

# 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 11 at 9:15am**

### ONE SUNDAY SERVICE

One worship celebrating the Transfiguration.  
Saturday worship is at 5:30pm on February  
10 and will be live-streamed.

## Worship with us

### Worship Times

Saturdays at 5:30pm

Sunday School at 9:15am

Sundays at 8:00am and 10:30am

### Church Office Hours

Church office closed, January 1

Monday through Friday, 8:00am - 3:00pm

If you have had a change of mailing address, email address, and/or phone number, please notify the church office at [office@stjohnsnaz.org](mailto:office@stjohnsnaz.org) or 610-759-3090 ext. 100. Please help us to keep you informed and to avoid charges 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 Pastors

We were sitting at lunch listening to others talk about what is to come in the presidential election, wondering what's going to happen with the wars that are raging right now, and everyone speaking about the chaotic time of pre-holiday happenings. We could relate to the chaoticness of the preparations for Christmas, the new year, and the season of Lent to begin just 45 days into the new year. And that's just the church life, not to mention the chaos in our personal lives.

One person around the table tried to reframe the conversation by asking about the positive things happening in our days. She encouraged us to "watch for the glimmers" in our everyday chaos at work and at home.

Watch for the glimmers - the glimmers of hope, the glimmers of God in our midst, just the one little glimmer that brings a change of perspective. Glimmers like - a great-nephew warming up to you after a few hours of holiday fun; a beautiful sunset; magnificent Christmas lights in a yard across the street; accomplishing the task of laundry today; a text from someone that brightened your day; saying (or hearing) the words "I love you" to someone as the day draws to a close.

As Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 12, the Lord says "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." In this we have hope. In this we know the promises of seeing glimmers of grace. This is our epiphany moment, epiphany meaning "an appearance or manifestation." This season of the church year invites us to open our hearts, minds and souls to the glimmers of God in our everydayness. We are so grateful this friend reminded us that these glimmers are everywhere - even and especially in the midst of the chaos, the uncertainty, the trials, the grief, in all of the seasons of life.

This Epiphany, we are offering an aide to seeing and experiencing these glimmers of God's grace. **Star Words will be offered the weekend that we celebrate Epiphany, the Three Kings, January 6 & 7.** As the wise men followed the star, discerning the glimmer it provided, we too will follow the guiding star this Epiphany season (and beyond!). Just as the Magi followed the star to Jesus, we too will use these words to assist us in moving closer to Jesus and living out our faith. During worship that weekend, everyone will have an opportunity to take a star with a word on it (picked at random). This star will be your guiding word for the season, offering some intentionality to focus on the glimmers of God in our midst. This guiding word will be written on a star for you to post in your homes, take a picture of and make your screen saver, or be placed somewhere in your home, car or school bag for you to see regularly. This will allow consistent reflection on how God has moved through, around, or in connection to this word. It may even help us see God in a way we have not seen before.

This is our invitation into a new rhythm of prayer, spiritual practice, and reflection at this particular time and place in our lives. If you know you will not be in worship on January 6 & 7, you will still be able to pick a Star Word in the weeks throughout Epiphany. If you are reading this and are not able to attend worship in person, please reach out to the church office and we will mail a Star Word to you!

As you go about your day to day living, we pray that you are open to the glimmers of God in your midst as you listen intently for the spirit to whisper to you.

God's rays of hope be with you always -  
Pastor Jennifer & Pastor Scott



# What A Time!

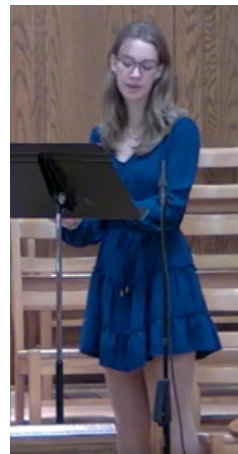
Relive and enjoy the Spirit-filled presence of God in this place. Nazareth Halloween Parade, goat hiking, Trunk-or-Treat, Confirmation Sunday, MAD Camp Dinner Theatre Potluck, homebound gift making, Deck the Halls, Advent and Christmas preparations, Lessons & Carols Sunday, sharing our gifts, fellowship, fun, and more.

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





# What A Time!

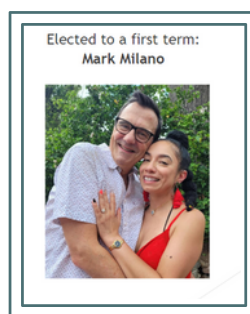
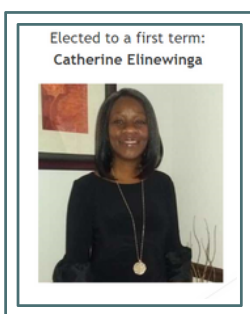
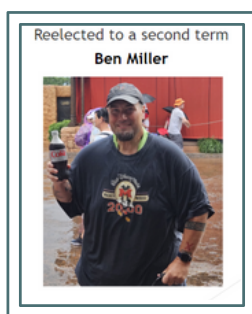




# Church Council Election Results

**Ben Miller** was re-elected for a second three-year term. **Catherine Elinewinga, Louise Kroboth, Mark Milano, and Leonard Wallace, Jr.** were elected to their first three-year term which will begin in January 2024.

We thank them for their willingness to serve God and St. John's. We'd also like to thank **Rita Bergstrom, Christina Brodt, and Michele Seaton** for their years of dedicated service.



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. 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 28, 2024** in the sanctuary, immediately following the 10:30am service. **The due date for reports is Friday, January 12th.**

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.







# Grace Notes



It was the first Sunday morning in November that our M.A.D. Camp children were quickly putting on costumes and preparing for the repeat performance of the musical “Fired Up!” After a great show the night before, the children were excited and enthused to present it a second time during the Sunday School hour that morning. There was a lot of chatter in the room, and one child after another came rushing up to me with the question—“What’s next year’s show going to be?” Of course, I’m thinking to myself that we need to just enjoy and get through our current show. I couldn’t imagine thinking about next August’s week of another M.A.D. Camp!

Later that same morning after our worship service, I had a conversation with one of our parishioners. Both of us were commenting that the fall was going by so quickly and bemoaning that we were already returning to standard time and daylight was becoming shorter each day. Our remarks were in stark contrast to how the children regarded time earlier that morning. To them, next summer couldn’t come fast enough, yet to grown-ups, time slips by so quickly.

These two different encounters made me reflect on “time.” Despite the fact that we perceive time as being too slow or too fast, it is the most constant thing in life. With no beginning and no end, time never stops. Time is neither something we can create nor destroy.

The great German organist and church musician J.S. Bach composed a cantata entitled “God’s Time Is Best.” The composition was written for a funeral service, but the underlying message is that God is ultimately in charge. God resides in a time zone called forever. It’s a time zone not restricted by our ideas of punctuality and deadlines, of days, weeks and months. God’s time is not based on the ticking of the clock, but rather on moments and opportunities. God’s time can signal a time of crisis, as well as a time of change and new possibilities. It can involve moments of regret, as well as times of joy and surprise. God’s time calls us to pay attention, to be alert, and to use discernment.

Personally, I experienced God’s time when I made the decision to accept the music position at St. John’s twenty-five years ago this February. I had served with my former congregation where I worked alongside five different pastoral leaders, expanded my position over the years, and developed many long-lasting friendships. It was a difficult decision to leave a place where I felt so strongly rooted. Yet, at the same time it seemed like the right time to make a change. And I can say that I have no regrets with that decision. At St. John’s I have found a place where ministry is alive and well, and where I have been surrounded and supported by so many wonderful people.

I’m certain that all of us have at times faced situations that have required us to slow down, think decisively, and respond wisely. During these moments we need to practice patience, waiting, and being sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. As we begin a New Year, I hope that we can all see and respond wisely to the significant and opportune moments in our lives, knowing that “God’s Time Is Best.” May it be a marvelous year that lies ahead!

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



# Festival Choir Retreat

**Saturday, January 13, 2024**  
**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 spring we will sing for **Transfiguration Sunday on February 11, Easter Sunday on March 31, and Pentecost Sunday on May 19.**

A rehearsal to begin preparing music for these special events will be held on **Saturday, January 13** (snow date is January 20), from 9:30am to 11:30am. If you are interested in singing, contact Rev. Janice Butz at the church office 610-759-3090, x-105, or by e-mail at [jbutz@stjohnsnaz.org](mailto:jbutz@stjohnsnaz.org).



Women of the **ELCA** 

The WELCA fall luncheon was a great success this year! Below are some highlights:



WELCA Fall luncheon



Maybel and Isabel  
lead a sing-along



Trooper Branosky  
was a special guest



3 generations of  
WELCA

## Upcoming Rebekah Circle Meetings:

January 8, 2024 at 7:00pm

February 5, 2024 at 7:00pm



# A Message from the Director of Youth & Family Ministries

A little note...

I will be on sabbatical from **January 26 - March 23**. My first day back will be on Palm Sunday, March 24th. During this time of rest, learning, and reflection, I appreciate all your prayers. I will miss you all during this time, but appreciate the opportunity to take a moment to breathe as well as to explore and learn about other congregations. I look forward to telling you all about it on Palm Sunday!

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

## Sunday School Upcoming Events

Start off your Sunday Funday at Sunday School every Sunday at 9:15am!  
Here are some upcoming things to look forward to:

### JANUARY 2024

**January 7** - The Three Kings will be coming to visit during Sunday School. We will also hear the story of The Three Kings, play a game, and enjoy some special refreshments. Please meet in the Fellowship Hall.

**January 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).

### FEBRUARY 2024

**February 4** - Sunday School will be making Valentine's for our homebound parishioners.

**February 11** - Sunday School + Worship! Bring the whole family at 9:15am for a combined Sunday School and Worship Service. This service is created with Sunday School and families in mind, and there is something for all ages to enjoy and learn.

**February 18** - Pajama Party and Bring A Friend! Wear your pajamas and bring your friends for this special Sunday School.



# Youth & Family Upcoming Events

## JANUARY 2024

- **1/7:** Youth Gathering Meeting - All youth participants and adult leaders attending the Youth Gathering will gather for a meeting/study on January 7 at 11:30am in the Youth Room.
- **1/12-13:** Lock In - The annual Lock In for youth in 7-12 grades will take place from Friday, January 12 -Saturday, January 13. This is an overnight event and will begin at the church at 6:30pm on Friday and end at 9:00am on Saturday. Dinner and breakfast will be served. Cost to attend is \$5 + a snack to share with the group. Bring your friends!
- **1/12-14:** Bear Creek Winter Camp CONNECT for 4-12 graders. Check out [bearcreekcamp.org/connect-winter-camp](http://bearcreekcamp.org/connect-winter-camp). Financial assistance is available. Reach out to Jaime Taylor for more info.
- **1/21:** 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.

## FEBRUARY 2024

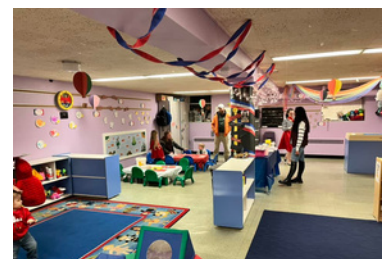
- **2/11:** Sunday School + Worship. Bring the whole family at 9:15am for a combined Sunday School and Worship Service. This service is created with Sunday School and families in mind, and there is something for all ages to learn and enjoy.
- **2/11:** Youth Gathering Meeting - All youth participants and adult leaders attending the Youth Gathering will gather for a meeting/study on February 11 at 10:30am in the Youth Room.
- **2/14:** Ash Wednesday Worship at 7:30 pm
- **2/21:** Lenten Suppers will be on every Wednesday from February 21 - March 20 at 6:15pm. SHYG students and Confirmation students will take part in these suppers and discussions each week. Midweek Lenten services follow at 7:30 pm.

## St. John's Daycare

St John's Day Care had a wonderful end of the year Christmas Program. It was amazing seeing our little learners sing and have fun together. We have more fun to come in January and February, as we ring in the New Year! In January, we will be focusing on different countries throughout the month in order to help us to prepare for our Passport Event at the end of the month where each classroom will be transformed into a different country. We will learn about different important buildings, their flags, their culture, and food. In February, we will be learning about diversity and what makes each and every one of us special and unique. We love working together to create and grow our day care community, and look forward to all the amazing activities we will do in the New Year!

Carly Fantauzzi-Quinones  
(Director)

Nicole Hepner  
(Assistant Director)







# Love-A-Lot Preschool



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 India, Sweden, USA, Israel, Germany and Canada. We learned about holidays like Diwali, St. Nicholas Day, St. Lucia Day, Hannukah, and Boxing Day. We celebrated Christmas with our annual tradition of reading Polar Express while eating cookies and drinking chocolate milk, and then Pastors Scott and Jennifer visited our classroom to spend time talking to the 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 another fan favorite: Dinosaurs! 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 2024-2025 school year! For more information, please contact the school by phone (484-293-0720) or email ([LoveALotNurserySchool@yahoo.com](mailto:LoveALotNurserySchool@yahoo.com)).

## Visioning Team News

We saw lots of glimmers over the past few months at St. John's, especially during our sharing around visioning tables in October and November, 2023. We heard glimmers of God's faithful stories that stand the test of time as they were interwoven with our stories of faith and service. We saw the glimmers of the marking of time on a timeline of our history to the present day, noting places where others have encouraged us to become involved in the work of faith through the ministries of the church. We saw glimmers of how, over time, we have grounded ourselves in this community of belonging as we have shared God's gifts in abundance with others. These moments, these glimmers, together were moving, uplifting, and hopeful for your pastors, for the people that gathered, and for this church in this particular place and time.

It's very exciting to pray over this work, to wonder together, to dream about how God is going to be about the work of hope and love in this community. The work of the Visioning Team through the Stewardship Committee continues as they pour over the data from these events, discern our values as a congregation, develop vision and mission statements, and ponder where this information will take us next.

We invite you to be in prayer for this work. We invite you to open yourself to the work of the Spirit during this time.

The Visioning Team would like to thank the Youth, Education, and Outreach Endowment for their support and the Von Bora Society for their cooking and serving the brunches.

# Winter Bible Study

## **The Revelation of John**

**Wednesdays, January 3 - January 24 at 11:30am in the Shepherd's Room**

We continue our study through the book of Revelation using the study guide prepared by Craig R. Koester, a professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary and recognized as the author of one of the “Best Books on Revelation” entitled, *Revelation and the End of All Things*. Feel free to bring a lunch along with your appetite for the Word of God. All are encouraged to prepare by reading Revelation in your Bibles. Wednesday morning studies will continue on a new topic as determined by the class. Come and join us!

## **Manna and Mercy**

**Wednesdays, January 10 through February 7 at 6:15pm in the Parlor**

Our study continues in the book, *Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe*, by Daniel Erlander. Using the story of the Israelites, Jesus, and the Church, Erlander explains in easily understood concepts what God is up to in our world: manna for all and mercy for all. Through this study we will be reminded that God calls us to be God's partner people. Everyone is welcome to join us. Contact Pastor Scott with any questions. It's never too late to join this study.

# Grief Support Ministry

**Wednesdays, beginning February 7th  
1:00pm - 3:00pm in the Parlor**

Another session of GriefShare will begin this winter. Are you or someone you know grieving the loss of someone close to you? Find comfort and support at GriefShare, a 13 week grief support group. You can join at any time! Contact our pastors or Bonnie Jablonksi for more information.



# New Member Class

**Sunday, January 14 at 9:15am  
Meet in the office lobby.**

This class is for people who are considering formal membership at St. John's. We'll tour the building, share our stories, and talk about the ministries of St. John's. Participants will receive a copy of Daniel Erlander's *Baptized We Live*. We hope to receive new members **during the services on January 20 and 21**. Mark your calendars now!

Please contact one of the pastors if you intend to attend this class or if you have any questions. Already a member? Reach out to those who may be interested and let them know about the class.



# Prayer Breakfast at Valley View Diner

**Tuesdays, 8:00am to 9:00am**

Ralph Deyo is inviting you to join him for breakfast and for discussion of Martin Luther's Large and Small Catechism. Ralph says, "Why not try it?" Call Ralph if you have any questions at 610-759-4846.

## Fellowship as a Way of Discipleship

We noticed at the visioning events that we really do enjoy eating together at St. John's. We've noticed after worship, we really do like to enjoy fellowship with one another. Members have shared with us that our Lenten Soup Suppers have been a wonderful place for fellowship and learning together. We've also seen that Tables of 8 have brought about some deep connections. We even heard people asking about our church as we walked the Nazareth Halloween Parade. So....how do we build on this foundation of being a disciple in fellowship with others? To start - **we are seeking a leader to coordinate gathering opportunities at St. John's and in our community.**

Church events could be like potlucks, a summer neighborhood block party, fellowship events for the congregation, etc. Community events could be like Martin on Main bouncy house, Halloween Parade entry, Fall Festival booth, Christmas in Nazareth activity, etc.

**This does not mean that you do it all or dream up opportunities alone! You coordinate these ministries alongside the support of the staff and other lay leaders that will help with each event.** You responsibilities might include recruiting others to assist with events, creating advertising (or asking someone else to create it!), and making sure everything is lined up and ready to go. Again, **you will coordinate, recruit, liaison, delegate, and have fun!**

If you are interested or know someone that would be great for this role, please talk to Pastor Jennifer. If you would like to be on the team of people that will help make these fellowship/discipleship opportunities happen, let Pastor Jennifer know and she'll add you to the list and share it with our new coordinator! Exciting things are ahead for St. John's and the Spirit is priming us to continue to share our stories, learn the stories of our neighbors, and be a visible presence of God in the community. It's going to be fun!!



# 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.

## Souper Bowl of Caring

Our church is once again participating in the "Souper Bowl of Caring" event.

On **February 10 & 11**, 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.



## Homebound Birthdays

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



**January 11**

**Ruthmary Male**

Alexandria Manor

7 S. New St.

Apt. 18

Nazareth, PA 18064

**January 16**

**Ken Smith**

Whitehall Manor

Memory Care Unit

Rm. B7

1177 N. 6th St.

Whitehall, PA 18052

**January 28**

**Doreen Anthony**

552 Belfast Road

Nazareth PA

18064





# Lent Begins in February



## February 14 - Ash Wednesday services

**12:00pm + 7:30pm** in the sanctuary, a service of ashes and communion.

## February 21 - March 20 - Midweek Lenten services

**6:15pm:** Lenten Soup Suppers, conversations in the Fellowship Hall

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

## Lent in Plain Sight

Guided by the book of the same title by Jill J. Duffield, we will spend time this Lent discovering how God works in and through the ordinary things of life. Ordinary people, everyday objects, things we bump up against moment by moment. Each Wednesday evening, we will gather around the table for Lenten soup suppers (6:15pm) and conversation. Then during a service of Holden Evening Prayer (7:30pm, Shepherd's Room) we will dive deeper into being aware of God's presence in our lives in ordinary ways; through bread, cross, coins, shoes, and oil. We will wonder: Do we have the eyes to see God's presence among us? Do we have the ears to hear the word of the Lord, spoken in a multitude of ways, right here and right now? Come and join us. Come and share. Come, see, and hear.



## Helping Hands Trip

**INTERESTED IN HELPING OTHERS?**  
**(No experience needed)**

Ever say to yourself, "How can I help?" Now is your chance!! Helping Hands is going on a trip to **Madisonville, KY the week of Feb. 25 - March 2**. We are helping to rebuild after a tornado. For any questions or to sign up contact Gail Price at (610)704-8736.

**We can't express how rewarding this is!**



# Thank You!

The Evangelism/Social Ministry team would like to thank all of those who contributed to **our annual in-gathering collection** again this year.

Your gifts help to brighten the lives of those who are not able to be in their own homes. Once again, thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Below are a few pictures from the Northern Lehigh Valley Mission Districts Christmas Ingathering Event held on December 7, at Union Lutheran Church in Schnecksville. Many gifts were collected to be distributed to Gracedale, Allentown Rescue Mission, Sayre Child Center, KidsPeace, Ripple Community Center, and The Kindness Project, which is non-profit, fully donation based organization that helps foster children and their families.

Many thanks to all who donated items and sorted donations (pictured below). Your kindness will touch many lives this holiday season.



Thank you to everyone who helped create the 250+ **holiday gift bags** in September during *God's work. Our hands.* Sunday. They were delivered to the Nazareth Area Food Bank in late October. Thank you to Bonnie, Mark, Christine, Randy, Cathie, Joe, and the pastors for delivering the goodies. Mark, Bonnie and Pastor Jennifer helped distribute to the clientele in November. Clients, volunteers and staff at the food bank were very appreciative. We look forward to future partnerships with this important feeding ministry in Nazareth.



*I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers during my healing process after my fall.*

*~Peace, Lois Morris.*



# Thank You!

This year, we partnered up with the **Blue Star Mother's of America** to ship boxes to our military. The Blue Star Mother's is a nationally known organization that consists of mothers of active duty and veterans of our Armed Forces. I have been a member of this organization for several years.

The generosity from our church enabled us to provide 150 hygiene kits! The packages were boxed on October 21, 2023 and mailed. Thank you for your generosity and support!

Christine Garrison  
Evangelism/Social Ministry Committee



Thank you to all of those who contributed to **The Chemo Bag** supply collection this year. The individual bags are filled with goodies, kindness and support and very appreciated by patients who are starting a treatment journey with a cancer diagnosis. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



## Confirmation Class, Committee Fair Night

Our Junior & Senior High students and confirmation teachers wish to thank some of the committees and groups of our church for taking the time to teach us what it is you do in and through this church as stewards of God: Helping Hands, St. John's Daycare, Love-A-Lot Preschool, Social Ministry/Evangelism, Finance & Endowment, and Altar Guild. We had a great time hammering nails, scavenger hunting, making crafts and puzzles, receiving a "\$100 bill" and learning from you and your passions.



# Pastoral Acts



## Baptisms

**OLIVIA ROSE VERNACHIO**

Daughter of Anthony & Kristin (Andrews)  
Vernachio

Born: August 18, 2023

Baptized: November 5, 2023



## Weddings

**KRISTA MARIE LEFEBVRE &  
DONALD CHARLES DENTITH**

DECEMBER 9, 2023



## 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:

**JOAN T. JOHNSON**

OCTOBER 23, 2023

**MARTIN A. EICHNER**

NOVEMBER 24, 2023

**DOROTHY "DOTTY" M. KOCH**

DECEMBER 6, 2023

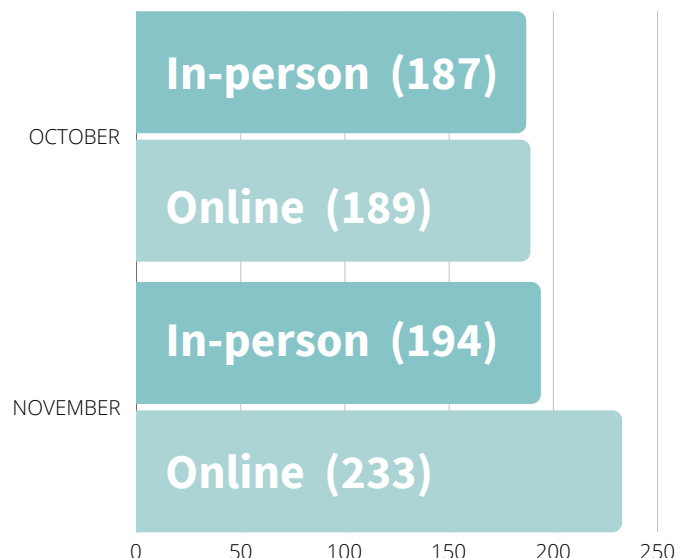


## Memorial Gifts

**MARTIN A. EICHNER**

Gloria Eichner and family

## Average Church Attendance





# Nazareth Area Food Bank Donations

Starting in January, the Nazareth Area Food Bank will only be accepting monetary donations for January, February and March. The money donated will go to purchasing Aldi gift cards to be sent to clients. All monetary donations can be sent to :

**Nazareth Area Food Bank**  
**P.O. Box 178**  
**Nazareth, PA 18064**



We will begin accepting food donations at the church starting in March for April distribution. Look for food suggestions in future church announcements.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT OF OUR LOCAL FOOD BANK!

## Special Offering



**January: World Hunger**  
**February: Helping Hands**

Scan the QR code  
to donate virtually



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

# Church Council Minutes Highlights

## September & October, 2023

Below you will find some highlights of the September and October 2023 council meetings. If you would like to read the council minutes in their entirety, please click [here](#) or request a copy from the church office.

- Six guests came to council to discuss the placement of the American and Christian flags in worship during seasons that there is either a Christmas tree or cross in the front corner of the sanctuary. Council decided to place the American and Christian flags in the back of the sanctuary during these seasons of the church year.
- One Path, Many Hearts visioning events will take place in October and November. Great food will be served by Point Phillips and the Katherine Von Bora Society. Attendees will have conversations about our favorite scripture or hymns, experiences of church that have affected our lives, and St. John's history. All of this is to help our congregation understand what we value that will drive us forward in ministry for God in and through this place and community.
- Faith formation opportunities include Adult Bible studies, back to school blessing of students, gifting of bibles to 3rd & 7th graders, MAD Camp, committee night during confirmation, "God's work. Our hands." delivery and distribution, grief ministry, Jen Bradbury education on GenZ, continued collections for area helping agencies (through the Annual Ingathering).
- Staff created a budget for future Youth, Education, and Endowment requests.
- Decision was made to change the name of Love-a-Lot Nursery School to Love-a-Lot Preschool.
- Decision was made to have Personnel share a breakdown of all staff salaries and hourly pay with the Finance committee for budgetary considerations.
- Communion distribution and offering collection during worship services was discussed as we continue to tweak the flow of worship.
- Helping Hands mission trip will be to Madisonville, KY from February 25-March 2, 2024.
- The decision was made to cash a \$40,000 CD from the Edward Jones general fund savings account that matured on September 25, 2023. \$20,000 will go into the general fund account and \$20,000 will be reinvested.
- Property is requesting approximately \$25,000 to perform a complete inspection and structural review of the south tower deterioration. These funds will cover core borings and lab analysis, rental of a bucket truck, preparation of a report on findings, and the development of a reconstruction plan. This will be presented for vote at the November congregational meeting.



# 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](mailto:Office@stjohnsnaz.org) Website: [www.stjohnsnaz.org](http://www.stjohnsnaz.org)

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

**The deadline for all submissions for the 2024 March/April issue of *The Messenger* is Tuesday, February 6.** 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.

