

News from the Pews

www.stjohnscoplay.com

September/October 2026

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

PRESS FROM THE PREZ

The VBS week and closing ceremony and church picnic were a success again. Thank you to all who participated in VBS and helped with the picnic, it takes a village to pull this off every year. As you read this, we are approaching returning to regular services starting Rally Sunday, September 13th at the regular time slot of 10:30 am in the sanctuary. There will be our customary hot dog social after the service September 13th also, please plan to attend if you can.

Thank you to everyone who helped cook, volunteered to man the stand, setup & cleanup, and just supported St. John's at this year's Coplay Community Days festival. I will have our final numbers for the next edition of the News from the Pews.

Also Sunday September 27th will be our annual Harvest Home service. Please bring your donations of non-perishable food or money for donations to the Coplay Food Bank.

Our first pre-order pickup meal will be in September. As the writing of this the date has not yet been set. Watch the weekly bulletin and Facebook page for updates on the exact date.

St. John's will once again participate in the Coplay Halloween parade which is schedule for Tuesday October 20th. Gail Yudt and Joe Danner are coordinating, more to come in the next few weeks.

The Call Committee has been in touch with the NEPA Synod and has got St. John's on their website with our profile for prospective Pastor's looking for a new Call. More to come in the weeks ahead. There will be a special congregation meeting in the coming weeks to discuss the Call process. The date for this meeting has not yet been determined, please look at the bulletin and the Facebook page and website for details when we decide the date.

The Social Ministry committee is considering making a video for the holidays for the shut ins of the congregation. What a great idea, if you're interested in helping, let Louise Hash know.

Council has discussed the Maundy Thursday Night Before Tableau during Holy week in 2027, This has not been performed since 2022 or 2023 and would be nice to have as an annual event at St. John's, we would need 12 Disciples, Jesus, several Roman soldiers, and a narrator. We are putting this out here now

[continued on next page]

St. John's Lutheran Church

Coplay, Pennsylvania

The Rev. Carey L. Miller, Stated Supply Pastor

Cell Phone 610-704-4645

Gregory Miller, Council President

Cell Phone 610-393-9421

Church Office Phone: 610-262-6171

Church Office email: stjohnscoplay@rcn.com

as the organizing of this event takes time and Council wants to make sure we can make it happen. This is not a men's only cast; anyone is welcome. Let any Council member know if you are interested in participating.

The Christmas Eve service time will be discussed by Worship and Music committee in the coming weeks and will be announced in the bulletin and the November & December News from the Pews.

Please consider attending services to worship with your St John's family. We could really use your support as we try to expand our ministries in the Coplay community and beyond.

Respectfully,
Greg
Greg Miller
Church Council President

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH COPLAY, PENNSYLVANIA

STATED SUPPLY PASTOR	The Rev. Carey L. Miller	(cell) 610-704-4645	<i>CNSJK@rcn.com</i>
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>klmas3@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>

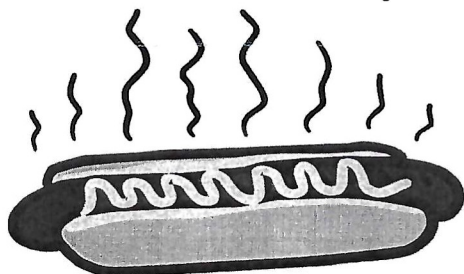
SENIOR CHOIR DEBUT, CHILDREN'S SERMONS RESUME, and TEACHER INSTALLATION AT WORSHIP; HOT DOG SOCIAL AFTER WORSHIP

Rally Sunday's going to be a big day again!

In addition to a special sermon, Children's Sermon, and the Senior Choir's debut, we'll be officially installing our dedicated Sunday School teachers and staff for 2026-2027.



***Join us after Sunday School for
Rally Sunday worship,
September 13th, at 10:30 AM!***



Please stay after worship for our annual Hot Dog Social, downstairs in the Social Hall, to greet each other!

SUNDAY SCHEDULE CHANGES on September 13th

Our Sunday mornings will resume the "fall-winter-spring" schedule on September 13th.

Rally Sunday festivities will begin with Sunday School at 9:00 AM, followed by a celebratory worship service at 10:30AM.

9:00 AM
Sunday School

10:30 AM
Worship

11:30 AM
Hot Dog Social
(Rally Sunday Only)

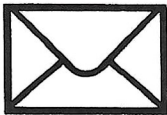
St. John's Bible Study

The Book of Genesis!

**St. John's Bible Study
in the Social Hall**

Every Tuesday night at 7:00 PM with Pastor Miller

ALL WELCOME!



THANK YOU
for using your little
WORLD HUNGER ENVELOPE!

“BEACH TREK-VACATION BIBLE EXPERIENCE!”



***Rally
Sunday
2026***

Sunday, September 13th, at 9 AM

**Let's gather together
for another year of Sunday School !!!**

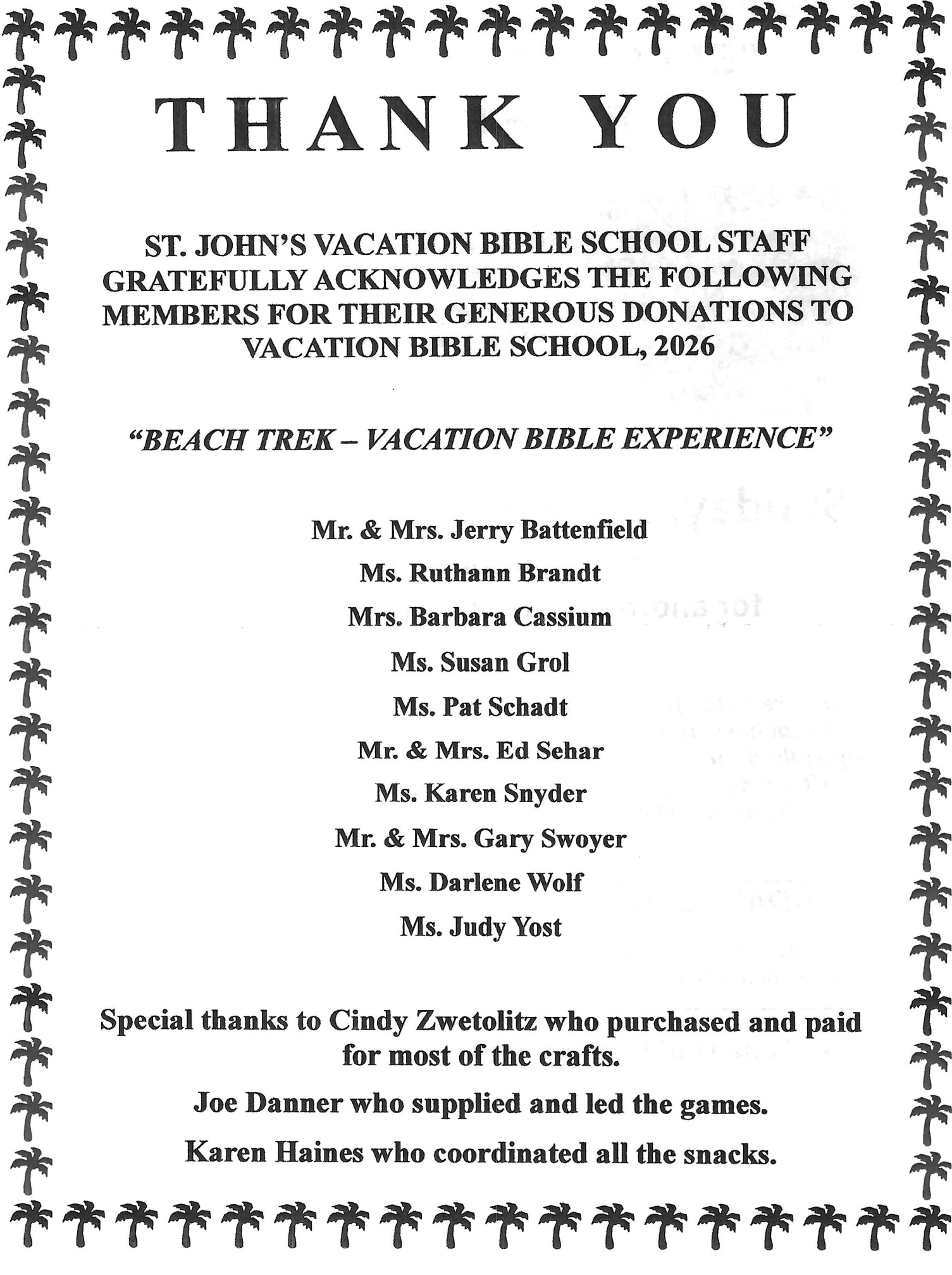
*Come register for Sunday School, meet
the teachers and helpers, and have lots
of Rally Sunday fun, including Bible stories,
crafts, singing, games, and snacks!
AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS!!!*



SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTALLATION ON RALLY DAY!

*The installation of our Sunday School teachers, officers, and staff
will be held during the Rally Sunday Worship Service at 10:30 AM.*

We hope you'll join us for a great Rally Sunday 2026!



THANK YOU

**ST. JOHN'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL STAFF
GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING
MEMBERS FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS TO
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, 2026**

"BEACH TREK – VACATION BIBLE EXPERIENCE"

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Battenfield

Ms. Ruthann Brandt

Mrs. Barbara Cassium

Ms. Susan Grol

Ms. Pat Schadt

Mr. & Mrs. Ed Sehar

Ms. Karen Snyder

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Swoyer

Ms. Darlene Wolf

Ms. Judy Yost

**Special thanks to Cindy Zwetolitz who purchased and paid
for most of the crafts.**

Joe Danner who supplied and led the games.

Karen Haines who coordinated all the snacks.

SING UNTO THE LORD

**SENIOR CHOIR REHEARSALS WILL
RESUME ON SEPT. 9, 2026
AT 7 P.M. SHARP!**

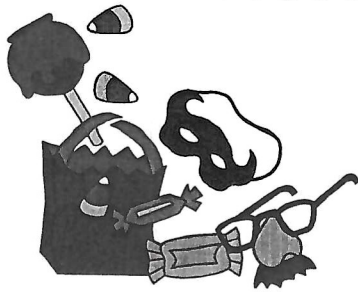


**LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS TO
JOIN OUR ALREADY DEDICATED
SENIOR CHOIR**

WE ARE IN NEED OF ALL VOICES

**GIVE US A TRY AND SEE
HOW MUCH FUN SINGING CAN BE!**

**Ruthann M. Brandt
Organist & Choir Director**



Sunday School Halloween Party

Sunday, October 25th
9 AM (during Sunday School)

WE WILL...

-  learn how our Halloween traditions grew out of All Hallow's Eve, the night before All Saints Day in the Christian Church
-  sing Pumpkin Carols
-  play fun games
-  make a special craft
-  have yummy snacks

**Bring Your
Friends!**

You are invited to wear your costume and join in the trick-or-treat parade for some goodies to take home!

Harvest Home:

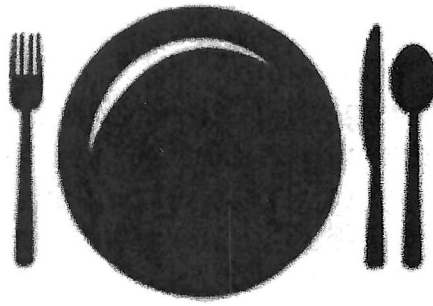
Celebrate God's Gifts of Food

Please remember to bring offerings of non-perishable food items on Harvest Home Sunday, September 27th. We'll display them at worship that morning, and then distribute them afterwards to those in need, through Coplay Recreation and Welfare's FOOD BANK.

A special Harvest Home envelope is included in your offering envelope box, if you prefer.

***Many thanks for sharing
your blessings!***





ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
PORK & SAUERKRAUT

Pick Up Dinner
Sat, September 26th
18 S. 3RD ST, COPLAY

PRE-ORDERS ONLY

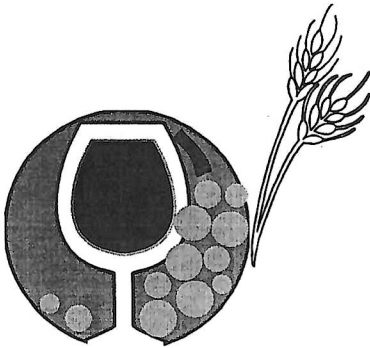
Call Karen
610-653-2816
Deadline to order:
Friday, September 18th

MENU: Pork & Sauerkraut
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Applesauce
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.

First Communion Class Starting Up!



Calling all Fifth Graders and up (10 years of age and older) who have not yet received Holy Communion: you and your parents/guardians are invited to call Gayle Ganser at 484-695-3696 or Kathleen Sandner at 484-695-5779 to let them know you would like to be included in the classes leading to receive Holy Communion for the first time!

Learn all the details, and **help schedule** when the weekly classes will meet. After completing the five- or six-week course, you will receive your First Communion with your family on **Reformation Sunday, October 25th**.

Call ASAP to be a part of this year's First Communion class!

Seventh Graders (and older) are ready to begin St. John's CONFIRMATION CLASSES

The Confirmation program at St. John's is a two-year commitment to catechetical studies (the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism) in addition to weekly attendance at Sunday School and worship, and occasional acolyting.

Parents or guardians of students in grade 7 or older who wish to attend Confirmation Classes are asked to call Gayle Ganser at 484-695-3696 or Kathleen Sandner at 484-695-5779 to learn of the program benefits and requirements, and to discuss preferences for class day and time (one one-hour class per week). Call ASAP to reserve your youth's place in these classes — St. John's program to educate and prepare our young people for Confirmation and Christian Adulthood!

Have fun walking in the parade!

This year, our theme will be "Footprints In The Sand!"

Walk with St. John's Youth Group in the Coplay Halloween Parade on Tuesday, October 20th, and help us help our fellow Coplayites remember the importance of Coplay's Faith Community!



We welcome everyone to march with us wearing any costume you want (or even no costume at all). The important thing is to march and help us show St. John's support for our community.

Have fun greeting your Coplay neighbors! We'll march with the fire trucks, dance schools, scout troops, marching bands, and all the other community groups.

All marchers conclude the parade with snacks at the Saengerbund!

**SO, PARK AND ORGANIZE AT CHURCH AT 6 PM;
WALK WITH US TO THE PARADE SITE BY 7 PM.**

Walk with us in this year's parade,
and help us share our faith in JESUS with our community!



Don't forget...

Daylight Saving ends at 2 AM on **Sunday morning, November 1st.**

Turn your clocks **BACK** one hour on **Saturday night, October 31st!**

Diefenderfer-Buchfeller and Mac Adam Future Teacher Scholarship Awards

During our worship service on August 16th, the Scholarship Committee presented the Diefenderfer- Buchfeller Scholarships to Ava Gower and Gabriel Gower.

Ava is a Senior at Messiah University. She is pursuing a dual major in Public Relations and Business Administration, with a minor in entrepreneurship. Her plan is to build a career in social media marketing and eventually start her own business.



Gabe is a rising Sophomore at Shippensburg University. Gabe is studying finance and accounting in order to become a financial analyst.

Please keep Ava and Gabe in your prayers as they continue their studies. May God continue to bless and guide them to achieve their goals.

Since there were no applicants for the MacAdam Future Teacher Scholarship, the interest earned will be added to the principal in order to enhance future awards.

St. John's Lutheran Church, Coplay, PA
Monday, June 8th, 2026

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

Members Excused: Renee Coyle
Members Absent : Pam Bradley
Guest Present: Pastor Miller

Announcements and Communications

The monthly meeting was held on 06/08/2026. President Greg Miller called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Greg led the council in opening prayer.

After minutes from the 05/11/2026 meeting were read, Louise moved to approve the minutes, Sheila 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	Jeff	Louise	Yes
Treasurer's Report:	Jeff	Sheila	Yes

COMMITTEE REPORTS	
Christian Education:	No official meeting. Undecorated social hall in prep for VBS. Decorating begins 6/11/2026.
Evangelism:	3 new member, 2 baptisms. Shut-ins have been receiving communion regularly, next 6/14/2026.
Fellowship:	Ham and turkey sandwich pick up is this Saturday, no more meals until September.

Finance & Stewardship:	No meeting.
Property:	Tom Gartner has returned, and Eli Tomecek has joined. Cross to be weatherproofed soon. Getting spotlight replacements for cross and flags. Parsonage lease signed, effective 6/1. Addressed parsonage plumbing issues.
Scholarship:	2 candidates have submitted applications, Ava and Gabe Gower.
Social Media:	Website is up-to-date. May next put bulletin on website. We now have 2 wireless mics for downstairs services.
Social Ministry:	No meeting, will start again in October or November. Members are still keeping in touch with shut-ins.
Worship and Music:	No report.
Picnic:	Face painter and fairy hair stylist all set. Cost of Sam Owens BBQ is donated.
Nominating:	Roni's term is up but she will think about staying. Greg's term as President is up this year. Pam and Danette are up at end of year. Danette has agreed to stay.
Coplay Community Days:	Menu has to be finalized for 6/15 meeting. Volunteer t-shirt order due by 6/15 meeting. Looking for new leadership for 2027 as Bill Loy, LuAnn and Sandy are stepping down. Lisa Miller possibly stepping up!
Transition:	Joe will send email to Pastor Drennan to see where we are in the process. Bishop change could be the reason for communication lag.
Unfinished Business:	Nothing.
New Business:	New Bishop is Jennifer Dee. As Slated Supply – Pastor Miller will lead us every Sunday, would like to have bible study sessions, will do funerals with honorarium paid by the family. The afternoon of July 21 st he will be giving a talk on church architecture. \$25 per trip to hospital/facility visit (not per person) authorized by motion from Ondie, seconded by Jeff, all ayes from Council. Should we sing all hymn verses or just 1 st and 4 th during summer services? To be discussed by Worship and Music.
News from the Pews	Greg is working on the July/August newsletter.
For the Good of St. John's	Nothing.

Motion for Adjournment	Motion Made By:	Motion Seconded By:	Meeting End Time:
	Nancy	Joe	8:03pm

The meeting ended with Council praying the Lord's Prayer.
Respectfully Submitted, Co-Council Secretaries Kathleen and Gayle

A LITTLE R & R (Reminders & Recipes)



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: OCTOBER 20TH!

Please have all articles for the October/November newsletter in the Newsletter "mailbox" outside the church office by Friday, October 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 Pastor Carey Miller (610-704-4645) or Council President Greg Miller (610-393-9421) for prayer. This will also ensure that we know and can visit you.

APPLE CRISP

2 cups baking apples, sliced, pared, cored
1/3 cup brown sugar, packed
1/4 cup flour
1/4 cup rolled oats

1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. nutmeg
3 tbs. butter, soft

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees.
 2. Place apples in greased loaf pan.
 3. Blend remaining ingredients until crumbly.
 4. Spread sugar-flour mixture over apples.
 5. Bake for 30-35 minutes; until apples are tender and topping golden brown.
 6. Serve warm with ice cream.
- Enjoy!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!
to Everyone Celebrating
their Birthday in
SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER



Special Happy Birthday to: Cindy Cser on October 10th!
Cindy resides at 905 Barbara Drive, Coplay 18037

God Bless You and Your Special Day!!!

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

SEPTEMBER 6

Lector – Joe Danner
 Ushers – Kathleen Sandner*, Jane Correll
 and Sheila Yudt-Gower
 Communion Assistant – Ondie Neifert

SEPTEMBER 13

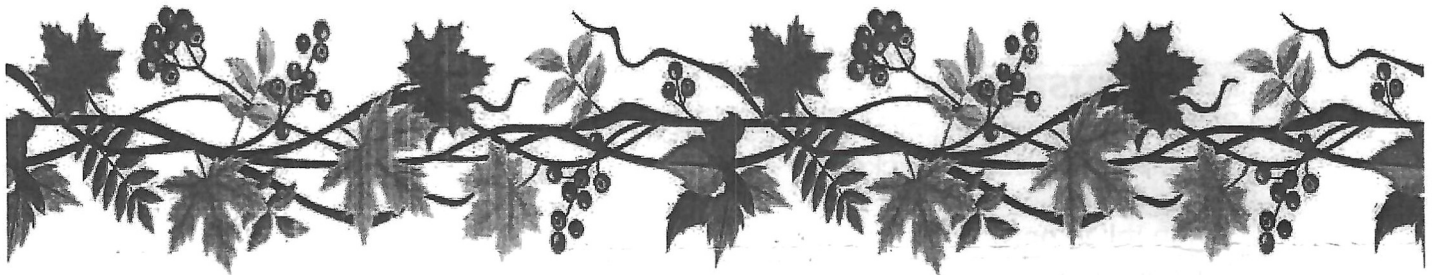
Acolyte – Lara Williams
 Lector – Michael Ganser
 Ushers – Kathleen Sandner*, Jane Correll
 and Sheila Yudt-Gower

SEPTEMBER 20

Acolyte – Michael Ganser
 Lector – Greg Miller
 Ushers – Kathleen Sandner*, Jane Correll
 and Sheila Yudt-Gower

SEPTEMBER 27

Acolyte – Eli Tomecek
 Lector – Sandy Tapler
 Ushers – Kathleen Sandner*, Jane Correll
 and Sheila Yudt-Gower



OCTOBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

OCTOBER 4 – WORLD COMMUNION

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

OCTOBER 11

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

OCTOBER 18

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

OCTOBER 25 – REFORMATION SUNDAY

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

Facebook: St.John'sLutheranCoplay

CALL GAYLE GANSER OR KATHLEEN SANDNER ABOUT CONFIRMATION OR FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES!

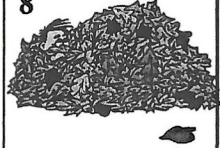
Calendar for September 2026

**FALL SCHEDULE RESUMES
on SEPTEMBER 13TH**

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
 Please bring food offerings for the Coplay Food Bank! <i>Harvest Home</i> Sunday, September 27th!		1 7:00 PM: Bible Study	2	3	4	5 
6 LABOR DAY EMPHASIS 9:15 AM: PENTECOST XV HOLY COMMUNION:	7 Have a safe and happy LABOR DAY!	8 6:30 PM: Evangelism Committee 7:00 PM: Bible Study 7:00 PM: Social Media Committee 7:30 PM: Property Committee	9 7:00 PM:  Senior Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM: Worship and Music	10	11	12
13 RALLY SUNDAY! 9:00 AM: Sunday School Special Kickoff Event: Beach Trek-Vacation Bible Experience! 10:30 AM: PENTECOST XVI HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE: Sunday School Installation; Senior Choir debut 11:30 AM: Hot Dog Social 11:30 AM – Worship and Music Committee	14 7:00 PM: Church Council	15 7:00 PM: Bible Study	16 7:00 PM:  Senior Choir Rehearsal	17	18 * PRE-ORDERS DUE PORK & SAUERKRAUT PICK-UP DINNER *	19
20 Pentecost XVII 9:00 AM: Sunday School 10:30 AM: PENTECOST XVII WORSHIP SERVICE	21	22 7:00 PM: Bible Study	23 7:00 PM:  Senior Choir Rehearsal	24 7:00 PM: Coplay Garden Club	25	26 4 - 5:30 PM: PORK & SAUERKRAUT PICK-UP DINNER
27 <i>Harvest Home</i> 9:00 AM: Sunday School 10:30 AM: PENTECOST XVIII WORSHIP SERVICE: Harvest Home emphasis	28 7:00 PM: Christian Education Committee	29 7:00 PM: Bible Study	30	Rally Sunday, September 13th Our Sunday School will resume promptly at 9 AM ! Our teachers and staff will be installed during 10:30 AM worship. We will celebrate with a Hot Dog Social after worship.		

Calendar for October 2026

Turn your clocks **BACK** one hour
on **Saturday night, October 31st!**

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
 SUNDAY SCHOOL Halloween Party October 25th at 9 AM				1 	2	3
4 World Communion Sunday 9:00 AM: Sunday School 10:30 AM: PENTECOST XIX HOLY COMMUNION: World Communion Emphasis	5 6:30 PM: Evangelism Committee 7:00 PM: Social Media Committee 7:30 PM: Property Committee	6 7:00 PM: Bible Study	7 7:00 PM: Senior Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM: Worship and Music	8 	9	10
11 Pentecost XX 9:00 AM: Sunday School 10:30 AM: PENTECOST XX WORSHIP SERVICE	12 7:00 PM: Church Council	13 7:00 PM: Bible Study	14 7:00 PM: Senior Choir Rehearsal	15	16	17 
18 Pentecost XXI 9:00 AM: Sunday School 10:30 AM: PENTECOST XXI WORSHIP SERVICE	19 	20 6:00 PM: Meet in social hall to march in the COPLAY HALLOWEEN PARADE	21 7:00 PM: Senior Choir Rehearsal	22	23	24
25 Reformation Sunday 9:00 AM: Sunday School HALLOWEEN PARTY 10:30 AM: REFORMATION HOLY COMMUNION 	26 7:00 PM: Christian Education Committee	27 7:00 PM: Bible Study	28 7:00 PM: Senior Choir Rehearsal	29 7:00 PM: Coplay Garden Club	30	31 * Daylight Saving Time ends *

March with us in the
Coplay Halloween Parade



Tuesday, October 20th