

FEBRUARY 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 and Facebook at StJohnsMahoning

"A Family of friends alive with God's love!"



²⁷ *Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,* ²⁸ *Simeon took him in his arms and praised God...*
(Luke 2:27-28)

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

<i>Reverend</i> Anthony Pagotto			
Julia Schock, <i>President</i>	Allison Everett, <i>Vice President</i>		
Keith Drummond	Geoff Ebbert	Donald Freeman	
Ronald Fried	Kimberly Gerhard	Cheryl Kistler	Tia Tyson

Worship Schedule for February 2025 at St. John's

FEB 2 – 10:45 AM Fellowship Hall Worship with *Holy Communion* – *Presentation of Our Lord*
12:30 PM Confirmation class (D)

FEB 9 – 9:30 AM – Sunday School - **10:45 AM** Sanctuary Worship – Wounded Warrior speaker

FEB 16 – 10:45 AM Fellowship Hall Worship – **12:30 PM** – Confirmation class (NEPA Synod office)

FEB 23 – 9:30 AM – Sunday School - **10:45 AM** Sanctuary Worship with *Holy Communion*



The Wrestling Tournament

Claudia had a wrestling tournament the other weekend. She did well and made it to the finals where she had to wrestle a friend from another school. She's wrestled this friend several times before but has never been able to beat her. Unfortunately for Claudia that trend continued and she lost to finish in second place.

I asked Claudia how she felt afterward and she was in a really good mood and said she didn't mind losing to her friend because she has been wrestling for so many years. That made sense, but what she said next surprised me; "I'd rather wrestle her every match and lose but know I am getting better than wrestle against girls I know I can beat and win."

For a majority of my life I have always wanted to finish on top. Whether it was grades, sports, or even now comparing sermons to those of colleagues, I've wanted to be better, or at least feel like I'm better, than those around me. I'm embarrassed to even type that sentence, but it is true. There is this competitive nature I have that seems to be ingrained in all I do. I see this as a flaw in my character where my ego gets in the way and leaves no room for the Spirit to be at work.

This season of Epiphany in which we find ourselves is all about the spreading of the light of God that has come into this world in Christ. The message of who he is and what it means to us is spreading. For some of us, like myself, it's about that light reaching into the darkest corners of our being.

I believe my tendencies to want to always win and come out in front stem from a desire to feel important or that I matter. Epiphany's message is that we all matter. God's light, God's love, doesn't discriminate, it shines on all people equally. That's why the story of the wise men coming to see Jesus was so important. There were no boundaries or borders that could contain God's love.

What that means for me is that I can stop trying to compete with others and think I need to come out on top. All I need to do is rest assured that God's love and compassion is all around me. May I continue to grow in my faith and trust in God, and know that even when, and perhaps especially when, I finish second, third, or even last in anything I am just as important in God's eyes. Thanks for the lesson, Claudia.

Your servant in Christ,

Pr. Tony

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

2/4 Pastor Tony Pagotto

2/18 Carey Kunkle

2/28 Brenda Lasky

2/3 Kay Gilbert

2/7 Jordan Knappenberger

2/20 Tristan Balliet

2/3 Crystal Kunkle

2/13 Regina Fisher

2/27 Michael Anglovich

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

Book Club- will meet **Tuesday, Feb 25th at 6:30 PM** with book *"It Ends With Us"* by Colleen Hoover.

Dinner & Discussion- ****There will be no** Dinner & Discussion in the months of November, December, January, and February. We will resume Dinner and Discussion **March 2025**. Questions? Please contact **Cheryl Kistler at 610-533-5723.**

Fundraising Committee- will meet on **Tuesday, March 11th @ 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:

◆ Donut Day orders are due on Feb 16th. In the coming weeks, we will be preparing food to freeze for our Spring Bazaar.

◆ The Fundraising Committee is looking for prizes (cash or gift card) for the raffle ticket. Minimum \$50 please.

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

JANUARY Council Meeting & Congregational Meeting – Items Discussed

► Upcoming dates: March 12th, St John's will be hosting the midweek Lenten service. Mother's Day breakfast May 11th from 9-10 AM, Father's Day breakfast Jun 15th from 9-10 AM, Community Picnic August 24th after church with Dinkey Memorial, Blessing of the Animals October 19th, Celebrating the Graduates and Smith Scholarships July 20th, Advent December 3rd, 10th, 17th.

► This month's Fermenting Our Faith (on Feb. 12th), pizza will be ordered for those wanting to chip in.

► Council will not be in charge of holding the winter monthly luncheons after worship in Fellowship Hall. Those interested in continuing them are being asked to take over the responsibility of planning and organizing them.

● Next meeting is **Wednesday, Feb 5th @ 6:30 PM.**



Prayers for our Congregation Members

Roxanne Berger	Dennis Yenser	Mike Andrews
Bonnie Harley	Diane Gould	Jim Yaro
Brenda Lasky	Liz Koch	Ruth Troxell
Lana Balliet	Sylvia Snyder	Timothy Gerhard
Robert Berger	Donna Horvath	Florence Duffy
Bart Cunfer	Jeanette Jennings	Marilyn Frey
Doreen Roth	Ferne Berger	Emma Weaver



Prayers for Our Friends

Sohaib Aglaguel	Digger Bloom	Eric Waksmunski
Tina Mertz	Dr. Mike Nelson	Jim Hourican
Vince Rodgers	Frank Fisher	Warren Knerr
Rev. Robert Reier	Brenton Gruber	Jillian Hessinger
Bridgette Gorman	Elaine Koons	Sarah Swartz
Eileen Meiser	Gloria Knerr	Deborah Ahner
Barbara Kerschner	Steve Stine	Ernest Christman
Shirley Long	Dan Myers	

Please also pray for

Doctors without Borders. Global Refuge. The People of New Orleans.
Residents, fire fighters and first responders – LA County, CA.
The Families of mass shooting victims and the children affected by them.
Those struggling with mental health. The People of Israel and Gaza.
Refugees all over the world. The Children of Ukraine.

Prayers for Our Homebound and Long-Term Care Members

Judith Ahner	Willard Ahner	Rachel Bednar	Marie Boyer
Mary Flyzik	Charles Frey	Carolyn Zacharias	Terry Terray
Scott Heintzeman	Carol Houser	Mary Ann Kollar	Elaine Windbeck
Kathryn Leibenguth	Frank Mertz	Dorothy Reinhart	

Our Military Personnel at Home and Abroad

Dustin McCarroll	Alexis Scott	Ryan McArdle
Dalton Berger	Daniel Berger	Douglas Boyer
Dylan White	Aaron Cetnar	Jonathan Sheehan
Sean Fisher	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!

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.



In early January, multiple wildfires broke out across Los Angeles County in California, with over 100,000 people under evacuation orders. Sparked by dry conditions, strong winds and a limited water supply, these fires have destroyed homes and businesses and have led to injuries and loss of life.

This disaster is just one of many — including hurricanes, war and famine — to which Lutheran Disaster Response is still responding. Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond quickly and generously, whenever and wherever disaster may strike.

Though we don't yet know the full impact of the fires, Lutheran Disaster

Response is here to support the families and communities that will be rebuilding their lives. Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Southwest California Synod and Pacifica Synod to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. We will work with them to provide for immediate needs amid the destruction as well as to assist with recovery efforts for months and years to come.

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to those affected by wildfires and other disasters. By giving to Lutheran Disaster Response, you give the gift of relief today and resilience tomorrow.

YES, I WANT TO HELP!

- Lutheran Disaster Response \$ _____ DDG0060
- Lutheran Disaster Response: *U.S. Wildfires* \$ _____ DDG0077

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Email address _____

Scan to give online



Give through your congregation or make out your check to Lutheran Disaster Response and send it to: **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009** and write "Lutheran Disaster Response" or "U.S. Wildfires" on your check's memo line.

BI-DR2501

2025 Lent and Easter Schedule

Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025

- 2:00PM at Dinkey Memorial Lutheran Church
1742 Dinkey Road, Lehighnton, PA 18235
- 7:00PM at Dinkey Memorial Lutheran Church
1742 Dinkey Road, Lehighnton, PA 18235



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

- Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at
St. John's Lutheran Church, 826 Mahoning Drive West, Lehighnton
- Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at
St. Peter's Church, 184 St. Peter's Road, Tamaqua, PA 18252
- Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at
Zion Stone Church, 45 Cemetery Road, New Ringgold, PA 17960
- Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at
Ben Salem UCC, 1965 Church Hill Road, Lehighnton, PA 18235
- Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at
Dinkey Memorial Lutheran Church, 1825 Dinkey Road, Lehighnton

Spring Bazaar at St. John's LC, Mahoning

- Friday, April 11, 2025, 5:00 – 8:00PM
- Saturday, April 12, 2025, 8:00AM – 2:00PM
- Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday at 11:00AM

Maunder Thursday, April 17, 2025

7:00PM at St. Peter's Church, Tamaqua

Good Friday, April 18, 2025

7:00PM at Ben Salem UCC, Lehighnton



Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

- 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
- 10:45AM Worship at St. John's LC, Mahoning



FERMENTING OUR FAITH

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025
ST JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP HALL
7:00 – 9:00PM

570-386-9960



prdnkic@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 CHURCH MAHONING

826 Mahoning Dr. West
Lehighnton, PA 18235

FELLOWSHIP

Friends sharing time

FOOD

Pizza will be available

FAITH

Where is God?

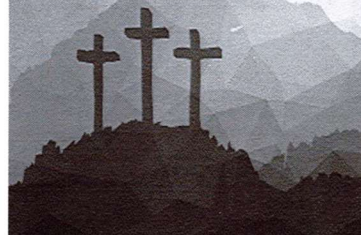
The Fundraising Committee is looking for raffle ticket prizes. The minimum is \$50.

Also – there is still filling to purchase. Containers are \$7.50.

Contact Anne Yenser with questions at 570-390-9108. Thank you!

If you are not on the One Call list, but would like to be, please let us know. This weekly call, updates everyone on the upcoming events & services at St John's. We also update everyone with weather related worship service changes.

If you would like to either call in or watch our worship service online, Pastor Tony has the 9am service at Dinkey available each week. He also records it & we post on our website, so you can watch it at your convenience if you missed it on Sunday. Watch online from our website: stjohmsmahoning.org or you can call in to listen to the service at (253) 215-8782 & use meeting ID 586 370 219





Cheryl, Lori & Sherry – Thank you so much for visiting and the “Goody Bag”. I truly appreciate being remembered. Thank you so much and God Bless. – Betty Willet

Thanks for the bag I received for Christmas. Thank you brothers and sisters. – Myrtle Creitz

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St Johns – I would like to thank you so much for the generous Giant gift card you gave me as a Christmas gift. I feel honored that you put your trust in me as your Financial Secretary and hope that I’m living up to your expectations! God’s Peace, Lori Heimbach.

Dear Brothers and Sisters at St John’s – Thank you so much for thinking about me and sending me the lovely gifts. The nativity scene is so beautiful and the doily is already in use. I hope you all have a healthy and Merry Christmas. Love, Dottie Reinhart.

Blessed Christmas Greetings! Hope this holiday season, not only a time to spend with family & friends and all the Christmas fun, but also a time in reflecting on hope that Jesus brings in each of your lives! In light of this holiday season, remember Christ, our Savior, was born and that He is the provider and hope for many, many years! Allow Jesus to be in each of your hearts this Christmas and always! Merry Christmas St John’s family! - Kirsten & Sierra

Thank you for the visit and the gift bag. It was very thoughtful. – Love, Judy & Willard Ahner

St John’s Church – Thank you so very much. You truly blessed my day with the fruit basket and crocheted doily. I appreciate your thoughtfulness. Blessings and Love, Ruth Troxell

Dear People at St Peters, Ben Salem, Zions, Dinkey Memorial and St John’s -I wanted to thank you for the very good meal (speaking of the Thanksgiving meal). I hope you can do that next year. – Beverly & Alan Exner

Thank you for including me in the email of St John’s newsletter. Having grown up at St John’s, I will always have fond memories of my years as a member and hope it will continue to be available to inspire the community!! May the Lord continue to bless the congregation! – Jo Ann Gyuricsek Finkbiner



Donut Day

Tuesday March 4, 2025



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Order by Sunday Feb. 16, 2025

Call/Text/Email Deb Scheekler at 484-866-3710/dscheekler@gmail.com

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

SPRING BAZAAR

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



826 Mahoning Drive W. Lehighnton, PA 18235

Friday April 11

5 - 7:30 PM

Saturday, April 12

9 AM-2 PM

We will donate 10% of our profit to PA Wounded Warriors

- Basket Raffle
- Easter Candy
- Pans of Filling
- Bake Sale
- Wide Variety of Food



FREE EGG HUNT • 11 AM • Up to Age 12



119 S 3rd St, Lehighnton, PA, United States, Pennsylvania (Ebenezer Church)
(570) 657-6738
cwslehighnton@gmail.com
website: lehighntoncoldweatherstation.org
Facebook: Lehighnton Cold Weather Station

Please visit the website and Facebook page. They need food, chaperones and have an Amazon wish list. There have been an overwhelming number of homeless in need of these services and they are reaching out for help.

Rummage Sale

Our Rummage Sale is Friday, March 28, 2025 from 8AM to 2PM and Saturday, March 29 from 8AM to 12Noon.

Friday is full price day while Saturday is bag day. Pay \$3 and fill your bag. Jewelry is excluded from the bag sale.

We are still collecting for the Rummage Sale. Please remember we do not accept clothing, electronics, medical supplies/equipment, car seats and small appliances that do not have complete parts.

Please drop off your donations in the back half of the Nursery Room.

During our Rummage Sale we will be collecting for our furry animals at the Carbon County Animal Shelter and the Carbon County Friends of Animal Shelter.

Bring in a donation and receive a chance to win a \$25 gift card to Walmart or Giant. Bring in a donation for each shelter and receive two chances. The winning tickets will be drawn on Saturday at 12 noon. You need not be present to win.

Along with the items for sale inside, there will be free items available under the Pavillion.

Set up in the auditorium with our volunteers will begin on Friday, March 14, 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Kistler @ 610-533-5723.



CARBON COUNTY FRIENDS OF ANIMALS

Wish List

Cleaning Items

Fabuloso
Lysol Cleaner, Lysol Spray & Lysol Wipes
Bleach
Hand Sanitizer
Dish / Hand Soaps
Top Performance Disinfectant

Paper/Bedding Items

Paper Towels
Toilet Paper
Pillowcases
Towels / Small Blankets

Cat Items

Purina Cat & Kitten Chow
Nail Clippers
Wet Food – Friskies Preferred
Cat Litter (scoopable & non-scoopable)
Cat Towers / Toys / Wands, etc.
Treats
Kitten Bottles
KMR Milk

Maintenance Items

Mops
Dust Pans (stand up ones)
Brooms
Black & White Trash Bags

Stationary Items

Index Cards (any colors)
Printing Paper
Pens
Highlighters

Medical Items

Gloves (powder-free / non-latex)
any sizes
Thermometer
Heating Pads
Q-tips

ALSO:

*Fundraising Ideas
*Monetary Donations
*Volunteering

Carbon County Animal Shelter

WISH LIST

Alpo Snacks
Peanut Butter
Soft Treats
Fraganzia
Pine Sol
Canned Dog Food
Purina Moist and Meaty
Laundry Detergent
Heavy Duty Leashes and Collars
Dog Toys

**Thanks to all who support CCAS.
We could not do it without you!**



Candy Sale

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
826 Mahoning Dr. West, Lehighton, PA 18235



All boxed candy 1/2 lb. All candy is homemade Name	Butter Cream		Peanut Rolled Butter Cream		Peanut Butter		Peanut Rolled Peanut Butter		Molasses Coconut		Coconut		Solid Pieces		Pretzel Snaps		Nonpareils		4 oz. Coconut Cream Egg		4 oz. Peanut Butter Egg		Bunny Lollipop 2 1/2 X 3 3/4"		# of Items	Total \$
	Milk	Dark	Milk	Dark	Milk	Dark	Milk	Dark	Milk	Dark	Milk	Dark	Milk	White	Milk	Dark	Milk	Dark	Milk	Dark	Milk	Dark	Milk	White		
	\$7.00		\$7.00		\$7.00		\$7.00		\$7.00		\$7.00		\$7.00		\$6.00		\$7.00		\$4.00		\$4.00		\$2.00			
TOTAL																										

Return order WITH MONEY by Sunday, March 31
Church Office – 570-386-9960
Anne Yenser – 570-390-9108
(Make checks payable to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church)

Name _____
Phone # _____
Pick Up: Fri. April 11 and Sat. April 12

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
2 Presentation of Our Lord 10:45 AM Fellowship Hall Worship with Holy Communion 12:30 PM Confirmation Class (D)	3 6 PM Grief Support * Pastor Off	4 * Pastor Off	5 * Pastor Off 6:30 PM Council Meeting	6 *Pastor Off 9:30 Bible Study with Pastor	7 * Pastor Off 5:30 PM Boy Scouts 14 Valentine's Day Newsletter Deadline	8 * Pastor Off
9 5 Epiphany *Pastor Off 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Sanctuary Worship Speakers for Wounded Warrior	10 * Pastor Off	11	12 9 AM Prayer with Pastor 7-9 PM Fermenting Our Faith	13 9:30 Bible Study with Pastor	14 Valentine's Day Newsletter Deadline	15
16 6 Epiphany 10:45 AM Fellowship Hall Worship 12:30 PM Confirmation Class (Church Unity @ NEPA Synod Office)	17 6 Epiphany 10 AM Pastor at Palmer House	18	19 9 AM Prayer with Pastor 7-9 PM Fermenting Our Faith	20 9:30 Bible Study with Pastor 3:30-5 PM Community Cupboard distribution at Dinkey Memorial	21 5:30 PM Boy Scouts	22
23 7 Epiphany 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Sanctuary Worship with Holy Communion	24 6 PM Grief Support	25	26 9 AM Prayer with Pastor 9 AM Making Filling	27 9:30 Bible Study with Pastor	28	29

***Pastor is away from February 4th – 10th. Pastoral emergencies will be covered by Rev. Cliff Herring (from St. Peter's West Penn Church 570-386-4388).**

****Please mark your calendar for our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, March 2nd, following our 10:45 AM - Fellowship Hall Worship with Holy Communion.**