

Office Hours

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

Church Staff

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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

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

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*"Trust in the Lord with all
your heart and lean not on
your own understanding"*
Proverbs 3:5

The month of July reminds me that it will soon be the 5th anniversary of the day you called me to be your Pastor, August 1, 2021. After months of trusting the process, when we all knew God had put us together for a reason, the day finally came when the people of St. John's, the Synod, and I all said yes! I am typically not a person who spends much time looking back, but rather I tend to look at what's happening now and hope for what will happen in the future. But this anniversary has me reflecting on these past 5 years.

Those 5 years have brought forth: 26 baptisms/affirmation of baptisms, 9 Confirmands, 10 weddings, 46 funerals, 815 visits, and 238 worship services. These may seem like a lot, but numbers don't really tell the whole story. They don't tell you fully about the young boy who had questions about God and after spending several months as part of our community, said yes to baptism. They don't express the struggles of getting 9 young people with various activity schedules and a pandemic to the point of confirmation. They don't speak of the extreme joy I experienced when the first wedding I presided at was my oldest son and his lovely bride. I've had the honor and privilege of walking with people in the most challenging moments of their lives, as they grieved the loss of loved ones, experienced serious health issues, relived past traumas, and seeking reassurance of their faith.

These past five years together we've worshiped, prayed, taught, navigated some challenging situations, and brought forth new and revitalized ways to do ministry together. Our worship life has brought back the Easter Sunrise service with a new twist of being at the local park, the restart of the Home Communion Teams, and the introduction of monthly Multi-generational Sunday School. Additionally faith formation has been taking place with mid week Advent and Lent series, Women's Retreat, Youth Mission Trip, Bible Study, and 5 years of Vacation Bible School.



Notes From the Director of Music



The Importance of Vacation Bible School in Our Church Community

As summer approaches, many families look forward to engaging activities that enrich their children's lives. Among these activities, Vacation Bible School (VBS) stands out as a vital program that our church should embrace and encourage wholeheartedly. Here's why VBS is essential for our community:

Spiritual Growth for Children

VBS offers a unique opportunity for children to deepen their understanding of faith in a fun, interactive environment. Through engaging lessons, crafts, and songs, children learn biblical stories and principles that shape their spiritual lives. This foundational knowledge nurtures a lifelong relationship with God.

Building Community

VBS fosters connections among families, children, and volunteers. It creates a sense of belonging within the church community, where children can make friends and form bonds with peers who share similar values. This unity strengthens the entire church body and encourages families to become more involved in church activities.

Involvement for Volunteers

Our church thrives on the dedication of its members. VBS provides a platform for adults and older youth to use their gifts and talents, whether through teaching, organizing activities, or leading music. This involvement not only enriches the program but also helps volunteers grow in their own faith journeys.

Reaching the Broader Community

VBS is an excellent outreach tool. By inviting children from the surrounding community, we can introduce them to the love of Christ and the mission of our church. It's an opportunity to share the gospel with those who may not otherwise attend church, creating a welcoming environment that can lead to lasting connections.

Fun and Engaging Learning

Children thrive in environments where learning is enjoyable. VBS combines education with fun through games, crafts, and music, making biblical teachings memorable. This approach allows children to absorb lessons more effectively, often leading to discussions at home about what they've learned.

Encouraging Family Participation

VBS often involves families in various activities, from volunteering to participating in family nights. This engagement helps parents reinforce the lessons learned during VBS at home, creating a cohesive spiritual experience that extends beyond the church walls.

A Foundation for Future Ministries

Investing in our children through VBS lays a strong foundation for future church ministries. Children who attend VBS are more likely to become active participants in church programs as they grow older. This ensures a vibrant, thriving church community for years to come.

Vacation Bible School is not just a summer activity; it is a crucial ministry that impacts the spiritual lives of children and strengthens our church community. By encouraging participation in VBS, we are investing in the future of our church and nurturing the next generation of believers. Let's come together to make this year's VBS a transformative experience for everyone involved!

For more information on how you can get involved in this year's VBS, please reach out to our church office. Your support and participation can make a world of difference!

Submitted by

William Jacavage (Bill)

Director of Music

continued from page 1

New programs have included a monthly MomCo group, Sunbuy City Band Concerts, Disaster Relief Supplies delivered to NC after the hurricane, new Scout Adventure Crew and restart of our Scout Troup, movie nights, the Blessing Shed, and the Born Again Boutique (opening in the fall). Our new digital sign helps us keep our community informed of all of these events and even announced the Baptism this past Sunday!

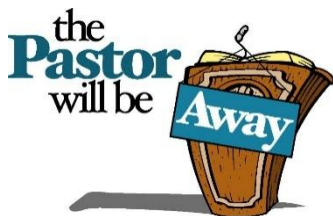
Throughout these five years, we have also navigated some challenging financial constraints. The first being the decreased funding for KK, but the members of St. John's and the community came through and we did not need to close this important ministry down. Developing a partnership with the PA Food Bank helped us to keep the costs of the ministry reasonable and make it sustainable for the future while also adding fresh produce for clients. An even larger constraint was the realization that we'd been dipping into savings funds for far too long and they were going to run out at the rate we were spending. Much hard work went into looking at our spending and developing solutions to decrease our overall monthly costs to align with our income. This work included decreasing my time at St. John's to $\frac{3}{4}$ time and asking the synod to increase my time with the synod to $\frac{1}{4}$ time.

Throughout these past five years, I have engaged with my favorite verse often, ***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding,"*** Proverbs 3:5. It was trust in the Lord that brought me to St. John's almost 8 years ago, trust in the Lord that brought me back as your Pastor, and trust in the Lord that keeps me looking forward to the ministry that God calls us to do together!

May we acknowledge God in all our ways and allow God alone to direct our paths, (Proverbs 3:6, paraphrased).

Blessings,

Pastor Karla



Pastor Karla will be at Camp Mount Luther August 2nd-4th. She will be available for emergencies.

Pastor will be at Gettysburg Seminary for Continuing Education August 10th-15th. Pastor Ann Zimmerman will be providing emergency pastoral care.

Pastor Joel Zeiders will preside at worship on August 30th and Pastor Ann Zimmerman will preside at worship on September 6th. Pastor Ann Zimmerman will also be covering pastoral emergencies. Pastor Karla will be on vacation August 28th- September 7th.

A BIG THANK YOU

Thank you to the H. Blanche Savidge Community Trust for their very generous donation of \$40,000.00 to St. John's. The council approved that \$20,000 be used for Kate's Kupboard and \$20,000 be used for the general support of the church. We appreciate that the Trust considered and granted our 2026 requests.

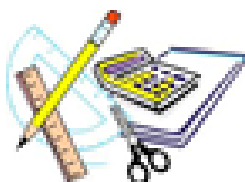


Music filled Fellowship Hall on Monday, July 13, as the Sunbury City Band held a summer concert.

SCHOOL KIT ITEMS NEEDED

Remember, while you are out shopping, take advantage of back to school sales..... WELCA is collecting items for school kits for **Lutheran World Relief**. Any contributions of items listed below would be greatly appreciated. Items can be dropped off at the church office or on the table in the rear of the sanctuary **no later than Sunday, September 20th**. Please only get the specific items listed, as LWR will not be able to ship them.

- ~ **Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper, approximately 8x10 ½ no loose-leaf paper**
- ~**One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)**
- ~**Ballpoint pens (no gel ink)**
- ~**One box of 16 or 24 crayons**



Thank You

Thank you to the Roy. H. Moyer Jr. & Carol J. Moyer Community Trust Fund for the recent donation of \$1,000.00 to Kate's Kupboard. This donation will help us to replenish our shelves as we continue to help over 500 people every month. The support of this trust is greatly appreciated.

NEWS FROM KATE'S KUPBOARD

Kate's Kupboard was open on **June 20, 2026**.

We helped **519** people by distributing **169** household/personal care bags, **169** produce boxes, **338** packs of meat, and **278** bags of groceries. We helped **42** babies and provided adult care products to **21** people.

The total cost was **\$4,250.72**

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

We did not help anyone between our May and June Kate's Kupboard but we will continue to help people through NEIGHBORLYPA. Com.

We were able to donate some extra items to the Blessing Shed.



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 15th 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 high school. Mark your calendar and get ready for that first day of school. **Children must be present to select the supplies that they need.**

Community Aid

Good news!! Community Aid has recently expanded the types items they are accepting. A complete list of what is acceptable and what is not acceptable for donations is located at the end of the newsletter.

Please remember when dropping off donations to Community aid, use our **Partner # 30155** in order for St. John's to get credit.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

2026

ACTUAL

BUDGET

June Income:	\$ 20,537.68	\$ 21,930.83
Year to Date Income:	\$126,523.01	\$137,675.98
June Expenses:	\$19,198.41	\$18,020.24
Year to Date Expenses:	\$139,592.26	\$137,328.89

Income Less Expense – June	\$ 1,339.27
Year to Date	-\$13,069.25

Blessing of Backpacks

All students, young and old, are asked to bring their backpacks to church on **Sunday, August 23rd** for a special back-to-school blessing.



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!

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.



PRAYERS: Cheryl Glavis; Stephen Stadnecke; Harold Billman; Doug Manning, Josie Crebs; Tionie Gautsch; Pastor Gary Schaffer; Len Zboray; Becky Weller, Marty Rafter

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

Sharing Our Faith

Read: Deuteronomy 6:4-7 & Psalm 37:23-28

When my grandma babysat me and nap time rolled around, she tucked me into bed and patiently recited the Lord's Prayer with me so I could learn to say it with her. My mom also prayed a simple little prayer with me nightly that included a list of all our family members (and pets!) whom we asked God to bless. That was decades ago, but what a blessing to have those prayers in my heart still !

Moses declared to Isreal that God wanted His people to learn, meditate upon, talk about, and tach their children God's Commandments. He was very clear that these teachings of God were to be uppermost in their thoughts as they went about their day: "When you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down and when you rise" (Deuteronomy 6:7) That covers just about every moment of the day.

Moses highlighted sharing the faith with children in his instructions. Event they may not understand fully, the seeds of faith sown in Baptism grow as they are nourished with the Word. The psalmist reminds us that God "will not forsake His saints" (Psalm 37:28) as they go about his faithful work.

Heavenly Father, help me share the faith with the children You have put in my life. In Jesus' name. Amen

Excerpt taken from Portals of Prayers, July-September 2026

DONATION GUIDELINES

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT COMMUNITYAID.ORG

	Gently Used Donations Accepted	Donations Not Accepted
CLOTHING	New & Gently Used Men's, Women's, and Children's Clothing	Garments that are Stained or Torn
ACCESSORIES	- Shoes - Purses/Wallets - Backpacks - Hats - Belts - Scarves - Ties - Wigs - Jewelry	Items that are Stained or Torn
TOYS	- Plastic Toys - Games - Dolls - Puzzles - Toy Cars	
HOUSEHOLD ITEMS	- Pots/Pans - Dishes/Stoneware - Glassware - Pet Items - Lamps - Shelves	
DECORATIONS	- Artwork - Collectibles - Baskets - Stationery - Seasonal/Holiday Decorations	
LINENS	- Curtains - Sheets - Towels - Rugs - Fabric - Blankets - Quilts - Comforters - Pillows	Materials that are Stained or Torn
ELECTRONICS	In working condition, including: - Flat Panel TVs - Radios - Alarm Clocks - Computer Monitors - Computer Accessories - VCR & DVD Players - Small Kitchen Appliances	- Small Appliances that are Stained or Dirty - Tube Style TVs and Monitors - Computer CPUs - Devices without Sufficient Cords
FURNITURE	Gently used furniture, including: - Nightstands - End Tables - Dining Tables - Coffee Tables - Bookshelves - Recliners - Sofas - Ottomans - Chaise <i>Please contact the Thrift Store before donating large furniture</i>	- Items that need to be Assembled - Mattresses - Box Springs - Baby/Toddler Furniture (i.e. car seats, cribs, baby/toddler beds and mattresses)
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT	- Walkers - Crutches - Wheelchairs with or without Padded Seat - Clean Toilet Chairs - Canes - Adult Diapers (unopened) - Clean Toilet Chairs with Padded Seating	- Chemicals and/or Cleaning Solvents - Prescription Items
EXERCISE AND SPORTING GOODS	- Personal Sports Equipment - Weights - Small Exercise Equipment	Large Exercise Equipment (i.e. treadmill, elliptical trainer, smith machine, power rack)
BOOKS AND AUDIO/VISUAL	- Fiction/Non-Fiction Books - Bibles - CDs - Textbooks - DVDs - Video Games - Records - Encyclopedias	Self-Developed CDs or DVDs
MISCELLANEOUS	- Cosmetics - Personal Hygiene Products (unopened) - Tools (in good condition)	- Air Conditioners - Tires - Weapons - Kerosene Heaters - Dehumidifiers - Gas-Powered Tools - Rusty Items

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Crew 2307 6-8:00 p.m.	3	4 AA 7:00 p.m.	5	6 Al Anon 7:00 p.m.	7 Preschool Board Meeting 8:00 a.m.	8
Pastor @ Camp Mount Luther						
9 Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall Reserved	10	11 AA 7:00 p.m.	12	13 Al Anon 7:00 p.m.	14	15 Kate's Kupboard 9-11:00 a.m.
Pastor @ Gettysburg						
				Fellowship Hall Reserved		
16 Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m.	17 Fellowship Hall Reserved ELCA Innovation Lab Synod Event 5:30-8:30 p.m.	18 AA 7:00 p.m.	19 Messenger folding 9:00 a.m.	20 Al Anon 7:00 p.m.	21	22
23 Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m.	24	25 AA 7:00 p.m.	26	27 1st Day of Preschool T/Th Class Al Anon 7:00 p.m.	28 1st Day of School MWF Class	29
30 Pastor Zeiders Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m.	31	September 1 AA 7:00 p.m.	2	3 Al Anon 7:00 p.m.	4	5
Pastor on Vacation						