

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, Pennsylvania 17740
570-398-1676**

**Our Mission:
*Called Together
Sharing Christ
Serving Others***

June/July 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 June/July 2023

“For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies; Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.”

As I write this message, I am in the midst of planting flowers and watching seeds pop up through the ground. I am watching in eager anticipation for the white marigolds I planted. The trees are coming alive with flowers and buds and leaves. The grass is green and growing with dandelion and other plants of various colors. After the dormancy and cold of winter, Spring is a time of renewal as God provides the warmth and growth of creation all over again. It is a time to give thanks to God for the growth of plants that provide for our wildlife and bees and birds to pollinate our plants so all animals and humankind can have food. When you view the forests and people’s lawns and gardens, it amazes us all that God has provided for us in such abundance and all we can say is “Thanks be to God.”

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Aucker*

We extend our sympathies to the family of David Mitchell who died on Friday, April 10, 2023, at WeCares of Loyalsock. A Memorial Service was held on Sunday, May 7, 2023 at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church to celebrate his life and the blessing he was to his family, friends, and the community.

We extend our sympathies to the family of Jack Rishel who died on Tuesday, May 1, 2023, at Williamsport Hospital. A Memorial Service was held Monday, May 8 at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church to celebrate his life and the blessing he was to his family, friends, and the community.

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored during the month of June by Bob, Jean Anne, and Shane Snyder in memory of our son and brother Rick.

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored during the month of July by Agnes Cryder in memory of my husband.

The Bulletins are being sponsored in June by Cynthia Breon and in July by Betty Allen.

In June the Head Usher will be Brayden Wehler and Teller Bob Wehler. In July the Head Usher will be Deb Heydrich and Usher Kaye Long.

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.

Congratulations!

On Pentecost Sunday we celebrated the Affirmation of Faith as Illana Green was confirmed. We also recognized our University Graduate, Cheyenne Mitchell; and High School graduates: Madison Beasley, Andrew Mitchell, Dylan Rhea, Carter Stackhouse, Gracie Welshans, Kane Wright. Best wishes to each of you as you pursue your future endeavors.

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 June 9 and July 14. The New Love Center Food Pantry Jersey Shore served 207 households in the month of April with 611 individuals served. Boxes will be packed at 4:00 p.m.; June 8 and July 13.

Annual Assembly of the Upper Susquehanna Synod

We thank Gina and Gary Johnson for volunteering to serve as Synod delegates for the annual assembly June 16 & 17 at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove. Due to the significant shortage of clergy with retirements, deaths, and clergy leaving the area, some of the assembly time will address the coverage of congregations for worship, funerals, hospital visits, etc., and looking at the future. While some people want things to remain the way they have always been, the reality is that out of the 112 congregations in the Upper Susquehanna Synod, there are only 46 ordained clergy remaining and many of those are of retirement age. Many retired clergy leave the synod after retirement and move closer to wherever their children reside. It should be an interesting discussion.

Fellowship Time

We invite you to join us for a time of fellowship at the Shore Diner on Wednesday, June 21 and July 19, at 11:30 a.m. Come and enjoy the fellowship. You order off the menu.

Honoring our Fathers and Sons

Your all invited - Food - Fun - and Fellowship

We will be honoring all Fathers & Sons with a picnic lunch and Sundae Bar (ice cream provided by Phil-it Up) on Sunday June 25th following the service. **EVERYTHING WILL BE PROVIDED SO PLEASE STAY AND ENJOY!**

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held this year on July 16-20 at Trinity United Methodist Church. Sunday will be from 6-7:30 p.m., and Monday-Thursday will be held from 6-8 p.m. More details will be released later.

Worship at Nippenose Village

On the fourth Sunday of each month, June 25 and July 23, 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.

St. James Day Picnic

Every year the four congregations of Garman, Grace, St. John and St. James are invited to come together for the Joint Picnic at their picnic pavilion. Bring a covered dish to share and your own plates and silverware. Meat and drinks provided. Lunch will begin at noon.

Spring Cash Sunday

Thus far we received \$1820 in offerings for Spring Cash Sunday which will be used for the purchase of a new speaker for in front of the sanctuary. Thank You!

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 – I don't have the exact amount but it should be near \$200,000. 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 \$? 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.

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

Mary Pepperman (July 23 – will be 99 years old), 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

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:

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."

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.*

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 Years 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. Pastor will have Seafarer bags after the Synod Assembly June 19.

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.

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Youth Ministry

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.”



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.

“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.