

# St. John's Messenger

O U R I S H N G F  
N S E R V I N G A I  
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Volume 105, Issue 7

July 16, 2025

## Office Hours

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

## Church Staff

Pastor Karla Leiby

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Treasurer

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

Summer marks the season of Pentecost for the church, 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!

Our ordinary time this year continues to lead us through the Gospel of Luke in the middle of Jesus' ministry where we can learn and grow in discipleship together. Jesus shares important lessons about trust in God, loving care for our neighbor, making holy choices, remaining rooted in prayer life, what true treasure is and what it is not, and how to welcome all. Living in the way of Jesus is never an easy and comfortable life. And so he calls us outside of our walls of comfort, security, and complacency into the world to be part of God's mission for God's people. Will we go and allow God to do the extraordinary through us?

God is already here doing some extraordinary things during this ordinary time! We are preparing for our Vacation Bible School this year with "God's Good Creation" by ELCA World Hunger and a barnyard theme. Our new mom's group is picking up momentum and meeting regularly to share faith, fellowship, and the joys/perils of motherhood. And Kate's Kupboard is getting ready to host their annual Back to School give away in August.

My ordinary time this summer has been anything but ordinary. With my grandchildren and their mother visiting for the summer, our house has been busy and I've been loving every minute of being a Grammy. God has provided extraordinary moments of joy and opportunities for sharing the faith with these little ones.

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 Power of Music in Worship: 10 Inspiring Quotes\*\***

Dear Church Family,

Here are ten quotes that beautifully encapsulate why music is essential in our worship and how it enriches our spiritual journeys.

1. "Music is the shorthand of emotion." – *Leo Tolstoy*

Music allows us to express our feelings and connect with God on a deeper level, often conveying what words alone cannot.

2. "Where words fail, music speaks." – *Hans Christian Andersen*

In moments of joy, sorrow, or reflection, music has the power to articulate our innermost thoughts and feelings.

3. "Singing is a form of prayer." – *St. Augustine*

Each note sung is a heartfelt conversation with God, turning our worship into a dialogue filled with praise and gratitude.

4. "Music can change the world because it can change people." – *Bono*

When we come together in song, we foster a sense of community and unity, encouraging transformation within ourselves and our congregation.

5. "The Lord has given us music that we may pray without ceasing." – *Martin Luther*

Music enriches our prayers, allowing us to worship continuously, even in our daily lives.

6. "Music is an outburst of the soul." – *Frederick Deli*

Our worship music reflects our spiritual journey, revealing the depths of our hearts and bringing us closer to the divine.

7. "The only thing better than singing is more singing." – *Ella Fitzgerald*

The joy of music is amplified when we share it with one another, creating a vibrant atmosphere of worship.

8. "He who sings prays twice." – *St. Augustine*

In worship, singing not only enhances our prayers but deepens our connection to God, allowing us to engage more fully.

9. "Music is God's gift to man, the only art of heaven given to earth." – *Walter Savage Landor*

The beauty of music is a divine blessing, enriching our worship and drawing us into a sacred space.

10. "To sing is to pray twice." – *St. Teresa of Avila*

In the act of singing, we offer our hearts to God, making our worship a powerful expression of faith.

As we gather in worship, let us remember the transformative power of music. It not only enhances our services but also cultivates a deeper sense of devotion and community. I invite each of you to join us in lifting your voices in praise, allowing the music to guide your hearts and souls closer to God.

Blessings,

**William J Jacavage** (Bill)

Director of Music

# Fellowship Luncheon &



**Sunday, September 7  
God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday  
Following the 9:00 a.m. service**

Join us in Fellowship Hall following worship service. We will be having an ol' fashion hymn sing, and special music prior to our fellowship meal. As this is also Gods Work, Our Hands Sunday, we'd like to thank all of our St. John's volunteers. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Menu – ham, macaroni & cheese, sweet potato casserole, green bean casserole, honey glazed carrots, drinks and desserts.

***Please RSVP to the church office, or return the bottom slip before August 24<sup>th</sup>.*** Hope to see you there!

---

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

# ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_



St. John's representatives at  
Upper Susquehanna Synod  
Assembly 2025 having a great  
time at Camp Mount Luther:  
William Jacavage, Holly  
Bedisky, Pastor Karla Leiby.

2025	ACTUAL	BUDGET
June Income:	\$ 18,868.60	\$ 21,209.76
Year to Date Income:	119,362.21	130,008.56
June Expenses:	\$ 13,694.99	\$ 19,461.07
Year to Date Expenses:	122,220.37	131,654.67
Income Less Expense – June		\$ 5,173.61
Year to Date		<b>-\$ 2,858.16</b>

## THANK YOU

Kate's Kupboard would like to thank the Roy H. Moyer Jr. and Carol J. Moyer Community Trust for its recent donation of \$1,000.00. This Trust has supported Kate's Kupboard for many years. We appreciate all the support they have given to this outreach ministry.

## Blessing of Backpacks

All students, young and old, are asked to bring their backpacks to church on **Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>**, for a special back-to-school blessing.



Pastor Karla will be at Camp Mount Luther from July 27-August 1 as the camp Chaplain and Nurse.



## NEWS FROM KATE'S KUPBOARD

Kate's Kupboard was open on **June 21, 2025**.

We helped **580** people by distributing **185** household/personal care bags, **185** produce boxes, **170** packs of meat and **313** bags of groceries. We helped **102** babies and provided adult care products to **24** people.

The total cost was **\$6,238.78**

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

Between our May and June Kate's Kupboard we helped **2** families (**2 people**). We distributed **2** additional household bags, **5** bags of groceries and **3** packs of meat. We help people through NEIGHBORLYPA. Com.

## BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT

Back to school. You must be kidding! It isn't even August!

That's true but this is the last Messenger before Kate's Kupboard back to school event. On **Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>** between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM Kate's Kupboard will be offering back to school supplies. The assortment of supplies will be set up in the Adult Sunday School area and will be appropriate for children from kindergarten all the way to college. Mark your calendar and get ready for that first day of school. **Children must be present to select the supplies that they need.**

# WELCA NEWS

## School Kit Items

Time to look for those back-to-school bargains!

WELCA is collecting items for the annual school kit collection. ***Please be mindful of getting the exact items on the list, no more, no less. Only the specific items are allowed in the shipment.***

Donations may be placed in the hamper bins located in the hallway outside the church office. *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

## Christmas Items Wanted

Summer cleaning?? Attic cleaning??

WELCA is looking for Christmas decorations and good, gently loved sellable gift items for our next Christmas Bazaar. Items may be dropped off at the church during normal office hours.

**PLEASE NO RUMMAGE!!**



## Christmas in July? Well, sort of.

St. John's WELCA will be participating in the ***Christmas At Sea*** Program again this year.

Keep an eye out for store bargains in the coming months. More information will be posted when the satchel bags are available for pickup and when they need turned in.

- 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 **or** Large Bar of Chocolate, **or** Health Snack Bar
- A Holiday or Christmas Card from YOU!

\*\*Knitted hats will be available for pick in the rear of the sanctuary to complete your bag. They were generously knitted and donated by the knitting group at Nottingham.

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 to the hats and scarves. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew. 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.

# St. John's Lutheran Church

300 Queen Street, Northumberland

## Vacation Bible School



**Sunday, July 20-Thursday, July 24**

**5:30-7:30 p.m.**

**Fellowship Hall**

**FUN**

**CRAFTS**

**AGES**

**Pre-school-5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**God's Good Creation**



**SNACKS**



**GAMES**

*Did You Know?*

## Recent Upper Susquehanna Synod Statistics

### CONGREGATIONS: 112

- 13 served by Synodically Authorized Minister
- 3 served by TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) candidate
- 37 with interim pastor
- 10 with no appointed/called leader
- 63 of 112 congregations (>56%) have no called pastor

### LEADERS: 93 pastors, 5 deacons, 37 authorized lay worship leaders

- 55 (59%) of pastors are retired
- 6 pastors are in special calls
- 1 pastor is disabled
- 2 pastors are on leave
- Average age of pastors serving in a call or an interim is 60 years
- 16 pastors aged above 65 years are serving 35 congregations



### PRAYERS:

#### 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

## Memorials Received

*In memory of*

*Phyllis Gordon*

*By*

*Jamie and Thomas Feaster*



## UNCOUNTABLE BLESSINGS

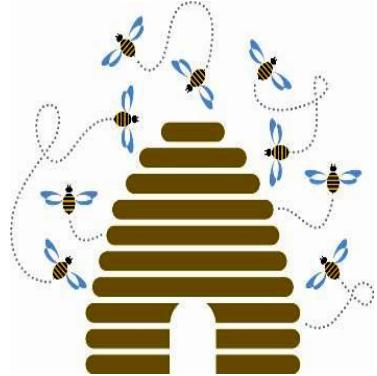
Counting our blessings is not a simple matter. If we counted our material and physical blessings, we would be counting for a long time. If we counted our spiritual blessings, the process is hopeless. David reminds us that if we were to tell of God's wondrous deeds and thoughts towards us, "they are more than can be told" (Psalm 40:5).

Let us never forget God's material blessings. We take so many of them for granted because God gives many of them on a daily basis, and it is simple for us forget these regular and ordinary blessings. We need to express our gratitude to God as the Giver of all our material blessings, none of which we deserve.

All of the undeserved spiritual blessings we have received are beyond number and overwhelm us! God gave His Son into bitter suffering and death for us, who were doomed to eternal punishment in hell for all our sins. Only because of what He did for us are we His saved sons and daughters, knowing with certainty that we are heirs of heaven.

Martin Luther reminds us, "*We cannot give God anything, for everything is already His, and all we have comes from Him. We can only give Him praise, thanks, and honor.*"

Taken from Portals of Prayer, July-September 2013



### Christian Symbols - Beehive

This modern symbol represents the church and its many, varied "workers." A multitude of people, each with different tasks and gifts, works to build up the body of Christ. Often, nine bees are pictured near the hive to represent the nine fruits of the Spirit - **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**

## The Power of Good News

It can be very depressing to watch the evening news. There are so many stories of tragedy, pain, crime, and death.

Wouldn't it be great if a TV station did a half hour of nothing but good news? What joy there would be to hear reports of rescues, miraculous healings, neighbors helping neighbors and other good deeds. What kind of rating would that station garner?

Good news is always uplifting. It feels good to share an exciting story of someone's recovery from an illness or someone rescued from danger. Good news lifts our moods and makes the day brighter and worth living.

The greatest good news ever is the Gospel. This old, old story of Jesus and the cross and the resurrection is never disappointing or sad. It's music to the ears of a person weighed down with guilt. It's release to the one trapped in sin. It's sunshine for the person in the darkness of depression. It's healing balm for the grieving soul. The Gospel is the power of God to do great and mighty things for everyone who tunes in to heaven's broadcast.

***Lord, thanks be to You for Jesus, who from heaven above to earth came to bear good news to all mankind. Amen***

Excerpt taken from Portals of Prayers  
July-September 2015

# August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> Preschool Board Mtg. 8:00 a.m.	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> AA 7:00 p.m.	<b>6</b> MomCo 6:30-8:30 p.m.	<b>7</b> Al anon 7:00 p.m.		<b>9</b>  <b>Fellowship Hall reserved noon-7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>10</b> Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m.	<b>11</b> Finance 7:00 p.m. 	<b>12</b> AA 7:00 p.m.	<b>13</b> Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	<b>14</b> Al anon 7:00 p.m.	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Kates Kupboard 9-11:00 a.m.
<b>17</b> Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. <b>Blessing of Backpacks</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> AA 7:00 p.m.	<b>20</b> Messenger folding 9:00 a.m. MomCo 6:30-8:30 p.m.	<b>21</b> Al anon 7:00 p.m. 	<b>22</b> St. John's Preschool 1st Day of School MWF Class	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> St. John's Preschool 1st Day of School TTH Class AA 7:00 p.m.	<b>27</b> 	<b>28</b> Al anon 7:00 p.m.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m.						