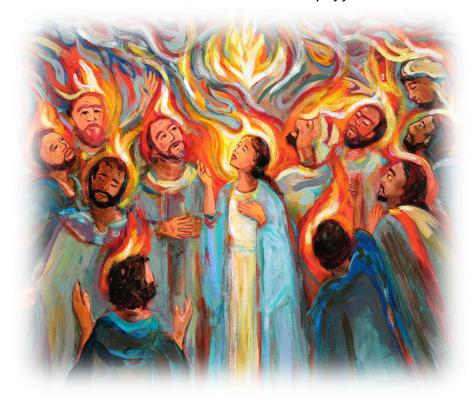
MAY NEWSLETTER 2024

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
Website: www.stjohnsmahoning.org and Facebook at StJohnsMahoning
"A Family of friends alive with God's love!"



¹When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. - (Acts 2:1-4)

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

2024 Church Council

Reverend Anthony Pagotto

Julia Schock, President

Allison Everett, Vice President

Keith Drummond Geoff Ebbert Drew Yenser

Kimberly Gerhard Cheryl Kistler Donald Freeman

Worship Schedule for May 2024 at St. John's

May 5 - 10:45 AM Fellowship Hall Service w/ Holy Communion

12:30 PM Confirmation Class

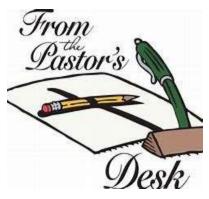
May 12 - 9:45 AM Sunday School

10:45 AM Sanctuary Worship Service - Mother's Day

May 19 – 10:45 AM Sanctuary Service w/ Holy Communion - Day of Pentecost - Confirmation Day

May 26 – 9:00 AM Memorial Day Service Outside (weather permitting)

10:45 AM Fellowship Hall Service w/ Holy Communion



The Need for Faith & Community

The past seven weeks have been difficult. When we first took Claudia to the doctor on March 11, we never imagined we would still be dealing with her illness all this time later. A summary of her condition is that she contracted parvovirus. Many of you may recognize it as a virus that infects dogs and is fatal in puppies. There is a human strand as well. Normally the symptoms are mild to nonexistent, but for some reason Claudia's symptoms have been extreme. She suffers from headaches, joint pain, muscle ache, and fatigue. As I

write this in our living room she is sleeping in her bedroom, wiped out from a week of school. We've had conversations with multiple doctors in different health networks and everyone tells us the same thing – it's viral and needs to run its course.

As her parents, the hardest thing for Erica and I have been the feeling of helplessness. We want to do all we can for our daughter, but all we can do is be there to love and support her as her body fights this virus. There is nothing we can do to cure her. This virus is bigger than us. That's why we need to put our faith in a God bigger than the virus.

Throughout this journey we feel God has been there with us. Doctors, nurses, and medical personnel have been using the resources God has given them to care for Claudia. Our family and friends have offered their support. Teachers and school administrators have worked with us to help her continue in school. And, of course, our church family has been there this entire time as well. The prayers, love, and support people have shared with us have meant a great deal. We could not do this without all of you.

God is not some far off God but is right here with us through all this as well. You and all these people just mentioned are the tangible presence of the one who created us. God is with us through this community of faith and support to provide for us as we face this challenge which is much bigger than any one of us. And together this community is bigger than any virus.

On behalf of my entire family, I would like to thank you. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers. Thank you for the check-ins. Thank you for the calls. Thank you for the cards. Thank you for being a part of this community of faith and allowing yourself to be a tangible presence of God's grace to us and all those in of love and support.

Yours in Christ,

Pr. Tony

Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:23

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



05/01 Ryanne Stroup 5/06 Neil Gilbert 5/09 Ethan Neeb 5/24 Gunnar Althouse 5/28 Nevaeh Snyder 5/02 Carolyn Zacharias 5/07 Ann Everett 5/13 Myron Everett 5/25 Eleanor Andrews 5/28 Logan Wentz

5/05 Jaden DeBlasio 5/09 Stacy Freeman 5/14 Madeleine Merluzzi 5/27 Janice Hoffman 5/29 Ryan Scheckler

(If we missed your birthday for this month, it's possible we don't 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 Monday, May 6th & 20th at 6 PM.

Book Club- will meet Tuesday, May 28th at 6:30 PM with book "Wish Me Home" by Kay Bratt.

<u>Dinner & Discussion-</u> will meet Thursday, May 16th at 6:30. Questions? Please contact Cheryl Kistler at 610-533-5723.

Fundraising Committee- will meet Wednesday, May 8th at 6:30 PM.

<u>Community Cupboard</u>: 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:

- •Orders for our final donut sale before summer break (June 5th) are due on Sunday, May 19th. They freeze well. Stock up for summer!
- •There is filling for sale. \$7.50 a container. Please see a member of the fundraising committee to purchase.
- •If your yard sign didn't blow away, kindly return it to church. We'll get the dates updated for our **Fall Bazaar**, which will be on **Oct 4**th & **5**th.



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.)

April Council Meeting - Items Discussed

- •Confirmation students from St. John's were in attendance for part of the meeting.
- •Starting May 26th to Sept 8th we will be downstairs for all our services.
- •July 14th will be an outside service.
- •Mother's Day Breakfast: The men are going to cook, and we will be going upstairs for our service. Breakfast will begin at 8:30 am and will end at 10:00.
- •Next meeting is May 13th.

The Fundraising Committee would like to announce that they have filling available for \$7.50. Get a container before it is all gone!!

Prayers for our Congregation Members

Brenda Lasky Claudia Pagotto Keith Drummond

Colleen Rudelitsch Liz Koch Jim Yaro

Robert Berger Ferne Berger Donna Horvath
Florence Duffy Bart Cunfer Jeanette Jennings

Marilyn Frey Doreen Roth Lana Balliet

Ruth Troxell Emma Weaver

Prayers for Our Friends

Dr. Mike Nelson Tina Mertz Dan Myers Frank Fisher **Brenton Gruber** Warren Knerr Helen Christman Elaine Koons Jillian Hessinger Eileen Meiser Makayla Scott Gloria Knerr Deborah Ahner Henry Long Steve Stine Rev. Robert Reier Shirley Long Sarah Swartz

Please also pray for

The People of Israel and Gaza

The People of Sudan and those fleeing

The Children of Ukraine

Families of Victims of Mass Shootings

Prayers for Our Homebound and Long-Term Care Members

Judith AhnerWillard AhnerRachel BednarMarie BoyerLois FisherMary FlyzikCharles FreyDoris Fronheiser

Scott Heintzelman Carol Houser Mary Ann Kollar Kathryn Leibenguth Frank Mertz Dorothy Reinhart Terry Terray Elaine Windbeck Carolyn Zacharias

Our Military Personnel at Home and Abroad

Daniel Berger Dalton Berger Sean Fisher
Jonathan Sheehan Douglas Boyer Dylan White

Aaron Cetnar Austin Heilman

•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 <u>stjohns@ptd.net.</u>). 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!

Spring Time Clothing Drive

We will be holding a Spring Time clothing drive for the months of April and May.

There will be a large box in the Narthex for items.

Items should be specific for the Spring and Summer months.

Donations will be given to the area homeless and in need.

ATTENTION GRADUATES

If you graduated in December 2023 or will be graduating May-August 2024, we would like to know! Please contact Anne S. in the church office by emailing stjohns@ptd.net. Include your name, address, name of high school, trade school, college, etc., where you will/have completed your diploma or degree, the type of degree and the plans that you have for the future.



PLEASE CONSIDER SPONSORING THE WEEKLY
BULLETIN. WE NEED A SPONSOR EVERY WEEK. IT'S
ONLY \$8.00.

WE ALSO HAVE ALTAR FLOWERS (\$30) AND

MEMORIAL/HONOR BOWLS (\$25) AVAILABLE. FORMS

ARE ALL OVER THE CHURCH AND DUE IN THE OFFICE

BY MONDAY OF THE WEEK YOU WOULD LIKE TO

SPONSOR. THANK YOU!









Your donations and monetary giving to the Carbon Co. Animal Shelter and Carbon Co. Friends of Animals at our Rummage Sale were greatly appreciated. Cash donations totaled close to \$600. Our furry friends Thank You and Love You!!!

Another Successful Rummage Sale!

A Big Thank You to everyone who helped to make our 2024 Rummage sale a big success. Thank you for all your donations, for helping set up and price and for working the days of our sale and packing up the few items that did not sell and were donated to a Good Will store in Allentown. Our total for this year was \$1860.05! The tentative date for the 2025 Rummage Sale is March 28 and 29, 2025. We will start taking donations now for next year's sale. Please place your donations in

Please place your donations in the back half of the Nursery room. If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Kistler @610-533-5723.



"Daniel" bus trip to Sight and Sound in Lancaster. Thank you, Deb Sheckler, for organizing this bus trip for the Dinkey Memorial and St John's Churches. Everyone looked like they enjoyed themselves!



ST. PETER'S DINNER THEATRE PRESENTS

The Real Housewives of Cricket County



Welcome to Cricket County – the land that cool forgot. With characters! named Bodean and Chigger, what's not to love? The gals think being a housewife is the highest callin' there is. They're happy with their cookin', gardenin', cleanin!

lifestyle, with neighbor-spyin' and coon-huntin' on the side – until "richer'n clabbered cream" Monica Northcutt crashes their quilting bee with her women's rights spiel. Discontent brews faster'n a jar of sun tea, and suddenly cookin' frog legs don't look so appealing. Though the gals say if you offered their husbands a penny for their thoughts, you'd get back change, the good ol' boys have the last word as they show their wives the true meaning of beauty: contentment!

SHOW TIMES: (includes dinner & show)

Friday, May 3, at 6:00 p.m.
Friday (Meatloaf)
Sunday, May 5 at 1:00 p.m.
Sunday (Chicken)

Tickets: \$20.00 adults \$15.00 children 5-10

Ticket deadline April 14, 2024

For Tickets call the Church Office at 570-386-4388

The church is located on St. Peter's Road just off of route 443.

Proceeds benefit the Organ Fund







Special Mother's Day Breakfast on May 12th from 8:30-10 AM. Sunday School is at 9:45 AM and Worship Services will be in the Sanctuary at 10:45 AM.



Please join us on May 4th for Church Spring Cleaning. We will begin at 9AM and lunch will be provided. Stop by and lend a hand!



We'd "bee" happy if you could join us for a

MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church 175 S. Third Street – Lehighton **Saturday, May 11, 2024** 11:00am-1:00pm in Luther Hall <u>This is a free event.</u>

All mothers and daughters are welcome!

Reservation deadline is **Friday, May 3rd**. Call the church office at 610-377-4303 or email telc1872@ptd.net

Smith Scholarship

We are now accepting applications for the Smith Scholarship Fund. St. John's has been blessed with donations that we can use to assist our members who will be attending college/trade schools. To apply, please write a one-page letter telling us where you plan to attend school, what type of degree you are working towards and how you will use the scholarship money. This is not a one-time scholarship. If you have received scholarship money in the past, you may apply again. A deadline in June will be announced, but you may start sending your information in now. Please address your letter to: St. John's Lutheran Church of Mahoning; Attention Julia Schock, Council President; 826 Mahoning Drive West; Lehighton, PA 18235.



Members of St John's,

Thank you for all the expressions of sympathy in the passing of my father, Charles Urban. A special thank you to Pastor Tony, and all those who attended and participated in his service and assisted with the luncheon. The cards, gift, visits, and expressions of support he received during his illness from this church family always lifted his spirits.

Thank you for the support and kindness shown to my family, especially my father, over the years. He was truly blessed to be part of such a wonderful congregation.

Melissa, Troy and TJ Hartman

St. John's Family,

Easter is a time of renewal and rebirth, as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of eternal life. May His victory over death inspire you to live boldly, love deeply, and serve faithfully. Rejoice in His triumph and have a blessed Easter, to the church family of St. John's Mahoning!

With Easter Blessings, Kirsten & Sierra Thank you to all who volunteered their time and provided assistance with our father's funeral service and luncheon. Thanks to all of you, lunch was hot and ready to serve along with the many desserts.

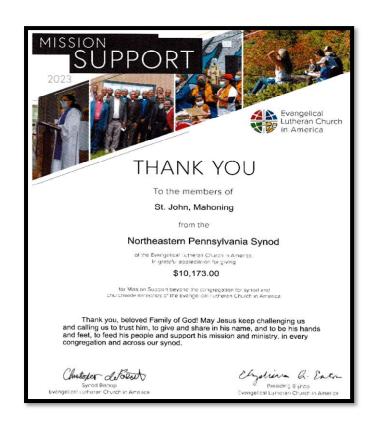
I know many of you provided baked goods – thank you!!! It is greatly appreciated!!

Words cannot express how grateful we are for all your kindness and time given that day to help us.

St. John's congregation always made us feel welcome and like we were part of your family.

Sincerely,

Kristin Butz and family





29 30 9 AM Prayer w/ Pastor 9:30 AM Bible Study w/ Pastor w/ Pastor
22 23 9 AM Prayer w/ Pastor 9:30 AM Bible Study w/ Pastor w/ Pastor
6:30 PM Dinner & Discussion
9 AM Prayer w/ Pastor 9:30 AM Bible Study w/ Pastor
16
6:30 PM Fundraising Meeting
1 9 AM Prayer w/ Pastor 9:30 AM Bible Study w/ Pastor 9-10 AM Donut Pickup
Wednesday Thursday