

# *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***

**October/November 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.*

As I try to be the non-anxious presence among you, I listen, ponder, and pray for your strength for all the challenges that I hear so many people face in today's world. The uncertainty of human life, the anxiety of not knowing what tomorrow will bring, natural disasters and human-made events, divisions in families and communities, ... where is God's peace we may ask? Perhaps it is among you, around you, and within you, but you don't recognize it for you are overwhelmed by the news and snarky remarks of people who feel they need to express their sense of pride. I advise you to get away from it all. Go for a walk, enjoy the beauty and the earthly smell of a mum, take a drive and see the beauty of the fall leaves, notice the earth in all its beauty and wrap yourself into the evolving rhythms of the year: Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer. While Fall brings with it the hush of darkness by five p.m., that darkness will soon be replaced by the splendor of colored lights to point us again to our Savior, Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Take the time to enjoy those lights. If you have a string of Christmas lights at home, I encourage you to place them on a tree outside or inside your house now to remind yourself that the Lord is good, merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. His light will penetrate any darkness that surrounds our life.

I was recently to a retreat for rostered leaders at Camp Mt. Luther where Psalm 62 was read from Robert Alter's version of The Book of Psalms.

*2 Only in God is my being quiet. From Him is my rescue.*

*3 Only He is my rock and my rescue. I shall not stumble at all.*

*4 How long will you demolish a man—commit murder, each one of you—*

*5 Only from his high place they schemed to shake him.*

*They took pleasure in lies. With their mouths they blessed and inwardly cursed.*

*6 Only in God be quiet, my being, for from Him is my hope.*

*7 Only He is my rock and my rescue, my fortress—I shall not stumble.*

*8 From God is my rescue and glory, my strength's rock and my shelter in God.*

*9 Trust in Him at all times, O people.*

*Pour out your hearts before Him. God is our shelter.*

*10 Only breath—humankind, the sons of man are a lie.*

*On the scales all together they weigh less than a breath.*

*11 Do not trust in oppression and of theft have no illusions.*

*Though it bear fruit of wealth, set not your heart upon it.*

*12 One thing God has spoken, two things have I heard:*

*that strength is but God's, and Yours, Master, is kindness. For you requite a man by his deeds.*

This psalm sets up a dichotomy between the shakiness of the world/humanity and the steadiness of God—only in God is there surety and salvation. Where in your life do you need this reminder? What things claim to provide life but ultimately fail?

I continue to keep you in my prayers and remember I am available to you, 570.916.1317.

*Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Aucker*

The Sanctuary Candle during the month of October

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored during the month of November



### **Prayer/Holy Communion Each Wednesday**

You are invited to come together for a service of prayer and the Sacrament of Holy Communion each Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church in their fellowship hall by the main entrance. Pastor Aucker was asked to offer the Sacrament since they do not have a regular Ordained Minister to serve the Sacrament at Trinity. An invitation is extended to members of St. John and St. James to join us. Masks are required.

### **Time of Worship**

Council decided to continue having one worship service at 9:00 a.m. this Fall. Our attendance has remained down and it cannot be justified to going back to two worship services at this point in time. Some people have expressed a desire to change the worship time. While a poll resulted in a variance of opinions council decided to return to this topic at its October council meeting.

### **Why Wear a Mask in Worship?**

The Center for Disease Control recommends washing your hands, wearing a mask, and physical distancing to protect you from catching the coronavirus and protect you from spreading the virus to others. The coronavirus is much different than the flu because one can be asymptomatic (have no fever or other symptoms) and yet be a carrier and infect other people. Young people are more likely to be carriers and seniors and those with diabetes and other medical conditions are more likely to suffer from shortness of breath and kidney issues if they are infected by the virus. The coronavirus is an airborne disease in which it is transmitted by aerosolized droplets and breathed in by the nasal passages infecting people. Unlike the flu, a person can be re-infected with the coronavirus more than once. It also can cause permanent lung scarring, heart damage, and kidney damage. People who are at high risk, including some within our congregation, can be more susceptible of contracting the virus. As a result, some of our members at high risk have stayed away from worship. We have to be sensitive to their spiritual needs and support them as the community of faith. That is why it is so important to wash our hands, wear a mask, and physically distance ourselves during the 50 minutes of worship so we protect others and protect ourselves. It also means separating ourselves from others by sitting in every other pew. While this pandemic has lasted for seven months and maybe longer, time is on our side. The longer we take precautions the more the virus will diminish in its strength. I pray for those who are ill with the virus and pray for the time when we will no longer need to wear masks. May it come soon. I can only urge you to wash your hands, wear a mask, and physically distance yourself. As a cancer survivor I will continue to wear my mask to protect you and protect myself. Please sit in a pew with another pew between you and the next family. We have plenty of room to spread out at St. John and we will continue to offer worship each Sunday on Facebook.

## Blessing of the Animals

Pastor will be offering a Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 4 at 1:00 p.m. in the parking lot of St. John Lutheran. We have had dogs, cats, fish, and other creatures come for a blessing. Feel free to join us.



## Catechism Class

Pastor will be offering Catechism class starting October 4 at 2:00 p.m. for any young people in 7<sup>th</sup> grade or older. The classes will be offered on Zoom to keep physical distancing. There are booklets and assignments to pick up in advance of the classes. See Molly to pick up your child's catechism materials. Please leave Pastor know if you are participating so he can send you an email link to Zoom. Catechism will be offered the first and third Sunday of each month from 2-3:00 p.m.

## Pro Life March on the Golden Strip in Williamsport

Sunday, October 4, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Anyone interested in joining those who are planning to attend please call Joyce Braucht 570.398.2852 to for more information Thank you.

## Food Distribution

The New Love Center Food Pantry will host the Food Distribution from 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. on October 9 & 23 and November 13 & 27. The New Love Center Food Pantry served 312 households in the month of August distributing food to 729 people. Boxes will be packed at 4:00 p.m.; October 8 & November 12.

## Synod Advocacy

**FOCUS:** A Book Study using *I'm Still Here*, by Austin Channing Brown. The book is an "incisive memoir [which] takes a penetrating look at race and the Christian faith while providing tools on how to cope with microaggressions and blatant racism."

**FORMAT:** Our Conference will participate via ZOOM meetings, which will be set-up through the Synod Office.

### SCHEDULE:

West Branch Conference -- Sessions to be held on the following Sundays:  
October 11, October 18, and October 25, meeting from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Facilitators: The Revs. Ted Cockley and Jeff LeCrone. Site: St. Luke, Wmspt.

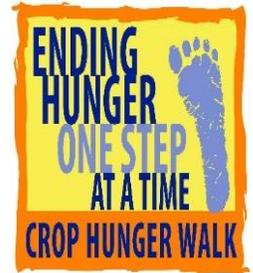
## **Blanket Sunday**

Lutheran World Relief - sponsored jointly by the Women of ELCA and the Committee for Global Missions Upper Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA. The Women of the Church receive their annual offering for Blankets October 11. While we no longer physically receive blankets due to the cost of shipping them, we do give thanks for those who donate money to purchase blankets in other countries where they are used for warmth and shelter in refugee camps and orphanages.

## **Greater Lycoming CROP Walk**

Sunday, October 11, 2020 1:00 p.m. Masks and social Distancing Required. The Williamsport walk begins at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Market St. Wmspt, with 3,6, and 9 miles, routes along the river walk. Or design a walk of your own. Our goal this year is \$15,000 and 200 walkers.

25% of the funds we raise support these local hunger agencies: New Love Center, Jersey Shore! For more info. [www.crophungerwalk.org/williamsportpa](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/williamsportpa)



## **Pastor on Vacation**

Pastor and Mrs. Aucker hope to get away hiking the week of October 12-16. For emergency pastoral care, please contact Pastor Runser at 570-725-2155.

## **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, October 21 & November 18.

## **Bible Study to Resume October 19**

While everything is still in a state of flux regarding the safety of members to gather in groups, we are hopeful that we can resume Bible study on October 19 with a luncheon following Bible study at the home of Gloria and Dean Ely, 1212 Creekside Lane. Bible Study will be held at 10:00 a.m. every Monday in the large Sunday School room. We will study the book of Esther for four weeks and then go into a Christmas study title "A Wonderful Life." Please read ahead on Esther.

## Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir is FUN! Yes, you need to go to rehearsal, but we are a great group. Choir invites you to join us—make a joyful noise unto the Lord and have great fellowship! Choir will practice Wednesday, October 21 and 28 at 6:30 PM and sing an anthem beginning on Sunday, November 1. Choir members will be asked / required to wear a mask or shield at all times, and we will work on socially distancing at rehearsal and in the nave. We'd love for you to join us!



## Christmas-at-Sea

Would you like to bring joy to seafarers who will not be home with their families for Christmas? Our port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts to the seafarers they meet in port in the weeks prior to Christmas. Later, on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, when the ship is in the middle of the ocean, the captain will hold a celebration, and all the crew will open their satchels, each containing:

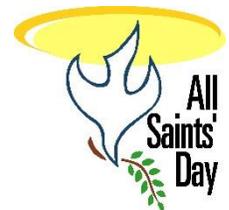
- One sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size L-XL)
- Three pairs of socks – thermal or white gym
- One casual pullover T-shirt (size M-L)
- One can of nuts or bar of chocolate, and
- A Christmas card from you.

We invite you to participate in a memory of Pastor Martha McCracken by purchasing the items needed for a Christmas Seafarer's bag. Bags are available in the office. Please return by Nov. 2. For many years Pastor McCracken, a daughter of St. John Lutheran, was President of Seafarers Ministry.

## All Saints Sunday

November 1 will be a busy day as we celebrate the Saints triumphant, Those saints this past year who have joined the Saints Triumphant:

- Maude Zerby 3/10/2020
- Maxine Charles 3/17/2020
- Virginia Osborne 5/6/2020
- Wayne Hall 7/20/20 n.m.
- Melinda "Mo" Watts 7/25/2020



## Fall Cash Sunday

Fall Cash Sunday will be Sunday, November 8, donations be directed toward a new commercial vacuum to be used for cleaning the church. It was noted that a commercial vacuum may cost approximately \$800.

## **Veterans Day Celebration**

A special liturgy will be used on November 8 to recognize our veterans and give thanks for their service to our country. We invite all our veterans to join us in worship that day as we pay tribute to those who served our country.

## **Harvest Home**

Our annual collection of food donations for Harvest Home will be on Sunday, November 15. This year we will be collecting any flavor of Jello.

The Nippenose Valley Ministerium will be hosting its annual Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00 p.m. location to be determined. The public is invited to attend.



## **The Endowment Committee**

The St. John Endowment Fund committee will be meeting on Sunday, November 8, to review requests for Endowment Funds.

## **Congregation Meeting**



The annual congregation meeting to elect new council members, elect synod delegates, and approve the 2021 budget will be held after the worship service on Sunday, November 22. If you are interested in serving as a synod delegate, please let Pastor or Bill Ely know now. We need a male and a female candidate. Conference Assembly will be and Synod Assembly will be June

## **Christmas Poinsettias**

We are accepting orders for Christmas Poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary of St. John Lutheran for Christmas Eve. The florist requires we order in advance to guarantee the availability of the poinsettias. The colors are red, pink, and white. Please call the church office or email [stjohn@stjl.org](mailto:stjohn@stjl.org) to place your poinsettia order. Poinsettias can be taken home after the 10:30p.m. worship service on Christmas eve. We do not have a price at this time but expect them to be about the same price as last year. Karen Aucker 570-660-0551

## **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 \$370,000. 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. The additional \$200,000 the congregation approved for the replacement of the flat Sunday School roof with a pitched gable roof has been received. We received verbal approval for the project and now are awaiting completion of the architect's drawings. We are hoping that placement of the steel girders occurs in October. This additional money has been added on to the Rising Anew loan. So, any donations to the Rising Anew loan will pay off the renovation and the new roof.

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

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

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

Richard Hurd (Jun 29)  
Hillside Assisted Living Room 101  
2725 Four Mile Drive  
Montoursville PA 17754  
570.322.4436

Leila Hiller  
2331 Marydale Ave  
Williamsport PA 17701  
570.322.1091

Mary Pepperman (July 23)  
1101 Michael Street  
Jersey Shore PA 17740  
570.398.2780.

Virginia Moffitt (May 20)  
174 Valley Heights Drive  
Williamsport PA 17701  
570.651.9563



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

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

Dave Mitchell, 516 Allegheny St. JS.

Dave & Mae Pearl Kuehl, 120 Grove Street, Avis PA 17721. 570.753.3826

## **The Mission of the Church Goes on and Needs Your Support**

For 2020 members of St. John have donated \$7,287.27 to the Upper Susquehanna Synod out of our annual commitment of \$18,500. That is a year-to-date deficit of \$5,176.76. We encourage you to donate to **Mission Support** as you are able. We have also given \$50 to Domestic Disaster Response, \$305 to Campus Ministry, \$30 to Blanket Ministry of the Women of the Church. **Mission Support** is a separate item that is not part of our annual budget and goes to the Upper Susquehanna Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to support its various ministries. Your support is appreciated. Just note Mission Support on your offering envelope or choose Mission Support on your electronic donations.

While Camp Mt. Luther had to cancel its summer camp due to covid19 risks, their expenses to maintain the camp go on. Camp Mt. Luther appealed to the congregations of the Upper Susquehanna Synod for financial support. The Ministry of Christian Education at St. John Lutheran decided to donate \$1500 they received from the St. John Lutheran Endowment Fund, that is normally used for campers, to Camp Mt. Luther.

## **Automate your regular offering**

Do you know that over \$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." Currently we are using wafers during this time of pandemic concerns.

## **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 \$44.17. Please try it and help support the ministries of St. John Lutheran. Every small gift can make a big difference.

## **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!*

## 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.



### Sunday School

Sadly, Sunday School Classes that would normally begin September 13 have been indefinitely postponed due to COVID 19. Weekly Sunday school lessons and activities are being sent home. If your family is not receiving the lessons please email the church office [stjohn@stjl.org](mailto:stjohn@stjl.org)

### Carpenter's Farm



A favorite Fall tradition is approaching as we invite all of our youth to Carpenter's Farm in Linden on Saturday, October 24 at 2:00 p.m. We will be going for a hayride, walking through the corn maze, this year we are going to open a Spider Pinata under the tree at Carpenter's farm, and all participants will be allowed to take home one pumpkin. If you are interested in this event, please text Molly at 570-814-3489. We will meet at the Spider Pinata under the tree.

### ELCA National Youth Gathering

The National Youth Gathering has been postponed until July 24-28, 2022 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. All High School Students 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.

Remember the deadline for the December 2020/January 2021 newsletter is November 15. Please submit your articles to Molly early.