

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

William Jacavage
Director of Music

Sue Billman
Office Manager
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Tina Pontius
Treasurer

Joyce Shearer
Payroll Treasurer

Barb Moyer
Restricted Fund Treasurer

Congregation Officers

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

Congregation Council

Mike McWilliams
Teresa Meisinger
Pam Miller
Teresa Miller
Tom Propst
Karen Smeltz
Randy Stine
Craig Treacher

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All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit! (Acts 2:4a)

As we transition from the Easter season into the season of Pentecost, the focus becomes the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. Jesus makes a promise to his disciples that they will not be left alone, that an advocate will be sent to them and this advocate will live within them always. We celebrate the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, which is 50 days after the Easter Celebration and rejoices in God's presence within and among us.

Throughout Pentecost we'll explore what this gift of the Holy Spirit means for us. What gifts it brings, how we recognize those gifts, and how we respond to these precious gifts as we live our out lives of faith. We'll explore the talents we've been gifted individually and collectively as God's people. And we'll discover how we can best use them in the work that God has given us at St. John's, in our community, and out in the world.

I know that many think of summer as a time when things slow down at the church, we focus on enjoying all the great things that warm weather and sunshine have to offer. However, we still have many activities going on that we want and need you to be part of. As we worship on Sunday mornings and our choirs take a break, we look for individuals who have musical talents to share that enhance our worship life. We will be hosting a Vacation Bible School in July with the them Rainforrest Falls and need volunteers. We have lots of ongoing maintenance needs, some preparation to do for new ministries that are starting, and many of our teams are still looking for members. Summer is a time for reflecting on our values and mission as we let the Holy Spirit guide us into the future of our ministry at St. Johns. Come and join the fun!

May all be attentive to the Holy Spirit within us, who guides us in our life of faith, hope, and love.

Blessings,

Pastor Karla



Notes From the Director of Music



“How Great Thou Art “

One hymn that holds a special place in the hearts of many is "How Great Thou Art." This powerful piece not only showcases the beauty of our faith but also inspires worship through its profound lyrics and moving melody.

Originally a poem written by Swedish pastor Carl Boberg in 1885, "How Great Thou Art" was inspired by a walk through the Swedish countryside, where he was awed by the beauty of nature. The hymn was later translated into German and then into English by Stuart K. Hine, who also added two additional verses. Hine's translation and adaptation helped the hymn gain popularity, particularly in the mid-20th century, when it became a staple in many Christian denominations.

At its core, "How Great Thou Art" celebrates the majesty of God as revealed through creation and the redemptive work of Christ. The hymn's structure invites worshippers into a journey of awe and reverence:

The first stanza reflects on the beauty of the world around us—the stars, the rolling thunder, and the majestic hills. This imagery encourages us to acknowledge God's handiwork in the universe.

The subsequent verses shift focus to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, reminding us of His love and grace.

This central theme of redemption brings a personal connection, allowing worshippers to reflect on their relationship with God.

The hymn concludes with a powerful affirmation of faith in the second coming of Christ, offering hope and assurance to believers. This promise of eternal life resonates deeply within our spiritual journey.

The melody of "How Great Thou Art" is equally significant. It is often sung in a simple, yet majestic arrangement that allows for heartfelt expression. The hymn's structure, typically following a verse-chorus format, enhances its singability, making it a beloved choice for congregational worship. The music invites participation, drawing us together in a shared experience of praise.

Singing this hymn together creates a sense of unity among congregants, reminding us that we are part of a larger body of believers.

The lyrics prompt personal reflection on God's greatness and our place in His creation, leading to deeper spiritual insights.

The hymn evokes strong emotions, often leading to moments of worship that can be transformative for individuals and the congregation as a whole.

Whenever we sing "How Great Thou Art" in worship, let us remember the rich history, profound themes, and emotional depth it brings to our gatherings. This hymn is a timeless reminder of the greatness of God and our response to His love.

God's Peace,

William Jacavage (Bill)

Director Music Ministries

St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



May 24, 2026

Tongues of Fire

Reminiscent of the Pentecost account in Acts 2, when “tongues of fire” rested on the disciples’ heads as the Holy Spirit birthed the church, images of a flame symbolize the Spirit. Sometimes a tongue of fire is paired with a dove and set on a red background — other symbols of the Holy Spirit. Fire may also indicate spiritual fervor and zeal in a Christian’s life.

Preschool Celebrates 50 Years

This year the 4-year-old graduating class of 2025-2026 of St. John’s will celebrate 50 years of preschool education.

The last day of school for the year will be May 22nd.

St. John’s has been providing developmentally appropriate activities that encourage attitudes and social skills such as cooperation, taking turns, listening, self-control and following directions in a comfortable and safe environment. Our program is designed to provide your child with opportunities to make choices, learn by discovery, build upon strengths, and let them realize they are important and special.

Registration is currently being accepted for the 3-year-old class which is held on Tuesday and Thursdays from 9-11:30 a.m.; and the 4-year-old classes held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 a.m.-noon. Forms are available by contacting the church office. Please pass our information along to family, friends, and neighbors.



Thank you all for your prayers, messages, flowers, and thoughts for myself and my family at the recent death of my mother-in-law, Shirley Leiby.

Pastor Karla and family



Vacation Bible School

Sunday, July 19- Thursday July 23
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Mark your calendars for this year’s VBS - ***Exploring the Nature of God***. Step through the mist into Rainforest Falls. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They will explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life’s storms.



Registration form is in this issue of The Messenger or can be picked up in the church office or back of the sanctuary.

If you are available and would like to help – one day, two days...or all five – please contact Pam Miller or the church office. All help is greatly appreciated.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE AND HIGHER EDUCATION GRADUATES!!

Now is a time for you to celebrate ... the accomplishment of a dream you have worked so hard to realize. You have shown so many people how special you are.

Now is the time to begin to pursue the next path, to reach out for the next star, and to achieve the things that are so important to you.

Always keep your dreams alive.
And keep them coming true.



-Author Unknown

Attention All Ladies of St. John's

You are invited !!!! Come join us !!!



Picnic

WELCA will be having their annual summer picnic on Monday, June 22nd, at the Shikellamy Marina (pavilion close to the point) We will meet at 6:00 p.m. for a meal and time of fellowship and friendship.

Hamburg BBQ will be provided. Contact Brenda Herbert and let her know if you are planning to attend in order to plan bbq amount. Please bring a dish to share.

We hope to see you there !

Thank You, Thank You

Kate's Kupboard would like to thank the Bill and Ann Roll Charitable Foundation for their recent donation of \$1,125.00. We would also like to thank Whispering Oaks for their donation of \$181.00 from a recent fundraiser they had. Both donations are greatly appreciated and will be used to help us replenish our shelves.

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 as we continue to help approximately 200 families each month. This Trust has been a supporter of Kate's Kupboard from the very beginning. The Trust committee recognizes the need that exist in the community and what is being done by Kate's Kupboard to help those in need.

GENEROUS DONATION

Recently the Northumberland County Extension Office held a food drive. They donated 8 boxes of nonperishable food items and personal care items to Kate's Kupboard. We appreciate that they thought of Kate's Kupboard. The people coming to Kate's in April were so happy to be able to select additional items. Here is a sampling of what we received.



NEWS FROM KATE'S KUPBOARD

Kate's Kupboard was open on **April 18, 2026**.

We helped **509** people by distributing **171** household/personal care bags, **171** produce boxes, **171** packs of meat, and **275** bags of groceries. We helped **88** babies and provided adult care products to **22** people.

The total cost was **\$4,004.24**

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

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

Proverbs 3:5-6 NRSVUE

Proverbs has always been the book in the Bible that has been elusive to me. It appears to be a collection of musings or 'sayings' (and riddles), as 1:6 suggests, and the purpose of the book is to address wisdom, justice, and fairness. As I read through the book each verse feels like a dictation of attributes more than the flowing narrative common in so many of the Bible's books. So, it can be daunting. But as I recuperated in the hospital in January, I decided the time had come to lean in to this book to find meaning. It was hard, but also engaging. I found myself enlightened, confused, and confounded... until I got to chapter 3:5-6 *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.* And there it is! If we are ever to grow in faith we need to "trust in the Lord", I can tell you that in my journey faith is easy, belief is easy, but trust? Trust is hard, in our world today it is commodity scarcer than time! As I read and reread this verse the whole of Proverbs makes more sense, (and the rest of the Bible too). In the New Testament the great commandment implores us to love with our whole heart (Matthew 22:37) but this early admonishment in Proverbs tells us to TRUST in the Lord as completely as we love. So, perhaps the essential meaning of Proverbs is that trust is the catalyst to bringing the blessings of the Spirit who will guide us, or as Proverbs says, the Lord will "make straight your paths" not only as we read the Bible but as we live.

Doug Manning

2026 2026	ACTUAL ACTUAL	BUDGET BUDGET
April Income:	\$ 22,929.40	\$ 24,634.83
Year to Date Income:	\$ 85,808.86	\$ 94,160.32
April Expenses:	\$ 26,032.25	\$ 24,154.90
Year to Date Expenses:	\$ 100,719.72	\$ 98,752.50
Income Less Expense – April		-\$ 3,102.85
Year to Date		-\$14,910.86



PRAYERS: Travis Shellenberger; Robert Snyder, Jr.; Theo Light; Sue Kurtz; Len Zboray

HOMEBOUND and CONTINUED PRAYERS: Mary Rogers; Jason Gulden; Helen Snyder; June Diehl; Bill Wagner; Nevin Brungard; Barb Eisely; Elaine Kohl; Nancy Hendricks; Betty Yerg; Jane Ressler; David Bartholomew; Marti Row

The Price of Freedom

In the song "What Did He Die For?" Twila Paris reminds us why we observe Memorial Day — and why we worship Jesus as our Savior. The first verse tells of a 21-year-old soldier fighting for America's freedom during World War II. The second verse recalls another young man, many centuries prior, sent by his Father to win eternal freedom from sin for the entire world.

The chorus offers this challenge:

*"What did he die for when he died for you and me,
Made the sacrifice so that we could all be free?
I believe we will answer each to heaven
For the way we spend a priceless liberty.
Look inside and ask the question, What did he die for?"*



Memorial Day challenges us to live so as to honor the sacrifices made by members of the military. We value our freedom because of the heavy price people have paid for it. Likewise, every day we're challenged to live so as to honor Jesus' supreme sacrifice. He calls us to spend our "priceless liberty" using our blessings to bless others.

Memorial Day Prayer

*In the quiet sanctuaries of our own hearts,
let each of us name and call on the One whose power over us
is great and gentle, firm and forgiving, holy and healing.*

*You who created us,
who sustain us,
who call us to live in peace,
hear our prayer this day.*

*Hear our prayer for all who have died,
whose hearts and hopes are known to you alone ...*

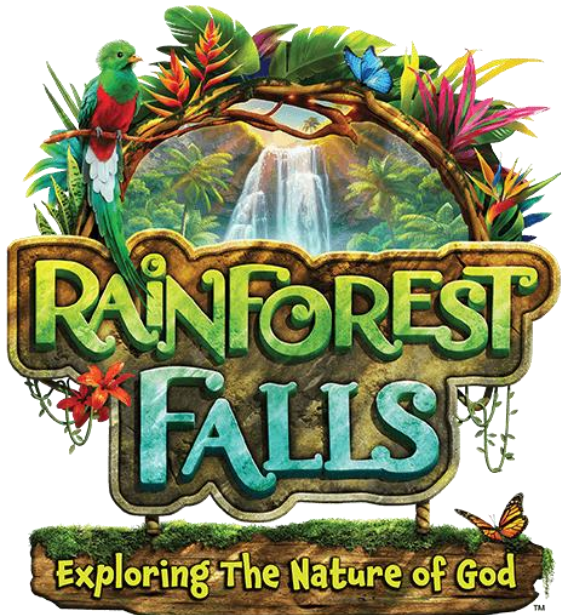
*Hear our prayer for those who put the welfare of others
ahead of their own
and give us hearts as generous as theirs ...*

*Hear our prayer for those who gave their lives
in the service of others,
and accept the gift of their sacrifice ...*

*Help us to shape and make a world
where we will lay down the arms of war
and turn our swords into ploughshares
for a harvest of justice and peace ...*

*Comfort those who grieve the loss of their loved ones
and let your healing be the hope in our hearts...*

*Hear our prayer this day
and in your mercy answer us
in the name of all that is holy.*



St. John's Lutheran Church
 300 Queen Street, Northumberland
Vacation Bible School

Sunday, July 19-Thursday, July 23
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall



Ages Preschool -5th Grade

Join us as we step through the mist into Rainforest Falls. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They will explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms. Along the way we will meet new friends – Tango the Quetzal, Seymour the Frog, Dottie the Ocelot, Tia the Anteater and Howie the Howling Monkey!



Vacation Bible School Registration Card

Child's Name _____

Birth Date _____ Last Grade Completed _____

Known Allergies or Medical Concerns: _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Emergency Contact & Phone _____ Phone# _____
 (if parents cannot be contacted)

Brothers and Sisters (names and ages) _____

Would your child/children be able to participate on Sunday, July 26 VBS Program at 9:00 a.m. worship?

_____ Yes _____ No

hello june

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Troop 325 AA 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	3	4 Al anon 7:00 p.m.	5	6 Synod Assembly @ Camp Mount Luther
7 Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Buckholtz Baptism Crew 2307 6-8:00 p.m.	8 Finance 7:00 p.m.	9 Troop 325 AA 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	10 Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	11 Scout District Committee Al anon 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	12	13 
14 Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m.	15	16 Troop 325 AA 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	17 	18 Al anon 7:00 p.m.	19	20 Kate's Kupboard 9-11:00 a.m.
		Office Open 8:30 a.m.-Noon				
21 Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m.	22 WELCA picnic Marina 6:00 p.m.	23 Troop 325 AA 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	24	25 Al anon 7:00 p.m.	26	27
Pastor's Vacation						
28 Pastor Ann Zimmerman Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m.	29	30 Troop 325 AA 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	July 1	2 Al anon 7:00 p.m.	3	
Pastor's Vacation						