

# THE MESSENGER

## In this Issue:

A Message From Your Pastors.....	1
What A Time!.....	2-3
M.A.D. Camp News.....	4
Stewardship News.....	5
Upcoming Events.....	6
Dedication.....	7
Grace Notes.....	8
Youth & Family Events.....	9
Day Care/Preschool News.....	10
Pastoral Acts.....	11
Seasonal Decorations/Events.....	12
WELCA News/Christmas Worship.....	13
Homebound Birthdays.....	14
Annual Christmas Ingathering.....	15
Ordination Anniversary.....	16
Giving/Thank You.....	17
Jaime's Sabbatical.....	18
Church Council Highlights.....	19
St. John's Staff.....	20

## St. John's Website:

<https://www.stjohnsnaz.org>

## Facebook Page:

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

## Sunday School + Worship

**Sunday, December 17th at 9:15am  
ONE SUNDAY SERVICE**

Our Sunday School students will be leading us in worship as they share the Word of God through their Christmas Pageant called "Bethlehemiam Rhapsody." Fellowship will follow as we give thanks for the leadership of our young worshippers.

## Worship with us

### Christmas Eve Worship Times

Family Service at 5:00pm

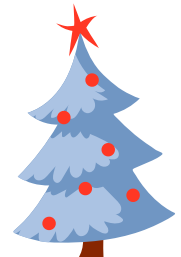
Evening Service at 7:30pm

Vigil Service at 11:00pm

### New Year's Eve Worship Time

Sunday, December 31 at 9:15am

(one service, no Sunday School)



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

# A Message From Your Pastors

## Hearts of Gratitude

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus,<sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—<sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Corinthians 1:4-9 NRSV)

We gathered for our first visioning event on October first. The visioning team was ready to go. The food had been picked up and set out. The timeline of the history of St. John's had been made and displayed. The team had read the book, heard what our consultant had to say, and considered how to facilitate a conversation about people's history at St. John's. Now we just waited for the congregation to show up.

The visioning team wasn't sure how it was going to go despite all the preparations. The congregation did not know what to expect. There were questions. There was a little confusion. They were not too sure about what was being asked of them. People arrived at the event in the fellowship hall, conversation was lively, a blessing was said, and people began to eat.

Pastor Jennifer gave instructions about sharing stories of personal histories at St. John's and the conversations took off. People were filling out their post-it notes while they ate their barbeque. They were sharing and remembering the events and ministries that have made St. John's a faithful place in God's reign since it began in 1859. When the meals were finished and cookies were still being munched on, Pastor Jennifer facilitated a conversation with the whole group. Everyone got to hear some wonderful faith-filled stories of compassion, service, and love.

As the timeline was being reviewed and stories were being shared, people began to applaud. There was a such a strong sense of gratitude for all that St. John's has been throughout its history. As Paul writes above to the church in Corinth, we too can surely affirm that grace, enrichment in faith, strong testimonies, and every spiritual gift has been given to the fellowship of Jesus that is St. John's. God has called us all to be part of this fellowship, and God is faithful.

The visioning process has begun, and we can give thanks to God for all those who are able to participate in the events. We give thanks to God for the wonder, enthusiasm, and gratitude that is in the air as people share their stories of faith. We give thanks to God for all those who are holding this visioning process in prayer. We give thanks to God for the many hearts that beat with love as we discover the best path for the future of St. John's. You, people of God, are the many hearts that with the guidance of the Holy Spirit will lead us to one path in mission for the sake of God's reign among us.

Christ's Peace,  
Pastor Scott and Pastor Jennifer



# What A Time!

## What a time it has been at St. John's!

Relive and enjoy the Spirit-filled presence of God in this place.

Backpack Blessing, beginning of Sunday School and Confirmation, God's work. Our hands. Sunday, Jen Bradbury conversation on GenZ, WELCA Thankoffering weekend, Pet Blessing at the Circle, Mazezilla, baptisms, sharing our gifts, fellowship, fun, and more.

**Thank you God for these community filled opportunities.**





# What A Time!





# M.A.D. Camp

## POTLUCK DINNER THEATRE

NOVEMBER 4, 6:30pm



Join us for St. John's own Potluck Dinner Theatre on Saturday evening, November 4, at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Meat and beverages will be provided, so just bring your favorite side dish or dessert.

After our meal, we'll sit back and enjoy the musical "Fired Up!" presented by our own M.A.D. Camp children. The musical is a light-hearted retelling of the courageous and miraculous story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego thrown into the fiery furnace. It's a terrific story with humor as well as a powerful message. Don't miss it!

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Sign-up for St. John's POTLUCK DINNER THEATRE, Saturday, November 4, 6:30 pm.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# of adults: \_\_\_\_\_ # of children: \_\_\_\_\_

Please **RSVP by Wednesday, November 1** if you plan to attend the dinner.

Drop off this form at the church or call the church office to RSVP.

## Special Worship Services in November

- **November 4-5:** All Saints' Sunday when we remember those who have died in the past year.
- **November 11-12:** Stewardship weekend.
- **November 18-19:** Golden Age Sunday when we recognize those who have reached the Biblical age of 70 years. Congregational meeting after each worship service.
- **November 25-26:** Christ the King.



# November is Stewardship Month

## November Emphasis on Stewardship: Frequently Asked Questions About Tithing

Q. What is biblical tithing?

A. In general, biblical tithing refers to the practice of giving one tenth of one's income for the work of God. In the Hebrew Bible, tithing was understood as a response of gratitude and an obligation. In the light of the New Testament, some Christians believe tithing is still an obligation, whereas other Christians understand tithing to be a loving, freely chosen response to God's gracious provisions for life - God's grace! Tithing is understood by many Christians to be an important discipline of one's faith life.

Q. What are some of the most important Old Testament references to tithing?

A. Yes, there are several examples:

- "... and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house; And of that you give me I will surely give one tenth to you." *Genesis 28:22*
- "All tithes from the land, whether the seed from the ground or the fruit from the tree, Are the Lord's; they are holy to the Lord." *Leviticus 27:30*
- "Set apart a tithe of all the yield of your seed that is brought in yearly from the field." *Deuteronomy 14:22*
- "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts: see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessings." *Malachi 3:10*

Q. How does the New Testament deal with the opportunity to tithe?

A. We understand that Jesus and the apostles assumed that the tithe was a healthy guide for one's personal stewardship. In *Matthew 23:23* Jesus warns the scribes and Pharisees not to misuse the tithe as an 'excuse'; for neglecting other weightier matters of justice, mercy and faith. St. Paul follows the same logic in emphasizing that believers should give proportionately, as God has blessed them.

In *2 Corinthians 8 & 9*, Paul describes the example the Macedonians set for other believers. In *2 Corinthians 8:2-3*, Paul says directly "for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means."

Looking at verse 12, Paul instructs the Corinthians that they had something very important to learn from the Macedonians. It could be paraphrased like this: "It doesn't matter how much you have. What matters is how much you are willing to give from what you have." This is point of being faithful and generous!

Q. When one tithes, is the tithe on gross or net income?

A. There is no definitive answer to this question. One must choose the method that most adequately fulfills the intention of the person or household who tithes. It has been reported that many persons who file income tax returns use their Adjusted Gross Income as the base figure. This decision is clearly in the hands of the giver, and it is the faithful giver who responds generously.

*From ELCA Stewardship Resources*



# “Surviving the Holidays” Seminar

Tuesday November 14, 7-9pm (Parlor)



Are you grieving a loss? Do you know someone that is? Grieving is even more difficult around the holidays. Find comfort, support, and ways to cope during this upcoming holiday season.

Please contact Bonnie Jablonski or one of the Pastors if you plan on attending.

## One Path, Many Hearts

You're  
Invited!

The Power  
of Scripture  
and Hymns  
Nov. 12, 11:30 am  
Fellowship Hall

### One Path, Many Hearts:

The Future of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Psalms 119:105 -  
my confirmation  
verse

Sometimes I just  
need to go to my  
Bible open it and  
see what it's  
telling me.

Amazing Grace

I love this hymn SO MUCH -  
it reminds me that even the  
most undeserving, sinful, lost,  
blind wretches among us receive  
His Grace freely - anytime, any  
place.

- Which Bible verse(s) is most meaningful to you?
- What is your favorite hymn?
- What personal connections do you have to these scriptures and hymns?

The work of our ministries, our church, and most of our own efforts are predictably grounded in those beloved Bible verses and hymns that we've grown up with, that have offered clarity or guidance at pivotal crossroads, or even (and especially!) those that helped us endure hardship. We want to hear the stories behind your cherished verses and hymns! As we look to the future of St. John's, our hope is to reflect your voices, stories, experiences, and hearts in the vision and mission work. THANK YOU again, for all of your valuable participation! **Please RSVP by November 5th!**

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YES! I WANT TO SHARE MY FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE AND/OR HYMN AND EAT ANOTHER MEAL WITH YOU! Email or call the office with your info:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ # OF ADULTS: \_\_\_\_\_ # OF CHILDREN (under age 12): \_\_\_\_\_





# Happy Veterans Day

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



## Memorial Dedication

Lois Davis had a great impact on the ministry of this congregation over the years. In September, the Sunday School Board and Social Ministry/Evangelism committees dedicated a picture and rocking chair in Lois' memory. They honored her work with Sunday School, Media Team, Donkey Walk, and so much more. The picture hangs above the altar in the primary Sunday school room (Love-A-Lot larger room). The rocking chair has been placed in the PrayGround for parents of younger worshippers, so they can rock their little ones as they participate in worship. We are thankful to Memorial Funds and the leaders of these committees for these wonderful gifts to honor Lois and continue to nurture our young people in faith.



## Special Worship Services in December

- **December 2-3:** First Sunday in Advent
- **December 9-10:** Lessons and Carols Weekend
- **December 17:** Sunday School + Worship, 9:15am
- **December 23:** Blue Christmas Worship, 5:30pm
- **December 24:** 4th Sunday of Advent Worship, 9:15am  
(one service, no Sunday School)  
Christmas Eve Worship services at 5:00pm, 7:30pm, and 11:00pm
- **December 31:** New Year's Eve Worship, 9:15am (one service, no Sunday School)



# Grace Notes



In the liturgical calendar, the first weekend in November is observed as All Saints Day. In the secular calendar, it's the weekend that daylight savings time comes to an end, and we return to standard time. I must say that I enjoy the extra hour of sleep and the delight of the morning sun arriving an hour earlier. But by late afternoon, my elation over the glorious morning begins to wane as the sun begins to set and darkness arrives.

As days shorten and daylight hours diminish, we soon find ourselves in the season of Advent where the themes of light and darkness are front and center. As I write this article, I am reminded of the darkness that seems to be overwhelming the world in which we live. A war in Ukraine, conflicts between Israel and Palestine, earthquakes in Afghanistan, wildfires, tornados, hurricanes, gun violence and mass shootings continue to fill the headlines of our daily news. Yet during the Advent season, we are reminded that light emerges from the darkness as we prepare for the coming of Christ. During this season we hear the words of the prophet Isaiah who declared that "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined." (Isaiah 9:2)

As we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth, the season becomes magical as candles shine, glitter sparkles, and twinkling lights appear. Even snow can bring a beautiful light into the darkest part of the year. In our worship services during the four weeks of Advent, we light the candles of the Advent wreath to symbolize a contrast between darkness and light. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding the Lord's coming into the world. Each week, one more candle is lit, gradually dispelling more and more of the darkness as we draw ever closer to the time of Christ's birth.

As the candles of the Advent wreath are lit during our worship services this year, we will be singing a simple Yiddish tune with words that celebrate the coming of light. "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (ELW #240) was composed almost forty years ago and includes a constant refrain of "watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness." As an additional candle is lit each week, another verse of the song will be sung, until by the fourth week all four candles are burning and all four verses of the hymn are sung. The first two verses tell about what God in Christ will do: "He will bring salvation," "feed the flock," and "gently lead them homeward." Verses 3 and 4 call us to action: "Lift up your heads and lift high the gateway," "tell the glad tidings," and "let your lights be shining."

Advent is the start of the church year and the beginning of the liturgical cycle of light. Through Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, appropriately set in the darkest days of the year, we are called to remember that Jesus is the light of the world. It's a story that begins in darkness and will end in resurrection light. A baby is coming, the darkness recedes, and all will be well. In every moment of this season, may each of us send sparks of light into the darkness, reflecting and shining God's love and light into the world. Blessings for a wonderful Advent season!

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





# Youth & Family Ministries

## Upcoming Events

### November

**11/4-5:** This year's M.A.D. Camp musical will be performed by the hardworking children and youth on November 4 and 5. See announcement for more details. This is one you won't want to miss!

**11/19:** Shut In Gift Making: The youth in 7-12 grades will be making gifts for our homebound parishioners during Sunday School at 9:15am. Please meet in the Youth Room. Judy Jones and Karen Furler will be leading us in this project.

### December

**12/3:** Family Christmas Movie: Come enjoy a family-friendly Christmas movie in the Fellowship Hall at 2:00pm. Bring and wear whatever makes you feel extra cozy for movie-watching. We'll provide the popcorn and hot chocolate! There is no cost, all ages are welcome - feel free to bring friends!

**12/17:** Sunday School + Worship with Sunday School's Christmas Program 9:15am in the Sanctuary.

### January

**1/7:** The Three Kings will be making a visit at all church services and during Sunday School for Epiphany.

**1/12-14:** Bear Creek Winter Camp CONNECT for 4-12 graders. Check out <https://bearcreekcamp.org/camps/winter-camp/> . Financial assistance is available. Reach out to Jaime Taylor for more info.

**1/12-13:** Lock In: The annual youth lock in will take place from Friday, January 12 - Saturday, January 13. This is an overnight event for anyone in 7-12 grades that will begin on Friday at 6:30pm and end after breakfast on Saturday at 9:00am. Cost is \$5/person. Bring friends!

**1/21:** A Bear Creek Camp representative is coming to do a fun, interactive presentation during Sunday School. Parents/families are invited to attend - 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall.



# St. John's Daycare

We are rolling right through the school year here at St John's Lutheran Daycare. We had a ton of fun in September and October with our Fall Fest and Trunk-or-Treat.

In November we are going to be focusing on our Five Senses. We will also be having a Friend Thanksgiving Feast where we can share what we are thankful for with our classmates.

In December we will look into the Holiday Season. We are looking forward to our Christmas Pageant during which we are also going to have an art show. We will have some artwork displayed the weekend of our Christmas Pageant so everyone can enjoy the work of our little artists.

We are going to be closing 2023 with our friends and we are excited to see what 2024 will bring for our little learners.

Carly Fantauzzi-Quinones | Director  
Nicole Hepner | Assistant Director



## Love-A-Lot Preschool



Oops! We missed sharing all the fun things we were looking forward to in the last Messenger. I hope you missed us as much as we missed you! No worries, we are still here and doing better than ever!

We had our first day of school for both classes in September and they were amazing. The PreK kiddos came back and fell right into routine – it's kind of like they never even left! We spent the first days of school playing and talking about what we did over the summer. All the children brought in an "All About Me" page that we are making into a class book. It's one of our favorite projects of the whole year because the children love to look at their family and tell us about them, plus moms and dads get to see how their kiddos have changed over the course of a year (or two).

October is jam packed full of fun activities. We look forward to visiting the library to meet an author from Texas, meeting our local firefighters, playing in our Auto Body Dramatic Play Area, taking our annual trip to Juniperdale Farms, and having Pumpkin Carving night with a special guy in our lives! We are rockin' the new school year and will continue to do so, because, as Pete the Cat would say – "It's alllll good!"

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 2024-2025 school year! For more information, please contact the school by phone (484-293-0720) or email (LoveALotNurserySchool@yahoo.com).



# Pastoral Acts



## New Members

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members who were received into membership.

### FRANKLIN & DEBORA STINNER

September 17, 2023

### JOSH & JILL HELLWIG (ABBY, BROOKE, CHARLOTTE)

MARIAN HOOPER

JESSICA MILLER

KELLEY SCHANTZENBACH

October 8, 2023

### MICHAEL & RACHEL SEFCIK (LUKE & HENRY)

CHRISTIAN & SAMANTHA VALTOS  
(GRACE & CHARLOTTE)

October 15, 2023

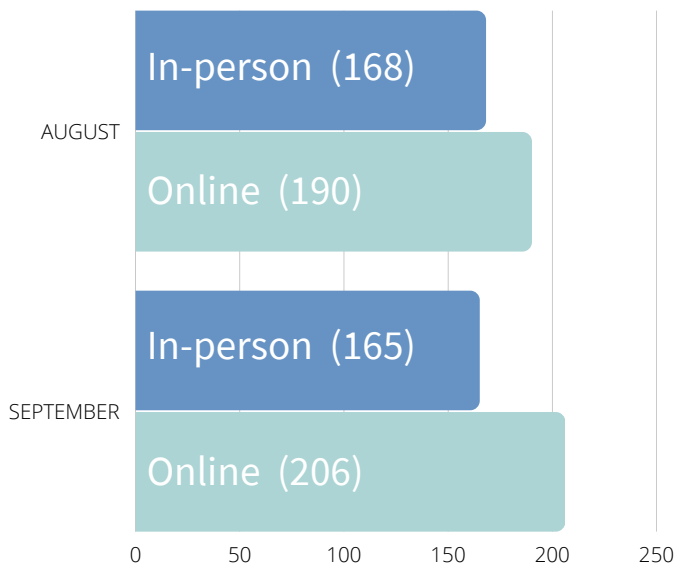


## Memorial Gifts

**MR. & MRS. WARREN T. LOWE**  
Constance M + Robert R. Newell



## Average Church Attendance



## Church Office Hours

### THANKSGIVING

Closed November 23 + 24

### CHRISTMAS

Closing early December 22 at 12pm  
Closed December 25

### NEW YEAR'S

Closing early December 29 at 12pm  
Closed January 1

# 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: Friday, Dec. 1, 2023**

**Time: 5:00-9:00pm**

Bring your decorations, supplies (scissors, tape, etc.) and your creativity. The 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 and snacks.

## 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 6, 2023.***

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)



Women of St. John's, here are opportunities for you to gather with one another in Bible Study and fellowship. Both groups will be meeting in the parlor to study "Holy Places: Home". All women are invited, so please plan to join us.

Rebekah Circle - November 6 at 7:00pm

Ruth Circle - November 1 at 9:30am

Rebekah Circle - December 4 at 7:00pm

Ruth Circle - December 6 at 9:30am

## Blue Christmas Service

**Saturday, December 23, 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 the Blue Christmas Service in place of our Saturday evening Service on **December 23**. 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.

## 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.

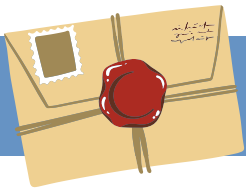


### PARKING FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

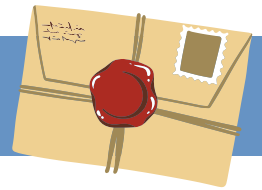
Arrangements have been made for parking during Christmas Eve services at Brian's Professional Cleaning Services parking lot on Broad Street and the parking lot at the corner of Spruce and Walnut Streets. If you do not mind the one block walk to the church, please consider using those facilities so that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

# 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 the 11:30am 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			December	
<u>November 3</u>	<u>November 7</u>	<u>November 25</u>	<u>December 14</u>	<u>December 26</u>
<b>Betty Deardorff</b> MHS – Personal Care Rm. 2020 175 W. North St. Nazareth, PA 18064	<b>Steven Millheim</b> 5755 Sullivan Tr. Nazareth, PA 18064	<b>Ernest Hahn</b> 427 Bank St. Nazareth, PA 18064	<b>Joanne Lambert</b> 368 Madison Ave. – Apt. 202 Nazareth, PA 18064	<b>Connie Lichtenwalner</b> 5526 Grace Ave. Bethlehem, PA 18017



# 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 7, 2023 at 10:00am.** Which means now is the time to begin our collection in hopes of providing a gift of love for people in our area.

The institutions to receive gifts for Christmas 2023 are as follows: [Gracedale Nursing Home](#), [Sayre Child Center](#), [KidsPeace](#), [Allentown Rescue Mission](#), [Ripple Community Center](#), and [The Kindness Project](#). (Click on each of the organization's names to learn more.)

Your monetary gifts given through the "Special Offering" envelope will be used to purchase items for Kids Peace. This includes the four gifts our church will give to specific children who are residents, as well as journals, Rice Krispie Treats and Chapstick that will be placed in the 200 gift bags provided for the children.

Below you will find the collection list for the people served by these institutions. **Donation boxes will be available from November 11th through December 6th 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!

## Ingathering Wish Lists

<b>Children:</b>	Bibs, washable books, colored pencils, construction paper, coloring books, diapers and wipes, finger paints, infant cereal (rice or oatmeal), Play Doh, stickers, waterproof markers
<b>Women:</b>	Toiletries: shampoos, cream rinse, shower gels, brushes, combs, deodorant, lotion, perfume, change purses/wallets
<b>Men:</b>	Combs, razors, shaving cream, shower gel (no bar soap), deodorant
<b>All ages:</b>	Scarfs, hats, mittens, large print puzzle books (no crosswords or sudoku), slippers(sturdy base, large tread), socks
<b>Misc:</b>	Toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, coffee (no k cups), trash bags (45, 55 gal), notebooks, batteries (AA, C, D), glue sticks, flash lights, ChapStick, reusable totes, umbrellas/ponchos, wrapping paper, paint and paint brushes, Clorox wipes
<b>Foods:</b>	Applesauce/fruit cups, Ramen Noodles, tea bags, hot chocolate packets, canned chicken, tuna fish, granola and cereal bars

# St. John's Member Celebrates 50 Years of Ordination

The year 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the Call into ordained ministry of our member, The Rev. David Paul Kidd. He has received recognition of this milestone during special events at United Lutheran Seminary, Philadelphia and at a NEPA Synod event, held at Muhlenberg College.

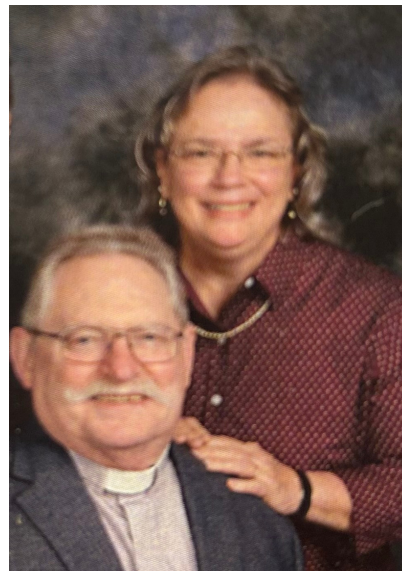
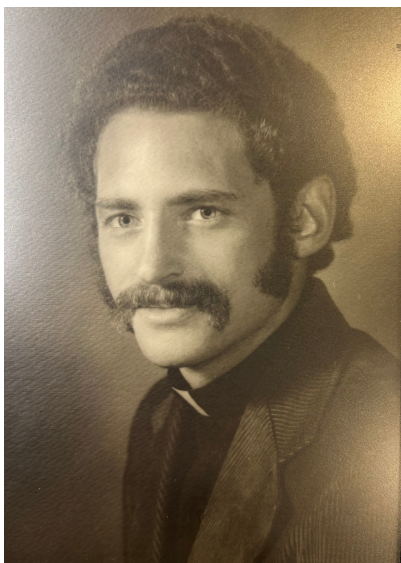
Dave is the son of Rev. Paul J. and Frances E. (Hoyt) Kidd, and was born in Reading. He graduated with a B.A. In Psychology from Muhlenberg College in 1969 and a Master's of Divinity from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now United Lutheran Seminary-Philadelphia Campus) in 1973.

"Captain" Kidd was ordained by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Lutheran Church in America in 1973 at St. Paul Lutheran, Doylestown. He served the following full-time calls: Associate Pastor, Trinity Memorial Lutheran, Allentown (1973-1975); Pastor, Christ Mertz Lutheran, Dryville (1973-1983); Pastor-Developer, St. Paul Lutheran, Trexlertown (1983-2002); and Pastor, St. Timothy Lutheran, Allentown (2002-2012). Following his retirement, he served four congregations as interim, and became a member of St. John's, Nazareth last fall. He is a member of the Philethia Choir.

Pastor Kidd has also served on Synod ministry teams and as a Bear Creek Camp board member (12 years, Chair, 5 years) and Chaplain (24 years).

Dave is the father of three daughters. He married Deacon Patrice A. (Young) Kidd at St. John's in 1994, and they have five grandchildren.

Thanks be to God for Pr. Kidd's 50 years of faithful ordained ministry, and for those yet to come!



# Nazareth Area Food Bank Donations

**NOVEMBER-** mac and cheese, canned fruit, beans (any kind), spaghetti

**DECEMBER-** peanut butter, jelly, canned tuna, canned chicken

\*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!

The Evangelism & Social Ministry Committee wishes to extend their heartfelt gratitude and many thanks for the participation of our congregation in the **BLANKETS+ PROGRAM**.

The recipients of your kindness cannot thank you personally, but please know in your hearts that your gift of love and comfort has made a difference in someone's life.

Thank  
You



**God's work. Our hands.**  
**Thanks and Partnerships**

On September 10th, we celebrated Rally Sunday and fall kick-off with getting our hands and feet on the move to put together holiday gift bags for the Nazareth Area Food Bank.



Many thanks to

- St. John's Endowment funds which enabled us to purchase supplies for a total of 250 kits!
- Social Ministry/Evangelism committee members (& helpers!) for shopping and setting up.
- Sunday School participants (teachers, parents & students) and everyone else who walked the line to create these gift bags as well as ran them upstairs for storage. You are awesome!

Well done church!



# Jaime's Sabbatical

## The Basics

Here is what we need to know and remember about Jaime's sabbatical that begins in mid-January:

1. It is only 8 weeks.
2. Components include
  - a. Rest
  - b. Study/education
  - c. Reflection

Why Jaime and why now?

1. Of all of us on staff, those that have been here a while and those of us that are new, this position of ministry is the one that changes, ebbs, and flows the most.
2. The work of ministering alongside children, youth and family has changed a great deal in the past 5 years, especially during and after a pandemic.
3. This is one of the areas of focus in our ministry as a church as we work at growing young.
4. The current and definitely the future leadership of the church are the children and youth.
5. Therefore it is time to invest in the person who leads that ministry, Jaime. This is why we have offered her the opportunity to go and learn in order to come back and serve.

What it means for Jaime:

1. Taking intentional time to relax, learn different ways of leading ministry, and reflect on what she has learned.
2. Jaime will be led by the Spirit with the hopes of returning renewed and refreshed with ideas to help mold and shape the youth and children's ministry now and into the future!
3. Jaime will not be present or available for ministry at St. John's from January 26 – March 22.

What it means for St. John's:

1. During this time lay leaders and staff members will be leading youth and children's ministry at the church.
2. We will spend this time praying for Jaime and the ministries she influences and leads at this church.
3. We are Investing in the youth and children's ministries of St. John's as we live into the realities of today's culture.

What is Jaime doing during these components of the sabbatical?

1. In the first week, resting and relaxing in a place where she feels the presence of God the most.
2. Learning from churches in Colorado, Texas and Pennsylvania.
  - a. These churches have connections with both Pastor Scott and Pastor Jennifer.
  - b. Jaime will observe ministries and talk to staff and lay leaders. She will reflect with these churches the new ways of being in ministry in this current time.
3. Reflecting will partially take place with her mentor from college in Florida where she will discern how to fine tune our ministries and what new ministries might begin.

Our prayer is that Jaime comes back renewed and refreshed with the Spirit giving her new inspiration and imagination for ministry here at St. John's. Please join us as we pray for Jaime and this work ahead.

# Church Council Minutes Highlights

**August, 2023**

Below you will find some highlights of the August council meeting. If you would like to read the council minutes in their entirety, please click [here](#) or request a copy from the church office.

- Participants in this year's golf tournament were given rain jackets with lettering honoring the memories of Pastor Schaeffer and Walter Trbovic. The Trbovic Estate made the purchase of the jackets possible. Pastor Scott addressed the participants and encouraged them to consider their own estate plans.
- Lenna Harris has been the leader of our Eucharistic Ministry Team since it began some 20 years ago. She has decided to take a break from visiting. We thank her for her dedicated service. Laurie Center has now assumed the role of coordinating the visits of the team, consisting of Sharon Werner, Bonnie & Jim Jablonski, and Sharon Wasmer.
- In August preparations were underway for the MAD Camp Musical "Fired Up." The performance will be the weekend of November 4-5.
- The 2nd quarter report of the Building Trust was submitted by Jeff Daniels and reviewed by the council.
- During God's work. Our hands. Sunday in September we will pack 250 holiday gift bags for the Nazareth Area Food Bank clients.
- Thank you to JT Taylor for updating the website.
- August 28-September 1 the Audio-Visual upgrade will take place.



# St. John's Staff

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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](mailto:office@stjohnsnaz.org)**.

**The deadline for all submissions for the 2024 January/February issue of *The Messenger* is Tuesday, December 5.** Please email your article or announcements as a word document attached to **[commcoordinator@stjohnsnaz.org](mailto:commcoordinator@stjohnsnaz.org)** & **[office@stjohnsnaz.org](mailto:office@stjohnsnaz.org)**. Thank you.

