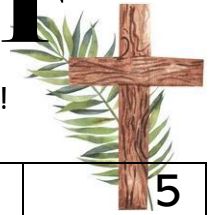


# 40 DAYS OF LENT

Start on Ash Wednesday and enjoy 40 days of ideas during Lent!



		<b>1</b> Help a friend or family member	<b>2</b> Hold the door for someone	<b>3</b> Smile at a stranger	<b>4</b> Ask a question about lent	<b>5</b> Pray for kindness
<b>6</b> Give someone a compliment	<b>7</b> Gather toys or clothes for donation	<b>8</b> Make a list of things you are grateful for	<b>9</b> Make a treat to share	<b>10</b> Limit your TV time	<b>11</b> Read a bible verse	<b>12</b> Pray for someone special
<b>13</b> Tidy up your home	<b>14</b> Say something kind to someone	<b>15</b> Read a New Testament bible verse	<b>16</b> Tell someone why you appreciate them	<b>17</b> Make no complaints today	<b>18</b> Tell someone about Jesus	<b>19</b> Pray for those who need help
<b>20</b> Forgive someone	<b>21</b> Take a walk and reflect on a bible verse	<b>22</b> Say thank you to someone special	<b>23</b> Give up your special drink today	<b>24</b> Read an Old Testament bible verse	<b>25</b> Be a patient listener today	<b>26</b> Pray for the homeless
<b>27</b> Listen to a hymn or Christian music	<b>28</b> Look around at all the things God created	<b>29</b> Call someone you haven't spoken to in a while	<b>30</b> Read a verse from Psalms	<b>31</b> Limit your time on social media today	<b>32</b> Ask someone how they are today	<b>33</b> Pray for someone sick
<b>34</b> Offer your help to someone in need	<b>35</b> Give up candy for a day	<b>36</b> Give someone special a hug	<b>37</b> Read a bible verse	<b>38</b> Tell a family member you love them	<b>39</b> Sing a joyful song	<b>40</b> Pray with family today



# March 2025 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 is 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.

### **2025 Church Council Officers/Members**

**Don Wenner, Jr. - President**

**Melody Hinderer - Vice President**

**Jane Krouse - Secretary**

**Jan Jacobus - Assistant Secretary**

**Jennifer Cipriani - Treasurer**

**Sherry Grenzberg - Assistant Treasurer (not on Council)**

**Janet Brady**

**Patty Phile**

**Betty Wenner**

**Donald Wenner, Sr.**

### **Church Ministries – See Calendar for Scheduled Meetings/Events**

**Finance Team – TBA, Chairperson**

**Lay Eucharistic Ministry Team: Melody Hinderer, Judy Mundie**

**Learning Ministry Team: Donna Cassarella, Chairperson**

**Prayer Circle Ministry: Kim Deliman, Chairperson**

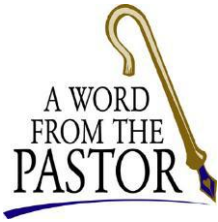
**Prayer Shawl Ministry: TBA, Chairperson**

**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:**

## The 40 Days of Lent

*“The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark”* (Genesis 7:17). As the flood covered the earth and lifted up the ark, saving those within, so in baptism we die to sin and are raised to new life in Christ. Lent is a time to walk in newness of life.

*“The Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart”* (Deuteronomy 8:2) Lent is a season of humility and repentance, as we turn to the Lord and seek his forgiveness. Lent is a time to forgive others as we have been forgiven.

*“He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God”* (Acts 1:3) The risen Lord appeared repeatedly to his disciples and taught them about the kingdom, preparing them to be his witnesses. Lent is a time to be witnesses for Jesus, to tell others of the forgiveness and life found only in his name.

Lent is a season of forty days, from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. Because Sundays celebrate Jesus' resurrection, they are not included in the forty days. In the Bible, the number forty appears in the story of the flood, in Israel's wandering in the wilderness and in the life of Jesus. The number forty is often a symbol of ruin and renewal, testing and teaching.

Lent is a time for us to remember the ruin that sin brings to our lives, to repent and receive God's forgiveness. After his baptism, Jesus “was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan” (Mark 1:13). During these forty days we remember how our Lord stood in the place of sinners, in our place, and resisted every temptation of the devil. On the cross, the innocent Son of God suffered the punishment we deserved for our sins.

**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**

\*\*\*\*\*

**March Supply Pastor Schedule**

- 2 – Rev. John Hazel, Jr.
- 5 – Ash Wednesday – Rev. Chip Fairchild
- 9 – Rev. Chip Fairchild
- 16 – Rev. Chip Fairchild
- 23 – Rev. Chip Fairchild
- 30 – Rev. Robert Reier

**Altar Flower Sponsors**

- In Loving Memory of Gene Mundie by brother and sisters
- In Honor of Nora’s 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday by Joshua & Elizabeth Kresge
- No Sponsor
- In Loving Memory of David D. Mundie by his brother & sisters
- In Loving Memory of John Ashman by Deb Ulshafer

**Bulletin Sponsor for the weeks in March: An anonymous sponsor**

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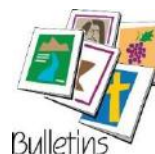
**Ash Wednesday**



On **Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**, we enter the season of Lent. This is a time for reflection, repentance, and spiritual renewal. Let us begin the journey together by gathering around Word and Sacrament at **7:00 p.m.** on Ash Wednesday. The imposition of ashes, a sign of our need for God’s grace, also will be offered during the service

## Bulletin Sponsors

You may sponsor our weekly church bulletins for 2025. 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 May are available.**



\*\*\*\*\*

## Altar Flower Chart



**Beginning in 2025, the weekly rate for altar flowers has increased to \$25.00. Please make note of this change.** March 16<sup>th</sup> is available to sponsor. Please sign the Flower Chart in the St. Stephen's room.

\*\*\*\*\*

## March Birthdays and Baptisms 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!



- |                        |                           |                            |
|------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 - April Floyd-Gliem  | 15 – Kaylee Marie Barbush | 12 – Alexander Troy Bowden |
| 6 – Dawn Floyd         | 15 – Colten Bryce Coxe    | 17 – Melody Hinderer       |
| 6 – Joe Washko         | 16 – Barbara Schell       | 18 – Kaylee Marie Barbush  |
| 8 – Korri Cipriani     | 16 – Brent Sims           | 22 – Trevor Fulton         |
| 9 – Nora Brooke Kresge | 19 – Madden Urbancic      | 23 – Matthew Barbush       |
| 12 – Judy Mundie       | 26 – Nancey Reed          | 28 – Donald Wenner, Sr.    |

\*\*\*\*\*



## Monthly Coffee Hour

The March Coffee Hour has been canceled due to no sponsor. If you are interested in sponsoring the month of April, please sign up in the St. Stephen's Room.

\*\*\*\*\*





## Food Party

To help with providing an Easter meal to our Valley Food Pantry families, our church is asked to supply “cans of peas”. Donations must be made by **Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**. Other items needed are cans of chili, sloppy Joe sauce, mustard, mayonnaise, canned fruit, snack crackers, coffee, tea bags and paper products (toilet paper & paper towels).

**Please make sure the items are within the expiration date.** THANK YOU in advance for your generosity! No medications/vitamins, etc., are accepted.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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



Mark 11:24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 2025 Lenten Study Guides

The 2025 Lenten Study Guides are available in the St. Stephen's Room for personal reflection on the Lenten season. Please only take one per family. If you know of members who cannot make it to church, please take one for them as well.



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## Church Women United

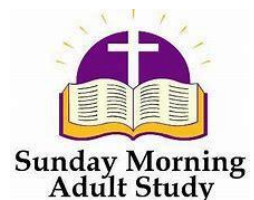


World Day of Prayer will be presented at **Providence Place on March 7, 2025, at 2 pm.** If you plan on attending, please contact Patty Phile at 570-956-2948 or Dawn Klick at 570-788-4355. CWU members serve their homemade goodies to the clients at the conclusion of the ecumenical prayer service. Please plan to join us, sign up in the St. Stephen's Room.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible Study classes will resume **April 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 am.** We will be studying a selection of individual topics. Feel free to bring a friend. The last class will be on May 18<sup>th</sup> and resumes in the Fall of 2025.



## Kid's Night

Come out and join us for Kids' Night, on **Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**, at **6:00 pm**. All are welcome. We will be making an Easter craft and enjoy some snacks. Please contact the church office to register at 570-788-2685.



\*\*\*\*\*

## Reimbursement Forms

New for 2025 – If you need to request a reimbursement for expenses paid personally for the church or you are submitting a bill to be paid directly to a vendor for items you picked up, please complete a Check Request and Payment Approval Form, available outside the office in a marked mailbox slot, and place the form and the receipt(s) in Jennifer's mailbox. A check will not be issued without an approval form.



\*\*\*\*\*

Running on



You're invited!



Join us at Sunday School (for ages 3-12)

Bring your child/grandchild to our new Sunday School Program where they can learn about God's love through interactive stories, songs, and activities.

We begin in the main worship service and then they are released to go to their classroom following brief words from the pastor.



We look forward to welcoming your child/grandchild to our fun and supportive learning environment.



**\*\*\*The last class will be May 18<sup>th</sup>, classes will resume in the fall of 2025.\*\*\***





## BEAR CREEK CAMP SUMMER 2025

### SUMMER CAMP:

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

### FAMILY CAMP:

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

### ARTIST'S RETREAT:

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



/BearCreekCampOfficialPage



@BearCreekCamp

Learn more and register online:  
[bearcreekcamp.org](http://bearcreekcamp.org)

## JOIN US THIS SUMMER!



SESSION 1: June 15 - 20 \*

SESSION 2: June 22 - 27 \*

SESSION 3: June 29 - July 4 \*

SESSION 4: July 6 - 11 \*\*

SESSION 5: July 13 - 18 \*

SESSION 6: July 20 - 25 \*

SESSION 7: July 27 - August 1 \*

SESSION 8: August 3 - 8 \*

\* Try Camp is available (Sun. to Wed.)

+ Family Camp, Artist's Retreat

# Rafting trip option available

LEARN  
MORE  
AT:



**If you know of family or friends that would be interested in attending, please call the church office for more information at 570-788-2685.**



**Get Ready...Summer's coming!  
Plan for VBS!**

**CAVE QUEST**  
**August 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

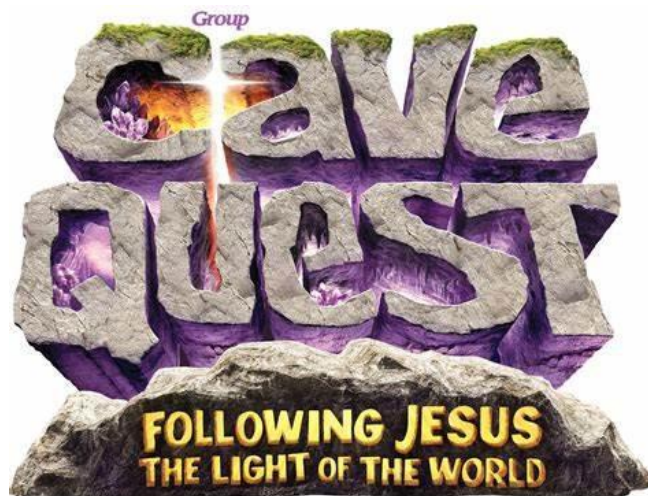
St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church  
772 St. Johns Rd, Saint Johns, PA

**Sign up your kids by calling  
the church office (570-788-2685)**

Jesus is the light of the world. He gives us hope for each new day and is our rescue.

This year's VBS takes the kids underground: Following Jesus the Light of the World. The kids will explore how in our darkest times Jesus gives us hope, courage, and powerful life-changing love. Through crafts, songs, skits, immersive Bible lessons, and fun-filled games that focus on Jesus, our light, when the world is often filled with darkness.

John 8:12 "Jesus said I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"





## Building Connections, Strengthening Mission: The Impact of Staff Development

Since 2021, when I joined the synod staff, I have felt a deep passion and dedication for the work God is calling me to do. Over the past three years, the relationships I have built, both with synod staff and throughout the synod regions and beyond, have been some of the strongest of my career. I have been a Lutheran all my life, raised in a church and family of faith. So, when the job opened at the synod office, applying felt like a natural choice.



My time on synod staff has shaped my spiritual journey, revealing how God's presence is truly in everyone, including me, in both joyful and challenging times. I often find myself asking, "What is God calling us to do?" "What is God calling me to do?" It's funny how sometimes God's answers are loud and clear, while other times, there seems to be silence, much like a parent stepping back to let a child solve a puzzle or get dressed all on their own.

However, God is not silent in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. God is actively working through all of us to move mountains and embody the change Jesus modeled for us. The synod staff have been focusing more intentionally on communication and staff development. Over the past year, the full synod staff, including building staff and the Associates of the Bishop, have gathered for retreats to strengthen our communication. One of these retreats also included the Synod Council, the redesign team, and other key stakeholders around the synod, providing a space for collaboration. Pastor Doug Hill from Abiding Hope in Littleton, Colorado, has helped facilitate some of these retreats, incorporating insights from the Gaining Strength cohorts. Through this work, staff have explored their enneagram numbers, gaining a deeper understanding of how our personalities intertwine and complement one another.

Pastor Rachael Dietz, Associate to the Bishop, comments on the retreat by saying, "*Intentional investment*



*in staff help us grow into the disciples God would have us be. We're not static blobs; we're human beings with hearts, hands, feet, and brains. When we practice and learn, we become more aligned and attuned to the Spirit's work in us and the synod. Your mission support then gets turned inside out as we support the mission of congregations: to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, to all."*

This investment in staff development is not just about strengthening our internal team, it is about equipping us to better serve the entire synod. As we grow in communication, collaboration, and leadership, we become more responsive to the needs of the congregations, more effective in our ministries, and more connected as a community of faith. By modeling teamwork and intentional growth, we hope to inspire congregations and leaders to do the same in their own contexts. Ultimately, this work is about aligning ourselves more fully with God's call, ensuring that together, as one synod, we continue to move mountains and embody the change Christ has set before us.

*We would like to extend our gratitude to Trinity Lutheran Church in Lehigh and St. John's Lutheran Church in Allentown for hosting staff retreats. Your hospitality is deeply appreciated and truly a blessing.*

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

**DID YOU KNOW** that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod like this one and many other important initiatives? Your contributions are making a significant impact and helping others grow in faith, supporting the synod's lanes of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the directions of loving like Jesus, healing like Jesus, and engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit [godslove.org/missionsupport](https://godslove.org/missionsupport).

Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church  
Stroudsburg, PA

2025  
**Connect  
the Dots**  
Northeastern PA Synod Assembly

[godslove.org/assembly2025](https://godslove.org/assembly2025)

*may*  
30-31  
Registration  
opens April 1



- 2 – Church & Sunday School @ 10 am
- 3 – Scouts @ 6 pm
- 5 – Ash Wednesday @ 7 pm; Prayer Shawl @ 9:30 am
- 7 – World Day of Prayer held at Providence Place – 2 pm sponsored by Church Women United
- 9 – Church & Sunday School @ 10 am; daylight savings time starts
- 10 – Scouts @ 6 pm
- 11 – Music & Worship Meeting @ 10:30 am; Kids Night @ 6 pm
- 13 – Church Council Meeting @ 7 pm
- 15 – April Newsletter Deadline
- 16 – Church & Sunday School @ 10 am
- 17 – Scouts @ 6 pm; St. Patrick's Day
- 19 – Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 9:30 am
- 23 – Church & Sunday School @ 10 am
- 24 – Scouts @ 6 pm
- 27 – S.E.R.V.E. Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- 30 – Church & Sunday School @ 10 am
- 31 – Scouts @ 6 pm



**Conyngham UMC** – Lenten Luncheons with devotions on Wednesdays during Lent at 12 pm. Each week a different Pastor presides. Soup, bread, coffee, and dessert will be served (\$5.00).


**Historic Brainerd Church** – Pysanky Egg Classes on March 9th & 16th from 1 pm to 4 pm at Conyngham Borough Building. \$45 per student. Registration is required by calling or texting Karen at 570-578-8534

**Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Conyngham** – Spring Fling Indoor Yard Sale on March 29<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 2 pm.

**Conyngham UCC** – Easter Crystal Sale – Order by March 30<sup>th</sup> and pick up is April 12<sup>th</sup>. The crystals are \$14.00 a box. To order call Barb at 570-788-3246.

**Black Creek UMC** – Ham & Dandelion Dinner – April 12<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 6 pm. \$15.00 per adult/ \$7 per child under 10 yrs. old. Call 570-384-4087 or 570-751-3426 for tickets.

# MARCH 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">                     Remember to put your clocks forward 1 hour on the night of March 8<sup>th</sup>!                 </div>				1
2 Church & SS @ 10 am	3 Scouts @ 6 pm	4	5 Ash Wednesday @ 7 pm Prayer Shawl @ 9:30 am	6	7 World Day of Prayer Church Women United Providence Place @ 2 pm	8
9 Church & SS @ 10 am Daylight Savings Time starts	10 Scouts @ 6 pm	11 Music & Worship Meeting @ 10:30 am Kids Night @ 6 pm	12	13 Church Council Meeting @ 7 pm	14	15 April Newsletter Deadline
16 Church & SS @ 10 am	17 Scouts @ 6 pm St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Prayer Shawl @ 9:30 am	20	21	22
23 Church & SS @ 10 am	24 Scouts @ 6 pm	25	26	27 S.E.R.V.E. Meeting @ 6:30 pm	28	29
30 Church & SS @ 10 am	31 Scouts @ 6 pm				