



# A Summer Prayer

Long warm days...  
The pace of life slows...  
A time for picnics and rest in the shade...  
Lord, Help me to rest awhile  
In the cooling shade of your presence.  
Slow down my restless heart and  
fill me with  
gentle compassion for all your people.



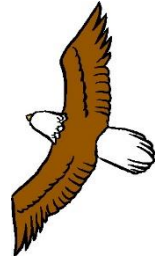
-Author Unknown



# June 2023 Newsletter

## “On Wings Like Eagles”

...but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength  
They shall mount up with *wings like eagles*,  
They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.  
Isaiah 40:31



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
PO Box 2, 772 St. Johns Road  
Saint Johns, PA 18247

Church Office Phone Number: 570.788.2685  
Email: [stjohns@epix.net](mailto:stjohns@epix.net)  
Facebook: [SJELC.StJohnsPA](https://www.facebook.com/SJELC.StJohnsPA)  
Website: [www.sjlutheran.org](http://www.sjlutheran.org)

Pastor Designate: Reverend Michele Kaufman  
Organist: Arlene Poltrock  
Church Secretary: Rose Fox  
Phone: 570-788-2685

Office Hours: M-W 9 am to 1 pm; F – 9 am to 12 pm

### Our Purpose

(Our sense of what God is calling us to be and do in the mission of the Church)

God's purpose for our congregation is to be a Christ-centered community, glorifying God and sharing the gospel and blessings with our neighbors.

### Sunday Mornings

Youth Sunday School will resume in the Fall of 2023  
Coffee Hour following Worship first Sunday of the month

### Catechism Classes

Catechism Classes for youth in grades 6, 7, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades is available.  
Parents and P. Kaufman agree to a schedule that is compatible for all.

**All are invited to join us for our worship/fellowship opportunities.**

### **Contact Information**

**Pastor Michele Kaufman – Pastor Designate**

**Phone Number: 570-881-2371**

If you have a pastoral need such as a request for a hospital visit, pastoral care need, or spiritual counseling, please contact P. Kaufman.

For other requests such as a baptism, funeral, or wedding, please contact the church office @ 570-788-2685. If necessary, please leave a message including your full name, phone number, the reason for your call, and the best time to contact you.

### **2023 Church Council Officers/Members**

<b>Melody Hinderer – President</b>	<b>Janet Brady</b>
<b>Donna Cassarella – Vice President</b>	<b>Jim Cassarella</b>
<b>Carolyn Kuehn – Secretary</b>	<b>Jan Jacobus</b>
<b>Jane Krouse – Assistant Secretary</b>	<b>Patty Phile</b>
<b>Jennifer Cipriani – Treasurer</b>	
<b>Sherry Grenzberg – Assistant Treasurer</b>	

### **Church Ministries – See Calendar for Scheduled Meetings/Events**

**Finance Team – TBA, Chairperson**

**Lay Eucharistic Ministry Team: Melody Hinderer, Judy Mundie**

**Learning Ministry Team: Kim Deliman, Chairperson**

**Lutheran Church Women (LCW): Mary Ellen Sims, President**

**Prayer Circle Ministry: Kim Deliman, Chairperson**

**Prayer Shawl Ministry: Peggy Hawk**

**Property Team: Jim Cassarella, Chairperson**

**S.E.R.V.E. Ministry: Donna Cassarella, Melody Hinderer, Co-Chairpersons**

**Worship and Music Ministry Team: Arlene Poltrock, Chairperson**

**We offer many opportunities for ministry. If interested, please contact the church office, a council member, or the chairperson(s) listed above.**



## **PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH**

**Almighty God,**

**My parish family is composed of people like me.**

**I help make it what it is.**

**It will be friendly, if I am.**

**Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.**

**It will do great work, if I work.**

**It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.**

**It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I invite and bring them.**

**It will be a parish family of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a parish with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, and filled with these same qualities.**

**Therefore, with the help of God-**

**I will dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my parish family to be.**

**Bless my journey Lord God, that I might build the Church through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**AMEN**

## **From Pastor Michele Kaufman**

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;  
He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside still waters,  
He restores my soul...

I want you to imagine for a moment that you are in your favorite place –that place where you feel relaxed and calm and refreshed and happy. Is it at the ocean? In a garden? In the mountains? Maybe for you, it's a real place, or maybe it's a place you've always imagined. But I want you to take time and imagine that place right now (I'm serious.... take 2 minutes...close your eyes.... breathe in, breathe out...).

If you followed my directions, you just experienced what might be called a psychological “rest stop.” A rest stop is a brief reprieve from the stresses and roller coaster of life. It's a time of relaxation, refreshment, and joy in which for a brief time, you can put your troubles aside and breathe. We all need something that breaks our stress, interrupts our pain with a little bit of pleasure and joy, something that breaks our “fasting” with a little bit of peace. How many know what we're talking about? You know, when you go traveling and you're going by car, driving for hours, and you really need a pit stop? Maybe it's a bathroom break you need, or a fresh bottle of water, or a snack, or a little nap. Or maybe you need to stretch your legs because you've been driving forever. Rest stops were created for this kind of necessary break. Day been long? Road been hard? Life been tough? Take a break. Pull over. Relax. And refresh.

I know we all believe the summer months are for just that purpose. You see, we've kind of misconstrued that word in our culture today with the idea that taking a “rest” means taking time for ourselves just to do more stuff! Or sleeping in instead of going to church! But here's the problem with that. That's not the kind of “rest” that God intended. This is why Jesus told us, “Come to me, all you who are weary, and I will give you rest.” Jesus is our Sabbath. He IS our break. Sabbath is a time when we allow Jesus to refresh us, heal us, renew us, and rejuvenate us before sending us out to face the world again. Sabbath is not a time to “check out” of worship, but a need to “check into” worship! That's where the refreshment “stand” is. That's where the living water fountain flows. That's where you eat the food of holy communion and are rejuvenated in the power of the Holy Spirit. Worship is where you gear up again for the road and the way and the journey still to come. Cause if you don't refresh, you will burn out. We need to give ourselves a break, and a little downtime works well for almost everybody. It doesn't really matter what the activity or inactivity is. The idea is to give your body, mind, and heart a chance to relax and recharge. If you keep going at full speed every day, it can be really hard on you, both physically and mentally. We were not designed to go 24/7/365. But also remember how important it is to maintain your relationship with God. Making time for God will allow all the pieces of your life's puzzle to fall into place.

## **Highlights from the Church Council Meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Attendance: Janet Brady, Melody Hinderer, Jan Jacobus, Carolyn Kuehn, Jane Krouse, Sherry Grenzberg, Donna Cassarella, Jim Cassarella Excused: P. Michele Kaufman, Patty Phile

Treasurer's Report for April 2023 approved.

Pastor's Report/Mileage: April 2023 approved. 22.25 hours, mileage 220 miles. Devin Cipriani will be confirmed Pentecost Sunday. Crosses will be given to the confirmand. Homebound members have received communion. P. Michele will be attending the International Conference in Meissen with the Bishop from June 15-24<sup>th</sup>.

Minutes from March 9<sup>th</sup> approved.

Cemetery Treasurer's Report: Meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Attendance from St. John's: Dawn Klick, Jennifer Cipriani, and Melody Hinderer. Items discussed:

- Cemetery will be purchasing a gas-powered leaf blower.
- Need additional help, possible donation of time.
- Plow will not be going on the white truck.
- Need to purchase industrial weed killer (either Extended Round-Up or Farm Works from Tractor Supply}
- Revision of by-laws – (this was done and approved at previous meeting)
- Discussed purchasing 700 geraniums, prices are very high, looking into buying pansies (which is a perennial) instead of geraniums.
- Permanent Flower Fund (Perpetual Fund) is up for renewal. Will invest in CDs with local banks instead of Mission Investment Fund because their rates are higher. CDs will be purchased in different dollar amounts with different maturity dates in case monies are needed.
- Workman's comp went up \$500.00, no increases in truck insurance or hazard insurance.
- YTD: 4 Open/Close burials, 4 Cremations, and one lot was purchased; donations also received.
- Need to buy a load of good dirt -Bedrock's, and grass seed.
- Discussion on possibly purchasing a water buffalo to help with watering.
- Frank has talked to someone who has a backhoe to help them, too much manual labor is being done, help with cutting down hours.
- Next meeting October 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm.

### **Team Reports**

#### **Worship Team: Arlene Poltrock - Chairperson**

- Arlene Poltrock will be out for the month of May. Arlene will continue to choose hymns.
- Pastor Michelle's mother, Brenda, will continue to supply as our organist.
- Pastor Supply Schedule: June 4th, 11th, and 25th: P. Melvin Mundie; June 18th: P. Chip Fairchild

#### **SERVE Team: Donna Cassarella and Melody Hinderer – Co-Chairpersons**

- Divine Providence Update received. Thank you to Jan Jacobus and her son Dan who will take over the responsibility of providing the monthly meals.
- Sign-up sheet is St. Stephen's room for the June 11<sup>th</sup> luncheon for First Responders.
- Raffle license will be renewed for one year.

### **Continuation of Church Council Meeting...**

- Sept 9<sup>th</sup>: Fall Craft/Vendor and Yard Sale to be held outdoors. Tricky Trays are welcomed. LCW will hold a bake sale; food and beverages will also be sold. We are interested in possibly providing music or some sort of entertainment. 8 Sand Spring Golf Passes will be included with the Sept 9<sup>th</sup> raffle.
- Indoor Spring Craft and Bake Sale was successful. A donation will be given to youth attending the youth gathering in 2024; the remaining profits will go to the Mundie Fund.
- Hobo Party – Sept 16<sup>th</sup> 1 pm @ Nadine Saurer's Grove. Each person is to bring one can of vegetables, a spoon, and a potholder (soup will be served in a can), your favorite beverage.
- Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting – August 26<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am – 1 pm in Luther Hall. At this meeting, we will form a committee for the 225<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary Celebration.
- Plans continue to have a Children's and Adult library. The concept is "Take One, Leave One". Books and videos will be donated.
- Next meeting May 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm

**Learning Ministry Team: Kim Deliman – Chairperson** No report

**Property Team: Jim Cassarella - Chairperson**

- The handicap area was paved on May 11<sup>th</sup>, extra paving was also done by the sidewalks to even the area for safe walking.
- Sausage Supper was successful.
- Handicap parking signs installed. A parking sign for the pastor will be purchased.
- Plans to install a motion light at the entrance.
- Four Diamonds Landscaping has done some trimming.

**LCW: Mary Ellen Sims – Chairperson**

- Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> @ 9 am: Men's Breakfast
- Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> @ 4 pm: Annual Congregation Picnic at Nadine Saurer's Grove.
- Next Meeting will be held in September.

**Lay Eucharist:** Calls are being made. Everyone is doing well.

**Finance Team:** Chairperson needed.

**Carillon Team:** A laptop with a CD drive is needed.

**Anniversary Celebration – 2024.** Need to form a team in 2023. Will form a team at our semi-annual congregation meeting in the summer.

**Call Committee: Melody Hinderer – Chairperson** No report.

### **Old Business:**

- The lockbox will be closed.
- No updates on the pavilion (Scouts).

### **New Business:**

- Janet Brady will be our delegate at the synod assembly.
- Reviewed the revised Organist Job Description; council approved the revised description.
- Boscov's Friends Helping Friends: October 18, 2023, from 8 am - 11.
- St. Paul's – Mountaintop will help with providing meals to Divine Providence for six months.

## Continuation of Church Council Meeting...

- Hazleton Lehighon Mission District Report – Meeting April 19, 2023. Melody Hinderer attended the meeting as the council chairperson.
  - a. At the Spring Assembly – we will have to elect a dean (must be a pastor.)
  - b. Bishop deForest and P. Shankweiler met with Christ, Hazleton, St. John, Brandonville, and St. John Ringtown, to help them complete their ministry profiles.
  - c. Christ Lutheran Conyngham have formed a call committee. Two attempts to find them an interim pastor did not work out.
  - d. Weatherly and White Haven have a candidate to replace P. Janell Wigan (she is now under contract with another church)
  - e. Dillon Epler, intern at St. John, Tamaqua, his internship has come to an end, Bishop deForest will decide if he is to remain there (congregation would like for him to stay)
  - f. Bill Dimmich, SALM, is looking for a church in the Bowmans Town area. He's in his 80's, very frail, hard time walking.
  - g. Synod VP Kristen Edelman-Weiner abruptly resigned at the synod council meeting.
  - h. P. Ken Melber has been approved as a candidate for synod secretary. P. Melber has two large congregations at the present time. P. Shankweiler will be resigning as secretary effective in August.
  - i. One candidate for VP – Dan Raudenbush (must be a lay person)
  - j. The synod's new DEM (Director for Evangelical Mission) Deacon Kathleen Tigerman. She is looking for a place to live that has a Montessori school and a place to raise farm animals.
  - k. New SALM (Synodically Authorized Lay Person) program will move forward.
  - l. Ministry Grants are available, deadline July 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - m. National Youth Gathering Grants are also available for youth who have finished 8<sup>th</sup> grade and youth who have graduated 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - n. Budget for Synod used to be 14 million, it's now \$2 million.

Hazleton /Lehighon Mission District Assembly – May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Janet Brady and Melody Hinderer attended the meeting.

- New Dean elected: P. Cindy White. Dean must be under call in our district, dean cannot be a retired pastor.
- P. Tony Pagotto will join the Hazleton/Lehighon Mission District Council as a member of our mission district.

### P. Shankweiler's Report

- In the last 10 years there have been 28-30 Ordinations, and 108 retirees.
- 250 congregations in our synod, 78-80 vacancies.
- 10 years ago, there were no vacancies.
- SALM program is our only hope, requires less education, and you are not considered a SALM unless you have a church. You can only do the sacraments at a designated church. Hopes are to change this rule so SALM's can go to other churches.
- SALM program lapsed because many pastors did not approve of the program.
- LAM (Lay Authorized Minister) is a new concept that has approval to move forward. A LAM would be trained to give communion, etc. but must also be able to give sermons and lead a service. The program has not been formalized yet.



### Continuation of Church Council Meeting...

- Deacons have a choice to be a Word and Sacrament pastor – give communion or Word and Service pastor – cannot give communion.
- There is another candidate for the synod VP position.

The next council meeting is June 8th, 2023 @ 7 pm, meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm, and closed meeting by praying the Lord's Prayer.

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### **Hazleton Lehigh Mission District Meeting** **and the Hazleton Lehigh Mission District Spring Meeting**

In order not to duplicate the same information, please refer to the council highlights for a brief summary of both meetings. If you have any questions, please contact Melody Hinderer.

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### **Supply Pastor Schedule**

June 4– Rev. Melvin Mundie  
June 11 – Rev. Melvin Mundie  
June 18 – Rev. Chip Fairchild  
June 25 – Rev. Melvin Mundie

### **Altar Flowers**

ILM of Donna K. Meade by Kim & Joe Washko  
ILM of June Mundie Moylan  
ILM of Al & Mildred Wysocky  
ILM of Lee Mace

**June Bulletin Sponsor** – In Loving Memory of Loved Ones by Sandy Zamba for all weeks in June

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### **June Birthday, Baptism, and Anniversary Celebrations**

We publish these celebrations with permission and information given by our members. If your celebration is missing from our list, please call the church secretary with the information and your information will be updated. Thank you!



2 - Lucille Wenner  
3 – Kimberly Deliman  
4 – C.J. Kapuschinsky  
4 – Jessica Serfass  
14 – Devin Cipriani  
14 – Dawn Morgan  
17 – Carson Ustonofski  
21 – Alan Steinman  
23 – Jane Krouse  
27 – Mark Solon



1 – John Billig  
3 – Benjamin Wersinger  
4 – Patty Phile  
5 – Donna Cassarella  
16 – Brad Koch  
21 – Liam Eveland  
28 – Walter Bloss Sr.



12 – Tiffany & Todd Barbush  
13 – Joyce & Gordon Bigelow  
18 – Rev. Melvin & Barbara Mundie  
19 – Donald Jr. & Donna Klinger

## **Bulletin Sponsors**

Church members have the opportunity to sponsor our weekly church bulletins for 2023. The cost for one week is \$10.00. Available Dates Chart and forms are available in the St. Stephen's room. Please fill out the form along with your check payable to St. John's Lutheran Church and return it to our church secretary. All weeks in August are available.



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## **Dates Open for Sponsoring Flowers**



The following dates are open for sponsoring flowers: July 2, July 16, July 23, August 20, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, October 1, October 8, October 29, December 10, December 17, and December 31. Please sign the Flower Chart in the St. Stephen's room, if you are interested in sponsoring the altar flowers on any of the dates listed.

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## **Monthly Coffee Hour**

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, after church, June birthdays will be celebrated with a coffee hour. Each first Sunday of the month Coffee Hour will be observed. Please use the sign-up sheet in the St. Stephen's room for members/church teams to sponsor. A sponsor is needed for the next Coffee Hour on July 2<sup>th</sup>.



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## **Worship Service Volunteers Needed**



Since the Covid restrictions have been lifted, we are reverting back to our "normal" worship services which include coming forward for communion and offering collection. There is a sign-up sheet in the St. Stephen's room for volunteers to fill the following responsibilities for our Sunday worship services:

Head Usher/Building Attendant, Assistant Minister/Wine Pourer, Altar Guild (fold bulletins, etc.), Altar Guild (set up the altar for communion, etc.), Greeters, Crucifer (if needed), Acolyte, Communion Bread Provider, Bring Wine and Bread forward, Communion Ushers, Collection Ushers.

If you have any questions about any of the responsibilities above, please see a council member. We need volunteers in all areas, thank you.

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## **Church Outreach Initiative - Divine Providence**

Jan Jacobus and her son, Dan Stiglianese will now be taking over organizing the meals, that our church is responsible for providing, to the Divine Homeless Shelter. I am so pleased that they have offered to operate this worthy outreach initiative and to keep this project going. Volunteers will continue to be needed to help prepare and provide the nutritious meal on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month throughout the year. Please contact Jan Jacobus @ 570-956-7322 if you are able to volunteer. Donna Cassarella (S.E.R.V.E. Team Outreach Initiative)



## Prayer Circle



If you have a prayer request for yourself, someone else, or would like to join the Prayer Circle and receive the list of prayer concerns; Please contact Kim Deliman at 570-788-4459. Leave a message with your contact information, prayer request, and if possible, the duration the prayer request will be needed. (Example: week(s), month(s), indefinitely etc.) Let me know what is to be done for the requested name, whether it is to be included in the bulletin, placed on the prayer

circle list, or if the person would like to be contacted by Pastor Michele Kaufman. You may also call the church office or, sign the Prayer Request list located on the table in the St. Stephen's Room. I try to keep the prayer requests up to date, but I still need your help to keep all prayer concerns current. I rely on your input whether to add or remove prayer requests from the list. We have many requests and concerns within the church and world around us. The help of the church as a whole can keep the Prayer Circle current and enable us to fulfill the needs of the church, community, and world in which we live. I would like to thank everyone that holds the requests and concerns in their daily prayers. Prayer is powerful, especially when done together.

\*\*\*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." Romans 12:12\*\*\*

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## Men's Breakfast

The LCW will be hosting a Men's Breakfast for all Men and boys of St. John's on Saturday, June 17th @ 9 am in Luther Hall. The menu will consist of sausage, eggs, home fries, toast, orange juice, coffee, and Dutch cake. Please sign-up in the St. Stephen's Room.



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## Valley Food Pantry

Thank you for supporting the Valley Food Pantry. For May there is a need for spaghetti sauce, tomato paste, baked beans, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, snack crackers, bar soap, and laundry detergent. **Please make sure the products are within the expiration date.** Your generosity is appreciated.

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## FIRST RESPONDERS LUNCHEON



On June 11<sup>th</sup>, we invited our **First Responders from Butler Township and Sugarloaf Township** to join us for our church service at 10 am and a covered-dish luncheon in their honor in Luther Hall at 12 noon.

All church members are invited to the luncheon and if you can, please bring a covered dish to share. There is a sign-up sheet in the St. Stephen's Room.

We are hoping for a great turnout for this luncheon. Please spread the word and if you know of anyone that is a member of the above organizations, please contact them and invite them.



## Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School Mark your calendar now....

**July 31 - August 4 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

\*Registration appreciated by July 23, 2023\* Once again, it is time for Vacation Bible School! What an exciting week it will be. A week filled with fun, faith, learning, singing, dancing, games, crafts, snacks, and friends. This year's theme will be Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God. Join us for a summer party as we learn that by turning to God through prayer, our needs will be met. Each day a line to a well-loved prayer will be taught through "Daily Specials." The kids will also learn to serve as the hands of God, to meet the needs of others. Children will meet together in Luther Hall for an opening of song, dance, Bible stories, Bible lessons, and a Bible Memory verse that they will focus on for the week. They will then split into groups for crafts, games, and snacks. The youth will once again join together for the closing songs and a recap of the lesson of the day. Our children will also learn about the mission project they will sponsor for the week. Get on a roll with God and make VBS a success!

Children from the age of three up to the fifth grade are invited to attend VBS. Older youth are encouraged to join in the excitement as junior volunteers. It is their way to connect and share with others the same experience of VBS that they had growing up. The Learning Ministry Team requests registration by Sunday, July 23, 2023. This will give us an idea of the supplies needed for each child, as well as the number of volunteers needed to have a safe, fun week at Vacation Bible School. Registration can be done by calling the Church office at (570) 788-2685 or filling out the registration form that can be found on the table in the St. Stephen's Room. Help is needed We need you! The Learning Ministry Team is asking for help. Will you answer the call? It takes a village, or in this case, multiple church congregations to pull off this amazing week. We need volunteers to help during the week of Bible School. There are many ways in which to help. Whether it is the full week, a few days, or even a few hours, behind the scenes or front and center. You will find that you enjoy VBS as much as the children. We also put in many hours to prepare and set the tone for the children to experience an interactive, faith-filled week together. There are big and small ways that you can help. All help is welcome. There will be a volunteer sign-up sheet in the St. Stephen's room. Get on a Roll with God as you help the team and help the children. Meetings will be announced as needed and will be listed in the weekly bulletin.

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## Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training

If you have the calling to be a Lay Eucharistic Minister, there are one-day training events available.

The cost is \$30.00 per person; training is from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm.

To complete the application, go to [LibertyLutheran.org/LEVT](http://LibertyLutheran.org/LEVT) or email the completed registration form to Julia Menzo at [jmenzo@libertylutheran.org](mailto:jmenzo@libertylutheran.org)

Below are the following dates and training locations:

June 3<sup>rd</sup>: St Michael's Lutheran Church  
25 E Church Street, Sellersville, PA 18960

October 7<sup>th</sup>: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
190 S. Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

October 21<sup>st</sup>: Advent Lutheran Church  
1602 Green Lane, West Chester, PA 19382

# St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church @ 772 St. John's Rd., Saint Johns  
(Drums)-across from the church in the South Lawn parking area.



## Community Craft, Vendor & Yard Sale

Saturday, Sept. 9th 8:00am - 3:00pm



Bar-B-Q  
Pizza

Hot Dogs



TRICKY TRAY  
RAFFLE

\*\*\*\*\*

Bake Sale



**40 SPACES AVAILABLE**

**Spaces are 10' by 10' and can be reserved for  
\$25.00 + a raffle donation!**

Reserve spaces by calling the church office -  
570-788-2685 or Donna: 570-436-2168





## Church Parking Changes

The Property Team is recommending a change in church parking on Sunday mornings and other church gatherings. The following changes were discussed with the church council.

Effective immediately:

**If you feel comfortable crossing the road, we are asking you to park in the parking lot in order to free the parking spaces in front of the church.**

New signage will soon be displayed for our handicapped area in the front of the church.

If you are facing the church, there will be six handicapped parking spaces to the left of the front entrance. Please do not park in these spaces if you do not have a handicap sign displayed. To the right of the church entrance, parking will be available for others to park who are afraid to cross the road.

There is new signage at the entrance of the cemetery which will direct those who need wheelchair access to gain entry to the church.

Our purpose is to offer parking for those with special needs and also to help our visitors who are uncertain of where to park. Thank you for your cooperation as we implement the new parking changes.

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## Prayer Shawl Ministry

After our meeting on Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, we will be taking a break for the summer. While we are off, if there is a need for a shawl/lap blanket, please use the request cards in the pews and place it in the offering plate. We will start meeting on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 9:30 am at the Church. We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. If you can knit or crochet or want to learn, come join us. Have a great summer!



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## Annual Congregational Picnic

On Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 4 pm to “?”, you are invited to Sauer’s Lake Pavilion for our Annual Picnic. Come early to swim! Bring enough drinks for your family; bring a salad or side dish or dessert to share. The LCW will provide sweet Italian sausage and peppers and hard rolls. Please sign-up in the St. Stephen’s Room if you would like to attend.

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## Grant Opportunity from the Hazleton Lehigh Mission District

Every year, our mission district sets aside monies, for any church in our district, to apply for funds to support an outreach ministry. Any team, of our church, can apply for this grant. Monies given in the past have been in increments of \$500.00. Please consider applying; deadline is July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact Melody Hinderer. The Ministry Grant application is attached.

## Ministry Grant Application

*For congregations of the Hazleton-Lehigh Mission District requesting grants from the pool of funds set aside for this purpose.*

***The deadline to submit applications is July 31, 2023.***

*Upon approval, a check will be issued in the name of the congregation requesting funds.*

Congregation (name, town): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person's phone number : \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a brief description of the ministry project: *(use reverse if you need more space)*

What need(s) will this project address/what are your goals for this project?  
*(use reverse if you need more space)*

What is the timeframe for your project?

Are there any other congregations/organization with which you are partnering in this project?

How much funding is being requested? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:

Hazleton-Lehigh Mission District  
c/o Patterson Derr  
P.O. Box 1041  
Conyngham, PA 18219

Or scan and email to:

cpaderr@gmail.com

## **"NEW" Bible Study!**

Coming this September. A Video series by Dr. David Jeremiah will be presented each Sunday - September 10th through November 5th at 8:45 am in Luther Hall. This series will be "THE WORLD OF THE END" How Jesus' prophecy shapes our priorities. Come join us, all are welcome. Light refreshments will be available. More information will be in our next Newsletter. LMT Team (Learning Ministry Team)



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## **Luke Alexander Thomas Baptism**

St. John's celebrates the baptism of Luke Alexander Thomas, son of Jenni and Michael Thomas and little brother of Landyn Paige Thomas.

Please welcome our newest member by baptism and the hope of our future.



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## **Black Creek United Methodist Church is hosting a free Summer Concert Series**

Save the dates and spread the word. For all concerts, the schedule will be:  
5:30 pm light dinner (Children/Family-friendly foods,) and the concert will begin at 6 pm to 7:30 pm. All concerts are RAIN or SHINE. If the weather is nice, the concert will be outside, if there is rain, the concert will be inside.

Sat. June 10 – 'Round Midnight (Jazz/Blues)

Sat. July 1 – Kings of Queen Street (Pop/Christian)

Sat. July 29 – Doc Pappa and the Renegade Rambles (Bluegrass)

Sat. August 5 – Doug Malefyt and Justin Aurand (Wide Variety)

Sat. August 26 – Randy Blakeman (Wide Variety)



# JUNE EVENTS

- ❖ June 1<sup>st</sup> - Scouts Committee Meeting @ 7 pm; Synod Assembly @ Kalahari
- ❖ June 2<sup>nd</sup> - Synod Assembly @ Kalahari
- ❖ June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Synod Assembly
- ❖ June 4<sup>th</sup> - Church @ 10 am; Coffee hour
  
- ❖ June 5<sup>th</sup> - Scouts @ 6 pm
- ❖ June 7<sup>th</sup> - Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 9:30 am
- ❖ June 8<sup>th</sup> - Church Council Meeting @ 7 pm
- ❖ June 11<sup>th</sup> - Church @ 10 am; 1<sup>st</sup> Responders Luncheon @ 12 pm
  
- ❖ June 12<sup>th</sup> - Scouts @ 6 pm
- ❖ June 15<sup>th</sup> - July/August Newsletter Deadline
- ❖ June 17<sup>th</sup> - LCW Men's Breakfast @ 9 am; Divine Providence Meal
- ❖ June 18<sup>th</sup> - Father's Day; Church @ 10 am
  
- ❖ June 19<sup>th</sup> - Scouts @ 6 pm
- ❖ June 22<sup>nd</sup> - S.E.R.V.E. Meeting @ 7 pm
- ❖ June 24<sup>th</sup> - Annual Congregational Church Picnic @ 4 pm (Sauer's Lake Pavilion)
- ❖ June 25<sup>th</sup> - Church @ 10 am
  
- ❖ June 26<sup>th</sup> - Scouts @ 6 pm

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- ❖ July 31<sup>st</sup>- Aug 4<sup>th</sup> (Registration deadline is July 23<sup>rd</sup>) – VBS
- ❖ August 26 - Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting from 10 am to 1 pm
- ❖ September 9 – Community Craft, Vendor & Yard Sale from 8 am to 3 pm
- ❖ September 16<sup>th</sup> – Hobo Party @ 1 pm (Nadine Saurer's Grove)