

# February/March 2022 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: stjohs@epix.net  
Facebook: SJELC.StJohnsPA  
Website: [www.sjlutheran.org](http://www.sjlutheran.org)

Pastor Designate: Reverend Michele Kaufman  
Organist: Arlene Poltrock  
Church Secretary Office Hours:  
Please leave a voice mail @ 570-788-2685

### 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

Coffee Fellowship Hour 9:10 – 9:50  
Youth Sunday School 8:45 am followed by Worship Service 10 am

### Catechism Classes

Catechism Class 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, reason for your call and the best time to contact you.

**2022 Church Council Officers/Members**

<b>Don Wenner, Jr. – President</b>	<b>Janet Brady</b>
<b>Melody Hinderer – Vice President</b>	<b>Jim Cassarella</b>
<b>Carolyn Kuehn – Secretary</b>	<b>Kim Deliman</b>
<b>Donna Cassarella – Assistant Secretary</b>	<b>Jan Jacobus</b>
<b>Jennifer Cipriani – Treasurer</b>	<b>Sheila Maslo</b>
<b>Sherry Grenzberg – Assistant Treasurer</b>	<b>Jim Mahalick</b>

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

**Finance Team – Don Wenner, Jr. Chairperson**

**Knot-A-Quilt – Theresa Steinman**

**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**

**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.**

**Our Guiding Principles #3:**

**We recognize our neighbors as all people that God places within our reach or influence as we boldly share God’s grace and blessings.**

### **A Message from Pastor Michele Kaufman**

Fear of failure, fear of success, fear of losing your health, fear of losing your mind, fear of being taken too seriously, fear of not being taken seriously enough, fear that you worry too much, fear that you do not worry enough, your mother's fear you will never marry, your father's fear that you will, fear of the unknown? Forget it. Fear of too many roads and not enough time?

Fear is something that every human will experience at one time or another. It is that feeling of anxiety we get when the outcome of something threatens our well-being and safety. We live in an age of anxiety and fear. Yet Jesus said, do not let fear control you. You have a choice. We must face and acknowledge our fears. Regardless of what happens, we must remember God has promised to be with us.

Beginning Ash Wednesday, our Lenten series will focus on things we fear most- and how through faith we can overcome our fears. Join us on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. Lent is a time to remember what God has done, is doing, and will do for us. Lent is a time to remember what our lives would be if our Lord had not lived and died for us. Lent is not a time to regret our faults or to rehearse our failures as much as it is a time to renew our faith that God is at work creating a promising future out of the mess that we have made of his world and of our lives.

### **From the President's Corner**

Hi folks, I hope everyone had a great Valentine's Day!

I want to thank last year's Council members for all their hard work. Also, welcome to the new Council members to this year's Council. I look forward to all of us working together and help bring our church congregation to its fullest potential.

The S.E.R.V.E. Committee has posted a calendar in the Sunday School hallway bulletin board. It will let you know what events are planned. Please see the S.E.R.V.E. section in the Newsletters as they come out.

It is that time of the year for our audit, which is March 4, 2022, at 07:00 pm in the church. We could use a couple of folks to help – goes a lot faster. Please see Jennifer Cipriani.

We are still in need of a church secretary. Until one is hired, we are looking for volunteers to help in the office printing the newsletters and bulletin folders and then folding them. Please let me or Melody Hinderer know.

Council reviewed the Annual Congregational Meeting minutes and made two changes. The minutes will be voted on at the January 2023 Annual Meeting. Great job Cookie!!

This year's annual SYNOD meeting at the Kalahari was cancelled and will now be via Zoom. Unfortunately, the Youth Assembly for this year was also cancelled.

Gods Speed,  
Don Wenner Jr.  
Council President

**February/March Birthday/Wedding/Baptism 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!

**February Birthdays**

2<sup>nd</sup>: James P. Barr, Jr.  
27<sup>th</sup>: Brad Koch  
28<sup>th</sup>: Betty Kushner

**February Baptism Anniversary**

9<sup>th</sup>: Brianna Corra  
14<sup>th</sup>: Arlene Poltrock

**March Birthdays**

1<sup>st</sup>: Irene Heidrich  
3<sup>rd</sup>: Lori Opiary  
16<sup>th</sup>: Wyatt Koch  
17<sup>th</sup>: John Koch  
26<sup>th</sup>: Nancy Reed  
27<sup>th</sup>: Jane Medvecky  
28<sup>th</sup>: Walter Bloss  
28<sup>th</sup>: Raymond Corra III

**March Baptism Anniversary**

13<sup>th</sup>: James Patrick Barr, Jr.  
17<sup>th</sup>: Melody Hinderer

**Supply Pastor Schedule**

Feb 6<sup>th</sup>: Philip Kaufman  
Feb 13<sup>th</sup>: P. Chip Fairchild  
Feb 20<sup>th</sup>: Melody Hinder  
  
Feb 27<sup>th</sup>: P. Chip Fairchild  
March 2<sup>nd</sup>: P. Chip Fairchild  
March 6<sup>th</sup>: P. Chip Fairchild  
March 13<sup>th</sup>:  
  
March 20<sup>th</sup>:  
March 27<sup>th</sup>: P. Chip Fairchild

**Altar Flowers**

IMO: Lucille Boyer by the Family  
IHO: Betty and Donnie Wenner Birthday  
IMO: Bernard F. Brennan on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
Entering Eternal Life by Betty Kushner  
IHO: Family by Janet Brady  
  
IMO:  
IMO: The Person Who Gave the Greatest Gift to  
Our Son Matt by Jim and Donna Mahalick  
IMO:  
IHO: My daughter Kara's Birthday by Sherry Grenzberg

**Lenten Services**

March 2, 2022, Ash Wednesday Service will be held at our church at 7 pm.  
Pastor Chip Fairchild will be presiding.

The following weekday Lenten Services will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mountain Top on Wednesdays beginning March 9th, March 16th, March 23rd, March 30th, and April 6th beginning at 11 am.

On Fridays, March 11<sup>th</sup>, March 25<sup>th</sup> and April 8<sup>th</sup>, St. John's, Nanticoke will have services beginning at 6 pm observing the Stations of the Cross.



### **Thank you from Arlene Poltrock**

Arlene wishes to express her heartfelt ***thank you*** for all the cards, phone calls, prayers, and visits that she has received during her recovery. Arlene is eager to return to playing the organ again on March 6<sup>th</sup> (with weather permitting).

### **Choir is Back Again!**

Choir rehearsals will begin on the following Wednesdays: April 6 and 13<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm to practice an anthem for Easter Sunday.

### **Bear Creek Camp News**

Early Registration for Bear Creek Camp is now available. You can register your child(ren) online @ BEARCREEKCAMP.ORG. LCW will contribute \$ 200.00 towards one camp fee for any youth of our congregation who wishes to attend.

### **2022 Pledge Cards**

We thank those who have submitted their pledge cards for 2022. If you have not done so, please submit your pledge card by placing in the offering box in the narthex or by mailing to the church to the attention of Jennifer Cipriani. Church mailing address is PO Box 2, Saint Johns, PA 18247.

### **Thank you from the Valley Food Pantry**

On behalf of the Conyngham Valley Food Pantry, we extend our sincere appreciation to you for your faithful donations by sending products and monetary gifts during the year to this facility. We have been blessed this year, despite the epidemic. Again, we thank you for your continued support.

We also wish to commend the boy scouts, that you support in your church; they, and their support group have been very instrumental in adding to our inventory! They have a great system of checking dates on individual containers and categorizing the products they collect! **Wow**, what a wonderful support system!! They certainly made our product shelving easy!

Your **HEART** is such a blessing....to this Valley!

Most Sincerely, Billie Shaffer, Maureen Younger and All Volunteers of the Pantry

**The Valley Food Pantry is in need of paper towels and coffee. Please place in the designated basket in the narthex. Thank you to our church, our volunteers, and the Boy Scouts for continuing to support this ministry.**

### **Prayer Requests/Concerns**

There are times when prayer becomes “important.” Often, we think to pray in times of need and sorrow. Or we might pray in celebration, happiness, and joy. The truth is, we should pray through all the times of our life. Pray even when faced with your day-to-day routine. Prayer can establish an intimate, close, personal relationship with God. Daily conversations with God through prayer can change your outlook for the day. Prayer can open your heart and eyes to see the blessings that surround us in life. It can help us empathize and care for others around us. We have many prayer requests and concerns within the church and world around us. The help of the church can keep the Prayer Circle current and enable us to fulfill the needs of the church, community, and world in which we live. I ask that we all take notice of the people around us. Whether dealing with loss, sickness, loneliness, addiction, or money concerns, take time to say a prayer for the suffering as well as the rejoicing. Reach out to someone. Share a smile, hug, or kind word with them. Invite them to church. You never know how one small act can impact a day or a life for someone.

**“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” Romans 12:12**

Prayer requests can be submitted by leaving a message with Kim Deliman, calling the church office, or, filling out the Prayer Request sheet located in the St. Stephen’s Room. Also, there will be prayer request cards in the pews with the pencils. Prayer request cards may be placed in with the offering. Please list what is to be done for the requested name, whether it is to be included during worship, placed on the prayer circle list, or if the person would like to be contacted by Pastor Michele Kaufman. If possible, please indicate the time frame the prayer request should remain active. (Example: indefinitely, weeks, month, etc.) We have many prayer requests and concerns within the church and world around us. The help of the church can keep the Prayer Circle current and enable us to fulfill the needs of the church, community, and world in which we live.

### **Prayer Request for the Barbush Family**

Please keep the family of Todd and Tiffany Barbush in your prayers. Their daughter, Kaylee was diagnosed with leukemia. If you would like to donate to the Barbush family, please write “Kaylee” on the envelope and put your envelope in the offering box or mail to the church to the attention of the church treasurer.



World Day of Prayer – March 4, 2022

The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto “Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action,” and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures, and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.

## **Soup Cook-Off Held on January 30, 2022**

It has been a few years since the first St John's Lutheran Church Soup Cook Off. So, we felt it was time to once again dust off the ladles and crockpots. On January 30th, the S.E.R.V.E. team welcomed everyone to participate in the second St John's Lutheran Church Soup Cook Off. As we gathered in Luther Hall, a group of eighteen remained after the congregational meeting for food, fellowship, conversation, and a bit of friendly competition. Jan Jacobus led the start of the meal with a blessing. Seven soups were prepared to be judged and enjoyed by all.



The meal was rounded out with bread, crackers, beverages, and desserts. The winners received a trophy of a planted succulent for first, second, and third place, as well as, receiving an apron and bragging rights until the next cook off. In third place, the bronze trophy went to Kim Deliman with a Loaded Potato and Sausage Soup. Second place, the silver trophy went to Danielle Holzmann-Itterly with a Chicken and Rice Soup. And drumroll please.... first place, the gold trophy went to Jennifer Cipriani with a Cheeseburger Soup.

Congratulations to all the competitors. Every soup was delicious and worthy of a trophy. After all of the time spent apart, the most important part of the gathering was the time shared in fellowship with one another. The S.E.R.V.E. Team is looking forward to the year ahead. It is our hope to offer opportunities in the coming months to join us together through activities and service to others.



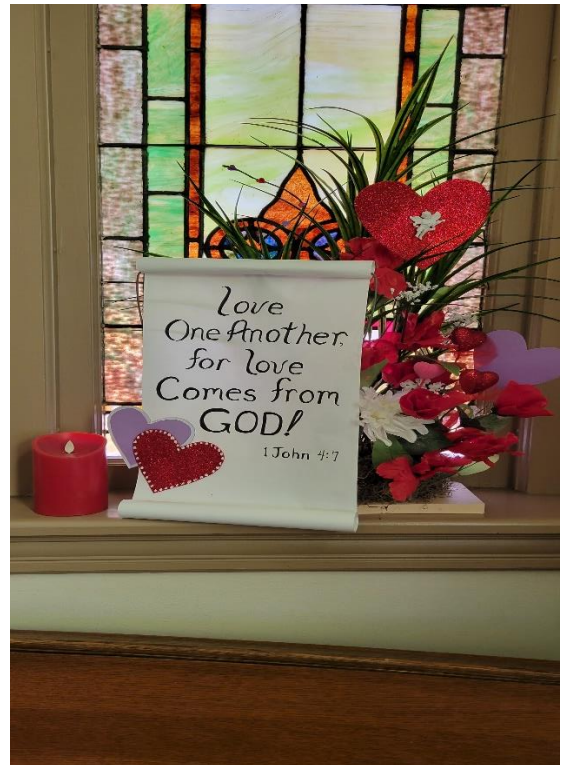
## **“Souper Bowl” Sunday – February 13<sup>th</sup>**

If you were not able to attend the Soup Cook-Off, do not worry...the soups left over were frozen and sold on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Small containers are \$ 3.00, a larger container is \$ 5.00. Donate on behalf of the team that you are cheering for, there will be soup pots available for you to make a monetary donation. All proceeds will go to the ELCA “Souper-Bowl” ministry.

**The S.E.R.V.E. Team is Selling “Hearts “and Displaying “Love Letters from God”**

During the month of February, you can buy a heart for \$ 1.00 in memory of or in honor of someone. The hearts will be displayed until February 27<sup>th</sup> and, if you wish to take your heart home, you may pick up your heart after the church service. Proceeds from the sale of the hearts will go towards the Vacation Bible school ministry.

Also, the S.E.R.V.E. Team will be bringing you “Love Letters from God.” God’s love never ends. Our church has been decorated with lots of hearts with quotations to help share the love from God and love for one another.





**ELCA World Hunger's: 40 Days of Giving**  
**(Submitted by the S.E.R.V.E. Team)**

Lenten season is a time in our spiritual journey to focus on the world's needs in our community and those who live in other parts of the world. There are seven suggestions to help you during the six weeks of reflection and discernment.

1. **Worship:** On Sunday, prepare your hearts by hearing God's word, praying, singing, and communing as you focus on hope of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
2. **Study:** There is a free Lenten Study Guide available for each family which will enhance your journey of hope. The study guides will be provided along with your Sunday worship folder.
3. **Reflect:** Discuss the weekly study guide with others.
4. **Pray:** Pray humbly for God's care and blessings over all His creation.
5. **Give:** Set a goal for giving to the ELCA Hunger Appeal this Lenten season. (See below)
6. **Hear:** Read aloud the Bible verses selected in the Lenten Study Guide. What do the verses say to you?
7. **Sing:** Sing hymns with all your heart, reflect on the words to remind yourself of why Jesus Christ suffered on our behalf.

**The S.E.R.V.E. Team is extending an opportunity for our congregation to have an impact on those who need a fresh water supply in poverty-stricken areas.**

**We would like to set a goal of \$ 500.00 that would provide two water wells that would give one thousand families access to clean, safe water.**

**More than two billion people live without access to safe water.**

**811 million people are undernourished.**

**We, together, can have an impact and bring relief to these families. Envelopes are provided for your donation and can be found with the weekly worship folders. If using your own envelope; please write "Well" on your check and put in the offering box. Donations accepted through Easter Sunday.**



## **Beyond Violence/Berwick Women's Shelter Wishlist**

The LCW is collecting the following items for the Berwick Women's Shelter. There is designated box in the St. Stephen's room for the following items: cleaning supplies, diapers, pull-ups and wipes, laundry detergent, fabric softener, paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, paper plates), large freezer bags, dish detergent, gift certificates to Giant or Weis, batteries (all sizes), women's hygiene products, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothpaste, tooth brushes, large storage bins, light bulbs, towels, wash cloths, foil, saran wrap, children's clothing, food. Special urgent need for paper towels. Donations accepted through March.

## **Basket of Blessings**

Easter is a time to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus conquered death and redeemed us of our sins. Easter is also a time to think of others. Although the world in which we live has not been as secluded as last year, we are all still experiencing the longing for normalcy. Some have struggled more than others. Whether it is through hardships, a loss of loved ones, illness, or just being alone, now is the time to reach out and show that we care. Between now and April 3, 2022, we ask that you help us fill "Baskets of Blessings". Below you will find a list of items for an Easter meal that will be delivered during Holy Week. If you know of a person or family that needs blessings, please tell a member of the Learning Ministry Team, or contact the church office by phone or email, no later than April 8, 2022. \* All requests will be confidential \* (A ham, and the baskets needed will be purchased separately.) The list of needed items are as follows: \* Boxed Side Dish \* Canned Vegetables \* Bread or Rolls \* 5lb. Bag of Potatoes \* Canned Fruit \* Coffee or Tea \* Jell-O or Pudding \* Roll of Paper Towels \* Paper Plates \* Dish Detergent. Monetary donations will be accepted as well.

Monetary donations can be put in an envelope marked "Basket of Blessings" and placed in with the offering. Baskets will be blessed on April 10th during the worship service. Learning Ministry Team: Kim Deliman (chairperson), Jennifer Cipriani, Donna Cassarella, Melody Hinderer, Patty Phile, Sylvia Wenner (SS teacher)



### **Part-Time Church Office Secretary Needed**

We are currently seeking a Part-Time Church Office Secretary for approximately 20 hours a week. Starting salary is \$ 10.00 per hour and will be based on experience. PA Criminal Record (Act 34) and PA Child Abuse (Act 151) clearances are required. Responsibilities include administration of the church office and providing secretarial services to the Pastor and other church personnel and church teams. Candidate should have two years of administrative office and public relations experience, good command of spoken English, grammar, spelling and basic mathematics, advanced knowledge of computers and computer software (Microsoft Office, Google, internet usage), excellent organization skills and the ability to work independently. Duties also include answering phones, preparing weekly bulletins, scheduling appointments, maintaining church records, updating church website and social media, and other projects or duties as needed.

The ability to express ideas clearly, maintain strict confidentiality, interact, and work effectively with people and a commitment to completing all assignments neatly and in a timely manner is a plus. Interested candidates should submit a resume with a cover letter to [stjohns@epix.net](mailto:stjohns@epix.net).

### **Dates to Remember**

- Feb 24<sup>th</sup>: S.E.R.V.E. Meeting 6:30 pm**
- Feb 27<sup>th</sup>: Transfiguration Sunday**
- March 2<sup>nd</sup>: Ash Wednesday Service @ 7 pm**
- March 4<sup>th</sup>: Church Audit @ 7 PM**
- March 10<sup>th</sup>: Church Council 7 PM**
- March 13<sup>th</sup>: Daylight Savings Time Begins: Turn your clocks up 1 Hour!**
- March 15<sup>th</sup>: April 2022 Newsletter Deadline**
- March 24<sup>th</sup>: Learning Ministry Team Meeting, ZOOM, 7 PM**
- March 28<sup>th</sup>: Worship Team Meeting 10:30 AM**
- March 31<sup>st</sup>: S.E.R.V.E. Meeting 6:30 PM**

## Easter Tributes

Tributes for Easter Sunday, in celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, can be purchased in memory of or in honor of your loved ones. Please fill out the form below and return to Janet Brady or to the church office, along with your payment, no later than April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. If you have any questions or concerns you may contact Janet @ 570.788.3867 or the church office 570.788.2685.

**Flowers (Include foil wrap)      Price**

- A. Easter Lillies (6")      9.49**
- B. Daffodils      (6")      8.49**
- C. Tulips      (6")      8.49**
- D. Hyacinths      (6")      8.49**
- E. Bulb Garden (8")      14.99**

In Honor of:	Plant (A,B,C,D, E)	Price
Name: _____	_____	_____
Name: _____	_____	_____

In Memory of:	Plant (A,B,C,D,E)	Price
Name: _____	_____	_____
Name: _____	_____	_____

Total Submitted \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Donations can be received for Kaylee Barbush** Total Submitted \$ \_\_\_\_\_

