

# *A Prayer for Thanksgiving*

*Loving God,*

*We turn our hearts to you on this day*

*for giving thanks, mindful of your many gifts.*

*For each one, we are grateful.*

*For each one, we are blessed.*

*For each one we are opened to the*

*Abundance of your love.*

*May this Thanksgiving Day offer*

*a reminder to be generous with others,*

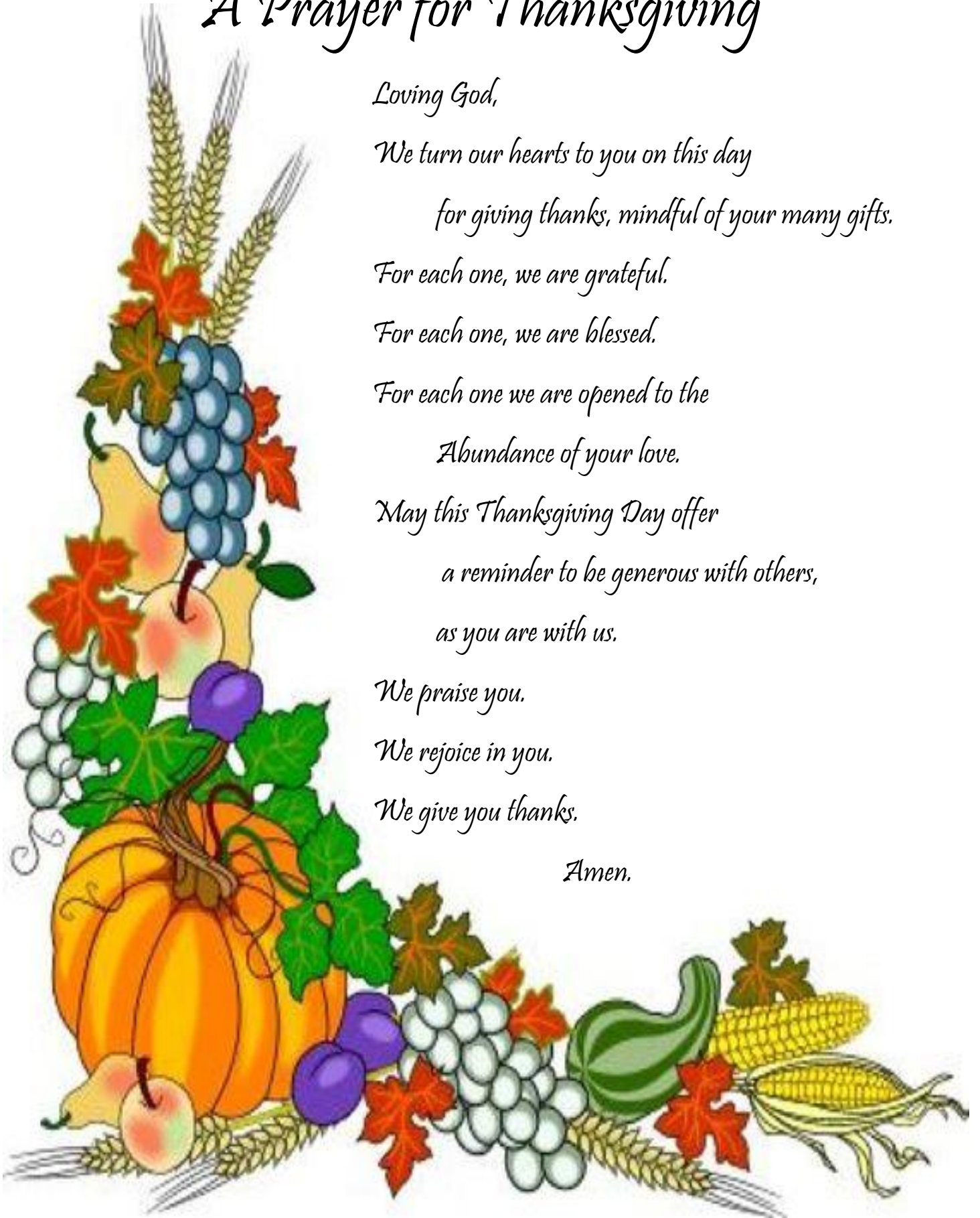
*as you are with us.*

*We praise you.*

*We rejoice in you.*

*We give you thanks.*

*Amen.*



# November 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

Adult Bible Study @ 8:45 am

Youth Sunday School will resume on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 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: TBA, Chairperson**

**Property Team: Jim Cassarella, Chairperson**

**S.E.R.V.E. Ministry: Donna Cassarella, Melody Hinderer, Co-Chairpersons**

**Worship and Music Ministry Team: TBA, Chairperson**

**We offer many opportunities for ministry. If interested, please contact the church office, a council member, or the chairperson(s) listed above.**

## **From Pastor Michele Kaufman:**

“Let us not love in word, but in deed and but truth.”

1 John 3:18

Good intentions. Some unknown author put it this way:

He was going to be all that a mortal should be

Tomorrow

No one would be better than he

Tomorrow

Each morning he stacked up the letters he'd write

Tomorrow

It was too bad indeed he was too busy to see Bill,

but he promised to do it

Tomorrow

The greatest of workers this man would have been Tomorrow

The world would have known him had he ever seen Tomorrow

But the fact is he died and faded from view,

and all that was left when living was through

Was a mountain of things he intended to do Tomorrow.

Good intentions. Isn't it interesting how easy it is to put off doing the things we ought to do? Some of us even put off things we want to do.

If you knew that you only had a very short time to live, what changes would you make in your life? Are there promises you have made that you have not kept? Are there good intentions that you have not carried out? The sad truth of life is that we don't have much time. If you and I are going to be all that God has called us to be, we need to begin now. If we are going to do the things God has called us to do, we will need to do them now. How do we enter the kingdom of God then? By a genuine change of mind, which means doing God's will, not just thinking a few pious thoughts about doing it. The wife of Henry IV, King of France, in the 1600s, had numerous intense enemies including the Roman Catholic cardinal and her son who became king. On her deathbed, however, she promised to forgive all her enemies, including the cardinal. The priest hearing her confession asked her, "Madame, as a sign of reconciliation, will you send him the bracelet you are wearing on your arm?" "No," she stated flatly, "that would be too much." How close to the kingdom! How close, but no closer, when good intentions do not give way to action. In the end, good intentions are no substitute for doing the will of God. Words of good intention are empty if they don't lead to action. Don't put off tomorrow what you can do today



## **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 October 10, 2024

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

**Treasurer's Report:** August 2024 and September 2024 reports approved.

- Monies were transferred from Mundie Fund to General Fund to pay the bills.
- Finance Team will meet in November to prepare the 2025 budget.
- Jennifer Cipriani will be attending a Finance Workshop on Saturday, Nov 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Cemetery Treasurer's Report:**

- Special meeting was called by Frank Costello on Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Finances are low, Cemetery Board agreed to cash in a CD to pay bills.
- Only 16 burials this year compared to 32 burials in 2023.
- Most people are opting for cremations instead of burials.
- There are concerns about safety issues
- Considering making a list of services to be paid by families such as cleaning the tombstones, taking care of flowers, etc.
- Researching companies to cut grass and do the weeding which will cut down the costs of salaries.
- No more geraniums, option given were marigolds or thyme recommended.
- Next Meeting October 21, 2024 @ 6:30 pm

**Council Minutes:** Church Council Minutes of September 12, 2024 approved.

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

- September 25.75 hours, 283 miles
- Gideons would like to visit us on June 1, 2025.
- P. Michele has started monthly services again at Fritzingertown.
- P. Michele will attend the Anniversary Celebration Luncheon and Ceremony for Rostered Ministers at Muhlenberg to honor anniversaries of ordinations. P. Scholtes, P. Fairchild, and P. von Frisch were honored for their 50 years of ordination.

**Worship Team: Chairperson needed.**

- Head Usher responsibilities for October: Melody Hinderer, November: Sherry Grenzberg, Donna Cassarella for Nov 24<sup>th</sup>.
- 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
- Supply Pastor Schedule for November:
  - Nov 3: Pastor Chip Fairchild
  - Nov 10: Pastor Melvin Mundie
  - Nov 17: Pastor Melvin Mundie
  - Nov 24: Pastor Chip Fairchild
- Melody Hinderer will meet with the choir to discuss their role in the next several months.
- Hanging of the Greens: Dec 15<sup>th</sup>; P. Chip Fairchild will supply on Christmas Eve
- We will be hosting a Blue Christmas service on either Sat. Dec 15<sup>th</sup> or Sat. Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 3 or 4 pm. More info will follow. P. Michele Kaufman will preside.

Continuation of the Church Council Meeting highlights...

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

- No meetings will be held for the rest of the year.
- Members attending the last meeting came up with a list of possible projects for 2025.

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

- **Sunday school will begin Oct 13 and will be starting at 10:00.**
- Two children will be attending.
- Issue with the heating of the room will be addressed.

**Property Team: Jim Cassarella – Chairperson**

- Sausage Supper October 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Trees in front lawn were removed; trees will not be replaced.
- Discussed opening of the time capsule.

**LCW: Mary Ellen Sims – Chairperson**

- Meeting held Tuesday, Oct 8<sup>th</sup>
- Mary Ellen Sims will be retiring as of Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.
- Voted to give \$ 200.00 to LWR for the hurricane recovery.
- Cranberry Sauce donations for the Thanksgiving basket for the Valley Food Pantry families will be appreciated.
- Christmas Party – Dec 8<sup>th</sup> – Tom’s Kitchen (same menu as last year)- \$ 15.00/person, children under 12 years of age \$ 7.50, children under 5 years of age will be free. LCW will pay the tax and gratuity.
- Advent Giving: Dec 1<sup>st</sup> – White Gifts, Dec 8<sup>th</sup> – Salvation Army, Dec 15<sup>th</sup> – Head Start, Dec 22 – Valor. Christmas tributes – flowers – ELCA Disaster Response.
- Tree decorating Friday Dec 13<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm; children are welcome to help. We will reach out to the Leitner’s to help with decorating.
- Next meeting Tuesday, Nov 5<sup>th</sup> @ 1 pm

**Lay Eucharist:** Melody Hinderer and Judy Mundie made visits in September. We had very good visits, everyone is doing well. On our next visit, we will deliver each of them an Anniversary gift bag.

**Call Committee Team: Melody Hinderer, Chairperson – No update**

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

**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: Donna Cassarella, Jim Cassarella, Jane Krouse, Judy Mundie, Patty Phile, Sally Russo, Mary Ellen Sims, Kim Washko, Joe Washko, Betty Wenner, Don Wenner

- We had about 74 members and guests that attended the Anniversary luncheon.
- Team agreed to honor P. Joe Scholtes, P. Chip Fairchild, P. Michele Kaufman, and P. Mel Mundie by giving a donation to the ELCA Hunger Appeal.
- The time capsule which was buried in June 2000 which has documents, pictures, etc. from the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be opened on Nov 9<sup>th</sup> at Noon. Everyone is invited to attend.
- On Sunday Dec 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 we are planning an “old fashioned” service, more info to follow.
- Monies left over from the Anniversary Fund will be held in the Mundie Fund for future projects.

**Old Business:**

- Reports for all newsletters are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.



Continuation of the Church Council Meeting highlights...

**New Business:**

- Received an invitation from the Willow Foundation Heartwood Center to participate in their 9 Days of Giving campaign from Nov 18<sup>th</sup> to Nov 26<sup>th</sup> which is the National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. They are asking us to sponsor one of those days by having a collection drive or helping in the center. The Foundation in turn will recognize our church through the media, and other means of outreach. More info to follow once we reach out to see what their needs are.
- Melody Hinderer attended a two-hour Zoom meeting with the council presidents of the Hazleton Lehighon Mission District.
  - a. Discussed updating our constitution.
  - b. Discussed audit procedures for the treasurers of the churches.
  - c. Next meeting, Oct 29<sup>th</sup> @ 2 pm at Trinity Lutheran, West Hazleton.

The next council meeting is November 14th, 2024 @ 7 pm.

The meeting adjourned @ 8:35 pm, and closed meeting by praying the Lord’s prayer.

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**Supply Pastor Schedule**

November 3 - Rev. Chip Fairchild  
 November 10 – Rev. Melvin Mundie  
 November 17 - Rev. Melvin Mundie  
 November 24 - Rev. Chip Fairchild

**Altar Flower Sponsors**

In Loving Memory of Donnie Wenner III  
 In Loving Memory of Rocky Russo by Sally Russo  
 In Memory of Sister Janet Stump by Judy Mundie and Bea  
 In Loving Memory of Mary Wrazen by Kim and Joe Washko

**Bulletin Sponsor for the weeks in November:** By an anonymous sponsor

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**November 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!



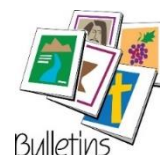
November 8 – Savannah Heckman  
 November 9 – David Cunfer  
 November 15 – Jared Crawford  
 November 19 – Melody Hinderer  
 November 21 – Luke Thomas  
 November 23 – Dawn Wagner  
 November 23 – Steven Janso

November 7 – Gene Steinman  
 November 7 – Lucas Leitner  
 November 8 – Lorraine Schell  
 November 10 – Mary Ellen Sims  
 November 10 - Korri Cipriani  
 November 18 – Janet Brady  
 November 26 - Jacob Bennett



## 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. **The 2025 Sponsor sheet is now 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: **December 8, 15, and 22.**  
**The 2025 Altar Flower chart is now available.**

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## Monthly Coffee Hour

The next Coffee Hour will be on November 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**The 2025 Sponsor sheet is now available.**

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## 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 17<sup>th</sup>**. 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.



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## Sunday School

Calling all parents and children. Sunday School starts **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.



*Sunday School class listening to Pastor Mundie's Children's Sermon.*



## 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.

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## 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.

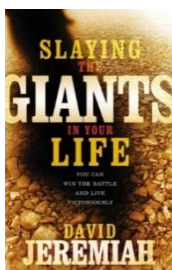


**Romans 8:26** - Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

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## 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.

Each weekly topic is listed below:

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Nov. 3 – Slaying the Giant of Anger   | Nov. 10 – Slaying the Giant of Resentment      |
| Nov. 17 – Slaying the Giant of Doubt  | Nov. 24 – Slaying the Giant of Procrastination |
| Dec. 1 – Slaying the Giant of Failure | Dec. 8 – Slaying the Giant of Jealousy         |

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## You are Invited to the Opening of Our Time Capsule

On Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 Noon, we will open the time capsule which was buried in June 2000.

The time capsule contains documents, pictures, and many other items that were saved and put in the time capsule to be opened for our 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Please join us, we hope to celebrate with a light lunch after the time capsule is opened.



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## Thrivent



Are you aware that a \$20 investment would allow you access to a Thrivent associate membership and a \$250 Action team card? If you are interested, please contact Pr. Kaufman about an application form. It's quick and easy and imagine the projects we could underwrite and the difference we can make!



# Celebrating our 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

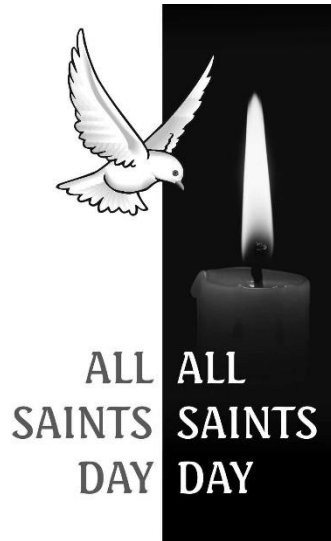


**Gift of Flowers from  
Christ Lutheran Conyngham**



### **I Am With You Always**

As you hold me close in memory  
even though we are apart,  
my spirit will live on there,  
deep within your heart...  
I am with you always.



When you lean on trusted friends  
and their caring hugs enfold you,  
within their loving arms,  
I'll be there to hold you...  
I am with you always.

And beyond the far horizon  
when we'll finally be together,  
where love will be eternal,  
and life will last forever...  
I am with you always.

Joshua 1:9  
"Do not fear nor be dismayed,  
for the Lord, your God,  
is with you wherever you go.

### **November 3rd - All Saints' Sunday**

All Saints' Sunday is a day to celebrate baptism – incorporating new members into the mystical body of Christ. Today we celebrate the baptisms of:

**Monroe Lucille Mumie**

**Carter Jaxon Hinderer**

All Saints' Day celebration has a long history in the worship life of the Christian Church. It began as a commemoration of the martyrs who had died for the faith, and it has since become a day when we honor and remember those who, in death, have joined the Church Triumphant, as well as the faithful saints of the present who serve Jesus Christ. We remember with gratitude those members of St. John's who died in the past year, and others who received pastoral care through this congregation as they finished their earthly journey:

**Walter Bloss, Sr.**

**Priscilla A. Mundie**

**Wilbur Warren Wenner, Sr.**

**Sister Janet A. Stump**

*\*Following worship, the families of those remembered may take the candle lit in memory of their loved one, and the families of those baptized may take home a white flower from the vase.*



## Advent Season Begins December 1st

Below is the list of our Advent Giving. Monetary donations are accepted. Make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church. In the memo section, state which organization you are giving a donation to.

**Do not wrap** the donations.

**December 1<sup>ST</sup>: St. Luke's Manor White Gifts:** Socks, tissues, perfume, cologne, and lotion, for men and women

**December 8<sup>th</sup>: Salvation Army:** (NEW) Gloves, hats, and scarves for men, women, and children

**December 15<sup>th</sup>: Head Start:** Books, games, toys, socks, sweatshirts, and sweatpants suitable for children ages 3 & 4.

**December 22<sup>ND</sup>: VALOR Clinic Foundation:** Monetary donations (make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church) VALOR'S Mission is to provide Veterans with assistance accessing benefits, securing shelter, and providing long-lasting Post Traumatic Stress resources Unstoppable Program. Located in Kunkletown, PA known as "Paul's House" at the Old Jonas Hotel. Visit the website [valorclinic.org](http://valorclinic.org) for more information.

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## Congregation Christmas Dinner – December 8th



All members are invited to the Congregation Christmas Dinner held on December 8th at 12 pm held at Tom's Kitchen. Members **MUST** prepay by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Your reservation will not be made without prepayment. The cost is \$15.00 per adult and \$7.50 per child. Children under 5 are free. **If you plan to attend, please contact Mary Ellen Sims after the church services on Sunday or call 570-788-2866.**

Please join us for this time of fellowship as we celebrate the  
"Reason for the Season"

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## Pumpkin Painting



A fun time was had by all decorating their pumpkins and sharing some treats!

**Sign up for upcoming "Kids' Nights" on November 13<sup>th</sup> and December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.**

**Call the church office to register!**



In December 1992 in Harrington, Maine, when wreath maker Morrill Worcester found himself with a surplus of 5,000 wreaths during the holiday season. Worcester saw the surplus as an opportunity to pay tribute to our country's veterans and with the help of Maine Senator Olympia Snowe, arranged for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington National Cemetery. This annual tribute to our country's veterans has continued ever since, touching the lives of millions of veterans' families and volunteers and growing in scope through the years.

In 2007, the Worcester family along with veterans and volunteers formed the non-profit organization Wreaths Across America to continue and expand their efforts at Arlington National Cemetery and to support those around the country who wished to do the same. Wreaths Across America's yearlong mission is simple: **Remember** the fallen, **Honor** those who serve, and **Teach** the next generation about the value of freedom. Morrill's wife, Karen, has served as the organization's volunteer Executive Director since the non-profit was created and today oversees what has become a massive volunteer organization that continues to grow. In 2023 alone, Wreaths Across America and its national network of volunteers placed 3 million veterans' wreaths at 4,224 locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea, and abroad.

This year, National Wreaths Across America Day will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2024. Locally, a ceremony will begin at 12:00 PM followed by the placement of wreaths at St. John's Lutheran and Reformed Cemetery located at 772 St. John's Road, St. Johns, PA where 400 local veterans are laid to rest. This event is open to anyone who would like to attend.

In 2023, there were approximately 281 wreaths placed, leaving 119 veterans without a remembrance wreath. This year our goal is to place 400 wreaths. With your generosity, we are hoping to meet this goal and ensure no veteran is forgotten. Each handmade, fresh, live wreath costs \$17 to sponsor and is made in the United States with Maine balsam.

On behalf of the volunteers and military families looking to honor all the veterans laid to rest at St. John's Lutheran and Reformed Cemetery and the Wreaths Across America extended family, I thank you for your consideration of this patriotic cause. I'll be in touch to determine your interest in supporting the mission to Remember, Honor, and Teach.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Cipriani  
WAA Volunteer/St. John's Lutheran and Reformed Cemetery  
cipbrady@ptd.net  
570-578-6952

<https://wreathscrossamerica.org/PA0596P>

REMEMBER

HONOR

TEACH



# WREATHS *across* AMERICA

## Wreath Sponsorship Order Form

Sponsored wreaths are placed on grave markers at state and national veterans' cemeteries, as well as at local and community cemeteries each December for National Wreaths Across America Day.

**Your donation will ensure the placement of a veteran's wreath for one or more veterans laid to rest at the participating location of your choice.**

*All sponsored veteran wreaths are shipped directly to the location selected by the sponsor on this form. Wreaths are not shipped to individual wreath sponsors.*

Please make checks payable to:  
**Wreaths Across America**  
 PO Box 249  
 Columbia Falls, ME 04623

Call 877-385-9504 with any questions.  
*Thank you for your sponsorship and for joining us in our mission to Remember, Honor, and Teach!*

SPONSORSHIP TYPE	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Individual = 1 Wreath	\$17.00		
Family = 4 Wreaths	\$68.00		
Small Business = 10 Wreaths	\$170.00		
Corporate = 100 Wreaths	\$1,700.00		

For quicker processing and the convenience of paying with a credit card, debit card, Google Pay, or PayPal, veteran wreaths may be sponsored online by scanning the QR Code above or by visiting: <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/PA0596P>

*You should be the only one to enter your credit card information at checkout on the Wreaths Across America website. For your security, do not share this information with anyone else who offers to place an order for you. To verify the validity of the QR Code, always check that wreathscrossamerica.org is part of the web address when sponsoring wreaths online.*

If you prefer to pay with a check, please complete this form and mail it along with your check to Wreaths Across America at the address listed in the box above.

CHECK #	CHECK DATE	SPONSOR NAME FOR DISPLAY <i>If different than name on check.</i>
GROUP ID(s)		EMAIL ADDRESS
LOCATION ID(s)		PHONE #
DOLLAR AMOUNTS(s)		MAILING ADDRESS

*To split your donation between multiple groups and/or locations, please list the IDs and dollar amounts for each.*

### SPECIAL REQUESTS

*Please note in memory/honor of requests do not place a wreath on a specific loved one's grave.*

<b>IN MEMORY OF REQUEST</b>	The "In Memory Of" Name will be listed on the Wreaths Across America online Remember Wall, along with your personal message.
<b>NAME FOR MEMORY WALL POST</b>	
<b>SPONSOR EMAIL ADDRESS</b>	
<b>MESSAGE (optional)</b>	

<b>IN HONOR OF REQUEST</b>	An email will be sent to your chosen recipient from Wreaths Across America letting them know of your donation of sponsored veteran wreaths in their honor.
<b>RECIPIENT NAME</b>	
<b>RECIPIENT EMAIL ADDRESS</b>	
<b>MESSAGE (optional)</b>	

**Thank you for supporting our mission to REMEMBER, HONOR, and TEACH!**





You are our Creator and Sustainer. You are our Light and our Fortress. You are our Wisdom and our Strength. Lord, you moved upon men to establish this great nation. You stirred men to hope and to dream for a land of freedom. We praise you for this great nation. Lord, you have inspired many of our best and brightest to volunteer to proudly stand and defend our beloved country. You have given us brave and loyal men and women who have steadfastly served in their chosen branch of our military. We gather today to remember our military personnel. We acknowledge that their service enables us to walk as free men and women in this great land. Lord, today we seek to honor your sons and daughters who have served or who are serving our country.

We are reminded that because of their service, we can live in safety. We ask that you abundantly bless those who have previously served. May their service time be rewarded in every way. May they gain earthly and heavenly blessings from their unselfish love of country. Lord, we stop now and remember those who are currently serving. We ask that you provide them with your protection, your strength, and your peace. We ask that you would abundantly provide for all their needs. We ask that you would enable them to overcome every personal and professional obstacle. We ask that you would protect their families from hurt and harm.

May each of our veterans feel honored not just today, but every day. Father, we also give special recognition to our wounded warriors. We realize that many of our heroes are dealing with physical and emotional wounds that occurred as a result of their time of service to our country. We ask that they would be given the best treatments available and that you would add your supernatural blessings to all the efforts given to them in help them. We ask that you, Lord, would show them miracles as they seek to gain health, stability, and wholeness. We pray these things in Jesus' name, Amen. (Beth McLendon)

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Hello everyone!

I was hoping to share with all of you on the 27th the various opportunities that are available to members of the synod through our companion synod program. I realize the Synod E-news does not reach a large portion of our membership, so I want to ask for your help. I am excited to announce that we have two opportunities next year- an exchange group to Germany (tentatively April 22 -May 1) and for the first time, an opportunity for us to visit Argentina (June 12-22). Both trips are intergenerational. There are sightseeing opportunities as well as opportunities for conversation and discussions and a chance to see various ministries in both locations. It is a very personalized way to travel as we are not simply tourists, but we have that opportunity to meet and mingle with people of faith. Please let folks in the congregations know these opportunities are available and I would be happy to share more details with those who are interested.

Thanks again for spreading the word!

Pr. Michele Kaufman  
Companion Synod Coordinator for NEPS  
570-881-2371 kaufman19@verizon.net





# NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## LWR Ingathering: Can you believe we filled the Truck!



On Saturday, September 21, the NEPA Synod hosted our first local Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Ingathering to collect Mission Quilts and Kits destined for the Baltimore warehouse. Congregations collect donations and assemble various LWR kits – Personal Care, School, Baby Care or Fabric kits – for their “God’s Work. Our Hands.” service projects. Quilts are typically made all year long with a celebration Blessing of the Quilts and Kits through the fall season. Our LWR Ingathering was scheduled to coincide with these activities, to collect donations and coordinate transportation to the Baltimore warehouse. As a new venture, we were very curious to see the turnout from local churches.

As is typical with our Synod, the response was AMAZING! During our 3 hour collection period, cars, trucks and vans kept coming filled with as many boxes as could be carried! Most congregations brought Personal Care Kits totaling 570 kits from Trinity Lutheran in Robesonia, St. John’s Lutheran in Stroudsburg, Trinity Lutheran in Tipton, Trinity Lutheran in Perkaspie, Zion Lutheran in Womelsdorf, Emmanuel’s Lutheran in Emmanuelville and St. John’s Lutheran in Allentown. The largest quantity donated were School Kits totaling 595 kits from Zion Lutheran in Womelsdorf, Good Shepherd Lutheran in Northampton and St. Stephen’s Lutheran in Bethlehem. Fifty-four (54) Mission Quilts were collected from St. John’s Lutheran in Slatington, St. Paul’s Lutheran in Douglassville and St. John’s Lutheran in Allentown. Fourteen (14) Baby Care kits were collected from St. John’s Lutheran in Allentown.

On October 12, through the generous donation of Kristi Parcel-Smith of Remax in Allentown, we drove her company’s truck to







Christ Lutheran Church in Reading to collect donations from three additional churches. We added more boxes containing 207 Mission Quilts from Reformation Lutheran in Reading and Robeson Lutheran in Plowville. We also added 110 Personal Care Kits from Nativity Lutheran in Reading and St. Paul's in Reading. We continued our journey on to Bergstrasse Lutheran Church in Ephrata where volunteers loaded our boxes onto a tractor-trailer headed to Baltimore on Monday, October 14. What an amazing outpouring of love for our neighbors in need!

Typically, LWR Quilts and Kits are sent around the world. Following Hurricane Helene, LWR Quilts and Personal Care Kits are being distributed throughout the devastated areas in the Carolinas and Georgia. Donations at our Ingathering represent only a portion of the total contributions to LWR from our Synod, as some congregations ship their donations directly to the Baltimore warehouse or attend a closer Ingathering. Several of our churches bring their donations to an Ingathering in Auburn, PA, and three churches delivered their donations directly to Bergstrasse Church.

*Submitted by: Eileen Lane, St John Lutheran, Allentown*

MISSION DISTRICT  
**TOWN HALL  
CHEW & CHAT**

Each of the 9 mission districts of the Northeastern PA Synod will host open conversations with Bishop Christopher deForest, VP Nancy Reichelt, and DEM Deacon Kat Tigerman. These Town Hall events will be held on different evenings at various locations. All congregation members and rostered ministers within the respective mission districts are invited to attend.

To find out when your mission district town hall meeting is, visit [godslove.org/events](https://godslove.org/events)



- 1 - World Community Day - Church Women United - Service at Black Creek UMC @ 1 pm
- 3 - All Saints Sunday; Adult Bible Study @ 8:45 am; Church & Sunday School @ 10 am; Daylight Savings Time Ends; Coffee Hour
- 4 - Scouts @ 6 pm
- 5 - LCW Meeting @ 1 pm
- 6 - Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 9:30 am
- 9 - Opening of time capsule @ 12 pm
- 10 - Adult Bible Study @ 8:45 am; Church & Sunday School @ 10 am
- 11 - Veterans Day; Scouts @ 6 pm
- 13 - Kids' Night @ 6 pm
- 14 - Church Council Meeting @ 7 pm
- 15 - December Newsletter deadline
- 17 - Adult Bible Study @ 8:45 am; Church & Sunday School @ 10 am; Deadline for Food Pantry Thanksgiving baskets
- 18 - Scouts @ 6 pm
- 20 - Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 9:30 am
- 24 - Christ the King Sunday; Adult Bible Study @ 8:45 am; Church & Sunday School @ 10 am
- 25 - Scouts @ 6 pm
- 28 - Thanksgiving Day
- 29 - Church Office Closed

## Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

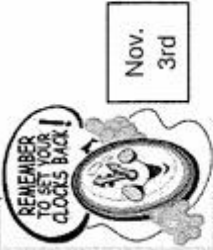

- November 1** – World Community Day – Church Women United held at Black Creek UMC - 1 pm
- November 2** – Holiday Bazaar – Conyngham United Methodist Church - 9 am to 3 pm
- November 27** – Thanksgiving Service - Hosted by Valley Interfaith Council at Conyngham United Methodist Church. All are welcome to attend at 7 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.

# NOVEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Women's United World Community Day Black Creek UMC @ 1 pm	
3 Adult Bible Study @ 8:45 All Saints Sunday Church & SS @ 10 am Dedication of SS Room Coffee Hour	4 Scouts @ 6 pm	5 LCW Meeting @ 1 pm	6 Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 9:30 am	7	8	9 Opening of Time Capsule 12 pm
10 Adult Bible Study @ 8:45 am Church & SS @ 10 am	11 <u>Veterans Day</u> Scouts @ 6 pm	12	13 Kids' Night @ 6pm	14 Church Council Meeting @ 7 pm	15 December Newsletter Deadline	16
17 Adult Bible Study @ 8:45 am Church & SS @ 10 am	18 Scouts @ 6 pm	19	20 Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 9:30 am	21	22	23
24 Adult Bible Study @ 8:45 am Christ the King Sunday Church & SS @ 10 am	25 Scouts @ 6 pm	26	27	28 Thanksgiving Day	29 Church office closed	30