

# Identify your Spiritual Motivation Gift(s)

"We all have different gifts according to the grace given to each of us."  
Romans 12:6

## Exhorter

Encouraging and helping others in the process of self and others growing closer to God.

**Prayer Circle,  
Lay Eucharist  
Ministry, Call  
Committee**

## Serving

Giving practical help in both physical and spiritual matters.

**Assistant Minister, Altar  
Guild, Lay Reader, Greeter,  
Communion Bread Provider,  
Ushers, Coffee Hour,  
Divine Providence Meal,  
S.E.R.V.E. Committee,  
Prayer Shawl Ministry,  
L.C.W., Choir,  
VBS helper, Property Team**

## Teaching

Communicating knowledge and making know the facts of Scripture.

**Sunday School  
Teacher, Bible  
Study, VBS**

## Mercy

Supporting others spiritually, psychologically and understanding their pain and experiences.

**Prayer Circle,  
Prayer Shawl  
Ministry, Lay  
Eucharist Ministry,  
Call Committee**

## Contributing

Supporting others financially, and materially.

**Finance Team  
Sponsor Altar Flowers,  
Sponsor Bulletins,  
Sponsor Coffee Hour,  
Support Food Pantry**

## Leadership

Organizing, administering, promoting & leading the various affairs of the Church

**Serve on Church  
Council, Serve on  
Cemetery Board,  
S.E.R.V.E Committee,  
L.C.W., Learning  
Ministry Team, Worship  
& Music Team**

## Prophecy

Motivated to see the truth of God's will revealed to all people.

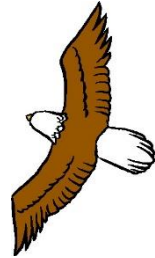
**Prayer Circle, Bible Study**

# September

## 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](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 will resume in October 2023.

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.**

**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**

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

**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**

“There is a time and purpose under heaven...”. All of us know that there are proper times to do and say certain things. For example, gardeners know that peas and lettuce should be planted in the early spring. If a family member is angry with us and thinks we don't care, it may be the time to put our arms around them and assure them of our love.

Words and actions have their proper times, and that is part of the teaching that comes to us from the book of Ecclesiastes. There is an appropriate time to keep silence or to say just the right word. I think we all know of times when the right word said at the right time has lent enormous comfort to a troubled soul or even set someone's life on a better path. But we also know of times when someone has blurted out something at a party that never should have been said or a gossip has told a confidence that never should have been passed on. There is a time to speak and a time to keep silence.

All throughout the Bible, God has set seasons and times for everything. From Genesis to Revelation, God shows us what He does, what He has done, and what will be done. The Bible says in Ecclesiastes, “I know that whatever God does, it shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, and nothing taken from it. God does it, that we should fear him. That which is already been and what is to be has already been, and God requires an account of what is past.

God gives us these seasons to build up and sanctify us. We all endure most of all of these seasons because God wills us to go through that which He has laid upon our lives. Whatever season you are in, it's for a reason. We may never know these reasons, but as stated in Ecclesiastes the Bible states, I know that nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives and that everyone should eat and drink and enjoy the good of their labor-it is the gift of God.

In all circumstances, God sets forth season after season just as the flowers grow and the leaves fall. In Psalm 104, the Bible says, “he made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting.” God does what He does without us knowing the entire meaning of it all. God makes everything in season beautiful, even in the darkest of seasons. But as Galatians suggests,” Let us not grow weary of doing good. For in due season we will reap if we do not give up.” Do not give up, even in the circumstances that we get ourselves into. God makes a way for us to return to the path He has set before us.

Perhaps at this time of year, we can all be mindful of God's many blessings And so we should pray:

Thank you for your unfailing love O Lord, for your blessings and goodness. Thank you for your faithfulness guiding me through times of uncertainty. Thank you for your word that comforts me and reminds me of your promises, plan, and provision. Thank you for taking away my fears and worries, the what-ifs, and reminding me that my help comes from You. In your name, we pray....amen.

## **Highlights from the Church Council Meeting on July 13, 2023**

**Attendance:** Janet Brady, Donna Cassarella, Jim Cassarella, P. Michele Kaufman, Jan Jacobus, Sherry Grenzberg, Patty Phile.

**Excused:** Melody Hinderer, Jane Krouse, Carolyn Kuehn

**Treasurer's Report:** for June 2023 approved. All fraudulent activity that affected the general fund and the building fund have been resolved. All funds have been returned to their respective accounts. The FBI is currently investigating the fraudulent charges. Motion made to have the safe deposit box forcibly opened and remove the documents, then officially close the safe deposit box.

**Church Council Minutes** from June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, approved.

**Pastor's Report:** Mileage for May/June: 20.75 hours, 215 miles

Discussion concerning weekly communion. Suggestion was made to have the Lay Eucharistic ministers to begin visits to our shut-ins, cutting the pastors expenses. Also, to reconnect with synod in putting our church on the monthly list for churches needing supply pastors.

Wedding was conducted on April 28, 2023, by P. Michele Kaufman. Pastor will let us know who she married and enter the marriage in our congregation record book.

**Cemetery Treasurer's Report:** No report. Next meeting October 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm.

### **Team Reports**

#### **Worship Team: Arlene Poltrock - Chairperson**

- Arlene Poltrock will be back in August.
- Setting #10 will be used for church services in July and August.

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

- Sept 9<sup>th</sup>: Fall Craft/Vendor and Yard Sale to be held outdoors. Tricky Tray donations are needed; a grant is being sought through Thrivent to cover the costs of food. The outreach project is Brainerd Church.
- Hobo Party – Sept 16<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am – 1 pm in Luther Hall. At this meeting, we will form a committee for the 225<sup>th</sup> 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 Lehighton Mission District for Divine Providence was suggested by Melody.

#### **Learning Ministry Team: Kim Deliman – Chairperson**

- Sunday school is in need of volunteers to teach.
- Adult Bible Study begins Sept 10<sup>th</sup> through Nov 9<sup>th</sup> in Luther Hall. The program is a video program from Dr. David Jeremiah entitled "The World of the End". The program begins at 8:45 am and runs for approximately 35-45 minutes. Light refreshments will be available.
- VBS scheduled for July 31<sup>st</sup> – through August 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 – 12 noon. Registration deadline is July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Help is needed to decorate the week of July 17-21. VBS meeting scheduled for July 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm.

#### **Property Team: Jim Cassarella – Chairperson**

- Ongoing: moving thermostat from upstairs to downstairs.
- Sump pump location is being investigated.
- Ongoing: Draft issues coming from SS hallway windows.

Continuation of the July 13, 2023, Church Council Meeting...

**LCW: Mary Ellen Sims – Chairperson.**

- Next Meeting will be held in September.

**Lay Eucharist:** Calls and visits are continuing to be made.

**Finance Team:** Chairperson needed.

**Carillon Team:** A laptop with a CD drive is needed. Sherry Grenzberg will contact Fred Jaxheimer to discuss other options.

**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. (Resolved)
- No updates on the pavilion (Scouts).
- Boscov's Friends Helping Friends: October 18, 2023, from 8 am - 11.

**New Business:**

- Need a sponsor for August coffee hour. The congregation will be informed if no one volunteers for coffee hour. Efforts will be made to seek volunteers.
- Motion passed to reimburse Janet Brady for expenses pertaining to the synod assembly.

The next council meeting is August 10th, 2023 @ 7 pm, meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm, closed meeting by praying the Lord's Prayer.

### **Highlights from the Church Council Meeting on August 10, 2023**

**Attendance:** Janet Brady, Donna Cassarella, Jim Cassarella, Melody Hinderer, Jan Jacobus, Patty Phile, Jane Krouse, Cookie Kuehn Excused: P. Michele Kaufman Unexcused: Sherry Grenzberg Guest: Michael Guba, Financial Center Assistant Manager of Mid Penn Bank.

Presentation from Michael Guba concerning what Mid Penn has to offer to our church. The bank is located in Hazleton and Conyngham.

**Treasurer's Report:** Approved July report. The church lockbox was closed, and discussion was held on the options to buy a fireproof and waterproof safe.

Minutes from July 13 approved.

**Pastor's Report:** Mileage for July is 21.25 hours and 183 miles. Wedding was conducted on April 28, 2023, by P. Michele Kaufman. Pastor will let us know who she married and enter the marriage in our congregation record book. Further discussion concerning weekly communion.

**Cemetery Treasurer's Report:** No report. Next meeting is on October 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm.

### **Team Reports**

**Worship Team: Arlene Poltrock - Chairperson**

- Setting #10 will be used for church services in September.
- Worldwide Communion is the first Sunday in October, and the second Sunday is Harvest Home. (I previously stated Nov in my report.)
- No update on iPad.
- Supply Pastors for September. Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>: P. William Zimmerman, Sept 10<sup>th</sup>: P. Chip Fairchild, Sept 17<sup>th</sup>: P. Carl Schweitzer, Sept 24<sup>th</sup>: P. Melvin Mundie

Continuation of the August 10, 2023, Church Council Meeting...

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

- Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting – August 26<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am – 1 pm in Luther Hall. At this meeting, we will form a committee for the 225<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary Celebration. Light refreshments in the morning, lunch provided. Bible Bingo for fun and “unique” prizes for the winners.
- Sept 9<sup>th</sup>: Fall Craft/Vendor and Yard Sale to be held outdoors. Tricky Tray donations are needed; a grant is being sought through Thrivent to cover the costs of food. The outreach project is Brainerd Church; the remaining proceeds go to the Mundie Fund.
- Hobo Party – Sept 16<sup>th</sup> 1 pm @ Nadine Sauer’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.
- Plans continue to have a Children’s and Adult library. Concept is “Take One, Leave One”. Books and videos will be donated.
- In honor of Nadine Sauer’s 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday, our church will make a \$100 donation to the Hunger Appeal in honor of Nadine.
- Next meeting, August 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm.

**Learning Ministry Team: Kim Deliman – Chairperson**

- Sunday school is on hold for September due to no volunteers to teach.
- Adult Bible Study begins Sept 10<sup>th</sup> through Nov 9<sup>th</sup> in Luther Hall. The program is a video program from Dr. David Jeremiah entitled “The World of the End”. The program begins at 8:45 am and runs for approximately 35-45 minutes. Light refreshments will be available.
- VBS was a success. Pictures with a write-up will be in this newsletter.
- We have 20 children who are of the age to attend Sunday school.

**Property Team: Jim Cassarella – Chairperson**

- Sump pump location is being investigated. Help is needed for digging.
- Ongoing: Draft issues coming from SS hallway windows.
- Battery and new pads replaced in the defibrillator.
- Toilet in the ladies bathroom was repaired.

**LCW: Mary Ellen Sims – Chairperson**

- Next Meeting will be held in September.

**Lay Eucharist:** Calls and visits are continuing to be made.

**Finance Team:** Chairperson needed.

**Carillon Team:** A laptop with a CD drive is needed. Sherry Grenzberg will contact Fred Jaxheimer to discuss other options.

**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:**

- No updates on the pavilion (Scouts).
- Boscov’s Friends Helping Friends: October 18, 2023, from 8 am - 11.

**New Business:**

- Need a sponsor for September coffee hour. Congregation will be informed if no one volunteers for coffee hour. Efforts will be made to seek volunteers.
- Bishop deForest and staff will be praying for our church on August 14<sup>th</sup>.

Next council meeting is on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 7 pm, meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm, closed meeting by praying the Lord’s Prayer.



### Supply Pastor Schedule

September 3 - Rev. William Zimmermann  
September 10 – Rev. Chip Fairchild  
September 17- Rev. Carl Schweitzer  
September 24 – Rev. Melvin Mundie

### Altar Flowers

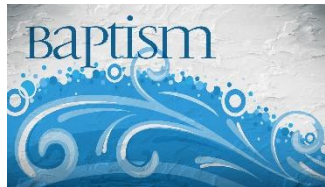
In Loving Memory of Family by Janet Brady  
In Loving Memory of Loved Ones by Phile Family  
In Honor of “Our” Anniversary by Donna & Jim Cassarella  
In Loving Memory of Scott J. Horlacher

**September Bulletin Sponsor – In Loving Memory of Family by Linda Snyder**

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### September 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!



3 – Clara Barrho  
12 – Mary Ellen Sims  
19 – Lorraine Schell  
21 – Tami Horlacher  
25 – Sherry Grenzberg

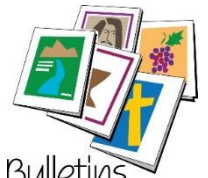
4- Waylon Maverick  
6 – Landyn Thomas  
16 – Elise Eveland  
20 – Carson Kostyal  
23 – John Cressman  
29 – Clara Barrho

11 – Melody & Stephen Hinderer  
13 – Donna & Jim Cassarella  
24 – Mary Ellen & Larry Sims  
26 – Kim & Joe Washko

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### 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 December are available.



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### Dates Open for Sponsoring Flowers

The following dates are open for sponsoring flowers: 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 September 3<sup>rd</sup> after church, the September birthdays will be celebrated with a coffee hour sponsored by the Mundie Family. 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 month of October is available for sponsorship.



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## Valley Food Pantry

Thank you for supporting the Valley Food Pantry. There is a need for spaghetti sauce, tomato paste, pasta, snacks (individually wrapped crackers, pop-tarts, cookies) tuna, and soups. **Please make sure the products are within the expiration date.** Your generosity is appreciated.



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## 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 need your help to keep all prayer concerns current. We have many requests and concerns within the church and the world around us. The help of the church as a whole can keep the Prayer Circle accurate.

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## 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](http://LibertyLutheran.org/LEVT) or email the completed registration form to

Julia Menzo at [jmenzo@libertylutheran.org](mailto:jmenzo@libertylutheran.org)

Below are the following dates and training locations:

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

October 21<sup>st</sup>: Advent Lutheran Church  
1602 Green Lane, West Chester, PA 19382

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## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month throughout the year. Please contact Jan Jacobus @ 570-956-7322 or [frogpond@ptd.net](mailto:frogpond@ptd.net) if you are able to volunteer.





Our congregation would like to express our deepest condolences to the families of

## **Ernest Kuehn and Dwight Bicking**

May the prayer below be a prayer of comfort and strength and carry you all through the days ahead.

Our prayer to the families and all who loved Ernest and Dwight.

*Father, we thank you, that you are the source of all true joy in life. Your word says that, even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. The loss of my loved one feels like a dark valley. I ask that you lead me through this difficult time. May I find the comfort I desire in you and the strength I need in your name. May your presence be with me every hour of the day.*

*Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

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## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Prayer Shawl Ministry will be starting on Wednesday, September 6th at 9:30 am at the church. We meet the first and third Wednesdays of the month. If you knit or crochet and you want to join us, please do. We have a good time making things, to comfort others. Chairperson- Peggy Hawk Submitted by: Janet Brady

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## **Hobo Party**

Join us for the Hobo Party "Community Soup" held at Nadine Saurer's Grove on September 16<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm. Each person is to bring one can of vegetables, a spoon, and a potholder (soup will be served in a can). Please bring your own beverages and a dessert to share. There is a sign-up sheet in the St. Stephen's Room.

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## **Sunday School**

Dear church members, our youth Sunday School is in jeopardy! Sunday School is a gift that we give to the children. They grow spiritually learning about Jesus, our Lord, and Savior. Their formative years and core beliefs begin in Sunday School. Giving them a strong foundation for their future. We are in dire need of a teacher or teachers to cover Sunday School lessons. Sunday School begins at 8:45 Am. followed by worship service at 10:00 Am. Right now, we are unable to offer a youth SS program. It is the hope of the Learning Ministry Team that someone will be moved to serve the children. It is a great way to start your week. Psalm 145:4 One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts. At this time, we don't know how to move forward without your help. We will not be able to start the youth Sunday School program on September 10th as planned. If anything changes, the information will be conveyed through the bulletin or the next newsletter.



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".



## “Outdoor Craft, Vendor & Yard Sale” September 9th from 8:00 am till 3:00 pm

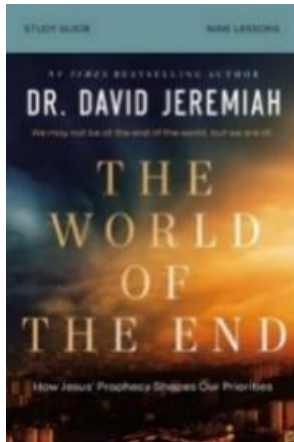
There will be many Crafters selling their unique handcrafted items and vendors with your favorite specialty goods. What a perfect time to search through those wonderful Yard Sale booths for back-to-school & college items. Even some furniture!!

At 1:00 “Gospel Illusions” by Ms. Lanora will be presented at the “Kids Corner” along with other kid-friendly fun.

There will be food and homemade baked goods to purchase plus a Tricky Tray Raffle. *Proceeds from this event will go to our church and a portion to help the Historical Brainerd Church.*



**Bakers Wanted:** The LCW Bake Sale will be held at the Craft Sale on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Please have donated baked goods at Luther Hall kitchen by 1 pm on Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> for packing. Call Mary Ellen at 570-788-2866 for pick-up, if needed. The sign-up sheet is in the St. Stephen’s Room.



## **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 the 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*





## **Prayer for Students and Teachers**



We ask God to grant your children wisdom and understanding as they learn and engage with their studies. Pray that they grasp concepts easily and excel academically.

**We pray for their protection and safety.** May God be with them throughout the day. We ask for His guidance to keep them safe from any harm or danger.

**We pray for positive friendships.** Beginning in middle school, our children's friends become one of the primary influencers on what they think, believe, and how they behave. Lift up your children's social interactions, praying that they form healthy and positive friendships that will encourage and support their spiritual growth.

Our children will be faced with a multitude of opportunities to succeed or fail. These opportunities are academic, relational, and emotional. Pray for your children's self-confidence and self-esteem. We ask God to make his presence and love known to your children and pray for the Father to help them recognize their worth and embrace their unique abilities.

Teachers can have a huge influence on our children, as well. The way they run a classroom can be welcoming or toxic, and their personal interactions with our children can make or break their hearts. The teachers are people God loves, and he also seeks to show those teachers his love. Intercede for the school's teachers, administrators, and staff for their spiritual good and growth. Pray those teachers will be effective, caring, and positively influence your children's lives.

Our modern culture is more and more toxic and resistant to the truths of Christianity, the Bible, and the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Especially for those attending public school, but even in other situations like private school, our kids will be confronted with concepts and influences, not of God. Pray for your children to stand up for their faith and make godly choices, even when faced with challenges or peer pressure.

Despite what old childhood cliches tell us, words can hurt, and our children are faced with a host of difficulties only made more so through access to social media and other avenues.

Ask God to help your children navigate any emotional challenges they may encounter at school, such as stress, anxiety, or peer conflicts.

God is always with our children and can speak to them through His voice. He knows all things. He promises in [James 1](#) that if we ask for wisdom, he will give it. Pray that your children will have the discernment to make wise choices and avoid negative influences or situations.

When our children go to school, they are surrounded by other children, and many of those other students have hard home lives or are lost, confused, and hurting.

Yes, our kids need protection, but God may also use our children to encourage others and make a huge difference in their lives.

Ask God to cultivate a compassionate heart in your children so that they may be sensitive to the needs of others and demonstrate kindness and empathy.

God gives the gift of repentance and faith. He bestows grace and strength to follow him as he calls people to reconciliation and growth.

Pray for your children's spiritual growth and relationship with God. Ask that they would seek Him daily, rely on His strength, and grow in their faith throughout their school journey.

May God bless our students, teachers, bus drivers, school administrators and all school employees; keep them safe and protected by God's love for all of them.



## Vacation Bible School

### Food Truck Party 2023

It's amazing how you have ideas for VBS and wonder how can this work, but it does. We had some awesome people from our church and the UCC church willing to help.

Two weeks before VBS we started to decorate Luther Hall and saw the plans that Donna Cassarella had come to life. Making a food truck out of cardboard, big enough to fit the TV in it! Ice cream cones on the poles and turning the Blessing Booth into an ice cream booth. A place for the music and the daily lessons of the day and a craft area. It was a wonderful thing to watch our ideas come together.

We had 23 children, 10 older helpers, and many adults each day. Each day the children had a Bible Lesson by Pastor Michele and music by Linda Snyder, different crafts by Janet Brady, and games led by Sherry Grenzberg. Daily snacks were planned and provided by Dorlene Van Horn and the UCC church next door.

At the closing program on Friday, we showed the parents what their children learned during the 5 days of VBS. Just watching the children having fun and the excitement to show their families the songs they had learned was such a great feeling. At the end of the program, everyone was invited over to the UCC church for a picnic lunch. The children took home the bag of crafts that they made.

We would like to thank everyone who made this year's VBS happen. God is Great, God is Good!

Submitted on behalf of the Learning Ministry Team by Janet Brady

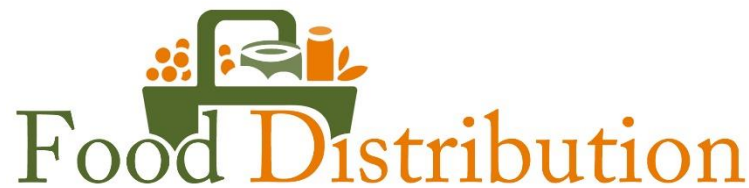












### **Hazleton Area Food Distribution Sites and Times of Distribution**

Listed below are pantries throughout the Greater Hazleton area that distribute food. Limited availability and requirements vary. Check with the sites in advance, as requirements will vary. If you know of anyone who may find the following information useful, please share it with them.

1. St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Beaver Meadows, drive-through distribution. Distribution is normally on the third Saturday of the month from 1 pm to 2 pm.
2. Black Creek United Methodist Church is located on 158 Golf Course Road, Black Creek. Distribution is in the rear of the church. Distribution is the second Tuesday of the month from 4 pm to 6 pm and the second Wednesday of the month from 10 am to 2 pm. Township residents are eligible.
3. Brandon's Forever Home is located at 187 N. Church Street, Hazleton. Distribution is on Wednesdays. Please call-in advance at 570.599.8234.
4. CEO located at 100 W. Broad Street, Broad Street Business Exchange, Hazleton. Distribution is from the basement on Mondays and Thursdays from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm and Fridays from 9:30 am to 11:30 am.
5. Catholic Social Services Family Center/St. Joseph's Food Pantry is located on 106 S. Church St, (Route 309), Hazleton. Distribution is Monday and Friday from 10 am to 11:45 am and 1 pm to 3 pm. Thursdays from 2 pm to 6 pm.
6. Iglesia Vida Real (Real Life Church) located at 2 Ritten House Place, Drums. Distribution on Wednesdays from 1 pm to 4 pm.
7. Dominican House located on 271 N. Cedar Street, Hazleton. Distribution on Wednesdays from 9 am to 4 pm.
8. St. Michaels Rec Hall, located on 301 Fern Street, Freeland. Distribution is on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 2:30 pm to close. Call 570.751.8549.
9. The Hazleton Integration Project is located at 225 E. Fourth Street, Hazleton. Distribution is on Wednesdays. Please call 570.861.8081.
10. Former McAdoo Manufacturing, South Hancock Street, McAdoo. Distribution every other month on the third Saturday from 9 am to 11 am.
11. Salvation Army located at 356 W. Broad Street, Hazleton. Registrations are required and are held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1 pm to 3 pm. Distribution is Fridays from 1 pm to 3 pm. Please call 570.454.1631.
12. Banks Twp Municipal Building located at 1 E. Maple Street, Tresckow. Distribution is the second Saturday of the month from 10 am to Noon. Please call 570.454.8209.
13. United Charities is located at 107 Madison Avenue, West Hazleton. Distribution is on Wednesdays from 9 am to close and some Fridays. Please call 570.455.1529.
14. Valley Food Pantry located in the Christ UCC Church in Conyngham, 470 S. Main Street. Distribution is Thursdays from 10 am to 11 am. The pantry operates on private donations with recipients referred by the Valley Interfaith Council pastors.



**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
772 St. Johns Rd., Saint Johns (Drums), PA

**SAUSAGE SUPPER**  
**DRIVE-THRU "TAKE OUT" ONLY!**  
**Saturday, October 21, 2023**

Pick-up times: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Dinner - \$13.00

Menu: sausage, pancakes, baked potato,  
green beans, coleslaw, applesauce, dessert



**For tickets:**

570-582-7193 Jim

570-436-2168 Donna

570-788-3938 Betty & Don

570-788-2685 Church Office



- 3 – Church @ 10 am; Coffee Hour
- 4 - Labor Day; Church Office Closed
- 5 – LCW Meeting @ 1 pm
- 6 – Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 9:30 am
- 8 – LCW Bake Sale Drop off by 1 pm Luther Hall Kitchen
- 9 – Fall Craft/Vendor & Yard Sale from 9 am to 3 pm
- 10 – Bible Study @ 8:45 am; Church @ 10 am; “God’s Work Our Hands”
- 11 – Scouts @ 6 pm
- 14 – Church Council Meeting @ 7 pm
- 15 – October Newsletter Deadline
- 16 – Hobo Party @ 4 pm Sauer’s Grove; Divine Providence Meal
- 17 – Bible Study @ 8:45 am; Church @ 10 am
- 18 – Scouts @ 6 pm
- 20 – Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 9:30 am
- 22 – Scouts Recruiting Event
- 24 – Bible Study @ 8:45 am; Church @ 10 am
- 25 – Scouts @ 6 pm
- 28 – S.E.R.V.E. Meeting @ 6:30 pm

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## Upcoming **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Sept. 9 – Pulled Pork Dinner will be held by St. Paul’s United Methodist Church @ 4 pm until gone.

Sept. 30 – Conyngham United Church of Christ will hold a Pumpkin Fest.

Oct. 1 – The Historic Brainerd Church will hold its Annual Fall Festival from 10 am to 4 pm.

### **Valley Interfaith Council**



Please follow the Valley Interfaith Council on Facebook if you haven't yet. It is an ecumenical group of member congregations in the Conyngham/Sugarloaf/Drums area that promotes unity. Posts include events happening with each congregation to help grow faith community involvement along with providing support to the Valley Food Pantry. If you are already a follower of the Facebook page, invite your friends to follow too.