

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2025

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 • 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 November 2025 at St. John's

Nov 2 – 10:45 AM – Sanctuary Worship *with Holy Communion* – **All Saints Sunday**

Nov 9 – 10:45 AM – Sanctuary Worship

Nov 16 – 10:45 AM – Fellowship Hall Worship – **12 PM** – Congregational Meeting

Nov 23 – 10:45 AM – Sanctuary Worship *with Holy Communion* – **Christ the King Sunday**

Nov 30 – 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

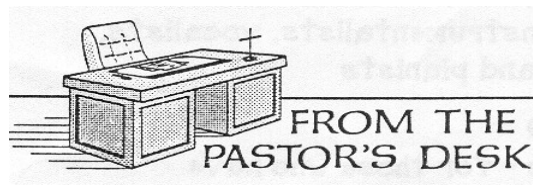
Bible Study Zoom

Thursdays at 9:30 AM

<http://us02web.zoom.us/j/376540617>

Meeting ID: 376 540 617

Call in: 1-929-205-6099



Change

"I'm getting old and life is passing me by." That's what I've been thinking quite often lately. It stems from me realizing that my kids are growing up and I'm taking on a different role in their lives. Claudia's dating – AHHH! Elijah's a senior in high school and looking ahead to college – HOW?!

I was looking back through pictures on my phone from years ago when Elijah was in middle school and Claudia in elementary. How I miss those days! But then I remember when they were that age, I would look back at pictures when Elijah was in elementary school and Claudia was in preschool and think, "How I miss those days!" And when they were that age, I would look back at pictures when they were babies and think, "How I miss those days!"

When I step back and take a bigger view, it's almost as though I needed to go through a mourning stage with each transition to a new phase in life. In a sense there was a death that was taking place and I was mourning the loss of the life I once knew. But what came forth was the opportunity for new life, and new memories.

Things change and life keeps moving on. All I can do is appreciate the moment and realize that no matter what God is the one constant through it all. Through all the transitions and different phases of life, I know God was right there through it all creating opportunities for new life to cherish. For that I am grateful.

I thank God for the steadfast love showered upon me each and every day. I thank God for the new experiences and memories being formed. I thank God for the ability to remember and cherish the previous phases of life.

So as I watch my children grow and wish they were little kids once again, I can embrace the fact that I am just entering a different phase of my life, and I can be thankful for it.

What new phase are you entering in your life? For what things are thankful? May God be that ever-present rock for you, offering you support, love, and grace through whatever transition you are encountering.

Your servant in Christ,

Pr. Tony

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. (Psalm 46:1-3)



11/1 Jace DeBlasio
11/6 Ruth Troxell
11/14 Michelle Troutman
11/19 Karen Flexer
11/20 Larry Smith
11/22 Andrew Yenser
11/29 Theodore Ahner

11/3 Amy Neeb
11/10 Lana Balliet
11/19 Evelyn Pry
11/20 Sylvia Snyder
11/21 Mary Ann Eidem
11/24 Marvin Mertz
11/29 Jacob Merluzzi

(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, Nov. 3rd & Monday, Nov. 17th at 6 PM.**

Book Club- will meet **Tuesday, Dec. 9th at 6:30 PM** with book *"Comfort & Joy"* by Kristin Hannah.

Dinner & Discussion- will meet on **Thursday, Nov. 13th at 6:30 PM.** Please contact **Cheryl Kistler at 610-533-5723.**

Fundraising Committee- will meet next on **Tuesday, February 24th 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:

♦Thank you to everyone who helped make our Fall Bazaar a success. It's great to welcome our community to St John's & share in fellowship. If you displayed a yard sign, kindly return it to be updated for our Spring Bazaar. We will be baking, icing, & packaging the donuts for our final sale of 2025 on Wed, Nov 5th. If you're able to help, stop by anytime from 10am-1pm. Let us know if you need a ride. Watch for sales over the holidays for basket raffle items. Have a blessed Thanksgiving!



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.)

October Council Meeting – Items Discussed

- Spaghetti Dinner Nov. 4 from 4-7 pm. We are going to help make the meatballs for the spaghetti dinner. They will donate 100% of the collected money to Valor.
- Healing Sunday, Oct. 19th & Reformation Sunday, Oct. 26th.
- Ethan Neeb will be confirmed at the Oct. 26th worship service.
- The next scheduled meeting is **Monday, November 10, 2025 at 7:30 PM.**

******A reminder to everyone that council meetings are open to all members of St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.**



To All – Thank you so much for your continued support of Trinity Pantry - your food times and your very generous monetary gift. We do have a wonderful community and many, many caring and sharing friends!

Many Thanks, Trinity Pantry

Trinity Food Pantry
Food of the Month Spotlight
November: Macaroni & Cheese
December: Soup

Prayers for our Congregation Members

Family of Lois Hood	Marlin Frey	Betty Frey	Diane Berner
Arthur Rudelitsch	Stacy Freeman	Cliff Gledhill	Florence Duffy
Jacob Merluzzi	Diane Gould	Liz Koch	Allane Kistler
Timothy Gerhard	Brenda Lasky	Bart Cunfer	Donna Horvath
Jeanette Jennings	Marilyn Frey		

Prayers for Our Friends

Rev. John Hazel	Danny Stafiniak	Fern Miller	Dolores Solt
LJ Dailey	Chris Green	Jesse Rudelitsch	Stewart Henritzky
Kathy Steigerwalt	Nichole Hydro	Nicole M. Rowles	Vince Rodgers
Barbara Kerschner	Shirley Long	Dan Myers	

Please also pray for

Everyone affected by the deaths of the family members in the Franklin Twsp fire.
The victims and families in recent school and public shootings.
Doctors without Borders. Global Refuge.
Those struggling with mental health. The People of Israel and Gaza.
Refugees all over the world. The Children of Ukraine.
The Homeless.

Prayers for Our Homebound and Long-Term Care Members

Judith Ahner	Willard Ahner	Rachel Bednar	Ferne Berger	Robert Berger
Marie Boyer	Myrtle Creitz	Mary Flyzik	Joan Heintzelman	Scott Heintzelman
Carol Houser	Mary Ann Kollar	Kathryn Leibenguth	Franklin Mertz	Dorothy Reinhart
Ruth Troxell	Betty Willet	Elaine Windbeck	Carolyn Zacharias	

Our Military Personnel at Home and Abroad

Dalton Berger	Daniel Berger	Douglas Boyer
Aaron Cetnar	Sean Fisher	Austin Heilman
AJ Light	Ryan McArdle	Dustin McCarroll
Alexis Scott	Jonathan Sheehan	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). 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!



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 494-264-0426 with this information. We would like to get this Military Marker relocated to the correct grave site as soon as possible.

Thank you!



Yenser's Tree Farm & Trees for Troops Brings Military Families Together in the True Spirit of Christmas

- This year is the 21st Anniversary of Trees for Troops. Yenser's is proud to be a sponsor for all 21 years and the areas only Official Location.
- To date, Trees for Troops has donated 326,273 trees to military families.
- A donation of \$30 will send a Christmas tree to a military family (up to 300 trees). Additional money donated will be given to the Trees for Troops non-profit to continue the program.
- Donations can be made at our farm, online at yenserstreefarm.com or mailed to the address below.
- Any questions can be emailed to yenserstreefarm@gmail.com.
- You're invited to join our annual Trees for Troops program on Friday, December 5th at 10AM at Valley View at Yenser's Building.

Checks Payable to:
Yenser's Tree Farm
1910 Mahoning Dr. East
Lehighton, PA 18235



Offering Envelopes

Our offering envelopes have three designated areas for giving.

- ▶ You can designate your offering go to our Current Expenses to meet our monthly bills.
- ▶ You can designate your offering go to Benevolence. St John's is committed to contributing \$10,000 yearly to our NEPA Synod and the ELCA Church for synodical and church wide mission and ministries beyond St John's church. We use donations marked in this section to meet our charitable commitment.
- ▶ You can designate your offering go to the Improvement Fund or Building Fund for construction, renovation or maintenance of our building and grounds.
- ▶ Your offering can be designated to one area, two areas or split between all three.

So that we honor your intentions on where you would like your offering to be credited and for end of year reporting, we ask that you take time to fill in the sections on your envelope.

If you do not mark on the envelope where you would like your offering credited, we automatically default your contribution to Current Expenses.

Should you have any questions, please speak to
Lori Heimbach or Cheryl Kistler.

St. John's Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 16, 2025**, following morning worship in fellowship hall. The purpose of this meeting is to pass the 2026 budget and elect council members. 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

SPAGHETTI DINNER



**Dinkey Memorial and
St John's Lutheran Churches**

Adult Plate \$12
Kids (5-12) \$8
Kids (0-4) FREE

ELECTION DAY !!!

Tuesday, November 4, 2025, 4pm-7pm

**Dinkey Memorial Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

1742 Dinkey Road, Lehigh, PA 18235

**Meal includes Spaghetti, Salad Bar, Roll,
Beverages & Dessert**

Questions: Call Kathy at 540-250-6539

Profits to benefit Valor

2025 Free Thanksgiving Meal

Five churches, Zion Stone West Penn, St Peter's West Penn, St John's Mahoning, Dinkey Memorial Ashfield and Ben Salem UCC Andreas are sponsoring a free Thanksgiving meal on Saturday November 22nd 2025. This will be a drive-thru pickup, at Ben Salem UCC 1965 Church Hill Rd. Lehigh, PA. 18235 from 1 to 3pm that day.

You must pre-register to receive your free meal by calling Nancy Meiser at 570-205-9267, Monday thru Friday, 9am to 4 pm. Registration begins November 3rd and ends on November 17th. If Nancy is unable to answer your call, please leave your name, phone number and number of meals you are requesting.

There are a limited number of meals available.

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.

We will be decorating the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall **Nov. 23rd**, immediately following worship. Get in that festive mood and help us beautify our church for the Advent/Christmas season!!



Congratulations

To our 2025 Fall Bazaar Raffle Winners

\$350 Gift Card - Ahner's Furniture - Merk Hunsicker
\$100 Cash - Jen Boston
\$75 Lowe's Gift Card - Cheryl Kistler
\$75 Cash - Gil Walters
\$50 Cash- Ameriprise Financial - Kerry Hunsicker
\$50 Tractor Supply Gift Card - Allison Everett
\$50 Cash - Maynard Ahner
\$50 Pizza Como Gift Certificate - Irene Hopstock
\$50 Cash - Fritz Financial - Linda Banko
\$50 Giant Gift Card - Brenda Klotz
\$50 Walmart Gift Card - Sandra Palinchak
\$50 Cash - Ferne Berger
\$50 Cash - Evan Bates
\$50 Giant Gift Card - Pete Crock

ST. PETER'S PORK AND SAUERKRAUT SUPPER AND BAKE SALE



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH
3:00-7:00PM
EAT-IN OR TAKE-OUT

SPONSORED
BY THE
SUNDAY
SCHOOL

JOINT THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

Wednesday, November 26, 2025 at 7:00 PM

St. Peter's Church
184 St. Peter's Road
Tamaqua, PA 18252

THANK YOU NOTE FROM BEN SALEM

Thank you to everyone for contributing to the Ben Salem Recycling Challenge

We reached our goal and earned a new Trex Bench.
We will not be collecting plastic until April 1, 2026, to start the new goal - a second bench

On October 5th, St John's Church held the Blessing of the Animals. (Thank you Robby Ebbert for the photos)



Poinsettia / Christmas Cactus Sale

Poinsettia \$10.00 – Available in Red, White & Pink / Christmas Cactus \$12 – Growers Choice

We are taking orders for Poinsettia's & Christmas Cactus's to be displayed during the worship service on Christmas Eve, December 24, 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 November 16, 2025.**

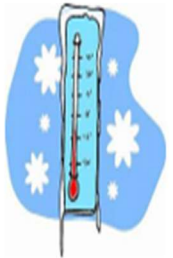
Red	White	Pink	Christmas Cactus	In Memory of	In Honor of	To The Glory of God	List the name or names that your plant is in Honor of or in Memory of:	Sponsored By:

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of Plants Ordered: _____

Total Money Collected: _____



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.

BAZAAR REPORT:

FALL 2025 BAZAAR

TOTAL PROFIT WAS \$13,123.99.

THANK YOU TO THE FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEERS AND TO ALL OF YOU WHO SUPPORTED THE CHURCH DURING THIS EVENT!

Daily Lectionary Readings for November 2025

Saturday, November 01, 2025: Psalm 119:137-144; Habakkuk 2:5-11; John 8:39-47
Sunday, November 02, 2025: Psalm 32:1-7; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10
Monday, November 03, 2025: Psalm 142; Habakkuk 2:12-20; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13
Tuesday, November 04, 2025: Psalm 142; Habakkuk 3:1-16; Jude 1:5-21
Wednesday, November 05, 2025: Psalm 142; Habakkuk 3:17-19; Luke 19:11-27
Thursday, November 06, 2025: Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21; Zechariah 1:1-17; Acts 22:22-23:11
Friday, November 07, 2025: Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21; Zechariah 6:9-15; Acts 24:10-23
Saturday, November 08, 2025: Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21; Haggai 1:1-15a; Luke 20:1-8
Sunday, November 09, 2025: Psalm 17:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38
Monday, November 10, 2025: Psalm 98; Haggai 2:10-19; 2 Peter 1:16-21
Tuesday, November 11, 2025: Psalm 98; Haggai 2:20-23; 2 John 1:1-13
Wednesday, November 12, 2025: Psalm 98; Zechariah 8:1-17; John 5:19-29
Thursday, November 13, 2025: Isaiah 12; Isaiah 57:14-21; Romans 1:18-25
Friday, November 14, 2025: Isaiah 12; Isaiah 59:1-15a; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12
Saturday, November 15, 2025: Isaiah 12; Isaiah 59:15b-21; Luke 17:20-37
Sunday, November 16, 2025: Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19
Monday, November 17, 2025: Psalm 76; Isaiah 60:17-22; Ephesians 4:25-5:2
Tuesday, November 18, 2025: Psalm 76; Isaiah 66:1-13; 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1
Wednesday, November 19, 2025: Psalm 76; Isaiah 66:14-24; Matthew 23:37-24:14
Thursday, November 20, 2025: Luke 1:68-79; Jeremiah 21:1-14; Hebrews 9:23-28
Friday, November 21, 2025: Luke 1:68-79; Jeremiah 22:1-17; 1 Peter 1:3-9
Saturday, November 22, 2025: Luke 1:68-79; Jeremiah 22:18-30; Luke 18:15-17
Sunday, November 23, 2025: Psalm 46; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43
Monday, November 24, 2025: Psalm 117; Jeremiah 30:1-17; Revelation 21:5-27
Tuesday, November 25, 2025: Psalm 117; Jeremiah 30:18-24; Revelation 22:8-21
Wednesday, November 26, 2025: Psalm 117; Jeremiah 31:1-6; Luke 1:1-4
Thursday, November 27, 2025: Psalm 122; Daniel 9:15-19; James 4:1-10
Friday, November 28, 2025: Psalm 122; Genesis 6:1-10; Hebrews 11:1-7
Saturday, November 29, 2025: Psalm 122; Genesis 6:11-22; Matthew 24:1-22
Sunday, November 30, 2025: Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

Veterans Day Prayer



Dear Lord,
 We thank You for the brave men and women who have served our country. Please protect those currently serving, heal the wounds of our veterans, and comfort the families who have lost loved ones. Guide our leaders with wisdom, and let peace reign in our hearts and world.
 In Jesus' name, Amen.

NOVEMBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 All Saints Sunday <i>Daylight Savings</i> 10:45 Sanctuary Worship Service with <i>Holy Communion</i> 12:30-2:30 Confirmation Class	3 Grief Support	4 Election Day 4-7:00 St John's & Dinkey Church Spaghetti Dinner @ Dinkey Mem. 11 Veteran's Day Dec. Newsletter deadline	5 9:00 Prayer with Pastor Tony 3:30-5 – Donut Pickup	6 9:30 Bible Study with Pastor Tony 9-10 Donut Pickup		1 <i>All Saints Day</i>
9 Pentecost 22 10:45 Sanctuary Worship Service 12:30-2:30 Confirmation Class 2-4 Schuykill Mission Dist. Cemetery Seminar	10 10:00 Pastor Tony at the Palmer House 7:30 Council Meeting	11 Veteran's Day Dec. Newsletter deadline	12 9:00 Prayer with Pastor Tony	13 9:30 Bible Study with Pastor Tony 3:30-5 Dinkey Comm. Cupboard 6:30 Dinner & Discussion	14	15 2:30-8:00 PM Non-profit rental of Fellowship Hall
16 Pentecost 23 10:45 Fellowship Hall Worship Service 12:00 Congregational Meeting *Poinsettia orders due today!	17 6:00 Grief Support	18	19 9:00 Prayer with Pastor Tony	20 9:30 Bible Study with Pastor Tony	21	22
23 Christ the King <i>Hanging of the Greens</i> 10:45 Sanctuary Worship Service with <i>Holy Communion</i> Trees for Troops collection day with cookies Christmas Decorating after worship	24	25	26 9:00 Prayer with Pastor Tony 7:00 Thanksgiving Eve Service @ St Peter's West Penn	27 Thanksgiving Day <i>Give Thanks</i>	28	29
30 Advent 1 10:45 Fellowship Hall Worship Service						