



Bucket List!

1. Visit a Beach, Lake, or River
2. Watch a Fireworks Display
3. Visit the Fair or a Theme Park
4. Go on a Summer Road Trip
5. Play a Round of Mini-Golf
6. Make a Sandcastle
7. Learn How to Surf
8. Catch Fireflies
9. Visit an Aquarium
10. Shop After-Spring Sales
11. Bake a Blueberry Recipe
12. Make S'mores
13. Go on a Camping Trip
14. Tube Down a Nearby River
15. Drink Iced Tea
16. Watch a Fun Summertime Film
17. Play Volleyball at the Beach
18. Create a Summertime Playlist
19. Read a Fun Summer Book
20. Decorate Your Home
21. Change Your Backgrounds
22. Drive-In Movie Theater
23. Hang a Summer Wreath
24. Celebrate Independence Day
25. Go on a Mountainous Hike
26. Host or Attend a Fun BBQ
27. Go to an Outdoor Concert
28. Tie Die a Plain T-Shirt
29. Go Paddle Boarding on a Lake
30. Eat at a Rooftop Restaurant
31. Watch the Sunset
32. Go on an Ice Cream Date
33. Go Mountain Biking
34. Spend a Day at an Outdoor Pool
35. Eat Donuts
36. Go White Water Rafting
37. Visit the Zoo
38. Make Homemade Lemonade
39. Go Night Swimming
40. Watch a Meteor Shower
41. Play Frisbee Golf
42. Have a Water Balloon Fight
43. Eat Watermelon
44. Go Kayaking
45. Spend an Evening in a Hammock
46. Make a Homemade Smoothie
47. Attend a Parade
48. Ride on a Ferris Wheel
49. Go on a Backpacking Trip
50. Travel to Somewhere New



July/August 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
Facebook: [SJELC.StJohnsPA](https://www.facebook.com/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

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 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.

2023 Church Council Officers/Members

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

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

Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:25

There are all kinds of reasons to go to church, and I would say good reasons. Some people go to church for the fellowship; some go for service; some go for the music; some go for the atmosphere; some go for the preaching. But if you come to church for any other primary reason than to worship God, you are coming for the wrong reason.

The focus and foundation of worship is none other than God Himself. God speaks to us through his Word of blessing, forgiveness, and instruction. We speak to God in words and acts of confession, adoration and praise, commitment, and intercession. Together we celebrate the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. God is at the center of our worship, the focus of it all.

We take our faith and our spiritual freedom for granted. We live our lives, squeezing everything else in, but leaving God out. We fail to find time for God, but expect him to be there when life comes crashing down around us. We concern ourselves with our physical well-being while failing to consider our spiritual well being.

Summer offers us the opportunity to sit back and relax; to enjoy a holiday away from the norm; it's a time for outdoor gatherings and events, but it was never intended to take a break from God. If anything, it's a wonderful time to reconnect with Him. Worship allows us to gather as a community of faith, to hear the Word of God, to share in His supper, but also be encouraged and challenged to think and act in a Christ-like fashion. The church serves as a conduit to channel our talents and resources into our community.

I know we all have busy lives and crazy schedules, but in the midst of everything else, I encourage you to find time with God.

Highlights from the Church Council Meeting on June 19th, 2023

Attendance: Janet Brady, Melody Hinderer, Jane Krouse, Donna Cassarella, Jim Cassarella

Excused: P. Michele Kaufman, Carolyn Kuehn, Jan Jacobus Unexcused: Patty Phile, Sherry Grenzberg

Treasurer's Report for May 2023 approved. There were fraudulent charges on our church checking account and building checking account. Bank was notified and helping resolve both issues.

Pastor's Report/Mileage: No report.

Minutes from May 11, 2023 approved.

Cemetery Treasurer's Report: No report. Next meeting October 13th @ 7 pm.

Team Reports

Worship Team: Arlene Poltrock - Chairperson

- Arlene Poltrock will be out through June. Arlene will continue to choose hymns.
- Pastor Michele's mother, Brenda, will continue to supply as our organist.
- Setting #10 will be used for church services in July and August.
- Pastor Supply Schedule: July 2nd, 9th, 16th and 30th -P. Melvin Mundie July 23rd: P. Chip Fairchild August 6th, 20th, 27th- P. Melvin Mundie August 13th: P. Chip Fairchild

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

- Raffle license renewed for one year.
- 25 people attended the First Responders luncheon on June 11th.
- Sept 9th: 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 9th raffle.
- Hobo Party – Sept 16th 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 26th 10:00 am – 1 pm in Luther Hall. At this meeting, we will form a committee for the 225th Church Anniversary Celebration.
- Plans continue to have a Children's and Adult library. Concept is "Take One, Leave One". Books and videos will be donated. Application for a possible grant from the Hazleton Lehighon Mission District for Divine Providence was suggested by Melody.
- Next meeting June 29 @ 7 pm

Learning Ministry Team: Kim Deliman – Chairperson

- Help needed for VBS. If you would like to help with VBS or help decorating contact Kim Deliman.

Property Team: Jim Cassarella - Chairperson

- The handicap area was paved on May 11th, extra paving was also done by the sidewalks to even the area for safe walking.
- A parking sign for the pastor was installed.
- Motion light installed at the entrance, along with solar lighting along the sidewalk and steps.
- Lilac bush donated by Peggy Hawk, planted by the outside steps to Luther Hall.

Continuation from June 19th Council Meeting...

- Minor repair completed on organ.
- Lightbulbs replaced on the church marquee sign.
- Sump pump needs to be relocated, shelving suggestion for mops, etc.
- Rain spout blocked.

LCW: Mary Ellen Sims – Chairperson

- Saturday, June 24th @ 4 pm: Annual Congregation Picnic at Nadine Saurer's Grove.
- Next Meeting will be held in September.

Lay Eucharist: Melody made calls. 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).
- Boscov's Friends Helping Friends: October 18, 2023, from 8 am - 11.

New Business:

- Janet Brady was our delegate at the synod assembly. Report on the assembly is included in the newsletter.
- Rose Fox (secretary) will be on vacation June 26th and 27th and will be in the office on Wed, Thursday, and Friday (4 hours each day).
- Coffee hours for July sponsored by the Mundie Family. Need a sponsor for August.

The next council meeting is July 13th, 2023 @ 7 pm, meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm, closed meeting by praying the Lord's Prayer.

36th NEPA Synod Assembly 2023

June 1-3, 2023

At Kalahari Resort Pocono Manor

I was honored to be the lay female for St. John's, at this year's Synod Assembly. The Theme for this year was "Going Beyond Death to Life". Still, on the agenda from Bishop deForest, is "Growing Young", "Gaining Strength".

Bishop deForest called the meeting to order.

Bishop Patricia Davenport from the Southeastern Pa. Synod led the Thursday night Worship Service with Communion. Each day we had Worship, hymn singing, and offering. Over 400 in attendance.

Vice President Kristen Weiner: term is up and the synod assembly voted Nancy Reichelt the new Vice President of the synod.

Secretary Pastor Shankweiler: term is up and the synod assembly voted Rev. Kenneth Melbar the new Secretary of the synod.

Continuation from NEPA Synod Assembly...

Three Resolutions were submitted, voted on and passed. Want more details, go to the website, www.nepasynod.org/2023assembly.

Bishop deForest has a vision about starting 6-2-6-1. This means: 6- congregations, 2- sharing 2 full-time ministers, 6-lay ministers, and 1- full-time deacon. Common goals: willing to share clergy and staff, calling to lift up local leaders. Deacon Kat Tigerman will be making rounds to congregations and maybe we can get her to come and explain this in more detail if we are interested.

Salm Program- In January, Pastor Jira Albers, was appointed “Salm Launch Coordinator” for a one-year contract position. Program to begin in 2024. A Salm: is a lay person with training and has permission from the Bishop to carry out many of the responsibilities of a pastor-including the sacraments.

Roster changes for Ministers of Word and Sacrament or Ministers of Word and Service as of May 1, 2022, and April 30, 2023. 2 ordinations, 3 received from other synods, 5 transferred to other synods, and death of Pastors 16.

One workshop was, Small Church Ministry: “Making Every Effort”. According to Ephesians 4:3, Christians should be, “making every effort to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace”. Sense of growth, racial diversity, open to changes, community, neighbors, and sense of mission and purpose. There were many workshops to visit.

Ministry Share Fair-Tables were set up in the hallway to share information about different mission projects, 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering, ELCA World Hunger, Diakon Social Ministries, Thrivent Financial, LGBTQIA+Ministry to name a few.

It was very interesting being my first time at the Synod Assembly and seeing how things are done. A lot of speakers, the messages, and ideas they had. It was overwhelming at times, but I was glad I had the opportunity to attend.

Submitted by Janet Brady

Supply Pastor Schedule

July 2 –Rev. Melvin Mundie
July 9 – Rev. Melvin Mundie
July 16 – Rev. Melvin Mundie
July 23 – Rev. Chip Fairchild
July 30 – Rev. Melvin Mundie
August 6 – Rev. Melvin Mundie
August 13 – Rev. Chip Fairchild
August 20 – Rev. Melvin Mundie
August 27 – Rev. Melvin Mundie

Altar Flowers

No Sponsor
ILM of Loved Ones by Sandy Zamba
ILM of Mr. & Mrs. Francis Gross
No Sponsor
ILM of Garth Horlacher
ILM of Donald G. Meade by Kim & Joe Washko
ILM of Helen Mace
No Sponsor
ILM of Marion Shelhamer by Donna & Jim Cassarella

July Bulletin Sponsor – ILM of James & Priscilla Mundie by Judy Mundie

August Bulletin Sponsor – ILM of Joyce Bobeck by Maureen Schram

July & August 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!



July 5 – Richard Wenner
 July 6 – Elise Eveland
 July 6 – Donald Floyd
 July 16 – Lucas Leitner
 July 25 – Alex Bowden
 July 27 – Larry Sims
 July 29 – Nadine Sauer
 July 31 – Donna Cassarella

Aug 2 – Theresa Steinman
 Aug 3 – Ruth Pecile
 Aug 3 – Gabriella Hillard
 Aug 12 – Cora Lee Cox
 Aug 13 – Earnest Kuehn
 Aug 15 – Clara Rossi
 Aug 16 – Marie Shultz
 Aug 20 – Katie Solon

Aug 23 – Carson Barbush
 Aug 23 – John Cressman
 Aug 27 – Beverly Janso
 Aug 28 – Emily Barbush
 Aug 29 – Jennifer Cipriani
 Aug 29 – Darren Sims
 Aug 30 – Carolyn Kuehn
 Aug 31 – Stephanie Bennett



July 12 – Richard Wenner
 July 26 – Dawn Morgan

August 8 – Devin Cipriani
 August 11 – Mary Ann Rooney

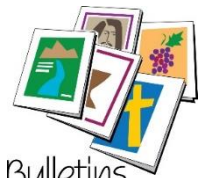
August 25 – Larry Sims
 August 27 – Colten Cox



August 7 – Jean & Mark Solo

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 October are available.





Dates Open for Sponsoring Flowers

The following dates are open for sponsoring flowers: July 2, July 23, August 20, September 3rd, October 1, 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.

Monthly Coffee Hour

On July 2nd and August 6th, after church, that month's 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. The July Coffee Hour will be sponsored by the Mundie Family, a sponsor is needed for the month of August.





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.

Valley Food Pantry

Thank you for supporting the Valley Food Pantry. 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.



Special Announcement ---- Please mark your calendar



August 26th from 10 am - 1 pm, there will be a semi-annual congregation meeting.

There will be a discussion on where we are as a church compared to last year. Have we changed, have we grown, have we made any progress on being disciples and making disciples? Are we offering more ways to grow spiritually, what is working, what isn't working? Along with this discussion, we will have light refreshments in the morning, a light lunch, we will play Bible bingo, and discuss the topic for the day: **Why would anyone go to church?**

We will also go over our financial situation and how we are doing budget-wise. Please join us, there will be a sign-up sheet in the St. Stephen's room.

Last year we had 27 members attend and there was a positive response to the meeting and the information that was shared. Requests were made that this is a good idea, and we should continue to have these meetings yearly. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with Melody Hinderer or Donna Cassarella.



Prayer Circle

Hear my prayer, O God; listen to the words of my mouth. Psalm 54:2
Prayer is powerful, especially when done together. Prayer is needed.
Prayer is a close relationship with God. 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. 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, 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. 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 accurate. I would like to thank everyone that holds the requests and concerns in their daily prayers. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

"With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." Ephesians 6:18

Submitted by: Kim Deliman

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 or email the completed registration form to Julia Menzo at jmenzo@libertylutheran.org

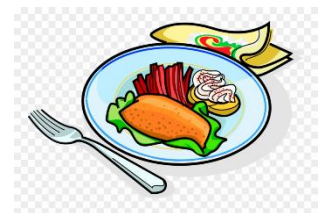
Below are the following dates and training locations:

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

October 21st: Advent Lutheran Church
1602 Green Lane, West Chester, PA 19382

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 3rd Saturday of each month throughout the year. Please contact Jan Jacobus @ 570-956-7322 or frogpond@ptd.net if you are able to volunteer.



Submitted by: Donna Cassarella (S.E.R.V.E. Team Outreach Initiative)



Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendar now....

July 31 - August 4 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, laughter, 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 signup 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. Decorating will begin Monday, July 17th through the 21st.





Dear Family,

At Food Truck Party VBS, your students will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they get on a roll with God. They will become Chefs and discover how we can turn to God in prayer every day to meet our needs and how we can join God in providing for the needs of others.

After a high-energy Opening Assembly time, the Chefs make their way to the Bible Story Station. Interactive Bible lessons reveal Daily Specials to equip your Chefs for an active life with God. Your Chefs will also discover our Main Course (Bible memory verse), which will remain with them in their faith long after VBS.

The students will expand on what they've discovered by making their own art projects at the Craft Station, singing new songs at the Music Station, exploring the wonders of God's creation at the Science Station, playing games at the Recreation Station, and enjoying tasty treats at the Snack Station. Along the way, the Chefs will hear about our mission project as their response to a call for action!

Join us as we get on a roll with God at the Food Truck Party!

Join us at St Johns Ev Lutheran & St Johns UCC
on July 31, 2023 through August 4, 2023
from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

To register or to find out more about Food Truck Party VBS, call the church office at

570 - 788 - 2685

or visit the church website at www.sjlutheran.org

Sincerely,
Your Food Truck Party VBS Team



Chef Registration Form

T-shirt Size: **YS** **YM** **YL** **YXL**
AS **AM** **AL** **AXL**

Student's Name _____

Parent/Family/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone Numbers: Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Date of birth _____ Age _____ Last school grade completed _____

Home Church (if any) _____

Friends of your child at this church _____

Special Needs/Allergies/Medical Information/Other: _____

Emergency Contacts

Name _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Name(s) of person(s) who may pick up this child from VBS _____

Photo Release: St. John's Ev Lutheran Church/VBS has my permission to use my child's photograph publicly in VBS materials. I understand the images may be used in print publications, online publications, presentations, websites, and social media. I also understand that no royalty, fee or other compensation shall become payable to me by reason of such use.

Parent/Guardian's signature: _____ Date _____

----- (for church use only) -----

Assigned to Chef Group: _____

Are family members helping with Food Truck Party? _____ If yes, where? _____

Congratulations to our Newest Members

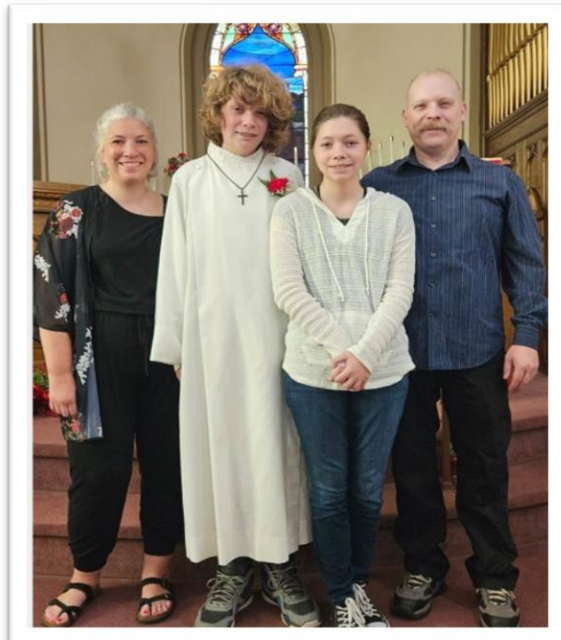
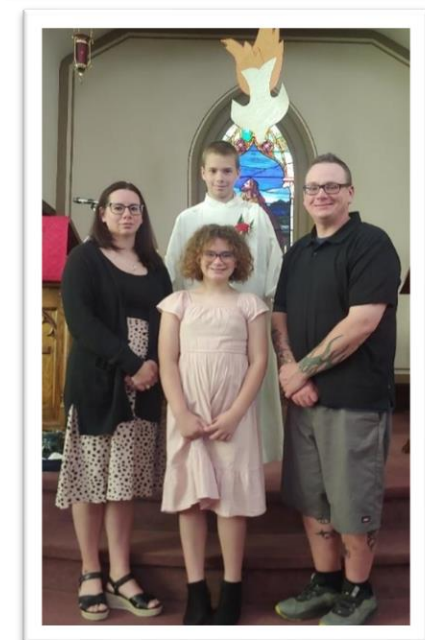
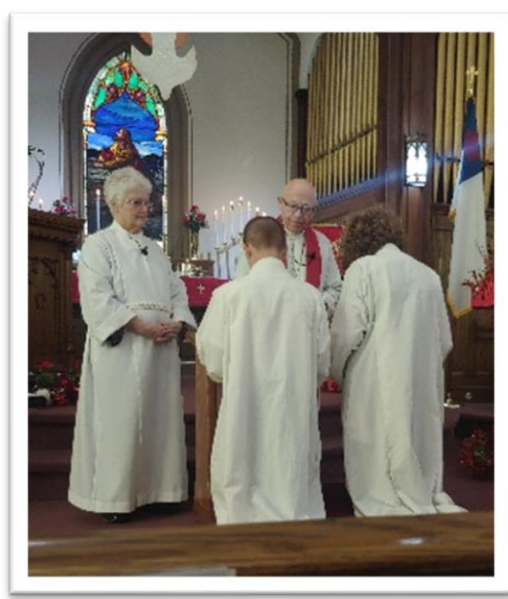
Devin Cipriani and Lucas Leitner!

Devin Cipriani and Lucas Leitner completed the catechetical program and were confirmed on May 28th during the worship service by Reverend William Fairchild. Devin and Lucas 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 on being faithful servants to God and His church.

We wish Devin and Lucas much happiness and a life of service to God.





June 11th First Responders Luncheon

Thanks to everyone that took time out of their day to attend the First Responders luncheon. Please enjoy the pictures below.



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



TRICKY TRAY
RAFFLE

Bar-B-Q
Pizza



Hot Dogs



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:

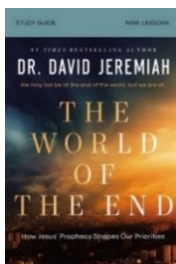
If you feel comfortable crossing the road, we are asking you to park in the parking lot in order to free the parking spaces in front of the church.

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.



OUR NEW BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM **BEGINS SEPTEMBER 10TH - NOVEMBER 5TH**

We will be presenting a video presentation by Dr. David Jeremiah.
It will run each Sunday, for 9 weekends, from 8:45 am - 9:45 am in Luther Hall.

“The World of the End, how Jesus shapes our priorities”.

This is a professionally mastered program that is based on the Bible, not on a certain religious sect. There are 9 individual videos that share the theme but are not connected in a continuative manner. It's not like you would need to have seen the 1st one to understand the following week's video. It will be an individual opinion-based production that relies on Biblical references.

We may not be at the end of the world, but we are the World of The End - a time when Bible prophecy is intersecting with our culture, technology, unhinged morality, and worldwide strife as never before. At this point in our culture, we must boldly proclaim the Word. This is why Dr. Jeremiah felt clearly led by the Lord to develop this teaching series, *The World of the End*!

As we journey through this series you will learn how to:

- Make the voice of Jesus a priority when considering the usual events around you.
- See cataclysmic disasters, wars, and cultural divisiveness as signs of Jesus' soon return.
- Trust that God is in control and that HIS plan is still working to completion.

Come join us for this wonderful series on “The World of the End”.

Light refreshments will be available during the program. Open to anyone...bring a friend.

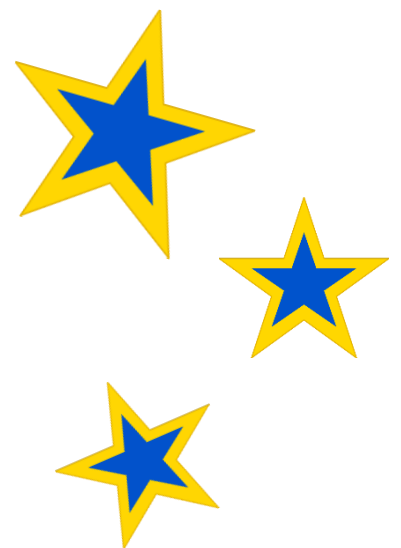
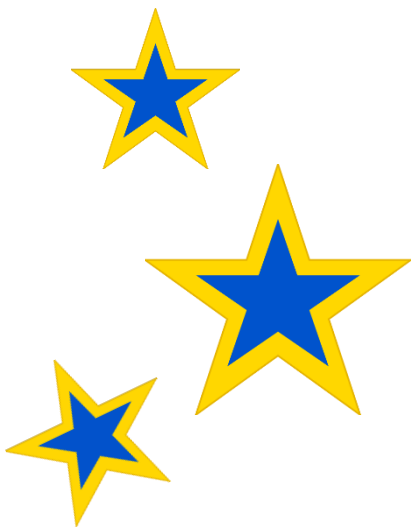
Dr. David Jeremiah is an American Evangelical Christian author, founder of Turning Point Radio & Television Ministries, and is pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in California. He has been a respected internationally renowned Bible teacher for over 40 years. You may Google either Turning Point or Dr. David Jeremiah to listen to one of his episodes.



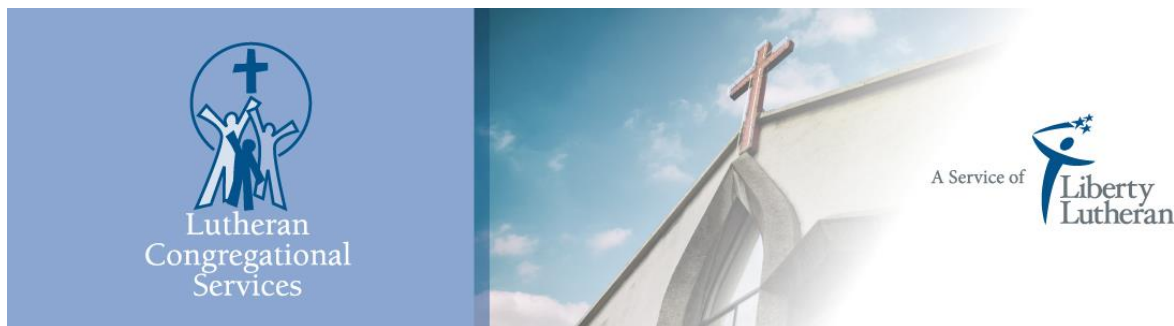
Blue & Gold Banquet



The Webelos Cub Scouts presented Pastor Michele and other leaders with custom walking sticks.



Jennifer Cipriani was recognized with a plaque as *Committee Chair of the Pack*.



On May 29th, the Ferry Street Fire in Easton displaced more than a dozen families and over 60 people from the row homes where they lived.

Lutheran congregations in the area responded right away. St. John's Lutheran Church, located right on Ferry Street is collecting financial donations and Pastor Susan Ruggles is participating in community meetings. Also, Pastor Jamie Edelman from United Fellowship Lutheran Church, also nearby, has been visiting the area to offer a listening presence to neighbors and survivors.

Our role as Lutheran Disaster Response in eastern PA, a program of Lutheran Congregational Services, is to support the local community when support is needed. Currently, we are participating in community meetings, helping to connect partners, and amplifying the messaging of local leaders.

There is an outpouring of community support for Ferry Street Fire survivors. The American Red Cross, United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, and local churches and community organizations are doing a great job meeting immediate needs. There will likely be long-term unmet needs related to affordable housing.

Donations to Lutheran Disaster Response-Eastern Pennsylvania ensures LCS readiness to help create a safety net and support local community efforts when disasters like the Ferry Street fire occur. Those donations also provide direct aid to survivors for long-term recovery. As we monitor the situation, we will assess what those long-term needs may be.

If you would like to make a contribution, please make checks payable to "St. John's Lutheran Church" and add a note to the check for Lutheran Disaster Response. Donations can be placed in the offering basket.

Grant Opportunity from the Hazleton Lehighon 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; the deadline is July 31st, 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

Beech Mountain Lakes



Association

The Butler Township Police invites the community to join them at National Night Out on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 between 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm at the Wright Township Park in Mountain Top. Butler Township Police have joined with Wright, Fairview and Rice Township police who have one of the largest National Night Out events in our area.

In addition to the local departments, scheduled participants include the U.S. Marshal's Service, Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Pennsylvania State Police. Community organizations, food vendors, pony rides and the KRZ Skybox are also going to be on hand.

Additionally, volunteer fire and ambulance departments will have their equipment on display. Weather permitting, medical helicopters are also scheduled to be on display.

National Night Out is a nationwide community-building events that promoted police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.

The festivities will be held at the Wright Township Park, behind the Wright Township Municipal Building at 321 S. Mountain Blvd, Mountain Top.

Thanks,

William J. Feissner
Chief of Police
Butler Township Police, Luzerne County

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. 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)

HEM PLAYGROUND/SUMMER DAY CAMP

The Hazleton Enlarged Ministry of the United Methodist Church will be hosting a summer camp at the Freeland YMCA (600 Front St., Freeland, PA) from June 19th through July 28th, Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 3 pm. Open to all children 5 to 12 yrs. old. The cost is \$40.00 per week, per child.

For availability and more information please call 570-454-4661.



- ❖ July 2nd – Church @ 10 am; Coffee Hour
- ❖ July 3rd – Scouts @ 6 pm
- ❖ July 4th – Independence Day; Church office closed
- ❖ July 9th - Church @ 10 am
- ❖ July 10th – Scouts @ 6 pm
- ❖ July 13th – Church Council Meeting @ 7 pm
- ❖ July 15th – Divine Providence Meal
- ❖ July 16th - Church @ 10 am
- ❖ July 17th – Scouts @ 6 pm
- ❖ July 23rd – Church @ 10 am; VBS Registration Deadline
- ❖ July 24th – Scouts @ 6 pm
- ❖ July 27th – S.E.R.V.E. Meeting @ 7 pm
- ❖ July 30th - Church @ 10 am
- ❖ July 31st – VBS @ 9 am to 12 pm
- ❖ August 1st - VBS @ 9 am to 12 pm
- ❖ August 2nd – VBS @ 9 am to 12 pm
- ❖ August 3rd – VBS @ 9 am to 12 pm
- ❖ August 4th - VBS @ 9 am to 12 pm
- ❖ August 6th – Church @ 10 am; Coffee Hour
- ❖ August 7th – Scouts @ 6pm
- ❖ August 10th – Church Council @ 7 pm
- ❖ August 13th – Church @ 10 am
- ❖ August 14th – Scouts @ 6pm
- ❖ August 15th – September Newsletter Deadline
- ❖ August 19th – Divine Providence Meal
- ❖ August 20th – Church @ 10 am
- ❖ August 21st – Scouts @ 6 pm
- ❖ August 24th – S.E.R.V.E. Meeting @ 7 pm
- ❖ August 26th – Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting 10 am to 1 pm
- ❖ August 27th – Church 10 am
- ❖ August 28th – Scouts @ 6pm



- ❖ September 9 – Community Craft, Vendor & Yard Sale from 8 am to 3 pm
- ❖ September 16th – Hobo Party @ 1 pm (Nadine Saurer's Grove)