

MAY NEWSLETTER 2024

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

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.

Dinner & Discussion- 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.**

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:

- 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 4th & 5th.**



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

Family of Dawn Blocker	Ernest Christman	
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
Henry Long	Steve Stine	Deborah Ahner
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 Ahner	Willard Ahner	Rachel Bednar	Marie Boyer
Lois Fisher	Mary Flyzik	Charles Frey	Doris 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 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!



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.



May 19, 2024

Confirmation
Sunday

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!



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



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!!!



“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



Donut Sale

Wednesday June 5

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Order by Sunday May 19

Call/Text/Email Anne Yenser 570-390-9108 or 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 9:00-10:00 AM

Basket Raffle
Baked Goods & Soup Sale



Dinkey Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church

1742 Dinkey Road, Ashfield, PA

Friday, May 3rd - 4pm - 7pm

Saturday, May 4th - 9am - 2pm

- 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

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.



Spring cleaning

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

[This is a free event.](#)

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

MISSION SUPPORT
2023

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THANK YOU

To the members of
St. John, Mahoning

from the
Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
In grateful appreciation for giving
\$10,173.00

for Mission Support beyond the congregation for synod and churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Thank you, beloved Family of God! May Jesus keep challenging us and calling us to trust him, to give and share in his name, and to be his hands and feet, to feed his people and support his mission and ministry, in every congregation and across our synod.

Christopher A. Beyer
Synod Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Chryshina A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Bach & Handel Chorale
Randall Douglas Perry, Conductor

Spring Concert with Festival Orchestra

Saturday, May 18, 2024
3:00 p.m.

St. Joseph Church
526 North Street, Jim Thorpe, PA


Adults \$25.00,
Seniors and Students \$20.00
Children 10 and under Free
(Includes Restaurant voucher)

Tickets available from:
Bach and Handel Chorale
Office (570-325-4794)

Also:
Sound Check Records (Jim Thorpe)
And
The Beacon Diner (Tamaqua)

RESTAURANT PARTNERS
With each ticket you purchase you will receive a voucher for a 15% discount on your entrée at the following restaurants:

Beacon Diner • Beacon 443 Restaurant
Lorenzo's Pizza Kitchen & Wine Bar (reservations required)
Mad Hatter Winery & Smoke House
P. J. Whelihan's at Platz's

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>5 6th week of Easter</p> <p>10:45 AM Fellowship Hall w/ Holy Communion</p> <p>12:30 PM Confirmation</p>			<p>1 9 AM Prayer w/ Pastor</p> <p>9-10 AM Donut Pickup</p>	<p>2 9:30 AM Bible Study w/ Pastor</p>	<p>3 5:30 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>4 9 AM Spring Cleaning Day – Lunch provided!</p>
<p>12 7th week of Easter</p> <p><i>Mother's Day</i></p> <p>9:45 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:45 AM Sanctuary Service</p>	<p>6 PM Grief Support</p>		<p>8 9 AM Prayer w/ Pastor</p> <p>6:30 PM Fundraising Meeting</p>	<p>9 9:30 AM Bible Study w/ Pastor</p>	<p>10 5:30 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>11 Hall Reserved for memorial service and luncheon</p>
<p>19 Day of Pentecost</p> <p><i>Confirmation Day</i></p> <p>10:45 AM Sanctuary Service w/ Holy Communion</p> <p>Donut orders due</p>	<p>13</p>		<p>15 9 AM Prayer w/ Pastor</p>	<p>16 9:30 AM Bible Study w/ Pastor</p> <p>6:30 PM Dinner & Discussion</p>	<p>17 5:30 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>18 Confirmation Rehearsal (DM)</p>
<p>26 The Holy Trinity</p> <p><i>Memorial Day Service</i></p> <p>9 AM Memorial Day Service outside (weather permitting)</p> <p>10:45 AM Fellowship Hall w/ Holy Communion</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6 PM Grief Support</p> <p>MEMORIAL DAY</p> 	<p>21</p>	<p>22 9 AM Prayer w/ Pastor</p>	<p>23 9:30 AM Bible Study w/ Pastor</p>	<p>24 5:30 PM Boy Scouts</p>	
	<p>27</p>	<p>28 6:30 PM Book Club</p>	<p>29 9 AM Prayer w/ Pastor</p>	<p>30 9:30 AM Bible Study w/ Pastor</p>	<p>26 5:30 PM Last Boy Scout Meeting until Fall</p>	

