The Eagle – St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania*

*“Called Together … Sharing Christ … Serving Others”*

*Pastors Message* June/July 2022

Now a wife of a member of the company of prophets called to Elisha, “Your servant my husband is dead; and you know that your servant feared the Lord, but a creditor has come to take my two children as slaves.”

Elisha said to her, “What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?”

She answered, “Your servant has nothing in the house, except a jar of oil.”

He said, “Go outside, borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels and not just a few.

Then go in, and shut the door behind you and your children, and start pouring into all these vessels; when each is full, set it aside.”

So she left him and shut the door behind her and her children, they kept bringing vessels to her, and she kept pouring.

When the vessels were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another vessel.” But he said to her, “There are no more.” Then the oil stopped flowing.

She came and told the man of God, and he said, “Go sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your children can live on the rest.”

**2 Kings 4:1-7**

As one looks at this scripture passage one sees fear and trust. **Fear that we are ‘loosing our children.” But trust in knowing the oil would come. Trust that something would happen. Note that the vessels came from the neighbors. Maybe our mission is to gather the vessels from the surrounding area so they can be filled.**

**Note the key words in this passage: Trust, The Word is fulfilled, Children are part of this, the neighbors provide the empty vessels. There was a need and the neighborhood provided.**

**Having little versus abundance. What does this all mean?**

**Looking at the population for Clinton and Lycoming Counties and factoring in those who claim they are not affiliated with any church, we have 90,000+ people who are not affiliated with any congregation and are a field of opportunity for our congregations to share the love of Jesus Christ.**

**How do we go about doing that? Reaching out to those who are unchurched?**

First, engage in conversation and smile when you meet people. Perhaps YOU are the only person of Christ that someone will meet today. Perhaps that person is going through a crisis in their life right now and needs someone with whom they can share their burdens. Remember you are the light of Christ and you are the one to carry that light to others.

Second, listen to them. Don’t brush them off because you are busy but take the time to listen and learn more about the person so you can engage in conversation with them. Learn your scriptures by reading your Bible.

I often use Matthew 11, “Come to me all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” The reality is that in this chaotic world, people are seeking that rest in their lives.

Third, share your love of Christ with others. How have you been blessed? How has Christ impacted your life? Where is God in your life right now? When you share and witness the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to others, some will reject your Word and walk away, but others may remember what you said and it may change their life and give them hope. The more you share the love of Christ, the easier it will become to engage in conversation with others.

Fourth, Pray. Pray for those around you each day, for your family, for your community, for our nation and world. Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to give you strength and God will! Plant the seed – Let God take over. Tell then “God cares about them.”

*Y*ou*rs in Christ,*

*Pastor Aucker*

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

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored during the month of July by Jim and Lisa Ely in memory of Bill and Mary Ely, Sr.

We extend our sympathies to the family of Gerald Naugle who died March 19, 2022. His service was conducted March 26 at Carpenter Funeral Home with burial at Jersey Shore Cemetery.

We extend our sympathies to the family of Lower “Skip” Wagner who died on March 26, 2022. His service was conducted at Welker Funeral Home with burial at Rest Haven Cemetery outside Woolrich.

We extend our sympathies to the family of Jane Hart who died on May 1, 2022. Her service was conducted at Welker Funeral Home with burial at the Jersey Shore Cemetery.

**Worship Wednesday Mornings 10:00 a.m.**

Pastor Aucker offers the Sacrament of Holy Communion each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church. There is plenty of room for more to attend this half-hour service. If you cannot join us for worship Sunday mornings at St. John Lutheran, you are welcomed to join us on Wednesdays at Trinity Episcopal. Usually there is coffee and desert afterwards.

Pastor will be on vacation June 6-10. He will post in the bulletin who is covering for him.

**Distribution of Food**

The New Love Center Food Pantry will host the Food Distribution from 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. on June 10 and July 8. The New Love Center Food Pantry Jersey Shore served 192 households in the month of May. Boxes will be packed at 4:00 p.m.; June 9 and July 7.

**Fellowship Time**

You are invited to join in a time of Fellowship, lunch and conversation, at the Shore Diner on Wednesday, June 15 at 11:30 a.m. Order from the menu when you arrive.

**Communions at Promedica**

Mrs. Cozette Stoltzfus and Pastor Aucker will be offering the Sacrament of Holy Communion to the residents of Promedica July 5 at 2:00 p.m.

**Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly**

The annual assembly of the Upper Susquehanna Synod will be held Friday and Saturday, June 17 & 18 at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove. Our delegates, Gina and Gary Johnson and Pastor Aucker will be representing St. John Lutheran.

**Vacation Bible School**

St. John Evangelical Lutheran will be hosting Vacation Bible School this year on July 17-21 from 6-8 p.m. Registration will begin on Sunday, July 17, from 6-7:30 p.m. Please invite your grandchildren, neighborhood children, and any child in the area to join us. We plan an exciting and energizing week hearing about God’s love with music, crafts, Bible lessons, snacks, and more music. The more children the merrier.

**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 $272,669 as of May 1, 2022. 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.

**Pick up yours or your family members**

The 2022 Offering envelopes are available in the Tower. There are still envelopes that have not been picked up.

Sign-up sheets for the weekly bulletin, Sanctuary candle, and flowers for 2022 are posted either upstairs or by the office. Your contributions to these items for worship are appreciated.

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

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

Barbara & Charles Long, 140 Valley View Drive, JS. 570.398.2252

Dave Mitchell, 111 West Highland Street, PO Box 35, Avis, PA 17721. 570.753.5651

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

570.398.2780.

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

570-323-4340

Jim & Stella Barnard, 502 Pine Creek Ave, Jersey Shore, 570.398.2284

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 Scott Mitchell.

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 by the Office 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; Weekly bulletin $17; Flowers are provided by Russell Florists ($41) 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**

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop at AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization (in this case, St. John Lutheran) selected by customers. Amazon charges no fees.

How does my charity receive the donations?

Each quarter, the AmazonSmile Foundation makes donations by electronic fund transfer. Donations are transferred approximately 45 days after the end of each calendar quarter. In the last quarter, we received $59.22. Please try it and help support the ministries of St. John Lutheran. Every small gift can make a big difference.

**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***.

**Payments for Sight and Sound “DAVID**” February 6 - $65.00; May 1 - $65.00 and the final payment July 3 - $60 Fare includes bus, play, meal, tip for driver and fund raiser for Luke Antolick. The show is August 6, 2022 **--** Children 10 and under $125.00; Adults $190.00. Joyce Braucht.

**Our Finances**

Current Offering April 2022 $12,838.90

Expenses April 2022 $12,221.31

 Excess $617.59

Current Offering YTD $47,515.77

Expenses YTD $52,486.61

 Deficit $4,970.84

Please not that our current deficit is of concern for this time of the year as we enter the summer months when families are away. Your financial support is appreciated.

Mission Support Pledge April 2022 $1558.

Mission Support Offering $940.

 Deficit $968.

Mission Support Pledge YTD $6,232.

Mission Support Received YTD $4,540

 Deficit $1,692.

Amount in checking as of 4/31/22 $827.37

Rising Anew Loan balance $272,668.74

**Youth Ministry**

**Honoring those Affirming their Baptism and the High School Graduates!**

We celebrate with Roman Dittmar and Grayden Staggert as they completed the two-year program of Catechism instruction and will Affirm their Baptism on Sunday, June 5, 9:30 a.m.

We will also recognize our High School Graduates during the worship service and with a time of fellowship afterwards.

Ethan Aldridge

Dakota Batschlet

Lily Dincher

Olivia Eminhizer

Charlie Miller

Owen Staggert

Please join us in recognizing those who are Affirming their Baptism and those graduating from High School.

Check out our congregation’s webpage at [www.stjl.org](http://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!

*“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 August/September newsletter is July 15. Please submit your articles early to the church office.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Spring Cash Sunday Appeal. New purple and green paraments have been ordered from Gaspard. The current purple paraments are 50+ years old and the green are over 40 years old. They are both deteriorated and stained. The cost is $5,011.15 and came from the memorial fund. They should be manufactured and mailed to us in July. Your donations to the Spring Cash Sunday Appeal will be placed in the memorial fund.