

The Eagle

*“I carried you on eagle’s wings
and brought you to myself.”*

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
229 South Broad Street
Jersey Shore PA 17740
570-398-1676

Our Mission:
Called Together
Sharing Christ
Serving Others

August/September 2023

Check out our congregation’s webpage at www.stjl.org
or St. John Lutheran on Facebook

“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.

Please send us your email so you can receive updates from St. John at: stjohn@stjl.org

Pastors Message Aug/Sep 2023

“In Paul’s letter to the Philippians, joy is the theme throughout. Chapter 1 explains that there is joy in living; chapter 2, joy in serving; chapter 3, joy in sharing; chapter 4, joy in resting.”

Rev. Paul Lintern, Mansfield, OH, The Joyful Newsletter

We have all encountered people in our journeys who are grumpy and exhibit no sense of joy in their life. They constantly criticize the government, their spouses, their jobs, their neighbors ... but while doing so they miss the beauty of the flowers in bloom, conversations over coffee, see the first steps of a child, or laughter at silly stories.

In the Joyful Newsletter for Sept-Oct there was a story of a doctor who was treating a woman for depression. “How do you start your day?” he asked her. “Do you wake up grumpy?” “No, sir,” she replied. “I just let the old bum sleep in.”

-via Msgr. Arthur Tonne

Happiness and joy can transform our dreary lives into something new. “Ancient Egyptians believed that upon death they would be asked two questions, and their answers would determine whether they could continue their journey in the afterlife. The first question was, “Did you bring joy?” The second was, “Did you find joy?”

I encourage you to take the time, open your Bible, and read Philippians and hear Paul’s message about JOY. Then practice it with diligence knowing that Jesus wants us to have that joy in our everyday lives.

“May you have a song in your heart, a smile on your lips, and nothing but joy at your fingertips.” -Irish Blessing

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Aucker*

Hacked

I have been told that some of you have received emails from me asking for donations or other business. Please “Delete” such emails. I would never make such requests by email. I have been hacked at least three times that I am aware. I have changed passwords on my email and other web sites I use. But I am told that changing passwords will not stop hackers. Many times, in the sender email from the hacker, they will have emails that are spelled incorrectly or obviously not from me. If something appears inappropriate – delete it immediately and call me. If there

is a legitimate need in the congregation, I will announce it from the pulpit or place it in the bulletin or newsletter but I will not send out an email from myself. It is being recommended by colleagues in other churches to not put emails or phone numbers in newsletters as that is an information source that is placed on the web accessible to anyone, including hackers. I will be careful about not including emails or phone numbers in the bulletin or newsletters in the future. Updated phone directories are available in the office. Also, if your bulletin or newsletter is going directly to your Spam, add stjohn@stjl.org to your contact list so your contact list recognizes St. John Lutheran as a legitimate email.

Pastor Aucker

Baptisms

On June 18, 2023, we celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Lilah Rose Herman and Rowan Scot Herman, children of Miranda & Zak Herman.

We also received into the membership of St. John Lutheran, Nichole and Shannon Page through the Affirmation of Faith. Welcome them into the body of Christ here at St. John Lutheran and introduce yourself to them.

On July 2, 2023 we celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Marlow Reese Myers, daughter of Rian Kibby and Matthew Myers.

Olivia Alyse Conner, Lola Alyse Conner, and Boppy Lauren Myers, children of Kristie & Maddison Myers. Welcome these new members of the congregation.

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored during the month of August by Myrtle Long in memory of her sister.

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The Bulletins are being sponsored in August by Mike & Ruth Aldridge and September 3 & 10 by Sue Willits and September 17 & 24 by Cozette Stoltzfus.

In August the Head Usher will be Kaye Long and Teller Jim Ely. In September the Head Usher will be Gina Johnson and Usher Christine Barner.

Many thanks to Lon Myers for installing new flooring in the old kitchen/storage area. It looks beautiful.

Special thanks to so many people who have been helping decorate and maintain the church, helped with Vacation Bible School at Trinity Methodist, and a host of other activities at St. John Lutheran. You are a blessing!

“Join-the-Choir” Night is starting Wednesday, August 30 at 6:30 p.m. and running every Wednesday until May 2023. People may be hesitant to show up to a choir rehearsal because they don’t want to be the only new person in an established group. A person may feel like they have to make a forever commitment that night. No! not with us! Come try choir out for a night or two. No commitment is required. I want to **extend an invitation to everyone!**

I wasn’t feeling too creative, so I did a google search for some ideas. One site said “Keep it fun and lighthearted!” Well, that’s no problem; our problem is to be serious enough to practice. “Plan to have some refreshments and let people mingle.” was the suggestion. Well, yes, feel free to bring a beverage; many members do! And a snack is you wish! We got the mingling down well! I just thought of something else! No worries about what to wear to church; your outfit is covered by a gown!

Come join Choir starting Wednesday, August 30! (I’ve also read that singing is excellent for your health!)

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. 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/month; 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.”

Transform Jersey Shore

A wonderful outreach in our community is happening again. August 7-11 a group of volunteers will be painting, roofing, remodeling, and performing other projects that will transform homes in the community and local area. Some of our seniors can not afford the labor and construction materials to keep their homes in repair and you can make a difference by making repairs for them. If you would like to be part of this project, contact Steve Muthler at Trinity Episcopal Church.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is beginning construction of a new home in the Williamsport area. They are seeking volunteers to build the home on Saturdays. A poster as well as contact information is on the bulletin board in the Tower.

Catechism Class

Catechism will re-start on Sunday, September 10 at 2:00 p.m. This year's classes will change to the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Catechism is for students entering seventh grade or older who have not completed Catechism instruction. It is a two-year program with one year focusing on Luther's Small Catechism and the second year focusing on the Bible stories. This year's focus will be on the Bible. The class on September 10 will begin with a look at the two creation stories in Genesis 1 and 2. Parents are asked to attend along with their children on September 10 to review expectations and ask questions. Please notify Pastor **by August 1** if your child will be attending Catechism classes so we know how much material to order.

Distribution of Food

The New Love Center Food Pantry will host the Food Distribution from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on August 11 and September 8. The New Love Center Food Pantry Jersey Shore served 238 households in the month of July with 550 individuals served. Boxes will be packed at 4:00 p.m.; August 10 and September 7.

Fellowship Time

We invite you to join us for a time of fellowship at the Shore Diner on Wednesday, August 16 and September 20, at 11:30 a.m. Come and enjoy the fellowship. You order off the menu.

Picnic and Outdoor Games

Join us after worship on Sunday, August 27 for a congregation picnic and time of fellowship at St. John Lutheran Church. Bring a dish to share and your own silverware.

The Bike Ride is On -- September 2nd

Watch for the upcoming posters and celebrate the marathon ride with Penny and Ken Dean's bicycle ride from Jersey Shore to Wellsboro and back (124 miles) on Saturday, September 2, leaving at 5:30 a.m. More details will be shared soon. The money raised will support Luke Antolick as he grows and has new needs.

Rally Day Coming in September 10

On September 10 we are planning a kick-off event for the start of this year's Children's Church. Our weekly attendance during the school year has been growing as we bring our children together for a Bible lesson and activity at the beginning of worship each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Come join us for this fun faith-building event.

Worship at Nippenose Village

On the fourth Sunday of each month, August 27 and September 24, 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.

Update on the Rising Anew Campaign. We continue to pay on the loan from the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. 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 \$203,568 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.

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.

Michael Brunner, 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

Mary Pepperman (July 23 – she turned 99 years old), 1101 Michael Street, Jersey Shore PA 17740

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

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

Sallie Dershem, 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:

Maddison & Kristie Myers & family
418 Rain Cloud Trail
Harker Heights, TX 76548

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.

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.*

Remember Our College Students in your Prayers

Madison Beasley, Pennsylvania College of Technology
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
Bri Gallagher, Shippensburg University
Quinn Green, CIA, Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, NY
Andrew Mitchell, Pennsylvania College of Technology
Dylan Rhea, Lock Haven University
Carter Stackhouse, Cedarclift College, Ohio
Cora Stackhouse, Lock Haven University
Jillian Waldman, Lock Haven University
Grace Welshans, Penn State University
Riley Welshans, Penn State University
Gus Wool, Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology
Hannah Wool, Ithaca College
Kane Wright, Pennsylvania College of Technology

Please call Pastor with corrections/additions.

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 but the response so far has been limited.

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.

Seafarer's International

It is that time of the year when congregations throughout the Upper Susquehanna Synod and along the East Coast prepare Seafarer bags for those Seafarers who work on the ships that bring products from other countries around the world to the United States. They are not allowed to enter the United States but some will end up here at a port with the ship they are working on during the Christmas and New Year's holidays while their families are many miles away. You can make a difference in the life of a Seafarer by packaging a Seafarer bag with the following items

- One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L-XL)
- Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym
- One T – Shirt (size M – L– XL)
- One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please),
- One Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar (one of the three)
- A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please **No substitutions from the list.** **For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms.** The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew.

You can also apply for a \$250 Thrivent Action Grant if you are a Thrivent member to purchase your items.

Please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and label the satchel with a M, L, or XL on the back side. **Seafarer bags are available in the church office.**

Please turn-in satchels November 1 to the office.

Thank you for your support of Seafarer's International. Our very own Pastor Martha McCracken was on the board of Seafarer's International and served as their President.

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.

Dear St. John Lutheran,

Thank you so much for the thoughtful graduation gift. The blanket will be going to college with me in the Fall! I appreciate all the encouragement, support and prayers as I get ready for my new adventure at Penn State.

Gracie Welshans

St. John Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the Graduation gift. The blanket is something I will always cherish. Thank you,

Sincerely, Gus Wool

Dear Saint John Lutheran congregation,

Thank you for the service and the gifts I received on Sunday for the graduate-honoring service. I appreciate it greatly. It was very generous and thoughtful.

Carter Stackhouse

Many thanks to everyone who donated money during the month of June for our Missionary in Liberia, Brian Palmer. \$179 was received and an anonymous donor will donate the balance for our congregation pledge of \$500.

Youth Ministry

Blessing of the Keys – August 13 for anyone getting their driver’s license for the first time. This is an important milestone for many young people and we pray that they will be safe in their driving.

Blessing of Students and Teachers – August 20 for all of our children from grades 1-12, our college students, and the teachers in our congregation who begin their new academic year.

Special Thanks! – We give thanks to everyone who donated food, time, and money to the hot dog fund raiser during the July 6 parade. We received \$334 in donations for the youth going to the National Youth Gathering.

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.”



Youth Group Meetings

Starting September 17, Youth Group meetings will be held following worship on the third Sunday of each month. Come join us and bring your friends.

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 Nicole Green.

The Stump the Pastor box is active again. It is located by the Thompson street entrance by the water cooler. Leave questions for the Pastor that will be answered in upcoming issues of *The Eagle*. No names please.

“In your sermon last Sunday you told the story of “Pew.” What happened to Pew?”
Answer: At the end of the book it said she simply moved on to another town.

“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 October/November newsletter is Sept 15. Please submit your articles early to the church office.

Women of the Church will meet after service on Sunday, August 13.

Thank you to all who helped with Vacation Bible School this year. The theme was “Fiesta VBS” and was held at Trinity United Methodist Church with a nice attendance of around 30 kids. Special thanks to Pastor Aucker for presenting the Bible lesson “The Prodigal Son,” and to Gloria Ely, Theresa Levins and Pam Wehler for providing the refreshments for the kids on Tuesday night. Every night we all yelled our VBS theme cheer: “Wanna taco ‘bout JESUS!, Wanna celebrate GOD!, Wanna fill up on *God’s LOVE!*, Celebrate FIESTA!” The kids had a fun filled week with lots of great activities. The theme expressed how we have an emptiness in our lives until God comes in- like an empty taco shell by itself, and each night we “*filled up*” with what God offers us- like a taco gets filled with good stuff. Celebrate God filling your life!