

THE MESSENGER

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St. John's Website:

<https://www.stjohnsnaz.org>

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsnaz>

Sunday School + Worship

Sunday, December 4th at 9:15am

ONE SUNDAY SERVICE

A traditional Service of Advent Lessons & Carols which will include the Festival Choir, congregational singing, scripture readings, and leadership by our Sunday School students. Fellowship will follow with Advent activities!

Worship with us

Christmas Eve Worship Times

Family Service at 5:00pm

Evening Service at 7:30pm

Vigil Service at 11:00pm

Christmas Day Service (one service, no Sunday School) at 10:00am



New Year's Eve Worship Times

Saturday, December 31 at 5:30pm

Sunday, January 1 (one service, no Sunday School) at 10:00am



Go to **St. Johns Facebook page and YouTube channel** for our livestream at **5:30 pm** every **Saturday**



A Message From Your Pastor

“Time Keeps on Slippin', Slippin', Slippin' - Into the Future.”

(Click on title to hear the song if you're viewing this online)

Do you recognize these song lyrics? The song is *Fly Like an Eagle* by the Steve Miller Band. And do you feel it too? Time slipping by so quickly to the point that we are asking one another, where has the month gone? September flew by, October is on the run.....wait, we are heading into the holidays. Oh Lord, I am not ready! Indeed time does keep "slippin' by and into the future."

I first began thinking about writing this in the aftermath of five days of clouds and rain. Now the sun is shining and I'm distracted by the beauty of the day and the to do lists that need to be completed! The bird feeders need to be filled. Grocery list needs to be made, but first we have to meal plan. Laundry is waiting to be done. There are council reports and Messenger articles due. Staff and other leaders are brainstorming new experiments in worship. Advent approaches. Flights need to be purchased in order to see family for the holidays. Which means Christmas is coming...oh my goodness. Life please slow down!

But along the way, in the midst of the chaos, there is goodness and beauty. A dog continues to recover. A family has a lovely walk in the sun. A happy couple fries some fish and enjoys a glass of wine. Two pastors explore the sanctuary with 8th graders looking to see the symbol of our faith in so many shapes, sizes, and forms. Families share their hopes and dreams for their children. The women of the church lead us in a wonderful Thankoffering worship and fellowship. The leaves continue to be beautiful as they change for the season. Youth share their joys and concerns about life, school, and family. A beautiful bunny sits and enjoys some snacks in the yard. Sunday School teachers help to prepare their students for Reformation Sunday worship leadership and their Christmas Program.

All of these are holy moments. We often find it easy to see God in the extraordinary moments of life where there is a dramatic change and shift in life's circumstances, whether blessings or woes. It's not so easy to detect God during the ordinary events of our lives. But that's exactly where you and I live. We live in the midst of the nuance of the everyday craziness and hopefully some quietness. In and through the holy moments in which we live, we hear God's voice and see the many blessings of the day.

Because the promise is true. As God proclaims to the prophets of old, "I am with you wherever you go." And Jesus tells his disciples, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Even as time keeps on "slippin', slippin', slippin' into the future" – the promise is that wherever we are, God is with us. Yes, as life races by and as it seems to crawl at a slow pace. Yes, while we sit within the calm moments of the day or while we run our children from place to place to live their passions. Yes, in the mundane and in the extraordinary. God is with us!

I pray that this is the reminder you hold on to as we charge into the future in these holiday months. May you see and know that God is with you along the way, reminding you to see the beauty in the holy moments.

Gracious God, thank you for the holy and the chaos of our lives. As we approach a traditionally busy time of the year, remind us that you are with us in this time and place. Amen.

Blessings,
Pastor Jennifer

M.A.D. Camp

The 2022 M.A.D. Camp Production of *SHOWDOWN AT DRY GULCH*

Saturday night, November 5 following the Stewardship Dinner
Sunday morning, November 6 during the Sunday School hour

Grab your cowboy hats and lassos, and come see the hoedown led by an all-star cast of Saint John's M.A.D. Camp children. These young actors and actresses will present the musical "Showdown at Dry Gulch," based on the Biblical story of Elijah.

Don't miss it!

Stewardship Dinner LAST NAME POTLUCK

Saturday, November 5 at 6:30 pm

What's a last name potluck? That's where you bring a dish that begins with the first letter of your last name! The Halls could bring hash. The Taylors could bring tortellini. What will you bring? A meat dish, drinks, and place settings will be provided.

Come for the dinner and stay for the show!

Please RSVP for the Stewardship Dinner by October 30th. Call the church office (610-759-3090) or email office@stjohnsnaz.org with your reply. As you sign up, please indicate if you are bringing a side dish, salad, or dessert.

Special Worship Services in November

- **November 5-6:** All Saints' Sunday when we remember those who have died in the past year.
- **November 12-13:** Welcome New Members, larger fellowship following both Sunday worship services.
(New Member Class is November 6 at 9:15am in the Parlor.)
- **November 19-20:** Christ the King Sunday, also Golden Age Sunday when we recognize those who have reached the Biblical age of 70 years.



Biblical Advice for Cheerful Givers

We've been told this since our days in Sunday school: We want to give and we need to give gladly. A spirit of generosity isn't enough to guide us in our decisions. What else does Scripture have to say on the subject?

Three kinds of financial giving are mentioned in the Bible: offerings, tithes and alms. Understanding what they mean helps us achieve a thoughtful, balanced plan for our cheerful giving.

Offerings and Tithing

On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come (1 Corinthians 16:2).

The faith practice of making a regular financial offering to your congregation is grounded in a “first fruits” philosophy.

We might think of this giving as “business as usual.” You pay the rent, you buy groceries and you contribute regularly to help carry out God’s mission in the world. Your generosity isn’t an afterthought; it’s part of your day-in-and-day-out joyful response as a child of God.

These offerings first help to support local ministries, outreach and more. Your congregation then shares a portion of your offering—mission support—with your synod and the churchwide expression. *Stories of Faith in Action* is filled with examples of how mission support enables us to do God’s work with our hands.

Many Christians talk about their regular contribution as a tithe. This helps them to differentiate between their financial commitment to their congregation and the special offerings they designate to specific causes. Such causes may include ELCA World Hunger, a program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, your congregation’s building fund or a pan-Lutheran organization such as Lutheran World Relief.

We encourage your designated support of these worthy causes. But we also recommend that these offerings are given above and beyond, and never in place of, your commitment to your regular congregational offering.

*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, for God loves a cheerful giver.
(2 Corinthians 9:7)*

Alms

Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys (Luke 12:33).

Alms are our compassionate, heartfelt response to the people Jesus mentioned in Matthew 25: those “least” of our sisters and brothers who are “less” than we in circumstance only and always our equal in their humanity.

This is our most personal and spontaneous kind of giving in response to people in need. Think about the homeless man you see everyday by the bus stop or the family in your congregation whose home was lost during a fire. Your outreach makes God’s love for them feel very real and very immediate; your kindness reveals Christ’s presence within them as well.

Time and Talent

It’s also important to remember that when we focus exclusively on giving in terms of money alone, we lose sight of the bigger picture. God calls us to be generous in all areas our lives and invites us to explore the many opportunities to share ourselves through our time and talent.

When we ground our giving in a biblical context, our financial generosity becomes an expression of our love for God, for our neighbor and for ourselves. We are new people in Christ: compassionate and eager to share.

We give cheerfully because God has given us so much.

Congregational Meeting and Church Council Nomination Form

In accordance with the church constitution and bylaws, a Congregational Meeting will be held following all worship services on the weekend of November 19-20, 2022 for the purpose of electing Church Council representative for terms beginning in the year 2023.

The Nominating Committee is requesting suggestions from the congregation for members who would agree to have their names appear on the ballot.

The following persons are currently serving on Church Council:

Rita Bergstrom
Christina Brodt
Karen Furler
Christine Garrison
Randy Hall
Bonnie Jablonski

Rich Johnson
Joyce Knecht
Barry Miller
Ben Miller
Gail Price
Michele Seaton

Completing their second term, and therefore ineligible for re-election, and leaving the board is: Christine Garrison and Gail Price. Rich Johnson is completing one term and is not seeking re-election. We sincerely thank them for their time spent on Church Council and their dedicated service to God and to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Eligible for re-election is: Joyce Knecht who is completing her first term.

Please submit your nomination on the form below and place it in the offering plate, drop it off at the Church Office, or give it to a member of the Nominating Committee (Stephen Bajan II, Christine Garrison, Jackie Wolf) by **Sunday, November 6, 2022**. The nominee will be contacted to determine if they agree to have their name appear on the ballot.

My Name: _____

I would like to nominate _____ for Church Council.

We Have So Much to be Thankful For

*Happy
Thanksgiving*



Pastoral Acts



We rejoice with those who have been welcomed into the body of Christ through of Holy Baptism:

KENNEDY SHAE KEMP

Daughter of Tyler & Kortney (Minnich) Kemp
Born: May 2, 2022
Baptized: August 21, 2022

REGINA ROSE PRICE

Daughter of Harrison & Samantha (Shoemaker) Price
Born: June 16, 2022
Baptized: August 28, 2022

CORA MAE BELL PRICE

Daughter of Nicholas Price & Elizabeth Burnett
Born: April 9, 2022
Baptized: August 28, 2022

DAVID EDGAR ZIMMER

Son of Peter Zimmer & Elizabeth Brodt-Zimmer
Born: May 4, 2022
Baptized: September 25, 2022



With Sympathy

Our heartfelt Christian sympathy goes out to the families and friends of the following members and friends of St. John's who passed into eternal life:

LOUISE A. GOWER GOSMA

August 6, 2022

GLENN B. SNYDER

August 13, 2022

RICHARD F. WERNER

August 19, 2022

RENATE V. KAY

September 2, 2022

DR. MANUEL D. MUNOZ

September 15, 2022

DONALD R. ROSEBERRY

October 14, 2022



Memorial Gifts

BETTY LAUBACH

Women of the ELCA

HOLLY H. BOWERS-TOTH

Debra R. Klim

DONALD W. HIMLER

Leonard + Joyce Wallace
Kristin + Kelly Landon
Walter + Patricia Dowling
Eric + Christine Himler
Richard + Joan Werner
Roger + Carolyn Connors
St. John's Lutheran Church Chancel Choir

EDWIN BATORI, JR.

Jeanne Eroh

LOUISE A. GOWERS GOSMA

Marion Stout
Thomas + Jocelyn Starner

RICHARD F. WERNER

Donna Paulson
Elaine + Craig Laurence

Grace Notes



It's beginning to look a lot like.... Advent! Although we may hear Christmas music on the radio and have seen Christmas decorations in stores even before Halloween, Advent is a distinct season of the Church that is celebrated over four weeks prior to Christmas Day. The world, television and shopping malls have done all they can to convince us that Advent does not matter. However, our Christian faith teaches us something very different.



Advent is a season rich in tradition, symbolism, art, music and liturgy. In the early Christian church, Advent was often called a “little Lent.” Paraments for both seasons were purple, a color expressing a time of penance and contrition. In times past, liturgical practice for both seasons required a period of fasting and quiet contemplation. Often the music for Lent and Advent were similar in that hymns and anthems were set to melodies in minor keys, conveying the reflective and penitential themes of both seasons. In times past, weddings were even restricted during both the Advent and Lenten seasons.

Over the past several decades, some traditions of the Advent celebration have changed. Recently, blue has been adopted as the preferred color for Advent, symbolizing a time of hopefulness in the anticipation of the coming Christ child. Other scholars say that blue is a color traditionally associated with Mary, mother of Jesus. The requirement for fasting has been dropped by most Protestant churches, and now wedding couples are allowed to celebrate their marriage throughout the month of December, taking advantage of the greenery and other seasonal decorations that are added as Christmas approaches.

Although Advent and Lent are both times of waiting, Advent has become a season of preparation, while Lent remains a much more penitential season. Each week more decorations are brought into the nave as we draw closer to the birth of Jesus. And each week, one more candle is lit on the Advent wreath as Christmas Eve approaches. Although much of the music is still solemn, creating a sense of yearning and longing, there are many Advent hymns that instill a sense of joyfulness as we prepare for the coming Christ child. In our ELW hymnal, there are almost an equal number of Advent hymns as there are Christmas carols.

We must be mindful that Advent is both a time of remembrance and commemoration, as well as a time of anticipation and expectation. It is a season that we recall and celebrate Christ's first coming and holy birth in Bethlehem more than two thousand years ago. But amid preparations for Christmas day, we often forget that Advent is also a time to renew our desire for his second coming. Time for reflection on the violence and evil in the world today causes us to cry out to God in longing for Christ's return when peace and justice will be restored.

The Advent season is a very special time of year that can become lost in the frenzy of parties and shopping. May this Advent season be both a reflective and prayerful time, as well as a moment of joy-filled anticipation and celebration. Advent blessings to all!

Grace and peace,
Rev. Janice Butz
Minister of Music



A Message from the Director of

Youth & Family Ministries

Every third Tuesday of the month, the ELCA Youth Ministry Network releases a podcast episode. The most recent one featured Kara Powell, who is a co-author of *Growing Young* - the book St. John's church staff, Council, and others have studied and continue to reference. In the podcast episode, she talks about post pandemic changes in the church, especially with youth and families. She mentions how even though people may not have come back to the church in the same way as before the pandemic, one thing has not changed: youth are still craving connection and relationships - maybe now more than ever.

I know everything is different. People have simplified their lives, or jumped into even more commitments. Kids who were in elementary school at the start of the pandemic are now in high school. Their lives (and their parents' lives) have now totally changed. The world around us has changed. However, as Kara mentions, her research shows that youth are wanting to feel connected and wanting to build relationships. It is hard to make that happen in a world of screens and social media - as ironic as that sounds.

Social media can make people of any age feel quite the opposite of social - it can feel isolating. It is human nature to compare ourselves to others, so being bombarded with images and reels of people gathered out and about, while one is sitting at home, feels... lonely. Even if those images presented are of peoples' very best, most memorable moments, it is hard to remember that. If adults can feel this way, imagine how it can feel for children.

The years students should have spent with their peers, in person, building long-lasting, meaningful relationships, was cut short. Instead it was spent on screens for school and activities. They are now having to start over in many ways.

I invite you to remember that church programs, especially youth ministry programs, provide great outlets to foster relationships. There are opportunities for students, families, and adults alike at St. John's. We now have weekly fellowships after both worship services every Sunday, youth events throughout each month, Sunday School, Bible studies, Tables of 8, various committees that plan events or go on trips, and many opportunities to use musical gifts, such as the choirs and bell choir, and Music, Art, & Drama Camp.

I hope this winter you are able to find some time among the busyness of life to take some time for yourself and attend an event! Have some fun out with the family, make memories, and build relationships. If not, let us know how we can support you and your family from afar. I hold all of you in prayer - you are doing a great job, and we are here for you.

Blessings,
Jaime L. Taylor
Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Upcoming Events

November

- **11/20:** Shut In Gift Making: The youth will be making gifts for our homebound parishioners during Sunday School - 9:15am. Please meet in the Youth Room. Judy Jones and Karen Furler will be leading us in this project.

Youth & Family Ministries

Upcoming Events (cont.)

December

- **12/4:** Packing Boxes for Military: The youth will be packing boxes for military personnel at 10:15am (following the church service). Christine Garrison will be leading us in this project. Please meet in the Fellowship Hall.
- **12/10:** Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal (8:45am - 11am); Christmas with the Elves event (11am-1pm). Snow date: 12/17.
- **12/11:** Sunday School Christmas Program 9:15am (during Sunday School). Snow date: 12/18.
- **12/11:** Christmas Gift Delivery to homebound parishioners at 11:30am.

January

- **1/6-8:** Bear Creek Winter Camp CONNECT for 9-12 graders. Check out: bearcreekcamp.org/connect-winter-camp. Financial assistance is available. Reach out to Jaime Taylor for more info.
- **1/13-15:** Bear Creek Winter Camp CONNECT for 4-8 graders. Check out: bearcreekcamp.org/connect-winter-camp. Financial assistance is available. Reach out to Jaime Taylor for more info.
- **1/20-21:** Lock In: The annual youth lock in will take place from Friday, January 20 - Saturday, January 21. This is an overnight event that will begin on Friday at 6:30pm and end after breakfast on Saturday at 9:00am.
- **1/29:** A Bear Creek Camp representative is coming to do a fun, interactive presentation during Sunday School. Parents/families invited to attend - 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall.

Upcoming Events



BEAR CREEK CAMP

Winter Connect Weekends

9th - 12th Grade - January 6 - 8

4th - 8th Grade - January 13 - 15

CONNECT is a fun-filled weekend at Bear Creek Camp to share with camp friends and returning summer counselors in activities unique to BCC in the winter! The weekends kick off on Friday night and run until Sunday after lunch. Cost for the weekend is \$130/person.

Registration opens on Monday, October 3rd
Deadline for Registration: Tuesday, December 28th



Christian Education

Evening Adult Bible Study Wednesday, November 2 at 7:30pm

Pastors will be leading an evening study about topics that may be of interest to you! In our **first few weeks we will talk about heaven and hell.** What does Scripture say about these topics? What does culture teach us? What have we heard before and what do we have questions about or need to know? These and many more questions and topics will be discussed on Wednesday nights.

Bring your Bible, your questions, and an open mind. See you in the Parlor at 7:30pm on the following Wednesdays.

November 2
November 9
November 30

December 7
December 14

Check future communications
for the weekly topics.

Women ^{of the} ELCA 

Women of St. John's, here are opportunities for you to gather with one another in Bible Study and fellowship.

Rebekah Circle - November 7 at 7:00pm

Ruth Circle - November 2 at 9:00am

Rebekah Circle - December 5 at 7:00pm

Ruth Circle - December 7 at 9:00am

College Planning Help

College planning can be hard and confusing. We are very lucky to have a member, Dennis Kelly (husband of Susan Kelly), who is knowledgeable in this field and is offering his services to help.

Dennis M. Kelly is a nationally recognized higher education consultant who specializes in recruitment and retention best practices among universities and colleges. He has presented nationally on topics that include affordability, accessibility, scholarship, and persistence to graduation. Dennis has received numerous awards, which include commendations from the White House and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Dennis has volunteered to speak with any St. John's families who have students planning to attend college directly after high school, transfer to another college, are or have served in the military, or anyone who desires to start as an adult learner.

Interested families can schedule to speak to Dennis by emailing him directly at 2018oc@gmail.com. Please include your cell phone number in your email.

St. John's Daycare

St John's Daycare is in full swing this school year. So far, we focused on our fantastic families, making music, our community, and the colorful world around us- where we also got to learn about Fire Safety and exploration of different colors. In November, we will be exploring different Mathematics concepts – including numbers and shapes. In December we will be looking into rhyming and creating different art concepts using vast materials. We will also be having a big push with philanthropy in December. We will be taking a collection for local families, and a Wishlist Christmas tree for our classrooms. In December we will be celebrating with our Christmas Pageant and singing songs for our friends and families. We are excited to continue to learn and have fun here at St John's Daycare!



Love-A-Lot Nursery School

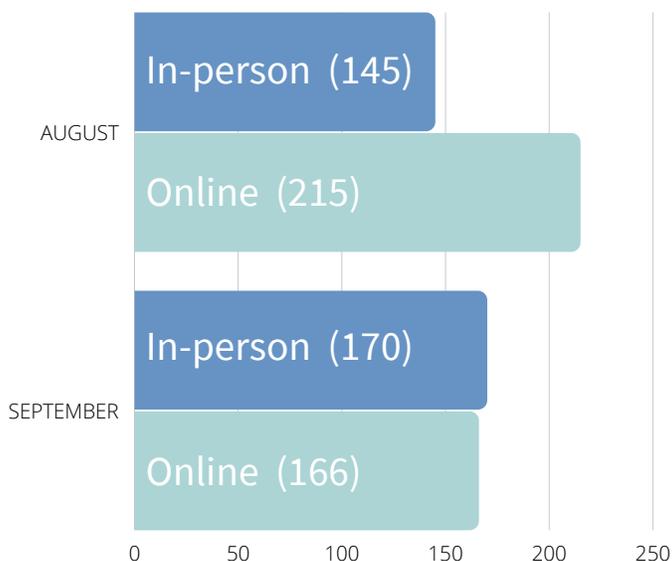


Our Preschool and PreK classes have been having so much fun! The firefighters brought their truck to our school for us to see, and they even showed us how they get dressed in their fire gear. The students learned that even though the firefighter might look different, they aren't scary at all because it is just a human underneath all the protective clothing.

We are looking forward to talking about food and healthy food choices during the month of November when we celebrate Thanksgiving, and for the first time we are excited to talk about holidays around the world in December!

If you are interested in enrolling your child in our Preschool or Pre-K program, please contact us directly for more information. Registration is open for the 2023-2024 school year! For more information, please contact the school by phone (484-293-0720) or email (LoveALotNurserySchool@yahoo.com).

Average Church Attendance



Church Office Hours

THANKSGIVING

Closed November 24 + 25

CHRISTMAS

Closing early December 23 at 12pm

Closed December 26

NEW YEAR'S

Closing early December 29 at 12pm

Closed December 30

Inclement Weather Guidelines

- During the week, the Church Office will follow the Nazareth Area School District (NASD) for delays and closings in case of inclement weather.
- If the NASD closes for the day, the Church Office will be closed, on a Wednesday Noon Bible Study is cancelled, and all afternoon/evening activities for children and youth will be cancelled. Evening committee meetings will be at the discretion of the chairperson. When in doubt, please contact your chairperson before venturing out.
- If the NASD has a 2-hour delay, the Church Office will open at 10:00 AM and the afternoon/evening activities will be held as scheduled unless you are otherwise notified. When in doubt, please contact your chairperson before venturing out.
- In regards to weekend worship services, check WFMZ (Channel 69), our website, and social media channels for closing information when there is inclement weather.
- Please always use your best judgment when deciding whether or not to join us if we are open; your safety is our utmost concern.

Homebound Birthdays

Let's spread some joy to our homebound friends who are celebrating birthdays in the coming months



November 3rd

Betty Deardorff
Moravian Hall Square
Room 2020
175 W. North Street
Nazareth, PA 18064

November 25th

Earnest Hahn
427 Bank Street
Nazareth, PA 18064

December 26th

Connie Lichtenwalner
5526 Grace Ave.
Bethlehem, PA 18017



Support Our Troops

Items for Support our Troops are once again being gathered! Collection bins will be in the Fellowship Hall from **October 30 - December 4**. Packages will be put together on December 4 following our only service that day at 9:15 am. Everyone is invited to help with this event.

Below are suggested items we can accept -

- Puzzle books, magazines (current), paperback books only
- Bars - Peanut, energy, granola, breakfast
- Trail Mix (Individual packages) and Nuts
- Candy and Chewing Gum (Licorice, Skittles, Starbursts...**No chocolate!**)
- Cracker Jacks and Microwave Popcorn
- **SNACK sized** bag of pretzels and chips
- Crackers - Peanut Butter or Cheese
- Beef Jerky
- Black Socks



We CAN NOT accept instant oatmeal, coffee or anything liquid.

If you have the address of someone serving in the military, please leave their address in the church office.

Thanks to our caring congregation for participation in the past. We remember those who serve our country with our prayers and our boxes from home.

If you have any questions, please see Christine Garrison.

Happy Veteran's Day

We honor all who have served in our military and sacrificed for us all.



Prayer Requests



Names of those needing prayers will be added to the Prayer Chain Committee List.

Would you like this name added to the list read during the prayers at church during the worship service?

_____ **Y** _____ **N** _____

Name of Person/s Needing Prayers:

Special notes (optional):

Name of Person making this Request:

Phone #: _____ Email Address: _____

Names will be kept on the prayer list/s for **4 weeks**. If someone continues to need prayers beyond that, please let the Church Office know or fill out a new form. The forms are located at the back of the Nave. Completed forms can be placed in the Offering Plate or given to the Church Office. (Revised August 2019)

Date: _____

Annual Christmas Ingathering

The Annual Christmas Ingathering of the Northern Lehigh Valley Mission District will be held at Union Lutheran Church, Schnecksville on Thursday, **December 1, 2022** at **10:00am**.

Our Church's Evangelism / Social Ministry Committee is once again planning to be an active part of this ministry, and we are turning to you for your kind and generous support to provide the gifts needed for this Christian ministry.

The institutions to receive gifts for Christmas 2022 are as follows: Gracedale Nursing Home, Sayre Child Center, KidsPeace, Allentown Rescue Mission, Ripple Community Center, and Cay Galgon Life House.

Mittens, hats and scarves are requested again for our Knitted Items Tree for men, women, and children of all ages. **Boxes, wrapping paper, ribbon, and bows** are always helpful as well.

Your **monetary gifts** will also be used to purchase items for KidsPeace. This includes the four gifts our church will give to specific children who are residents as well as 50 packs of M&M's and 50 Chapsticks that will be placed in the 200 Gift Bags provided for the children.

Following are the "Wish Lists" for the people living at the institutions. **Donation boxes will be available from November 1st through November 30th in the Fellowship Hall.**

We sincerely thank you for your generosity in helping to create a joyous Christmas for these people in need of our ministry!

Annual Christmas Ingathering Wish Lists

| Kids Peace - NO WIRE BOUND BOOKS OR SCARVES | Allentown Rescue Mission (Men) NO LIQUID SOAP | Sayre Center CHILDREN'S ITEMS ONLY NO STUFFED ANIMALS | Gracedale - NO CROSSWORD PUZZLE BOOKS or BAR SOAP | Ripple Community Center | Cay Galgon Life House |
|---|---|---|---|--|-------------------------------|
| Art Supplies | supermarket gift cards | batteries (AA,C,D) | Men | Individually Wrapped | Baby wash |
| clay | granola and cereal bars | bibs | after shave lotion | cookies | Diapers (newborn, size 3 & 4) |
| coloring books | single serve beverages | board books & washable books | small combs | chips | Newborn onesies |
| crayons | coffee | bubbles | talcum powder | crackers | Receiving blankets |
| sketch pads | coffee creamers | colored pencils | tube socks | applesauce | 4 oz. & 8 oz. bottles |
| paint & brushes | powdered eggs | construction paper | Women | Ramen noodle cups | Nursing pads |
| Personal Care Items | corned beef hash | diapers & wipes | body powder | mac n cheese | diaper cream |
| deodorant | canned chicken | finger paint & tempera paint | perfume/colognes | juice boxes | wipes |
| flavored Chapstick | tuna fish | glue sticks | hair brushes | coffee/tea | bibs |
| scented lotions | liquid laundry soap | infant cereal (rice or oatmeal) | socks | creamer/sugar | pacifiers |
| shampoo | all purpose cleaner | kitchen dish towels | scarves | hot chocolate packets | baby wash cloths |
| shower gels | men's underwear XL-4XL | plain paper for drawing | Either Men or Women | Small or travel size toiletries | baby bath towels |
| Clothing | shaving cream | Play-doh | ankle socks | razors | |
| pajamas | deodorant | playground balls | body spray | body lotion | |
| hats, mittens | shampoo | single fruit or vegetable infant food (stage 2 - nothing mixed) | body wash | deodorant | |
| socks | disposable razors | | change purses | powder | |
| sweatshirts & pants (all sizes) | paper towels | stickers | Chapstick | shaving cream | |
| underwear | toilet paper | tissues | colored pencils | small packs tissues | |
| Gift Cards all kinds, examples | trash bags (45 & 55 Gal) | toddler size forks & spoons | adult coloring books | Chapstick | |
| Walmart | scouring cleanser | wash cloths for classroom use | crayons | New Men's and Women's | |
| book store | window cleaner | waterproof markers | deodorant | underwear | |
| Itunes | liquid bleach | | nail polish & remover | hats | |
| movie theaters | Pine Sol | | slippers with sturdy bottom | scarves | |
| Target | | | pens/pencils | gloves | |
| | | | playing cards | heavy long socks | |
| | | | postage stamps | rain ponchos | |
| | | | small tablets | batteries (AA,AAA,D) | |
| | | | tissue packets | blankets | |
| | | | velvet coloring posters | tarps | |
| | | | writing paper | hot hand warmers for hands, feet, & body | |
| | | | lg. print search a word | candles | |
| | | | lg. print reading books | tampons/pads | |
| | | | markers - washable | Depends Lg. & XL .hjm | |
| | | | moisturizing lotion | | |

You Are Invited!



YOU ARE INVITED TO

Christmas Open House at the Parsonage

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11
DROP IN
2:00PM-5:00PM
TO ENJOY SOME HOLIDAY CHEER!



NO NEED TO BRING ANYTHING,
JUST COME AND GO AS YOU PLEASE.



Decorate With Us!



A Fellowship Hall Christmas

Would you like to have some festive fun? Yes you would! Do you like to decorate? Of course you do!

Volunteer to decorate one of the window sills in the Fellowship Hall.

Date: Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022
Time: 8am - 12pm

Bring your decorations, supplies (scissors, tape, et.) and your creativity. Window ledge size is 16" deep x 45" wide x 32" high.

Sign up by contacting Dean Brodt 484-515-8016. We only have 9 windows, so reserve your window soon!

Invite your family and friends to join you. We will have Christmas music, hot chocolate, coffee, and cookies.

Christmas with the Elves!

AN EVENT FOR ALL CHILDREN!



On Saturday, December 10th (snow date December 17th) from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., the Luther League will host an event for all children! This event is to get children in the spirit of Christmas! There will be games, cookie decorating, and perhaps even a very special guest... all the way from the North Pole*!

Christmas with the Elves will begin at 11:00 a.m. and will conclude at 1:00 p.m. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall and group the children there. If your child is in Sunday School, you can drop them off for the Sunday School Christmas Program rehearsal at 8:45 a.m., and we will take them to the Fellowship Hall for the event afterwards. Parents, feel free to use this time to do some last minute Christmas shopping, or just take some time to relax from the holiday rush!

Children younger than Sunday School age (under 2) are invited to attend with the supervision of a parent.

***If any parents would like to see your child meet our special guest, we invite you to return at 12:30 pm!**



Please RSVP below and return the form to the Church Office, Jaime Taylor's mailbox, or email the information to jtaylor@stjohnsnaz.org by Wednesday, December 7th.

Children's name(s): _____ Age: _____
 _____ Age: _____
 _____ Age: _____
 _____ Age: _____

Food allergies: _____

Emergency Contact Name/Cell Phone #: _____

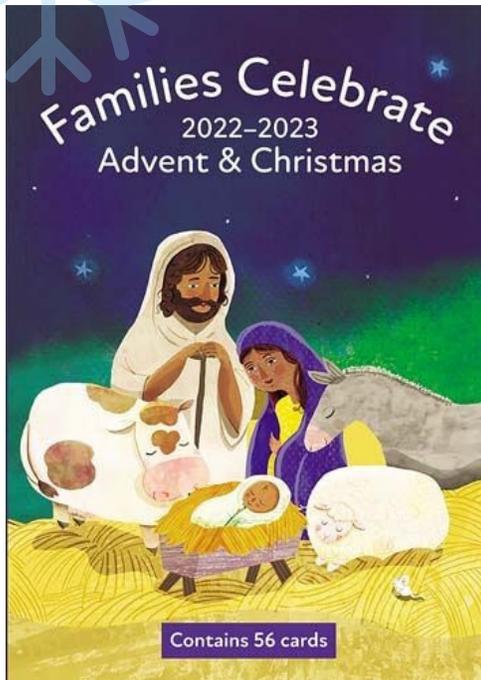
____ Please check here if your child is NOT to be included in photos. Please note that photos may be posted to our website, social media, and/or other communications St. John's sends out or posts.

Anything else we should know: _____



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from St. John's!

Advent for Families



Advent/Christmas Gift for Families

We have a gift for you! Families Celebrate Advent/Christmas

Every day from **November 27th through January 6th** your family can read a card and do the activity as you make your way to Christmas and then Epiphany. This is a gift for families of any shape and size (cards are geared toward families with children ages 3-12). One deck of cards per family please.

When you are at church or Sunday School, grab a deck of cards and this Advent take a moment in your day to gather around the Advent wreath, Christmas tree, or kitchen table to look at a picture, read the card, and try the activity. You might sing a song, write a story, draw a picture, answer a question as a family, create a Jesse Tree, sing a Christmas carol, splash some water on each other, or simply pray together. You will find that the lessons and topics go along with what we are talking about in worship each week.

Beginning **November 5th**, cards will be available in the sanctuary, in Sunday School classrooms, at confirmation class, at Sunday Fellowship, and at the front office. Stop by anytime to pick up your deck!

Our hope is that these cards assist you as you make your way to Christmas grounding yourselves in hope, faith, joy, and peace.

Christmas Eve Services



All three evening services include Christmas carols, candlelight, holy communion and the nave decorated in all its grandeur. Come to the worship service that is right for you and your family.

The Family Christmas Eve Service at 5:00pm is designed for families with children. The service includes a prelude by an Instrumental Ensemble, the reading of the Christmas story, anthems by the Creation, Celebration, and Chalice Choirs, and the children's Christmas message.

The Evening Christmas Eve Service of at 7:30pm offers harp, violin, and brass music. The Philethia Choir provides the choral music. The Bell Choir will also play. The service is preceded by 30 minutes of special music.

The Vigil Christmas Eve Service at 11:00pm keeps vigil as we await the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord. The Chancel Choir, harp, violin, and brass provide the inspirational music 30 minutes before the service and during the service as well.



PARKING FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Arrangements have been made for parking during Christmas Eve services at Brian's Professional Cleaning Services parking lot on Broad Street and the parking lot at the corner of Spruce and Walnut Streets. If you do not mind the one block walk to the church, please consider using those facilities so that those parishioners who are unable to walk a distance will be able to park nearer to the church.

Longest Night Service

Saturday, December 17th @ 5:30pm

For some people the Christmas Season can trigger feelings of sadness, depression and loneliness as they are reminded of the losses they have suffered. We will reach out to those in our community who are hurting by holding what is called a Longest Night Service in place of our Saturday evening Service on **December 17th**. We will read and listen to Scripture, join together in prayer, light the candles on the Advent Wreath and have quiet time for reflection and contemplation.

As we invite others in the Nazareth area to join us for this service, we encourage you to invite anyone who may find comfort joining with others to help them through the season or who may be looking for a meaningful way to prepare for Christmas through prayer and reflection.

Seasonal Decorations Dedications



*If you would like to contribute to the cost of Seasonal Decorations, including Poinsettias in the nave for the Christmas season, please complete this form and place it in the offering plate or return it to the Church Office. The cost is **\$12.00 per dedication**. Money must accompany the sponsor form. Make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church and please put "**Seasonal Decorations**" in the memo line.*

Please **PRINT** clearly.

Your Name: _____

Phone: _____

Number of Dedications (at **\$12.00 each**) _____ Total Amount Enclosed _____

*Dedications must be received in the Church Office **no later than Wednesday, December 7, 2022.***

| Check In Honor | One In Memory | DEDICATED TO <i>(Please PRINT the dedication as you want it to appear in the bulletin)</i> | DEDICATED BY (FROM) |
|----------------------|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Nazareth Area Food Bank Donations

NOVEMBER: Soup, hot cereal, stuffing, Hamburger Helper

DECEMBER: One-dish meals, cereal, canned tuna and chicken, canned vegetables, soup

*Please check that items are not expired.

Donations can be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall. Checks should be made payable to the **Nazareth Area Food Bank** and mailed to **PO Box 18, Nazareth, PA 18064**.

Peanut butter and jelly are always welcome.

Special Offering



November: Ingathering
December: Christmas

Scan the QR code
to donate virtually



THANK YOU!



Thank you for the multiple donations of school supplies and nonperishable food collected during the summer months. Your faithful gifts make a considerable difference to our client families who struggle with food insecurity. In addition, the children of our families received a backpack full of needed items to begin the new school year thanks to the generosity of your members!

We sincerely appreciate your thoughtful outreach to those less fortunate in our community. We consider every gift from St. John's among the Food Bank's many blessings and we couldn't do it without you!

Our Board of Directors is also grateful for the volunteer efforts of your members Karen Frey and Terri Herbster. Their good works allow us to continue our mission of caring for our neighbors in need.

Thank you again.
Kellee Olivia, Director

Thanks to a generous congregation
for supporting the Chemo Bag drive.
The bags will be distributed to local
hospitals.

~Barbara Sandbrook



Thank you to St. John's Daycare for sharing God's abundant blessings in purchasing this shed for the church and Daycare to use together. It is spacious and beautiful. What a gift and partnership in ministry.

Church Council Minutes Highlights

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
June 22, 2022
7:00pm**

PRESENT: Rita Bergstrom, Rev. Janice Butz, Karen Furler, Christine Garrison, Rev. Jennifer Hall, Rev. Scott Hall, Bonnie Jablonski, Joyce Knecht, Barry Miller, Ben Miller, Gail Price, Michele Seaton, Jaime Taylor, Joyce Wallace.

ABSENT: Christina Brodt, Rich Johnson, Pete Zimmer

GUEST: Allana Miller

DEVOTIONS: Pastor Jennifer Hall read Psalm 16 and followed with a prayer.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the May 25, 2022 meeting were reviewed and stand as written.

COMMUNICATIONS: Pete Zimmer resigned from Church Council. Thank you letters from: Lutheran Disaster Response and Global Mission.

PASTOR SCOTT HALL'S REPORT: Complete as written, including:

1. The Holy Spirit is among us forming us into a more loving and engaged community as we reconnect through inspiring worship and joyous fellowship.
2. The synod assembly inspired the delegates with ideas of mission and collaboration between congregations.

PASTOR JENNIFER HALL'S REPORT: Complete as written, including:

1. We are mindful of the opportunities for connecting and interweaving the ministries of St. John's and the communities around us.
2. Pastors will be attending a continuing education clergy couple retreat August 1-7, 2022. Professional worship staff will attend an online workshop in mid-August, 2022.

REV. JANICE BUTZ REPORT: Complete as written, including:

1. May 21-22 – The M.A.D. Camp kids did a wonderful job on presenting the musical Are We there Yet?
2. June 15 – Iron Pigs Ball Game – St. John's singers sang the National Anthem. Thank you to Scott Shoup for organizing this event.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES REPORT: Jaime Taylor: Reported

1. June 6 – We began making VBS scenery. Special thank you to: Karen Furler, Judy Jones, Andrea, Allana & Addy Miller, Schyler, Lynzie & Russell Schneck, the Hellwig Family, Pastor Scott & Pastor Jennifer, Makenna Smith, Anna Ricci and anyone else I may have missed. Everyone did an awesome job and the scenery came out great!
2. June 20-24 – Vacation Bible School – 56 children registered, 17 youth helpers, 6 station leaders and several greeters. Thank you to everyone who has helped this year!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EVANGELISM/SOCIAL MINISTRY: Christine Garrison reported: No Written Report
June 12 – Breakfast/Reception for new members and newly baptized was well attended.

HISTORY/ARCHIVES: Ben Miller reported:

1. I continue to refine and expand upon the history of St. John's for the website.
2. I'll be meeting with Linda K. next week to go through archives stored in the hallway outside the office.

LOVE-A-LOT: Ben Miller reported:

1. Based on community need, it was decided not to hold our 5-day program this year. This opened up 6 additional spots in the pre-school class for next year.
2. The staff went through all of their closets and reorganized and updated teaching materials, toys, and supplies.
3. Andrea Miller will continue to answer email and phone calls, as well as schedule tours, and build a wait list if needed over the summer.

Church Council Minutes Highlights

PROPERTY: Barry Miller reported: No Report

1. Pastor Scott discussed the towers in need of repair.

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Janice Butz reported: No Written Report

1. Pastor Scott & Pastor Jennifer talked about an alternate way of volunteering and a sign-up board.
2. Sign Up Board - Will be placed at the rear of the nave showing all volunteer positions for a given Saturday/Sunday service.
3. Communion distribution was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Worship Proposal – Pastor Scott, Pastor Jennifer & Janice Butz discussed. 4 times per year – 1 Service at 9:15 a.m. – Sunday School & Worship Service will come together followed by a fellowship hour. Sundays to be included will be:
 - a. Reformation Sunday 10/30/22
 - b. Lessons & Carols Sunday 12/4/22
 - c. Transfiguration Sunday 2/19/23
 - d. Music Sunday 4/30/23
2. Motion by: Ben Miller, 2nd – Bonnie Jablonski. Motion passed.
3. Confirmation Sunday – Moved to: Reformation Sunday beginning 2023. Motion by: Bonnie Jablonski, 2nd- Michele Seaton. 1 opposed Motion passed.
4. Growing Young Follow-up – Pastor Scott discussed about taking ideas back to your committee members. How to keep the young people involved.

Council President Gail Price declared the meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Wallace
Recording Secretary

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
Aug. 10, 2022
7:00pm**

PRESENT: Rita Bergstrom, Christina Brodt, Rev. Janice Butz, Karen Furler, Christine Garrison, Rev. Jennifer Hall, Rev. Scott Hall, Bonnie Jablonski, Rich Johnson, Joyce Knecht, Barry Miller, Ben Miller, Gail Price, Joyce Wallace.

ABSENT: Michele Seaton, Jaime Taylor

DEVOTIONS: Ben Miller read a passage about the Prodigal Son from "Love Wins" followed with a prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by: Bonnie Jablonski – 2nd – Karen Furler. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the June 22, 2022 meeting were reviewed and stand as written. Motion by: Ben Miller – 2nd: Bonnie Jablonski - Motion passed.

STUDY & VISION: Pastor Scott & Pastor Jennifer led the discussion:

During our time of study, we discussed a blog written by Rev. Craig Howard at Chicago Presbytery. We discussed the article grounding ourselves in three questions:

1. What are our anxieties?
2. What are we excited about?
3. Who are we, and who would want to be a part of our church community?

Church Council Minutes Highlights

PASTOR SCOTT HALL'S REPORT: Complete as written, including:

1. Being a hospitable congregation is about making an effort to speak to those you may not know well so that reaching out to others becomes a practice.
2. The congregational council is working to spend more time in their meetings for visioning and goal setting on behalf of the congregation.

PASTOR JENNIFER HALL'S REPORT: Complete as written, including:

Fall preparations are underway, including: worship enhancements, fellowship opportunities, educational experiences, Daycare & Love-A-Lot connections, and visioning at St. John's.

REV. JANICE BUTZ REPORT: Complete as written, including:

1. July 2 – The Chancel Choir met to rehearse and then went out for breakfast at the Nazareth Diner.
2. July 15 – The Choir sang for the Donald Himler funeral service.
3. Aug. 8-12 – M.A.D. Camp will be working on the musical Showdown at Dry Gulch, the story of Elijah.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES REPORT: Jaime Taylor: Reported

1. I have been enjoying setting up and participating with the youth in several fun events and service projects throughout this summer, in addition to having Summer SHYG each week. Our summer SHYG meetings are always my favorite, as it is a great time to hear what the youth have to say and get to know them better.
2. Rally Day is quickly approaching, which means the return of Sunday School, resuming our regular worship services, fellowships, events, service projects, etc. I have been working on getting that schedule and those events finalized to be ready to go.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Karen Furler reported:

1. Bonnie informed the committee that the lease on the duplicator will be expiring in Aug. 2022.
2. The Certificate of Deposit rates have increased to the point where it is beneficial to invest a portion of the cash balance.

HELPING HANDS: Gail Price reported:

1. Aug. 20 - Day trip to Philadelphia to assist in repairs of homes that were damaged by a Hurricane Isaias.
2. Geraniums were planted around the church.

LOVE-A-LOT: Christina Brodt & Ben Miller reported:

We are getting a lot of inquiries about our PreK class for this school year and have a waiting list.

PROPERTY: Rich Johnson & Barry Miller reported:

1. Daycare Shed – Dean Brodt sold the old shed. New one due on Aug. 25th, but Green Acres offered to come sooner.
2. AC in the Nave seems to cut out sporadically. Committee agreed to move ahead with getting estimates for replacements.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Sept 25 @ 12:30 - Council Appreciation Luncheon – Joyce Knecht to chair.
2. Worship: Volunteers – Christina Brodt will coordinate lectors and ushers
3. Worship: Communion – Pr. Scott & Pr. Jennifer talked about communion distribution & training.
4. Sunday Fellowship – Pr. Jennifer discussed coffee hour in the Shepherd's Room with a host family.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Appoint New Council Member - Randy Hall to fulfill Pete Zimmer's term. Motion: Joyce Knecht, 2nd Rita Bergstrom. Motion passed.
2. Sexton fee for weddings – Pastor Jennifer discussed the increase. Motion – Rita Bergstrom. 2nd – Ben Miller. Motion passed.
3. Aug. 14 – Outdoor Worship Service at Nazareth Borough Park – Ben Miller discussed.

Council President Gail Price declared the meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Wallace
Recording Secretary

St. John's Staff

Contact Us

200 S. Broad Street, Nazareth PA

Church Office: 610-759-3090 (See Church Extensions Below)

Fax: 610-759-3719 Email: Office@stjohnsnaz.org Website: www.stjohnsnaz.org

| Church Staff | Email Address | Telephone | Church EXT. |
|--|--|--------------|-------------|
| Pastor of Stewardship: Rev. Scott A. Hall | prhall@stjohnsnaz.org | 412-656-6436 | 103 |
| Pastor of Discipleship: Rev. Jennifer Hall | prjennhall@stjohnsnaz.org | 512-626-8238 | 106 |
| Minister of Music: Rev. Janice I. Butz | jbutz@stjohnsnaz.org | 610-759-3090 | 105 |
| Director of Youth & Family Ministries: Jaime L. Taylor | jtaylor@stjohnsnaz.org | 610-759-3090 | 107 |
| Assist. Organist/Choir Director: Deacon Patrice A. Kidd | pakidd58@gmail.com | 610-349-0506 | 104 |
| Parish Administrative Assistant: Linda Kasmakites | office@stjohnsnaz.org | 610-759-3090 | 100 |
| Parish Financial Secretary: Bonnie Mertz | finance@stjohnsnaz.org | 610-759-3090 | 102 |
| Communications Coordinator: Laurie Storlie | commcoordinator@stjohnsnaz.org | 610-759-3090 | 101 |
| Property Manager: Dean Brodt Sextons: Tony Petrillo, Bruce Knecht | sextons@stjohnsnaz.org | 484-515-8016 | N/A |
| Love-A-Lot Director: Andrea Miller | LoveALotNurserySchool@yahoo.com | 484-293-0720 | N/A |
| St. John's Day Care Director: Carly Fantauzzi-Quinones | nazareth.stjohns@gmail.com | 610-759-4999 | N/A |



If you have family members or loved ones that are in the hospital, please let the church office know. You can call us at:

610-759-3090 or email **office@stjohnsnaz.org**.

The deadline for all submissions for the 2023 January/February issue of *The Messenger* is Tuesday, December 6th. Please email your article or announcements as a word document attached to **commcoordinator@stjohnsnaz.org** & **office@stjohnsnaz.org**. Thank you.

