***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**

**April/May 2020**

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

*Pastors Message* April/May 2020

You always hear the usual stories of pennies on the sidewalk being good luck, gifts from angels, etc. This is the first time I've ever heard this twist on the story. Gives you something to think about.

Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway, and cars costing more than her house.

The first day and evening went well, and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live. The husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying herself immensely.

As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband.

He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment..

Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped, and a few cigarette butts. Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny.

He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value.

A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this?

'Look at it.' He said. 'Read what it says.' She read the words 'United States of America'

'No, not that; read further.'

'One cent?' 'No, keep reading.'

'In God we Trust?' 'Yes!' 'And?'

'And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin, I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him? Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!

When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up, and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I cannot change. I read the words, 'In God We Trust,' and had to laugh. Yes, God, I get the message.

It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in the last few months, but then, pennies are plentiful! And, God is patient.

*Yours in Christ,*

*Pastor Aucker*



The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored during the month of April

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored during the month of May in loving memory of

 Bill Yost by Lynette, Carol, Nicole, Hannah, Bryan and Adalynn

**Baptism of William Mitchell Hollick**

William Mitchell Hollick, son of Stephanie and Nathan Hollick, was baptized on March 15 at

St. John Lutheran.

We extend our sympathies to the family of Maude Zerby, who died March 9 at the Masonic Home in Elizabethtown. Her service will be Saturday, April 4, 1:00 p.m., here at St. John Lutheran.

**Thank you**

Thank you to our Thrivent members who recently donated $231.00 of Choice Dollars through Thrivent Choice.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Souper Bowl Collection on Feb. 2, we collected $160. The offerings went to the New Love Center to feed local people in need.

**Second Year Catechism**

Pastor will be teaching the second year Catechism students from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday April 5 and May 3.

**Holy Week Services**

Sunday, April 5 Palm Sunday services, 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 9 Maundy Thursday at Grace Lutheran, 7:00 p.m. Pastor Aucker preaches.

Friday, April 10 Good Friday at St. James Lutheran, 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Sunday, April 12 The Resurrection of Our Lord, 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. St. John Lutheran

Sunday, April 19 Holy Humor Sunday

**Help Us Buy a Cow?**

For many years we asked people to buy chickens through Lutheran World Hunger. This Lent and Easter we are inviting members of the congregation to give to God’s Global Barnyard by raising $500 for a cow. A cow would bring milk and eventually meat to sustain a family in a developing country. Make your checks payable to St. John Lutheran Church, and memo it “cow.” Return the Barnyard boxes on Palm Sunday, April 5. Lutheran World Relief arranges the distribution of animals to families in need so we don’t know where the cow will go.

**Lent/Easter Offering**

1/3 Mission Support

1/3 United Churches of Lycoming County

1/3 Camp Fund for those attending Church Cap from St. John

**Distribution of Food**

The New Love Center Food Pantry will host the Food Distribution from 9:00 a.m.-noon and

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. on April 3 & 24 and May 8 & 22. Note the date changes because of Good Friday and the way the Fridays fall in the month. The New Love Center Food Pantry served 407 families in the month of January distributing food to 1,004 people. Boxes will be packed at

4:00 p.m.; April 2 & May 7. Please speak to Betty Allen if you can volunteer.

We will be collecting the following items for the New LOVE Center Food Pantry

April - Spaghetti sauce (cans)

May - Pork and Beans

June - Toothbrushes and Toothpaste

July - Potato flakes/Instant potatoes

August - small grape jelly

September - Pudding cups

October - Fruit cups

**Fellowship Time**

You are invited to join us on the third Wednesday of each month at the Restless Oaks for a time of fellowship. No reservations needed. Just show up at 11:30 a.m. in the back room and order from the menu. The next Fellowship Time is on Wednesday, April 15 and May 20.

**Come Tour the Holylands**

Welcome members and guests to a one-hour tour of the Holylands on Sunday, April 19 after worship in the big Sunday School room. Experience the sights and allow the scriptures to come alive as Pastor experienced them this past January. A light lunch will be provided.

**Christian Education, Music and Worship Ministry, and Youth Ministry**

The above committees will be meeting on Monday, April 20, to plan activities for the coming months. Music and Worship meets in the choir room and Christian Education meets in the office at 6:00 p.m. Youth Ministry meets at 7:00 p.m. in the office. Anyone wanting to join the committees or participate are welcome to attend.

**Outreach Ministry**

Outreach Ministry will be meeting after the 10:30 a.m. worship on Sunday, April 26. Everyone interested in Outreach Ministry are welcomed to attend. This used to be a very active ministry in our congregation and one that we want to renew. Please bring a dish to share for lunch.

**Conference Assembly**

The annual assembly of the West Branch Conference will be held on Sunday, April 26, at Garman Lutheran at 3:00 p.m. The annual business of the Conference will be conducted, election, and previews of any expected business of the Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly. Synod delegates and Pastors from every congregation in our conference are expected to attend.

**Spring Cash Sunday**

This year May 4th has been designated by council for Spring Cash Sunday. Offerings collected will help offset the cost to purchase an Industrial Vacuum Cleaner.

**Communions at Manor Care**

Pastor Aucker will be offering the Sacrament of Holy Communion to the residents of Manor Care on Tuesday, May 5 at 2:00 p.m.

**Confirmation of Max Dincher** will be held at St. John Lutheran on Sunday, May 17. A tea in the Sunday School Room will follow the service to recognize Max.

**Confirmation of Blain Baier** will be held at St. James Lutheran on Sunday, May 24. A social time in the Sunday School room will follow the service to recognize Blain.

**Joint Ascension of Our Lord Service**

The West Branch Conference Clergy will be conducting a Joint Ascension of Our Lord service on Thursday, May 21, 7:00 p.m. at St. John Brick Church, Montgomery. Members of all our Lutheran Churches are invited to attend. Bishop Barbara Collins will be preaching.

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

Sgt. Myers, Maddison

8205b Eberle Loop,

Fort Campbell KY 42223

**Remember our College Students**

Samuel Baier, Pennsylvania College of Technology

Harris Brewer, Pennsylvania College of Technology

Josephine Ely, West Chester University of Pennsylvania

Beatrice Ferguson, Princeton University

Dylan Lundy, Clark Summit University

Cheyenne Mitchell, Shippensburg University

Crae McCracken, Shippensburg University

Gabrielle Moore, Pennsylvania College of Technology

Alexandra Waldman, Lock Haven University

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

Richard Hurd (Jun 29) Mary Pepperman (July 23)

Hillside Assisted Living Room 101 1101 Michael Street

2725 Four Mile Drive Jersey Shore PA 17740

Montoursville PA 17754 570.398.2780.

570.322.4436

 Virginia Moffitt (May 20)

Leila Hiller 174 Valley Heights Drive

2331 Marydale Ave Williamsport PA 17701

Williamsport PA 17701 570.651.9563

570.322.1091

Maxine Charles

Nippenose Valley Village

7190 South State Route 44

Williamsport PA 17701

570-745-2400

Virginia Osborne Manor Care, JS, Room A8. 1008 Thompson Street. JS.

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

Dave & Mae Pearl Kuehl, 120 Grove St. PO Box 884, Avis PA 17721 570.753.3826

Jane Hunter Shaffer, 237 Wild Wings Blvd, JS. 570.873.3023

Doris Gephart, 205 Shady Lane, JS. 570.398-0784

Dave Mitchell, 516 Allegheny St. JS.

Agnes Cryder, 201 S. Broad St. Apt 2, JS 570.398.0886

Bob and Phyllis Moriarity, 184 Sassafras Lane, Waterville, PA 17776 570.753.8766

**Graduation Recognition and Tea**

The members of St. John Lutheran will be recognizing our High School and College graduates at the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, May 31. A tea will follow in their honor.

 High School College

 Katie Brewer Sam Baier

 Olivia Anne Eisner Dylan Lundy

 Max Ferguson Alexandra Waldman

 Brian McCloskey

 Allison Moore

 Shania Penton

 Jillian Waldman

**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 $153,908. 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 on the envelope and place it in the offering plate.

**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.

**Giving Plus+**

 St. John Lutheran is offering a new way to support the ministries of St. John. Now you can download the “Giving Plus+” 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. About once a month we receive a request asking if someone can give electronically by debit/credit card. Now this feature is available. If you have any questions, contact Pastor or Scott Mitchell.

**We also offer Give+ Text:**

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 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. Give+ Text 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. They are also available Tuesday-Thursday from Molly in the office.

**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 Molly. Payment should be made to “St. John Lutheran Church.” Donate bread for Holy Communion: one pack of fresh pita bread will serve both services or two loafs of fresh bread.

**Amazon**Smile

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. A donation of $27.90 from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between October 1 and December 31, 2019. Please try it and help support the ministries of St. John Lutheran. Every small gift can make a big difference.

**Summer Worship**

**One Service- 9:00 a.m.**

**June, July, August only**

**An opportunity to worship together with One Voice!**

We invite you to send “thinking of you” cards to Wayne Brewer. He is now at Magee Rehabilitation Hospital

Magee Rehabilitation Hospital

C/O Wayne Brewer

1513 Race Street

Philadelphia PA 19102

**Remember St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in your will!**

*Your gifts to the Endowment Fund are held in perpetuity and the interest will continue to support the ministries of St. John and the community forever!*

Remember the deadline for the June/July 2020 newsletter is May 15. Please submit your articles to Molly early.

**Youth Ministry**

**“Grab-a-Tab”**

The youth of St. John would like to ask for donations of little tabs from beverage, soup and dessert cans. It doesn’t matter what color the tab, just grab them and deliver them to the church office. This project will benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Danville.“Grab-a-Tab” program allows people of all ages to join in the effort of providing a “Home-away-from-Home” to children with cancer or other serious illnesses and their families.

ELCA National Youth Gathering June 29 – July 3, 2021 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. All High School Students in 2021 are invited to join 40,000+ other youth across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to celebrate the power of Christ in our lives and serve our neighbors. See Cathy Eisner if you can go.

**April 27 at 6:00 p.m.: Youth Group gathering for High School Youth only. Chinese Night.**

Would you know what to do if you had a flat tire? Or the engine light comes on? Wes McCracken will be offering a hands-on basics of taking care of your car. A great presentation for new drivers and potential drivers. Dinner will be provided. Friends are invited but it would be helpful if you left Pastor or Mrs. Aucker know you are coming so we have enough food for everyone. Also leave us know if you are gluten-free or have any dietary restrictions. Pastor can be reached by text at 570.916.1317.

**Annual Easter Egg hunt**

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 11 at 11:00 a.m. for all children and grandchildren of St. John 12 years and under. We will begin promptly so please arrive at 10:45 a.m. and bring a basket with you. Middle and High school youth will meet in the church office at 9:30 a.m. to help. Donations of candy are greatly appreciated and can be left in the church office.

**April 27 at 6:00 p.m.: Youth Group gathering for High School Youth only.**

**Dinner provided**.

**Summer Camp**

Sign up for Summer Camp at Camp Mt. Luther. Registration forms and Camp Brochures are available please see Molly. Our Christian Education Ministry encourages all our youth to attend camp and we will pay your registration fees so please get a camp registration today!

Church camp is a great place to grow in your faith. Camp brochures and applications are available downstairs.

**Sunday School**

The last week of Children’s Sunday School for the 2019-2020 term will conclude for the summer on Sunday, May 17. Sunday School resumes with Rally Day in September.

Christian Education is meeting to discuss Children’s Church beginning in the fall 2020. Join us at our next meeting on Monday, April 20 at 6:00 p.m.

**Mother’s Day**

The youth of St. John will honor the Women of St. John with a small gift on Sunday, May, 10 in celebration of all mothers and women who influence our lives and help us grow.

**Camp Mount Luther Spring Work Day**

Practice stewardship through service at camp Mount Luther at their annual Spring Work Day. The camp needs your help getting grounds and facilities ready for summer. There will be plenty to do and everyone in the family can help! The event will be held on Saturday, May ?? from

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Please contact Molly if you can help.