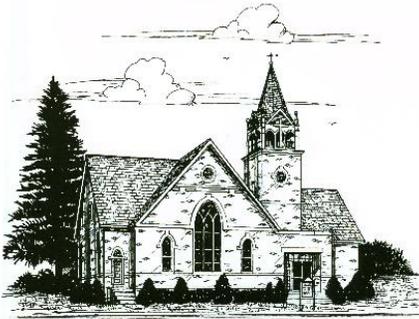


July/August 2022 Newsletter

“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 Cl
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

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

Coffee Fellowship Hour 9:10 – 9:50

Youth Sunday School 8:45 - Will resume Sept. 11, 2022

Catechism Classes

Catechism Classes for youth in grades 6, 7, and 8th 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.

2022 Church Council Officers/Members

Melody Hinderer – President	Janet Brady
– Vice President	Jim Cassarella
Carolyn Kuehn – Secretary	Kim Deliman
Donna Cassarella – Assistant Secretary	Jan Jacobus
Jennifer Cipriani – Treasurer	Sheila Maslo
Sherry Grenzberg – Assistant Treasurer	Jim Mahalick

Church Ministries – See Calendar for Scheduled Meetings/Events

Finance Team – To be named, 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, 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.

Our Guiding Principles #1

We proclaim Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

From Pastor Michele Kaufman

Read 1 Kings 17:1-24 The Widow of Zarapeth

When things are scarce, people tend to be more careful. When the economy is down, people spend less, and start fewer businesses. When income is down, people are slow to spend and tend to save more. We adopt a "wait and see" attitude based on our fear of the unknown. During seasons of scarcity, people are rarely focused on giving. But something happens when we're willing to give even in a season of scarcity.

The widow of Zarapeth is featured in the story where she takes Elijah, a stranger, into her home. While he stays with her, God sustains them with a little flour and oil for nearly two years. What is remarkable about the story is that before the miracle she takes her last flour and oil and gives it to Elijah in obedience to God's word. This widow demonstrates what it means to be generous and practice generosity requesting nothing in return. We could very well understand her refusal under the circumstances, but she gives from the heart. She doesn't say sorry, my family comes first or sorry I can't help you, and go about her business, but instead goes about meeting his need trusting the word of God. He gives her a promise from the Lord: *"The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord gives rain on the land."* She gives not expecting to receive in return. She also reminds us of another widow who gives her last two coins into the temple treasury in Luke 21:1-4. These generous women would be considered poor by the rest of the world, but by heaven's standards, they are wealthy beyond description and our comprehension. But both these women serve as an example to us, especially those of us who want for little that a generous heart is comprised of certain characteristics:

A generous heart is a careful steward of their personal resources and skills which implies a circumspect attitude to giving, thinking, and expecting good return to giving. Giving is done with careful thought and not on the spur of the moment. They understand the difference between ownership and stewardship.

They show kindness even when it is undeserved and grace to those who don't deserve it based on personal integrity and courage; they are persons of conviction.

They also know how to suffer lack, without growing bitter. They have a personal integrity and a sense of purpose; an awareness of the bigger picture.

They give quietly, sacrificially, and lovingly, exhibiting faith

A generous heart is anchored in God's love. God pours his love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, giving us the ability to be truly generous. A generous heart is a lifestyle that permeates every area of our lives. Being a generous giver starts with working on the attitudes of your heart first. When our hearts are generous in our giving and trusting the word of God, we are in a position to see the miracles God will work in our lives and through us in the world.

Highlights from the Church Council Meeting June 9, 2022

Excused Absences: Janet Brady, Jennifer Cipriani, and Sheila Maslo.

Council minutes from May 19, 2022, approved. Treasurer's Report for May 2022 approved.

Pastor's Report/Mileage: Pastor Michele Kaufman had 29 hours for April & May 2022. Confirmation for Madden Lee Urbancic and Matthew David Buchman was approved, and they will be confirmed on June 12, 2022.

Team Reports Submitted:

Financial Team: Meeting held on June 8th, 2022. Topic discussed was ways to save on our expenses.

S.E.R.V.E. Team:

- Time and Talent sheet information was completed and given to their respective teams.
- Church member forms were compiled and very few forms were returned.
- Church directory may not be able to be completed due to privacy issues and lack of response.
- Membership rolls are updated except for the data that P. Kaufman needs to complete.
- Newsletter mailing list has been completed. Delivery options are optional.
- Community Yard, Bake, and Craft Sale was held despite of the rain. 24 vendors were signed up to attend. Next sale will be held on Sept. 3rd. Next meeting will be June 30th @ 6:30 pm.

Learning Ministry:

- VBS volunteers needed. VBS will be held August 1st – 5th from 9 – 12.

Property:

- Front yard: grass has been replanted, fertilized, and mulched.
- Motion light by the basement steps was fixed.
- Water found in basement storage room. Sump pump is not working. Room needs to be cleaned out.
- Lighting for the steeple cross should be here within the week.
- Need to purchase a new sweeper.

Old Business:

- Fundraiser for James Duran will be held on June 18th from 8 to 4.
- Jim Mehalick's letter of resignation from council has not been received.

New Business:

- Membership form from synod needs to be updated.
- Memorial Service for John Zamba will be held on July 10th. Visitation from 2-3 pm, Service at 3 pm. Dinner will follow.
- \$100 donation was given to UCC Church in memory of Arlene Costello.
- 20 chairs were lent to Patty Phile.

Next Meeting July 14th, 2022 @ 7 pm. Church council ended the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

NEPA Synod Assembly 2022

Submitted by Melody Hinderer

I am thankful to have represented St. John's as the female layperson for the NEPA Synod Assembly. The main theme throughout the synod assembly was "Stronger Together". The assembly was two days and below is just a brief summary, though many more topics were discussed, I kept this report brief. All synod reports can be found on the website www.nepasynod.org/assembly.

I will try to paraphrase the main topics of the assembly.

- a. **Growing Young:** Committed to engaging and retaining people of ages, especially the ages of 15-29. Stacey Burke is the Growing Young Coordinator and will be listening and learning, especially from our youth and young families, to bring us together by sharing ideas in the mission for God's church.
- b. **Gaining Strength:** Identify each church's strengths and how to increase their strengths. The goal is for each church to strive and thrive.
- c. **Going Beyond Death to Life:** The goal is to have every congregation work out a plan for legacy regardless if the congregation is 20 years old or 200 years old.

SALM Program (Synod Authorized Lay Minister) is being revamped as the "Pastoral Care Provider Program". The synod will confer with other synods that have been successful with the SALM program.

Church Closings/Withdrawals: Grace, Lehighton, last service September 26, 2021.
St. John, Shenandoah, closed as of January 15, 2022, as per Synod Council action.
St. Michael, Hamburg, withdrew from the ELCA as recognized by Synod Council
Jan. 15, 2022.

Roster changes in Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Ministers of Word and Service from May 1, 2021, to May 1, 2022: 3 Ordinations, 4 Pastors received from other synods, 9 Pastors transferred to other synods, 1 Pastor removed from the roster, 11 Deaths of Pastors

The salary compensation guidelines for pastors and deacons were increased by six percent.

Supply Pastor Schedule

July 3rd - Rev. William Fairchild
July 10th - Rev. Phyllis Pelletier
July 17th – Rev. Melvin Mundie

July 24th – Rev. Phyllis Pelletier
July 31 – Rev. William Fairchild

Aug. 7th -
Aug. 14th -
Aug. 21st -
Aug. 28th -

*The supply pastor schedule for August is not yet available. This will be updated in the Sunday Bulletins, once available.

Altar Flowers

In Honor of my Family by Janet Brady
ILM of John Zamba
ILM of George & Martha Snyder
And Francis & Ruth Gross
ILM of Howard Hoffman by daughter, Arlene Poltrock
ILM of Loved Ones by C. Barrho

ILM of Rocco J Russo Family
ILM of Helen Mace
ILM of Ruth Walk

Dates Open for Sponsoring Flowers

The following dates are open for sponsoring flowers: August 28th, September 25th, November 20th, and November 27th. 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.

July & August Birthday/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!



July 7th - Megan June Dietrich
July 29th – Nadine Sauer
August 13th – Jenni Thomas
August 20th – Katie J. Solon



July 12th – Stephen Hinderer
Jenni Thomas
Cody Hinderer
July 26th – Dawn Ann Morgan
August 23rd – Megan June Dietrich

Luther Hall

As a member of our congregation, Luther Hall is available to you if you need a place to hold a function such as a birthday party, baptism celebrations, first communion celebrations, confirmation celebrations, anniversary parties, and funeral dinners. For non-members, our hall is available for certain functions (funeral dinners not included) and there may be a fee depending on the usage of the hall (kitchen, etc.). All requests from members or non-members will have to be approved by the church council. If you are interested in reserving Luther Hall, please contact Jim Cassarella or Melody Hinderer.

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.



Choir performing Anthem, “Song for the Unsung Hero” in honor of Memorial Day



Valley Food Pantry

Thank you for supporting this ministry which provides food for 56 families. Even though the Covid pandemic, the pantry was able to provide for the families through many generous donations. We also would like to thank the devoted volunteers who work diligently for the pantry. The pantry is in need of tomato products (tomato paste, spaghetti sauce, stewed tomatoes, etc.). Please make sure the products are within the expiration date. Your generosity is appreciated.

John Zamba Memorial Service

A Memorial Service for John Zamba will be held on July 10th. Visitation will be from 2 to 3 pm with the service following at 3 pm. After the service, a luncheon will be served.

Trial Run on Distribution of the Church Newsletter

For the July/August newsletter, we had a ***Trial*** run on how the newsletter is distributed to our members.

Due to the rising costs in postage, paper, toner, and the time it takes to put the newsletter together for mailing is an area we are hoping to cut costs.

If you have not notified the church secretary on how you need to receive the newsletter, please do so. Your options are listed below:

- a. In the St. Stephen's room is a sign-up sheet on how you would like to receive the newsletter. Please fill it out as soon as possible.
- b. Email: we can email the newsletter to you if the church office has your email address. If you choose this option, please provide your name and your email address either by phoning the church office, sending an email to: **stjohns@epix.net**, or by writing the information on a piece of paper and placing the paper in the secretary's mailbox located outside the church office door. You will not receive a newsletter in the mail.
- c. The newsletter (labeled with your name) can be picked up at the church during our worship services or you may have someone pick up the newsletter for you.
- d. If you do not want to receive a newsletter; please notify the church office and we will remove your name from receiving the newsletter.
- e. You can access the monthly newsletter on our **Facebook page SJELC.StJohnsPA** or on our church website: **www.sjlutheran.org** the last week of the month. You will not receive a newsletter in the mail.
- f. Your newsletter will be mailed.

We ask for your patience and cooperation as we find ways to cut expenses. If you have any questions, please contact a church council member. Thank you.

Clean-Up: A Note to All Church Teams



ALL the church teams are encouraged to plan a day or days to clean out closets, cabinets, and storage areas the team utilizes. Please throw away items that are no longer useful (example: outdated books and material), clean, and re-organize the areas. If you have items your team no longer finds useful, please ask others if they could find a use for the item(s), if not please throw them away. Our next community yard sale is on September 3rd. If the item(s) are not useful to our church, the item(s) may be put in the yard sale. It will take all of us to come together and make our church safe and inviting for all. Please fill out a team report on your clean-up progress and submit your report to any council member. Please contact church council if you have any questions. Thank you!

Prayer Circle

I ask that we all embark on a prayerful journey. Take the 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. With your help, the members of the church can keep the Prayer Circle current and enable us to fulfill the needs of the church, community, and the world in which we live.

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 of the prayer request will be needed. (Example: indefinitely, week(s), month(s), 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, fill out a prayer request card, and place it with the offering or sign the Prayer Request list located on the table in the St. Stephen's Room. * I have not been receiving any information regarding the names to be added or removed from the Prayer List. Please keep me personally informed.

Psalms 18:6 "In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help.
From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears."

Cosmic Bowling Nights

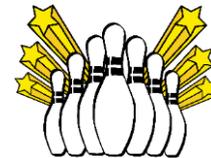
Are you looking for a night out filled with Cosmic Fun with a Christian "spin" on bowling? Spend some time in fellowship shared with family and friends.

This summer, Idle Hours North and area churches are offering Friday nights of themed Cosmic Bowling. The evening will include contemporary Christian music with DJ Annie, special door prizes, shoe rental, a Tray of Pizza, and a Pitcher of Soft Drinks per lane. Each lane can be reserved for up to (6) people. Bumpers are available upon request. Please reserve lanes ASAP.

Only reserve the number of lanes your group will actually need.

Available dates are as follows:

July 15th & August 12th (7:00 - 9:00 pm)



The cost for the evening is \$87.95 per lane for up to 6 people. Consider joining together with other families or individuals wanting a fun night out. Travel together. Share expenses. There will be a sign-up sheet in the St Stephen's Room for individuals interested that would like to join in with others wanting to go bowling. Pick your night. Fill the lanes. Come together for fun, food, fellowship, music, and don't forget, Bowling!

Idle Hours North is located at 2008 Scranton Carbondale Hwy., Scranton, Pa. 18508.
You can reserve your spot by calling 570-489-7526.

Rain, Rain, Go Away!...NOT Today!

The S.E.R.V.E. Team would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the Community Yard, Bake, and Craft Sale. Though it wasn't the perfect day, we still enjoyed coming together to serve our community. Save the date for our next community yard sale on September 3rd.

Job 29:23

They waited for me as for showers and drank in my words as the spring rain. Though the rain spoke volumes, our heart was full of determination and purpose.



Congratulations to our Newest Members

**Matthew Buchman and
Madden Urbancic!**

Matthew David Buchman and Madden Lee Urbancic completed the catechetical program and were confirmed on June 12th during the worship service by Reverend Phyllis Pelletier.

Matthew and Madden publicly professed their faith in the presence of God,
their families, and our church family.

Our prayers for them are full of *joy and hope as they grow in faith.*

May their minds and hearts always be centered in being faithful servants to God and His church.

We wish Matthew and Madden much happiness and a life of service to God.





Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendar now.... August 1-5 9:00 Am - 12:00 Pm

Registration appreciated by July 24, 2022

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 Discovery on Adventure Island. Join us as we become explorers in a quest for God's great light, discovering how God's light shines on us and how we can reflect that light as we live each day. Children will meet 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. We will all shine with God's light as we strive to make VBS a success! Let's all discover God's great light on Adventure Island!

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 24, 2022. 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 signup sheet in the St. Stephen's room. Shine with God's great light as you help the team and help the children. Meetings will be announced as needed and will be listed in the weekly bulletin.

Bear Creek Camp

Bear Creek Camp is ready to welcome campers back for s'mores, slip 'n' slides, swimming, singing and so many more camp favorites. Most importantly are happy to be back in the community with one another sharing in the beauty of creation and exploring God's love for all of us. Registration for sessions is open and available. Visit bccamp@bearcreekcamp.org or call 570-472-3741 for more information.

Dates to Remember:

- ❖ July 3rd – Church @ 10 am
- ❖ July 4th – Independence Day

- ❖ July 10th – Church @ 10 am
- ❖ July 14th – Church Council Meeting @ 7 pm
- ❖ July 15th – Cosmic Bowling @ 7-9 pm
- ❖ July 16th – Divine Providence Meal

- ❖ July 17th – Church @ 10 am

- ❖ July 24th – Church @ 10 am
- ❖ July 28th – S.E.R.V.E. Meeting @ 6:30 pm

- ❖ July 31st – Church @ 10 am
- ❖ August 1st – VBS @ 9 am - 12 pm
- ❖ August 2nd – VBS @ 9am - 12 pm
- ❖ August 3rd – VBS @ 9 am - 12 pm
- ❖ August 4th – VBS @ 9 am – 12 pm
- ❖ August 5th – VBS @ 9 am – 12 pm

- ❖ August 7th – Church @ 10 am
- ❖ August 11th – Church Council Meeting @ 7 pm
- ❖ August 12th – Cosmic Bowling @ 7-9 pm

- ❖ August 14 – Church @ 10 am
- ❖ August 15th – Newsletter Deadline
- ❖ August 20th – Divine Providence Meal

- ❖ August 21st – Church @ 10 am
- ❖ August 25th – S.E.R.V.E. Meeting @ 6:30 pm

- ❖ August 28th – Church @ 10 am