

# Who's Your Daddy?

The Bible is filled with examples of good, bad, and in-between fathers.  
Match the child to their father. If you need a hint, look up the Bible verse provided.

1. \_\_\_\_ **Gershom** - Exodus 2:22
2. \_\_\_\_ **Cain, Abel, Seth** - Genesis 4:1-2; 4:25
3. \_\_\_\_ **David** - 1 Samuel 16:1-13
4. \_\_\_\_ **Joseph** - Genesis 30:23-25
5. \_\_\_\_ **Shem, Japheth, Ham** - Genesis 5:32
6. \_\_\_\_ **Jacob, Esau** - Genesis 25:26
7. \_\_\_\_ **Isaac** - Genesis 21:2-3
8. \_\_\_\_ **Jesus** - Matthew 1:18-25
9. \_\_\_\_ **Rachel** - Genesis 29:10-12
10. \_\_\_\_ **Moab, Ben-Ammi** - Genesis 19:36-38
11. \_\_\_\_ **Obed** - Ruth 4:13-17
12. \_\_\_\_ **James** - Matthew 4:21
13. \_\_\_\_ **John the Baptist** - Luke 1:11-13
14. \_\_\_\_ **Mahalath** - Genesis 28:9
15. \_\_\_\_ **Soloman, Absalom, Amnon** -  
2 Samuel 5:13-24; 13-1

- A. Boaz
- B. Zabedee
- C. David
- D. Jesse
- E. Abraham
- F. Laban
- G. Jacob
- H. Zechariah
- I. Adam
- J. Joseph
- K. Moses
- L. Lot
- M. Ishmael
- N. Isaac



The answers are on page 7.

# June 2024 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: Brenda Zimmerman  
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 at a future date  
Coffee Hour following Worship on the 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.

## **2024 Church Council Officers/Members**

**Melody Hinderer - President**

**Donna Cassarella - Vice President**

**Jane Krouse - Secretary**

**Jan Jacobus - Assistant Secretary**

**Jennifer Cipriani - Treasurer**

**Sherry Grenzberg - Assistant Treasurer**

**Jim Cassarella**

**Patty Phile**

## **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: Brenda Zimmerman**

**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**

## **Highlights from the Church Council Meeting on May 9, 2024**

**Attendance:** P. Michele Kaufman, Melody Hinderer, Jan Jacobus, Jane Krouse, Donna Cassarella, Jim Cassarella, Patty Phile Excused: Sherry Grenzberg

**Treasurer's Report:** Approved April bills.

**Cemetery Treasurer's Report:** Geraniums were planted in planters, Melody Hinderer, Mary Ellen Sims, and Sally Russo helped. The shed needs to be torn down once it is cleaned out. Frank Costello wants our church to pay for the weed killer (a motion was passed to pay for half). Another tractor is needed.

**Council Minutes:** Church Council Minutes of April 11, 2024, approved.

**Pastor's Report:** 19.5 hours, 222 miles (March), 23.25 hours, 213 miles (April). Visits made to shut-ins. Dawn Morgan is in Providence. Pastor on vacation from May 16 to June 1<sup>st</sup>. Pastor Oliver Brown will cover while pastor is away. Any member can join Thrivent for \$20, which allows them to head an Action team. One youth is in catechism (first year), and may have a child eligible for 1<sup>st</sup> Communion.

**Worship Team: Chairperson needed.**

- Gideons Temple Talk planned for June 2, 2024
- Supply Pastors for May
  - May 19: Rev Melvin Mundie (Day of Pentecost)
  - May 26: Rev Chip Fairchild (Holy Trinity Sunday)
- Supply Pastors for June
  - June 2: Rev Melvin Mundie
  - June 9: Rev William Zimmerman
  - June 16: Rev Chip Fairchild
  - June 23: Deacon Kat Tigerman (No Communion)
  - June 30: Rev Chip Fairchild
- **Beginning in June, a council member will take turns monthly being the Head Usher. (See newsletter article).**
- **During the summer months, we will not have Assistant Ministers. (See newsletter article).**

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

- Nursery renovations are still in progress.
- Future plans: putting our church literature in hotels, colleges, campgrounds, realtor offices, and Chamber of Commerce welcome packets.
- Ice Cream Social possibly in July, more information will be provided once plans are finalized.
- Inside Yard Sale planned for August 24<sup>th</sup>. Please refer to the newsletter article for more information.
- Approved renewing Raffle license for a year.
- Next meeting, Thursday May 30<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm.

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

- VBS scheduled for July 29<sup>th</sup> – August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Theme: Camp Firelight: A Summer Camp Adventure with God.
- Volunteers needed for VBS.
- Next Meeting: May 22 @ 6:30.

**Property Team: Jim Cassarella – Chairperson**

- Speakers in nursery are disconnected.
- Sausage Supper – Half of the proceeds will go towards the Anniversary celebration.
- Thank you cards will be sent out for those who made donations to the Sausage Supper.
- Approval to look into costs of 10 new tables.
- Look into having our water tested.

Continuation of highlights from Church Council meeting...

- Blue water tank in the kitchen needs to be replaced.
- Workday was scheduled for June 29<sup>th</sup>, but that conflicts with the church picnic. Therefore, we will have a work “week” from June 24<sup>th</sup> through June 28<sup>th</sup>.

**ALL TEAMS ARE TO SCHEDULE A DAY(S) TO CLEAN THE AREAS THEY UTILIZE. Please keep any items that can be put into the yard sale.**

**LCW: Mary Ellen Sims – Chairperson**

- Mother/Daughter Tea, Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm.
- 8 of our members attended the Church Women United gathering for Friendship Friday Day, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at UCC at 1 pm.
- Please be aware of items needed for the Valley Food Pantry.
- Beyond Violence – items will be accepted through May.
- Men’s Appreciation Breakfast – June 15<sup>th</sup>
- Indoor Yard Sale – August 24<sup>th</sup>, 8 am – 1(See newsletter article). Hot Dogs and drinks will be sold. Proceeds of the sale and food will go towards the Anniversary celebration.
- Next Meeting Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 1 pm.

**Lay Eucharist:** Melody Hinderer and Judy Mundie will make visits in May.

**Call Committee Team: Melody Hinderer, Chairperson**

- Members: Jim Cassarella, Jane Krouse, David Leitner, Judy Mundie, Sheila Maslo
- Ministry Site Profile was reinstated on Synod website.
- **Deacon Kat Tigerman will be our supply pastor for June 23<sup>rd</sup>. No communion. Congregation members will bring a dish to share for lunch; afterward, Deacon Tigerman will give a 20–30-minute presentation on 6261. See the article in the newsletter for further information.**

**Finance Team:** No report.

**Carillon Team:** Members: Dave Cunfer, Judy Mundie, Arlene Poltrock, Peggy Hawk, and Sherry Grenzberg. No update.

**225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Team: Melody Hinderer – Chairperson**

Members are Donna Cassarella, Jim Casarella, Jennifer Cipriani, Dawn Klick, Jane Krouse, Judy Mundie, Sally Russo, Mary Ellen Sims, Kim Washko, and Joe Washko.

- Invitations will be mailed the week of August 1<sup>st</sup>. Judy Mundie and Jane Krouse will manage the responses.
- Special offering on Oct 6<sup>th</sup> will go towards the Cemetery.
- **June 2<sup>nd</sup>: Picture day for all members and team members.**
- TV stations were contacted for coverage of our anniversary.
- Banner was chosen for display in our church yard.
- Next Meeting: May 23 @ 6:30, all are invited.

**Old Business:**

- Reports for the June newsletter due May 15th.
- June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Christ Lutheran West Hazleton is having another meeting to connect with area churches. They would like to create a newsletter to keep area churches aware of events they are having.

**New Business:**

- Boscov’s Friends Helping Friends, October 22nd from 8 am – 11 pm.
- P. Fairchild will be celebrating his 50<sup>th</sup> ordination this year, a “SURPRISE CELEBRATION” is being planned for June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Christ Lutheran Conyngham after their worship service. (We will acknowledge this event during our Anniversary dinner).
- The door to the sacristy needs to be replaced.

Continuation of highlights from Church Council meeting...

- Pastor will look into having office hours so members can speak with her if needed. An update will follow.
- Our church monthly calendar will be on the whiteboard in the St. Stephen's room to keep members informed of events.
- More letters and numbers are needed for outdoor sign.
- All team reports are to be given to Rose (who will make copies) for council members to review before our meetings in order to shorten our meetings.
- Welcome Dinner will be activated again to welcome new members.

Next council meeting on June 13, 2024, @ 7 pm, the meeting adjourned @ 8:48 pm; and closed meeting by praying the Lord's Prayer.

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### Supply Pastor Schedule

June 2 - Rev. Melvin Mundie  
June 9 - Rev. William Zimmermann  
June 16 - Rev. Chip Fairchild  
June 23 - Deacon Kat Tigerman  
June 30 - Rev. Chip Fairchild

### Altar Flower Sponsors

In Loving Memory of James J. Mundie Sr. by his children  
In Loving Memory of Al and Mildred Wysocky  
In Loving Memory of June Mundie Moylan by her brother and sisters  
In Loving Memory of Lee Mace  
No sponsor

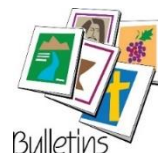
### Bulletin Sponsors

June - No sponsors

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### Bulletin Sponsors

You may sponsor our weekly church bulletins for 2024. 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 June are available.



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### 2024 Flower Chart

A reminder that our 2024 Altar Flower chart is available in the St. Stephen's Room. Several Sundays are available to sponsor: June 30, July 14, 21 & 28, Aug 4, September 1 & 22, October 20 & 27, November 17 & 24, December 8, 15, 22 & 29.

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### Valley Food Pantry

Items needed are canned chili, cereal, oatmeal, spaghetti sauce, crackers, packaged snacks, coffee, and tea bags. **Please make sure the items are within the expiration date.** THANK YOU in advance for your generosity!



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**Answers to Front Page:** 1-K, 2-I, 3-D, 4-G, 5-O, 6-N, 7-E, 8-J, 9-F, 10-L, 11-A, 12-B, 13-H, 14-M- 15-C

## June 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!



2 - Madison Mumie  
2 - Lucille Wenner  
3 - Kimberly Deliman  
4 - C.J. Kapuschinsky  
14 - Devin Cipriani  
14 - Dawn Morgan  
18 - Carson Kostyal  
21 - Alan Steinman  
23 - Jane Krouse  
27 - Mark Solon

1 – John Billig  
3 – Benjamin Wersinger  
4 – Patty Phile  
5 – Donna Cassarella  
21 – Liam Eveland

12 - Tiffany & Todd Barbush  
13 - Joyce & Gordon Bigelow  
18 - Rev. Melvin & Barbara Mundie  
19 - Donald Jr. & Donna Klinger

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### Monthly Coffee Hour

June Coffee Hour is **canceled**. The next coffee hour will be held in July. If you are interested in sponsoring, please sign up in the St. Stephen's Room.



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### Worship Schedule Changes Beginning in June

For the summer months, we will be using Setting 10 for our church liturgy.

Also, there will be no Assistant Ministers for June – August.

Our organist, Brenda Zimmerman, will also be taking time off for medical reasons this summer, so please keep her in your prayers.

Supply pastors will be responsible for the Intercessory Prayers usually said by the Assistant Ministers.

Council members will be taking turns being the Head Usher for each month.

The Head Usher will be responsible for asking for volunteers to collect the offering, lighting the candles, and assisting with communion.

The communion elements (bread and wine) will be placed on the altar to eliminate volunteers bringing the communion elements forward.

We are hoping to involve as many different members as possible in the worship service, especially in the area of communion assistants.

If there is an area where you are willing to help or learn, we are happy to train you. Just let the Head Usher know.

This will be a time to see if these changes will work for the summer, so we appreciate your patience.





## Pictures Scheduled

On June 2, 2024, we will be having a picture taken of our church members after the church service for the 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book. Also, after the church member picture is taken, we will be taking pictures of each church team.

Teams are: Church Council, Choir, Prayer Shawl Ministry, S.E.R.V.E., LCW, Worship Team, Anniversary Team, Property Team, and Learning Ministry.

We are hoping for a great turnout for this day!  
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Melody Hinderer.



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## Graduations



If you have a member of your family that will be celebrating a graduation this year, please e-mail the church or call with the graduate's name, where they are graduating from, and what their future plans are. We would like to put their information in our newsletter. We would like to acknowledge all of their accomplishments and we wish all our graduates the brightest future God has planned for them.

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## Choir Members Needed

We would like to enlarge our Choir for the 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Worship Service on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>. If you would be interested, please contact Brenda Zimmerman (512-581-2691), our organist and choir director. A Special rehearsal will be held in the evening or Sunday afternoon.

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## Word in Season

Every quarter, the Altar Guild puts the Word in Season devotion in the pews. The devotions are for your use and can be taken home. Please utilize these books for your daily devotions.



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## Annual Picnic



On Saturday, June 29th at 4 pm the Annual Church Picnic will be held at Solon's Pavilion. Sausage and peppers with rolls will be provided by the LCW. Please bring a dish to share - salad, side dish or dessert. Bring enough soft drinks for your family. Come early to swim! A Sign-up sheet is in the St. Stephen's Room.

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## Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible Study will take a break for the summer and resume in September.



## Work Week Scheduled For All Church Teams June 24 – June 28

In order to keep our church clean and clear of clutter and unused items, there is a work week scheduled in June, from June 24th through June 28<sup>th</sup>.

**All Teams are to participate.** Each team can pick the day and times they can get together during the work week. The areas the teams are responsible for are the areas you use frequently to do your activities. Team Chairpersons, please contact your team members and others who can help. Volunteers are welcome to help as well. Please keep in mind to save any items that can be put into our Indoor Yard Sale. If you are not a team member but wish to volunteer, just let me know and I will reach out to the chairperson in the area you wish to help with. Thank you, Melody Hinderer.



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## Bear Creek Camp



The summer camping schedule is now available on their website. Visit [bearcreekcamp.org](http://bearcreekcamp.org) to register online. There are various camp schedules.

The programs are centered on spiritual growth, outdoor living, and small group development.

Contact Mary Ellen Sims at 570-788-2866 for more information about the LCW helping to subsidize the cost of camp.



### **SUMMER CAMP:**

Our overnight youth program for grades 1-12 is centered on spiritual growth, outdoor living, and small group development.

### **FAMILY CAMP:**

Experience the many amazing things that camp has to offer with your family.

### **ARTIST'S RETREAT:**

Surround yourself with the beauty of nature to support and inspire your art.

Learn more and register online:

[bearcreekcamp.org](http://bearcreekcamp.org)



/BearCreekCampOfficialPage

@BearCreekCamp

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## Save the date for Vacation Bible School

July 29 - August 2, 2024

This year's theme for Vacation Bible School will be **Camp Firelight: A Summer Camp Adventure With God**. Please join us as we are called to do God's work and share the Good News of God's love.

We are asking for your help. Volunteers are needed. There are many ways to be helpful. A craft leader is needed for the week of VBS. Also needed are leader assistants for different group activities. We need more help on the decorating team leading up to and including the week before VBS. Any help is greatly appreciated. Youth volunteers are always welcome. Whether it is the full week, a few days or even a few hours, behind the scenes or front and center, you will enjoy VBS as much as the children. Talk with any member of the Learning Ministry Team: Donna Cassarella, Jennifer Cipriani, Kim Deliman, Patty Phile. A sign-up sheet will be in the St. Stephen's Room.

Vacation Bible School is a time when you can receive more than you give. You receive fulfillment in the time you spend with the kids. With the children, you experience a joy and excitement sharing in faith throughout the week of VBS. Please consider volunteering.

A Vacation Bible School registration form will be available in the July newsletter. More information to follow in the weekly bulletin and the next newsletter.

## Men's Appreciation Breakfast

All men are invited to an appreciation breakfast sponsored by the LCW on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. Please sign up in the St. Stephen's Room.



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### Ice Cream Social

Save the date - An ice cream social is being planned for July. More details to follow.

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## Indoor Yard Sale Scheduled For August 24<sup>th</sup>

The S.E.R.V.E. Team along with the LCW are planning an Indoor Yard Sale. The event will be held on

**Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> from 8 am – 1 pm.**

From Noon to 1 pm, customers can fill a bag for \$ 1.00. All items will be priced to sell.



**All proceeds will go towards the Anniversary celebration.**

- The following items will NOT be accepted: Clothes, shoes, electronics, TV's, large furniture, large appliances, and window shades.
- All items given to the sale must be clean.
- There will be sign up sheets for help on the days listed below (drop off days), days and times you can help organize and price items, and time you can help on the day of the sale.
- We will be selling hot dogs and drinks as well on the day of the sale.
- Any time you can give, will be welcomed.

**\*See schedule for days and times that items can be dropped off.**

**Do not drop off items at any other time except for the days and times listed below.**

**Items are to be dropped off in Luther Hall at the door on the Cemetery side.**

**Drop Off Days: Sunday Aug 11<sup>th</sup> and Aug 18<sup>th</sup> from 11 am – 12 noon.**

**Wednesday Aug 14<sup>th</sup> and Aug 21<sup>st</sup> from 4 pm – 6 pm.**

**Friday Aug 16<sup>th</sup> and Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4 pm – 6 pm.**

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## First Communion and Catechism Instruction



Please contact P. Michele Kaufman if you have children that are eligible for First Communion or Catechism instruction. Any child entering 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade this fall is eligible for First Communion instruction; any child entering 6<sup>th</sup> Grade this fall can begin catechism instruction.



**IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT OUR CONGREGATION  
MEMBERS ATTEND THIS SERVICE AND PRESENTATION.**

**6261 Presentation by Deacon Kat Tigerman  
on June 23, 2024**

Our synod has developed a plan to help with the shortage of pastors in our synod.  
The program the synod has developed is called 6261.

To define 6261:

6 congregations, 2 Full Time Pastors, 6 Lay Persons, 1 Deacon

Deacon Kat Tigerman has agreed to come to St. John's on June 23<sup>rd</sup> to lead our  
church service.

After the service, lunch will be served, followed by a 20 – 30 minute presentation By  
Deacon Tigerman on 6261.

**Why, you may ask, do you need to attend?**

**A special congregation meeting will be called (with 3 weeks' notice) to vote on  
whether or not our congregation is willing to participate in this program or  
continue to look for a part-time pastor. The church council will not be making this  
decision; it will be decided by our congregation members.**

**So, please come to the presentation and ask questions, so your vote will be  
determined by what you hear, and you will then have the knowledge to make a  
decision for what you think is best for our congregation.**

**As always, if I can answer any concerns you have, please contact me and I will  
answer your questions from what I know of the program.**

**Thank you for your attention and your participation  
in this especially important matter.**

**Melody Hinderer, Church Council President**



# 6261 *Ministry Communities*

## 120 INTERCONNECTED CONGREGATIONS BY 2028



### *Sharing Staff*

6 congregations sharing 2 full-time pastors,  
6 lay leaders, and 1 full-time deacon.

Some 6261 Ministry Communities may even  
include our Ecumenical partners.



### *Happening Anywhere*

6261 Ministry Communities will be formed  
across the Synod - in rural & urban areas,  
with congregations of any size, and with  
congregations who currently have staff as  
well as those experiencing a vacancy.



### *For the Sake of the Gospel*

Each 6261 Ministry Community will have its  
own primary ministry project centered in  
the love of Jesus and focused on addressing  
a justice issue within the surrounding  
community.

WANT TO LEARN  
MORE?



[kat@nepsynod.org](mailto:kat@nepsynod.org)



[www.godslove.org/6261mc](http://www.godslove.org/6261mc)



Start a Narrative Inventory Form



# Licensed Lay Ministry

In the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## Why Should I Consider Becoming a Licensed Lay Ministry (LLM)?

Have you ever asked yourself, "What is God calling me to do right now? How can I best serve God and my neighbor? What gifts do I have that I am not using?" If so, perhaps becoming a LLM could be the answer to those profound, discerning questions. The Church has always needed and benefited from lay leaders and the variety of gifts they bring to the Church community.

## What Do Licensed Lay Ministers Do?

LLMs serve congregations and 6261 Ministry Communities in a variety of ways. They make themselves available for pulpit supply when a pastor is away, visit members at home and in the hospital, become assisting ministers for worship, and serve on a variety of synod and congregational committees. Some even serve as the primary minister in a congregation during a pastoral vacancy. Some participate in the LLM formation path because their pastor saw gifts in them; others want to broaden their knowledge of the Bible and the Church.

## How Do I Start the Process to Become a Licensed Lay Minister?

To become a LLM candidate, applicants must submit the following items:

1. A completed application form.
2. A letter of reference from the applicant's pastor (or a former pastor if no current pastor).
3. A letter of reference from the applicant's congregational council, along with the Congregational Education Agreement.
4. Copies of Child Abuse Clearances, State Police Clearances, and FBI Clearances.

## What Does the LLM Formation Path Look Like?

The LLM course consists of 3 parts over the course of two years:

1. **Foundational Courses** in four areas of study: Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), Christian Scriptures (New Testament), Theology and Beliefs, and Church History
2. **Four Weekend Retreats** focusing on Lutheran Preaching, Lutheran Worship, Lutheran Theology/Confessions, and Pastoral Care
3. **Mentor Guided Activities** including Sermon Development, Planning and Leading Bible Study, Visitation, Prayer, and Care of Souls, and Teaching the Catechism

## How Much Does it Cost?

- The LLM Formation Path costs \$1,000, which pays for 2 years of synodical weekend retreats.
- The cost of tuition for the 4 required classes taken at the candidate's chosen institution for higher learning (often online). This cost varies by institution (usually \$300 - \$750 per course).
- The cost of books for the retreats and classes.

## How Do I Start?

You can start the process of becoming a Licensed Lay Minister by going here to submit an online application:

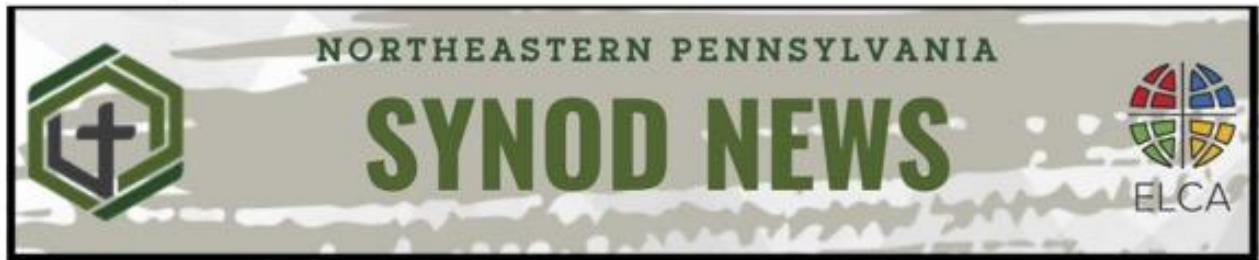
<https://nepasynod.org/6261mc/layministry/>

## What if I Have Questions?

Our LLM Director would love to answer your questions. Please email Pastor Jira Albers at:

[pastorjira@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorjira@yahoo.com)





## Worship & Art: A Congregation's Journey

A few years ago, Calvary Lutheran Church, Laureldale, set out on a journey to be as inclusive as possible. This journey led the congregation to install state-of-the-art cameras (for streaming worship), three 85-inch monitors (for reading the liturgy and music), and a new sound system (that would enable everyone to hear and engage during worship). This was the beginning of the trek to become the congregation God was calling them to be!

The people of Calvary knew they could do more to engage in worship or worshipful experiences so they asked, "How can we engage more of our bodies in worship?" They pondered, brainstormed, and listed ways they could inclusively engage their bodies in worship and Christian life. They decided that creating together would align with their values of inclusivity. This came to fruition through their first collective art project. They began with a Lenten collage that created a dark scene with the tomb of Jesus. The congregation loved the project so much that they asked for more. The next project was for Easter, which included a prominent cross and a rainbow collage surrounding and illuminating the cross. The congregation is currently working on a Pentecost piece that includes a centralized bird erupting from rings of fire. The congregation is in conversation with an art organization to place their piece on display for the wider community to enjoy.



Lent



Easter



Follow Calvary Lutheran Church, Laureldale on Facebook at  
<https://www.facebook.com/calvarylutheranlaureldale> to stay up to date!

## New Outreach Ministry is Found at POP's Treasures

POP's Treasures was established by Prince of Peace Evangelical Church in Bangor to create a location where the community/congregants can donate gently used items /clothing. Presented in a "boutique style" store front where the visitors can see creative displays and purchase said items at a fair price.



The outpouring of community involvement has far exceeded our initial plan. The community supports us with items, and they also attend monthly during the sale days. We have had several new members at the church since the boutique was opened May of 2023. Our attendees support us in other posts on Facebook, letting the community at large know of our location. We are constantly reminded how they feel that this is a wonderful program. We also have individuals who come in our doors that ask to help volunteer.

We applied for and received a Witness and Service Ministry Team Grant to help with the costs to prepare a location on our property and purchase a connex container. The container is used to repurpose and store inventory. Items not sold at the boutique, are then stored until we have our spring or fall rummage sale. Items not sold there are donated to a clothing collection box and other organizations. Currently we utilize the 2 back rooms of the church, along with part of the fellowship hall during the days of our sale, which in total in 7 hours for both days.



While our program was set up to respond at the end of the fiscal year. As we hear of a need, we act in trying to make it happen if we can. It is difficult to say how many attend during the sale days. However, recently we provided a free clothing and houseware day that was attended by 200 individuals.

We currently have provided 3 meals at Safe Harbor, a transition shelter for the homeless. We have donated children's toys, and a stroller to the foster care program. There were also monetary donations to a local youth program, animal shelter, Portland food pantry (PUMP), and the purchase of animals from ELCA Good Gifts.

You may wonder if your congregations could do the same. Yes! If the organizers have the faith it will work, be willing to make changes and to realize that there are many paths to take to make it work. Success can be measured by outreach to the community and the programs it helps. We have been blessed beyond our wildest hopes and dreams. If you would like more information, please contact Jackie Horn at [baskets@epix.net](mailto:baskets@epix.net).

**\*\*Visit the synod website at [www. https://nepasynod.org/](https://nepasynod.org/) to find out how to apply for a Witness and Service Grant.**





- 2 - Church @ 10 am; Gideon's Int'l visit; 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pictures
- 3 - Scouts @ 6 pm
- 5 - Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 9:30 am
- 9 - Church @ 10 am
- 10 - Scouts @ 6 pm
- 13 - Church Council Meeting @ 7 pm
- 15 - July/August Newsletter Deadline; Men's Appreciation Breakfast @ 9 am
- 16 - Church @ 10 am; Father's Day
- 17 - Scouts @ 6 pm
- 19 - Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 9:30 am
- 20 - Scouts Committee Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- 23 - Church @ 10 am
- 24 - Scouts @ 6 pm
- 27 - S.E.R.V.E. Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- 29 - Annual Church Picnic 4 pm @ Solon's Pavillion.
- 30 - Church @ 10 am

## Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Black Creek United Methodist Church will be holding Free Community Concerts in the Summer:**

Sat. July 6 - Erin McClelland (Acoustic Gitar & Vocals) 3 to 4:30 pm Free ice cream bar (no dinner)

The following concerts will have a free light dinner from 5:30 - 6:00 pm followed by the concert 6 - 7:30 pm

Sat. July 13 - Bryan Wallie (Acoustic Country & Pop)

Sat. August 3 - Randy Blakeman (Country)

Sat. August 10 - 'Round Midnight (Jazz/Blues)

Sat. August 17 - Doc Pappa and the Renegade Ramblers (Bluegrass)

Sat. August 24 - Freeland St. Ann's Band (Concert Band)