

# St. John's Messenger

OUR ISHNG  
N S E R V I N G  
F A I T H

Volume 105, Issue 8

August 20, 2025

## Office Hours

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

## Church Staff

Pastor Karla Leiby

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570-854-3919

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Treasurer

Joyce Shearer  
Payroll Treasurer

Barb Moyer  
Restricted Fund Treasurer

## Congregation Officers

Mike Erdley, President  
Holly Bedisky, Vice President  
Eric Shearer, Secretary

## Congregation Council

Judy Dunkelberger  
Mike McWilliams  
Steve Mertz  
Teresa Meisinger  
Pam Miller  
Randy Stine  
Craig Treacher

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*Be joyful in God, all you lands; be joyful, all the earth. Psalm 66:1*

The Summer months are coming to an end, but our time together in the season of Pentecost continues, a time often referred to as Ordinary time. However, this season is anything but ordinary for we serve an Extraordinary God! These ordinary times are a season of listening, reflecting on God's word, and following where God is calling us. When we do this, God makes ordinary things become extraordinary!

As the busyness of the fall season and start of the new school year begin, our focus remains on God's presence among us. Christ is present not only in our worship, Sunday school, catechism, and the variety of our church activities, but also out into the world. Whether this fall marks a return to school, perhaps a new school, a change in family routines, a shift in jobs, or even a change in our life circumstances, Christ can be found in all of these.

We continue our journey through the Gospel of Luke in the middle of Jesus' ministry where we are continually reminded of the gift of God's grace, our call to encourage and support one another, and God's ongoing presence in the world. Many of these lessons are seeped in the concept of stewardship, or what we do with what God has gifted to us. This includes not only our material wealth, but also our time and talents.

As ordinary time continues, we begin to get back to some familiar and some new things in our life together as church. Sunday School and catechism will restart. We will be planning for all the fall festival days. But also, new opportunities: Fellowship dinner that will celebrate our volunteers, Synod Youth Murder Mystery Event, Discernment Event, and much more is in the works to provide a variety of ways for us to grow in our faith life together.

May this ordinary time be filled with the love of Christ Jesus, the hope of the Holy Spirit, and the blessings of our Extraordinary God!

Blessings,

*Pastor Karla*



# Notes From the Director of Music



## The Importance of Worship Beyond Sunday

Is coming to church for worship once weekly enough?

*Worship as a lifestyle.*

Worship is a lifestyle, nurtured through daily practices like prayer and service. Participating in midweek Bible studies, volunteering, or joining choirs allows us to express our faith and lives out our love for God and our neighbors.

*Building Relationships*

Church activities create opportunities to build relationships, deepening our sense of belonging and providing support. These connections help us share experiences and grow together in our faith journeys.

*Variety of Worship Styles*

Engaging in different church activities exposes us to diverse worship styles. This variety enriches our understanding of worship and inspires fresh connections with God, allowing us to discover and contribute our unique gifts.

*Strengthening Our Ministry*

Active participation supports the church's mission. Each contribution enhances our spiritual growth and creates a thriving community that reflects Christ's love.

*Encouragement and Accountability*

Church activities offer encouragement and accountability, inspiring us to grow in our faith. Being part of a community that meets regularly reminds us of our purpose and calling. There is always a need for participation within the church. Any of our committees would welcome your presence.

On September 7th is a Fellowship Dinner and Hymn Sing to be held after worship to celebrate and recognize volunteers at St John's. We hope that you will attend and enjoy the fellowship, song, meal, and to be part of a community that appreciates what each person who volunteers does. Those that volunteer do many things that help keep our church alive in Christ giving of their time and talent. All are invited to attend. Contact the church office or leave a message that you will be attending.

We ask that you be part of our church family every day whether it be through prayer, activities, a movie night, mid week service or perhaps you have an idea for an activity that you would like to see coming to fruition here at St John's. These opportunities are essential for nurturing our faith and living out worship in our everyday lives. Together, let's embrace a holistic approach to worship that extends beyond Sunday.

Blessings,

William Jacavage(Bill)  
Director of Music

PS Let us all attend our Dinner. Hoping to see you there!

## School Kit Items

*Please be mindful of getting the exact items on the list, no more, no less. Only the specific items are allowed in the shipment.*

*Please have your donations to the church no later than **Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**.*

### School Kit Items:

- ~ Four **70-sheet** notebooks of wide or college ruled paper, approximately 8x10 1/2 no loose-leaf paper
- ~One 30 centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ~ One pencil sharpener
- ~One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- ~Five ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- ~One eraser approximately 2 1/2" long
- ~Box of 24 or 36 crayons

## God's Work Our Hand Sunday

In addition to having our Fellowship Dinner and Hymn Sing on September 7<sup>th</sup>, as part of **God Work Our Hands** St. John's is also planning on recognizing our 2 local police and 4 local fire departments. We are looking for donations of the following items: individual assorted chips; granola bars; assorted individual packs of crackers; and prepackaged individually wrapped cookies/rice krispie treats, 4 cases of water. **All donations need to be at the church by September 7<sup>th</sup>.** Social Ministry will be meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup> to assemble and deliver the baskets. Any and all donations would be greatly appreciated.

RSVP for the Fellowship Dinner and Hymn Sing following worship service on September 7<sup>th</sup>! We will be having ham, sides, and dessert, entertainment and hymn sing prior to meal.

## Sunday School Begins

The new year for Sunday School for children and adults will be starting on October 5 at 10:15 a.m. following worship service.

Catechism will begin on September 21 from 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month, beginning in September we will also be holding our Intergenerational Sunday School Class and Breakfast in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to join us. We ask that you bring a dish to share, if possible.



## Bell Choir



The ding-a-lings will resume practice beginning Thursday, September 25 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. If you can count from 1-4, you qualify as a member. On-the-job training also provided.

Anyone interested in praising God through music is invited to join us.

## Youth Game Night



**Sunday, September 14, 2025  
2-4:00 p.m.**

**No registration required! Just show up with a game!**

Calling all youth!

Do you enjoy church but wish there were more kids your own age? Well then we have good news for you! You are invited to the Upper Susquehanna Synod Youth Group's first gathering for the new school year on Sunday, September 14, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Christ's Lutheran Church in Lewisburg. The theme is game night, so bring your favorite board game. We will spend some time getting to know each other, playing games, and enjoying some refreshments. All youth grades 6-12 are invited! We hope to see you there! This is a program of Camp Mount Luther and the Upper Susquehanna Synod Youth Initiative.

# Basket Raffle

WELCA's Annual Christmas Bazaar will be held December 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>. Something new added this year will be a themed basket raffle. 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 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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:

- Baking basket – Cookie sheets, cupcake tin, parchment paper, spatula, cookie mixes and decorations
- Spa basket – any type of lotion/cream, luffa sponge, candles, aromatherapy, pampering item
- Any type of kid activities/games/arts and crafts.
- Italian (pasta pot, pastas, sauces, strainer)
- Mama Mia basket – red theme towels, pizza sauce, parm cheese, pizza crust mix, pizza pan, oregano, pizza spices etc...
- Family Fun Night – assorted board games
- Movie night – popcorn, snacks, movies
- Auto care basket – bucket, cleaners, soap, rags/sponge, air freshner
- I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for Ice Cream basket – scoops, sprinkles, sauces and toppings, bowls



2025	ACTUAL	BUDGET
July Income:	\$ 20,269.96	\$ 21,209.76
Year to Date Income:	\$139,632.17	\$ 151,218.32
July Expenses:	\$ 19,302.02	\$ 18,372.28
Year to Date Expenses:	\$ 141,522.39	\$ 150,026.95
Income Less Expense – July	\$ 967.84	
Year to Date	<b>-\$ 1,890.22</b>	

**PRAYERS:** Jen Long; Ann Thieman; Sharon Pittiglio; Jayne Burns; Phyllis Lahr; Teresa Meisinger; Deb Shearer-Shutt; Diane Hoffman, Brenda Drachler; Mary Siemsen

**HOMEBOUND** Jason Gulden; Helen Snyder; Doug Manning; June Diehl; Mary Rogers; Mike Payne; Nevin Brungard; Elaine Kohl; Nancy Hendricks; William Wagner; Betty Yerg; Jane Ressler; David Bartholomew; Marti Row; Kathryn Lebo



## NEWS FROM KATE'S KUPBOARD

Kate's Kupboard was open on **July 19, 2025**.

We helped **588** people by distributing **179** household/personal care bags, **179** produce boxes, **179** packs of meat and **310** bags of groceries. We helped **120** babies and provided adult care products to **20** people.

The total cost was **\$5,603.29**

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

Between our June and July Kate's Kupboard we helped **1** baby. We help people through NEIGHBORLYPA. Com.



On July 27, through Holy Baptism we welcomed **Connor Josiah Dum** into our St. John's family. Connor is the son of Gina and Spencer Dum



## Thank You

Thank you to the S. Luther Savidge Charitable Foundation for the recent donation of \$5,000.00 to Kate's Kupboard. This donation will be used to purchase food, cleaning, personal care and baby items to give to the less fortunate in our community. Kate's Kupboard greatly appreciates the continued support of this foundation.

## Worship Supply Sponsorships

Consider making a presentation To the Glory of God, or in memory of or in honor of someone, a special event like birthday or anniversary. The following Sunday service worship supplies are available for sponsorship. If you are interested in any of the following, please contact the Church Office.

August 31	Flowers, bulletins, candles
September 14	Bulletins
September 21	Flowers, bulletins, candles
September 28	Flowers, bulletins, candles
October 5	Bulletins, candles
October 12	Flowers, bulletins, candles
October 19	Flowers
October 26	Bulletins, candles
November 2	Bulletins, candles
November 9	Bulletins, candles
November 16	Flowers, bulletins, candles
November 23	Flowers, bulletins, candles
November 30	Bulletins, candles
December 7	Candles
December 14	Bulletins, candles



Pricing:

Altar Flowers - \$45  
Bulletins - \$15  
Candles - \$6

# VBS 2025



# September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> AA 7:00 p.m.	<b>3</b> Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. MomCo 6-8:00 p.m.	<b>4</b> Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Fellowship Hall reserved 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
<b>7</b> Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Fellowship Dinner & Hymn Sing following service Gods Work Our Hands donations due	<b>8</b> Finance 7:00 p.m.	<b>9</b> AA 7:00 p.m.	<b>10</b> Social Ministry 10:00 a.m. Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	<b>11</b> Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Scout District Committee 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 
<b>14</b> Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. School kit items due Synod Youth Game Night 2-4:00 p.m. @ Christ Lutheran, Lewisburg	<b>15</b> WELCA 10:30 a.m.	<b>16</b> AA 7:00 p.m.	<b>17</b> Messenger folding 9:00 a.m. Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. MomCo 6-8:00 p.m.	<b>18</b> Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Scout Roundtable 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Kate's Kupboard 9-11:00 a.m.
<b>21</b> Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Catechism 10:15 a.m. Scout District Dinner 1-8:00 p.m.	<b>22</b> 	<b>23</b> AA 7:00 p.m.	<b>24</b> Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m.	<b>25</b> Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m. Scout Activities Committee 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m.	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Scout Yard Sale
<b>28</b> Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Intergenerational Sunday School & Breakfast 10:15 a.m.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> AA 7:00 p.m.	<b>October 1</b>	<b>2</b> Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. MomCo 6-8:00 p.m.	<b>3</b> 	<b>4</b>