

April 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 Facebook: 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 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 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.

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.

<u>Church Ministries – See Calendar for Scheduled Meetings/Events</u> 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, Chairperson 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:

It is that season of the Church's year when we as Christians dwell on the Mystery of the Crucifixion. And what the Crucifixion tells us is this: God Himself died upon a cross, to pour out His love for us, to forgive us our sins, to share His life with us now, and eternally. Too many people move from Palm Sunday's jubilation to Easter's

victory and never take the excruciating walk through the Upper Room, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Trials, and Mount Calvary. But you must go through it all really to know the joy of the open tomb! Let us examine what Our Lord went through even physically in His love for us: in His suffering, His Passion, and His crucifixion: in His agony in the Garden, in His scourging at the pillar, in His crowning with thorns, in His carrying the cross to Calvary, in His crucifixion and death. As we more deeply realize this, what God went through in His love for us, we will hopefully realize more deeply the love that God has for us, for you and for me. 4 Look at the cross. Empty and unoccupied, it is simply an object of brass or the timbers of a tree; but, when the crucified and suffering body of Jesus Christ is placed on the historic cross of Calvary, it becomes a sword - a sword in the hand of God that can conquer everything in heaven and on earth. It can even destroy the very gates of hell. Alleluia! Rejoice! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

President's Page:

Hi St. John's and Friends.

Please see the highlighted version of the March Council Meeting.

Congregational Meeting to Purchase a Carillon:

The council approved a motion to buy carillon. The first announcement of a congregational meeting will be made on 3/16. The second announcement will be on 3/23. The third and final announcement will be on 3/30. At that time, a congregational meeting will be held after church services to discuss the system and vote on purchasing the upgraded system.

Treasurer's Report:

- We had to move \$3,000 from the Mundie Fund to the General Fund to cover expenses. This was due to church services being canceled for two weeks in February due to bad weather.
- We reinvested monies from the Snyder Scholarship Fund that was invested in an FNB CD that is currently in the Parsonage Fund and coming due in April.

Minutes: February 23, 2025 were approved: Yes

Pastor Kaufman's Report/Mileage Report: February 2025.

- Pastor had 28.75 hours and 286 miles in February.
- Pastor attended an Anti-racism workshop, which was required of all pastors
- She is posting devotions on our Facebook page for Lent.

Team Reports:

Supply Pastors for April:

April 6th – Pastor Hazel

April 13th – Palm Sunday – Pastor Chip Fairchild

- April 17th Maundy Thursday Pastor Chip Fairchild 7 pm
- April 18th Good Friday no pastor 7 pm
- April 20th Easter Sunday Pastor Chip Fairchild
- April 27th Pastor Melvin Mundie
 - It was decided to stop the morning coffee hour for now. We had a hard time filling the calendar and folks were not going forward to the pews when the music started.
 - Brenda plans to have a choir for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.
 - On May 11th, carnations will be given to all women for Mother's Day. The children will hand them out at the end of the service.
 - The Easter flowers are the same price as last year.

S.E.R.V.E. Team:

- A collection for Holy Joe's Café will be upcoming.
- The Kindness Tree Project raised \$49 to be used for VBS.
- Jan Jacobus will be starting up the Divine Providence project in April. Melody Hinderer applied for and received a \$500 grant for this project.
- The Sausage and Pancake Supper will be held on May 3rd. Help is needed, along with 600 cupcakes.
- Patty Phile is planning a Spring Mother/Daughter Tea.
- Donna will look into candy sales as a possible fundraiser.

Property Team:

- Lines need to be painted in parking lot Jim reached out to a few people to have the lot sealed this year.
- Heat in Shuster Education Building to be looked at Klesh hasn't returned Jim's call yet. Don will look into other businesses that can hopefully look at this.

Continuation of the highlighted version of the March Council Meeting...

- Elevator inspection? Jim hasn't heard back from the department that does the inspections.
- Property inspection is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26th. Jim and Don Jr. will be present.
- Still need to look into Steve's Lawn Care and Four Diamonds for snow and ice removal.
- Patty said that the motion light at the handicapped parking area doesn't turn on quickly enough.

Lay Eucharist: Judy and Melody are going to visit next Wednesday and Thursday.

Call Committee:

- A possible candidate decided to move to South Dakota to accept a call.
- Don Jr. mentioned that there may be another candidate interested in a full-time call, that we will need to share with another parish. Waiting on information from the SYNOD.

225th Anniversary Team:

Melody currently has the church's historical items from the anniversary at her house. It
was suggested to install a shelving unit or cases in the St. Stephen's room where these
items could be displayed instead of being buried again or packed up and put away
upstairs. Don Jr. will ask Jim Cassarella for ideas for the shelving units. The hole outside the church
where the time capsules were previously buried will be filled in.

Old Business:

- Melody received a \$ 500 grant from the Hazleton Lehighton Mission District for the Divine Providence meals. We can apply for this grant money every year.
- Pastor Michele will speak to our representative from Thrivent about speaking to our members at a future date about joining Thrivent so we can get more Action Team cards for future events.

New Business:

I attended a Mission district Meeting for Council Presidents only.

- The Mission District and SYNOD assembly is May 30 31, 2025 at Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church in Stroudsburg, PA. We need 1 male and 1 female to represent us. This will be added to the bulletin.
- Donnie Jr. brought back a book titled Growing Young. It talks about how to get folks involved with the church, no matter their age or how long they have been with the church.
- We will host the next meeting on June 8th from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Light snacks will be available.
- Greeting others during the Offering of Peace was discussed. We will move forward with optional handshakes and greetings as members are comfortable with doing.
- Bishop deForest Chat and Chew meeting report was discussed. It was last held at Christ Lutheran. The Mission Support lost \$100,000 last year. Their investments are doing well. Our Synod has 237 congregations and 80 clergy members. We are the largest congregation in our district. The average attendance is 46 every Sunday. Davey and Goliath programs will be brought back. We will start sharing the Peace via our phones starting this Sunday.
- The Spring Mission District meeting will be at our church on Sunday 4/27. Registration begins at 2 pm and the meeting starts at 3 pm. Our annual dues need to be paid. Light refreshments will be available. Volunteers are needed to join and help out. Melody's 3-year term is up. They have 3 4 meetings every year. We will be reimbursed up to \$100 for food and refreshment purchases.
- The younger Scouts are still interested in assisting at a Scout Sunday service.

Don Wenner Jr. Council President

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



April 13 - Palm Sunday @ 10 am ${
m EK}\;$ April 17 - Maundy Thursday @ 7 pm April 18 - Good Friday/Tenebrae Service @ 7 pm April 20 - Easter Sunday @ 10 am

April Supply Pastor Schedule

6 – Rev. John Hazel, Jr.

- 13 Palm Sunday Rev. Chip Fairchild
- 17 Maundy Thursday Rev. Chip Fairchild
- 20 Easter Sunday Rev. Chip Fairchild

27 - Rev. Melvin Mundie

Altar Flower Sponsors

In Loving Memory of William Boyer by Family In Memory of James Phile by Phile Family No Sponsor Needed **Easter Tribute Flowers** In Loving Memory of Priscilla I. Mundie by her children

Bulletin Sponsor for the weeks in April: In Memory of Our Parents by Janet Brady and Family

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 June are available.**



Altar Flower Chart



A reminder that our 2025 Altar Flower chart is available in the St. Stephen's Room. Several Sundays are available to sponsor: June 29, July 20, 27, August 3, 31, September 14, 21, 28, November 2, 9, 23, 30, and December 21, 28. The cost to sponsor flowers is \$25.00.

April 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!



4 - Nicholas Barbush

5 - Stephen Hinderer

- 8 Jacob Bennett
- 9 Sandy Zamba
- 16 Liam Eveland
- 17 Jan Dindoffer Sr.
- 24 Patty Phile
- 19 Bonnie Hoda



1 - Debra Fulton

- 12 Mason Floyd
- 17 Colyn Smith
- 18 April Floyd Getz
- 18 Betty Kushner
- 23 Luke Thomas
- 26 Connie Barbush



6 - Janet & John Brady

Spring Mission District Meeting

The Spring Mission District meeting will be at our church on **April 27th.** Registration begins at 2 pm and the meeting starts at 3 pm. Light refreshments will be available.





Sunday School

The last class will be held on May 18th, classes will resume in the fall of 2025.

Food Pantry



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 6th**. 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 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.

Psalm 4:1 Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible Study classes will resume **April 27**th **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 18th and resume in the Fall of 2025.





Congregational Meeting For New Carillon

The Church Council has unanimously approved the purchase of a new carillon system. **There have been three notices.** The first notice was on March 16th, 2025; the second notice was on March 23, 2025, and the third and final notice will be on March 30, 2025. A meeting will be immediately after the service on March 30th.

New Guidelines for Sharing The "Peace"

The Church Council has approved changes to sharing the "Peace". The people may greet one another with either a handshake, if both individuals so choose, or the sign of Christ's peace. During the exchange, they may say "Peace be with you" or similar words.



Texting Peace



In March, we tried something new! We started to text the "sharing of the peace" to family, friends, and other congregational members who aren't at church. Set up your group text as a draft before the service, and when it is time to share peace, send your text. Please silence or turn off your phone after. This is a great way to share God's peace with one another.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do you knit or crochet? We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month for about 2 hours. If interested, call the church office at 570-788-2685.



Our congregation would like to express our deepest condolences to the family of

Patricia Hess

May the prayer below be a prayer of comfort and strength and carry you all through the days ahead. Our prayer to the family and all who loved Pat.

Father, we thank you, that you are the source of all true joy in life. Your word says that, even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me. The loss of my loved one feels like a dark valley. I ask that you lead me through this difficult time. May I find the comfort I desire in you and the strength I need in your name. May your presence be with me every hour of the day. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

772 St. Johns Rd., Saint Johns (Drums), PA

SAUSAGE SUPPER DRIVE-THRU "TAKE OUT" ONLY! Saturday, May 3, 2025

<u>Pick-up times: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm</u> <u>Dinner - \$13.00</u>

Menu: sausage, pancakes, baked potato, green beans, coleslaw, applesauce and a cupcake



For tickets:

570-582-7193 Jim 570-436-2168 Donna 570-788-3938 Betty & Don 570-788-2685 Church Office





Easter Tributes

Easter Tributes

Please use the following form for Easter Tributes. Forms are due **NO LATER** than April 6th with payment. All checks make payable to St. John's Lutheran Church.

Sunday in celebration of the Resurrection of our lord and Savior	Caulor
Jesus Christ and in honor/memory of loved ones. Please fill out the	ll out the
Form and return it WITH PAYMENT to Janet Brady, 570-788-3867 or	8-3867 or
to our church office no later than Sunday, April 6	
ţ\$	\$10.00
Ş	\$8.50
~	\$8.50
•••	\$8.50
ţţ	\$15.00
Plant	Price
(A,B,C,D,E)	
Plant (A.B.C.D.F)	Price
ELCA Disaster Response Donation:	
In memory/honor (please circle one) of :	
In memory/honor (please circle one) of:	
Total donated for: ELCA Disaster Response	
	r of loved ones. Please fi T to Janet Brady, 570-78 Sunday, April 6 \$1 \$1 \$2 \$2 \$2 \$2 \$2 \$2 \$2 \$2 \$2 \$2



会社 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.



Learn more and register online: 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 5: July 20 - 25 * 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



If you know of family or friends who 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 4th - 8th 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

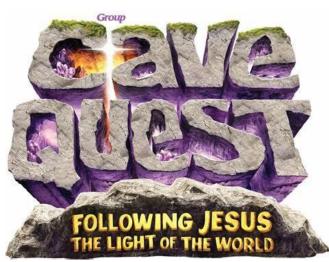
St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church 772 St. Johns Rd, Saint Johns, PA

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"





NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

6261:

Something New, Yet Something Old

Submitted by: Deacon Kat Tigerman, Director of Evangelical Mission



6261: 6 congregations sharing 2 full-time pastors, 6 Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs), and 1 full-time deacon. A parish-type model first presented by Bishop Christopher deForest at the Synod Assembly of 2023. A flexible framework to help congregations collaborate and thrive, while remaining unique and true to their own God-given A model designed to gifts. vitalize each congregation as together, they expand their ministries within the

community. A focus on the Gospel by increasing opportunities for worship, Bible studies, service, music, and ministry into the community.

There are currently 15 different areas across the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod at various discernment and exploration points about 6261. There is at least one area in each of the Synod's 9 Mission Districts.

The Synod's first 6261 Ministry Community officially launched on February 1, 2025 in Reading, PA as the "Pretzel City." This partnership includes six congregations: Bethany Lutheran (West Reading), Christ Lutheran (Reading), Hope Lutheran (Reading), Nativity Lutheran (Reading), St. Paul Lutheran (Reading), and Zion Spies Lutheran (Reading) along with Hope's Table (a Synod-Authorized Worshipping Community).

On February 19th, the Pretzel City 6261 Ministry Community hosted a potluck dinner, hymn sing, and celebration worship, co-lead by Bishop deForest and Deacon Kat Tigerman. In addition to the six Pretzel City congregations and 2 of their LLM candidates, members of Synod Council and congregations from around the Synod and West Berks Mission District attended to mark this momentous occasion.

APRIL 2025

VOLUME 33 | ISSUE 4

The celebration worship included a reflection on the primary ministry project of the Pretzel City 6261: a food web ministry. Pastor Rebecca Knox gave this reflection, drawing on Psalm 126 and

how God brought these congregations to this joyful point and will be with them as they continue to plant seeds, both literally and **Bishop** spiritually. deForest led а participatory reflection on Isaiah 58 including loud shouts of praise and the kind of fasting God wants: for us to love, heal, and



engage with our neighbors. Bishop deForest also lifted up the sacrifice each congregation made for the good of the whole 6261 Ministry Community so that it could more fully live into this "fasting" call of service. The 6261 Ministry Community Covenant was signed by each President of the 6 congregations, and each congregation received a Pretzel City plaque as a reminder of their partnership and commitment to pray for one another. A joint 30-person choir sang "Lord, We

> As One United," а beautiful anthem for the offertory right after members from each congregation and Pastor Bruce Osterhout led the prayer. assembly in Worship concluded with Holy Communion and a special update from Pastor Drew Neidig celebrating some surprise gifts to the Pretzel City Bundle to help

with their food web ministry. We are blessed to see such hope among us in such unprecedented times. We celebrate with Pretzel City, knowing that God goes before each of us on our ministry journeys so that we may have life abundantly (John 10:10).

To learn more about the 6261 Ministry Community, visit <u>godslove.org/6261mc</u> or email Deacon Kat Tigerman at <u>kat@nepsynod.org</u>. Keep an eye out for an upcoming NEPA Synod 6261 article from the ELCA!

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.





- 2 Prayer Shawl @ 9:30 am
- 4 Church Office Closed
- 5 "Anniversary" Choir Practice @ 9:30 am
- 6 Church & Sunday School @ 10 am
- 7 Scouts @ 6 pm
- 8 Kids Night @ 6 pm
- 10 Church Council Meeting @ 7 pm
- 13 Palm Sunday; Church & Sunday School @ 10 am
- 14 Scouts @ 6 pm
- 15 May Newsletter Deadline
- 16 Prayer Shawl Ministry @ 9:30 am
- 17 Maundy Thursday Service @ 7 pm
- 18 Good Friday/Tenebrae Service @ 7 pm; Church Office Closed
- 20 Easter Sunday; Church & Sunday School @ 10 am
- 21 Scouts @ 6 pm
- 24 S.E.R.V.E. Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- 27 Adult Bible Study @ 8:45 am; Church & Sunday School @ 10 am; Spring Mission District Meeting 2 pm Registration – 3 pm Meeting
- 28 Scouts @ 6 pm



Black Creek UMC – Ham & Dandelion Dinner – April 12th 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.

		AP	APRIL 2025	25		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		-	2 Prayer Shawl @ 9:30 am	£	4 Church Office Closed	5 "Anniversary" Choir Practice @ 9:30 am
9	7	8	6	10	11	12
Church & SS @ 10 am	Scouts @ 6 pm	Kids Night @ 6 pm		Church Council Meeting @ 7 pm		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Palm Sunday Church & SS @ 10 am	Scouts @ 6 pm	May Newsletter Deadline	Prayer Shawl @ 9:30 am	Maundy Thursday Service @ 7 pm	Good Friday- <u>Tenebrae @ 7 pm</u> Church Office Closed	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Easter Sunday Church & SS @ 10 am	Scouts @ 6 pm			S.E.R.V.E. Meeting @ 6:30 pm		
27	28	29	30		Alleluia	2
Adult Bible Study @ <u>8:45 am</u> <u>Church & SS @ 10 am</u> Spring Mission District Registration 2 pm Meeting 3 pm	Scouts @ 6 pm				He is	