

# FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2026

## St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mahoning

826 Mahoning Drive West; Lehighton Pa 18235 • Church office: 570-386-9960 • Email address: [stjohns@ptd.net](mailto:stjohns@ptd.net)  
Website: [www.stjohnsmahoning.org](http://www.stjohnsmahoning.org) • Facebook at StJohnsMahoning • "A Family of friends alive with God's love!"



### Church Staff

Pastor	Reverend Anthony Pagotto (610-377-4242)
Music Director	Colleen Rudelitsch
Bookkeeper	Cathy Smith
Sexton	Sherry Stafiniak
Church Admin	Anne Scott
Church Office	570-386-9960
Church Office hours	M-W-F 9 AM-2 PM

### 2026 Church Council

**Reverend** Anthony Pagotto

Donald Freeman, **President**

Allison Everett, **V. President**

Keith Drummond

Geoff Ebbert

Julia Schock

Ronald Fried

Kimberly Gerhard

Cheryl Kistler

Colleen Rudelitsch

### Worship Schedule for February 2026 at St. John's

**Feb 1 – 11 AM** – Fellowship Hall Worship *with Holy Communion* – **12:30** – Confirmation Class (SJ)

**Feb 8 – 11 AM** – Sanctuary Service

**Feb 15 – 11 AM** – Fellowship Hall Worship *with Holy Communion* **Transfiguration of Our Lord**

**Feb 22 – 11 AM** – Sanctuary Service *with Holy Communion*

**12:30 PM** – Confirmation Class to Campton Funeral Home

**\*March 1 – 11 AM** – Fellowship Hall Worship *with Holy Communion* – **Annual Congregational Meeting**

## February 2026 Daily Lectionary Readings

**Sunday, February 01, 2026:** Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12  
**Monday, February 02, 2026:** Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 1:1-18; Philemon 1-25  
**Monday, February 02, 2026:** Psalm 24:7-10; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40  
**Tuesday, February 03, 2026:** Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 2:1-16; James 5:1-6  
**Wednesday, February 04, 2026:** Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22; Luke 6:17-26  
**Thursday, February 05, 2026:** Psalm 112:1-9; Deuteronomy 4:1-14; 1 John 5:1-5  
**Friday, February 06, 2026:** Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 29:1-12; James 3:13-18  
**Saturday, February 07, 2026:** Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 29:13-16; Mark 7:1-8  
**Sunday, February 08, 2026:** Psalm 112:1-9 (10); 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16); Matthew 5:13-20  
**Monday, February 09, 2026:** Psalm 119:105-112; 2 Kings 22:3-20; Romans 11:2-10  
**Tuesday, February 10, 2026:** Psalm 119:105-112; 2 Kings 23:1-8, 21-25; 2 Corinthians 4:1-12  
**Wednesday, February 11, 2026:** Psalm 119:105-112; Proverbs 6:6-23; John 8:12-30  
**Thursday, February 12, 2026:** Psalm 2; Exodus 6:2-9; Hebrews 8:1-7  
**Friday, February 13, 2026:** Psalm 2; Exodus 19:9b-25; Hebrews 11:23-28  
**Saturday, February 14, 2026:** Psalm 2; 1 Kings 21:20-29; Mark 9:9-13  
**Sunday, February 15, 2026:** Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9  
**Monday, February 16, 2026:** Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55; Exodus 33:7-23; Acts 7:30-34  
**Tuesday, February 17, 2026:** Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55; 1 Kings 19:9-18; Romans 11:1-6  
**Wednesday, February 18, 2026:** Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21  
**Thursday, February 19, 2026:** Psalm 51; Jonah 3:1-10; Romans 1:1-7  
**Friday, February 20, 2026:** Psalm 51; Jonah 4:1-11; Romans 1:8-17  
**Saturday, February 21, 2026:** Psalm 51; Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 18:1-7  
**Sunday, February 22, 2026:** Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11  
**Monday, February 23, 2026:** Psalm 32; 1 Kings 19:1-8; Hebrews 2:10-18  
**Tuesday, February 24, 2026:** Psalm 32; Genesis 4:1-16; Hebrews 4:14-5:10  
**Wednesday, February 25, 2026:** Psalm 32; Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28; Matthew 18:10-14  
**Thursday, February 26, 2026:** Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:3-7  
**Friday, February 27, 2026:** Psalm 121; Micah 7:18-20; Romans 3:21-31  
**Saturday, February 28, 2026:** Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:4-8; Luke 7:1-10

### Morning Prayer Zoom

Wednesdays at 9:00 AM  
<http://zoom.us/j/187911224>  
Meeting ID: 187 911 224  
Call in: 1-929-205-6099

### Bible Study Zoom

Thursdays at 9:30 AM  
<http://us02web.zoom.us/j/376540617>  
Meeting ID: 376 540 617  
Call in: 1-929-205-6099



2/3 Kynlee Lees  
2/3 Crystal Kunkle  
2/7 Jordan Knappenberger  
2/18 Carey Kunkle  
2/28 Brenda Lasky

2/3 Kay Gilbert  
2/4 Pastor Pagotto  
2/13 Regina Fisher  
2/20 Tristan Balliet

(If we missed your birthday for this month, it is possible we do not have it in our membership database. Please give us a call at the office (570-386-9960) so we can update our files.)

---

**Grief Support-** will meet on **Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM.**

**Book Club-** will meet **Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM** with book *"Here One Moment"* by Lianne Moriarty.

**Dinner & Discussion-** will be taking break for the Winter months. There will be no Dinner & Discussion in the months of December, January, and February. We will meet next on **Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 6:30 PM.** Please contact **Cheryl Kistler at 610-533-5723.**

**Fundraising Committee-** will be taking a break and will meet next on **Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM** (also stuffing raffle tickets).

**Community Cupboard- Dinkey Memorial** has a food cupboard available to those in need of supplemental food resources. It is **available to members of Dinkey Memorial and St. John's, and to residents of East Penn Township.** The distribution is the **third Thursday of every month from 3:30-5:00 PM** in Dinkey's Social Room, located below the sanctuary. If you or anyone you know would benefit from receiving food from the Community Cupboard, please speak with Pr. Tony.

---

**Message from the Fundraising Team:**

♦ We will be baking, icing, & packaging the Donut Day donuts on Mon. Feb 16<sup>th</sup> beginning around 9am. You will receive a One Call reminder. If you're able to help, this sale is our busiest. In the weeks leading up to our annual Spring Bazaar, we will be preparing food & freezing it. If you're interested in helping, we'll be announcing those dates soon.



Council Meetings are held the second Monday of every month unless otherwise noted.  
(Complete copies of the minutes may be obtained from the church office.)

**January Council Meeting – Items Discussed**

- Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> will be a joint service at Dinkey to celebrate Madison DeLuca's graduation from seminary. St John's will give a matched donation for a gift certificate to Madison.
  - The Lent/Easter schedule is being finalized between the Ben Salem, St Peter's, Zion Stone Pastors and Pastor Tony.
  - Upcoming dates: 4/12 joint service at Dinkey for their 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 5/16 Spring Cleaning, 5/24 Confirmation, 7/19 Smith Scholarship & Graduate recognition, 10/10 (Saturday) Blessing of the Animals, 10/11 Crop Walk.
  - The next scheduled meeting is: **Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 7:30 PM.**
- \*\*\*\*A reminder to everyone that council meetings are open to all members of St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.**

---

**\*\*Reminder of notification when canceling meetings and events\*\***

This is a gentle reminder that if you need to cancel a meeting or event at the church, any time of the year, please contact the church office, at 570-386-9960, during office hours (Mon, Wed, Fri 9-2) or text/call our Sexton, Sherry Stafiniak, at 610-349-8168, to advise of the cancellation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.



### **Prayers for our Congregation Members**

Family of Diane Berner

Lisa Moyer

Marlin Frey

Cliff Gledhill

Allane Kistler

Donna Horvath

Neil Gilbert

Betty Frey

Florence Duffy

Timothy Gerhard

Jeanette Jennings

Marilyn Frey

Connie Christman

Arthur Rudelitsch

Diane Gould

Brenda Lasky

Donna Tyson

Mike Andrews

Stacy Freeman

Liz Koch

Bart Cunfer

### **Prayers for Our Friends**

Family of Robert Hoffman

Richard Koch

Jen Nielsen

Chris Green

Nicole M. Rowles

Dan Myers

Mackenzie

Wesley King

Stewart Henritzky

Vince Rodgers

Randy Semmel

Lyman Gruber

Fern Miller

Kathy Steigerwalt

Barbara Kerschner

Karen Rudelitsch

Joanie Radler

Dolores Solt

Nichole Hydro

Shirley Long

### **Please also pray for**

Victims, families, and first responders in all emergent situations.

Doctors without Borders.

Those struggling with mental health.

Refugees all over the world.

The Homeless.

Global Refuge.

The People of Israel and Gaza.

The Children of Ukraine.

### **Prayers for Our Homebound and Long-Term Care Members**

Judith Ahner

Robert Berger

Joan Heintzelman

Kathryn Leibenguth

Betty Willet

Willard Ahner

Marie Boyer

Scott Heintzelman

Franklin Mertz

Elaine Windbeck

Rachel Bednar

Myrtle Creitz

Carol Houser

Dorothy Reinhart

Carolyn Zacharias

Ferne Berger

Mary Flyzik

Mary Ann Kollar

Ruth Troxell

### **Our Military Personnel at Home and Abroad**

Dalton Berger

Aaron Cetnar

AJ Light

Alexis Scott

Daniel Berger

Sean Fisher

Ryan McArdle

Jonathan Sheehan

Douglas Boyer

Austin Heilman

Dustin McCarroll

Dylan White

●If you wish to put yourself, a friend or loved one on the church prayer list, please call the church office at 570-386-9960 or email [stjohns@ptd.net](mailto:stjohns@ptd.net). The name is placed on the list for 30 days unless we receive a monthly update. Please feel free to let the office know if someone should be removed as well. Thank you!



Winter Weather is approaching!!! The church uses One Call phone automation to pass along important information. One of the purposes is to inform you if church is cancelled. Be sure you're on our One Call for alerts regarding church closings or event changes. We also list church snow closures on [wfmz.com](http://wfmz.com).

#### **REQUEST FROM CEMETERY COMMITTEE:**

We need help to relocate a Vietnam Military Marker. The marker was found on the grave of someone who was never in the military. If you know someone that is buried in our cemetery and served in the Vietnam War, would you please contact Robbie Hawk, Vice President of the Cemetery Committee, at 484-264-0426 with this information. We would like to get this Military Marker relocated to the correct grave site as soon as possible.

Thank you!

#### **St. John's Annual Congregational Meeting**

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, March 1, 2026**, following morning worship in the social hall. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the church committees' summary of last year and the upcoming plans for this year. Please join us for this meeting and share in the conversation.

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
826 Mahoning Drive West  
Lehigh, PA 18235  
570-386-9960





## Donut Sale



Wednesday, May 6

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Order by Sunday April 19

Call/Text/Email Anne Yenser at 570-390-9108/anneyens@ptd.net

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (1) Persian X \$2.50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (2) Iced Long Johns X \$5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (2) Coconut Long Johns X \$5.50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pick up

\_\_\_\_\_ Wed. 3:30-5 PM \_\_\_\_\_ Thurs. 9-10:00 AM

## St John's Candy Sale

Milk/Dark - Butter Cream, Peanut Rolled Butter Cream, Peanut Butter, Peanut Rolled Peanut Butter, Molasses Coconut, Coconut, Nonpareils \$7.50

Milk/White/Dark - Solid Pieces \$7.50

Milk/Dark - Pretzel Snaps \$6.50

Milk/Dark - 4 oz Peanut Butter Egg \$4.50

White/Milk - Bunny Lollipop \$2.50

Orders & Money due by: Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

Order forms found around church or call  
Anne Yenser 570-390-9108 or  
the church office 570-386-9960

## Trinity Food Pantry 2026

February  
March

Pork & Beans  
Tuna

# SPRING BAZAAR

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



826 Mahoning Drive W.  
Lehighton, PA 18235

Friday March 27  
5 - 7:30 PM

Saturday, March 28  
9 AM-2 PM

- Basket Raffle
- Easter Candy
- Bake Sale
- Potato Filling
- Variety of Food

We will donate  
10% of our profit to  
Mahoning Valley Fire Co  
& Ambulance Assoc.



FREE EGG HUNT • 11 AM • Up to Age 12

### From our friends at Dinkey Memorial

Fundraising: Dinkey is selling Streak free cloths; \$5 each. Please contact Jan in the office if interested (610)377-4242.

Giant Gift Cards: If you would like to purchase Giant gift cards please contact Kathy Steigerwalt at (540)250-6539. Cards are in \$100, \$50 and \$25 denominations. We receive 5% from each gift card sold.

Clothing Bin: Dinkey is sponsoring a clothing bin to collect clothing, stuffed animals, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, drapes & pillowcases. They ask that NO rags, pillows, fabric scraps, toys or household goods be put in the bin. The bin is located in the parking lot of Dinkey Memorial Church.

## Seeking Raffle Ticket Prizes!

The Fundraising Committee is  
looking for raffle prizes  
valued at \$50 or more!

Questions?  
Contact Anne Yenser  
570-390-9108

*Thank you for  
your generosity!*







To All – Have a nice holiday. God Bless you all.

Thank you for the visit. I think of you always,  
and wish you all well!

–Love, Judy & Willard Ahner

Thank you for the gift from the  
church members. It means so much  
to me at Christmas.

Myrtle Creitz

Christmas Greetings! We hope this season of  
joy, hope, love & faith brightens your holiday  
season! We bring you glad tidings of both  
comfort & joy! Merry Christmas & a Joyous  
New Year of 2026!

From: Kirsten & Sierra

Here are some photos of our beautifully decorated sanctuary for Christmas Eve Service.



On Sunday, January 18, 2026, St John's and Dinkey Memorial held a joint service (at Dinkey Memorial) to celebrate Madison DeLuca's graduation from Seminary. Congratulations Madison! We are very proud of your accomplishments!





**2026**  
*Class of*

# SOUP SALE

SOUPS, STEWS, DIPS  
& BAKED GOODS

**SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY 7**  
**CARBON PLAZA MALL**  
**8am-NOON**

**LAHS SENIOR CLASS  
ALL NIGHT PARTY**



# LAHS Class of '26 Basket Raffle

**Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

 **Doors open: 10:00 AM**  
**Drawing: 4:00 PM**

Over 100 baskets and gift cards, big ticket items featuring chances to win Phillies tickets, Penn State tickets, basket of cheer, lucky loot and more!

Concessions will be available as well as homemade soup and baked good sales!

**Lehigh Rec Center**  
**243 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Lehigh**  
**PA 18235**

**All proceeds benefit LAHS Class of '26 All Night Party**



## 2026 Lent and Easter Schedule

**Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026**

2:00PM at Dinkey Memorial Lutheran Church  
1742 Dinkey Road, Lehigh, PA 18235  
7:00PM at St. Peter's Church  
184 St. Peter's Road, Tamaqua, PA 18252



**Midweek Lenten Worship** at 7:00PM on the following dates:

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at  
St. John's Lutheran Church, 826 Mahoning Drive West, Lehigh  
Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at  
Ben Salem UCC, 1965 Church Hill Road, Lehigh, PA 18235  
Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at  
Zion Stone Church, 45 Cemetery Road, New Ringgold, PA 17960  
Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at  
St. Peter's Church, 184 St. Peter's Road, Tamaqua, PA 18252  
Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at  
Dinkey Memorial Lutheran Church, 1825 Dinkey Road, Lehigh

**Spring Bazaar** at St. John's LC, Mahoning

Friday, March 27, 2026, 5:00 – 7:30PM  
Saturday, March 28, 2026, 9:00AM – 2:00PM  
Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday at 11:00AM

**Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2026**

7:00PM at Ben Salem UCC

**Good Friday, April 3, 2026**

7:00PM at St. John's, Mahoning



**Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026**

6:30AM Sunrise worship in Dinkey Memorial Cemetery  
7:00AM Breakfast at Dinkey Memorial LC  
9:00AM Worship at Dinkey Memorial LC  
10:15AM Easter Egg Hunt in Dinkey Memorial Cemetery  
11:00AM Worship at St. John's LC, Mahoning



**14<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
**All you can Eat**  
**Spaghetti Dinner!**

Hosted by: The Sword Tag Society

**WHERE:** Lehigh Recreation Center  
**WHEN:** Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 8pm  
**COST:** \$12.00 for Adults  
\$6.00 for Children under 12  
*Includes Spaghetti with plain or meat sauce, dinner rolls, salad, and drinks.*

**Takeout Available**

*We will also be having a...*  
**Basket Raffle & Bake Sale**

Raffle Drawing to begin at 7:30pm.  
Proceeds to benefit the restoration of the  
Normal Square Chapel.  
[www.swordtag.com](http://www.swordtag.com)



**Pork and Sauerkraut**  
**Take Out Dinner**  
**February 7, 2026**  
**4pm-6:30pm**  
**Jacob's UCC**  
**138 Franklin St. Weissport**  
**\$13.00 per dinner**

**includes Pork meatballs, hot dog,  
mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, corn,  
bread and choice of homemade  
dessert**

**Limited eat in space available**

**Crafts and Rada products for sale**



Sunday	Monday Office 9-2	Tuesday	Wednesday Office 9-2	Thursday	Friday Office 9-2	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>4 Epiphany</b> <b>11 AM</b> Fellowship Hall with Holy Communion <b>12:30 PM</b> Confirmation Class (SJ)	<b>2</b> <b>Presentation of Our Lord</b>  <b>6 PM</b> Grief Support	<b>3</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Rescheduled Book Club from Jan. 27	<b>4</b> <b>9 AM</b> Prayer with Pastor	<b>5</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Bible Study with Pastor	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>5 Epiphany</b> <b>11 AM</b> Sanctuary Service	<b>9</b> <b>10 AM</b> Pastor at Palmer House	<b>10</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Council Meeting	<b>11</b> <b>9 AM</b> Prayer with Pastor	<b>12</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Bible Study with Pastor	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <i>Valentine's Day</i>
<b>15</b> <b>Transfiguration of Our Lord</b> <b>11 AM</b> Fellowship Hall with Holy Communion 	<b>16</b> <b>President's Day</b> <b>3:30-5 PM</b> Donut Pick up <b>6 PM</b> Grief Support	<b>17</b> <b>Donut Day</b> <b>9-10 AM</b> Donut Pickup 	<b>18</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>9 AM</b> Prayer with Pastor <b>Ash Wednesday Services:</b> <b>2 PM</b> – Dinkley Memorial <b>7 PM</b> – St Peter's West Penn	<b>19</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Bible Study with Pastor <b>3:30-5 PM</b> Dinkley Comm. Cupboard	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>1 Lent</b> <b>11 AM</b> Sanctuary Service with Holy Communion <b>12:30 PM</b> Confirmation Class to Campton Funeral Home <b>2:30 PM</b> Hall/Kitchen Rented Hosting Mission Meeting for President Council. Joint host with Dinkley. (Julia S. & Rich D.)	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>6 PM</b> Ladies Aid (D) <b>6:30 PM</b> Fundraising Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Book Club	<b>25</b> <b>9 AM</b> Prayer with Pastor	<b>26</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Bible Study with Pastor	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

# February