

News from the Pews

www.stjohnscoplay.com

March and April 2026

Jane Gillespie, Editor 610-264-1111 stjohnscoplay@rcn.com

A Word From Council President..

WOW, what a winter it has been so far! Two Sunday services had to be cancelled due to the weather conditions in January. Here's hoping for an early spring!

We held our Ash Wednesday Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes Service on February 18th. Pastor Carey Miller was the Supply Pastor for the service.

We are having the Mid-Week Lenten Soup, Bread, and Discussion sessions, which started on February 25th and will be running until March 25th at 6:00 PM, except for Wednesday, March 12th. If you want to make soup or bread, please contact Karen Haines. Come on out and join us.

We have been very fortunate to have been provided with Supply Pastors for all of February and March. The April request for Supply Pastors was submitted on February 15th. Thanks to Joe Danner for heading up the Supply Pastor request process.

3/1/26 - Pastor Carey Miller

3/8/26 - Pastor Virginia Heimer

3/15/26 - Pastor Elaine Quincy

3/22/26 - Pastor George Zacharda

3/29/26 - Pastor Dennis Moore (Palm Sunday)

4/2/26 - Pastor Carey Miller (Maundy Thursday)

4/3/26 - Pastor Carey Miller (Good Friday)

We will have a baptism and new members join on Sunday March 22nd, come on out and help celebrate with our new friends.

[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

Maundy Thursday Service will be held on April 2nd at 7:30. Good Friday service will be held on April 3rd at 7:30 PM. This year we will have only one Easter Sunday Service at 10:30 AM on April 5th. The annual Easter breakfast will again be held from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM in the Social Hall. Ticket announcements will be available soon. Keep a watch out in the bulletin, the Facebook page, and the website for more information. If you can help cook this delicious annual event, please let Joe Danner or me know. We'd love to have you join in on the fun and the mess (and cleanup) we make of Karen's kitchen.

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

Spread the word about this event and come on out to help support your St. John's ministry. 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.

We have been trying to have the Congregational Meeting - Part Two the last few weeks. The weather has not cooperated, or we didn't have the required quorum. To resolve this issue, your Church Council has decided to move the Annual Congregational Meeting - Part Two to March of each year.

For 2025/2026 the Congregational Meeting - Part Two will be held on Sunday, March 15th after service. Please plan to attend if you can. We need a quorum of 35 active members to hold the meeting. We may also be asking for a congregational vote on contracts for painting and flooring of the Parsonage at this meeting, so long as all the proposals are in and a recommendation from Property and Finance Committees will be available.

Starting with the 2027 Congregational Meeting - Part Two, we will return to the past where we had a luncheon in the social hall giving you time to review the Committee Reports and have fellowship with your fellow members. More details to come.

Respectfully,

Greg

Greg Miller

Church Council President

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERIES 2026 SOUP, BREAD, & DISCUSSION

“DOING MORE THAN JUST COPING”

This year’s Lenten Midweek Series began on Wednesday, February 25th. We’ll meet at 6:00 PM for fellowship with a simple meal of soup and bread prior to our discussions. We’ll wrap up around 7:00 PM or so.

Do you find yourself reacting to your morning newspaper, TV newscast or shows, and the stuff on your smartphone or tablet? Well, you’re not alone! This year at “SB&D,” we want to discuss all the controversies that make us react: “I can’t believe that!”; “That is so wrong!”; “I wish they would do this;” “What’s this world coming to?” and more.

So, we need your help!

1. Plan to attend “SB&D” each Wednesday, except Wednesday, March 11th due to Rummage Sale Set-up.
2. Start jotting down your reactions, save or print out articles for discussion, and send them ASAP to Ondie, or just bring your list along that Wednesday, and
3. PUT IN YOUR TWO CENTS! Let’s “solve all the controversies” from the Christian perspective, which is often being overlooked in today’s increasingly secular world.

THE DETAILS:



Soup and bread begins at 6:00 PM
...every Lenten Wednesday, beginning February 25th



Please do bring your midweek Lenten offering envelope. Your offerings are very much appreciated, especially during the Penitential Season of Lent.



Opportunity for discussion, questions, and conversation.

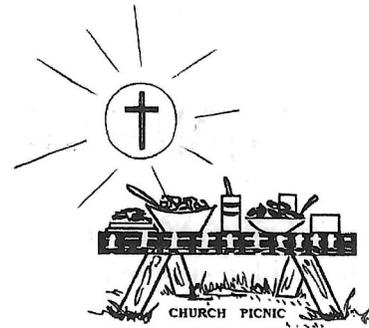
SO: MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR MARCH 4th, 18th, 25th

CALL KAREN HAINES (610-653-2816) IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE SOUP OR BREAD ONE NIGHT. THANKS, AND...

SEE YOU ON LENTEN WEDNESDAYS!

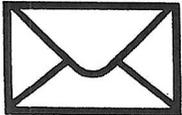
Picnic Committee

St. John's Picnic Committee will be having its first meeting in 2026 on Monday evening, March 2nd, at 6:00 PM, in the church office. Chairperson Joe Danner (484-788-9792) invites all members to attend to help plan our annual summer event, this year on Sunday, July 26th. Your help and ideas will be greatly appreciated!



ST. JOHN'S SUMMER PICNIC
Sunday, July 26th
at the Coplay Pavilion

**COME TO THE FIRST PICNIC COMMITTEE MEETING:
MONDAY, MARCH 2ND, 6:00 PM — THANKS!**



THANK YOU
for using your little
WORLD HUNGER ENVELOPE!



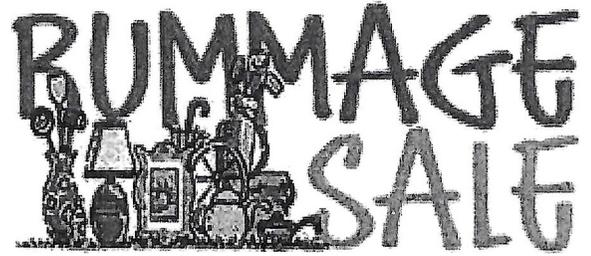
Don't forget...

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 AM on **Sunday morning, March 8th.**

Turn your clocks **AHEAD** one hour on **Saturday night, March 7th!**

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 2 pm on both days in the Social Hall.



SET UP DATES:

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

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



Refreshments and Baked goods will be available for purchase and provided by the Fellowship Committee.



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.

Join us on Friday, March 13 or Saturday, March 14 to find your hidden treasure!

****CASH ONLY****



St. John's Lutheran Church Sunday School

Invites you to

Friendship Sunday

Bring a Friend to help us celebrate Friendship Sunday with our theme

"One Big Family!"

Grace United Church of Christ (of Northampton) Sunday School Staff, Children
and Parents are invited to join our Sunday School Program on

Sunday, March 22nd at 9:00 a.m.

Join us for songs, crafts, games, snacks and friendship!!

We look forward to seeing you!!

EASTER EGG HUNT AND PARTY

Saturday, April 4, 10:00 AM



Note to all Sunday School children:

If you are coming to the Easter Egg Hunt, please bring a basket to the Social Hall kitchen by Palm Sunday, March 29th.

Please write your name on a slip of paper, loop it around the handle of the basket, and tape the loop closed so it won't fall off.

Thank you!



SPECIAL REQUEST FOR DONATIONS

If you would be willing to make a donation toward our annual Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt and Party, it would be greatly appreciated!

Please see Superintendent Gail Yudt or call her at 610-262-8325. Thanks!

FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP MARCH 22ND!

BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH!



Every friend, and the member who brings them, will receive a welcome gift, courtesy of Louise Hash and St. John's Evangelism Committee, during *our morning worship service*. Also, *for the children's sermon, any child in attendance will receive a gift.*

Don't forget the very special friendship event for all our Sunday School students and their friends at 9:00 AM before worship.

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!

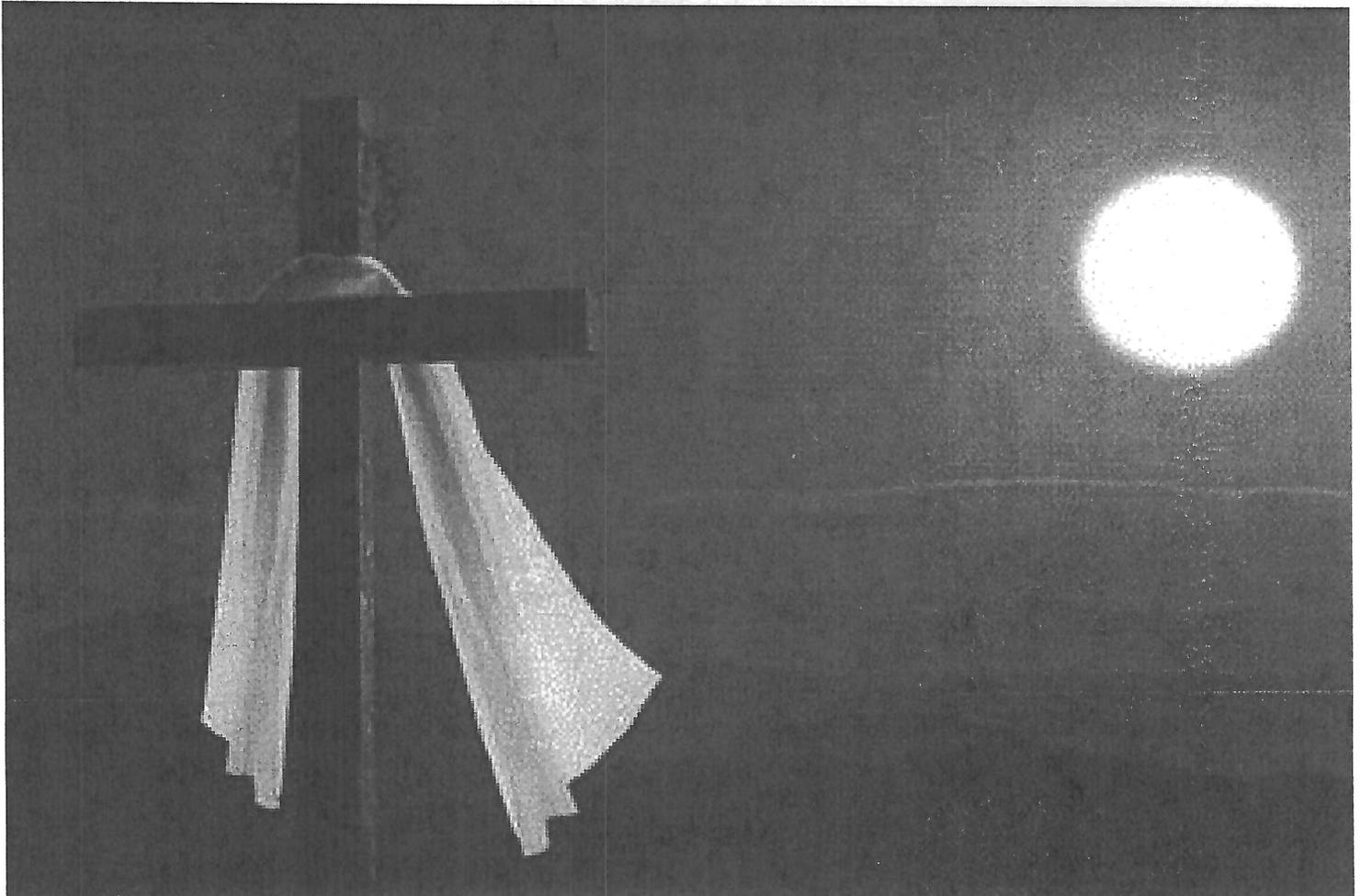
**“DO NOT BE AFRAID;
JESUS IS NOT HERE,
FOR HE HAS RISEN!”**

Matthew 28:5-6

*Join your fellow members
in celebration of our Lord's resurrection*

EASTER DAY AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, April 5th, 10:30 AM
Congregational Breakfast, 8 to 10 AM



Holy Week / Easter

PALM SUNDAY

March 29th
10:30 AM



Festival Service of Palms;
Palm Sunday Opening Liturgy;
Holy Communion;
Special music including annual singing of Faure's "Palm Branches"

"HOSANNA TO
THE SON OF
DAVID!"



MAUNDY THURSDAY

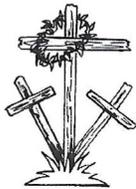
April 2nd
7:30 PM



Contemplative Service of Remembrance;
Celebration of **Jesus' Last Supper**;
Special music;
Annual Stripping of the Altar (in preparation for Good Friday)

GOOD FRIDAY

April 3rd
7:30 PM



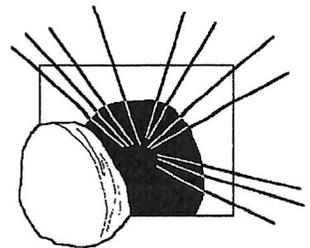
"Tenebrae" Service of Increasing Darkness;
Special music including annual "Were You There?"
Silence leading to the "Strepitus!"

EASTER SUNDAY

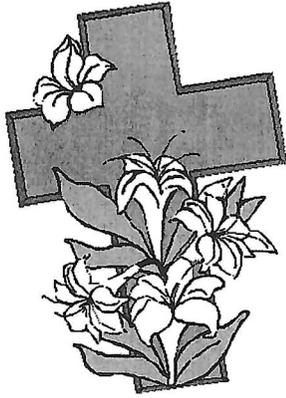
April 5th
10:30 AM



Holy Communion;
Sermon emphasizing **Christ's Resurrection**
Special music;
Chancel covered with Easter Flowers
[Note: *NO Sunday School*;
Congregational Breakfast
beginning at 8:00 AM]



Come to worship... Thank your Risen Lord!



Easter Lilies, Memorials, and Honoraria

Our sanctuary always looks beautiful for Easter, and part of that beauty is created through the donations of lilies by our members. Whether you honor a loved one, or are moved to remember a departed loved one, everyone at St. John's appreciates this expression of love. The cost of each plant is \$13, and the deadline for ordering Easter lilies is March 29th (Palm Sunday).

Another way to memorialize or honor our loved ones is to make a donation in their name to one of St. John's special funds.

Please use the form(s) included in this newsletter or in your Sunday worship bulletin, or call Antoinette Sehar at 610-390-6821 (for lily orders) or Ondie Neifert at 610-216-9216 (for memorials and honoraria) by March 29th in order to have your gift(s) listed in the Easter worship bulletin.

Thank you!



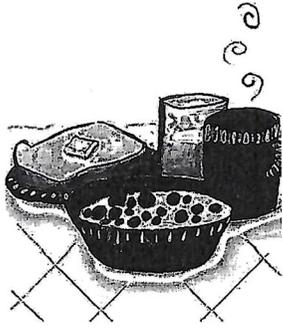
St. John's Scholarship Applications Available

In August, the Scholarship Committee will present scholarship awards to college students who are active members of our congregation. All who will be attending colleges in the 2026-2027 academic year are encouraged to apply.

The Diefenderfer-Buchfeller Scholarship is presented to qualifying students in any field of study.

The Mac Adam Future Teacher Scholarship is awarded to students who have completed some college coursework in education with the intention of becoming a teacher.

The deadline to apply is Sunday May 31st. Please contact Gayle Ganser at 484-695-3696 for more detailed information about the requirements for these scholarships.



Congregational Easter Breakfast

Easter morning, April 5th
from 8 AM until 10 AM

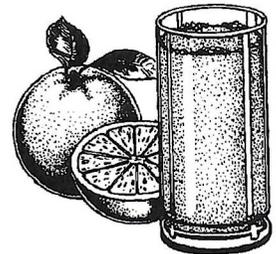
St. John's is once again offering a full breakfast on Easter Sunday. It will be served by Joe Danner and crew before the 10:30 Worship Service.

MEMBERS OF ST. JOHN'S,
YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO PREPARE, SERVE, AND CLEAN UP!
PLEASE CALL JOE DANNER AT
484-788-9792 A.S.A.P.!
Thank you!

So, celebrate our Lord's Resurrection at 10:30 and join your friends at St. John's in the Social Hall any time between 8 and 10:00 AM.

Happy Easter!

Breakfast is free;
Donations gratefully accepted



All are welcome!

**ORDER FORM FOR EASTER LILIES
EASTER 2026**

I wish to order lilies to decorate the church on Easter.
Please order _____ Easter lilies for me at \$13 per plant.

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

GIVEN BY: _____

Envelope # _____ Phone number _____

Total \$ enclosed: _____

*** DEADLINE FOR SPECIAL GIFTS IS MARCH 29TH. ***
(IN ORDER TO BE LISTED IN THE WORSHIP BULLETIN)

*** FORMS ARE BEING TAKEN BY ANTOINETTE SEHAR ***



**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 29TH. ***
(IN ORDER TO BE LISTED IN THE WORSHIP BULLETIN)

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

St. John's Lutheran Church, Coplay, PA Tuesday December 9 , 2026
MEMBERS PRESENT: Ondie Neifert, Gayle Ganser, Bill Gilfert, Greg Miller, Renee Coyle, Louise Hash, , Nancy Recker, Joe Danner
Members Excused: Kathleen Sandner, Jeff Reinhard, Roni Dech, Jeremy Snyder

Announcements and Communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The church received a Thank You message from the Coplay Food Bank for our donations and a thank you to Tom Gardner for delivering the donation.

The monthly meeting was held on Tuesday December 9 2025 at Assante's. President Greg Miller called the meeting to order at 7:03PM.

Greg led the council in opening prayer.

After minutes from the November 10, 2025, meeting were read, Nancy moved to approve the minutes. Bill 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:	Louise	Joe	Yes
Treasurer's Report:	Bill	Renee	Yes

COMMITTEE REPORTS	
Christian Education:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report
Evangelism:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Report
Fellowship:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 162 2lb. Pans and 40 13x9 pans of filling were prepared by volunteers. • Volunteers will be needed for Chicken Pot Pie Dinner on 1/17/26. Pick up 4-5:30.
Finance & Stewardship:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Report
Property:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiting for estimates for the railing and the ½ bath in the rental and outside door. • Parsonage is empty and will be assessed • The toilet issue is fixed at no charge.
Scholarship:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report
Social Media:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website is updated and includes the Rummage Sale information • Each Pastor is choosing the microphone he or she is most comfortable with for the service.
Social Ministry:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • .Decisions were made about the Christmas Gifts for shut ins • Gifts will be delivered during the week of December 15th. • A huge thank you to the committee.for their hard work.
Worship and Music:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two new Lectors were added for 2026 • Pastor Carey Miller would like to meet with the committee to prepare for services. • A Request for Supply Pastors for February was submitted.
Picnic:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Report
Nominating:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With new nominations, the council will be full minus a Pastor. • Prepared for the Congregational meeting.
Coplay Community Days:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The festival was a success.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to all volunteers. • Festival dates for 2026 are August 28-30. • Planning meetings will begin February 16th at 7:00 Coplay Borough Hall.
Transition:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings will be held Tuesdays starting in January. • The committee will focus on items highlighted by Pastor Drennan.
Unfinished Business:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date will be finalized for Samuel Owens fundraising dinner. • Rummage sale - donations have started. The Press will be contacted for advertising. • Christmas gifts were approved for church staff.
New Business:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ash Wednesday service will be held. • Mid Week Lenten Discussions will be held. • Annual reports need to be prepared for the 2nd Congregational Meeting on Jan. 18th.
News from the Pews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greg will prepare the Cover Letters for the newsletter.
For the Good of St. John's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rummage Sale is a go.

Motion for Adjournment	Motion Made By:	Motion Seconded By:	Meeting End Time:
	Nancy	Joe	8:02 pm

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Gayle Ganser, Council Secretary

Facebook: St.John'sLutheranCoplay

HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY – APRIL 12, 2026

Pastor Carey Miller will be our supply pastor on the Sunday after Easter, April 12th. He has suggested observing and celebrating Holy Humor Sunday.

Holy Humor Sunday, Day of Joy and Laughter, Bright Monday, White Monday, Emmaus Day, Dyngus Day, Risus Paschalis – these are all titles for a very old Christian tradition. The purpose of the day is to celebrate the resurrection in a joyful, humorous manner.

HISTORY

Easter Monday was celebrated as a “Day of Joy and Laughter” in Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant countries. One authority observes that in the Greek and Slavic Orthodox traditions, Easter Monday “was a day of joy and laughter, a time of great celebration over the resurrection of Christ and the renewal of the spiritual life of the people.” On Easter Sunday during the 13th century in Bavaria, the faithful would gather back in the afternoon in the church courtyard for a time of story-telling and practical joking. The priest would leave the altar and come down among the people and lead the congregation in what was called the “Risus Paschalis” which means “the Easter Laugh”. The priest would tell funny stories and sing comical songs, and the church would ring with laughter.

Sadly, the Church authorities gradually suppressed it as improper and an abuse during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. But, to this day in Slavic regions Christians gather the day after Easter for folk dancing and feasting in the churchyard.

PRESENT

In the past 30 or more years an organization called “The Fellowship of Merry Christians” has revived this ancient custom and many churches today celebrate what many call “Holy Humor Sunday.”

We will celebrate Holy Humor Sunday at St. John’s on April 12th (the week after Easter, “low Sunday”). It is a day to make light of what we are about on a Sunday morning. Sometimes we get so hung up on the solemnity of worship and doing things “right” that we become rigid and think there is only one way to do things. It is one day out of the 52 Sundays that we worship when we can “not take ourselves so seriously.” It is a day that we celebrate the joy of the resurrection, God defying the works of the devil. The devil thought he got rid of Jesus. The joke was on him. We have this great joy. We can celebrate, sing, laugh, and have fun.

Churches have done many different things on this day. People are asked to wear mismatched clothing, two different socks or shoes!, a tie that doesn’t match. They play practical jokes, put smiley faces on the paraments, do the liturgy in reverse order, the pastor changes the color of his stoles during the worship, and many other humorous things. Many people have a good time and enjoy it immensely. Come and join in the fun.

**COME, JOIN US ON SUNDAY, APRIL 12th FOR HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY AND
BE READY FOR JOY AND LAUGHTER!!!!**

St. John's Lutheran Church, Coplay, PA
Monday, January 12th, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ondie Neifert, Gayle Ganser, Roni Dech, Greg Miller, Renee Coyle, Jeff Reinhard, Kathleen Sandner, Louise Hash, Joe Danner, Nancy Recker, Pam Bradley, Sheila Yudt Gower, Danette Weidner, Jane Ann Spieker

Members Excused: All Present

Announcements and Communications

Bear Creek Camp pamphlet received. Not enough youth to take part.
Miscommunication with Brubaker Funeral Home about 2026 calendars. May be too late to order now. Ondie will check.
RuthAnn gave generous donation to General Fund.

The monthly meeting was held on 01/12/2026. President Greg Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Greg led the council in opening prayer.

After minutes from the last 2025 meeting were read, Joe moved to approve the minutes, Roni seconded. All ayes, minutes approved.

Election of officer minutes reviewed. Approved by Ondie, Louise seconded, all ayes.

	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:	With corrections by Jeff	Kathleen	Yes
Treasurer's Report: Discussion of hitting budgeted amount of benevolence for 2026	Jeff	Roni	Yes

COMMITTEE REPORTS	
Christian Education:	No report, prepped for Christmas Program
Evangelism:	No report, Shut-In communion is underway, more focus on the directory
Fellowship:	See report. Soup, bread and discussion sessions to begin for Lent
Finance & Stewardship:	See combined Property report
Property:	See report
Scholarship:	No report
Social Media:	No report, website is updated except for Committee Chairs
Social Ministry:	Going well, 10 shut-ins received communion. Will discuss Easter gifts, possible craft from Sunday School
Worship and Music:	No report. Organ was serviced. Will meet with Pastor Miller to help with order in the service
Picnic:	No report, 1 st meeting will be in March
Nominating:	No meeting
Coplay Community Days:	No meeting until February
Transition:	Weekly meetings to begin 1/13 at 6:30pm, with flexible day each week thereafter
Unfinished Business:	Will get date for Samuel Owens fundraiser
New Business:	<p>*Greg will talk to Janie about membership rolls.</p> <p>*Discussed creating new Altar Guild, considering council member as head, to be brought up at Congregation Meeting</p> <p>*Talk to Janie about pushing back due date for committee reports by a few days</p> <p>*Ondie made a motion made to have reports ready for the Congregational Meetings on the meeting date, not before. Roni seconded.</p> <p>* Motion by Ondie to hold Congregational Meeting II, downstairs, with luncheon 1st. Louise seconded</p> <p>*Rummage Sale collections going ok. What does not sell will be donated locally</p> <p>*Updated Committee Chairs: Louise Hash is Social Chair Gayle, Greg and Ondie are Joint Community Days Chairs Newsletter is Secretary, Janie Gillespie</p>

	Altar Guild non-existent, Tommy has been in charge, doing most of it himself
News from the Pews	Greg will continue doing cover letter
For the Good of St. John's	Joe will do Easter breakfast, 8am-10am. One service planned again. Interest expressed in possible Maundy Thursday tableau

Motion for Adjournment	Motion Made By:	Motion Seconded By:	Meeting End Time:
	Nancy	Kathleen	8:44pm

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Co-Council Secretaries
Kathleen and Gayle

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH COPLAY, PENNSYLVANIA

COUNCIL PRESIDENT	Gregory Miller	(cell) 610-393-9421	<i>millergrp@rcn.com</i>
COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT	Jeffrey Reinhard.	(cell) 484-201-8459	<i>reinhardwhi4@aol.com</i>
ORGANIST	Ruthann Brandt	610-262-3304	<i>Rmusic@ptd.net</i>
SEXTON	Thomas Gartner	484-860-7410	<i>fordstepside2@aol.com</i>
PARISH SECRETARY	Jane Gillespie	610-264-1111	<i>stjohnscoplay@rcn.com</i>
CO-COUNCIL SECRETARIES	Gayle Ganser Kathleen Sandner	(cell) 484-695-3696 (cell) 484-695-5779	<i>pochron5@aol.com</i> <i>klmas@aol.com</i>
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Ondrea Neifert	(home) 610-253-3994 (cell) 610-216-9216	<i>oneifert@rcn.com</i>
TREASURER	Nancy Recker	(cell) 484-788-2917	<i>nancy_recker@yahoo.com</i>

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.

ALSO, A REMINDER...

Please pick up your offering envelopes for 2026, if you have not already done so. They are on a table in the Social Hall.

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

www.stjohnscoplay.com

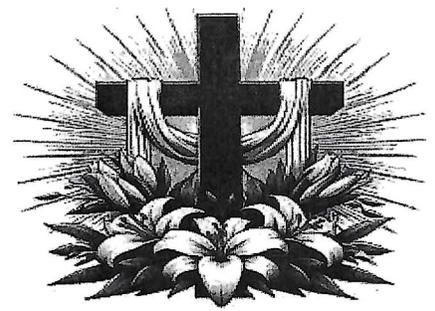
Let's Celebrate Spring!

Your Property Committee requests your help on our annual **Church Beautification Day, Saturday, April 25th**. We'll begin at 10:00 AM, repairing, cleaning and beautifying the church. We normally finish by noon.



Come for the whole time; come for just a half hour; but come!
Many hands make for light, quick work. And as always, thanks for all you do!

A LITTLE R & R (Reminders & Recipes)



MAY/JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: APRIL 20TH!

Please have all articles for the May/June newsletter in the Newsletter "mailbox" outside the church office by Friday, April 20th. 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.

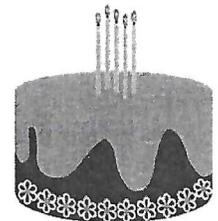
BLUEBERRY CRUMB CAKE

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup butter
1 egg
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk

2 cups flour
2 tsp. baking powder
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt
1 quart blueberries

1. Cream together the sugar, butter, egg and milk.
2. Mix together flour, baking powder, salt and blueberries.
3. Add blueberries mixture to creamed mixture and mix well.
4. Pour into greased and floured 9 in. pan.
7. Bake at 375 degrees for 60-70 minutes.
Enjoy!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!
to Everyone Celebrating
their Birthday in
MARCH and APRIL



Special Happy Birthday to: Roberta Seaton on March 7th!
Roberta resides at Fellowship Manor, Villa 306, 3020 Fellowship Drive, Whitehall PA 18052

God Bless You and Your Special Day!!!

MARCH VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

MARCH 1

Acolyte – Eli Tomecek
 Lector – Joe Danner
 Ushers – Kathleen Sandner*, Sheila Gower
 and Jane Correll
 Communion Assistant – Louise Hash

MARCH 8

Acolyte – to be announced
 Lector – Michael Ganser
 Ushers – Kathleen Sandner*, Sheila Gower
 and Jane Correll

MARCH 15

Acolyte – Michael Ganser
 Lector – Pam Bradley
 Ushers – Kathleen Sandner*, Sheila Gower
 and Jane Correll

MARCH 22 – FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY

Acolyte – to be announced
 Lector – Sandy Tapler
 Ushers – Kathleen Sandner*, Sheila Gower
 and Jane Correll

MARCH 29 – PALM SUNDAY

Acolyte – to be announced
 Lector – Greg Miller
 Ushers – Kathleen Sandner*, Sheila Gower
 and Jane Correll
 Communion Assistant – Antoinette Sehar



APRIL VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

APRIL 2 – MAUNDY THURSDAY

Acolyte – to be announced
 Lector – to be announced
 Ushers – Louise Hash*, Roni Dech and
 Jim Dech
 Communion Assistant – Ondie Neifert

APRIL 3 – GOOD FRIDAY

Acolyte – to be announced
 Lector – to be announced
 Ushers – Louise Hash*, Roni Dech and
 Jim Dech

APRIL 5 - EASTER

Acolyte – to be announced
 Lector – Jeff Reinhard
 Ushers – Louise Hash*, Roni Dech and
 Jim Dech
 Communion Assistant – Renee Coyle

APRIL 12 – HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

Acolyte – to be announced
 Lector – Gayle Ganser
 Ushers – Louise Hash*, Roni Dech and
 Jim Dech
 Communion Assistant – Antoinette Sehar

APRIL 19

Acolyte – to be announced
 Lector – Gail Yudt
 Ushers – Louise Hash*, Roni Dech and
 Jim Dech

APRIL 26

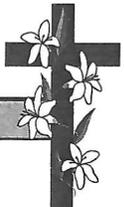
Acolyte – to be announced
 Lector – Bill Gilfert
 Ushers – Louise Hash*, Roni Dech and
 Jim Dech

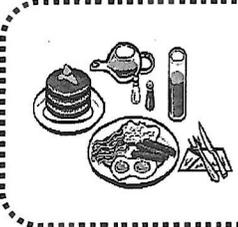
LENTEN MIDWEEK SERIES
SOUP, BREAD and DISCUSSION
WEDNESDAYS at 6 PM

Calendar for March 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 🌿 Lent II 🌿 9:00 AM: Sunday School 10:30 AM: LENT II HOLY COMMUNION 11:45 AM: Worship and Music Committee	2 6:00 PM: Picnic Committee 6:30 PM: Evangelism Committee 7:00 PM: Social Media Committee 7:00 PM: Christian Education Committee 7:30 PM: Property Committee	3 7:00 PM: First Year Confirmation Class	4 6:00 PM: Soup, Bread, and Discussion 7:00 PM: Senior Choir Rehearsal	5	6 	7 SET CLOCKS AHEAD Daylight Savings "SPRING AHEAD" Set your clocks ahead before you go to bed on March 7 th
8 ✦ DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ✦ 9:00 AM: Sunday School 10:30 AM: LENT III WORSHIP SERVICE	9 7:00 PM: Church Council	10 7:00 PM: First Year Confirmation Class	11 7:00 PM: Senior Choir Rehearsal	12 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> RUMMAGE SALE SET-UP WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 5 to 8 PM </div>	13 <div style="border: 2px dashed black; padding: 5px;"> RUMMAGE SALE FRIDAY and SATURDAY 8 to 2 PM </div>	14 
15 🌿 Lent IV 🌿 9:00 AM: Sunday School 10:30 AM: LENT IV WORSHIP SERVICE	16	17 7:00 PM: First Year Confirmation Class	18 6:00 PM: Soup, Bread, and Discussion 7:00 PM: Senior Choir Rehearsal	19	20	21
22 FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY 9:00 AM: Sunday School FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY event "ONE BIG FAMILY!" 10:30 AM: LENT V WORSHIP SERVICE: HOLY BAPTISM OF ELI JAMES LATHROP	23	24 7:00 PM: First Year Confirmation Class	25 6:00 PM: Soup, Bread, and Discussion 7:00 PM: Senior Choir Rehearsal	26 7:00 PM: Coplay Garden Club	27 <div style="border: 3px double black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">  Sunday School students: Bring your tagged basket by March 29th </div>	28
29 Palm Sunday 9:00 AM: Sunday School 10:30 AM: PALM SUNDAY HOLY COMMUNION: Palm branches distributed  HOLY WEEK ➔	30 7:00 PM: Christian Education Committee	31 7:00 PM: First Year Confirmation Class	1	2 MAUNDY THURSDAY 6:30 PM: Senior Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM: MAUNDY THURSDAY HOLY COMMUNION: STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR	3 GOOD FRIDAY 7:30 PM: GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE 	4 9:00 AM: Sunday School Staff prepare 10:00 AM: SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER PARTY AND  EGG HUNT

Calendar for April 2026



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
 <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">Join us for our CONGREGATIONAL EASTER BREAKFAST! Easter Sunday, 8-10 AM</p>			1	2 6:30 PM:  Senior Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM: MAUNDY THURSDAY HOLY COMMUNION: STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR	3  7:30 PM: GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE	4 9:00 AM: Sunday School Staff prepare 10:00 AM: SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER PARTY AND EGG HUNT 
5 Easter Sunday 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM: Congregational Easter Breakfast 10:30 AM: EASTER HOLY COMMUNION  	6 6:00 PM: Picnic Committee 6:30 PM: Evangelism Committee 7:00 PM: Social Media Committee 7:30 PM: Property Committee	7 7:00 PM: First Year Confirmation Class	8 7:00 PM:  Senior Choir Rehearsal	9	10	11
12 HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY 9:00 AM: Sunday School 10:30 AM: EASTER II HOLY COMMUNION	13 7:00 PM: Church Council	14 7:00 PM: First Year Confirmation Class	15 7:00 PM:  Senior Choir Rehearsal	16	17	18
19 Easter III 9:00 AM: Sunday School 10:30 AM: EASTER III WORSHIP SERVICE	20	21 7:00 PM: First Year Confirmation Class	22 7:00 PM:  Senior Choir Rehearsal	23	24	25 10 AM to ??? CHURCH BEAUTIFICATION DAY 
26 Easter IV 9:00 AM: Sunday School 10:30 AM: EASTER IV WORSHIP SERVICE	27 7:00 PM: Christian Education Committee	28 7:00 PM: First Year Confirmation Class	29 7:00 PM:  Senior Choir Rehearsal	30 EASTER HOLY COMMUNION  APRIL 5th at 10:30 AM		