

MINISTRY MATTERS

- IN THE CONGREGATION AND BEYOND -

SUPPLY PASTOR SCHEDULE

June 6: Rev. Melvin Mundie - No Communion
June 13: Pastor Chip Fairchild - Communion
June 20: Pastor Chip Fairchild - Communion
June 27: Rev. Melvin Mundie - No Communion

PRAYER CIRCLE CHAIN

Kimberly Deliman has agreed to be the contact person for the Prayer Circle Chain. She needs your help! In order to get the needed information to everyone involved, Kim would like to update the Prayer Circle List.

If you are interested in being a member of Prayer Circle, contact Kim Deliman at 570-788-4459 and leave a message with your contact information or call the church office.
at: 570-578-6952. This position does not require you to serve on the board.

SCOUTING

SCOUTS BSA and Cub Scouts have resumed in person meetings. If anyone is interested, meetings are Monday nights. For more information, contact Jen Cipriani at 570-578-6952. Scouting is open to boys and girls ages Kindergarten through High School.

PRAYER REQUEST/CONCERN

If you have a Prayer Request/Concern, contact Kim Deliman. Please provide the following information: The person/people, causes, and concerns in need of prayers. Prayer Circle would like to keep up to date to fulfill the needs of the church, community, and world in which we live.

Request/Concern to be communicated:

I request prayers for:

Name: _____

Concerns: _____

_____ Place on the email Prayer Chain

_____ Include in prayers during worship

_____ Contact me about my request

"God's work. Our hands."

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, Sept. 12**, when congregations of the ELCA will come together for "God's work. Our hands."

SECRETARY COMMUNICATIONS

Please make sure anything communicated to the secretary for the bulletin, newsletter, or anything she needs to address, has your contact information in it. Your name, phone number or email address and reason for communication.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Great news, after a year and a half of strict restrictions, the Governor is relaxing them at the end of May. Council has also decided to relax the restrictions. So, starting Sunday June 6th; First, the hymnals will be used and 2 versus will be sung. Second, if fully vaccinated you can choose to wear your mask or not. Third, social distancing will still be required. Thanks for everyone's help in keeping our church safe through these very trying times. Council will continue to evaluate and make changes as needed at each month's meeting.

Great job coming together and giving donations to Dave Cunfer's family to help them recover from the devastating house fire. We got a couple more donations in the mail since the drive ended. Please see the Council Minutes for the amount collected and being distributed to the families.

Sausage supper was a great success again. As always, good eats and a fun time was had by all. Thanks to everyone who helped out.

Hope the summer is a safe and fun time for you and your families.

Godspeed,

Don Wenner Jr.

Your Council President

CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

We have heard time & time again about how beautiful and well-kept our cemetery is. Spring is right around the corner and that means it is almost time for the cemetery crew to begin their work for the season. We often take for granted the hard work and endless hours that go into keeping our cemetery beautiful year after year. ***To help with the upkeep, please consider giving a monetary donation "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" a loved one.*** Checks can be made payable to "St. John's Lutheran & Reformed Cemetery Association" or included with your weekly offering (please include a notation with your offering).

BEAR CREEK CAMP 2021 "GOD FOREVER - GOOD FOREVER"



Please check the website for availability for summer camping.
bccamp@bearcreekcamp.org

PHOTOS, PLEASE



A reminder that we would love to share more photos of our activities in our church newsletter, and both photos and videos on our Facebook page and the church website (with permission). We would appreciate your help. If you have footage from a church event or activity (even if it's just members enjoying fellowship or working around the church), please email to the church office at: stjohns@epix.net or you can download and message them to us through our Facebook page. Thank you!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Prayer shawl ministry will be continuing at 9:30am at the church. We meet the first and third Wednesday of the month. All are welcome to join us and we are willing to teach.

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR MAY

This month's altar flowers are placed to the Glory of God and:

June 6– In loving memory of James J Mundie Sr

June 13 – In loving memory of June Mundie Moylan by her brothers and sisters

June 20 – In loving memory of Lee Mace

June 27 – In loving memory of Al and Mildred Wysocky

* There are several Sundays available to sponsor altar flowers. If you are interested, please sign up on the Flower Chart in the St. Stephen's Room or email the church (stjohns@epix.net)

The cost is \$24.00 and can be mailed to:
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Attn. Jennifer Cipriani/Flowers
P.O. Box 2
772 St. Johns Road
Saint Johns, PA 18247



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

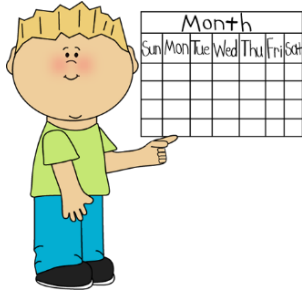
We are looking for you to come join one or several of our Church Ministry Teams! Be a part of the many opportunities these teams provide. We want and need you to join us in serving Gods calling with your time and talents to help our church continue to grow in making this place to share and express his love. Please contact the church office if you are interested. Worship & Music, Learning Ministry, Stewardship, Finance Team, Property Team, Altar Guild, Assistant Ministers, Lay Eucharistic, Quilting, and Prayer Shawl.

NEPA SYNOD OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Each morning at 9:30 am Bishop Christopher DeForest and his staff pause for prayers . We were included in their prayers during the week of May 24th.

SAUSAGE SUPPER

The spring Sausage supper was a sold-out success. We sold 562 dinners and made a profit of \$4,642.00 for our Building fund. This time we added chocolate chip cookies to our meal of our country sausage, Buttermilk pancakes, baked potato, home-made coleslaw & applesauce. Umm yum. We will be doing this again in the fall. Watch for future information and grab your tickets early!



SAVE THE DATE

We are planning to have VBS, Vacation Bible School, August 2nd to August 6th.

The Learning Ministry Team (LMT) is encouraging everyone to save the date for the first week in August, as we look at the possibility of holding safe, in person Vacation Bible School, August 2-6, 2021.

We are in the beginning stages of discussing possibilities and are looking for responses from our neighboring churches and anyone willing to volunteer their time and talents to make this year's VBS happen. If we work together, we can once again experience the fun, faith filled week of VBS, sharing with both recurring and new friends, ages 3-6th grade.

We ask that younger children be out of diapers to attend, or accompanied by an adult, while the older children can participate in the program or volunteer to be helpers. Clearances will be required for anyone 18 or older staying or volunteering with the children.

The LMT can help you obtain these clearances if needed. To follow the CDC guidelines, and plan activities to the best of our abilities, it would be helpful to have an idea of the interest of volunteers and children attending. We are hopeful that we can get back to a rewarding, fun, faith filled week of sharing friendship and happiness.

Please contact the church office or any member of the Learning Ministry Team. Learning Ministry Team (Janet Brady, Jennifer Cipriani, Donna Cassarella, Kim Deliman, Melody Hinderer,

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2021

It is good to be back and safely moving forward with Vacation Bible School. Last year was a year of separation from each other. How happy we are to say we can gather to share our joy in the Word and celebrate the water flowing in us as we travel along the "River of Life."

Water is life. From the beginning, every creation needs water to live. The church through many programs and ministries helps communities access clean water and proper sanitation in the United States as well as around the world. Water is a powerful symbol for people of faith, beginning with the waters of baptism.

At Vacation Bible School 2021, as we visit different "ports", the "River of Life" will teach us how important water is in our life. We will hear Bible stories about water, learn about communities working together to restore watersheds, protect water rights, and have safe water for everyone.

Vacation Bible School will be August 2-6, 2021 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. So, join us, have some fun playing games, singing, making crafts, and come eat some awesome snacks, as we celebrate water and learn to be good stewards of God's creation.

Register by signing up at church, through the church office, or contact a Learning Ministry Team member. (Janet Brady, Jennifer Cipriani, Kim Deliman, Patty Phile, Dawn Klick, Melody Hinderer, Donna Cassarella.) Calling

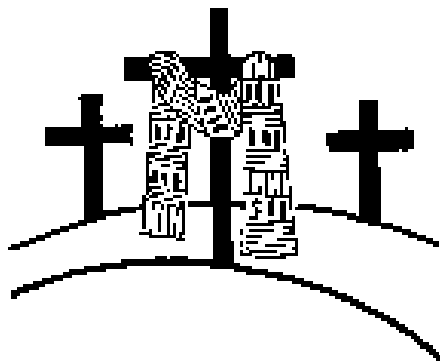
PASTOR'S DESK
BY PASTOR MICHELE KAUFMAN

The twelfth man tradition is one of the great legends of sports. Most people are not accustomed to seeing the entire Texas A&M student body stand throughout an entire football game except during half-time. This unique Texas tradition is based on something that happened in 1922. A&M was facing Centre College. The A&M team had so many injuries that Coach Bible wasn't sure he'd have enough to players to complete the game. Then Coach Bible remembered seeing a former player, E. King Gill, sitting in the stands. The coach had released Gill from football to play basketball. Coach Bible had Gill brought down from the stands and suited up on the sidelines so he would be available to play should the Aggie team need him. Gill became the team's twelfth man. The Aggies went on to win without Gill's help, but on that day a tradition was born. To this day hard-core A&M fans stand ready, as a body, to show their willingness to play if needed, to be the twelfth man.

I think a lot of church folks view themselves as the twelfth man. How many folks come dressed up every Sunday morning standing ready, as a body, to show their willingness to play if needed, to be the twelfth man, but never get on the field. They never volunteer to teach a Sunday School class, or volunteer to work on the Stewardship campaign, or help with the fellowship dinners, or invite friends to worship or any of the various ministries that help the church carry out its work. They have good intentions, but then we all know about the road paved with good intentions. Nobody can do everything that is required to move a church forward, but all of us can do something. We are church.

The Apostle Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians 12 and elsewhere that the Lord's people are the body of Christ. Each part is a part of the whole body. The body is an assembly of parts. Without its parts, the body is not. By its parts, the body exists. But a number of severed parts do not make a body, it is their assembly, their being together, which does that. Not only does one member of the Christian community need each other member, but each needs every other. A hand cannot function unless it is organically related to a body, unless it is what the body needs it to be, unless it does what the body needs to have it do.

Paul wanted the people within the church to work together as a team. Each person possesses a different yet complementary gift that when used together builds up the church. We are incorporated into the body of Christ. Paul asks, "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" The church is more than brick and mortar; it is the people. We are the church together! We are God's temple with the Spirit dwelling in us. Ask yourself...how can you become involved in the work of St. John's? What can you do? Don't stand on the sideline as the 12th man.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING of May 13 and May 19, 2021

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Church Council Minutes
Thursday, May 13, 2021

ROLL CALL:

Those in attendance were Pastor Michele Kaufman, Don Wenner, Jr., Donna Cassarella, Jim Cassarella, Carolyn Kuehn, Jennifer Cipriani, Janet Brady, Sheila Maslo, Kim Deliman, and Kim Washko. Patty Phile and Jan Jacobus had excused absences. The meeting started at 7:14 pm.

DEVOTIONS:

Pastor Michele had the devotions and opening prayer. Don Wenner, Jr. will have the devotions for June.

LETTER:

A letter was received from Joyce Ray stating that she is leaving the church for personal reasons. Sheila Maslo made a motion to regretfully accept her letter of leaving the church. Jim Cassarella seconded the motion. All approved except for Kim Washko who abstained from voting. Kim Deliman made a motion to table what to do about Joyce's leaving. Sheila Maslo seconded the motion. All approved.

MINUTES:

April 8, 2021 – Donna Cassarella made a motion to accept the Minutes as written. Janet Brady seconded the motion. All approved except for Kim Washko and Sheila Maslo who abstained because they were not at that meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- a. Jennifer just got off the phone with the postal investigator regarding our bank fraud. He said he is working on it and in the process of tracking down the people responsible. He has over 100 cases right now. There is nothing else for us to do at this point. Jennifer also reached out to the bank to find out the status of getting our money back. She said she will look into it, however it is typically about 90 days. We are at about 60 days right now so hopefully soon. She will get back with Jennifer when she has more info.
- b. Our church has collected \$1,141.00 for the local fire victims – David Cunfer and his nephew, Charles Switzer. LCW will donate money also. Donna Cassarella made a motion for the funds from the church to be divided equally in half to David Cunfer and Charles Switzer.
- c. The sausage supper made \$6,332.00. After paying for the sausage and supplies, etc. our profit was \$4,642.85. 562 tickets were sold.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Don Wenner, Jr., Chairperson

- a. No word from the estate of Warren Becker. Money to be put into a CD account.
- b. No one contacted us about the CD's for the zoom meeting from Season's Change Financial. They sent a contract to sign without any discussion with them. Several sites were looked at online, but it was decided to go back with Mission Investments. Kim Washko made a motion to go back to Mission Investments. Donna Cassarella seconded the motion. All approved.

MILEAGE/PASTOR'S REPORT:

March – Pastor had a lot of phone calls and communion visits for a total of 51-1/2 hours and 331 miles.
April – Pastor had phone calls, confirmation classes and a visitation for a total of 12 hours and 66 miles.
Confirmation classes started up again. There are 2 children now and probably 4 in September.

TEAM REPORTS:

Worship and Music -

- a. Jennifer Cipriani made a motion to keep the wooden cross up all year. It should be draped with the appropriate colors for special seasons and occasions. Sheila Maslo seconded the motion. All approved.
- b. The hymnals will be put back in the pews that we sit in. See "Team Reports, New Business, D" below.

- c. 20 geraniums will be ordered for Pentecost.
- d. Mother's Day tributes will go to Divine Providence.
- e. Father's Day tributes will be given to Pa. Wounded Warriors.

Stewardship -

There will be a meeting on Thursday, May 27th at 6:30 at the church.

Learning Ministry -

- a. They met on Friday, May 7th.
- b. The next meeting is Friday, June 18th at 6:30 pm.
- c. VBS is the first week of August (2nd to the 6th). The UCC is interested in helping. The curriculum this summer is "River of Life". Clearances are still needed and given to Thelma.
- d. Sunday School teachers are needed for the fall.
- e. Sunday School finishes May 23rd and restarts September 16th.

Property – Jim Cassarella, Chairman

- a. Got bids for the front steps and sidewalk. Steps will cost \$4,839.00 and the sidewalk is \$320.00. George Hess will donate the cement. Donna Cassarella made a motion to accept the bid for the steps. Money to come from the Building Fund. Kim Washko seconded the motion. All approved. Jim Cassarella made a motion to fix the sidewalk out front. Money to come from the Building Fund. George Hess will supply the concrete. Kim Washko seconded the motion. All approved. Kim Washko made a motion to empty the tank in back of the church because of liability and hazard purposes. George Hess will donate the slurry to fill the tank. If any funds are needed, they will be taken from the Building Fund. Janet Brady seconded the motion. All approved.
- b. Talked about repairing and painting the steeple.
- c. The handicapped area will be tabled to next year.

This meeting ended at 9:44 pm. Council will finish this meeting on Wednesday, May 19th at 7:00 pm.
Closed with The Lord's Prayer.

The second half of the May 13th Council Meeting was on Wednesday, May 19th at 7:00 pm. Those in attendance were Carolyn Kuehn, Janet Brady, Don Wenner, Jr., Kim Deliman, Pastor Michele Kaufman, Jim Cassarella, Donna Cassarella, and Sheila Maslo. Kim Washko followed the meeting on her cell phone. Jennifer Cipriani, Patty Phile and Jan Jacobus had excused absences.

LCW -

No report.

Lay Eucharist -

No Report.

Call Committee -

No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Committee reports need to be turned into church secretary by the "second Monday of the month" so that Thelma can scan and email them to the council members so they may be reviewed prior to the meeting.
- b. Facebook Guidelines – Thelma, Pastor Michele, Donna Cassarella and Melody Hinderer can post on Facebook. Council is looking for someone in the congregation to be the Facebook manager.
- c. Computer – Council will have Shane Davis come down and access the computer. Kim Washko made a motion to hire Shane Davis to look at our computer. Donna Cassarella seconded the motion. All approved.
- d. All messages for Thelma should go through that committee with the person's name and phone number on.
- e. The Stewardship Committee will check the Membership Rolls, Directory and the e-mail lists.
- f. Jake Marinock will help Linda Snyder around the church.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Mission District Virtual Meeting.

1. A new Dean was elected.

2. A resolution was presented to the assembled members. It was extremely long worded and essentially stated since the assembled should be made up of 45% each for rostered leaders and lay persons, that the remaining 10% should be worded to reflect transgenders and not others. It failed to pass 7-5.

b. The Synod Assembly is Friday, June 4th and Saturday, June 5th and will be virtual. Jan Jacobus and Kim Deliman will represent St. John's.

c. Phone numbers should not be given out to strangers. Get their name and phone number and pass it along to that person. They can call them back.

d. A discussion was had about bringing the church services back to the way they were before COVID. It was decided to put the hymnals back in the pews but not use them until June 6th. Right now, we will sing 2 verses only. If you have your vaccinations and feel comfortable, you don't have to wear a mask. This is your preference. This also starts in June. Sheila Maslo made a motion to put the hymnals back in the pews but don't use them yet. We will only sing 2 verses until June. Masks will be optional starting in June also. Donna Cassarella seconded the motion. All approved.

e. Pastor asked if we have a church banner. All churches are asked to display their banners at the Bishop's installation.

f. Thelma's 90 days are up. Should we pay her clearances now? Donna Cassarella made a motion to pay Thelma's clearances now that the 90 days are up. Kim Deliman seconded the motion. All approved.

NEXT MEETING:

June 10, 2021

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Janet Brady made a motion to adjourn. Jim Cassarella seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 9:27 pm.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Council prayed The Lord's Prayer.

OUR CHURCH CONTINUES TO LIVE THROUGH THE COVID PANDEMIC. PHYSICAL DISTANCING HAS CHANGED THE WAY WE WORSHIP AND SERV, BUT THE NEED IS GREAT, AND GOD'S CHUCH IS AT WORK.

