

1799 – 2024

Celebrating 225 Years of Ministry



October 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

Adult Bible Study @ 8:45 am

Youth Sunday School will resume on October 13th, held at 10 am/during Worship

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: TBA

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 September 12, 2024

Attendance for September: P. Michele Kaufmam, Melody Hinderer, Jan Jacobus, Jane Krouse, Sherry Grenzberg, Donna Cassarella, Jim Cassarella

Excused: Patty Phile, Jennifer Cipriani

Treasurer's Report: Report for August will be approved at our October meeting.

- Monies were transferred from Mundie Fund to General Fund to pay the bills.
- 4 children attended Slime Night; pumpkin painting is being planned for October.
- Scouts will be start to meet on Monday, September 16th.
- Finance Team will meet to schedule a meeting to prepare for 2025 budget.

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

Council Minutes: Church Council Minutes of August 8, 2024 approved.

Pastor's Report: **Pastor will have office hours in our church on Thursdays from 9 – 12.**

- August 45.5 hours, 392 miles
- Melody Hinderer has ordered anniversary bulletins; a separate envelope will be inserted for donations to the cemetery.
- Korie Cipriani is entering her first year of catechism; we have one child for 1st Holy Communion.
- Please let pastor know if a member of our church would like a visit from her.
- P. Michele is willing to host a luncheon/coffee hour called "Death and Dying Workshop" to help with planning a funeral ahead of time to alleviate confusion for the family.

Worship Team: Chairperson needed.

- Head Usher responsibilities for October: Melody Hinderer.
- Supply Pastor Schedule for October:
 - Oct 6: Pastor Michele Kaufman, Pastor Melvin Mundie
 - Oct 13: Pastor Melvin Mundie
 - Oct 20: Pastor Chip Fairchild
 - Oct 27: Pastor Chip Fairchild

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.
- Inside Yard Sale proceeds will go towards the anniversary fund.
- No craft/vendor sale this fall.
- 500 copies of brochures were given to the Boy Scouts to insert in bags of food they distribute.
- Another 500 copies will be distributed by our team members to our community: restaurants, real estate offices, Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, hotels, rest stops, etc.
- God's Work, Our Hands Sunday" – our outreach ministry is Holy Joe's Café which provides coffee to our military. Donations are accepted through the month of September. The donation jar is located in the St. Stephens Room.
- Divine Providence: Sept 21st is our last meal this year. St. Paul's will be providing meals for the next 6 months.
- Sausage Supper: Oct 19th.

Continuation of the Church Council Meeting highlights...

Learning Ministry Team: Kim Deliman – Chairperson

- **Sunday school will begin Oct 13 and will be starting at 10:00.** Children will attend the church service at 10 am, the pastor will dismiss the children within 15 minutes of the church service; the children at that time will go to their classroom. We have 5 members who will be teaching on a rotating basis. Sign-up information will be in the October newsletter and in the church bulletins.
- Equipment request: TV with the ability to run DVDs and/or firesticks to help with the resources we have available. Sherry Grenzberg has offered a TV that can be installed in the classroom.

Property Team: Jim Cassarella – Chairperson

- **SAUSAGE SUPPER – OCTOBER 19th**
- Trees in the front lawn will be removed by the end of September.
- The door to the sacristy is ok, a deadbolt can be installed for more security.

LCW: Mary Ellen Sims – Chairperson No Report received.

Lay Eucharist: Melody Hinderer and Judy Mundie will continue visits in September.

Call Committee Team: Melody Hinderer, Chairperson – No update

- Members: Jim Cassarella, Jane Krouse, David Leitner, Judy Mundie, Sheila Maslo

Finance Team:

- Meeting to be scheduled in September to discuss the 2025 budget.

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.

- Packaged anniversary gifts for our members.
- As of Sept 12, we have 65 adults and 3 children attending the anniversary dinner.
- Next meeting Sept 18 @ 6:30 pm.

Old Business:

- Reports for all newsletters are due by the 15th of each month.
- If you see anything in our church that needs to be replaced or we need to purchase, we have the Memorial Fund that can be utilized for these purchases. Please let a council member know if you know of any needs.
- Prayer Shawl will begin their meetings on the first Wed in September.

New Business:

- A pavilion was discussed to help a boy scout earn his Eagle Scout award.

The next council meeting is October 10, 2024, @ 7 pm.

The meeting adjourned @ 7:55 pm; and closed the meeting by praying the Lord's Prayer.

Supply Pastor Schedule

October 6 - Rev. Michele Kaufman/
Rev. Melvin Mundie
October 13 - Rev. Melvin Mundie
October 20 - Rev. Chip Fairchild
October 27 - Rev. Chip Fairchild

Altar Flower Sponsors

In Memory of Loved Ones By Patty Phile
In Loving Memory of Evelyn Christman by Mary AnnRooney
In Loving Memory of Bill by Peggy Hawk
In Loving Memory of Edward Jacobus by Jan Jacobus

Bulletin Sponsor for the month of October: In Loving Memory of Jerry Klick by Dawn Klick

October 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!



3 - Mary Ann Rooney
4 - John Billig
7 - Jan Jacobus
23 - Matthew Buchman



3 - Darren Sims
24 - Stephanie Bennett
31 - Clara Rossi



30 - Jennifer and Dave Cipriani

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. A sponsor is needed for all the weeks in December.





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: December 8, 15, 22 & 29.

Valley Food Pantry

As we do every year, our churches, together with the Valley Food Pantry distribute special “Holiday” food boxes. This Thanksgiving, our church will sponsor **cans of cranberry sauce.** Donations must be in by November 17th. Besides the “Holiday” food boxes, the food pantry is in need of tomato products (sauce, paste, diced, stewed, crushed), tuna, soups, snacks (individually wrapped crackers, cookies, pop-tarts, etc.) **Please make sure the products are within the expiration date. No medications/vitamins etc. are accepted.** Your generosity is appreciated.





Monthly Coffee Hour

The October Coffee Hour will not be held due to the Anniversary dinner. The next Coffee Hour will be on November 3rd sponsored by Maureen Schramm and Jan Jacobus celebrating the November birthdays. If you are interested in sponsoring the month of December, please sign up in the St. Stephen's Room.

Sunday School

Calling all parents and children. We are trying something different this year. Sunday School is starting **October 13, 2024, at 10:00 am during worship service.** The children will begin in the church sanctuary with everyone else. This will allow the children to still have some exposure to the worship service before they begin their lessons. The Pastor will then dismiss them about 15 minutes later to go to their classroom. Sunday School helps to build a strong foundation of faith in the life of your child. The teachers are looking forward to greeting the kids and sharing the message of God's Grace and love.



Prayer Shawl



Prayer Shawl Ministry

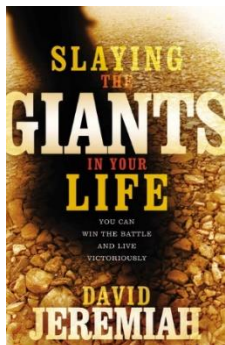
Do you knit or crochet? We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month for about 2 hours. If the winter weather is bad or for some reason we aren't meeting, we will call. If interested, call the church office at 570-788-2685.

Prayer Circle

Do you have a prayer request for yourself or someone else? Please contact Kim Deliman at 570-788-4459. Tell me if you would like the prayer request to be included in the bulletin and placed on the prayer circle list. Do you want 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.



Romans 8:26 - Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.



Adult Bible Study

Adult bible study is held on Sundays at 8:45 am.

Join us in studying: **Dr. David Jeremiah's message on "Slaying the Giants in Your Life"**. Fight fear, destroy discouragement, win against worry, and disarm your doubts.

Join us, and bring a friend.

Will Our LCW Go On?

St. John's has had organized women's groups historically since the early 1800's. Our current church women's group is our Lutheran Church Women known as LCW. Our LCW is also part of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or WELCA which is our national organization under the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or ELCA.

Through the years our LCW/WELCA has played an important role in the life of St. John's. Many hours of service have been given by our members as sisters in Christ. Our men of the church have also supported generously LCW projects and mission work. We are thankful to God for everyone involved in our projects both past and present.

In the past few years, we have seen a gradual increase in a major problem within our LCW organization... attendance at meetings. There are only six meetings per year, three in the spring and three in the fall. Lately, we are down to 3 or 5 attending a meeting. Not having enough members interested in helping with the planning of projects, makes all the responsibility for success fall on the shoulders of the very few. Lately, those few shoulders are getting "worn out".

If you can't stir up interest in keeping this important work of service to our church and to God going on since the 1800s, I fear LCW will have to go away. I, myself now being 80 years old and having served in a leadership role for the past 20 years, find it difficult to continue for various reasons. Because I love the Lord and St. John's, I will always serve Him through the church in some capacity until he calls me home. At the end of this year, however, I plan on resigning as President of LCW, thereby giving up the leadership role. I pray that someone will heed God's call, "pick up the baton", and carry LCW on.

In my memory, there was one time when no one took that leadership role. Betty Kushner, who was already our Treasurer, held LCW together by continuing support of our mission projects with shoofly pie funds. At that time there were no LCW meetings or other officers willing to step up until me, 20 years ago. We had a start-up meeting with about 25 women of the church who showed an interest in starting up again. I prayed and felt called to volunteer and was elected president at that time. No one else wanted to accept a leadership role as president and so I stayed in that role for the next 20 years. I have truly enjoyed serving the Lord with my fellow sisters in Christ all these years. I thank God for the opportunity to humbly serve Him through LCW as president and I will continue in other ways in the future.

Now, I pray that someone else feels called by God to lead our LCW in this important work for our church and for our Lord. Please don't let LCW go away. Someone, please step up so this important work of humble service can go on. I could name so many ways our LCW/WELCA serves St. John's, but it would take a newsletter article longer than this one to list them all. Thank you to everyone who served with me! Happy 225th Anniversary, St. John's!

Mary Ellen Sims, President

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

PUMPKIN PAINTING

October 9, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Open to All Ages

Everyone is invited to pick up a paintbrush and join the fun.

Pumpkins will be provided, along with light refreshments.

All you need is your imagination!

Please call 570-788-2685 to reserve your spot





Leilani Chesonis Concert



The concert was enjoyed by all with a wonderful turnout! Thank you for attending!



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

SAUSAGE SUPPER
DRIVE-THRU "TAKE OUT" ONLY!
Saturday, October 19, 2024

Pick-up times: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Dinner - \$13.00

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



For tickets:

570-582-7193 Jim

570-436-2168 Donna

570-788-3938 Betty & Don

570-788-2685 Church Office



Thank you to Janet Brady and the Prayer Shawl Ministry for the beautiful shawl and square. I appreciate your concerns, prayers, and well wishes. Thank you everyone!

Barbara Mundie



United Charities, Inc.
UNITED CHILDREN'S HOME

107 West Madison Ave. West Hazleton, PA 18201
Phone: (570)455-1529 Fax: (570)455-0772

September 3, 2024

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
778 St. Johns Road
St. Johns PA 18247

Dear Reverend and Parishioners:

Thank you so much for your generous donation of 2 5-pound bags of rice to United Charities, Inc. Your generosity is so deeply appreciated and truly demonstrates your commitment to the community and the agency.

Your kindness is greatly appreciated. Thanks again for thinking of us!

Sincerely,

Jill Zapotocky, BS
Executive Director

JZ/jc

Journeys through Grief



A five-week seminar for those who are grieving.

Fall, 2024

Grace Lutheran Church

28 W. Main Street in Macungie, PA

Tuesday nights
4:30pm - 6:00pm

October 1st through the 29th

There is no fee thanks to the generosity of our sponsors,

- *Bachman, Kulik & Reinsmith Funeral Homes*
- *Shantz Funeral Home*

Private Facebook Group

Journeys Through Grief

Your Invitation
To Join

Managed by Sylvia

If you want to be part of an on-line, caring community, join our private Facebook page called Journeys Through Grief. Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/journeysthroughgrief>



Registration required

To register or for more information, please contact Sylvia Havlish by calling 610-395-5045.

Sylvia Havlish, M.Ed., will serve as Facilitator.

www.lutherancongregationalservices.org





How can we say 'Thank You': Wanishita

Native American elders Fritz and Pat Bower led much of the Corn Harvest Festival services this Grandparents' Day weekend at Zion Spies Lutheran Church. But this started months ago, on Earth Day Fritz and Pat Bower met me with the service they had originally crafted for their congregation (initially at Reformation, Reiffton. They are now members of St. Mark's, Birdsboro and have held this service there).

Picture this 4-year-old who sits in the front every week and eagerly reached for the bells... across the aisle, from a woman in her 70's who had never been in the building before. Both danced to the hymn. The Bowers in their full regalia of Lenape and Cherokee traditional dress met the 67-year-old man with Down syndrome exuding his ever-present reverent spirit as he and his cousin, carried to the altar, the abalone shell full of copal incense which bore the sins and burdens of the congregation; to be burnt while confession and forgiveness were proclaimed... "let our prayers rise before you as incense..." (Psalm 141:2).



How can we say 'Thank you' to God for this abundant harvest of produce and community?
"Wanishi Kishelëmienk, we thank you, Creator".

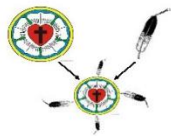
(In the Unami language of the Lenape)

Our congregation had practiced in choir, and worship to get accustomed to a service led in English but with phrasing familiar to Native Americans and, using the First Nations Version of Scripture. Worship included families from Scouts and Day Camp. The stew for the Harvest Festival Feast was made in part from 3-sisters-crops (corn, beans, squash) that Day Camp grew.



The rest of the pot-luck was as diverse as the body of Christ: pickled-beet eggs, wild rice, , and ... pop-corn! “You can’t have a Corn Harvest Festival without corn”. Kids made colorful corn cobs from fuzzy-sticks while learning about the varieties of native species. We partnered with Widoktadwen; committed “to promoting the visibility of Native Americans ...through community education, leadership, and activism.” Rev. Bruce Osterhout found Widoktadwen last fall, as we met with the Council to introduce a concept called 6261, as a possible way to re-invigorate our under-used buildings & acres of forest, while serving our

community in need of healing from flooding which closed a school, pandemic and rural/urban strains. Now, a year later we share church building space and programming as we work together to build Community (the literal meaning of Widoktadwen in Bodewadmimwen, the Potawatomi language) and the Way of Jesus. How can we possibly say enough thank you’s & “Wanishita” to God for these abundant gifts? We will keep planting, tending, and caring for God’s growth.



Graphic & translations courtesy of Fritz & Pat Bower

Na yukwe ně guski kèski luwen. (This now is all I have to say.)

Kishelēmukonk kēmīlēl wēlānkuntēwakān, (The Creator bless you and give you peace,)

XahēliKshikāna (Fritz Bower)

Submitted by: Fritz & Pat Bower, Amanda Funk, and Rev. Rebecca Knox

CONGREGATION FINANCE WORKSHOP



November 9

9:00am to 12:00pm

Hybrid Workshop: Lutheran Center (2354 Grove Rd, Allentown) & Zoom

The NEPA Synod Finance Committee is organizing a complimentary workshop for congregation finance leaders. Registration details will be available soon through the synod’s weekly e-news and website. The workshop will also be recorded and made accessible afterward.



- 2 - Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 9:30 am
- 4 - 225th Anniversary Choir Rehearsal @ 1 pm
- 6 - Church @ 10 am; 225th Anniversary Dinner @ 12 pm
- 7 - Worship and Music Meeting @ 10:30 am; Scouts @ 6 pm
- 8 – LCW Meeting @ 1 pm
- 9 - Pumpkin Painting @ 6 pm
- 10 - Church Council Meeting @ 7 pm
- 13 - Adult Bible Study @ 8:45 am; Church & Sunday School @ 10 am
- 14 - Columbus Day; Scouts @ 6 pm
- 15 - November Newsletter deadline
- 16 - Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 9:30 am
- 19 - Sausage Supper - Take Out Only - Pick up 1 to 5 pm
- 20 - Adult Bible Study @ 8:45 am; Church & Sunday School @ 10 am
- 21 - Scouts @ 6 pm; Cemetery Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- 24 - S.E.R.V.E. Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- 27 - Reformation Sunday, Adult Bible Study @ 8:45 am; Church & Sunday School @ 10 am
- 28 - Scouts @ 6 pm

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

October 5 - St. John Bosco – Blessing of Pets at 12 pm on the church grounds.

October 6 - Historic Brainerd Church - Annual Fall Festival from 10 am to 4 pm. Blessing of Pets 2 pm to 4 pm, crafters, food, music.

October 19 - Christ Lutheran Church Conyngham - Apple Fest from 8 am to 3 pm. Indoor/outdoor flea market, tricky trays, quilt/lottery tree raffles, apple pies, dumplings, bread pudding, and more.

October 26 - St. John's UCC – Basket and Gift Raffle – Doors open at 12 pm and drawing at 2 pm. All new items, gift baskets, tricky trays and lottery boards, crafts, and food will be available.

November 1 – World Community Day – Church Women United held at Black Creek UMC – 1 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.