

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, February 19th at 9:15am
ONE SUNDAY SERVICE

One worship celebrating Transfiguration
Sunday with our Sunday School students
and choirs leading us in worship.

Worship with us

Worship Times

Saturdays at 5:30pm

Sunday School at 9:15am

Sundays at 8:00am and 10:30am

If you have had a change of mailing address, email address, and/or phone number, please notify the church office at office@stjohnsnaz.org or 610-759-3090 ext. 100. Please help us to keep you informed and to avoid changes from the post office for returned mail.

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

A Message From Your Pastor

Koinonia

³⁷Now when they heard [Peter's sermon], they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" ³⁸Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. ⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Acts 2:37-42 NRSV)

Three thousand people! Can you imagine 3,000 people coming to faith in Jesus all at the same time? Now that would be success! Or is that how we should measure success? Should we be counting numbers of people attending or joining our church? Should we be counting the dollars in our funds to measure success? I believe we can measure success by koinonia.

Koinonia? What's that, you say? It's Greek word (κοινωνία). It's a slippery word too. It first appears in Acts 2:42. The gift of the Holy Spirit had just been given to the followers of Jesus, and they were preaching the Good News. Koinonia is translated as fellowship: "They [the thousands who had just come to faith] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." But koinonia also can mean communion, close relationship, generosity, contribution, gift, sign of fellowship or proof of unity, participation, and sharing in something. We can think of koinonia as not just a word but a concept of the Christian life together.

On the Day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2, the gift of the Holy Spirit goes far beyond the ability to preach the message of Christ. The gift of the Holy Spirit comes to the hearers of that message and creates faith in them. The gift of the Holy Spirit comes and draws all those new believers into a fellowship, a unity, a communion, an intimacy, and a sharing in the body of Christ. All of this is driven by the power of the Holy Spirit at work among them to bring about koinonia.

We at St. John's share that same Spirit-driven koinonia. One of the ways to measure our success as a congregation will be by our growth in koinonia. We are gathering in fellowship, service, worship, and education. As we spend more time praying, sharing, worshipping, and serving together, the Holy Spirit will be there among us increasing our loving bonds. We will grow in trust and compassion for one another. We will share more deeply the life we have together in Christ. As the koinonia (communion, close relationship, generosity, contribution, gift, fellowship, unity, participation, and sharing) increases, so too will our passion for the world to seek more boldly the ways to increase God's reign in, through and among us. The Spirit is at work!

Christ's Peace,
Pastor Scott



What A Time!



What a time it has been at St. John's!
Relive and enjoy the joy filled presence of God in this place.
Sunday School + Worship on October 30th & December 4th.
Deck the Fellowship Hall with window sill joy.
Fellowship fun, Advent Bingo, and Support our Troops gift giving.
Thank you God for these community filled opportunities.
We can't wait to see what happens in 2023!



Church Council Election Results

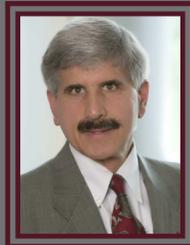
Joyce Knecht was re-elected to a second three-year term.

Charles Bonisese, Nancy Tammi, and Gary Wolf were elected to their first three-year term which will begin in January 2023.

We thank them for their willingness to serve God and St. John's. We'd also like to thank Christine Garrison, Rich Johnson, and Gail Price for their years of dedicated service.



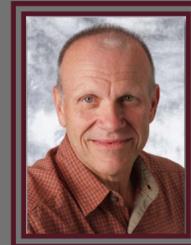
Joyce Knecht



Charles Bonisese



Nancy Tammi



Gary Wolf

We invite you to be in prayer for our twelve members who are elected by the congregation to meet the challenges of maintaining a thriving and dynamic church. The Council oversees the life and activities of the congregation. They meet once each month to make the many decisions governing the day to day operations of our church. The Christian Education, Day Care, Evangelism/Social Ministry, Finance, Personnel, Property, Stewardship, Worship and Music, and Youth Ministry committees each have Council representatives which report to Council. Thank you for participating in the annual nomination and election of council members this past year.

Congregational Meeting

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, January 29, 2023** in the Sanctuary, immediately following the 10:30a.m. service.

ALL members of St. John's are invited to attend. Youth in the Confirmation Classes and their parents are strongly encouraged to attend, as well as those who have been recently confirmed.

As a member of St. John's, your input and support for the many concerns of the Church are encouraged. Annual reports will be made available at the church two weeks prior to the meeting.



In 1992 I had the privilege of representing the United Methodist Church when the denomination joined the World Federation of Diakonia at their world-wide assembly in Nova Scotia. Founded in Europe in 1947, Diakonia is an international and ecumenical community that connects people involved in servant ministry throughout the world. It reminds the church of God's call to service, justice, compassion, and peace; and it instills a hope and vision to those who have been called to servant ministry.

The week-long event included talks by biblical scholars, small discussion groups for reflection and conversation, and inspiring worship experiences. As there were people from around the globe, all the sessions were translated by interpreters, allowing each participant to channel into the language of their choice. It was an awesome experience to be immersed in such a diverse and international community.

Although there were many unforgettable moments during that event, what still remains most memorable was the final worship celebration and particularly the closing song in the service. It was a song that I had never heard before. The melody and lyrics were introduced by a single voice, with a chorus of singers following her lead. Gradually the entire assembly began to join in, drumbeats started, and before long we were all on our feet. There was a massive crescendo in the music as everyone moved throughout the room linking hands and literally dancing to the music.

The song was "Siyahamba," a Zulu Christian chorus that originated in South Africa. The title means "We Are Marching" or "We Are Walking" and reflects the biblical imagery of walking in the divine light. The chorus initially existed only in oral form and was first written down in 1952. While touring South Africa in 1979 with his Swedish choral group, Anders Nyberg, the conductor of the chorus, heard "Siyahamba" performed at a girls' school and recorded the song. Nyberg later arranged the chorus in four-part harmony and in 1984 published it in a songbook called "Freedom Is Coming: Songs of Protest and Praise from South Africa." Although it originated in a church environment as a devotional chorus, the song later grew to be closely associated with the anti-apartheid movement in the mid-1980's. In 1994 the song was first published in the United States by the Catholic Church and soon Protestant denominations followed and included the song in new hymnal publications. The song is now found in our current ELW hymnal (#866) and known to us as "We Are Marching in the Light of God."

The Sundays after Epiphany are often referred to as the season of light. From the celebration of Epiphany to Transfiguration Sunday, we hear messages about light entering our lives. It was the brilliance of a star that guided the magi to Christ's manger. It is through Christ that light has come into a darkened world. And as disciples of Christ, we are called to be reflectors of that light, carrying it out into the world and spreading that light through our words and deeds. And so we sing "We Are Marching in the Light of God"! Thanks be to God, and Epiphany blessings to all.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Janice Butz, Minister of Music.



Festival Choir Retreat

Saturday, January 14, 2023

9:30am to 11:30am

If you enjoy singing and would like a special musical experience, think about joining the Festival Choir, which sings for the special festival services of the church year.

This winter and spring we will sing to celebrate Transfiguration Sunday on February 19, Easter Sunday on April 9, and Music Sunday on April 30. In addition, we will be preparing a beautiful and meaningful cantata for Holy Week, "The Rose of Calvary," which will be shared with the congregation on Palm Sunday, April 2.

A rehearsal to begin learning music for these special events will be held on **Saturday, January 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** In case of inclement weather, our retreat day will be postponed to Saturday, January 21.

If you are interested in singing, contact Rev. Janice Butz at the church office, 610-759-3090, x-105 or by email at jbutz@stjohnsnaz.org.



The "Tables of 8" Get Together

The Evangelism/Social Ministry Team is once again starting the "Tables of 8" get-togethers.

Signup sheets will be available in the back of the nave for anyone interested in participating.

From the signup sheets we will select groups of 8 people who will gather and fellowship once a month (for four months) for breakfast, lunch or dinner. This can be done in your own home, or it can be in a restaurant. There are no requirements other than each group getting to know each other better. Couples and singles are welcome.

After four months, signup sheets will be circulated again and the groups will change. This has been a fun event in the past.

Signup sheets will be at the back of the nave beginning January 12th.

We hope you'll consider joining us!

~The Evangelism/Social Ministry Team



A Message from the Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Let's talk about New Year's resolutions, shall we? I personally never make one. I know I likely won't keep it and prefer to set myself up for success rather than failure - but that's just me.

Statistics waiver on the amount of people who make a New Year's resolution. Between 41-43% seems to be an average number, prior to this past year. Those who planned to make a New Year's resolution for 2022 dropped down to 23-29% - possibly because of the uncertainty with Covid or finances in the new year. However, that percentage jumps up when talking about youth.

An interesting study conducted by YPulse surveyed 1,000 Gen Z and Millennial Youth. As a reminder, Gen Z is comprised of those born between 1997-2012, and Millennials are born between 1981 - 1996. In this study, they found that 75% of the 13-39 year-olds they surveyed planned to make a resolution. They also specified that Gen Z makes several resolutions instead of just one.

The percentage I found most interesting, is that 46% of Gen Z (those currently ages 10 - 25) chose "Spend More Time With Family" as one of their resolutions. Often we tend to think that teenagers and young adults might want to avoid spending time with their parents and siblings. We think they are too busy and too distracted. But according to this survey, that couldn't be farther from the truth.

However, because everyone is so busy, it can be hard to make that time valuable. The church historically was the place for Christian families to gather and spend time together. There are now many other opportunities for family activities through school, community groups, etc.

Each Sunday during Sunday School, the 7th and 8th grade class goes around the room and shares their "Wow, Pow, and Thank You". "Wow" is something good that happened that week, "Pow" is something bad, and "Thank You" is where they express who or what they are thankful for. Nearly every student says they are thankful for their family.

I hope in this new year, your family will be able to find the time to be together as much as possible - whether that is participating in events at the church, or through school, sporting events, community groups, et al.

TL;DR (Too Long; Didn't Read): Despite popular belief, teenagers want to spend time with their families. Enjoy it!

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



Youth & Family Ministries

Upcoming Events

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 6:30 pm and end after breakfast on Saturday at 9:00 am.
- **1/29:** A Bear Creek Camp representative is coming to do a fun, interactive presentation during Sunday School. Parents/families invited to attend - 9:15 am 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



February

- **2/19:** Worship + Sunday School at 9:15 am
- **2/22:** Ash Wednesday Worship at 7:30 pm
- **2/26:** Laser Tag at Planet Trog (3570 MacArthur Rd., Whitehall) from 1 - 4 pm. Cost is \$10/person and includes laser tag and tokens for games. Transportation and/or financial assistance is available if needed.

A Look Ahead: March/April

- **3/1:** Lenten Soup Suppers & Conversations for the whole family. Wednesdays in Lent (March 1-29) at 6:15pm. Midweek Lenten services follow at 7:30 pm.
- **3/18-19:** Youth Worship Weekend. This is the weekend where youth in 7-12 grades take over all three worship services. Sign ups will begin late Feb./early March!
- **4/21-23:** Confirmation Retreat at Tuscarora Inn & Conference Center

Souper Bowl of Caring

Our church is once again participating in the "Souper Bowl of Caring" event. On **February 11 & 12th**, our youth will be collecting monies to help to feed hungry Americans throughout the country. 100% of the collected donations go to local charities. St John's donates to Safe Harbor and our local Food Bank. This is America's largest youth-led weekend of GIVING and SERVING.



tacklehunger.org

Youth



SHYG!! All Youth in grades **9 - 12**: Don't forget **every Wednesday night at 6:15 p.m. up in the Youth Room** we have SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP. This is a fun time to come and hang out and have meaningful discussions together. See you on Wednesday!

St. John's Daycare

The daycare is bringing in the New Year with a lot of fun and learning. January we are focusing on opposites and looking up to what is in the sky. We are also going to transform our classrooms into different countries around the world. We are going to take the month to learn about these countries, and close out with a family event where the students get to visit all the rooms to get their "Passport" stamped. In February we are going to focus on The Amazing Rainforest and Transportation Explorations. This is always a crowd favorite while talking about the different plants and animals that live in the rainforest (along with them talking about cars, trucks, bikes, and trains!). We are continuously learning and growing together.

Happy New Year, from our families to yours!



Love-A-Lot Nursery School



Holidays around the world was our theme for the month of December and teachers and students all learned so much! The kids got their own airplane boarding passes, decorated their own suitcases, and we got our passport stamped as we visited countries like Africa, Sweden, USA, Israel, and Germany learning about holidays like Soyal, St. Nicholas Day, St Lucia Day, Hannukah, and Kwanzaa. We ended our holiday unit with a book reading of Earl The Christmas Tree Spider by local author Erin Ferguson, and then with Pastors Scott and Jennifer visiting our classroom to spend time talking to our children about the meaning of Christmas.

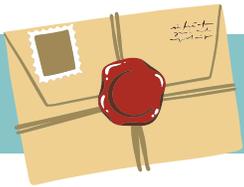
When January brings cold weather and snow to Nazareth, we will once again be packing up to take our annual adventure into outer space! This topic is a kid and teacher favorite in Love-A-Lot's classroom. Our pretend center turns into an astronaut training zone, complete with space boots and a rocket ship, and the kiddos have a blast learning about the sun, moon, stars, and the planets!

After we exit our rocket ships and take off our astronaut helmets, we will ZOOM right into February, and we will learn about friendship and love, just in time for Valentine's Day. We are excited to see what the next few months bring us!

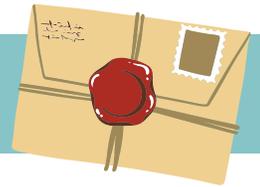
If you are interested in enrolling your child in our Preschool or Pre-K program, please contact us directly for more information. Registration is open for the 2023-2024 school year! For more information, please contact the school by phone (484-293-0720) or email (LoveALotNurserySchool@yahoo.com).

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

January 2nd

Wilma Weiss

Kirkland Vlg. Bldg. 3100
Ste. 227
200 Kirkland Village Cir.
Bethlehem, PA 18017

January 11th

Ruthmary Male

5801 Helen Dr.
Allentown, PA 18104

January 16th

Ken Smith

Walden III
325 N. Broadway
Wind Gap, PA 18091

January 17th

Doris Koehler

22B Schuyler Ridge
Residential Health Care
1 Abele Drive
Clifton Park, NY 12065

January 28th

Doreen Anthony

552 Belfast Road
Nazareth, PA 18064



Thank You!

Thank you for your donation of underwear for the people we serve to Appalachian Outreach. Your gift helps us accomplish our mission – to meet the unmet basic human needs of people who are suffering from poverty and disaster.

We rely on the generosity of community members like you to make our mission successful. We use every donation to assist the people we serve here in Ohio, Marshall and Wetzel County. Please accept our sincere gratitude with the knowledge that you have made a difference in the life of someone who needs exactly what you have provided.

Blessings,
Melinda Thompson, Director
<http://www.appalachianoutreaching.org/>



The Evangelism/Social Ministry Committee wish to extend their heartfelt gratitude and many thanks for the participation of our congregation in the Blanket Sunday Program. The generosity in your donations through Church World Service will help many in need in the U.S. and globally. Please know in your heart that your gift will make a positive difference in the life of someone in need.



The Evangelism/Social Ministry team would like to thank the congregation for their generous Christmas contributions collected for Ingathering. You brighten up the holidays for so many others.

We would also like to recognize and thank Jean Miltenberger for her unending knitting gifts. Each year she contributes boxes of mittens, hats, scarfs and prayer blankets.
God bless you Jean!

Dear Pastors,
Thank you for the recent donation of \$2500.00 from the congregation and YEO Endowment Committee. We also thank you for the collection and donation of nonperishable food throughout the autumn months. Your faithful and generous gifts, especially during this season of holiday giving, make a huge difference to our client families who face a daily struggle with food insecurity. We truly appreciate your thoughtful outreach to those less fortunate in our community.

Please convey our heartfelt gratitude to your members. We consider every gift from St. John's among the Food Bank's many blessings and we couldn't do it without you!

Thank you again,
Kellee Oliva
Director



Dear St. John's,
Thank you for your generous donation of blankets and other items to our organization. The Chemo Bag Inc has a mission to deliver comfort bags to people in the Lehigh Valley and surrounding areas undergoing chemotherapy. Through your donations, you are helping us ensure that people in the Lehigh Valley and surrounding areas who are impacted by cancer are provided with a comfort bag at their first infusion session. The bags provide not only comfort items, but support and strength throughout their journey.
Thank you again for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Melissa Healy | President
thechemobag.org



Caring Helping Encouraging Motivating Others

Thank You!



Thank you to all of our generous members of the congregation! We were able to send 23 boxes to our military this holiday season.

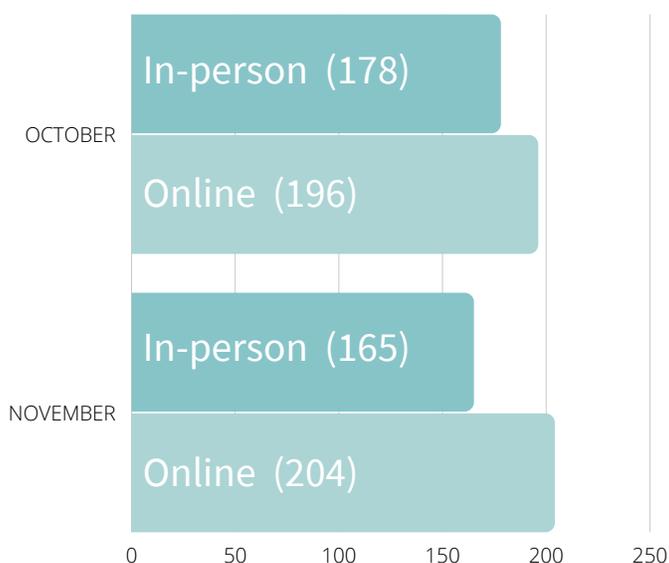
Thank you to the youth who helped with the packing of these boxes and to Jaime Taylor and the children who colored the "Thank you for your service" coloring pages.

Christine Garrison
Evangelism/Social Ministry Committee

New Member Class

If you or someone you know is interested in joining St. John's, we will have a New Member Class on **February 12th @ 9:15am** in the Parlor.

Average Church Attendance



Got Yarn?

Yarn donations are always welcomed and appreciated by the lovely volunteers who craft our prayer shawls and other hand-crafted, crocheted items for the community.

Look for the big blue donation bin in the Fellowship Hall.



Our Lenten Begins in February



Mark your calendars for **February 22nd**.

Ash Wednesday services at 11:00am and 7:00pm in the Sanctuary, a service of ashes and communion.

Midweek Lenten services will take place on Wednesdays, **March 1 – April 5**.

11:30am in the Sanctuary with the spoken Word

6:15pm Lenten Soup Suppers and FAITH5 conversations in the Fellowship Hall

7:30pm Worship in the Shepherd’s Room with Holden Evening Prayer

More details will be shared in our weekly publications.

Would you like to host a Lenten Soup Supper?

The Von Bora Society will be hosting two of our Lenten meals. **We are looking for committee leaders and/or others from the congregation that would be willing to host our meals on March 8, 15 & 22.** If your committee or your family would be interested in serving our community, reach out to the church office or Pastor Jennifer. A sign up sheet will be placed in the back of the church beginning in February. But it would be great to have a list of people already serving before then! Reach out and let us know.



Prayer Requests



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

Date: _____

Pastoral Acts



New Members

We extend a warm welcome to the following new member who was received into membership on November 13, 2022:

JANINE SHOEMAKER



Weddings

**LAUREN ELIZABETH PRISTASH &
ZANE GREGORY YOCCO**

December 18, 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:

ANDREW "ANDY" MICIO, JR.
OCTOBER 21, 2022

DOROTHY "DOTTIE" V. DUBY
OCTOBER 26, 2022

MARK A. BEERS
OCTOBER 31, 2022

ROBERT "BOB" N. MERTZ
OCTOBER 31, 2022

CLAUDIA J. FREDERICK
NOVEMBER 14, 2022

WILLIAM "BILL" A. ROBERTS
DECEMBER 1, 2022

WAYNE W. FOGEL
DECEMBER 6, 2022



Memorial Gifts

WILLIAM "BILL" ROBERTS
Ambassador Club St. Paul III Lutheran Church
Kathryn Jane Bean
Laurence + Kathy Deldine
Raymond + Dorothy Silfies

ANDREW "ANDY" MICIO, JR.
Dorothy Ambrosino
David + Kathleen Micio
David + Andrea Smith
Mr. + Mrs. Thomas Starner

DOROTHY "DOTTIE" V. DUBY
Susan + Tom Wida

MR. + MRS. WARREN T. LOWE
Constance + Robert Newell

ROBERT N. MERTZ

L. Peter Carron, Jr.	Nazareth Community
Craig + Ann Dally	Golf League
Robert + Joan Kern	Barbara + Harold Snyder
William + Carol Kish	James + Connie Sakasits
Susan M. Krein	Robert Roth
Elaine + Edward Mertz	Edward + Karen Weaver
Linda J. Michael	Andy Zahn
	Anthony + Karen Zopf

Nazareth Area Food Bank Donations

The Food Bank will only accept MONETARY DONATIONS for the winter months (December through March). Checks should be made payable to the *Nazareth Area Food Bank*.

PLEASE SEND DONATIONS TO:

Nazareth Area Food Bank

P.O. 178

Nazareth, PA 18064



Your generous donations are always appreciated!

The NAFB will not be open to accept food donations during January, February, and March 2023. The Board of Directors decided it is in the best interest of the health and safety of our clients and volunteers not to be exposed to inclement weather during those months. It will reopen for food donations in April, 2023. Monetary gifts will continue to be appreciated during the time we are closed. In lieu of food, clients will receive a generous Giant gift card in the mail to assist them each month from January through March.

Special Offering



January: World Hunger

February: Helping Hands

**Scan the QR code
to donate virtually**



Church Council Minutes Highlights

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES Sept. 28, 2022 7:30 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Rita Bergstrom

DEVOTIONS: Pastor Scott Hall led with a prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by: Ben Miller – 2nd – Christine Garrison. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the Aug. 10, 2022 meeting were reviewed and stand as written. Motion by: Karen Furler – 2nd: Ben Miller - Motion passed.

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

During our time of study, we discussed a handout “Hoping for a Robust Return” written by Susan Beaumont & Associates. We discussed the article based on:

1. Separation: A period in which order is stripped away from organizational structures, practices, and identity. The old way stops working.
2. Liminal Period: A disorienting period of non-structure that opens new possibilities. New identities are explored, and new possibilities are considered.
3. Reorientation: A re-forming period, in which new structures and practices emerge that are better suited to an emerging identity.

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

1. The work of the Holy Spirit is evident among us as we rebuild ministries and reconnect as a congregation at the beginning of this program year. Let us rejoice in this new excitement for being church.
2. Well-articulated guiding statements (vision, mission, and core values) will allow us to communicate why we do the ministry we do. We hope to begin this process of identifying these in the spring by gathering a team and holding a series of events next fall.

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

1. Confirmation and Sunday fellowship have begun. It is a joy to be in fellowship across the generations as well as teaching and learning from our youth.
2. God's work. Our hands./fall kick-off was a wonderful day. So many partnerships made the day possible as we shared God's love alongside Lehigh Valley agencies. We hope to see this happen again as we are God's hands and feet in the world.
3. Plans are well underway for Reformation Sunday, October 30th one worship service at 9:15 a.m. It is going to be a treat to have the children and youth of Sunday School along with St. John's choirs lead us in this celebratory worship. Love-A-Lot and Helping Hands will be serving Sunday Fellowship at 10:15 a.m. Be watching for Reformation type snacks!

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

1. Aug. 8-12 – M.A.D. Camp was held with 20 children participating and Fall rehearsals were scheduled beginning Sept. 30th.
2. Aug. 28 - The Band and Organ concert was finally presented after a delay of over two years. It was a wonderful afternoon of music, well attended, and enjoyed by everyone.
3. This September all of our choirs have returned to their normal schedules.

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

1. Rally Day was awesome! It was wonderful to see families again and meet new people. Thank you to all the Sunday School teachers, Evangelism/Social Ministry members who helped with the God's Work. Our Hands./hygiene kits project, and to Crystal Koch for helping with the first fellowship hour of the year. I am looking forward to a wonderful year!
2. Sept. 18 – The Road Clean-Up went really well! Thank you to all who helped. Due to all the help, the 2-mile cleanup went very quickly.
3. Sept. 20 - Pastor Jennifer, Pastor Scott, and I attended a virtual workshop from the Fuller Youth Institute entitled Post Pandemic Youth Ministry. It was an informative workshop – we all took away different things and tools to think on and implement.

Church Council Minutes Highlights

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Karen Furler reported:

1. The new Ricoh copier has been delivered and is in use. The HP copier that was in the office hallway will be sold or donated.
2. The new green chasuble has arrived and is in use. It was paid for with memorial funds.
3. An unrestricted, generous donation of \$20,000 was made to the church in the month of September.

DAY CARE: Gail Price reported:

1. State inspection went very well.
2. Stephen Bajan met with the Board and about CD investments. They will invest \$100,000 each for a 6-, 12-, and 18-month CD, (total \$300,000) not to go below best interest rate.
3. Aug. 27 - Day Care Staff and some church staff will be attending the Surviving Acts of Violence class.
4. Dec. 26 will be the only holiday closure. All other days the Day Care will be open.
5. Extra cameras are being installed throughout the Day Care, Sept. 20

ENDOWMENT: Karen Furler reported:

1. The Investment Policy Statement will be considered for approval by the YEO Endowment trustees following a meeting with the financial managers.
2. The estate of Donald Himler has donated generously to the YEO Endowment.

EVANGELISM/SOCIAL MINISTRY: Pastor Jennifer reported:

1. Tables of 8 – Plan to get restarted in Sept. with a Temple Talk and Sign-up. 43 people signed up and were divided into groups.
2. Sept. 11 – God’s Work, Our Hands was held. In support to Safe Harbor (150 kits) and Cay Galgon (50 infant packs). 90+ people attended for Rally Day. Cost was \$3,200 in supplies.
3. Dec. 1 – Ingathering. Our collection will take place all of November.

HELPING HANDS: Gail Price reported:

1. Sept. 4 – Rescheduled kayak trip – Meet at Lake Nockamixon at 1:00 p.m.
2. Oct. 15 - Upcoming bike ride, meet at 9:00 a.m. in the church parking lot.
3. 20 hours of service by Helping Hands was spent spreading new mulch around the church.
4. The old print room was repainted by Andy & Terry Herbster and Gail Price. The new room will be the fellowship hour and office paper storage room.

HISTORY/ARCHIVES: Ben Miller reported: No Written Report

LOVE-A-LOT: Christina Brodt reported:

1. Sept. 11 – We had our Open House and had a great turnout. Families completed a scavenger hunt to learn where things are in our classroom.
2. Sept. 12 – We welcomed PreK back. The Pastors were at our doors to greet families as they entered. We had a
3. successful first day and look forward to a successful second day with our brand new preschoolers.

Joyce Wallace
Recording Secretary

Church Council Minutes Highlights

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
Oct. 19, 2022
7:30 p.m.**

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

ABSENT: Christina Brodt, Christine Garrison

DEVOTIONS: Michele Seaton – Read about a hymn of joining together – “Come Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs”.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by: Rita Bergstrom – 2nd – Ben Miller. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the Sept. 28, 2022 meeting were reviewed and stand as written. Motion by: Bonnie Jablonski – 2nd: Michele Seaton - Motion passed.

STUDY & VISION: Pastor Scott & Pastor Jennifer led the discussion: We continued the discussion from the handout “Hoping for a Robust Return”, what it means to experiment in ministry. We also discussed some of the program staff’s goals which focus on reconnecting with one another in community.

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

1. Much of Pastor Hall’s time this month was taken up with staff reviews. All the reviews are now complete. The staff have set goals for the year. We are excited about these goals as we work to reconnect and build community.
2. Pastor Jennifer and Pastor Scott will be leading a Wednesday night Bible Study beginning Nov. 2 at 7:30pm.

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

1. Thank you to the Women of the ELCA for hosting a wonderful Sunday Fellowship and leading us in the Thankoffering Worship weekend on Oct. 8 and Oct. 9. The music was lovely at all 3 services.
2. Thank you to the Tables of 8 groups for the continued invitations to join their monthly gatherings. Pastor Scott and Pastor Jennifer were able to attend one group’s gathering in October and hope to be present for a few in November.

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

1. Sept. 30 – MAD Camp rehearsals began and continue weekly until their performance on Nov. 5.
2. Oct. 8 & 9 – The Women’s Ensemble sang for the Women of the ELCA Thankoffering services and the singers were a wonderful addition to worship.

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

1. Sept 30 – M.A.D. Camp reunited to rehearse for their musical Showdown at Dry Gulch. I have high hopes for this show – it is going to be great! The kids are already doing a really good job with it, and it is a very funny script.
2. Oct. 30 – The Confirmation students started working on their part of the Reformation Service. They did such a great job, and took their responsibility very seriously. We will be finishing up on Oct. 16, and everyone will get to see their hard work on Oct. 30 at the combined worship service at 9:15 a.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Karen Furler reported:

1. Eric Himler, our Treasurer, received a letter from St. John’s stating his position in our congregation, so that St. John’s can receive the death benefit from Donald Himler’s life insurance policy.

DAY CARE: Rita Bergstrom reported:

1. Sept. 14 – The shed will be delivered.

ENDOWMENT: Karen Furler reported:

1. The Investment Policy Statement was discussed.

Church Council Minutes Highlights

EVANGELISM/SOCIAL MINISTRY: Bonnie Jablonski reported:

- 1.Appalachia underwear collection packages were sent.
- 2.Support Our Troops – Dec. mailing will be coordinated by Christine Garrison. She also has an updated list of accepted donations to be printed in our publications. Packing will be Dec. 4.
- 3.Sept. 17-18, Blanket Sunday collected \$852.00 so far.

HELPING HANDS: Gail Price reported:

- 1.A farewell party was held for Rich & Janet Johnson.
- 2.We are working on a spring trip.

HISTORY/ARCHIVES: Ben Miller reported:

- 1.Rich Johnson donated materials to the church.

LOVE-A-LOT: Ben Miller reported:

- 1.Our school year has had a great start! The kids are getting used to being in the classroom and learning how to be preschoolers. Our PreK class has lots of boys and our Pre-school class has lots of girls – they are 2 totally different classes.
- 2.Oct. 26-27 - We are planning to visit the Pumpkin Patch and will also hold our annual Halloween parade for both classes.

PERSONNEL: Gail Price reported:

- 1.Finished Staff Reviews.

PROPERTY: Barry Miller reported:

- 1.Nov. 6 & 7 - The oil tanks in the parsonage will be removed.
- 2.A bid to replace the air conditioning in the nave is being sought from McClure HVAC.

STEWARDSHIP: Pastor Scott reported:

- 1.The timeline for the Fall Stewardship Campaign has been set.
- 2.Nov. 5 – The Stewardship dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. followed by the MAD Camp performance.
- 3.Nov. 12-13 = Stewardship Sunday

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Michele Seaton and Jaime Taylor reported:

- 1.Oct. 30, 2022 – Reformation Sunday – Sunday School classes have been busy and ready to roll.
- 2.Nov. 1 – Sunday School meetings will now be held the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
- 3.Dec. 11 – The Christmas Program “Just a Little Christmas” will be held at 9:15 a.m.Snow date is Dec. 18.

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Pastor Hall reported:

- 1.Communion sets will be used for Christmas Eve. Pastor Scott will order a box of 1,000. We still have plenty of gluten free and grape juice sets.
- 2.The 2023 budget was discussed. It will be reduced by \$400 since these expenses can come from the YEO Endowment. This leaves a total budget of \$12,150.
- 3.Advertising for Christmas Eve services will be explored.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.Nov. 19 & Nov. 20 – Council Elections – Nominations are coming in.
- 2.Prayer Ground in the Shepherd’s Room – Pastor Jennifer discussed. Motion by: Ben Miller to proceed with plans. 2nd – Randy Hall. Motion passed.
- 3.Amendments to the Church Constitution – Ben Miller discussed.

Council President Gail Price declared the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.
Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Wallace
Recording Secretary

St. John's Staff

Contact Us

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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
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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 March/April issue of *The Messenger* is Tuesday, February 7th. Please email your article or announcements as a word document attached to **commcoordinator@stjohnsnaz.org** & **office@stjohnsnaz.org**. Thank you.

