

# JANUARY 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](mailto:stjohns@ptd.net)

Website: [www.stjohnsmahoning.org](http://www.stjohnsmahoning.org) and Facebook at StJohnsMahoning

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

**THIS IS MY BELOVED SON,  
IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASSED**



**MATTHEW 3:17**

### 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 January 2025 at St. John's

**JAN 5 – 10:45 AM** Fellowship Hall worship with Holy Communion – Removal of the greens

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**JAN 12 – 10:45 AM** Sanctuary worship

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**JAN 19 – 9:30 AM** Sunday School **10:45 AM** Fellowship Hall worship

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**JAN 26 – 10:45 AM** Sanctuary worship with *Holy Communion* **12:30** Confirmation Class (SJ)

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1/1 Lindsay Neff

1/5 Valerie Kohanski

1/12 Claudia Pagotto

1/13 Keith Drummond

1/19 Allison Everett

1/31 Gianna DeBlasio

1/4 Jean Everett

1/10 Dakota Trach

1/12 Allane Kistler

1/13 Gilbert Walters

1/26 Marilyn Hahn

1/5 Liam Haldeman

1/10 Mary Ann Kollar

1/13 Molly McFadden

1/15 Terry Terray

1/30 Joseph Lawson

(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.)

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**Grief Support-** will meet on **Monday, Jan 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM.**

**Book Club-** will meet **Jan 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM** with book *"The Book of Lost Names"* by Kristin Harmel.

**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.

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**Messages from the Fundraising Team:**

- ◆ The Fundraising Committee is looking for prizes (cash or gift card) for the raffle ticket. Minimum \$50 please.
- ◆ Looking ahead in the new year, our first fundraiser is Donut Day on Tuesday, March 4th.

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Council Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month unless otherwise noted.

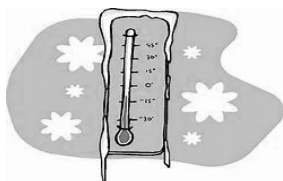
(Complete copies of the minutes may be obtained from the church office.)

**DECEMBER Council Meeting & Congregational Meeting – Items Discussed**

- ▶ Thank you notes from Pool Pals for the donation & Thank you from Bo Tack foundation.
- ▶ We will remove the greens on January 5, 2025.
- ▶ Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> the confirmation kids will have practice at Dinkey for the sign language.

The Special Music Christmas Program is at Dinkey Memorial's service at 9:30 AM and at St John's service at 10:45 AM and then they have Christmas caroling afterwards.

● Next meeting is **January 13th @ 6:30 PM.**



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. If you are not receiving calls on the One Call system, please let us know today!!

### **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**

Herlan Haberman	Digger Bloom	Jim Hourican
Tina Mertz	Dr. Mike Nelson	Dan Myers
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	Eric Waksmunski	



### **Please also pray for**

The People dealing with the aftermath of recent hurricanes.  
The Families of mass shooting victims and the children affected by them.  
Those struggling with mental health.      The People of Israel and Gaza.  
The People of Sudan and those fleeing.      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 Heintzelman	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](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!**

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#### **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



### **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.



### **Seeker Sessions (New Members Class)**

**Date:** January 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 5-7PM

**Where:** St. John's Family Room

Are you seeking a church home? Are you seeking more of an understanding of what it means to be Lutheran? Whatever it is you may be seeking after, we invite you to join us for these sessions about Lutheran history, theology, and modern-day issues.

Contact Pr. Tony for more information @ 570-386-9960/610-377-4242 or [prdinklc@ptd.net](mailto:prdinklc@ptd.net)

# **FERMENTING OUR FAITH**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025**  
**ST JOHN'S FELLOWSHIP HALL**  
**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.

<b>ST JOHN'S CHURCH MAHONING</b> 826 Mahoning Dr. West Lehighton, PA 18235	<b>FOOD</b> Pizza will be available
<b>FELLOWSHIP</b> Friends sharing time	<b>FAITH</b> 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!

### **Holiday Goodie Bag delivery to our Homebound**

On Saturday, December 7, 2024, Lori Heimbach, Sherry Stafiniak and I made 15 stops to spread holiday cheer and drop off a goodie bag to our homebound members. In addition, 5 cards with a small gift were sent to our Nursing Home members and those who are homebound and live out of the area. It was a rewarding day visiting and catching up with our members who are not able to be with us on Sunday mornings. If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Kistler, 610-533-5723.



Dear members of St. John's Church,

The Lehighon Area Pool Pals would like to sincerely thank you for your generous donation.

This money will be used to maintain the Baer Memorial Pool and improve upon the beautiful facility which is enjoyed by our community.

Thank you again and may God Bless you and your congregation.

The Lehighon Area Pool Pals

To Rev. Tony,

Thank you so much for the generous donation and we really appreciate having the opportunity for Bill to speak to your congregation about our foundation.

Sincerely,  
Jim & Sandi Tkach



## Donut Day

*Tuesday March 4, 2025*



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Order by Sunday Feb. 16, 2025

Call/Text/Email Deb Scheckler at 484-866-3710/dscheckler@gmail.com

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

_____ (1) Persian X \$2.00	\$ _____
_____ (2) Iced Long Johns X \$4.00	\$ _____
_____ (2) Coconut Long Johns X \$4.50	\$ _____
	<b>Total \$ _____</b>

Pick up 9:00-10:00 AM

### Spring 2025 Rummage Sale

We continue to collect for our Spring 2025 Rummage Sale which will be held Friday, March 28 and Saturday, March 29. Donations can be dropped off in the back half of the Nursery Room.

A reminder that we do not accept clothing, electronics, medical supplies/equipment, car seats and small appliances that do not have complete parts.

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

December 15<sup>th</sup> the Confirmation Class and Sunday School Class performed at St John's service. They sang songs, had a poetry reading and also performed a song in sign language. The students that were involved were: Jordyn Albert, Tristan Balliet, Maggie Bowman, Rylee Keller, Colby Solt, Derek Spitzer, Mason Spitzer, Tinley Balliet, Larkin Klotz, Jaxson Markell, Ethan Neeb and Bryn Schleicher. The students were guided by Kimberly Gerhard and Becky McFadden – Sunday School Teachers and also by Patti Ebbert – sign language instructor.

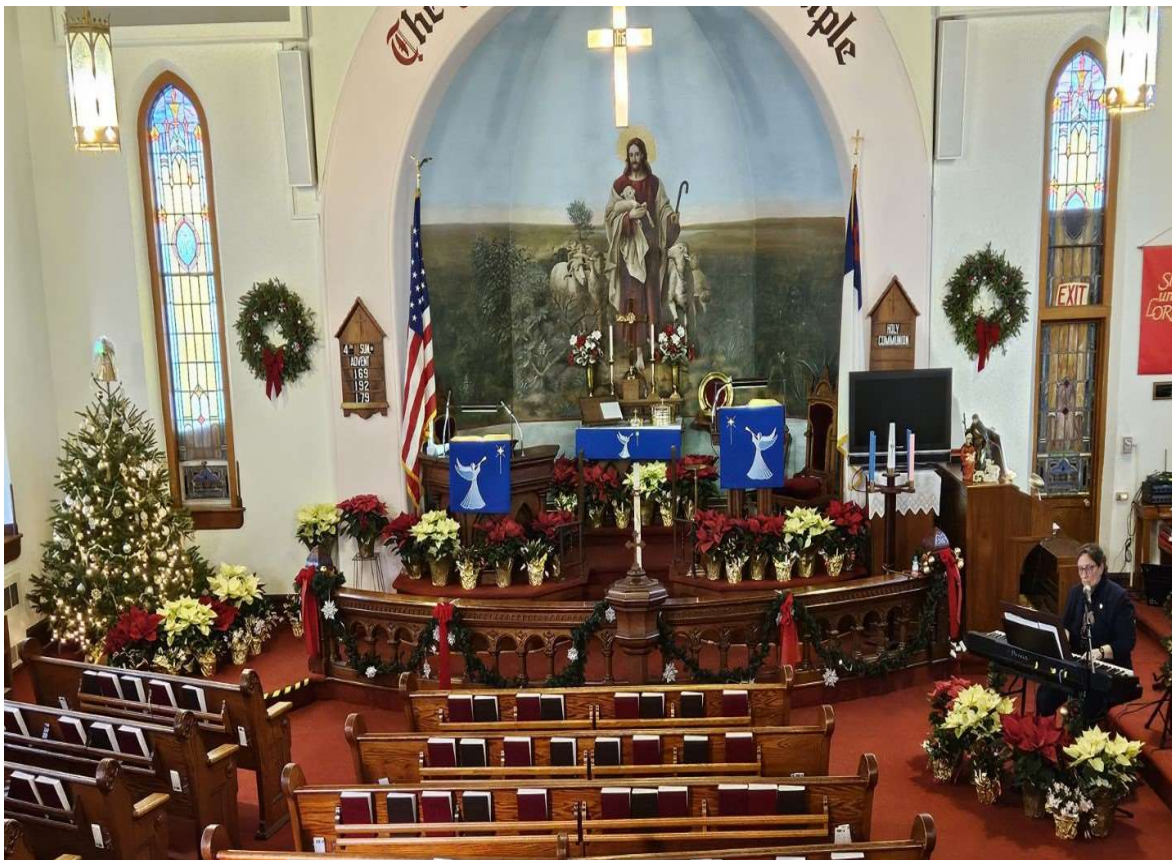




On Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, St John's held it's annual Trees For Troops collection day. There was coffee, snacks and cookies served. Here is a picture of the wonderful cookies donated for the day.



Our sanctuary was decorated for Christmas Eve with beautiful Christmas Cactus and Poinsettias. Lori and Robbie Hawk did another wonderful job organizing the ordering and transportation of the plants.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
5 <b>2 Christmas</b> 10:45 AM Fellowship Hall Worship with Holy Communion 12-1:30 PM Seeker Session (SJ)	6 <b>Epiphany of our Lord</b> 6 PM Griet Support	7	1 <i>Name of Jesus</i> 8 9 AM Bible Study with Pastor	2 9:30 AM Bible Study with Pastor	3 5:30 PM Boy Scouts	4
12 <b>Baptism of Our Lord</b> 10:45 AM Sanctuary Worship	13 10 AM Pastor at Palmer House 6:30 PM Council Meeting	14	15 9 AM Bible Study with Pastor <b>Newsletter Deadline!!</b>	16 9:30 AM Bible Study with Pastor 3:30-5 PM Community Cupboard distribution at Dinkey Memorial	17 5:30 PM Boy Scouts	18 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins
19 <b>2 Epiphany</b> 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Fellowship Hall Worship	20 <b>MILK Jr.'s Birthday</b> 6 PM Griet Support	21	22 9 AM Bible Study with Pastor	23 9:30 AM Bible Study with Pastor	24 5:30 PM Boy Scouts	25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Ends
26 <b>3 Epiphany</b> 10:45 AM Sanctuary Worship with Holy Communion 12:30 PM Confirmation Class (SJ)	27	28 6 PM Ladies Aid (D) 6:30 PM Book Club (SJ)	29 9 AM Bible Study with Pastor	30 9:30 AM Bible Study with Pastor	31	