St. John's Messenger

Volume 106, Issue 11 November 18, 2026

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

Church Staff

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William Jacavage
Director of Music

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sjelc300@ptd.net

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Joyce Shearer
Payroll Treasurer

Barb Moyer
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Congregation Officers

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

Congregation Council

Mike McWilliams
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Randy Stine
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"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!" (Phil 1:2)

In this season of fall, I find myself focused on gratitude. The song "Give thanks with a grateful heart," comes to mind as it reminds me that all that we have including the gift of Jesus Christ comes from God. And that it is through this gift that we are blessed beyond measure.

As we end our time in the gospel of Matthew, Jesus continues to teach us what it means to live fully as the blessed people of God even in our suffering. Jesus calls us to be mindful of how we live in this world and that it matters what we do with the gifts that we've been given. We let our lights shine for others to be led to the banquet at Christ's table. We share the gifts we've been given to reveal Christ's love to others. We truly see Christ within each person and treat them as we would treat Jesus. This is how Jesus calls us to live into the kingdom of heaven as we live out our earthly lives.

We soon enter into the season of Advent and our theme will be Pause, Prepare and Ponder. As we pause to see where Christ is being made know to us in the everyday, as we continousely prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ in our lives, and as we ponder the wonderous mysteries of our faith. Our Advent will be filled with opportunities to engage in these intentional practices with mid-week worship, Winter Solstice campfire worship, holiday concerts, our annual Christmas Bazaar, and the many ministries of caring for others that the season brings.

As you enter into this busy season of the holidays, may we lift our prayers to God for the many things we are grateful for, for our needs and the needs of our neighbors, and for all things hoped for.

"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us ." (Psalm 67:1)

Blessings,

Pastor Karla

Notes From the Director of Music

“Now Thank We All Our God”: A Song of Gratitude
The Hymn

As we celebrate Thanksgiving in November the Hymn lyrics and history of the hymn remind us to thank God for so many of the abundant blessings we receive each day of our lives

“Now Thank We All Our God” invites us to pause and remember the blessings that sustain us: the love of family and friends, the kindness of our church community, and the hope we find in God. Its message is simple and enduring: gratitude can be offered in every season of life.

The hymn was written in German by Martin Rinkart, a Lutheran pastor, and published in 1636. It was translated into English by Catherine Winkworth in the nineteenth century. Rinkart served his community through years of hardship, and the hymn’s joyful words are a moving reminder that thanksgiving can remain strong even in difficult times.

When we sing, “With heart and hands and voices,” we give thanks together—not only in words, but through the care and service we offer one another. The hymn’s prayer for peace also encourages us to carry gratitude beyond worship and into our daily lives.

May *“Now Thank We All Our God”* renew our thankful hearts and strengthen our shared life of faith.

God s Peace,

William Jacavage (Bill)
Director of Music



O Lord, there are not enough words of thanks for all your blessings. Our hearts overflow in praise and worship!

Wishing everyone a very Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving,

From the St. John’s Staff and their families

The Church Office will be closed Wednesday November 25 and Thursday November 26.



Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.” – Psalm 107:1

Help needed – mark your calendar!

Bazaar set up, Wednesday, December 2 from 8 a.m. till ???

Bazaar cleanup/repacking Saturday, December 5, from 1 p.m. till ???

Any help, and hour or two, or more would be greatly appreciated.

Calling all St. John's bakers!



We've got some of the best bakers around and we need your help. Baked good items are needed for the Christmas Bazaar. Please have items bagged/wrapped for individual sale. Bake sale items should be brought to the church by December 4th.

It's Not Too Late To Donate Christmas Items

Have Christmas decorations or items you no longer use? You can still donate them to the Christmas Bazaar. Please have any donations to the church by December 1st.

Please no rummage items.

Thank you to everyone who donated seafarer bags. A total of 33 bags were taken to the Synod to be transported to New York. These will surely brighten the season for those who will not be home for the holidays.

Christmas Eve Singers Needed

Do you enjoy singing and praising God through music?

On Christmas Eve we will be singing 2 songs. Rehearsal will be held following worship services on November 29, December 6, 13, and 20 in the sanctuary. Everyone, young and old is invited to join us.

Similar to when the Every Voice Choir sings on a Sunday, you will be able to sit with your family during the service and come forward when it's time to sing.

If you are interested but can't make a practice, please see Bill for copies of the music.



You Are Invited To A Baby Shower !

Social Ministry is having a *Baby Shower for Jesus* (aka Birthright Tree). Same great cause, just a different name.

Baby items are being collected now through December 24th. There is a tree on the table in the rear of the sanctuary if you need ideas. All baby items – girls and boys – are greatly appreciated.

Please have them wrapped in white tissue paper. They will be presented to the manger on Christmas Eve. The items will still be donated to Birthright in Sunbury.

Jesus said "Let the children come to me, and not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."



Received Through Holy Baptism and Affirmation

On November 8th, St. John's welcomed into their church family:

Luca Alexander Noaker
Ashley Marie Noaker

2026 Confirmands

Back Row: Allan Funk; Van Bedisky; Cameron Lehman

Front Row: Ryan Billman; Paige Billman





Happy Scouts Giving

Over the weekend of Nov. 13-15, the Cub Pack and Scout Troop camped at Camp Hallowing Run. On Saturday evening, they held their annual Scouts Giving Meal. A total of 58 cubs, scouts, crew members, parents and friends enjoyed a delicious fellowship meal of turkey, ham, potatoes and stuffing, sweet potatoes, macaroni and cheese, carrots, corn, cranberry sauce, and a lot of desserts.

NEWS FROM KATE'S KUPBOARD

Kate's Kupboard was open on **October 17, 2026**.

We helped **500** people by distributing **158** household/personal care bags, **158** produce boxes, **316** packs of meat, and **264** bags of groceries. We helped **59** babies and provided adult care products to **18** people.

The total cost was **$3,819.98**

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

We helped one family between our September and October Kate's Kupboard. We continue to help people through NEIGHBORLYPA. Com.

We had some extra produce that we put in the Blessing Shed.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

As we approach the end of the year, please be reminded that if you want your financial contributions to be recorded on your "Statement of Giving" for calendar year 2026 they must be received by **Tuesday, December 29th.** Any contributions received after this date will be credited in 2027.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to the S. Luther Savidge Charitable Foundation for their recent donation of $6,500.00 to Kate's Kupboard. This donation will be very helpful as we approach the holidays. Hopefully the food that we provide to the families coming to Kate's Kupboard will help in making their holidays a little happier. We greatly appreciate the continued support of the S. Luther Savidge Charitable Foundation.

CHURCH FINANCES

2026	**ACTUAL**	**BUDGET**
Oct. Income:	$ 18,922.03	$ 22,189.83
Year to Date Income:	$ 208,894.92	$ 223,249.30
Oct. Expenses:	$ 23,971.56	$ 21,592.40
Year to Date Expenses:	$ 226,693.44	$ 223,934.24
Income Less Expense – Oct.		- $ 5,049.53
Year to Date		-$ 17,798.52



PRAYERS: Amy Dunkelberger; Dean Dunkelberger; Mary Siemsen; Natalie Frits; Gwyn Montgomery; Cheryl Glavis; Jane Ramer; Jim Herbert; Helen Peters; Connie Freitsch; Marty Rafter

HOMEBOUND and CONTINUED PRAYERS: PRAYERS: Chris Eisely; Kaye Wolfe; Barb Eisely; Jason Gulden; Betty Yerg; Helen Snyder; June Diehl; Nevin Brungard; Nancy Hendricks; Bill Wagner; David Bartholomew; Marti Row

Upcoming December Happenings



Advent Series

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
Wednesdays at 7 pm
Adult Sunday School Room
(enter through parking lot Kate's Kupboard door)



Christmas Bazaar
Bake Sale &
Basket Raffle

Friday, December 4 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, December 5 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Crafts, gifts, basket raffle, Christmas décor, white elephant and pink elephant items.

The North Pole Diner will have a bake sale, hamburg BBQ, hot dogs, chicken salad sandwiches, and chicken corn, broccoli cheese, ham and bean and Italian wedding soup for sale.

Hope to see you there !!



the SUNBURY CITY BAND est. 1895

Christmas Concert
Monday, December 7
7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Come enjoy the sounds of the seasons presented by the Sunbury City Band.



JOIN US

Thursday, December 24

Candlelight Service with Communion
7:00 p.m.

Festive Music begins at
6:30 p.m.



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Nourishing ☩ Serving ☩ Faith

November 18, 2026

Dear Member of St. John's:

As yet another Christmas season approaches, and we celebrate the birthday of our Lord, Jesus Christ, let us also rejoice and thank our God. We have been truly blessed this year by the generosity of our members who have helped to improve our church. Let us remember to thank those who have given so much to each of us through the year!

We would like to thank Pastor Karla for all she has undertaken and guidance given here at St. John's and present her with a token of our appreciation. If you would like to contribute to a gift, please send your contribution by **December 20th** to:

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Attn: Tina Pontius or Barb Moyer
300 Queen Street
Northumberland, PA 17857

If you would like you can place in the offering plate and mark it ***"Christmas Gift".*** Please make checks payable to:

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

The monetary gifts will be presented on Christmas Eve. Thank you for your generosity, and may you and your families have a wonderful Christmas season.

Yours in Christ,

St. John's Church Council

December 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		**1** Troop 325 6:30 p.m. AA 7:00 p.m.	**2** Set up Bazaar 8:00 a.m. Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. MomCo 6-8:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Service 7:00 p.m. ***Kitchen Reserved***	**3** Office Closed Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m.	**4**  ***Christmas Bazaar*** ***Fridav 9-5 Saturdav 9-1***	**5** 
6 2nd Sunday in Advent Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Crew 2307 6-8:00 p.m.	**7** Finance 7:00 p.m. Sunbury City Band Concert 7:00 p.m. 	**8** Troop 325 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. AA 7:00 p.m.	**9** Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. Midweek Advent Service 7:00 p.m.	**10** Bishops Day @ Camp Mt. Luther 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Messenger deadline 2:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Scout District Comm. 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m.	**11** 	**12**
13 3rd Sunday in Advent Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	**14**	**15** Troop 325 6:30 p.m. AA 7:00 p.m.	**16** Messenger Folding 9:00 a.m. Cub Scouts 6:30 p.m. MomCo 6-8:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Service 7:00 p.m.	**17** Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Scout Roundtable 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. Al anon 7:00 p.m.	**18**	**19** Kate's Kupboard 9-11:00 a.m. FH Reserved 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
20 4th Sunday in Advent Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	**21** Winter Solstice Campfire Worship Service 6:30 p.m. 	**22** Troop 325 6:30 p.m. AA 7:00 p.m.	**23** Office Closed	**24** Christmas Eve **Festive music 6:30 p.m.** **Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m.**	**25** Blessed Christmas 	**26**
27 Worship w/Comm. 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m.	**28** Office Closed	**29** Troop 325 6:30 p.m. AA 7:00 p.m.	**30**	**31** 	**Jan 1** 	**2**