

# St. John's Messenger

OURISHING  
SERVING  
GATHERING

Volume 106, Issue 1

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## Office Hours

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

## Church Staff

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Holly Bedisky, Vice President  
Eric Shearer, Secretary

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We have entered the season of Epiphany, the season we celebrate the light that has come into the world, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is a season where God reveals Godself through the gift of Jesus to all of creation. It is a time where we hear the repetitive themes of turning back to God, trusting God in all things, and the invitation to follow Jesus,

As we venture through the season of Epiphany, we begin with the reminder of our baptism and our new life in Christ Jesus, what a perfect start for our journey. God's glory through the revelation of Jesus will continue in the visit of the magi, the proclamation of Jesus as the "lamb of God," the summons from Jesus to "come and see," a new way to recognize those who are blessed, and the invitation to be part of what God is up to in the world. As we journey through this season of light, let us seek after God with our whole heart and, when we hear Christ's call, be brave enough to take up our crosses and follow him, even into the unknown.

Winter is upon us and hopefully the bustle of the holiday months have slowed down a bit for you. Perhaps this is a time to explore our faith deeper, through prayer, bible study, or service to others. Our Bible Study group is exploring the book of Jeremiah and while many see it as a book of despair, we also find hope. The world Jeremiah lived in was very unstable, filled with violence, political occupation, and exile. Yet even in the midst of despair, God speaks words of hope to Jeremiah and he remains faithful to God's call for his life. These events and God's words spoken to Jeremiah have significance for us today as we too live in an unstable world and need to hear God's word of hope amidst the despair.

May God fill us all with hope as we venture together into this new year seeking to follow Christ in all things.

Blessings,

*Pastor Karla*



# Notes From the Director of Music

## The Hymn "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace":

One of the most profound pieces we sing or have heard sung is Make Me a Channel of Your Peace," commonly referred to as the Prayer of Saint Francis. This hymn not only embodies the spirit of peace and service but also offers a roadmap for how we, as Christians, can live out our faith in our daily lives.

The origins of "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" trace back to the life of Saint Francis of Assisi, a figure renowned for his deep commitment to humility, compassion, and reconciliation. The hymn's lyrics encapsulate his desire to be an instrument of God's peace, emphasizing themes such as love, forgiveness, and selflessness.

The refrain urges us to be mediators of peace in a world often filled with strife.

**Selflessness** - The lyrics call us to prioritize others' needs over our own, fostering an attitude of humility.

**Faith in Action** -The hymn serves as a reminder that our faith is expressed not just in words but through our actions.

### Applying the Hymn to Daily Life

Living as a Christian means embodying the teachings of Christ in practical, everyday situations. Here's how we can apply the essence of this hymn in our lives:

#### 1. Promote Peace in Relationships

- Actively seek to resolve conflicts and misunderstandings with friends, family, and colleagues. Approach disagreements with an open heart, aiming for reconciliation rather than winning an argument.

#### 2. Practice Forgiveness

- Embrace the power of forgiveness, both in giving and receiving it. Holding onto grudges can hinder our spiritual growth, while forgiving others—and ourselves—allows us to experience true freedom.

#### 3. Serve Others Selflessly

- Engage in acts of service within your community. Whether through volunteering, supporting local charities, or simply offering a helping hand to a neighbor, embodying selflessness reflects Christ's love.

#### 4. Cultivate an Attitude of Gratitude

- Regularly acknowledge the blessings in your life. This mindset shifts our focus from what we lack to what we have, nurturing a spirit of contentment and joy.

### Engage in Prayer

- Make prayer a integral part of your daily routine. Seek God's guidance in becoming a better instrument of peace. Ask for the strength to love unconditionally and to serve with humility.

## Continued

### Be a Beacon of Hope

- In times of despair, let your faith shine as a source of hope for others. Share your experiences and testimonies that highlight God's faithfulness, encouraging others to trust in Him.

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" is more than just a hymn; it is a call to action for all Christians. By internalizing its message and striving to live out its principles, we can transform our communities and, ultimately, the world around us. As we gather to sing or listen to this hymn, let us reflect on our roles as instruments of peace, committed to living out Christ's love in every aspect of our lives.

As you go about your week, consider how you can embody the essence of this prayer in your interactions with others. How can you be a channel of peace in your everyday moments?

**William Jacavage (Bill)**

Director of Music

### NEWS FROM KATE'S KUPBOARD

Kate's Kupboard was open on **December 20, 2025**.

We helped **779** people by distributing **230** household/personal care bags, **180** produce boxes, **460** packs of meat and **404** bags of groceries. We helped **145** babies and provided adult care products to **32** people.

The total cost was **\$7,396.38**

We helped one baby between our November and December Kate's Kupboard. We continue to help people through [Neighborlypa.com](http://Neighborlypa.com)

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

### Year End Reports Due

Reminder to all Committee Chairpersons that year-end reports are due by January 25<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your cooperation.

Thank you to my St. John's family for your very generous Christmas Gift. I am so blessed to do God's work alongside all of you!

In gratitude and love,  
**Pastor Karla**



### Still Time To Order Soup

Orders are still being taken through January 27<sup>th</sup>, for soups. Cost is \$8.00 per quart for:

Chicken corn  
Vegetable Beef  
Ham and Bean



To place an order, call the church office at 570-473-3770.

Pick up will be Sunday, February 8, after worship service or February 10, 11, or 12 during office hours.

Proceeds benefit Social Ministry projects.

**Annual Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>  
following the  
9:00 a.m. service**

Purpose of the meeting will be a review of 2025 activities and committees.

Please plan to attend.



# Pink Envelope Collection

Thank you for your continued support of our 2025 special monthly Pink Envelope and Quiet Cash/Noisy Coin collection. Your donations are important to the missions of St. John's. Below are the recipients and amounts.

## Pink Envelope

January – Global Health Ministry - \$60  
February – Mobile Mission of Bethesda - \$60  
March – DIG, Milton - \$60  
April – Shikellamy Backpack Food Program \$595  
May – Camp Mt. Luther - \$70  
June – Camp Dost - \$160  
July – Haven Ministries - \$70  
August – Evangelical Hospice - \$80  
September – Shikellamy Backpack Food Program, additional special collection, \$530  
October – Fire Department - \$290  
November – PA Veterans of Northumberland County - \$280  
December – Birthright - \$160

In addition to the regular Monthly Pink Envelope collections, a special collection was held for ELCA Disaster Response for the devastating California wildfires in January.

Quiet Cash/Noisy Coin collection for January-March was donated to Friends of the Priestley Library and April-June donated to K9 Hero Haven - Rehoming of former service dogs

## Sunday Worship Supplies

The following dates and items available to sponsor are listed below. If you would like to sponsor any of the items or check on other available dates, please contact the church office.

**Price – altar flowers - \$45   bulletins - \$15   candles - \$6**

February 2 – flowers, bulletins, candles  
February 8 – flowers  
February 18 – bulletins, candles – ASH WEDNESDAY  
February 22 – flowers, bulletins, candles  
March 1 – candles  
March 16 – bulletins, candles  
March 29 – palms, bulletins, candles – PALM SUNDAY

2025	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Dec. Income:	\$ 30,416.10	\$ 23,559.64
Year to Date Income:	\$249,927.22	\$ 259,617.00
Dec. Expenses:	\$ 17,359.70	\$ 23,988.81
Year to Date Expenses:	\$ 233,292.04	\$ 259,617.00
	Income Less Expense – Dec.	\$13,056.40
	Year to Date	\$16,635.18

## Brainteaser

What makes this number unique: **8,549,176,320**



## Prayer List

**PRAYERS:** Steve Reich; Doug Manning; Mike Payne; Sue Kurtz; Louise Hilkert; Dixie Wagner; Chris Eisely

**HOMEBOUND and CONTINUED PRAYERS:** Shirley Leiby; 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

### DID YOU KNOW?



Ever wonder about the cross that is hanging in the sanctuary? Where it came from?

We look at it every week in church, but did you know that there is a plaque on the backside?

Inscribed is:

In Memory of  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. W. James Schreffler  
USAF

Killed in a B-29 Crash  
In Alaska  
November 15, 1957

Presented By:

Lt. Charles Myers, USAF  
Eugene Brosius  
Keith Brion  
Donald Hartman  
David Friedline  
Richard Ulp  
Donald Meredith

Dedicated February 1, 1959

*Excerpt from The Sunbury Daily Item, November 27, 1957:*

Lt. Schreffler was one of six crewmen of a B-29 Fortress who were killed when it crashed into a mountainside during a snowstorm on November 15<sup>th</sup>, about 40 miles from Emlendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. Lt. Schreffler was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Schreffler, 64 Queen Street.

### A Drop of Happiness!



Can Cause:

1. Smiles
2. Optimism
3. Self-Worth
4. Reduced Depression
5. Improved Health

PLEASE PASS IT ON...

### Answer to Brainteaser:

It has each numeral, zero through nine, listed in alphabetical order.

# SYNOD YOUTH EVENTS

The Upper Susquehanna Synod Youth Group of the ELCA seeks to provide quality, Christ-centered, faith and fellowship experiences for middle school and high school aged youth across north central PA.

## RENEW RETREAT

February 20-21

Camp Mount Luther

Registration required: [campmountluther.org/renew](http://campmountluther.org/renew)

## OPEN MIC NIGHT

March 8

2-4 p.m.

Milton Lutheran Church

1125 Mahoning Street

Milton



## POTLUCK PICNIC

April 12

2-4 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church

2349 Old Turnpike Road

Lewisburg

# Synod Young Adults



## CaTALYST

is an acronym for: Creating a

Thoughtful Authentic Loving Youthful Space Together for young adults, age 18–35.

### Who we are

CaTALYST is a hybrid fellowship of young adults meeting weekly online and in-person. We are a ministry of the Camp Mount Luther Corporation, in partnership with the [Upper Susquehanna Synod](#) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the [Gather Network](#). We meet twice-a-month online (on Discord) and twice-a-month in person (at various locations, including Camp Mount Luther).

## **What we're about**

**Our vision:** We seek to form an intentional community that gathers in love and cultivates relationships in the way of Jesus. Together, we will support and empower one another as we shape ourselves and the world for the better.

Everyone's welcome—just like Jesus intended. We're building a faith-centered community for young adults (18–35) who are craving real connection. While we're based in central PA with monthly in-person events, our online offerings make it easy to join from anywhere. If you're looking for a space to grow, connect, and belong—we hope you find it here! [Join our Discord!](#) Discord can be found on [www.campmoutluther.org](http://www.campmoutluther.org) or contact Jim at [jim@campmountluther.org](mailto:jim@campmountluther.org)

We offer roughly four scheduled opportunities for fellowship each month: Dinner church, Faith and Fellowship, Service Project, and Game Night.

### **Dinner Church**

Experience faith like the first disciples! We cook, eat, pray, sing, and share communion together. Join us the first Sunday of each month at Camp Mount Luther.

### **Faith & Fellowship**

Tired of stuffy Bible studies? Come talk faith and real life in a relaxed, honest space. We meet the second Tuesday each month on Discord.

### **Service Projects**

Faith in action! Each third Saturday, we head into the community to love and serve our neighbors—just like Jesus calls us to.

### **Game Night**

Play matters, too! Log on the fourth Tuesday each month for laughter, fun, and friendly games on Discord.

## **What to Expect**

When you join us for an event you can expect to be welcomed and cared for. We will not bombard you with requests to participate in various committees. We are simply glad you have joined us.

Camp Mount Luther is designated as a [Reconciling in Christ](#) organization and so diversity and uniqueness are welcome here because God welcomes all, regardless of age, ability, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, life circumstances, race, relationship status, sexual orientation, socio-economic circumstances, or anything else that divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

## **What we believe**

We believe God loves the whole world and showed us that love through Jesus. We seek to follow in the way of Jesus, living as he taught us to live. We hardly ever do that perfectly, and so we trust in God's overflowing grace for us.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

January 27, 8-9:30 p.m. Game Night on Discord

February 1, 4-6:30 p.m. Dinner Church @ Camp Mt. Luther

February 10, 8:-9:30 p.m. Faith & Fellowship on Discord



# February 2026

1		2		3	Troop AA	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts MomCo	6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	5	Bishops Day @ Camp Mt. Luther 9 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Bible Study 10-11:30 a.m. Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m.	6	7	
	Worship w/Comm. Sunday School Crew 2307  FH Reserved/Pinewood Derby	9:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. 6:30 p.m.							Kitchen Reserved				
8 Scout Sunday		9	Finance	10	Troop AA	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts <b>Council Meeting</b>	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	12	Bible Study 10-11:30 a.m. Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Scout District Comm. 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m.	13	14	
	Worship w/Comm. Sunday School Catechism	9:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. 10:15-12:00	7:00 p.m.										
15		16		17	Troop AA	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	<b>Messenger Folding</b> 9:00 a.m. Cub Scouts MomCo	6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	18	+	19	20	21
	Worship w/Comm. Sunday School  ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING	9:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.					Ash Wednesday Service	7:00 p.m.		Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Scout Roundtable 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m.			Kate's Kupboard 9-11:00 a.m.
22		23		24	Troop AA	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts Midweek Lenten Service	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	25	Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m.	26	27	28
	Worship w/Comm. Intergeneration Sunday School And Breakfast Catechism	9:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. 10:15-12:00											Pastor's Vacation
March 1		2		3	Troop AA	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts Midweek Lenten Service MomCo	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	4	Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m.	5	6	7
	Worship w/Comm. Sunday School Crew 2307	9:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. 6:30 p.m.											Pastor's Vacation