



# AUGUST NEWSLETTER 2025



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

826 Mahoning Drive West; Leighton 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

### 2025 Church Council

**Reverend** Anthony Pagotto

Julia Schock, **President**

Allison Everett, **Vice President**

Keith Drummond

Geoff Ebbert

Donald Freeman

Ronald Fried

Kimberly Gerhard

Cheryl Kistler

Tia Tyson

### Worship Schedule for AUGUST 2025 at St. John's

**August 3 – 10:45 AM** - Fellowship Hall Worship

**August 10 – 10:45 AM** – Fellowship Hall Worship *with Holy Communion*

**August 17 – 10:45 AM** – Fellowship Hall Worship

**August 24 – 10:00 AM** – Joint Worship Service *with Holy Communion* 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

**\*\*Blessing of the Backpacks (during worship) • Annual Community Picnic 12 – 3 PM**

**August 31 – 10:45 AM** – Fellowship Hall Worship

#### 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



## Confidence

I've been working my way toward attaining my CDL license for the past few months to be able to drive the cross country and track teams to their meets. There aren't enough bus drivers, so I figured if I'm already going to be there why not drive the bus? I sat through two Saturday classes, spent several hours driving, and finally took my test this past week.

There were three parts to the test. The first part was the pre-trip inspection, second was the skills portion, and the last part was the road test. I was most worried about the pre-trip inspection and using the proper wording for each part of the inspection, such as "All the lenses and reflectors are properly installed and are not cracked broken or missing." Before starting I even told my evaluator that my hands were sweating. But, lo and behold, I passed that portion of the test. I exhaled a big sigh of relief as we prepared for the skills portion of the test.

I sat behind the wheel and guided the bus forward and backward through the cones - my confidence was growing. As we started the final portion of the test, the road test, I felt my body relax and the tension release from my shoulders. I knew I was going to pass.

I completed the student drop-off, and as we approached the railroad crossing I explained everything I needed to do to safely cross the tracks. I executed it flawlessly, or so I thought. As soon as we crossed the tracks my evaluator told me, "I'm sorry but you'll need to come back." I was in shock. "Really?" I asked her. In all my confidence, I made the simple mistake of pulling up too close to the railroad crossing. The front of the school bus was over the white line, an automatic failure. I couldn't believe I had made such a dumb mistake.

That experience made me think of other times in my life when my confidence, or overconfidence, caused me to stumble because I thought I could handle whatever was in front of me. The times in my life when I was least confident and most nervous were the times I turned to God for help and performed the best. I think it's because I wasn't making it about me and I was looking for help beyond myself from the one who created me.

I went back two days later and retook the driving portion of my test. I was more alert of my surroundings, much more humble, and conscious of my need for God's presence. I passed and now have my CDL. And you can be sure I'll stop behind that white line from now on!

Your servant in Christ,

Pr. Tony

*Do not be afraid of sudden panic, or of the storm that strikes the wicked; for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught. (Proverbs 3:25-26)*

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|                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 8/1 John Haupt        | 8/2 Alex Hawk         | 8/7 Jim Yaro          |
| 8/7 Robert Stewart II | 8/8 Matthew Fisher    | 8/9 Michael Neeb      |
| 8/9 Katherine Yaro    | 8/12 Joan Heintzelman | 8/12 Sherry Stafiniak |
| 8/13 Mary Ann Haupt   | 8/14 Elaine Windbeck  | 8/15 Rachel Bednar    |
| 8/15 Gloria Heilman   | 8/20 Sky Kindrew      | 8/23 Paul Kistler     |
| 8/24 Cory Kunkle      | 8/29 Harvine Tyson    |                       |

(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, August 4<sup>th</sup> & August 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM.**

**Book Club-** will meet **Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM** with book *"Magic Hour"* by Kristin Hannah.

**Dinner & Discussion-** will meet on **Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm.** Please contact **Cheryl Kistler at 610-533-5723.**

**Fundraising Committee –** will meet on **Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.**

**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.

#### **Messages from the Fundraising Team:**

- The Fundraising Committee is looking for cash/gift cards for the raffle ticket for the Fall Bazaar. Minimum value \$50. Please contact Anne Yenser @ 570-390-9108.
- The donut sales have resumed. Donut orders are due August 17<sup>th</sup> with a pickup date of September 14<sup>th</sup>.



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.)

#### **July Council Meeting – Items Discussed**

- Blessing of the Backpacks will be on the same Sunday as the 175<sup>th</sup> Joint Worship (Aug 24<sup>th</sup>).
  - Graduate recognition & Smith Scholarship recipients that will be honored on July 20<sup>th</sup> are graduate Logan Yaro, Smith Scholarship recipients Ariel Derr, Nicolas Yaro, & Alyssa Zehner.
  - Fermenting Our Faith will be held on August 13<sup>th</sup> & September 10<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 at Circa 1898.
  - The next scheduled meeting is **Monday, August 11, 2025 at 6:30PM.**
- \*\*\*\*A reminder to everyone that council meetings are open to all members of St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.**

O sing to the Lord  
a new song, for he has  
done marvelous things.

**Music Ministry**

Psalm 98:1

Our Music Ministry includes a choir, a praise band and instrumentalists. If you love to sing, join our St. John Singers and/or the St J Praise Band. If you love to play an Instrument, you are welcome to join our music ministry. Please see our music director, Colleen, any Sunday after worship.

MAHONING TWSP. LIONS  
ICE CREAM SOCIALS AT Lions Grove  
CHAPEL FIELD

JUNE 11 4PM  
JULY 9 4PM  
AUGUST 13 4PM

COMPLETE HAM DINNER AT MAHONING AMBULANCE  
SEPTEMBER 16 4PM

### Prayers for our Congregation Members

Family of Robert Stewart

Arthur Rudelitsch

Diane Gould

Donna Horvath

Bart Cunfer

Stacy Freeman

Allane Kistler

Emma Weaver

Myron Everett

Donna Tyson

Timothy Gerhard

Jeanette Jennings

Diane Berner

Florence Duffy

Brenda Lasky

Mike Andrews

Franklin Mertz

Jacob Merluzzi

Liz Koch

Marilyn Frey

### Prayers for Our Friends

The Family of Rick Long

Marion "Mem" Roberts

Stewart Henritzky

Frank Fisher

Jillian Hessinger

Gloria Knerr

Steve Stine

LJ Dailey

Jesse Rudelitsch

Jim Hourican

Warren Knerr

Bridgette Gorman

Deborah Ahner

Ernest Christman

Chris Green

Nicole Mazenko Rowles

Cliff Gledhill

Brenton Gruber

Shirley Long

Dan Myers

Tina Mertz

Kathy Steigerwal

Nichole Hydro

Vince Rodgers

Dr. Mike Nelson

Sarah Swartz

Barbara Kerschner

### Please also pray for

Those affected by the flooding in Texas.

Doctors without Borders.

Those struggling with mental health.

Refugees all over the world.

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

Austin Heilman

Jonathan Sheehan

Daniel Berger

AJ Light

Dylan White

Douglas Boyer

Ryan McArdle

Aaron Cetnar

Dustin McCarroll

Sean Fisher

Alexis Scott

•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!



**Fall Bazaar Basket Raffle donations** can be left in the left side of the Nursery.

**Picnic Bingo donations** can be left in the right side of the Nursery.

There are signs on the tables to help keep them separate. When in doubt, drop off in the church office during office hours. Thank you!

**Trinity Food Pantry**  
**Food of the Month Spotlight**  
**August: Macaroni & Cheese**

Dinkey Memorial is selling R&K Subs and Pretzel Sandwiches. The order forms are in the foyer by Fellowship Hall. Orders are due on Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> and Pick up is Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> between 1:30-7 PM at Dinkey Memorial Church.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
826 Mahoning Drive W., Lehighton, PA 18235

 **Bake Sale**  **Homemade Food**  **Basket Raffle**

 **Fall Decorations**  **Candy**  **Plants**

 **Raffle Tickets**  **Pans of Filling**

**FALL BAZAAR**

**Fri. Oct. 3 5 - 7:30 PM**  
**Sat. Oct. 4 9 AM - 2 PM**



10% of profits will go to Lehighton Cold Weather Station

THANK YOU

*The Green Family wishes to extend our heartfelt appreciation for your prayers, kindness, and sympathy during our time of need. The Lap robe is so beautiful and touching during this difficult time.*

*- Love, Chris & Kera Green & family*

*Thank you for being so thoughtful.  
Thank you very much. I have my surgery on Wednesday and the fit will be with me.*

*- Kenny Schleicher & family*



## 2025 GRADUATE



### Logan Yaro – LAHS GRADUATE

Logan graduated from Lehigh Area High School. He is currently enrolled in Lehigh Carbon Community College where he did a dual enrollment while he was attending Lehigh Area High School. He will be working towards his visual media degree after taking the fall semester off. Congratulations Logan!

## 2025 SMITH SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**PennState**  
World Campus

### Ariel Derr – Penn State University World Campus

Ariel plans to acquire a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology, and later in life, a medical degree. She will be learning online and is also enrolled in the honors program. She had attended Commonwealth Charter Academy for the past 6 years.



### Nicolas Yaro – Lehigh Carbon Community College

Nicolas will start attending Lehigh Carbon Community College in the fall. He is enrolled in their inaugural year for Cybersecurity. He is looking forward to starting this brand-new program at the college.

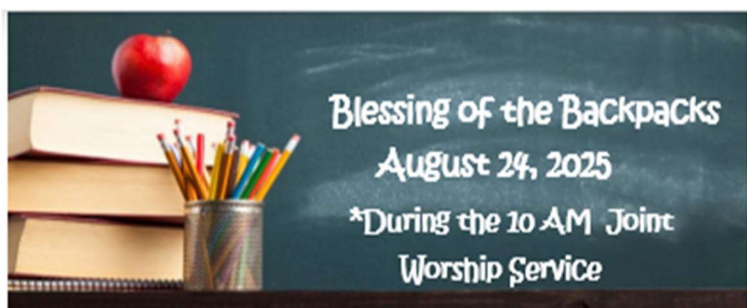


**PennState**  
Ross and Carol Nese  
College of Nursing

### Alyssa Zehner – Penn State University

Alyssa is currently a full-time student at the Penn State University, Schuylkill Campus. She has consistently demonstrated her commitment to academic excellence, achieving the Dean's List.

At the conclusion of the Spring 2024 semester, she has officially accepted her offer into the Ross and Carol Nese College School of Nursing. Spring semester of 2025 she began clinicals at Orwigsburg Nursing Home & Rehabilitation Center where she learned patient care and helped with their Activity of Daily living. These achievements reflect her dedication to her studies and her determination to excel in her chosen field.



### 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee

The next date is for set up on  
Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00AM.

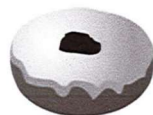


### From our friends at Dinkey Memorial

**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.



## Donut Sale



Thursday, Sept. 4

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Order by Sunday Aug. 17

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ (1) Persian X \$2.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2) Iced Long Johns X \$4.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2) Coconut Long Johns X \$4.50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pick up

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



## U.S. FLOODING LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

ELCA.org/flooding

In the face of disaster, the ELCA, through Lutheran Disaster Response, shares relief today and builds resilience for tomorrow.

Flooding is one of the most common natural disasters in the United States. Across the country, we support communities as they recover from devastating floodwaters. LDR works with synods and partners to respond to urgent needs, give emotional and spiritual care, support long-term recovery (including disaster case management and meeting unmet needs), and provide educational training for synods and partners in affected regions.

Lutheran Disaster Response works through strong partnerships with ELCA synods, congregations and other organizations. We recognize that every disaster is local and responses need to be rooted in community. Our partners know their communities the best and can address local needs.

Your gifts to LDR support our church's work to share healing and renewal with people who lives have been disrupted by disaster. Together we can reflect Christ's light and hope to our neighbors in their time of need. Give today to support survivors in the United States and around the world, wherever and whenever a disaster may strike.

### YES, I WANT TO HELP!

☐ Lutheran Disaster Response \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DDG0060  
☐ U.S. Flooding \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DDG0069

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP code \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Scan to  
give online



Give through your congregation, by phone (800-638-3522) or by mail. Checks or money orders can be mailed to Lutheran Disaster Response, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.

BI-LDRFLOOD25



### Invitation to All Pennsylvania First Responders and Military Veterans to Obtain

### FREE ESTATE PACKAGES



In partnership with the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the Carbon County Bar Association, we are proud to bring the **Wills for Heroes** program to you. **Wills for Heroes** is a **free** and easy service that provides Wills, Living Wills, Health Care and Financial Powers of Attorney to first responders and military veterans and their spouses/partners.

On **September 20, 2025**, volunteer lawyers will be conducting a **Wills for Heroes** Program for all active and retired **Pennsylvania First Responders of Carbon County and surrounding companies**, all sworn personnel and their spouses/significant others as well as Pennsylvania military veterans (please note that proof of affiliation will be requested at the event – DD214 for military). The event will be held at the **American Legion Post 314, 381 Bridge St. Lehigh, PA beginning at 11am**. Appointments for each person last approximately 1 hour and at the conclusion of it you will have notarized legal documents – a Will, Living Will, and Health Care and Financial Powers of Attorney (or any combination thereof). If you select that you are coming with a spouse/significant other you will have back to back appointments, and the computer will automatically schedule a second appointment. You do **not** need to schedule a separate appointment. Please schedule your appointment early as this event is sure to fill up fast. **Must be a PA resident for participate in this program.**

Appointments must be scheduled online at: [www.pabar.org/wfh/](http://www.pabar.org/wfh/)

The password is: Carbon

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Matthew Mottola at [mmottola@pabar.org](mailto:mmottola@pabar.org). For more information on the program visit our website at <https://www.pabar.org/site/For-Public/Wills-for-Heroes>

**\*\* If your estate exceeds approximately \$1,000,000, this service is unavailable to you due to the complexity of your estate and the limited time to complete the legal documents. For determining if your estate is over \$1,000,000, include your cash, personal property, stock and bonds, real estate equity, savings, cash value of a whole/universal life insurance policy only (not the amount of the insurance policy).**

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARE AVAILABLE ON THE EVENT DAY FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT. INDIVIDUALS ARE VOLUNTEERING THEIR TIME FOR THIS PROGRAM. PLEASE NOTIFY THE COORDINATOR IF YOU NEED TO CANCEL.

**NO-SHOWS ARE STRONGLY DISCOURAGED!**





## 2025 ANNUAL COMMUNITY PICNIC

ST JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF  
MAHONING

826 MAHONING DRIVE WEST • LEHIGHTON, PA 18235  
570-386-9960

There will be a 10 AM  
Sanctuary Joint Worship Service  
before the picnic

**AUGUST 24, 2025**  
**12 - 3 PM**

- Food and Beverages from 12-3
- Entertainment provided by Jammin' for Jesus mini band
- Bingo with prizes
- Gift Certificate Raffle to benefit:  
Perfect Balance Boutique's Heart Wings



A 501C3 helping Cancer patients with wigs and Mastectomy patients with breast forms and bras. St. John's member Kimberly Gerhard, MS, CMF, is owner of Perfect Balance Boutique. Located at 170 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Lehighton. 610-379-4577  
[www.perfectbalanceboutique.com](http://www.perfectbalanceboutique.com)

## Second Annual Car & Motorcycle Show



at  
**Dinkey Memorial Church**

in Ashfield, PA

**October 4th, 2025**

(Rain Date October 11th)

**9:00am - 3:00pm**

Trophies  
Raffles



50/50 Drawings  
Food

Dash plaques for first 50 vehicles. Donations Accepted.

### St. John's Community Picnic Donations needed

Our community picnic will be Sunday, August 24, 2025, after our 10 AM Sanctuary Joint Worship Service, from 12 noon to 3PM. **We are asking** congregation members to donate their favorite dessert to share with everyone.

\*In addition, we will be playing Bingo and are **asking for donations** for the Bingo prizes. You can place your Bingo prize donations on the tables in the Sunday School Nursery room or drop off at the office during office hours.

\*We are also going to have our Gift Card Raffle during the picnic. **We are looking for gift card donations.** The gift card should have a value of \$25. Cards can be dropped off with Anne S. in the office during office hours or given to Geoff Ebbert. The price of tickets on the day of the picnic will be \$1 for 3 chances.

\*All money collected from the Gift Card Raffle will be donated to Heart Wings at the Perfect Balance Boutique.

A message from Kimberly Gerhard, owner and member at St. John's Church: From the time I opened Perfect Balance Boutique I knew I wanted to have a 501C3 to help Cancer patients with wigs and help Mastectomy patients with breast forms and bras. In 2022, my staff and I finally started to create the 501C3, now known as Heart Wings. We have been doing small fundraisers to help build up enough funds to apply for the nonprofit certificate. October 2024 the dream of having a 501C3 finally came to a reality when we were granted the nonprofit certificate. Heart Wings is still in its early stages but the exciting thing is that we can start accepting donations and helping clients meet some of their needs. Many people have donated slightly used items such as wigs, breast forms, bras and money. To be fair, the staff at Perfect Balance Boutique cannot make the choice of who gets help and who don't, the board members handle it because if it were up to me I would help everyone. My dream is to have Heart Wings a known nonprofit so we can help women all over the United States not just here in Pennsylvania.

Kimberly Gerhard, MS, CMF, Owner

Perfect Balance Boutique

610-379-4577

170 South Third Street - Lehighton, PA 18235

<http://www.perfectbalanceboutique.com>

## FERMENTING OUR FAITH

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13TH &  
SEPTEMBER 10TH**

**CIRCA 1898**

**7:00 - 9:00PM**

570-386-9960

[prdinklc@ptd.net](mailto:prdinklc@ptd.net)

All are welcome to gather and explore our faith together in a relaxed format where we can share our questions, ponderings, and even doubts. Contact Pr. Tony if you have any questions.



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

Harvest Home Mum Sale

\$8.50 per mum – Available in Yellow, White, Burgundy, Purple, and Orange

We are taking orders for Harvest Home Plants to be displayed during the worship service on Sunday, September 21, 2025. Orders can be turned into Robbie or Lori Hawk or dropped off at the Church Office in the mail slot. Plants must be prepaid with the order. Please make checks payable to: St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mahoning. Plants may be removed after the Worship Service. Order deadline will be Sunday, September 7, 2025. Thank you!

| White<br>Mum | Yellow<br>Mum | Burgundy<br>Mum | Purple<br>Mum | Orange<br>Mum | In Memory<br>of | In<br>Honor<br>of | To The<br>Glory<br>of God | List the name or names that your<br>plant is in Honor of or in<br>Memory of: | Sponsored By: |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|--|---------------|
|              |               |                 |               |               |                 |                   |                           |  |               |
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|              |               |                 |               |               |                 |                   |                           |  |               |

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

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Plants Ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Money Collected: \_\_\_\_\_

# Basket Raffle

& Baked Goods Sale

Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup> - 4pm - 7pm  
Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> - 9am - 2pm



Dinkey Memorial Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
1742 Dinkey Road, Ashfield, PA

- A sheet of 25 raffle tickets will be \$5.00 or purchase 5 sheets for \$20.00
- You need not be present to win, ALL winners will be notified
- We will also have the kitchen open for food sales
- Proceeds to benefit church repairs
- 10% of proceeds to be donated to the East Penn Township Fire Company

Here are some pictures from VBS held at Dinkey Memorial from June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>.

