



st. john's lutheran church of sweet air

Dear beloved members and friends of St. John's

September 2026

September began with a unity celebration welcoming Amazing Grace to 10:30 am worship. Special thanks to Frannie Butcher and our teams for year-round mission.

Thank you all for our first ever safety drill as included in our safety guide 2026!

Over the years, our leaders have expanded our crowd management training, our protection policy, our CPR training, and health department training and more! Whowee!

Communications (Brian Horshaw) Pick up Invitation "Come Sit By Me" Card!

September Celebrate Back to Church Month with a ministry between worship services. Thank you to all the teams that showed up to tell the story and invite new people!

9/13 DONUTS Sweet Air Connections highlighted *adult catechism, bible studies, pub theology etc*

9/20 POPCORN CFD and Mission teams highlighted worship teams, AG, DR, Haiti, Johnstown, Garden

9/27 PRETZELS Worship teams highlighting connection teams like Caring Paws, Caring Hearts, OWLS etc.

1. NEW: Fall Magazine shared
2. NEW: Bookmark digital only scripture/Spark listed in LOOP. Copies will be available in lobby
3. NEW: Fashion Merch link or see if a left-over blue shirt in the lobby fits you.

Thank you for wearing your name tag. If you want a nametag, contact office. \$15 donation to cover cost.

Adult Discipleship (Brian Hehn)

- **ICJS study** Institute for Islamic Christian and Jewish Studies project led by Dave Huber, Kristen Essel, Pastor Lisa, Brian Hehn, Christa Wiedey and Michael Eggleston with our ministerium 9/24 at fire station.
- **Pub Theology** meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at a new Fall location: Das Bierhalle in Parkville.
- **10am Tuesday Bible Study** with Rev. Randy Terry online and in person
- **10am Sunday Bible Study** with Rev. Randy Terry
- **"The Catechism: An Adult Journey for confirmation"** will launch October 4. This first program will include a cohort of participants who meet three times in person to connect and to have discussions. All of the content is available asynchronously as a podcast (audio only) and videocast (video and audio). The culmination of the program will offer a certificate of completion, an opportunity for baptizing those who are not baptized, an opportunity to join the church if not already a member, and finally a chance to reaffirm their baptism and commitment to Christ.
- **Handbell and Choir** season is now underway.
- **Empty Nesters** had a big turn out for 9/2 at MaGill's for potluck. 10/4 Inverness Brewery 6pm
- **OWLS** 9/17 Basta Pasta and invites everyone to Legacy Luncheon at the chapel 11/4 11am.
- **Fresh Connections** 9/25 6pm *Sesame Street Cookie decorating workshop (Cindy Lee) LIMIT 25*
- **Fresh Connections** 10/17 5PM Bring a Pumpkin Caring Party in Parsonage Backyard

Young Discipleship (Pastor Jeremy, Megan McBee, Hailey Stinchecum)

- Riptide, our middle school youth group has begun.
- Oasis for high schoolers re-launched Sept 10.
- This fall we are very excited in CFM with the launch of the CCCC grant initiative and All God's Children Sundays. We are excited to welcome Oscean Letersky and Maddy Sadera as PIER45 youth leaders. Here is a glimpse at what you'll see this fall:

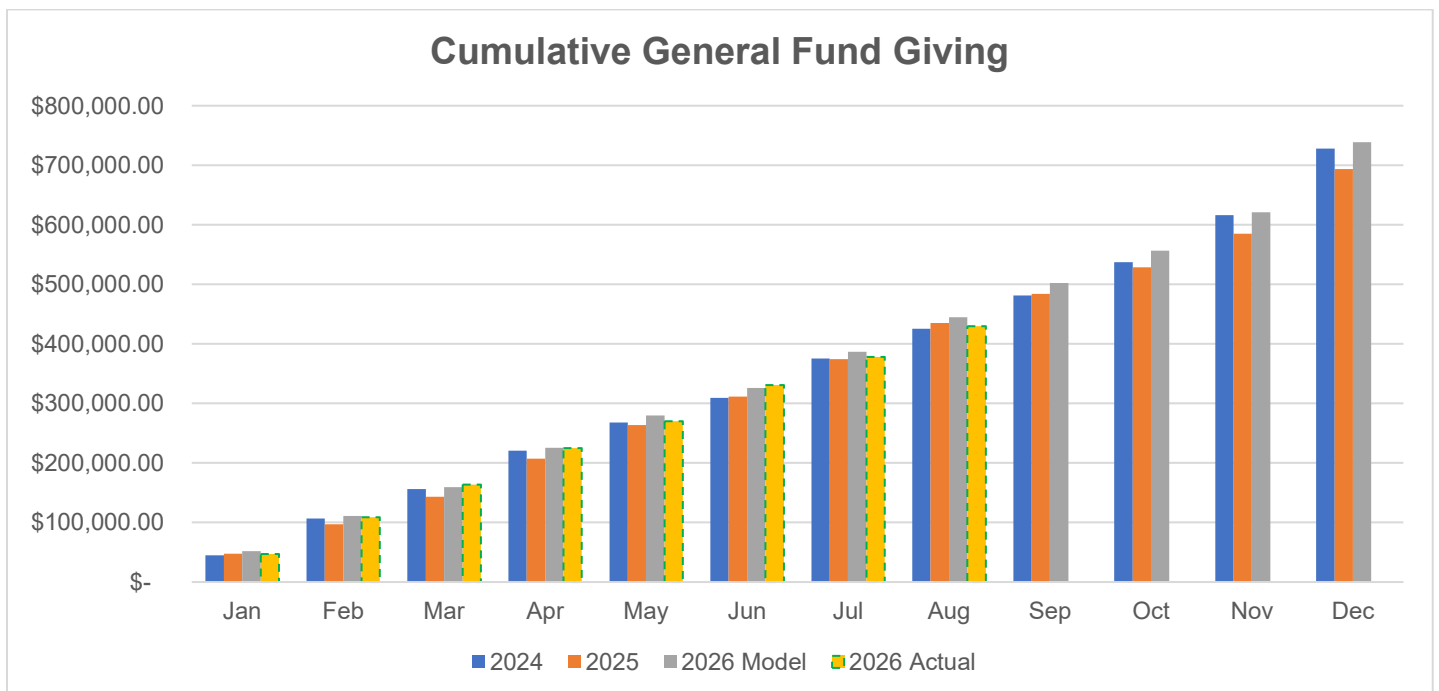
- New: Lap desks available for "check out" at the back of the Worship Center (behind usher pew). They will have developmentally appropriate activities that mirror the story as well as quiet fidgets.
- New: Clear bags with accessibility items in the lobby (noise cancelling headphones and bubble seats)
- New: A SPARK story bible in every pew
- New: An accessible step stool for readers at the lectern
- New for fall: 9AM children's message following Little Idea, exactly like summer series
- Voyagers and PIER45 return to downstairs programming on 9/13 at 10:30, practicing a children's liturgy weekly that will roll over into worship on All God's Children Sundays (9/27, 10/25, 11/29, 12/27) Children attend worship on All God's Children Sunday at 10:30. Worship will be designed with children in mind, including them in various roles, music, readings and media slides from the SPARK story bible.

Getting ready for 2027

Council announced the fall congregational meeting will be 11/15 at 11:30am in the sanctuary. We are looking for at least four nominees for Council. We had our first walk through of a 2027 draft budget and noted where there are increases.

How's our giving through August 2026?

- The General Fund Giving is what helps all our ministries and mission teams work together inside the church and into the world. General fund covers staff, building maintenance, mowing, utilities, supplies, computers, etc.
- We continue to lose ground versus past year's General Fund giving. YTD comparisons:
 - 0.9% ahead of 2024
 - 1.3% behind 2025
 - 3.4% behind 2026 Giving Target (equates to \$15.3K, or roughly 2 weeks offering)
 - Includes Offering (plate and e-Giving), QCD/Investment Giving; does not include Memorial-GF or any other Designated Giving, nor SJLC investment interest/dividends.
- Would you consider making adjustments to your giving but not sure how to do it online? Would you like to learn more about egiving? Contact the office@stjohnssweetair.org



If you need offering envelopes, contact the office

3911 Sweet Air Road | 410.592.6565 | office@stjohnssweetair.org | www.stjohnssweetair.org