

MINISTRY MATTERS

- IN THE CONGREGATION AND BEYOND -

SUPPLY PASTOR SCHEDULE

August 1: Rev. Melvin Mundie –
No Communion
August 8: Pastor Chip Fairchild - Communion
August 15: Rev. Melvin Mundie –
No Communion
August 22: Pastor Chip Fairchild - Communion
August 29: Pastor Chip Fairchild - Communion

PRAYER CIRCLE

Prayer Circle

Prayer is powerful, especially when done together! Are you interested in being a part of St Johns' Prayer Circle? Anyone can participate because you can pray anywhere on your own time. Please contact Kim Deliman at 570-788-4459 and leave a message with your contact information.

1 Corinthians 2:5 That your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. **Matthew 21:22** And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith. **Luke 1:37** For nothing will be impossible with God.

Prayer Requests

Requests can be submitted by leaving a message with Kim Deliman, the church office, placing a card in with your offering, or, filling out (all) information on the sheet located in the St. Stephen's Room. Please list what is to be done for the requested name, whether it is to be included during worship, placed on the prayer circle, or if the person wants to be contacted. Also, if possible, please let me know the time frame the prayer request should remain active. (Example: indefinitely, weeks, month, etc.)

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

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR JULY



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

August 1 – In loving memory of Garth A. Horlacher by his family

August 8 – In loving memory of Rocco J. Russo by his family

August 15 – In loving memory of Helen Mace

August 22 – In loving memory of loved ones by Clara Barrho

August 29 - In memory of loved ones by Patty Phile and family

* 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.

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 or you can download and message them to us through our Facebook page. Thank you!

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.

THANK YOU, DONATION,

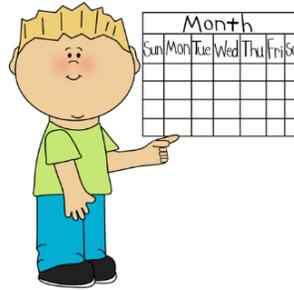
Linford Kuehn and his family made a donation of \$1000 to our General Fund in memory of his wife, Charlotte Kuehn, who passed away early this year. We are honored that you would bless us with your generosity.

BEAR CREEK CAMP 2021

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



"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."

CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

We have heard time & time again about how beautiful and well-kept our cemetery is. 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).



PASTOR'S DESK
BY PASTOR MICHELE KAUFMAN

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS...

Tell me about the kingdom of God. How would you describe the Kingdom of God? The kingdom of God is the reign of God over human hearts and society as a whole. With our finite minds there is not a whole lot we can say about the kingdom. Jesus doesn't describe it in detail, but one thing we can say with an air of certainty, is that it has something to do with love.

The kingdom of God is both now and not yet. When Jesus assembled his disciples, he sent them out to preach the Good News. The sermon was exactly the same. "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near." This kingdom, said Jesus, may be as small as a mustard seed, or as quiet as yeast in bread, but powerful things come in small packages and don't necessarily make a lot of noise. The kingdom of God comes when the will of God is done on earth as it is in heaven.

Find where God is—that is where you need to be.

Find what God is doing in this world—that is what you need to be doing.

The will of God can be known. It's not as much mystery as we would like for it to be. It's not as secret and hidden as we often think that it is.

The will of God can be known; it can be found.

It is the will of God for there to be peace on earth. Long before the time of Jesus, Isaiah prophesied of a day when nations would turn their military weapons into farming tools and people would train for war no more. It is the will of God that children be cared for. As long as there is one child in the world who suffers, you and I, who believe in God's kingdom, have work to do.

It is the will of God that no one perish, no, not one.

It is the will of God that we love one another.

It is the will of God that we forgive one another as God in Christ has forgiven us.

It is the will of God that we serve one another as Christ served us.

It is the will of God that we are good stewards of all creation.

It is the will of God that the lost be found.

It is the will of God that the least be helped.

What part of God's will don't you understand? We have work to do. "The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God will not keep you." You can build your life on that principle. I believe it with all my heart.

Looking back at my life, God had guided my life much better than I ever could. I have learned to say, "I'll go where you want me to go dear Lord, over mountain, or plain or sea. I'll say what you want me to say dear Lord, I'll be what you want me to be." I had no idea then where life would lead me, or God would guide me. Through the years I have found one thing true—God will not always place you where you want to be, but he will always send you where you need to be. Blessed are those who are willing to follow him all the way.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2021

Vacation Bible School is here! We hope by now you have decided that your child(ren) will be joining us this year. Our first "port" on the River of Life begins August 2, 2021, at 9:00am.

Have no fear. It's not too late to learn, play, and have fun. Have your child invite a friend. If you didn't do a preregistration, we always plan for a few extra children to join us as a walk in. If a full week of VBS isn't possible due to scheduling or prior plans, join us for the days that will work for you.

One thing that we can be sure of is the joy that the adults and children share with each other all week long. We look forward to spending the week together as we all grow in friendship and faith.

** CDC guidelines will be followed **

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)

PRESIDENTS DESK

Hi Everyone,

Below are the new worship Guidelines.

We are going back to an almost "Pre-pandemic" normal service. For now, to keep everyone safe, some changes are still required to adhere to CDC recommendations regarding our services and gatherings. Masks are optional, if you are fully vaccinated and social distancing in the pews will be done by the red ropes remaining up. Families and friends may sit with each other. The dots on the floors and pews will no longer be needed.

Please read through your worship folders each week and follow the instructions. Please Note: We will be singing all the verses of the hymns as noted and responding throughout the service as we normally would. We can shake hands during the peace with those who want to and "wave" to those who do not.

Holy Communion will be offered using pre-packaged communion kits, which you will pick up, along with your worship folder, as you enter the church. Offerings will still be placed in a stationary box while exiting the St. Stephen's Room.

There is also a container in the St. Stephen's Room where you can dispose of your communion kits and worship folders. Please do not leave any items in the pews.

So, we are almost there to a fully normal service. Thank you for understanding.

Settle in meditate and enjoy the sights and sounds of God's love at work.

There are a lot of new and exciting activities being planned for the fall and beyond. To name a few; fundraisers, pies, sausage supper, VBS and Sunday School. So, keep reading the newsletter to find out when they are.

Stay Safe and see you all in church.

Don Jr



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



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!**

BOSCOV'S FRIENDS



Boscov's Friends Helping Friends

One day only – Wednesday - Oct.20th

Shop 8:00am 11:00am

- **Donate \$5.00 for your * 25% off discount shopping pass!!**
- **Register to WIN a \$100.00 Boscov's Gift Card**

Be sure to fill out the bottom portion of your discount pass & drop in the registration boxes while at the store to be eligible to win.

100% of your donation goes to our church!

Contact any Council Member or Team Leader for your Discount Shopping Pass

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 CHURCH IS AT WORK.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING OF JULY 8, 2021

ROLL CALL:

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Status of the refund from the bank of the stolen money. As of July 2nd, BB&T has approved the complaint on May 17, 2021. Then it will take 60 days until FNB receives the funds. Then FNB will need to process the funds.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Don Wenner, Jr. Chairperson

- a. Paperwork from the Estate of Warren Becker was received. Jennifer received the funds and put it in the General Fund at Don Wenner's direction until the Finance Committee has their meeting.
- b. Guidelines must be made as to how to control the Lowe's and Debit cards.

MILEAGE – PASTOR'S REPORT:

June 2021 – Pastor had a lot of phone calls, visited the shut-ins and the nursing homes, counseling, and committee meetings for a total of 31-1/4 hours. Her mileage was 345 miles. Patty Phile made a motion to accept the Pastor's Report. Kim Washko seconded the motion. All approved.

TEAM REPORTS:

Worship and Music -

- a. A story about the wooden cross will be written soon.
- b. \$375.00 was collected for Father's Day and was presented to the Pa. Wounded Warriors. \$230.00 was collected for Mother's Day and was presented to Divine Providence.

Stewardship -

- a. The coffee hour will start up before the service in September. Donna and Jim Cassarella will oversee this.
- b. Time and Talent sheets are being reviewed and plan to be distributed in the fall.
- c. We are currently reviewing the Stewardship program "Living Generously". If chosen, we will plan to implement the program in the fall.
- d. Considering planning an event in the fall. It will be some kind of lunch/dinner event.
- e. Membership list needs to be reviewed. Date needs to be scheduled.

Learning Ministry -

The UCC will do the snacks for VBS. Melody Hinderer got a Thrivent card for VBS.

Property -

- a. The mason work should start in August/September.
- b. Esch Builders should inspect the steeple in the next few weeks.
- c. Zanolini did the grounds in front of the church.
- d. Don Wenner, Jr. got the chain saw for the cemetery at Lowes for \$170.00.

Call Committee -

Synod is working on pastor shortage issues.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Shane Davis cleaned the office computer. It works faster now.
- b. COVID 19 – Our regular service will be back soon. The paper bags will be gone by the 18th of July. Some of the stickers on the floor and pews will be removed. The ropes on the pews will stay for a while yet.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. A thank you card was received from David Cunfer for the monetary gift from the members of St. John's.
- b. The Stewardship Committee will look into a message we received about Minilab in Allentown at their next meeting on July 22nd.
- c. Our office secretary, Thelma, would like to attend the Parish Secretaries Seminar on Oct. 5th and 6th in Lancaster.
- d. The carillon bells are not working. This will be looked at.
- e. Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Day is Oct. 20th. The passes are \$5.00.
- f. New thermostats will be purchased for the church building area only – not the Sunday School section.
- g. Quilting will start up soon.
- h. Jan Jacobus is giving up putting the church news in the newspaper. Looking for someone to take this over.

NEXT MEETING:

August 12, 2021