St. John's Lutheran Church & Pre School

The Good News Gazette

September 2026

315-986-3045
Office M-FRI 8:30am-12:30pm
www.pumpkinhook.org
Phone: (315)986-3045

Worship:
Sundays 9:45AM live & streaming
Wednesdays 7PM live & streaming



'The former things pass away and ALL things are made new!'

President's Message

Steve Maier



As we enter September, this season of renewal carries special meaning for our congregation. It has now been a year since our previous pastor was called to serve a new church, and throughout this time our members have shown remarkable strength, unity, and faithfulness. You have continued to support one another, uphold our ministries, and keep our church moving forward with grace and purpose.

We are also seeing encouraging progress around our church building. The parking lots have been paved and re-striped, improving safety and accessibility for everyone who comes for worship, preschool, meetings, and community events. The next major project being addressed is the elevator. Once we have a confirmed schedule for that work, we will communicate it clearly so that those who rely on the elevator can plan ahead.

And as we continue talking about change, we also want to extend our congratulations to Pastor Al Boezi on being ordained and installed at Pinnacle Lutheran Church. We are grateful for his time with us and rejoice with him as he begins this new chapter in ministry. Beginning next month, Pastor Brad Urlaub will be serving on Wednesdays and providing communion weekly, and we look forward to welcoming him into this part of our congregational life.

Thank you for your continued dedication, generosity, and steady commitment to our church during this season of transition and growth. I am grateful for each of you and for the way God continues to work through our congregation.





RALLY DAY

September 13,2026

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it. **Proverbs 25:6**

This year we will celebrate Rally Day at 8:45 am.
Please join the activities and fellowship!
All are welcome!

For 147 years, St. John's has provided a place for Christian Education to all!

Financial Secretary

Max Hogenes



Our Financial Health as of August 27,2026

YTD Giving Comparison
Giving = $134,784
Prior Year = $144,360
$ (9,576)



YTD Giving vs. Expenses
Giving = $134,784
Expenses = $ 73,366
$ 61,418

	YTD	Weekly
2026 YTD Giving	$134,784	$3,851
2026 Approved Expense Budget	$226,383	$4,354
		$(503)

Anyone interested in converting to EFT giving, the enrollment form is in the Financial Secretary mailbox located outside of Lance's office.Thank you!

2 Corinthians 9:7

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Woman of Joy Cruise



Would you like to spend time with other Christian woman, listening to speakers, hearing some great Christian music and get away from the cold during the winter? Then maybe the Woman of Joy Cruise is right for you! The dates are: Jan 25- 29th on the Oasis of the Sea, there is a small group of us planning on going but would love to have more people join in the fun! If you are interested in learning more, just google: Women of joy cruise 2027 or talk to Jen Barnes for more information.

Board for Worship, Music and the Arts





Linda Braun

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13" This scripture references each of us as individuals. I believe that if we all pray and truly believe in this prayer then we can infer that it could also mean "***We** can do all things through Christ who strengthens **us**!"*

This past year has shown us what we as a church body are able to do when we work together for Christ! These efforts need to continue as our search for a new pastor continues. We all need to work together to share and practice God's word. I invite everyone to check out the board outside the family room and consider signing up to help-out. Training is available!

"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." ***–Romans 12:4-5***

If you have a desire to become more involved in our services, please don't hesitate to contact us. Chairperson – Linda Braun, frau11braun@gmail.com

Ladies Luncheon

Vicky Payne



12:30pm at Flaherty's Restaurant , September 9th. See you there!

Card Café

Linda Armstrong



In the Ed. Building on Saturday, November 21st, sign up list will be available soon at the welcome center. This differs from our card ministry. A small fee allows personal card creations. Thank you!

Encouragement in Prayer- September 2026

Martha Barmaster

Holy Spirit- your personal gifts!



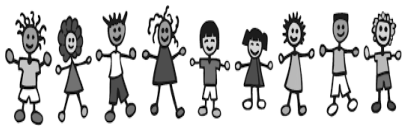
Each member of the body of Christ has been given particular gifts, not to glorify self but for the good health of the body of Christ. Each of us has at least one gift. No one has all the gifts.
1 Corinthians 12: Paul laid out the gifts.
1 Corinthians 13: Paul says that love is the greatest.
1Corinthians 14: Paul warns and points out how the gifts are perverted from their intended purpose. This is a Holy Spirit sandwich with love being the filling. Paul says that without love we are like clanging symbols or sounding brass!

1. Motivational gifts- To encourage the church Paul presented the list of motivational gifts in Ephesians 4:11: “He Himself gave some to be Apostles, some prophets, some evangelists and some pastors and teachers.” All these gifts come together to produce love and promote unity in the church. The Apostles and prophets laid the foundation. The Evangelists come to win the lost and place them in the buildings we call the church. The pastor/teachers then instruct in doctrine and righteousness to build up the body of Christ.
2. Ministry gifts- To meet the needs of the whole body of believers. The ministry gifts God gives to those in His body enable the church to build up in the faith those whom He has called unto Himself. These are listed in Paul’s letter in Romans 12:6-8 and in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11. They are the gifts of prophecy, help, teaching, exhortation, giving, administration, mercy, knowledge, wisdom, faith and discernment. The gift of prophecy is performed in such a way that it brings encouragement, edification, and comfort to the people. The gift of helps is the gift of hospitality, as in Romans 12:13. This person has an open house, a place at the table, and a warm welcome. Teachers can present facts in a concise and clear way to help us put them into practice when we need them. The gift of exhortation is an encourager. This is someone who stands alongside those who are hurting with words of help and hope, who bring strength to those who are weak and about to give up or give in, who lift up those who are sinking in their faith and who bring comfort and assurance to those who are doubting. The gift of giving is a special ability to above and beyond what is required of him or her. They give with no ulterior motive and out of grateful hearts, “not grudgingly or of necessity,” 2 Corinthians 9:7. The gift of administration is the ability to lead others. Romans 12:8 says the one who “leads with diligence.” It should be one who is “full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom,” Acts 6:3. This person will be one who plans for the future and does so as a servant leader. The gift of mercy is a gift of compassion for a suffering brother or sister in Christ who is in crisis or in need, The gift of Knowledge is the accumulation of facts, while the gift of wisdom is the ability to discern those facts with godly wisdom. Wisdom never results in confusion or conflict but is exercised with gentleness, mercy and peace as in James 3:15-18. God gifts some people with uncommon sense(faith) to believe that he can still make the impossible possible. This person keeps a confidence that His will and way will be done. Stephen is an example of the gift of faith (Acts 6:8-20) there is a gift of discernment that enables us to discern between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. A person possessing this gift immediately detects error.
3. Miracle gifts- To prove the authenticity of our faith. There are miracle gifts as Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 “gifts of healings.” “The gifts working of miracles and (different) kinds of tongues.” A miracle takes place when the laws of nature are superseded by unexplained supernatural powers. God is not bound by any cell He has ever created nor by any law of nature. He put them all in place, Christ frequently performed miracles. But these gifts were also in the early church as well. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 12:12, and in Romans 15:19 (Look these up 😊) The gift of tongues was evident at Pentecost, Acts 2:4,6. It was miraculous. Three thousand people came to faith in Christ after Peter preached the Gospel. The church was born in a day! So, what is your special gift? God has freely given to us these gifts. Let us use them for His glory! Amen.

Pre School News

Cheryl Power





We've been working hard getting ready for fall classes. We have reviewed our curriculum, scheduled field trips and prepared our projects for the coming school year. We are blessed to have 15 three year olds in our 3's class and 12 students in our 4's class. If you get a chance, check out the bulletin boards in the hallway.

We will be starting the year out with our "Meet the Teacher Night" which is scheduled for Monday, August 31st from 6:30 to 7:30.

Regular classes will begin on September 14th and 15th.

We are also blessed to have Terry Orsburn and Kelly Hilton as our teachers again this year.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those who helped out with the playground this year: Claudia who helped with power washing; and Brian and Aaron Baxter, Steve Torkelson and Dale who helped put our mulch in place.

If you know of anyone who has a little one who might be interested in attending our 4's class, please feel free to contact me anytime. Our 3's class is full.

We pray for our students, their families and all our staff that we may have a successful year teaching and learning about Jesus' love for us all!!

"Let the Children Come to Me."

Matthew 19:14a

God's Blessings, Cheryl Power, Director, St. John's Christian Preschool (585) 315-1819

Deacon Program

Lance Eckler has been selected and accepted into the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod licensed lay deacon program. His studies will be over 2 years, spanning multiple courses in bible education, theology, counseling, visitation, evangelism, discipleship & mission work. Please support him with your prayers as the program requires study, assignments, supervisor sessions and preparation. Lance will be installed as our deacon intern candidate sometime in the coming months. Thank you for supporting him and may God bless his studies and the growing of his knowledge to serve Christ and the people of St. John's.



Youth Coordinator

Phoebe Lockman

Hello!

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Phoebe Lockman. I live in Phelps with my husband, Erin, our daughter, Winifred (Winnie), and our small zoo of animals. In my free time, I love to read, journal, play board games, and spend time outdoors.

My faith has always been a large part of my life. I attended St. John's Christian Preschool, Sunday School, and Confirmation. Growing up, I especially enjoyed hearing my grandfather, Pastor Carl Prostka, preach each Sunday.

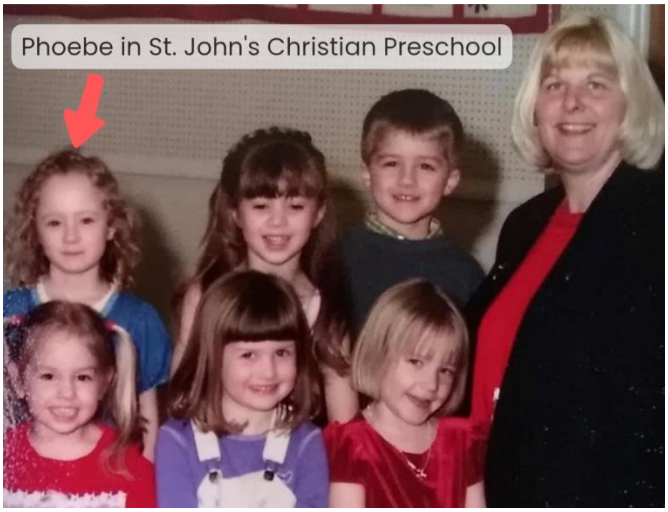
Now, as an adult and a mother, I feel called to pass that love of Jesus along to our young people. I am excited to have accepted the position of Youth Leader(coordinator) and look forward to working with children ages 0-18.

We will kick things off with Rally Day (look out for another email with more details) and continue with weekly Sunday School each Sunday from 8:45–9:30 AM. We will also have upcoming monthly events and activities, so please keep an eye out for emails with more information from our church office!

I am so excited and thankful to be starting this journey. Sunday School is a special opportunity to worship, learn about God, pray, and carry those lessons with us in our hearts throughout the week. My hope is to create a welcoming and joyful environment where our children can grow in their faith and build new friendships.

If you have any questions about upcoming events or programs, I can be reached at 315-398-2584.

I can't wait to see you and your families at Sunday School! Blessings, Phoebe Lockman





Mommy and Me!



A fun opportunity for moms and babies to get together, socialize, learn new skills, and have fun!

Saturday, October 10th at 11 AM
Located at St. John's Lutheran Church in Pumpkin Hook, NY

Suitable for ages newborn to two years old.

Music

Movement

Sensory Play



Please RSVP to Phoebe at (315) 398-2584

WOW!



Our Wednesday night midweek Worship services, starting October 4th, will be led in Word and Sacrement by Pastor Brad Urlaub. A big thank you to Pastor Al Boezi for serving in this position for the last year!

Adult Choir



Linda Braun

"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music!" ***– Psalm 98:4***

St. John's Adult Choir – it is time to get together and begin singing songs to the Lord! We will meet on Tuesdays at **6:30 pm beginning on September 15, 2026**. All are welcome, you do not have to be able to read music.

Please contact Linda Braun for more information frau11braun@gmail.com.

Board of Christian Education



Linda Braun

For 147 years, St. John's has been there to educate and guide our young people.

RALLY DAY begins September 13! The Board for Worship, Music and the Arts would like to thank Phoebe Lockman for embracing her unique talents and offering to lead our Sunday School program. This will be a team effort to invite and involve more families to St. John's Sunday School, Confirmation and Teens programs. Please be sure to join us and bring a friend!

Adult Bible Study: Linda Braun will be leading an adult bible study on Sundays. Time to be determined based on interest. All are welcome to join.

Tuesday Bible Study 11am at St. John's. Led by Jen Barnes.



St. John's Lutheran Church

GATHER GROW SERVE Together

153 Church Ave.
Farmington, NY

ACTIVITIES



ALL ARE WELCOME, GUESTS ARE ENCOURAGED!
Contact the Church Office or event Contact for more information.

EVENT	DAY	DATE	TIME	WHERE	POINT PERSON	NOTES
Rally Day	Sunday	9/13/2026	8:45	Church	Phoebe Lockman	
Card Ministry	Sunday	9/20/2026	11:00 AM	Church	Linda Armstrong	
Movie - Daniel	Sunday	9/27/2026	TBD	TBD	Kim Baxter	
Euchre	Friday	10/2/2026	7:00 PM	Church	Jen Barnes	
Fall Walk Cider/Donuts	Sunday	10/4/2026	11:30	Auburn Trail - Victor	Kim Baxter	Weather Dependent - Make up day 10/17/26
Trunk or Treat	Sunday	10/25/2026	TBD	Church	Jen Barnes	
Election Cookie Sale	Tuesday	11/2/2026		Church	Kim Baxter	
Euchre	Friday	11/6/2026	7:00 PM	Church	Jen Barnes	
Scouting for food - tentative	Sunday	11/8/26 & 11/15/26	TBD	Church	Jen Barnes	
Thanksgiving Lunch	Sunday	11/15/2026	11:00 AM	Church	Kim Baxter	
Euchre	Friday	12/4/2026	7:00 PM	Church	Jen Barnes	
Cocoa Cocoa + Carrolls	Sunday	12/6/2026	11:00	Church	Kim Baxter	
Euchre	Friday	1/8/2027	7:00 PM	Church	Jen Barnes	
Chili cook off	Sunday	1/10/2027	11:00 AM	Church	Kim Baxter	
BINGO + Pizza	Sunday	2/7/2027	11:00 AM	Church	Kim Baxter	

Faith • Fellowship • Fun

We look forward to seeing you!

St. John's Lutheran Church – Farmington, NY | 315-924-2611 | stjohnsfarmington@gmail.com

Long Term Prayer List- September 2026



Members of St. John's

Gordon Hill	Doug Snyder	
Karen Carey	Mia Howie	Chuck Thomas
Helen Schwartz	Kay Minwell	Emily Vokes
Heidi VanAken	Sandy Bastian	

Family & Friends

Nina Perkins (Karen Joslyn's friend)
Nadine Printup & Blaise Readon (Mary Meade)
David & Debbie Kuehnert (Don Kuehner's siblings)
Don Nugent (Chuck Thomas' father)
Wayne Grewe (brother of the Buckinghams & Sharon Jenkins)
Jane Barmaster, Autumn, Emily, Charlene, & Katie (Martha Barmaster)
The Cole family (family of Vicky Cole)
Kathleen Goodberlet (granddaughter of Jack & Maryann Bauer)
Joe Davenport (friend of Sharon Green & Candy Aldrich)
Bob & Lynn Steamer (sister & brother-in-law of Roger Carpenter)
Jeff, Peggy & the Coons children (family of Pat Coons)
Jo Donahue (Shawn Patience)
Pete Poulakis (family of the Plumbs)
Keshap grandchildren (Bob & Barb Leisten)
Carl Ellerman (Candy Aldrich)
Amy Klino (Lisa Maier's friend)
Erik (David Heckman's friend)
Sharon Evans (friends of Barnes and Smiths)
Minister to Family (Betty & Rick Carr)
Gary & Carol (friends of Mary Ballou)
George Newsome (Mary Ballou's grandson)



Military and their Families

ET3 Adam Hopseeker (the Barnes family)
SS Brian Heckman (the Heckman family)
LT Paul Kuehnert (Don Kuehnert
LC Mercedes Buckingham (Sharon Jenkins)

For additions or changes please call the church office (315) 986-3045.

Important Date in the future... December 3rd Day of Giving

On December 3rd, any donation made through Thrivent Choice Dollar website to St Johns, Thrivent will give a portion of $3million dollars in addition to the amount you give. To donate go to https://choice-org-search.apps.thrivent.com/ , Type in **St. Johns** into the search bar.

Hi Folks,
I am hoping to lead an Operation Christmas Child Event again this year. Is there anyone who would like to help? You don't have to be an adult, teens are welcome! Please see the note below. I will be attending this workshop on September 12th in Canandaigua. Please let me know if you are interested in helping and/or attending. I will complete the registration.

In Christ,
Linda Braun
(585) 355-9416
frau11braun@gmail.com



Free money for the church and preschool!



If you are a Thrivent member you can send your Choice dollars to a number of different organizations including St. Johns Church and St. John's preschool. A change has been made in the availability of the Choice dollars. In the past every quarter more money was added to your account, and you would need to remember to go in and choose your charity of choice. Starting this year, all your Thrivent Choice dollars will be added to your account at the beginning of the year so please log into your account and submit your Choice dollars. If you are not aware on how to it it - please see Jen Barnes and she will guide you through the process.

Are you not a member of Thrivent or don't get choice dollars but would like to? Thrivent now has a new class of membership call ASSOCIATE membership. With the cost of $19.95 you will get $25 in Choice dollars plus the ability to run 1 action team event. For more information check out https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership.

What is an action team? It is up to $250 of seed money to run a service project or to provide for a need in the community. Each active Thrivent member gets 2 a year and associate members get 1 a year. What have we done with Action Teams at St. Johns? Purchased paper products for Lent and Seder, purchased coffee and creamer and sugar for Sunday mornings, Purchased new banners for the church. Helped provide for the Card Ministry, provided reading glasses for a group in Tanzania as well as other things. Do you have ideas how we can use other Action Teams in the church? Please let Jen Barnes know. For more information on Action Teams go to https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-action-teams

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 Sunday 8/30/26 **9:45a** Church Service	31	1 **11a** Bible study	2 **7p** WOW worship	3	4	5
6 **9:45a** Church Service	7	8 **11a** Bible study	9 **7p** WOW worship	10	11	12
13 RALLY DAY **8:45a** Sunday School **9:45a** Church Service	14	15 **11a** Bible study **6:30p** Choir Practice	16 **7p** WOW worship	17	18	19
20 **8:45a** Sunday School **9:45a** Church Service **11a** Card Ministry	21	22 **11a** Bible study **6:30p** Choir Practice	23 **7p** WOW worship	24	25	26
27 **8:45a** Sunday School **9:45a** Church Service **1p** Daniel the movie	28	29 **11a** Bible study **6:30p** Choir Practice	30 **7p** WOW worship	1	2 **7p** Euchre	3
4 **8:45a** Sunday School **9:45a** Church Service **11:30a** Fall walk with Cider	5	6 **11a** Bible study **6:30p** Choir Practice	7 **7p** WOW worship	8	9	10

Founded 1968

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preschool@pumpkinhook.org
315-986-3045



Director: Cheryl Power

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*"Walking together in **faith**"*

St. John's Lutheran Church

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*"Growing God's **family** through Jesus "*



'The former things pass away and ALL things are made new!'