtg. 10/23.</li> </ul>
Worship and Music:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance on the organ has been completed.</li> <li>• Ruthann's vacations, 10/19 and 11/23 will be covered by Sharon Schrantz.</li> <li>• Lector for Xmas service has been secured.</li> <li>• We have supply pastors scheduled until the end of the year.</li> </ul>
Picnic:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No report</li> </ul>

Nominating:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There will be 2 one year terms to fill and 5 three year terms to fill. Joe Danner, Gayle Ganser, and Louise Hash have offered to fill 3 of the 5 three year terms.</li> </ul>
Coplay Community Days:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings will begin in February</li> </ul>
Transition:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The committee will have 2 meetings prior to the next council meeting. Joe will provide updates on the progress of the committee.</li> </ul>
Unfinished Business:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A date will be chosen to hold a fundraiser at Samuel Owens.</li> <li>A date will be scheduled to decorate the trailer and truck for the Halloween Parade.</li> <li>Agenda/ Schedule will be made for shut in communion.</li> </ul>
New Business:	None
News from the Pews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greg will write the message for the front of the Newsletter.</li> <li>The newsletter will contain two months of information.</li> </ul>
For the Good of St. John's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Message of encouragement for members to return to regular worship now and not wait until a permanent pastor is found. Come back and be part of the transition. Support of the church during the process is as valuable as when it is complete.</li> </ul>

Motion for Adjournment	Motion Made By:	Motion Seconded By:	Meeting End Time:
	Ondie	Joe	8:33pm

The meeting ended with Council praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gayle Ganser, Council Secretary

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ondie Neifert, Gayle Ganser, Bill Gilfert, Roni Dech, Greg Miller, Renee Coyle, Jeff Reinhard, Kathleen Sandner, Louise Hash, Jeremy Snyder, Nancy Recker,

Members Excused: Joe Danner

St. John's Lutheran Church, Coplay, PA  
Monday November 10, 2025

Announcements and Communications

- The Snow Removal contract has been received.
- A note received from Coplay Food Pantry thanking the church for donations and Tommy delivering to the pantry.
- Lehigh Conferences of Churches requested donations, but decided we already are supporting the Angel Tree and Lutheran Topton Home.

The monthly meeting was held on Monday 10, 2025. President Greg Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Greg led the council in opening prayer.

After minutes from the October 13, 2025, meeting were read, Jeff moved to approve the minutes. Ondie seconded. All ayes, minutes approved.

	Motion to Accept Report Made By	Motion Seconded By	Report Read—Motion Carried—Yes/No
PASTOR'S REPORT:	NA		
Summary from Pastor's Report:	None		
Financial Secretary's Report:	Nancy	Kathleen	Yes
Treasurer's Report: *All taxes for the year have been paid.	Jeff	Louise	Yes

COMMITTEE REPORTS	
Christian Education:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weekly Sunday School attendance is about 6 kids.</li><li>• Halloween Parade and party was fun and</li></ul>

	<p>successful,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ryan Correll celebrated 1st Communion on Reformation Sunday.</li> <li>• We visited Grace UCC on 11/9.</li> <li>• The Christmas program will be 12/21 with Gail Yudt's direction.</li> <li>• Confirmation class continues.</li> </ul>
Evangelism:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the baptism on 11/23, the pastor will provide the oil.</li> <li>• The church will present a children's bible.</li> <li>• The church will purchase several children's bibles and baptism cloths for future baptisms.</li> </ul>
Fellowship:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteers prepared 121 baked ziti dinners.</li> <li>• Volunteers are needed 11/15 to assist in making filling.</li> <li>• Filling pick up is 11/22 from noon to 2.</li> <li>• 2pound pan=9.00, 9x13 =25.00.</li> </ul>
Finance & Stewardship:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2026 Proposed Budget was presented.</li> <li>• Motion to approve- Jeff</li> <li>• Second- Louise</li> </ul>
Property:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parsonage will be empty by the end of Nov.</li> <li>• The property committee will determine what upgrades need to be completed.</li> <li>• Waiting for estimates on ½ bath for 3rd St. rental unit and an iron railing to the pulpit.</li> <li>• The 3rd Street door to the church will need to be replaced in the future.</li> <li>• Awaiting signed lease for the 3rd Street rental beginning 1/1/26.</li> </ul>
Scholarship:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No report</li> </ul>
Social Media:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RCN Euro WiFi software has been updated.</li> <li>• Nov-Dec Newsletter will be updated on website.</li> </ul>
Social Ministry:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boxes are in the narthexes for donations for Lutheran Topton Home.</li> <li>• Gifts were decided upon for the Shut ins.</li> <li>• Shut in gifts will be delivered the week of Dec. 15.</li> <li>• Council will discuss if envelopes should be delivered with gifts.</li> <li>• Shut in phone calls going well.</li> <li>• Shut in Communion will begin this month.</li> </ul>
Worship and Music:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ruthann is feeling better, and will take a scheduled vacation day on 11/23. Sharon Schrantz will substitute.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noticed that camera for online service may not always be centered on the choir or pulpit when it should.</li> </ul>
Picnic:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No report</li> </ul>
Nominating:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several members have agreed to fulfill open counsel seats pending official nominations and vote at our Congregational Meeting.</li> </ul>
Coplay Community Days:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The final meeting will be 11/17.</li> </ul>
Transition:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No report to council</li> </ul>
Unfinished Business:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A date will be scheduled with Sam Owen's for a fundraiser night. 10% of sales will go to church.</li> </ul>
New Business:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed budget details <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No pastor salary/budgeted for supply pastors.</li> <li>2. 5% raise for staff</li> </ul> </li> <li>Staff Christmas gifts were discussed.</li> <li>Council Christmas dinner scheduled for Assante's.</li> <li>Rummage sale idea was presented- see attached flyer. Motion to accept made by Roni, seconded by Bill. Motion carried- all yes.</li> <li>First congregation meeting- Dec.14th</li> <li>Second congregational meeting- Jan 18th.</li> </ul>
News from the Pews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rummage Sale information will be added to the next newsletter.</li> </ul>
For the Good of St. John's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flexibility with supply pastors was discussed. Understanding they will not do everything as was done in the past. Welcoming new ideas from the supply pastors to help us decide what we are looking for in a new pastor.</li> </ul>

Motion for Adjournment	Motion Made By:	Motion Seconded By:	Meeting End Time:
	Nancy	Ondie	8:26 pm

The meeting ended with Council praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gayle Ganser, Council Secretary

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COPLAY, PENNSYLVANIA  
2026 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Pastoral Transition  
Pastor**

<b>Nancy Recker Treasurer</b>	1344 Stewart Street Northampton, PA 18067	(cell) 484-788-2917 <i>nancy_recker@yahoo.com</i>
<b>Ondrea Neifert Financial Secretary</b>	4410 Henry Street Easton, PA 18045	(home) 610-253-3994 (cell) 610-216-9216 <i>oneifert@rcn.com</i>

**Members of Council elected by the Congregation whose terms will expire at the end of 2026:**

<b>Pamela Bradley (0)</b>	535 Sipos Drive Northampton, PA 18067-1822	(cell) 610-952-6884 <i>pamelaaannbradley@icloud.com</i>
<b>Veronica Dech (1)</b>	7091 Copenhagen Square Bethlehem, PA 18017	(cell) 484-264-3173 <i>vdech68@gmail.com</i>
<b>Gregory Miller (1) President</b>	5996 Coplay Road, Apt. 8 Coplay, PA 18037	(cell) 610-393-9421 <i>millergp@rcn.com</i>
<b>Danette Weidner (0)</b>	34 Cottonwood Street Allentown, PA 18104	(cell) 610-751-5945 <i>nettiet424@msn.com</i>

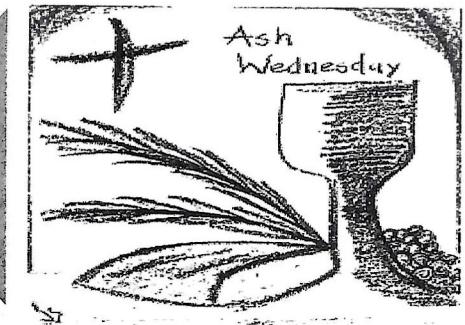
**Members of Council elected by the Congregation whose terms will expire at the end of 2027:**

<b>Renee Coyle (1)</b>	3081 Jordan Road Orefield, PA 18069	cell) 610-216-4553 <i>frodie@hotmail.com</i>
<b>Louise Hash (1)</b>	4823 Hillside Road Northampton, PA 18067	(home) 610-261-2746 (cell) 484-294-6456 <i>lhash51@msn.com</i>
<b>Jeffrey Reinhard (2) Vice President</b>	123 Orchard Drive, Apt. 6 Whitehall, PA 18052	(cell) 484-201-8459 <i>reinhardwhi4@aol.com</i>
<b>Kathleen Sandner (1) Co-Council Secretary</b>	3306 South Ruch Street Whitehall, PA 18052	(cell) 484-695-5779 <i>klmas@aol.com</i>

**Members of Council elected by the Congregation whose terms will expire at the end of 2028:**

<b>Joseph Danner, Jr. (1)</b>	566 East Eighth Street Northampton, PA 18067	(cell) 484-788-9792 <i>jedanner71@outlook.com</i>
<b>Gayle Ganser (1) Co-Council Secretary</b>	3194 Park Street Whitehall, PA 18052	(home) 610-502-0297 (cell) 484-695-3696 <i>pochron5@aol.com</i>
<b>Jane Ann Spieker (1)</b>	403 Walnut Street Catasauqua, PA 18032	(cell) 610-349-2965 <i>cocolabeeeka44@gmail.com</i>
<b>Sheila Yudt-Gower (1)</b>	620 E. Eighth Street Northampton, PA 18067	(cell) 610-730-3522 <i>sheilainpa15@gmail.com</i>

# A LITTLE R & R (Reminders & Recipes)



## MARCH/APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>!

Please have all articles for the March/April newsletter in the Newsletter "mailbox" outside the church office by Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

WHEN YOU OR A LOVED ONE goes into the hospital please tell them that you are a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Coplay. Use our code #277. Please call Council President Greg Miller (610-393-9421) or Vice-President Jeff Reinhard (484-201-8459) for prayer. This will also ensure that we know and can visit you.

### PIEROGI CASSEROLE

12 oz. bacon  
1 box of lasagna noodles  
3 lbs. potatoes  
1 onion  
1 bag of Cheddar cheese

1 bag of Colby Jack cheese  
½ stick butter  
1 cup milk  
1 tsp. garlic powder  
1 tsp. black pepper

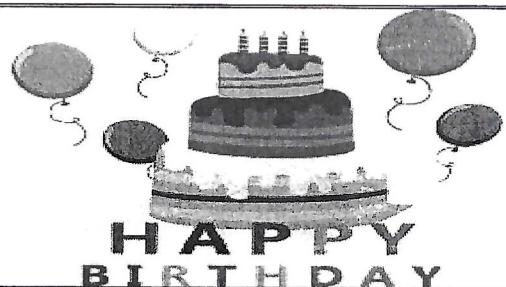
1. Cook the potatoes and mash them. Add milk and butter. Add ½ cup cheddar cheese. Add garlic powder and black pepper. Set aside.
2. Cut up bacon and fry with onion.
3. Cook noodles and drain.
4. Using a 9 x 13 pan, start a layer of noodles, layer of mashed potatoes, next layer of bacon and onions, then sprinkle cheese on top.
5. Keep layering til you use all ingredients.
6. Put on top layer of noodles the left over cheese.
7. Bake in oven, covered with foil at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.
8. Remove foil and bake for another 15 minutes.

Enjoy!

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

to Everyone Celebrating  
their Birthday in

### JANUARY and FEBRUARY



#### Special Happy Birthday to:

Fred Milander on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and Tim Rutz on February 10<sup>th</sup>!

Fred resides at:  
Cedar Crest Post Acute, Rm 233A  
1265 S. Cedar Crest Blvd.  
Allentown 18103

Tim resides at:  
1080 Catherine Drive  
Coplay 18037

God Bless You and Your Special Day!!!

## JANUARY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

### JANUARY 4

Acolyte – Eli Tomecek  
Lector – Jeff Reinhard  
Ushers – Jeff Reinhard\*, Ondie Neifert and  
Danette Weidner  
Communion Assistant – Joe Danner

### JANUARY 11

Acolyte – Lara Williams  
Lector – Gayle Ganser  
Ushers – Jeff Reinhard\*, Ondie Neifert and  
Danette Weidner

### JANUARY 18

Acolyte – Michael Ganser  
Lector – Gail Yudt  
Ushers – Jeff Reinhard\*, Ondie Neifert and  
Danette Weidner

### JANUARY 25

Acolyte – Blake Terfinko  
Lector – Bill Gilfert  
Ushers – Jeff Reinhard\*, Ondie Neifert and  
Danette Weidner



## FEBRUARY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

### FEBRUARY 1

Acolyte – to be announced  
Lector – Cindy Zwetolitz  
Ushers – Joe Danner\* and Jane Ann Spieker  
Communion Assistant – Karen Haines

### FEBRUARY 8

Acolyte – to be announced  
Lector – Renee Coyle  
Ushers – Joe Danner\* and Jane Ann Spieker

### FEBRUARY 15

Acolyte – to be announced  
Lector – Sheila Yudt-Gower  
Ushers – Joe Danner\* and Jane Ann Spieker

### FEBRUARY 18 – ASH WEDNESDAY

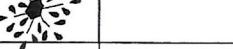
Acolyte – to be announced  
Lector – to be announced  
Ushers – Joe Danner\* and Jane Ann Spieker  
Communion Assistant – Ondie Neifert

### FEBRUARY 22

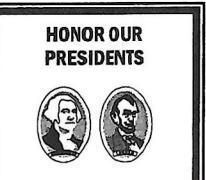
Acolyte – to be announced  
Lector – Eli Tomecek  
Ushers – Joe Danner\* and Jane Ann Spieker



# Calendar for January 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	<b>ANNUAL REPORTS and ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b> <b>**Annual Congregational Meeting — Part Two**</b> <b>AFTER WORSHIP, SUNDAY, JANUARY 18<sup>th</sup></b>			<b>1</b> <b>Happy New Year!</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>CHRISTMAS II</b> 9:00 AM: Sunday School 10:30 AM: CHRISTMAS II HOLY COMMUNION: The Name of Jesus, New Year's emphases 11:30 AM: Worship and Music Committee  <b>*2025 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE*</b>	<b>5</b> 6:30 PM: Evangelism Committee 7:00 PM: Social Media Committee 7:30 PM: Property Committee	<b>6</b> 6 – 7:30 PM: Rummage Sale Drop-Off	<b>7</b> 7:00 PM: ♪ Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 6 – 7:30 PM: Rummage Sale Drop-Off  7:00 PM: Second Year Confirmation Class	<b>9</b> * Pot Pie Pre-orders Deadline *	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>EPIPHANY I</b> 9:00 AM: Sunday School 10:30 AM: EPIPHANY I WORSHIP SERVICE 11:30 AM: Christmas Undecorating  <b>*2025 ANNUAL REPORTS AVAILABLE*</b>	<b>12</b> 7:00 PM: Church Council        	<b>13</b>        	<b>14</b> 7:00 PM: ♪ Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b> 7:00 PM: Second Year Confirmation Class        	<b>16</b>        	<b>17</b> 10 – 2 PM: Rummage Sale Drop-Off  9:00 AM: Volunteers needed  <b>4 – 5:30 PM</b> <b>Pick up pre-orders</b> <b>of</b> <b>CHICKEN</b> <b>POT PIE</b>
<b>18</b> <b>† Congregational Meeting †</b> 9:00 AM: Sunday School 10:30 AM: EPIPHANY II WORSHIP SERVICE 11:30 AM: Annual Congregational Meeting — Part Two	<b>19</b>  	<b>20</b> 6 – 7:30 PM: Rummage Sale Drop-Off	<b>21</b> 7:00 PM: ♪ Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b> 6 – 7:30 PM: Rummage Sale Drop-Off  7:00 PM: Second Year Confirmation Class	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>EPIPHANY III</b> 9:00 AM: Sunday School 10:30 AM: EPIPHANY III WORSHIP SERVICE	<b>26</b> 7:00 PM: Christian Education Committee	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:00 PM: ♪ Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b> 7:00 PM: Second Year Confirmation Class	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 

## Calendar for February 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> <b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>  9:00 AM: Sunday School 10:30 AM: EPIPHANY IV HOLY COMMUNION  11:30 AM: Worship and Music Committee	<b>2</b>  6:30 PM: Evangelism Committee 7:00 PM: Social Media Committee 7:30 PM: Property Committee	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  7:00 PM:  Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b>  7:00 PM: Second Year Confirmation Class	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>EPIPHANY V</b>  9:00 AM: Sunday School 10:30 AM: EPIPHANY V WORSHIP SERVICE:	<b>9</b>  7:00 PM: Church Council	<b>10</b>  6 – 7:30 PM Rummage Sale Drop-Off	<b>11</b>  7:00 PM:  Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b>  6 – 7:30 PM Rummage Sale Drop-Off  7:00 PM: Second Year Confirmation Class	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>   Happy Valentine's Day
<b>15</b> <b>EPIPHANY VI</b>  9:00 AM: SUNDAY SCHOOL VALENTINE PARTY 10:30 AM: EPIPHANY VI WORSHIP SERVICE   <b>Sunday School St. Valentine Party February 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>16</b> <b>PRESIDENT'S DAY</b>   <b>HONOR OUR PRESIDENTS</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>  6:30 PM:  Senior Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM: Ash Wednesday Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes	<b>19</b>  7:00 PM: Second Year Confirmation Class	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  10 – 2 PM Rummage Sale Drop-Off
<b>22</b> <b>EPIPHANY VII</b>  9:00 AM: Sunday School 10:30 AM: EPIPHANY VI WORSHIP SERVICE	<b>23</b>  7:00 PM: Christian Education Committee	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  6:00 PM: <b>Soup, Bread, and Discussion</b> 7:00 PM:  Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b>  7:00 PM: Second Year Confirmation Class	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
			<b>LENTEN MIDWEEK SERIES</b>  <b>SOUP, BREAD, AND DISCUSSION</b>  <b>Wednesdays at 6:00 PM</b>			