

St. John's Messenger

D U R I S H N G
N S E R V I N G
F A I T H

Volume 105, Issue 9

September 17, 2025

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

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Congregation Council

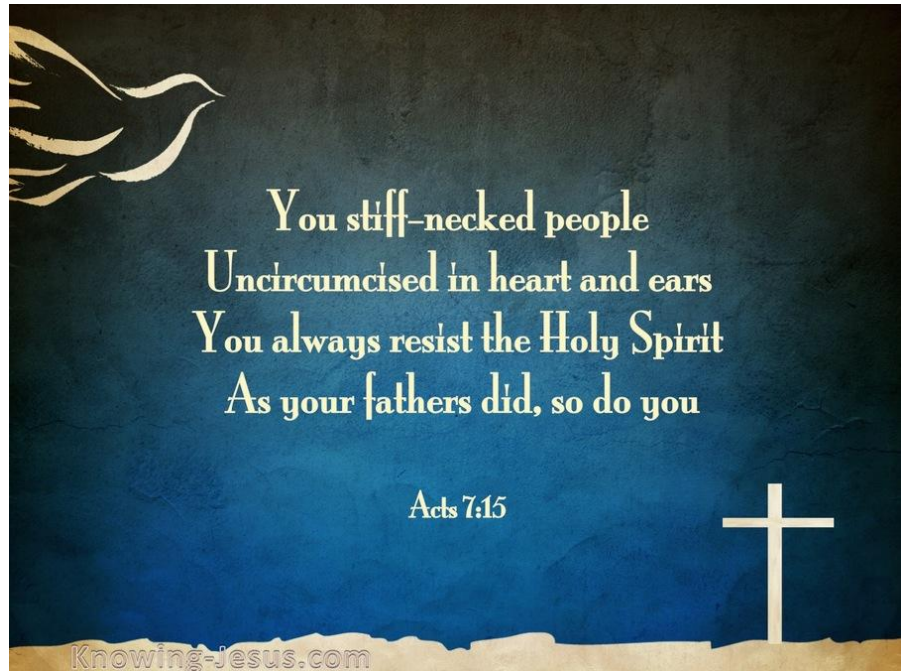
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Our fall confession calls us out as the stiff-necked people that we are. People who have a tendency to be proud, stubborn, uncompromising, and spiritually rebellious. This is all part of our humanity. But we are also God's people who receive the gifts of forgiveness, mercy, grace, and unconditional love.

Throughout this fall season as we explore the scriptures, we will continue to be called out in the ways that turn us away from whom God wants us to be. We will hear examples of the ways Jesus treats the needy, poor, and disregarded. We will hear the ways in which we live our lives in ways that don't reflect God's love for all creation. And we will listen for the Holy Spirit's guidance and direction in the ways we can turn away from the things of the world and reorient ourselves toward God. This opportunity for reflection of our lives gives us the ability to transform the ways that don't serve us or serve God.

May we turn our hearts and ears toward the Holy Spirit that we may be filled with the love of Christ Jesus, the hope of the Holy Spirit, and the blessings of our Creator!

Blessings,

Pastor Karla



Notes From the Director of Music



Choosing Hymns in Lutheran ELCA Worship: A Director of Music's Perspective

As the Director of Music for our congregation, I often find myself reflecting on the profound role that hymns play in our worship experience. Hymns are not just songs; they are theological expressions, communal prayers, and vehicles for personal reflection. The process of selecting hymns for our worship services is both an art and a responsibility, one that I undertake in close collaboration with our pastor.

The Collaborative Process

The selection of hymns begins with thoughtful discussions between the pastor and myself on an as needed basis. We consider the liturgical calendar, the themes of the scripture readings, and the overall mood we wish to convey during worship. This collaborative approach ensures that our musical choices align with our worship goals and enhance the spiritual experience of the congregation.

While some may prefer to sing only songs they already know, it's important to recognize that our hymn selections strive to introduce a variety of musical styles and texts. This diversity serves several purposes: it enriches our worship, fosters spiritual growth, and encourages us to engage with the broader Christian tradition. Hymns that may be unfamiliar at first can become cherished parts of our worship life, deepening our connection to God and one another.

Embracing New Tunes

One of the questions I frequently encounter is why we use different tunes for various liturgical seasons. The church year is marked by distinct themes and celebrations, each with its own unique character. For instance, the solemnity of Lent calls for reflective and somber hymns, while the joy of Easter invites us to sing with exuberance. By varying hymns and tunes throughout the seasons, we create a worship environment that mirrors the rhythms of our faith journey.

God's Peace,

Bill Jacavage
Director of Music





Everything you need to know to play the handchimes you learned in kindergarten – counting from 1-4 !!

Choir practice will begin on Thursday evenings at 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary beginning September 25th. No experience needed – on-the-job training provided.

If you are unable to make the first practice but are interested in playing, please see Bill Jacavage, Director of Music.

Join us in praising God through music.



Breakfast & Intergenerational Sunday School

Potluck breakfast and our intergenerational Sunday School Class will be held on Sunday, September 28th, following worship service. Everyone is invited to attend. If possible, please bring a dish to share.

Children & Adult Sunday School

Classes will begin on Sunday October 5th.

We are still in need of 1 additional teacher helper for the children's class on the second Sunday of each month. If interested, please see Pastor Karla or call the church office.

NEWS FROM KATE'S KUPBOARD

Kate's Kupboard was open on **August 16, 2025**.

We helped **585** people by distributing **194** household/personal care bags, **194** produce boxes, **194** packs of meat and **317** bags of groceries. We helped **117** babies and provided adult care products to **28** people.

The total cost was **\$6,062.54**.

Thank you to **ALL** the volunteers who helped with this Kate's Kupboard in any way.

We were able to provide Back to School supplies to 50 children. This part of our ministry did not cost us any money as all the supplies were donated.

Youth Events

The synod's Youth Ministry Initiative, led by youth from around the synod, will meet in October for a Murder Mystery! It will be held on October 12, 2025, from 2-4 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, Northumberland. Youth in grades 6-12 are invited for fun, fellowship, and food.

Other events scheduled for fall include:
November 9- A Ping Pong Tournament
(2-4 p.m. place TBA)

December 7- Advent Worship and Fellowship
from 2-4 p.m. at Camp Mount Luther



WELCA CORNER

Thank You

Thirty-four school kits were collected at St. Johns. Thank you to everyone who donated kits and items for kits. They will be taken to the Synod for shipment.

Seafarer Bags

Bags are available in the rear of the sanctuary. There are also knitted hats and scarves that were knitted and donated by the Nottingham Knitters to complete the bags. A complete list of items needed are in the bags. All bags need to be returned to the church **by October 26** in order to take them to the Synod. The Synod will be transporting them to New York.

Christmas Bazaar

When doing any fall cleaning, or downsizing, WELCA is looking for *Christmas decorations and good, gently used sellable gift items* for our next Christmas Bazaar. Items may be dropped off at the church during regular office hours. **PLEASE NO RUMMAGE!!**



WELCA will be holding a Basket Raffle at our annual Christmas Bazaar in December. Let us know if you are willing to donate the items for any of the baskets below/have a theme idea of your own, **or** would like to donate the money and we'll do the shopping. Money and any donated items need to be at the church by November 2nd.

You don't need to wrap anything – we'll take care of that for you! If you have any questions, please contact Karen Smeltz @ 570-490-1558 or Robin Heintzelman @ 570-847-2048.

THEME BASKET IDEAS: still available are –



Spa basket – any type of lotion/cream, loofa sponge, candles, aromatherapy, pampering item

Italian (pasta pot, pastas, sauces, strainer)

Family Fun Night – assorted board games

Movie night – popcorn, snacks, movies

Auto care basket – bucket, cleaners, soap, rags/sponge, air freshener

Gods Work. Our Hands

On Sunday, September 7th, St. John's celebrated Gods Work. Our Hands Sunday with special liturgy. Following worship, members gathered in Fellowship Hall for a hymn sing and meal. The hall was filled with the wonderful sound of music being lifted up to God. We were treated to special music by soloists and musicians. A delicious meal was prepared and served by Social Ministry. It was a time of gathering and fellowship.

The theme was – Alone We Can Do So Little...Together We Can Do So Much. A special thank you to all of St. John's volunteers. The saying of "It takes a village..." runs true. Everyone's part, whether big or small, helps to make the many ministries of our church flourish. We are very blessed to have such a committed group of volunteers.

On Thursday, September 11th, Social Ministry continued with God's Work. Our Hands. We packed snack baskets for our 4 fire departments. Thank you to everyone that donated drinks and snack items for our local fire departments. The Northumberland and Point Township Police Departments received lunches provided by Social Ministry.



Scouting News @ St. John's

There has been a scouting presence here at St. John's ever since 1933. Today, St. John's is the charter organization for Cub Pack 3325 and most recently to join us here is Venturing Crew 2307. Additionally in the coming months, plans are to restart Troop 325 as a Girl Troop.



Cub Scouting is for youth in kindergarten through fifth grade. The Cub Pack meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Scout Hall. Youth can join a Scouts BSA Troop ages 11-17. Venturing Crew Scouting is for young men and women age 14-20. Our Venture Crew meets twice monthly – the first Sunday of the month here in the Scout Hall from 6-8:00 p.m. On the third Sunday of the month an outing is usually planned. If you know of any youth that might be interested in scouting, please contact Travis Shellenberger.

The scouts have the following events going on or upcoming:

Scouting for Food – food collection through Sunday September 21. Donation can be placed in the tote on the table in the rear of the sanctuary. Items will be donated to the Blessing Shed across from the Northumberland Park.

Yard Sale and Soup Sale– Saturday, September 27 in Fellowship Hall, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Marianna's Sub and Pizza Sale – Orders will be taken October 4-26. \$10 each.

Delivery date will be posted on the order form. Look for the form to be out in the back of the sanctuary on October 4th.

Country Meat Sticks – 2 for \$3. Flavors include - Sweet BBQ, Sweet Annie Brown, Bold Teriyaki, Hot Cajun, Sweet Maple Bacon, Original Smoked Hickory, Pepperoni, #9, Sweet Fire. Money and orders are due October 22nd. Form is in the back of the sanctuary.

Your support in scouting is greatly appreciated.







PRAYERS: Lou VanGilder; George Rebuck; Ann Bidelsbach; Mike Payne; Doug Manning; Sharon Pittiglio; Jen Long; Deb Shearer-Shutt; Brenda Drachler; Jayne Burns

HOMEBOUND Kathryn Lebo; Jason Gulden; Helen Snyder; June Diehl; Mary Rogers; Nevin Brungard; Elaine Kohl; Nancy Hendricks;

William Wagner; Betty Yerg; Jane Ressler; David Bartholomew; Marti Row

2025	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Aug. Income:	\$ 16,544.69	\$ 21,209.76
Year to Date Income:	\$156,176.86	\$172,428.08
Aug. Expenses:	\$ 20,105.62	\$ 24,825.53
Year to Date Expenses:	\$ 161,628.01	\$174,852.48
Income Less Expense – Aug.		-\$3,560.93
Year to Date		-\$5,451.15

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 MomCo 6-8:00 p.m.	2 Bishops Day @ St. Johns Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. AI anon 7:00 p.m.	3	4
5 Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Catechism 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Crew Meeting 6-8:00 p.m.	6 Finance 7:00 p.m.	7 AA 7:00 p.m.	8 Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	9 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Scout District Meeting 6:30 p.m. AI anon 7:00 p.m.	10	11
12 Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Synod Youth Event @ St. Johns 2-4:30 p.m.	13	14 AA 7:00 p.m.	15 Fold Messenger 9:00 a.m. MomCo 6-8:00 p.m. Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m.	16 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Scout Roundtable 6:30 p.m. AI anon 7:00 p.m.	17 	18 Kate's Kupboard 9-11:00 a.m.
19 Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Catechism 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	20 	21 AA 7:00 p.m.	22 Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m.	23 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. AI anon 7:00 p.m. Scout District Activities 7:00 p.m.	24	25
26 Reformation Sunday Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Breakfast and Intergenerational Sunday School 10:15 a.m. <i>Seafarer Bags due</i>	27	28 AA 7:00 p.m.	29 MomCo 6-8:00 p.m. Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m.	30 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. AI anon 7:00 p.m. <div>Fellowship Hall reserved 9 a.m.-Noon</div>	31 	November 1