

# MINISTRY MATTERS

## - IN THE CONGREGATION AND BEYOND -

### SUPPLY PASTOR SCHEDULE

July 4: Rev. Melvin Mundie - No Communion  
July 11: Rev. Melvin Mundie - No Communion  
July 18: Rev. Melvin Mundie - No Communion  
July 25: Pastor Chip Fairchild - 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 on it. Your name, phone number or email address and reason for communication.

### 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](mailto:bccamp@bearcreekcamp.org)



### 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.

## 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](mailto:stjohns@epix.net) or you can download and message them to us through our Facebook page. Thank you!

## ALTAR FLOWERS FOR JULY

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

**July 4** – In loving memory of loved ones by Janet Brady

**July 11** – In loving memory of Clair Knorr by Edward Knorr

**July 18** – In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Francis H. Gross and Mr. and Mrs. George W. Snyder

**July 25** – In loving memory of Howard Hoffman by Arlene Poltrock

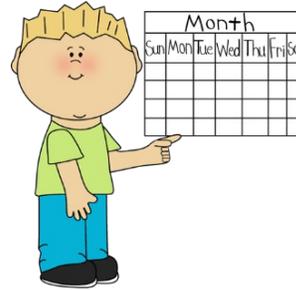
\* Our 2021 Altar Flower chart in the St. Stephen's Room, is full for the year of 2021. Thanks to all those that sponsored flowers for the year.



## 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.



## SAVE THE DATE

**We are planning to have VBS, Vacation Bible School, August 2<sup>nd</sup> to August 6<sup>th</sup>.**

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 Hinder

**PASTOR'S DESK**  
**BY PASTOR MICHELE KAUFMAN**

If you're concerned that our congregation is aging, shrinking or plateauing, you're not alone. The unfortunate reality is that most churches are not growing, and they aren't getting any younger. According to a survey the numbers of adults who identify as Christians fell from 78% to 71%. Many identify as "religiously unaffiliated."

During the Synod Assembly, we heard about a new idea *Growing Young* based on the book by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder and Brad Griffin. We all know that churches are losing both members and vitality as increasing numbers of young people disengage. Based on research with over 250 of the nation's leading congregations, *Growing Young* provides a strategy any church can use to involve and retain teenagers and young adults. The book talks about sharing power with the right people at the right time; empathizing with young people; taking Jesus' message seriously; fueling the community; prioritizing young families and people everywhere; and being the best neighbors. Truthfully much of what the book suggests does not exclude those who fill the pews, but more importantly, suggests ways we can apply these principles to who we are. We are never too old to learn something new. I believe if we apply these principles to our community, we too can grow in ways we didn't think possible....can we learn something new?

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2021**

Vacation Bible School 2021 August 2-6

Come to Vacation Bible School 2021, as we visit different "ports" on the "River of Life." We will learn how important water is in our life. Bible stories about water will help us understand that God is present in every living thing. We will 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. Have some fun playing games, singing, making crafts, and eating awesome snacks, as we celebrate water and learn to be good stewards of God's creation.

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 help 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.

Children in 6th grade + are welcome to participate in VBS or be a junior assistant throughout the week. Whether staying with a child or volunteering, clearances are required for anyone 18 years or older.

Children age 3 - 5th grade can 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.) We request registration by July 18th so we can plan our supplies accordingly.

Late registration will be accepted based on the availability of space, volunteers, and supplies.

\*CDC guidelines will be followed.\*

Our next VBS planning meeting will be held on June 28 at 6:30. All help is welcomed and appreciated. Future meetings will be either in the bulletin or announced before worship. Vacation Bible School donation envelopes will be made available and can be placed in with the offering.

## SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2021

Growing Young and Vital was the theme for the 34th annual Synod Assembly. Do to Covid restrictions, the assembly was once again held online June 4th-5th, 2021. Along with special music presentations from various churches, Bishop deForest spoke for the opening worship. His message was to not let fear stop us when we are faced with negative thoughts or in negative situations. Jesus wants us together, but more so, together for the ones that need us, need help, need a voice, need care and love. We need to listen for the call of Jesus. Bishop deForest asked us to question ourselves about our 3 vital signs in the ways we can serve. Churches need to Grow Young by being “growth seekers” in ways to Heal the Hurt, Love the Land, and Engage the Stranger. We need to actively involve people of all ages, allow the love of God to reach our hearts, develop warm relationships, prioritize everywhere, and have empathy for neighborhoods. This past year has been an opportunity to try new ways in reaching out to each other, worship together, even if separately, and to continue doing mission work. The question before us is one we need to answer. \* Do we just fall back into the same routine of the way it has always been? Or, do we look to see what has worked for us this past year? \* Now is the time to decide how we move forward. We need to mix the old with the new. Remove what no longer works or serves our guiding principles and spiritual growth, integrate the old with the new. \*How should we prepare and welcome people of any age, and help them feel accepted in our Christ Centered community? \* To Heal the Hurt, start by taking one ridiculously small step. Clear a way for relationships to be restored and new relationships to grow. Build and feel a warmth in the congregation. \*What do we need to talk about through love? All ages should have a safe place to talk about the ways in which we are struggling. \* What is preventing us from moving through hurt and fear? \* Loving the Land means to be good stewards of all God’s creation, to care for that creation, protect what reveals God, restore all things in the world, and honor the physical body as well. As a church, we are encouraged to pursue the lost, make a move and open our eyes to see the people right in front of us. The other topic was to Engage the Stranger. Welcome our neighbors, befriend them, listen. \*What are we doing to keep in touch with the community and remain relevant within that context? How can we better respond to the needs of our neighbors? \* Think broader. Try not to limit the questions to just outside the church doors. \* How can we better respond to the needs around us? \* A lot of necessary business was conducted at Synod Assembly. Nominations were presented for 1) Synod Council, 2) Churchwide Assembly, 3) Treasurer for Synod Council and also, 4) Reference and Council. Some resolutions were also taken to a vote. One resolution was passed to present at the 2022 Synod Assembly. It is as follows, but not verbatim “include nonbinary and gender fluid persons in the official life of the church.” The proposed spending plan for 2022 was discussed showing an increase in spending for staff, cost of living and insurance. Voting by the delegates was conducted throughout both days. Congregations struggle with being the church together. We Need Each Other! To thrive we need to stay rooted in Christ-Centered tradition, while being open for opportunities of change so we can be relevant to all people. As stewards of God’s wonderful gifts to us, our goal is to Love the Land, Heal the Hurting, and Engage the Stranger. \* How can we reach others, witness the gospel, and connect their story to the story of Jesus? \* What touched me at this Synod Assembly, was seeing the many examples of the churches in action. Knowing all that we at Saint Johns, Saint Johns do for mission work, the previous questions deserve some time and thought. We joyfully serve, yet possibly if we open our hearts, minds, eyes, and listen for His voice, we will see new ways to share Jesus with others. One small act can cause a ripple to be felt across the world. This thought gives me pause to imagine in awe and wonder, what a world that could be.

Submitted by Kimberly Deliman ( A delegate for Synod Assembly, 2021 )

## MINISTRY LABORATORY

Ministry Laboratory is a unique opportunity in which we can participate. The idea was shared at Synod Assembly. It will be held August 14th, (10Am - 3PM ) at the Lutheran Center in Allentown. Our congregation, along with others, is invited to set up a display to share our mission work that will

show how we are Loving the Land, Healing the Hurt, as well as, Engaging the Stranger. All are welcome to attend. Information, requests for participation and reservations to attend can be done on the ELCA website. (gods love.org)

## AMAZON SMILE

We are reminding our members, and their families and friends to participate in the AmazonSmile program. There is no cost to participate. To participate enter the website below:



[smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)



Just a reminder that the AmazonSmile program is always a way to do online shopping which benefits our church.

- a. If you are a member of AmazonSmile and have an organization already chosen to which your donations presently go to, you can change the organization to our church by selecting *Change* which is located by your present organization. You can then select our church (see below).
- b. Depending on your computer or phone, you can find Amazon Smile by either selecting the 3 bars by the Amazon logo and scroll down until you find AmazonSmile, or you can select to See All Programs, and scroll until you see AmazonSmile. Select AmazonSmile.

To search for our organization, enter St Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church.

You will see a listing of churches with this name. Scroll down until you find:

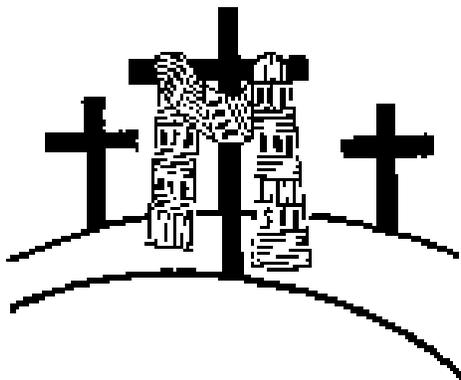
### **St Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Location: Saint Johns, PA**

You will select our church as your charitable organization, and you may begin shopping. If your purchase is eligible for the 0.5% donation, you will be able to see the amount of your charitable donation once the purchases have shipped.

Keep in mind that this fundraising event is ongoing and has no expiration date.

If you need assistance or help in setting up your purchases for AmazonSmile to benefit our church, feel free to contact the church office. **HAPPY SHOPPING!**



**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.**

***HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING of June 10 , 2021***

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Church Council Minutes  
Thursday, June 10, 2021**

**ROLL CALL:**

Those in attendance were Pastor Michele Kaufman, Don Wenner, Jr., Donna Cassarella, Jim Cassarella, Carolyn Kuehn, Janet Brady, Sheila Maslo, Patty Phile and Jan Jacobus. Kim Deliman, Kim Washko and Jennifer Cipriani had excused absences. The meeting started at 7:05 pm.

**DEVOTIONS:**

Don Wenner, Jr. had the devotions and opening prayer. Don Wenner, Jr. will have the devotions for July.

**MINUTES:**

May 13, 2021 – Janet Brady made a motion to accept the Minutes as written. Jim Cassarella seconded the motion. All approved except for Jan Jacobus and Patty Phile who abstained because they were not at that meeting. Donna Cassarella had one change on page 2, letter e under Stewardship. It should say that Sunday School restarts on September 12th.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Donna Cassarella made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills. Patty Phile seconded the motion. All approved.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE: Don Wenner, Jr., Chairperson**

Paperwork from the Estate of Warren Becker was received. Don Wenner, Jr. signed it, attested by Donna Cassarella and notarized by Debbie Koslop. The paperwork was mailed back to the law firm, and they received it. Don Wenner, Jr. verified receipt by phone on June 7, 2021. He was told that they are still waiting for several more dispositioned papers to come back before checks can be sent out. When the check arrives, it will be put into a CD account. A copy of the paperwork was handed to the council secretary, Carolyn Kuehn.

Warren Becker was a cousin to Don Wenner, Sr. and Richard Wenner. His mother was Ethel Wenner, a sister to their dad, Willard Wenner, Sr. They had resided in the valley for many years.

**MILEAGE/PASTOR'S REPORT:**

May, 2021 – Pastor attended the Mission District Assembly by phone, had several meetings, phone calls, had two council meetings and had confirmation class for a total of 31-3/4 hours and 267 miles. Jan Jacobus made a motion to accept the pastor's report. Jim Cassarella seconded the motion. All approved.

**TEAM REPORTS:**

Worship and Music -

- a. Communion will stay the same for now.
- b. Council approved the request to add more singing to the service. So on Father's Day, June 20th, we will sing "This is the feast" and continue from now on.
- c. Council approved the request that everything should be back to normal in September except for regular communion. (Watch covid numbers).

d. A story about how we got the new wooden cross should be written so everybody knows the story behind it.

#### Stewardship -

- a. They had a discussion about the goals they want to attain. The next meeting is Thursday, June 24th.
- b. Council approved the request to bring the coffee hour back, with the stipulation that all COVID guidelines be followed. Stewardship will decide the when, how much snacks and whether before or after the church service

#### Learning Ministry

- a. They will meet on June 17th at 6:30 pm.
- b. VBS will be held from August 2nd to the 6th from 9 am to 12 noon.
- c. "The River of Life" will be this year's lesson.

#### Property -

- a. Napoliella Masonry was the successful bidder for the front steps and sidewalk.
- b. Esch Builders were contacted to give a bid on repairing the steeple. They will contact Jim Cassarella in 2-3 weeks to come and look at it.

#### LCW -

They will meet in September.

#### Lay Eucharist -

No meeting.

#### Call Committee -

Pastor will check with the Synod. She will also ask Pastor Zimmerman if he could give us more time.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Synod Assembly highlights: Jan Jacobus enjoyed attending this meeting on line. She learned a lot from it.
- b. Council vacancy: This vacancy doesn't have to be filled now. It can wait until the annual meeting in January. Janet Brady made a motion to leave this vacancy open until the annual meeting in January, 2022. Patty Phile seconded the motion. All approved.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- a. A Certificate of Appreciation was received from the Food For The Poor.
- b. A letter of thanks was received from Fred Jaxheimer on behalf of the Valor Stand Down Event held on Saturday, June 6th for our donations of food and clothing.
- c. There is a Parish Secretaries Seminar on Tuesday, October 5th and Wednesday, October 6th in Lancaster, Pa.
- d. Cemetery Meeting – The rates for opening and closing the graves was tabled to next month.
  1. They need a chain saw. The UCC gave them money for the weed killer. Patty Phile made a motion to put a plate out for donations to buy the cemetery a new chain saw. Donna Cassarella seconded the motion. All approved.
- e. If anyone has correspondence for someone who has a mailbox in the Sunday School hall, please put it in their mailbox and sign it so they know who to get back to. Please don't put it in the secretary's box to pass on.
- f. Amazon Smile – Please make sure to use the right St. John's. There are a lot of them.

#### NEXT MEETING:

July 8, 2021

---

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

Janet Brady made a motion to adjourn. Jim Cassarella seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 8:55 pm.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:** The Council prayed The Lord's Prayer

---