



Bugs in the Bible

Whether at a picnic, on the beach, or playing outdoors, it seems like we're always joined by uninvited guests - bugs!

Bugs and other little creatures are mentioned in the Bible.



Fill in the blanks with the little creatures mentioned in each verse. Circle them in the puzzle below.

Proverbs 6:6 _____

Exodus 16:20 _____

1 Sam. 24:14 _____

Psalms 78:45 _____

Matt. 23:24 _____

Isaiah 50:9 _____

Judges 14:8 _____

Isaiah 59:5 _____

Acts 12:23 _____

Leviticus 11:22 _____

Leviticus 11:22 _____

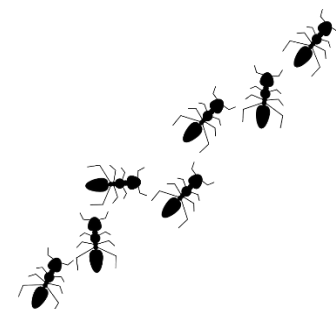
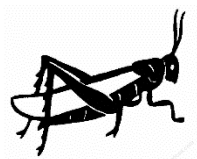
Leviticus 11:22 _____

Leviticus 11:22 _____

Deuteronomy 7:20 _____



M O T H S G N A T B H
A N T A L L C H P E O
G R A S S H O P P E R
G F C R I C K E T S N
O L S P I D E R S B E
T E C L O C U S T D T
S A E F K A T Y D I D
G F L I E S W O R M S



The answers are on page 8.

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

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

From Pastor Michele Kaufman

Long ago God decreed that men and women should not work constantly without periods of rest. Even in the creation story in Genesis, God "rested" on the seventh day. And yet, we modern Americans continue to identify business with busyness and success with feverish haste. Jesus understood the need for rest, and for pacing his life so that his ministry could be productive. There is a prayer that I keep in a prominent place in my study which helps me remember the importance of making time for rest:

Slow me down, Lord! Ease the pounding of my heart by the quieting of my mind. Steady my hurried pace with a vision of the eternal reach of time. Give me, amidst the confusion of my day, the calmness of the ever-lasting hills. Break the tension of my nerves and muscles with the soothing music of the singing streams that live in my memory. Help me to know the magical, restoring power of sleep. Teach me the art of taking minute vacations -- of slowing down to look at a flower, to chat with a friend, to pat a dog, or to read a few lines from a good book. Let me look up into the branches of the towering oak, and know that it grew great and strong, because it grew slowly and well.

When we keep the Sabbath it keeps us--it maintains us. God created us with a need for a rhythm of rest from the rugged rat race to drink deeply of the rich cup of faith--to allow our souls to catch up with our very being. A noted physician said to his students, "More and more we doctors prescribe long periods of rest for our patients. Most of those periods, I am convinced, are for Sundays for which they are in arrears." Much like a checking account--if there is no replenishing of resources, bankruptcy will occur. The Sabbath provides a necessary check and balance to be sure this does not happen to us. The trouble with trivia is that it trivializes us. It robs us of our true identity and the purpose God has for us. God has given us permission to spend some quality time with him and to rest our souls and bodies, that they might fill our lives with his truth and joy. Be glad that you have a day to rest and to be recharged and renewed for the soul's journey. Lloyd C. Douglas in his marvelous writing *The Robe* reminds us: Like a navigator needs a north star, like a builder needs a plumb line, like a mathematician needs a square root, like a musician needs a fixed note, so we who believe in a sometimes hectic and overwhelming world need a sanctuary, 5 and One who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. See you in church!

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At Church Council's request, Pastor will begin to offer office hours once a week on Thursday mornings from 10-12:30. Should you like to make an appointment, call the church office or contact Pr. Kaufman directly.

Highlights from the Church Council Meeting on June 13, 2024

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

Treasurer's Report: Approved May bills.

Cemetery Treasurer's Report: Next Meeting October 21, 2024 @ 6:30 pm

Council Minutes: Church Council Minutes of May 9, 2024, approved.

Pastor's Report: No children for 1st Communion instruction; Korrie Cipriani is eligible for catechism. Will advertise both opportunities during VBS this summer.

Worship Team: Chairperson needed.

- Brenda Zimmerman requesting leave from July 15 through Sept 11, possibly longer, due to a necessary surgery she needs
June 16: Rev Chip Fairchild
June 23: Deacon Kat Tigerman (No Communion)
June 30: Rev Chip Fairchild
July 7, 21, and 28: Rev Chip Fairchild
July 14: Rev Robert Reier
- Head Usher responsibilities are going well, and will continue in July. Jane Krouse will be the Head Usher for July.

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, Chamber of Commerce welcome packets.
- Ice Cream Social July 20th
- Inside Yard Sale planned for August 24th. Please refer to the newsletter article for more information.
- Leilani Chesonis Concert will be held in our church on Sunday, Sept. 15, Saturday at 2 pm. Free will offering; light refreshments will be served
- Approved renewing Raffle license for a year.
- Next meeting, Thursday, July 25 @ 6:30 pm.

Learning Ministry Team: Kim Deliman – Chairperson

- VBS scheduled for July 29th – August 2nd. Theme: Camp Firelight: A Summer Camp Adventure with God.
- Volunteers needed for VBS.

Property Team: Jim Cassarella – Chairperson

- Speakers in nursery are disconnected.
- Thank you cards will be sent out to those who made donations to the Sausage Supper.
- Approval to look into costs of 10 new tables.
- Water was tested and tested okay.
- Blue water tank in kitchen was replaced.
- Work week scheduled from June 24th thru June 28th.
- Macadam repairs were done by handicap area, and the meter was done.

Continuation of Church Council meeting...

LCW: Mary Ellen Sims – Chairperson

- Indoor Yard Sale – August 24th, 8 am – 1 (See newsletter article). Hot Dogs and drinks will be sold. Proceeds from sale and food will go towards the Anniversary celebration.
- There will be sign-up sheets for various opportunities to help.
- Next Meeting Sept 3rd @ 1 pm.

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

Call Committee Team: Melody Hinderer, Chairperson

- Members: Jim Cassarella, Jane Krouse, David Leitner, Judy Mundie, Sheila Maslo
- **Deacon Kat Tigerman will be our supply pastor for June 23. 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.

225th 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 1st. Judy Mundie and Jane Krouse will manage the responses.
- Special offering on Oct 6th will go towards the Cemetery.
- Tickets for Anniversary Dinner will be \$ 10 for adults; children's ticket price needs to be discussed.
- Next Meeting: June 20th @ 6:30, all are invited.

Old Business:

- Reports for July/August newsletter due June 15th.
- Emergency Contact List for the members who gave us the information will be displayed in the narthex on the bulletin board above the church attendance book.

New Business:

- Boscov's Friends Helping Friends, October 22 from 8 am – 11 pm.
- 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.
- 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.
- Picture on church letterhead will be updated to a current church picture.
- VBS needs help with the music portion of the program.

Next council meeting on July 11th, 2024 @ 7 pm, meeting adjourned @ 8:44 pm; closed meeting by praying the Lord's Prayer.

Supply Pastor Schedule

July 7 - Rev. Chip Fairchild
July 14 - Rev. Robert Reier
July 21 - Rev. Chip Fairchild
July 28 - Rev. Chip Fairchild
August 4 - Rev. Chip Fairchild
August 11 - Rev. Chip Fairchild
August 18 - To be announced
August 25 - To be announced

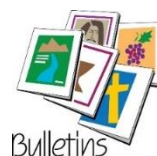
Altar Flower Sponsors

In Loving Memory of Earnest Kuehn by Family
No sponsor
No sponsor
No sponsor
No sponsor
In Honor of Lucille and Richard Wenner's Anniversary
In Loving Memory of Helen Mace
In Loving Memory of Marion L. Shelhamer by Donna & Jim Cassrella

July - All weeks in July - In Honor of my Church family by Janet Brady
August - All weeks in August In Memory of Loved Ones by Sandy Zamba

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 September, November, and December are available.





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: July 14, 21 & 28, Aug 4, September 1, October 20 & 27, November 17 & 24, and December 8, 15, 22 & 29.

Valley Food Pantry

Summer is here! Items needed to keep the food pantry stocked are dry pasta noodles (rigatoni, elbow, bowties, etc.), spaghetti noodles, spaghetti sauce, cookies, pop tarts and any canned vegetables. **Please make sure the items are within the expiration date.** THANK YOU in advance for your generosity and continuing support!



Monthly Coffee Hour

The next Coffee Hour will be held on July 7th celebrating the July birthdays. If you are interested in sponsoring, please sign up in the St. Stephen's Room. The August Coffee Hour is canceled due to the Semi-Annual Meeting on August 4th.



Answers from front page: ant, flea, gnat, bees, worms, locust, katydid, grasshopper, hornet, maggots, flies, moths, spider, cricket

July and August Birthdays, Baptisms, 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 13 - Carter Hinderer
 July 16 - Lucas Leitner
 July 25 - Alex Bowden
 July 27 - Larry Sims
 July 31 - Donna Cassarella

Aug 2 – Theresa Steinman
 Aug 3 – Ruth Pecile
 Aug 3 - Gabriella Hillard
 Aug 12 – Cora Lee Cox
 Aug 13 - Jenni Thomas
 Aug 15 - Clara Rossi
 Aug 16 - Marie Shultz
 Aug 20 - Katie Solon
 Aug 23 - Carson Barbush

Aug 23 – John Cressman
 Aug 25 - Monroe Mumie
 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 Solon

Choir Members Needed



We would like to enlarge our Choir for the 225th Anniversary Worship Service on Oct. 6th. 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.

Ice Cream Social



An Ice Cream Social will be held to celebrate our 225th Anniversary on July 20th at 2 pm in Luther Hall. Please sign up in the St. Stephen's Room or call Patty at 570-956-2948 or the Church office at 570-788-2685.



INDOOR YARD SALE SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 24th

*****Donations not accepted have been updated along with items we will accept; please review these changes.**

Changes are in italics.***

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 24th 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, window shades, *luggage, and no exercise equipment. The following items are okay: small electronics and purses.*
- 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.
- Setting up tables on Aug 11th or Aug 12th.
- Set-up of donated items will be from August 19th - Aug 23rd from 8 am – 4 pm.
- There will be opportunities to help. Sign-up sheets will be in the St. Stephen's room; there will be 3-hour increments for help on any day that you would be available. Help is needed on the day of sale and clean-up and packing of items not sold after the sale is concluded.
- 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 11th and Aug 18th from 11 am – 12 noon.

Wednesday, Aug 14th and Aug 21st from 4 pm – 6 pm

Friday, Aug 16th and Aug 23rd from 4 pm – 6 pm

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 2nd Grade this fall is eligible for First Communion instruction; any child entering 6th Grade this fall can begin catechism instruction.

Thank you

Sandy Zamba would like to thank everyone for the cards, calls and get well wishes!



Ordination Anniversary

On July 14, 2024, the Rev. Dr. Joseph J. Scholtes, Jr. will celebrate fifty years of ordination. Joe was pastor of St. John's from 1980-2000. In retirement, he and his wife Bonnie live in the Easton area, where he enjoys birdwatching and spending time with his grandchildren. If you'd like to send a card to help him celebrate this milestone, his address is 680 Whitmarsh Dr., Easton, PA 18040.



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT – SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 4, 2024 @ 11 AM – 12:30 (at the latest)

For the last two years, the S.E.R.V.E. Team has conducted semi-annual meetings regarding stewardship, discussions on how our last year has been since the last meeting, what we would like to achieve in the coming year, how we stand financially, and possibly have a healthy discussion on the 6261 synod plan if we decide to learn more about what it means to us as a congregation.

The meeting will be held immediately after the church service in Luther Hall, lunch will be provided.

Please mark your calendars; this will be the only notice for the newsletter since the July and August newsletters are published together.

There will be a sign-up sheet if you plan on attending so we can provide enough refreshments for everyone.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks,
Melody Hinderer
Church Council President
Co-Chairperson of the S.E.R.V.E. Team



Congratulations to the Following Graduates of 2024

Trent Michael Moyer
North Hampton High School class of 2024
He has plans to pursue to be a pilot.
Grandson of Linda Snyder

Aidan Jacob West
Graduated on May 19th from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio
with a Bio Medial Engineering Degree - Magna Cum Laude
He plans to pursue a master's degree at a later date attending Duke University
Parents are Larry and Cecialle West
Grandson of Sandy Zamba



Vacation Bible School

July 29 - August 2, 2024

9:00 Am - 12:00 pm

***Registration appreciated by July 21, 2024**

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 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.

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.

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 21, 2024. 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, filling out the registration form in the newsletter or forms can be found on the table in the St Stephen's Room.



VBS Registration Form

T-shirt size (please circle)

Camper's Name _____

YS YM YL YXL

Parent/Family/Guardian Name _____

AS AM AL AXL

Address _____

Email 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: _____ 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 _____

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

Assigned to Camper Group: _____

Are family members helping with Camp Firelight? _____ If yes, where? _____

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

772 St. Johns Road, St. Johns, PA 18247

**Invites you to our 225th
Anniversary Celebration!!**



Come and help us celebrate the 225th Anniversary of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church on Sunday, Oct. 6th, 2024. The celebration begins with our worship service at 10 A.M. at the church. Pastor Michele Kaufman, our Pastor Designate, will deliver the anniversary sermon, with Pastor Melvin Mundie assisting.

The service will be followed by a buffet style dinner at 12:00 P.M. at Sand Springs, Drums, PA. The menu includes tossed garden salad, Chicken Francaise, Filet Beef Tips in Burgundy Sauce, Fettucine Pasta with Alfredo Sauce, Roasted Red Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetable Medley, Vanilla Bean Ice Cream and cake. Also included are rolls and butter, coffee, tea, soda, iced tea.

The cost is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children between 4 and 12 years of age. Children under age 3 are free.

Please return the reservation and your check made payable to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church by September 6th.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church 225th Anniversary Dinner

Sunday, October 6th, 2024. Sand Springs, Drums, PA 18222

12:00 noon

Family Name _____

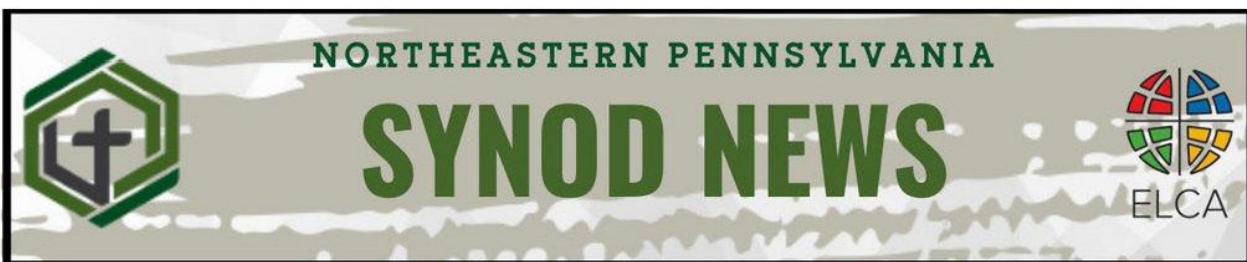
Adults attending @ \$10.00 each _____

Children ages 4 – 12 years old attending @ \$5.00 each _____

Children under age 3 _____

Will not be able to attend _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____



Celebrating Success!



The Conclusion of the 37th Synod Assembly



On Saturday, June 8, over 376 Lutherans gathered in person and virtually to participate in the 37th Northeastern PA Synod Assembly. The theme, “Hungry for Life Together in Christ,” celebrated the 50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger and highlighted the hunger ministries that congregations are implementing within their communities. Pastor Eileen Smith LeVan, who co-chairs the NEPS Hunger Team along with her husband, Brian, presented how our congregations are improving hunger issues through

ministries like food pantries, community gardens, and weekly food distributions. The ELCA representative, Marie Anne Sliwinski, Senior Director for Building Resilient Communities, expressed how Lutheran Disaster Response, AMMPARO, God’s Work Our Hands, and our synod are helping individuals not only in our country but around the world through mission support and volunteer work. Deacon Kat Tigerman introduced six congregations in Reading discerning themselves to be the first pilot 6261 community. “Our small sterling congregations are making the effort to talk, share, and consider the future,” says Bill Knox of Hope Lutheran, Reading. Many shared how their congregations are growing in friendship, community, and faith. Members of the Assembly also gave \$2,365 towards ELCA World Hunger. The three resolutions passed by the synod



assembly can be found at godslove.org/assembly2024. Congratulations to Jim Doxsey, Rev. Dana Heckman-Beil, and Amy Mietelski on their election to the Synod Council! The Assembly also elected the following voting members to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, AZ: Bishop Christopher deForest, Nancy Reichelt, Mark Stana, Seth Noggle, Betty Jane Schaefer-Hassler, Ron Mordosky, Jackie Williams, Stephanie Druckenmiller, Rev. Brian Beissel, Deacon Dawn Talley, Rev. Tom Scornavacchi, Rev. Lauren Applegate, Rev. Chris Druckenmiller, Rev. Ken Melber, Jr., Don Boyer, Stephen Hikes, Jean Sandberg, Rev. Nelson Quinones, Amanda Melber, Alicia Wood, Elizabeth Leibenguth, and Maria Marcano. To rewatch the excitement, visit the assembly webpage.

Submitted by: Stacey Burke (she/her) Communications & Growing Young Coordinator

Witness and Service Team Grants are a Hugh Help!

Submitted by Georgia Suranofsky

During the assembly, we learned that over 2/3 of those congregations attending the in-person event, have either a food or garden ministry! Here is just one story about an amazing food ministry.

The Mifflin Community Food Ministry (MCFM) was created in 2002 to provide a local, community-based source of food to those persons and households in the Governor Mifflin School District experiencing hardship or need, giving them sustenance and aid in the way of food and clothing on a temporary basis one a month.

I was told by Janet Reese, Board Member and one of the MCFM founders, that this food ministry is set apart by their lack of involvement with state or federal programs which in turn allows them for the past 22 years to pray with clients, distribute information on what is happening at their churches and invite the clients, share the gospel and inspirational materials with the families.

4 local churches including St. John's Evangelical Lutheran-Mohnton, New Life of Shillington, Calvary United Methodist and Zion Evangelical Congregational Church are the sponsors of the ministry. Zion is the host church where donations are collected, stored and then distributed. Community donations supply most of the non-perishable food and paper products

distributed to MCFM clients. 8 local churches and several organizations also provide non-perishable food, volunteer distribution tasks and money.

Food distributions prior to Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas include grocery store gift cards for clients' use to buy perishable items and clients receive a gift also. In tears, 1 woman told the President of the food ministry, "I have never received a Christmas gift."

Last year, the community food ministry experienced a dramatic increase in the average number of households served per month going from 84 over 100. The number climbed in December 2023. This was the busiest month ever, serving 149 households representing 482 people.

Gail Colahan, a member at St. John's Evangelical in Mohnton remembered the grants that are available

through the Witness and Service team and applied. The grant was approved for use this year and is providing meat and produce for the 12 monthly distributions.

The Mifflin Community Food Ministry would not be successful without God's helping hand and the wonderful support received from volunteers, organizations, and churches that donate their time, money, and food," When we all share the burden of trying to make a community a better place, it lightens the load.



Take a minute to view some photos of the ministry by [clicking on this link](#).

You can find information on the [synod website](#) about the grants available from the Witness and Service Team. Your mission support giving makes these grants possible.

Thank you for your continued support!



- 1 - Scouts @ 6 pm
- 4 - Independence Day
- 7 - Church @ 10 am; Coffee Hour
- 8 - Scouts @ 6 pm
- 10 - Church Office closed
- 11 - Church Council Meeting @ 7 pm
- 12 - Church Office closed
- 14 - Church @ 10 am
- 15 - Scouts @ 6 pm
- 16, 17, 18, 19 - VBS Prep
- 20 - VBS Prep; Ice Cream Social @ 2 pm
- 21 - Church @ 10 am; VBS registration deadline
- 22 - Scouts @ 6 pm
- 23 - Music and Worship Meeting @ 10:30 am; VBS Set up
- 24 - VBS Set-up
- 25 - VBS Set-up; S.E.R.V.E. Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- 26 - VBS Set-up
- 28 - Church @ 10 am
- 29, 30, 31 - VBS @ 9 am to 12 pm



There will be no Luther Hall Events from Aug 3rd to 25th due to set-up for the indoor Yard Sale

- 1 - VBS @ 9 am to 12 pm
- 2 - VBS @ 9 am 12 pm
- 4 - Church @ 10 am; Semi-Annual Meeting @ 11 am
- 8 - Church Council Meeting @ 7 pm
- 15 - September Newsletter Deadline
- 18 - Church @ 10 am
- 22 - S.E.R.V.E. - Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- 24 - Indoor Yard Sale @ 8 am to 1 pm
- 25 - Church @ 10 am



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

- Sat. July 6 - Erin McClelland (Acoustic Gitar & Vocals) 3 - 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)

Christ Lutheran Conyngham will be hosting VBS -" What a Mess! Jesus Loves Messy People" From August 5th through 9th - 9 am to noon. Please call 570-788-1572 or email ciccony@ptd.net for more information.