

# St. John's Messenger

OURISHING  
SERVING  
FAITH

Volume 105, Issue 2

February 19, 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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Director of Music

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Office Manager  
[sjlc300@ptd.net](mailto:sjlc300@ptd.net)

Tina Pontius  
Treasurer

Joyce Shearer  
Payroll Treasurer

Barb Moyer  
Restricted Fund Treasurer

## Congregation Officers

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

## Congregation Council

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

**Church phone:** 570-473-3770

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**Website:**

<https://stjohnslutherannorry.org>



*"We love because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19)*

February is often spoken of as the month of love. But isn't love for every month, everyday, every hour? In fact, Jesus teaches us that the greatest commandments are love for God and love for one another.

But for so many, our world doesn't feel very loving right now. People are losing their jobs, health benefits, homes, and even having their identity as a US Citizen questioned. We currently live in the unknown, where it is easy to allow anxiety, fear, anger, frustration, and resentment to take over. But Jesus calls us to love instead. To allow love to turn anxiety into groundedness in Christ. To allow love to turn fear into courage to speak what we believe. To allow love to turn anger into curiosity that brings transformation. To allow love to turn frustration into inspiration to follow God's call. To allow love to turn resentment into resilience in faith.

We are called to follow Jesus and Jesus is most simply God's love in human form. However, we cannot speak of love, if we do not know love. We cannot claim love if we aren't willing to allow love to change us, to transform us, and to be part of every breath we take in and let out. And we do not truly live the love of Christ unless our love is for all. No conditions, no exceptions, and no limitations.

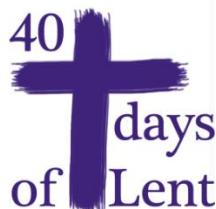
Our neighbors, communities, and the world needs love right now, radical, unconditional love. Love that unites instead of divides. Love that accepts instead of degrades. Love that is compassionate versus punitive. As Lutherans, we live in the world, but not of the world, which means we are called to live out our faith in love, in all aspects of our lives.

My hope is that we all step up and out in love so that all may experience the steadfast, unconditional love of God in Christ Jesus! And that this love can be heard and felt through all the noise, clutter, and chaos that surrounds us.

May God fill us all with courage, strength and wisdom as we venture together into the world, loving like Christ Jesus.

Blessings,

*Pastor Karla*



Social Ministry is inviting you to participate in our **40 Days of Lent Collection**. In the past, it was the tradition "to give up" something during Lent. A new tradition of "giving to" has been taking place here at St. John's for several years. We are asking for donation of **new** blankets/throws. Items collected can be dropped off at the church office no later than **Sunday, April 13th**. The donations will be given to local offices for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy and other treatments. Some patients going through chemo treatments experience coldness and it is our hope that a warm blanket will help comfort them during their treatment. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.



**SATURDAY, MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>**

Set your clocks 1 hour ahead. Remember to change the batteries in your smoke alarms too !!

## Annual Meeting Updates

At the Annual Meeting the following actions were taken. A review of 2024 was held. Congratulations to the following new Council Members who will be serving a 3-year term:

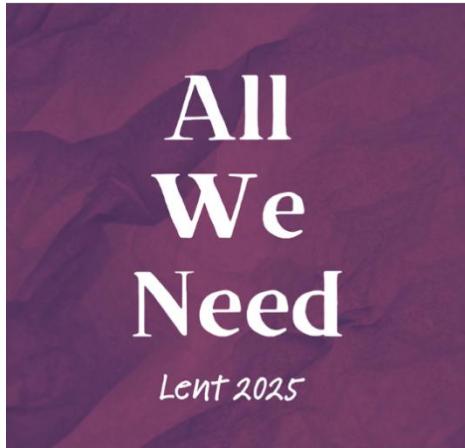
Holly Bedisky  
Teresa Meisinger  
Pamela Miller  
Randy Stine

Council had rescinded their recommendation on solar panels at this time until further exploration and additional information can be obtained.



**SERVICE SCHEDULED**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5  
7:00 PM  
WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES  
AND HOLY COMMUNION**



A Refuge for the Heart:  
Midweek Worship with Healing Prayer  
Wednesday Evenings at 7pm  
St. John's Fellowship Hall

Week 1 Embracing Vulnerability  
Week 2 Sleep  
Week 3 Advocates  
Week 4 Change  
Week 5 Beauty

*A Refuge for the Heart: Midweek Worship with Healing Prayer* is part of *All We Need Lent 2025* series, and is copyright © 2024 Barn Geese Worship.

## Congratulations

Ledger Joseph Miller  
Baptized on February 9, 2025  
Son of  
Jessica Milewski and Joseph Miller

Jessica and Joseph were also  
received as members through  
Affirmation of Baptism on  
February 9<sup>th</sup>.



## Monthly Financial Information

2025	ACTUAL	BUDGET
January Income:	\$ 19,011.02	\$21,309.76
Year to Date Income:	\$ 19,011.02	\$21,309.76
January Expenses:	\$ 24,943.53	\$ 23,888.56
Year to Date Expenses:	\$ 24,943.53	\$ 23,888.56
Income Less Expense – January		-\$ 5,932.51
Year to Date		-\$ 5,932.51

# Notes From the Director of Music



## Soaring on Eagle's Wings: A Reflection on Our Faith Through Hymnody

### On Eagle's Wings

As a community of faith, we often find profound connection through music. One hymn that resonates deeply is "On Eagle's Wings" from our ELW hymnal. Written by Michael Joncas, it beautifully conveys themes of God's love, protection, and assurance.



The hymn's imagery of eagles reflects Isaiah 40:31, reminding us that those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. Just as eagles soar above storms, we are invited to trust in God amid our struggles. The refrain reinforces that we are cradled in God's loving arms, reminding us we are never alone.

Singing "On Eagle's Wings" unites us as a congregation, creating a tapestry of support and love. It fosters belonging and encourages us to uplift one another as we navigate life together.

Incorporating this hymn into our worship inspires us to embody its message in our daily lives, challenging us to extend God's love and compassion to those in need.

Let "On Eagle's Wings" be a touchstone for our community, empowering us to rise above challenges and live our faith with joy and courage.

In Christ's love,

*Bill Jacavage*

## Our Servant-King

Jesus began his ministry by being hungry, yet he is the Bread of Life.

Jesus ended his earthly ministry by being thirsty, yet he is the Living Water.

Jesus was weary, yet he is our rest.

Jesus paid tribute, yet he is the King.

Jesus was accused of having a demon, yet he cast out demons.

Jesus wept, yet he wipes away our tears.

Jesus was sold for 30 pieces of silver, yet he redeemed the world.

Jesus was brought as a lamb to the slaughter, yet he is the Good Shepherd.

Jesus died, yet by his death he destroyed the power of death.

## NEWS FROM KATE'S KUPBOARD

Kate's Kupboard was open on **January 18, 2025**.

We helped **647** people by distributing **195** household/personal care bags, **195** produce boxes, **585** packs of meat and **338** bags of groceries. We helped **85** babies and provided adult care products to **26** people.

The total cost was **\$6,221.09**

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

Between our December and January Kate's Kupboard we helped **2** families (**8** people) by distributing **2** household/personal care bags, and **9** bags of groceries. We also provided adult care products to **2** individuals. We help people through NEIGHBORLYPA. Com.

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Kate's Kupboard was open on **February 15, 2025**.

We helped **575** people by distributing **186** household/personal care bags, **186** produce boxes, **372** packs of meat and **305** bags of groceries. We helped **89** babies and provided adult care products to **20** people.

The total cost was **\$5,129.86**

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

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

## Thank You

Thank you to all the members of St. John's who supported Kate's Kupboard in 2024. Maybe you gave a lot or maybe you gave a little. Maybe you contributed your time, talents, treasures or prayers. **All contributions were greatly appreciated.** The biggest thank you comes from the 2,169 families (7,078 people) that were helped by Kate's Kupboard in 2024. These people thank us as they go through the line and they realize the importance of Kate's in their lives and in some cases how it has changed their lives. As we move forward in 2025 we pray for your continued support.

## THANK YOU

A big thank you to the S. Luther Savidge Charitable Foundation for their recent donation of \$10,000.00 to Kate's Kupboard. This donation is greatly appreciated. With this generous donation we will be able to continue to provide food, household and personal care items, baby products and adult care products to people in our community who are struggling.

# PRAYER list...

**PRAYERS:** Terry Walker; Marvin Gaugler; Jessica Hummel-Jansson; Deb Jennis; Carey Hoffman; Louise and Paul Hilkert

**HOMEBOUND** Doug Manning; June Diehl; Mary Rogers; Mike Payne; Nevin Brungard; Elaine Kohl; Dolly Naginey; Nancy Hendricks; William Wagner; Phyllis Gordon; Betty Yerg; Jane Ressler; David Bartholomew

## Memorials & Honorariums Received

In Memory of  
**Shirley Gautsch**

By  
Barb Moyer

In Honor of  
**Barb Moyer**

By  
Greg and Edie Moyer

## Interesting Lent facts

The number 40 is a special number in the Bible. It signifies preparation for something special:

- The rain lasted for forty days in the mighty flood (Genesis 7:12)
- Moses stayed on the Mount Sinai forty days (Exodus 24:18)
- Jonah gave the people of Ninevah forty days to repent (Jonah 3:4)
- Jesus, before starting his ministry, spent forty days in the desert in prayer and fasting (Matthew 4:2)

## Walking with God



The essence of the Christian life is knowing God and walking with him. It's about sticking with him when the sky is blue and also when it's filled with clouds or choked with smoke. It's about walking with the Lord through thick and thin, and pressing on through every heartache and trial that happens to come our way.

*Greg Laurie*

## Sunday Sponsorships Available

The following items are available for sponsorship. If you are interested in any of these or would like to check on other available dates, please contact the church office.

March 2 – bulletins, candles

March 5 – Ash Wednesday – bulletins, candles

March 16 – bulletins, candles

March 30 – bulletins

April 6 – flowers, bulletins, candles

April 13 – Palm Sunday – flowers, palms

April 17 – Maundy Thursday – bulletins

April 18 – Good Friday – bulletins

April 20 – Easter – flowers

April 27 – flowers, bulletins, candles

# 2025 Easter Flowers

The form, along with payment may be placed in the offering plate (please mark envelope - "Easter Flowers"), dropped off at the church office, or mailed to the church. Please make checks payable to: **St. John's Lutheran Church**. *Flowers may be picked up any time after the 9:00 AM Easter Service.*

Please Indicate:  Yes I will pick up my flowers       No I will not pick up the flowers, please plant in church gardens

**ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY  
Sunday, March 16, 2025**

If a color is not available, the florist will make a substitution at their discretion

	<b>TOTAL</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Pansy, 4 1/2 " ...\$3.50/each	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Gerbera mix 4 1/2 " ...\$4.00/each	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Daffodils, mini ...\$4.00/each	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hyacinth (1Bloom)...\$4.00/each Pink <input type="checkbox"/> Blue <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hyacinth (3 Blooms) ...\$9.00/each Pink <input type="checkbox"/> Blue <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Tulips (6 bloom)...\$9.00/each Red <input type="checkbox"/> Pink <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow <input type="checkbox"/> Purple <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Lilies (4-6 White Blooms)....\$12.00 each	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Color Lily.....\$12.00/each	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Martha Washington.....\$13.00	_____

**TOTAL AMT. DUE** \_\_\_\_\_

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Amt. Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Check #\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

To the Glory of God \_\_\_\_\_

# March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> Worship w/Comm. Sunday School 9:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. <i>Installation of Council Members</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> AA 7:00 p.m.	<b>5</b> <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	<b>6</b> Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. <i>Ash Wednesday Service</i> 7:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Bell Choir Al anon 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  Venture Crew/FH 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
<b>9</b> Worship w/Comm. Sunday School 9:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. Catechism 10:15-noon	<b>10</b> Finance 7:00 p.m.	<b>11</b> Blood Drive 1-6:00 p.m. AA 7:00 p.m.	<b>12</b> Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. <i>Midweek Lenten Service</i> Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m.	<b>13</b> Messenger deadline 2:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. <b>Council Meeting</b> 7:00 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m. Scout District Committee 7:00 p.m.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Kate's Kupboard 9-11:00 a.m.
<b>16</b> Worship w/Comm. Sunday School 9:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	<b>17</b>  WELCA 10:30 a.m.	<b>18</b> AA 7:00 p.m.	<b>19</b> Messenger Folding 9:00 a.m. Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. <i>Midweek Lenten Service</i> Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m.	<b>20</b> Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m. Scout Roundtable 7:00 p.m.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Worship w/Comm. Intergenerational Sunday School 9:00 a.m. and Breakfast 10:15 a.m. Catechism 10:15-noon	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> AA 7:00 p.m.	<b>26</b> Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. <i>Midweek Lenten Service</i> Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m.	<b>27</b> Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m. District Activities 7:00 p.m.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Worship w/Comm. Sunday School 9:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	<b>31</b>	<b>April 1</b> AA 7:00 p.m.	<b>2</b> Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. <i>Midweek Lenten Service</i> Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m.	<b>3</b> Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 