

*The Eagle - St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania
"Called Together ... Sharing Christ ... Serving Others"*

Pastors Message April/May 2023

By the time you read this newsletter, it will be Holy Week. The most sacred time of the Church year. It is the week from Palm Sunday when Jesus enters Jerusalem with the followers singing, "Hosanna," to his gathering with the disciples in the upper room for the last supper, his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, his trial and crucifixion, and his death and resurrection. But it is more than that because the Old Testament prophets pointed to his promises that Jesus fulfilled – on the third day he would rise again. And on that third day – Easter – he arose! And we sing with joyful glee, Gloria! Alleluia! Praise be to God! His prophecies come true. Salvation is for us! You and me!

¹What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

-Romans 6:1-11

I encourage you to teach the faith of Jesus Christ to your children and grandchildren and be renewed in faith yourself by bringing your children and coming yourself to the Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter services. In this way you will hear again the stories of Jesus' promise to bring salvation to all humankind, to love our neighbor and forgive, and to transform our lives with the promises that Christ has made. I pray that this Easter will be a time of renewal and strength for all of you as we ponder the depth and height of the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Aucker*

We extend our sympathies to the family of Candace Welshans who died on Friday, March 10, 2023. A Memorial Service is being planned for Saturday, March 25 at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church to celebrate her life and the blessing she was to her family and the community.

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored during the month of April by Pastor and Mrs. Aucker.

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored during the month of May by Nicole, Hannah, Brian, Adalyn in memory of our Pop Yost.

Sponsors are needed for the Sanctuary Candle, Bulletins, and Flowers for the upcoming months. The list is on the bulletin board on the second floor of the elevator tower. Donations can be placed in an envelope with your name and envelope number and where it is to be designated such as bulletin \$10.

Catechism Class

In the month of April Catechism class will be held on April 2 & 16 at 2:00 pm. In May catechism classes will be May 2 and 21 at 2:00 p.m. Your assignments are in your catechism schedule. Confirmation will be held May 28 for Ilanna Green who will Affirm her Baptism this year on Pentecost, May 28. A “Tea” to honor her will be held after worship.

Recognition of Graduates

We will be recognizing our Graduates this year with a special “Tea” in the Sunday School room after worship. We invite our members to stay and congratulate them on this milestone in their lives.

Worship Wednesday Mornings discontinued

Pastor Aucker has led Wednesday morning worship over the past two years at Trinity Episcopal Church. While it has been a blessing to all, attendance has dropped over the years. It was decided by their session to discontinue the Wednesday services. Thank you for your support.

Distribution of Food

The New Love Center Food Pantry will host the Food Distribution from 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. on April 14 and May 12. The New Love Center Food Pantry Jersey Shore served 298 households in the month of January with 692 individuals served. Boxes will be packed at 4:00 p.m.; April 13 and May 11.

Fellowship Time

We invite you to join us for a time of fellowship at the Shore Diner on Wednesday, April 19 and May 17, at 11:30 a.m. Come and enjoy the fellowship. You order off the menu.

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, April 2, 9:30 am at St. John Lutheran. We need volunteers to read the Passion of St. Matthew.

A sign-up list is posted on the bulletin board in the Tower, 2nd floor.

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7:00 pm at St. John Lutheran

Good Friday, Stations of the Cross, April 7, 7:00 pm at St. James Lutheran

Easter Vigil Egg Hunt for the children, April 8 at 11:00 am at St. John Lutheran

Easter Resurrection of Our Lord, Sunday, April 9, 6:00 am and 9:30 am, St. John Lutheran

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on this Sunday.

Holy Humor Sunday, April 16, 9:30 a.m. Rumor has it that the Blues Brothers will return to St. John!

Communions at Jersey Shore Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility

Mrs. Cozette Stoltzfus and Pastor Aucker will be offering the Sacrament of Holy Communion to the residents of Jersey Shore Nursing and Rehabilitation, May 2, at 2:00 p.m.

Buy-outs and Name Changes

Some of you refer to the nursing facility on Thompson Street by its old name of Leader Nursing Home. Over the years and after many changes of ownership, the name was changed to Manor Care, then Promedica, and now it is Jersey Shore Nursing and Rehabilitation facility. It was most recently bought out by Genesis Healthcare.

Susque-View was purchased by Allaire Health Care and is now Lock Haven Rehabilitation and Senior Living.

Manor Care North and South in Williamsport was purchased by Bedrock Healthcare and is now Williamsport Nursing and Rehabilitation North and South.

Sycamore Manor is now We Cares of Loyalsock.

Several other nursing facilities in the area have also been purchased and re-named. It sometimes creates confusion identifying where one of our members is located. But buyouts and renaming seems to be the sign of the times.

Worship at Nippenose Village

On the fourth Sunday of each month, April 23 and May 28, Pastor Aucker and a member of St. James will offer worship and the Sacrament of Holy Communion at Nippenose Valley from 1-1:30 p.m. You are invited to join us if you have loved ones at Nippenose. We have three members at Nippenose Village.

Spring Cash Sunday

Spring Cash Sunday will be held on May 7 this year. Donations will be used for a new speaker in the front of the sanctuary to improve the audio in our recorded worship services. A Spring Cash Sunday envelope will be mailed to every household in the congregation in April. A return envelope can be used for your donation. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Mother-Daughter Banquet

A Mother-Daughter Banquet is being planned. Date and time will be announced in the future.

Ministry Meetings

Just a reminder that Christian Education will meet at 6:00 pm and Youth Ministry at 7:00 pm on Monday, May 15, 2023. We invite both youth and adults to participate in our planning for future events.

Bible Study

Bible Study will continue each Monday afternoon at 1:00 pm. We will finish our study on Proverbs.

St. Paul Scholarship No More

It is with sadness to learn that the St. Paul Lutheran Church Scholarship which distributed money to High School seniors from 2001-2022 has been closed. When St. Paul Lutheran on Fourth Street in Williamsport closed, the proceeds were placed in an Endowment Fund and used for several items including college scholarships. Quite a few seniors going to college benefited from the St. Paul Lutheran Church scholarships,

including many from St. John Lutheran. In looking at the list of scholarship programs I observed that a number of scholarship programs closed. Probably due to the economy.

Worship Changes

In the midst of the pandemic, many congregations, like St. John, switched to the use of wafers instead of bread. It was easier to drop the wafer into the recipient's hands. I usually order them from a Benedictine Monastery in Arkansas which had the best prices. Originally, I used the larger wafers because they fit perfectly in my Home Communion Kit but then I realized that they were too big for some of our shut-ins who have difficulty swallowing. So we will now be using smaller wafers.

While Covid is still present in our area and we have occasional spikes in the area, it should be safe to going back to using a "loaf" of bread for the Sacrament of Holy Communion. After Easter we will go back to using a loaf of bread during worship. Please sign-up on the calendar on the bulletin board in the tower if you are donating bread. A small loaf of bread or soft pita bread is appropriate. We hold out our hands in a cupped fashion when we receive the bread, and later the wine, and we respond to the body and blood of Jesus by saying, "Amen."

Update on the Rising Anew Campaign. We continue to pay on the loan from the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. Currently our loan is down to \$211,463 as of March 1, 2023. It was ten years ago when we began the remodeling projects with a total cost of \$1.5 million dollars. Over the ten years we brought that loan down to \$211,463 which is incredible. Thank you everyone for your support in paying down the loan and your continued commitment to the ministries of St. John Lutheran Church. For those who wish to contribute to the Rising Anew Campaign, please write your check to: St. John Lutheran, earmark on the memo line: "Rising Anew" and put it in an envelope with your name and envelope number on the envelope and place it in the offering plate.

New Officers

The Trinity Lutheran, Avis, Endowment Fund committee elected new officers for 2023. Nicole Green, President; Pam Wehler, Secretary; Carl Schaefer, Treasurer. Due to the downturn in the economy, the Endowment fund only earned \$19 in dividends in 2022 and the portfolio declined in value. We pray that the economy will rebound and that monies will be available for scholarships, etc., in the future.

After the Winter, God sends the Spring

Springtime is a season
 Of hope and joy and cheer.
There's beauty all around us
 To see and touch and hear.
So, no matter how downhearted
 And discouraged we may be,
New hope is born when we behold
 Leaves on a budding tree.
Or when we see a timid flower
 Push through the frozen sod
And open wide in glad surprise
 Its petaled eyes to God.
For this is just God saying;
 "Lift up your eyes to Me,
And the bleakness of your spirit,
 Like the budding Springtime tree,
Will lose its wintry darkness

And your heavy heart will sing” –
For God never sends the Winter
Without the joy of Spring.
-Helen Steiner Rice, the Joyful Newsletter, May-June 2023

Remember our Home bound members with your prayers, cards, and visits

Jim Allen, Jersey Shore Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation, 1008 Thompson Street, Jersey Shore PA 17740.

Agnes Cryder, 201 S. Broad Street, Apt. 2, Jersey Shore PA 17740

Dave Mitchell, WeCare at Loyalsock, Room 401, 1445 Sycamore Road, Montoursville PA 17754

Mary Pepperman (July 23), 1101 Michael Street, Jersey Shore PA 17740

Jane Hunter Shaffer, Rose View Nursing and Rehabilitation, 1201 Rural Ave., Williamsport PA 17701,
570-323-4340

Elsie Parks, Nippenose Valley Village, Room 21, 7190 South State Route 44, Williamsport PA 17702

Michael Brunner, Nippenose Valley Village, 7190 South State Route 44, Williamsport PA 17702

Mary Bowers, currently at Lock Haven Rehabilitation and Senior Living. Hoping to go home soon. 968 Dutch
Hollow Road, Jersey Shore PA 17740

Remember those serving in the military with your cards and prayers:

Sgt. Myers, Maddison
8205b Eberle Loop, Fort Campbell KY 42223

Automate your regular offering

Do you know that nearly \$4,000 per month is given electronically by members of St. John? St. John Lutheran Church wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular offering. Electronic giving provides convenience for you and much needed donation consistency for our congregation. Getting started is easy. Authorization forms and additional information are available from the church office, 570-398-1676.

Vanco Mobile app

St. John Lutheran offers a convenient way to support the ministries of St. John. Now you can download the “Vanco Mobile Faith” app from your app store for your cell phone. This feature is also on our web site and Facebook site. Enter your email, make up a password, and walk through the choices to give the church an electronic donation by check or debit/credit card. If you have any questions, contact Bob Wehler.

We also offer VancoText:

Simply send a text message to 570-865-1101 with the amount you would like to contribute (example: 25). Within a few minutes, you’ll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder’s name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via email.

For future giving, send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically! You can even text “repeat” to make it a recurring donation. VancoText is one of the fastest, easiest ways to give.

We hope you enjoy this new way to share your generosity and we thank you for supporting your church.

Weis Certificates

As a special fundraiser for church projects, we are selling Weis Markets gift certificates each Sunday after worship or during office hours during the weekdays. You can buy \$10, 20, 50, 100 certificates. You pay \$10, take them to the store and use them like cash to buy \$10 worth of groceries. The church earns 5% from Weis Markets. While that may not seem like much, if 100 families in the congregation spend \$100 per week on groceries that 5% would add up to \$26,000 per year with very little effort other than buying and reselling them. It is a great way to support the youth ministries of St. John.

Our on-going Needs

Sponsors sheets are available on the second-floor tower bulletin board for the Sanctuary Candle, Weekly Bulletins, Flowers, and Bread Donors (starting in March). You can sponsor any of the above by placing your name on the sponsor sheets and they will be listed in the bulletin. Enclose money in your offering envelope: Sanctuary candle \$6; Weekly bulletin \$10; Flowers provided by Russell Florists (\$50), or use our beautiful arrangement of silk flowers \$25; or you can provide your own. If you wish to provide your own, please contact Mrs. Aucker. Payment should be made to “St. John Lutheran Church.”

AmazonSmile

Over the past four years St. John Lutheran received over \$1,200 from Amazon when you used the AmazonSmile web site for ordering items. This money went into our current fund to fund our daily operations and ministries. Unfortunately Amazon has discontinued the program. Thank you everyone who supported us using AmazonSmile.

Mission Support

You can do your part to “make the Good News of Jesus Christ known around the world.” Mission Support is a separate item that is not part of our church budget. Mission Support goes to support the salaries and ministries of the Upper Susquehanna Synod (including Camp Mt. Luther, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (office in Chicago) and its numerous ministries around the world including youth ministries, ministries supporting congregations, theological training of pastors at our eight seminaries, and our disaster response partnerships around the world. Your regular contributions, as a separate line item electronically or on your envelope, to support the wider ministries of the Church are greatly appreciated. ***If each family at St. John made a commitment to give \$15 per month to Mission Support, we could not only fulfill our commitment as we did in the past, but we would be supporting the wider ministries of our Church to make Christ known throughout the world.***

Council re-elected officers for the 2023 year at its January council meeting.

President: Christine Barner, Vice-President: Bob Wehler, Secretary: Shane Snyder, Treasurer: Ken Dougherty.

Pictorial Directory

The last pictorial directory of the members of St. John Lutheran was created in 2009. Over the past fourteen years we have had a number of changes with births, new members, and deaths, along with the pandemic that had a significant impact upon us. It was suggested that we create a new pictorial directory so people have a

visual picture of our members.

We also need information from you to verify what we have on file. We have no birthdates on some people. We have a lot of young adults who moved away from home but we have no addresses, phone numbers or emails for them. Just their parent's address.

So, we are asking each of you to send us a photo of yourselves or your family and send it by email to St. John Lutheran Church at:

stjohn@stjl.org

Please take a close-up photo of yourself or your family. Use your cell phone or have someone else take your photo and email it to St. John. Please send us a close-up photo. A dot standing out in the field will not show your smiley face!

Please also send us your address, email, and phone number to update the directory and make sure our records are accurate. A number of people provided their home phone number years ago but have since discontinued their home phone and use only their cell phone. If you do not want your cell phone listed, please note that when you send us your photo and information.

Current church directories are always available without photos. Just ask Pastor to print one out for you. It only takes a few minutes. Remember the directory is only as good as the information that we have available.

Special Thanks to Shelby Rice for volunteering to coordinate the pictorial directory project. Contact her for any information regarding photos.

Support for Jersey Shore Summer Recreation

That time of the year is coming. Summer! And with that is one of the greatest ways we can impact the children of our community this summer by supporting the Jersey Shore Summer Recreation Program. For eight weeks every summer from 9 am – 4 pm nearly one hundred elementary age children are given educational opportunities, crafts, experiences by local speakers, the ability to swim with other children in the town pool, field trips, lunch, and more. Since the summer of 2001 when we began the Jersey Shore Summer Recreation Program here at St. John Lutheran, our community has come together to make this outreach and educational opportunity available to children whose parents could not afford to send them to museums, field trips, and other projects that increase their learning and awareness of the wonderful opportunities and gifts we have right here in our area. Those who would like to make a donation may do so by writing a check to: Jersey Shore Summer Recreation, Inc. and mailing it to: Jersey Shore Summer Recreation, Inc., C/P Wanda Munro, 503 South Broad Street, Jersey Shore PA 17740.

Remember Our College Students in your Prayers

Lily Dincher, Penn State, Abington Campus

Olivia Anne Eisner, Temple University. Address: 1701 N 10th St, Apt 306A, Philadelphia PA 19121

Max Ferguson, Brown University

Arabella Fiedler, Ithaca College

Quinn Green, CIA, Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, NY

Cheyenne Mitchell, Shippensburg University

Cora Stackhouse, Lock Haven University

Jillian Waldman, Lock Haven University
Riley Welshans, Penn State University
Hannah Wool, Ithaca College

Please call Pastor with corrections/additions.

For Women



Women's Retreat

USSWO Day of Renewal will be April 29. Register early for a great program: <https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Day-of-Renewal-Registration-Form-2023.do>

For Men



The annual Bishop Open's Golf Classic is set for May 8, 2023, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club in Shamokin Dam. The tournament benefits Camp Mount Luther and the camp's annual fund. Information and registration form are on the here: https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/01_Golf_Tournament_Flyer-2023.pdf

The camp's golf tournament committee is currently looking for hole sponsors, silent auction items, and golfers. If you can help, please call 570-922-1587 or email cml@campmountluther.org. Congregations are also encouraged to become hole sponsors.

Register online here: <https://www.campmountluther.org/golf-registration/>

Youth Ministry

Just a reminder that applications for attending camp at Camp Mt. Luther this summer **must be into Molly Hollick by April 9**. So far no one has submitted a camp registration. Registration forms and information can be obtained using the QR code on the bulletin board or off one of the many bulletin inserts.

"Where does the good Lord live?" asked the Sunday School teacher of a four-year-old boy in her class. "In our bathroom," replied the youngster.

"What makes you think so?" the teacher asked.

"Because," the boy replied, "I hear my Dad shout, 'Good Lord, are you still in there?'"

-Pastor Bonhman, The Joyful Newsletter, May-June 2023

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 8, 11:00 a.m. Come to St. John Lutheran for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. After finding your eggs, come inside for hot dogs, chips, and egg-dying.

Youth Group Gathering

Monday, April 24 at 6:00 p.m. at St. John for Middle and High School Youth.
Dinner and fun games. Bring your friends and join us.



May 20, 2023: CML Spring Work Day

Practice stewardship through service at camp at Camp Mount Luther at the Annual Spring Work Day on Saturday, May 20, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We need your help getting the camp grounds and facilities ready for summer. There will be plenty to do and everyone in the family can help! Please bring supplies to do cleaning, mulching, raking, and light construction projects such as step ladders, buckets, rakes, etc. A light lunch will be served. RSVP by May 15 if staying for lunch to cml@campmountluther.org or 570-922-1587.

The 2024 ELCA National Youth Gathering will be held in New Orleans on July 16-24, 2024. We encourage all our Middle and High School youth to consider attending. Registration will be in the Fall of 2023 and so we need to plan fund-raising activities soon for those interested in going. Check out the website for further information and videos: elca.org/2024YouthGathering

For more information contact Mrs. Eisner who is coordinating our participation.

We're thrilled to share the theme for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering, MYLE, the Able, and Young Adult Gathering is "Created to Be" based on Psalm 139:14— "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well."

Young Adults

Y O U N G
A D U L T
F E L L O
W S H I P

A reminder that Camp Mount Luther's **Young Adult Fellowship** meets via Zoom on the last Wednesday of every month. On March 29, 2023, we will meet at 8:00 p.m. for check-ins and Bible study. If you consider yourself a young adult, you can join us! Questions or want the link? Email jim@campmountluther.org.

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and asked his father when they could discuss his use of the car. His father said he'd make a deal with his son: "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut. Then we'll take about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed upon it.

After about six weeks, his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair ... and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

His father replied, "Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?"

-via George Goldtrap, The Joyful Newsletter, May-June 2023

Check out our congregation's webpage at www.stjl.org.

Our worship services are broadcast live each Sunday morning on Facebook at 9:30 a.m. on St. John Lutheran, Jersey Shore, Facebook site.

Remember St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in your will! Your gifts to the St. John Lutheran Endowment Fund are held in perpetuity and the interest will continue to support the ministries of St. John and the community forever! See Chuck Gottschall.

Remember Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in your will! Your gifts to the Trinity Lutheran, Avis, Endowment Fund are held in perpetuity and the interest will continue to support the recreation programs in Avis, the Avis Fire Company, United Seminary in Gettysburg and Philadelphia, and College Scholarships for local students forever! See Deb Heydrich.

"The average Lutheran invites a friend to worship once every 26 years." Pat Keifert.

Let's break the average. Invite your neighbors and friends to worship and make our congregation grow! Encourage them to encounter the Holy Spirit among us in Word and Sacrament.

Remember the deadline for the June/July newsletter is May 15. Please submit your articles early to the church office.