

# October 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: [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 8:45 am

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**



## **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**

**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**

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| <b>Melody Hinderer – President</b>            | <b>Janet Brady</b>    |
| <b>– 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> |                       |

**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**

Each of us will face trials and tests, and as in this simplistic example, it is how we react to those difficulties that will determine our success and happiness. Each of us will face adversity no matter where we are. We are taught in the scriptures that there “must needs be ... an opposition in all things.” We each face times of difficulty and the question is not when we will face them but how we face them.

The Apostle Paul taught an interesting lesson only a few years before the saints in Rome were to face some of the most violent persecution of any Christian era. Paul reminded the saints that “all things work together for good to them that love God.” Our heavenly Father, who loves us, permits us to have experiences that will allow us to develop the traits and attributes we need to become more and more Christlike. Our trials come in many forms, but each one allows us to become more like the Savior as we learn to recognize the good that comes from each experience. As we understand this doctrine, we gain greater assurance of our heavenly Father’s love. We may never know in this life why we face what we do, but we can feel confident that we can grow from the experience.

I realize that it is much easier to look back when difficulty is behind us and see what we have learned from our experience, but the challenge is to gain that eternal perspective while we are in the midst of our trials and tribulations. Knowing that Christ is with us gives us the strength and the fortitude to overcome all things.

## Highlights from the Church Council Meeting September 15th, 2022

**Excused Absences:** Pastor Michele Kaufman **Unexcused Absence:** Donna Cassarella, Jim Cassarella  
**Council minutes from August 11, 2022, approved.**

**Treasurer's Report for August 2022 approved.**

**Pastor's Report/Mileage:** No report.

### Team Reports

#### **Worship Team:**

Choir rehearsal begins Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, singing on Sept 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### **SERVE Team:**

- Meeting on August 18<sup>th</sup> discussed upcoming congregation meeting and community yard sale. The next meeting will be on September 28<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm at the church.
- Congregation Meeting held on August 27<sup>th</sup> was attended by 21 members. Feedback was very positive, comments received was that the meeting was very productive, very informative, good fellowship, very well presented, and nice luncheon. Everyone was relieved to see the finance report presented and they all understood the report. Suggestions were to have more meetings like this. Minutes from this meeting will be approved at the annual congregation meeting in January 2023.
- Community Yard Sale was successful.
- Boscov's vouchers are available to purchase for \$ 5.00, vouchers are a 25% discount shopping pass on all purchases made at Boscov's on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>. Our church receives ALL proceeds from the sale of the vouchers. If interested in buying or helping sell the vouchers, please see Melody Hinderer, or call 570.956.5709.

#### **Property Team:**

- Sausage Supper tickets are available for \$13.00 for adults. The supper is once again a drive-thru and may be picked up from 1 to 5 pm on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Help is needed to help prepare for this supper and the day of the supper. Please contact Donna or Jim Cassarella or Betty and Don Wenner, Sr. for tickets.
- Doors in Luther Hall can now be opened and closed easily.
- Janitor closet in Luther Hall: shelving has been installed for storage.

#### **Finance Team:**

- Opportunities available to sponsor bulletins for a week, \$ 10.00/week

#### **Old Business:**

- Synod membership update needs to be completed.
- Supply pastor schedule for October was reviewed.
- There is an interest in having AA meetings in our church.

#### **New Business:**

- Reviewed letter to UCC concerning a joint venture for Christmas Eve services.
- Received a letter concerning a new support group for the homeless community and those needing addiction counseling. The support group is "Willow Foundation Heartwood Center", and "New Roots" is the addiction counseling center. Both are located on 100 S. Wyoming Street, Hazleton.
- Interfaith Council is beginning a "Community Dinner" on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Council is asking that two representatives from each valley church help with planning, preparing, and serving this dinner to our Valley Food Pantry participants. The dinner will be held at Christ Lutheran Church in Conyngham. Tickets are available to each congregation to invite others to attend the dinner as well. The purpose is not only to provide a meal but for our community to come together socially and

## Continued September 15, 2022, Church Council Meeting Highlights

interact with each other. The next planning meeting is at Conyngham United Methodist Church, 411 Main Street, Conyngham on September 22 at 6:30. If you would like to volunteer or would like to attend the dinner, please see Melody Hinderer. There is no charge for the dinner, but there will be an opportunity to give a free-will offering.

- 2022 Fall Session of the ELCA Vital Congregation Training is available online on October 6<sup>th</sup>, October 20<sup>th</sup>, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, and November 17<sup>th</sup>. Sessions are scheduled for 1:30 – 3 pm, and 7:30 – 9 pm each day. Registration is required, there is no fee to attend any of the sessions. The purpose of these sessions is to inspire, learn, plan, share visioning, and implement new ways to re-energize our church. You may register on the ELCA website.
- On Sept 20<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon to 4 pm, there will be Youth Ministry Training. The fee is \$69/per person. Registration required.
- The SERVE Team is sending out acknowledgments to our guests that attend our church services.

The next council meeting is on October 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm, meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm, and closed the meeting by praying the Lord's Prayer.

**Supply Pastor Schedule**

October 2 – Rev. Melvin Mundie  
October 9 - Rev. Chip Fairchild  
October 16 – Rev. Melvin Mundie  
October 23 – Rev. Chip Fairchild  
October 30 – Rev. Chip Fairchild

**Altar Flowers**

In Memory of June Mundie Moylan Family  
In Memory of Jim Phile by Family  
In Loving Memory of Evelyn Christman  
In Loving Memory of Gerald Klick  
In Loving Memory of Edward Jacobus

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**October Birthday/Baptism/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!



October 1 – Kyle Thomas  
October 3 – Mary Ann Rooney  
October 4 – John Billig  
October 7 – Jan Jacobus  
October 21 – Benjamin Wersinger  
October 23 – Matthew Buchman



October 3 – Darren Sims  
October 31 – Clare Rossi



October 30 – Jennifer & Dave Cipriani

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We are saddened to hear of the passing of a dear and beloved member of our congregation:

**THELMA DIETRICH**

Thelma was a lively and entertaining soul who always had a sparkle in her eye. She loved God and her church family so much. May we all live with the spirit she lived every day. May God forever hold her in his arms as she now lives in the presence of our heavenly Father.

## Bulletin Sponsors

Church members have the opportunity to sponsor our weekly church bulletins for 2023. Sponsorship is full for the rest of 2022! 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 Rose Fox our church secretary.

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### Can You Help?



## 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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## 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.

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## Church Member Directory

There have been many requests to publish a church member directory. Our last directory is outdated and much of our member's information has changed. Our church secretary, Rose Fox, will be contacting our members to get permission to have your information published. The information we are seeking is a current mailing address, current phone number, and email. We will not publish any information that you do not want published. As before, our directory will only be given to our members to use for sending cards for lifetime events such as birthdays, anniversaries, etc. This will be a time-consuming project and if you want to call the church office and give your information before Rose calls you, please do so as that will move this project along more quickly. Thank you for your cooperation.







## Valley Food Pantry

As we do every year, our churches, together with the Valley Food Pantry distributes special "Holiday" food boxes. This Thanksgiving, our church will sponsor boxes of **stuffing mix**. Any donation of regular or decaf tea or coffee is appreciated. Donations must be in by November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Besides the "Holiday" food boxes, the food pantry is in need of tomato products (sauce, paste, diced, stewed, crushed) and bar soap. No expired food, please.

**THANK YOU** in advance for your generosity.

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## Monthly Coffee Hour

On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, after church, the October birthdays will be celebrated with a coffee hour. Each first Sunday of the month Coffee Hour will be observed. There is a sign-up sheet in the St. Stephen's room for members/church teams to sponsor.

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## Prayer Circle



If you have a prayer request for yourself, or 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 in 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. \*

Say a prayer for the suffering as well as the rejoicing. Reach out to someone. Share a smile, hug, or kind words 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.

ROMANS 12:12 "Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you're in trouble, and devote yourselves to prayer."



**Calling all children Sunday School is now open and waiting for you to come and join us.  
Invite a friend to come with you. Grow together in faith, fun, laughter, and joy.**

Dear parents,

Sunday School is a gift that you give to your children. They grow spiritually learning about our Lord and Savior, Jesus. Their formative years and core beliefs begin in Sunday School. Give them a strong foundation for their future. Sunday School begins at 8:45 Am. followed by worship service at 10:00 Am. In Sunday School they learn the Bible through lessons, crafts, songs, and games. The more children we have, the more opportunities we have to include fun and games with the lessons. Encourage your child /children to attend Sunday School. It is a great way to start their week.

Matthew 19:14 14  
Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

**First Holy Communion Classes and Confirmation Classes**



First Holy Communion classes will begin in the Spring of 2023. If you have a child entering the second grade and you would like your child to receive Holy Communion instruction, please contact the church office @ 570-788-2685 if you have any questions.



Confirmation classes for the current class, who are in their second year of instruction, will resume in September. If you have a child entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade or a higher grade, they would be eligible for their first year of instruction. Please call the church office @ 570-788-2685 if you have any questions.

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**Say Goodbye to St. John's Shoofly**

This is a sad time for St. John's. After many years of baking our famous shoofly pies, this activity has come to an end. The recent survey of the congregation to elicit a coordinator and enough workers resulted in no one stepping up to be a coordinator and not enough volunteers as workers. As our church grows in membership, perhaps one day we can make our wonderful pies again. In the meantime, we will try to find other activities to support the mission and outreach of our LCW. The twice-a-year bake sales at the community yard sales are a good start.

We are thankful to Arlene Poltrock who gave many, many years of her time as coordinator. We are also thankful to all the volunteer workers who made sometimes more than 800 pies twice a year. Besides missing the pies, themselves, we will miss the fellowship of our church family working together, happily serving our Lord.

Mary Ellen Sims  
President, LCW

## **Fall Sausage Supper - October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Our supper will be a Drive-Thru, Take Out event again. We will be providing our own special Country Sausage, pancakes, baked potato, green beans, homemade coleslaw, applesauce & a piece of cake for dessert. Ummm yum! Blessed with love!

Due to the rise in products & materials, we had to raise our tickets \$1.00 this year. Tickets are now available for \$13.00 and are still the best value around!!

Tickets are available through Betty & Don Wenner at 570-788-3938, Jim Cassarella at 570-788-1483, Donna Cassarella at 570-436-2168, and the Church Office at 570-788-2685.



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## **Community Craft, Vendor, Yard Sale**



Our Community Craft, Vendor, Yard Sale was held on Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. We had a very successful one-day outdoor event and were blessed with good weather. This event helped our church along with 4 other organizations: The Valley Food Pantry, Divine Providence, Pregnancy Resource Center & St. John's Cemetery. There were 23 Vendors that participated which was a mixture of crafters, vendors, and those doing yard sales. We sold food and beverages, had a bake sale, and also our first ever Basket raffle. This event took over two months of planning, organizing, promoting, and member participation to come to fruition. Thank you to everyone who was involved in any way to pull this event off.

# HOLIDAY SHOPPING OPPORTUNITIES THAT CAN BENEFIT OUR CHURCH

## AMAZON SMILE



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

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

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

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



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## Boscov's Friends Helping Friends

**One day only – Wednesday - Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> shop 8:00 am to 11:00 pm**

**Donate \$5.00 for your 25% off discount shopping pass!!**

**100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO OUR CHURCH**

**ALSO, Register to WIN a \$100.00 Boscov's Gift Card by filling out the bottom portion of your voucher and placing it in the designated boxes located throughout the store.**

**CONTACT MELODY HINDERER AT 570.956.5709 FOR YOUR \$ 5.00 VOUCHER**

## Lutheran Disaster Response

Beginning on July 27, a line of severe storms dumped record amounts of rain on eastern Kentucky, overflowing rivers and creeks onto streets and neighborhoods. Rising waters damaged infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and power lines, which hindered rescue efforts. The flooding destroyed hundreds of homes and other buildings.



### **Response:**

To respond to the flooding, Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is supporting the Indiana-Kentucky Synod to rebuild homes in Owsley County, one of the poorest counties in Kentucky. The homes all belong to families who wouldn't have been able to rebuild without financial support. Additionally, the synod is replacing septic tanks for 25 families. LDR is also supporting Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, which accompanies Manna from Heaven, a feeding ministry in Myra, KY, that received an ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger Grant. It lost everything inside the building and the LDR grant will replace the building's contents, including furniture and food storage appliances, as well as rewiring the electricity for the building.

### **Be part of the response:**

#### **Pray**

Please pray for people who have been affected by the flooding in Kentucky. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.

#### **Give**

Thanks to generous donations, Lutheran Disaster Response is able to respond quickly and effectively to disasters around the globe. Your [gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response](#) (U.S. Flooding) will be used entirely (100%) to assist flood survivors.

**TO DONATE, PLEASE MAKE A CHECK PAYABLE TO ST. JOHNS LUTHERAN CHURCH and WRITE US FLOODING ON THE MEMO LINE.**

# IMPORTANT DATES



- ❖ October 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday School @ 8:45 am; Church @ 10 am; Coffee Hour after Service
- ❖ October 3<sup>rd</sup> – Boy Scouts @ 6 pm
- ❖ October 5<sup>th</sup> – Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 9:30 am; Choir @ 2 pm
- ❖ October 6<sup>th</sup> – Boy Scouts Parent/Committee Meeting
  
- ❖ October 9<sup>th</sup> – Harvest Home Sunday; Sunday School @ 8:45 am; Church @ 10 am
- ❖ October 10<sup>th</sup> – Columbus Day; Boy Scouts @ 6 pm
- ❖ October 12<sup>th</sup> - Choir @ 2 pm
- ❖ October 13<sup>th</sup> – Church Council Meeting @ 7 pm
- ❖ October 15<sup>th</sup> – Divine Providence Meal; November Newsletter deadline
  
- ❖ October 16<sup>th</sup> – Sunday School @ 8:45 am; Church @ 10 am
- ❖ October 17<sup>th</sup> – Boy Scouts @ 6 pm
- ❖ October 19<sup>th</sup> – Boscov’s Friends Helping Friends – In-store from 8 am to 11 pm  
Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 9:30 am; Choir @ 2 pm
- ❖ October 21<sup>st</sup> – Boy Scout Meeting @ 6 pm; Community Dinner held at Christ Lutheran Church, Conyngham
  
- ❖ October 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday School @ 8:45 am; Church @ 10 am
- ❖ October 24<sup>th</sup> – Boy Scouts @ 6 pm
- ❖ October 26<sup>th</sup> – Choir @ 2 pm
- ❖ October 27<sup>th</sup> – S.E.R.V.E. Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- ❖ October 29<sup>th</sup> – Sausage Supper drive-thru 1-5 pm
  
- ❖ October 30<sup>th</sup> – Reformation Sunday; Sunday School @ 8:45 am; Church @ 10 am
- ❖ October 31<sup>st</sup> – Halloween