

# ST. JOHN'S NEWSLETTER

LUTHERAN + CHURCH

**November 2022**

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## CROP Walk at St. John's

On October 2, children, parents, confirmands and congregation members walked through the streets of Emmaus to raise awareness of food insecurity and the need to help end hunger.

We had 40 people walk and raised a total of \$1,484.63. We also dropped off the food collected and will shop for more with a portion of the money provided by a Thrivent Action grant. The remainder of the grant money was used for the event. Thanks to all who participated!



## Pastor Appreciation Celebration

Pastor Jeff attended the celebration in honor of the pastors who have served St. John's. Pictured on the right are Pastor Lynn and his wife, Martha. *Full article on Page 7.*

## ***From the Pastor's Desk***

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It seems to be the central part of every news broadcast on TV and radio and in every morning newspaper — bad news. At times it seems to dominate our conversation. It certainly dominates our national conversation: politics, natural disasters, the state of our economy, international conflicts and violence. Even Jesus offers a dire prediction of the times to come.

“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.” (Matthew 24:6-8, NIV)

But while it's good to keep informed of current (negative) news events, it's just as important to remember all we have to be thankful for. It's important to remember the blessings as well as the bad. And then it's important to make time to give thanks. It's so important, our nation has a national holiday set aside specifically for giving thanks.

In this month of Thanksgiving, I am especially thankful for each of you. As St. Paul wrote to the early church in Philippi, “I thank my God every time I remember you.” (Philippians 1:3) I thank God for all of you who faithfully worship in our church each week. I thank God for all who come to worship whenever you can or who have worshiped with us in the past. I thank God for all who devote countless hours and labors of love to the life of our congregation and to the betterment of our community. I thank God for our congregation's leaders and for all who work behind the scenes. And I thank God for the spirit that lives in our congregation: a spirit of community and of family; a spirit of caring for one other; a spirit of generosity when people are in need; a spirit that brings the good news of God's steadfast love ... good news for everyone.

Your Servant in Christ,  
Pastor Jeff

## **Advent Soup Supper and Evening Worship Service**

We're having a Soup Supper on Sunday, **December 4** at 6:00 pm before the Advent Evening Service. Can you make a pot of soup for this meal or bring some bread? We're hoping to reinstate this tradition for Lent also. If you can help, please call Barb LaMotte at 610-967-1776. Thank you so much!

Need a ride? Do you want to come to the Soup Supper and Advent Evening Service Sunday, **December 4** but you really don't like to drive at night? We understand. There are a few members who have volunteered to provide rides, so you don't have to drive yourself. Contact Barbara at the church office at 610-965-9885 and we will match you with someone who will then contact you. We want to see you there!

## **Harvest Home September 2022**

We collected approximately 50 cans/jars and 50 boxed items (cake mixes, pasta, etc.) of food during the Sunday services. This was all delivered to the Emmaus food bank at Bethel Bible Church on Elm Street.

The people who helped decorate the church were: Cheryl Kraemer, Faith Drescher, Elise Spayd, and Annette Roth. Donated decorations were also provided by Judie Herb, Jen Anders, and Karen Brokate.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this effort to celebrate Harvest Home and provide needed food for people in Emmaus.

## The Stewardship Committee Spotlight on: the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is a small group of members who oversee the financial status of the church. We are comprised of a chairperson (Annette Roth), the church treasurer (Jim Rotherham), Pastor Jeff, and two council members. The finance chairperson provides a detailed monthly analysis of monthly income and expenses, investments, and the preschool account. Upon his/her approval, a basic report is submitted to council.

Currently the finance chairperson approves all expenses, schedules the annual audit of the books, and works closely with the bookkeeper in preparing financial reports, budgets, and to address accounting issues which may arise. The treasurer primarily updates the church's investment accounts and bank accounts on a quarterly basis.

Whenever there is a need to discuss the financial situation of St. John's, the committee will hold a meeting. These meetings are held approximately 3 times a year. In October, the committee gets together to create the budget for the following year. The budgeted income is based on analysis of the current year's income by the Finance Committee, while the budgeted expenses are based on information received from the various committee chairs.

Since assuming the chairperson's position a year ago, I saw a need to inform the members of St. John's, on a regular basis, of our financial status. Therefore, I will continue to write a report in the monthly newsletter in hopes of showing everyone how their contributions are being used.

Annette Roth, Finance Chair

### POF (People Over Fifty)

After almost three years, POF has resumed meeting. Come join us in the parish hall on Wednesday, **November 9** and Tuesday, **December 13** from 11:00 to 2:00 for a light lunch and fellowship. A donation of \$4 is requested. Also, please bring a canned good or small item as a bingo prize.

Please call Sharon at 303-956-6289 and leave a message with your name and phone number if you're able to attend. See you soon!

### Lunch Bunch

Join the Lunch Bunch on Friday, **November 11** at 11:30 am at Capo (across from the East Penn Diner - formerly Italiano Delite).

Anyone who wants to attend should call Donna Gerhart at 610-730-3919.

### GIFT Committee Painting Party

The party has been **cancelled** due to a scheduling issue. Watch for other upcoming events sponsored by the GIFT Committee.

### Christmas Cards for our Homebound Members

Receiving Christmas cards from members of St. John's brings great joy to our homebound members and their loved ones. They so appreciate being remembered.

If you would like to participate in this ministry, please contact me at 610-360-6295 or at fgschule@gmail.com to request mailing labels. I will have them available at the 9:30 service on **November 13** and at the 10:30 services on **November 20 and 27** and **December 4**. I can also deliver them to you or send them by US mail if that is more convenient.

Thank you. Faye Schuler

### Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School class will meet in the parish hall beginning at 9:15 am. We will continue our study of Genesis. Everyone is welcome!

- 11/6 "A Lasting Inheritance" Genesis Chapter 15
- 11/13 No class due to Stewardship event
- 11/20 "A Promise Kept" Genesis Ch.17,18, 21
- 11/27 Thanksgiving vacation - no class

### October Council Highlight

⇒ Council passed a motion to hold the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, **January 29**, with 1 service at 9:30 am followed by a luncheon and the meeting.

### Carmen Bellydance Presents: Fall 2022 Benefit Hafla

Sunday, **November 6** at 5:00 pm in St. John's Parish Hall

This event celebrates the beauty and talent of many local dancers and musicians including Carmen's students at Allegro Dance Studios. We will be raising funds and collecting items for SELF! This organization is dedicated to providing the tools and support for women re-entering society to create a life of safety, security and independence. Learn more at [www.self-reentry.org](http://www.self-reentry.org)

The fee for entrance is \$10 and we will be accepting donations of:

- |                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| New underwear (any size) | New bras (any size) |
| New socks                |                     |
| Hygiene products         | Sanitary products   |
| Chapstick                | Gloves/Hats         |
| Laundry detergent        | Paper products      |
| Cleaning Supplies        |                     |

*Newsletter Sponsorship:*

*In Memory of Kathryn Wieand,  
by daughter, Nancy Reimert*

### Ingathering Christmas Tree

The Christmas Tree portion of the Ingathering project will start Sunday, **November 6**. The tree will be in the back of the church decorated with the red stockings with the gift information inside. This will include the name of the person to receive the gift, their location and the gift desired. The gift should cost about \$25; fill in with a gift card if needed. There will be a sign-in sheet so we can keep track of the gifts and make sure everyone on the list gets something. If there are any questions, please call Mary Bealer at 610-965-5419.

### Thank You Notes

Thank you to the Pastor for the visits to see my mom, Fay Helfrich. She was impressed that he took time out of his day to see her. She enjoyed the flowers delivered to her by church members. Many thanks to the church members who attended her funeral service and sent cards to the family. I appreciated the flowers delivered to my house by Connie Young.

Blessings and peace. Cindy Ruhf

It was wonderful to have a visit and communion from Faith last month. She and I worked together at St. John's years ago. These visits remind me that I am not forgotten by my church.

Best wishes, Sally Kohl

### ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS!

The Stewardship Committee is looking for Thrivent members who are willing to apply for Thrivent grant monies for upcoming St. John's fund raising activities. It only requires about 15 minutes of computer time to apply for the grant and you do not need to participate in the actual activity. Please contact Bob Cleaver at 610-533-8900 or the church office if you are interested in helping.

Also, as a Thrivent client with membership you can have a say in how Thrivent distributes some of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars to causes you care about. Go to [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to find out how much charitable funding Thrivent will donate in your name.

### Confirmation Class of 1969

If you have your class photo, please contact Sandy Farkas at 610-967-0357 or bring it to the church office to be copied. Thank you.

## Remembered on All Saints Day

(November 2021 through October 2022)

**Paul L. Allender**  
**Joseph Balascak**  
**Lois E. Baumann**  
**Jean M. Deischer**  
**Elizabeth J. Gruber**  
**Thomas E. Havanko**  
**Fay L. Helfrich**  
**Wendy S. Homlish**  
**Margaret A. Julo**  
**Curtis B. Kehm**  
**Alice D. Kline**  
**Mary Krause**  
**Carol E. Lackner**  
**Nancy A. Leibensperger**  
**Leona M. Olson**  
**Wendy K. Pfenninger**  
**Naomi Jean Snyder**  
**Jeannine F. Stahl**  
**Robert J. Stair**  
**Rebecca J. Thomas**  
**Cheryl K. Trexler**  
**Faith E. Wagner**  
**Robert A. Wessner**



## Knitting for Charity

The first meeting of our re-formed group post pandemic was attended by eight people, including two members who want to learn to knit! An enjoyable time was had by all with fellowship and a lot of laughter.

If you are interested in joining our group, we will be meeting the first Wednesday of the month (except January, February, July and August) from 9:00 to 11:00 am in classroom #1 in the church basement. There are a wide variety of projects for knitting or crocheting to choose from. And we have been blessed with donated supplies to complete these items, which will benefit those in need throughout our community.

## Preschool Fundraiser

The Dan Schantz cards are back just in time for Christmas gift giving. These cards pay for themselves with just one use.

Each month a free item is featured. Items range from cut flowers and hanging plants to seasonal items like pumpkins, turkey mums and poinsettias. Just show your card and you get the item free. These cards never expire, so if you didn't get your free item one year, use it the next year.

The cards cost \$25 each. They are available from **November 25 to December 25**. To reserve your card, contact Denise Mill at 610-965-9885, ext. 6. Purchase one for yourself and some for family and friends. Makes a great stocking stuffer!

The purchase of these cards help support the operation of St. John's Christian Preschool. Thank you.

## Homebound Birthdays in November

Michael (Tony) Kehm (11/2)  
1415 Highland St.  
Allentown, PA 18102

George Blyler (11/12)  
Luther Crest Apt. 456  
800 Hausman Rd.  
Allentown, PA 18104

Julius Schneider (11/18)  
Complete Care at Lehigh Center  
1718 Spring Creek Road  
Macungie, PA 18062

Robert Reiss (11/20)  
Cedarbrook, D5 Room 514  
350 S. Cedarbrook Road  
Allentown, PA 18104

Sally Mohr (11/28)  
Devon House Room 100  
1930 Bevin Drive  
Allentown, PA 18103

## Thanksgiving's Path to Contentment

“Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.”

Hebrews 13:5

What would it take to make you happy? Really. In our culture, advertisements sell us on the idea that true happiness is always just one more purchase away. When we believe this, we put ourselves on the hamster wheel of want. No matter how hard we run, we will never get to happiness.

More often than happiness, the Bible speaks of contentment. The two concepts are often confused, but the distinction is important. Whereas happiness is a pleasurable sensation that rises and falls like the tide, contentment is a state of satisfaction that remains calm, like the surface of a pond.

God calls us to live contentedly, finding sufficiency in our lives, our relationships, and all we possess. We are enough. We have enough. When our essential needs are met, incessant wants do not, infest our soul like itchy fleas.

How do we find contentment? Thankfulness provides a way. We give thanks for all we are and all we have, appreciating every blessing. Since this is the month of Thanksgiving, make a pledge to yourself this November to find contentment through giving thanks. Make a “Gratitude List” of everything for which you are thankful. Review it daily, praying over each blessing, “I thank God for...” Add to it as you think of new things. May you finish November as someone who is not only thankful, but also content with all you are and all you have.

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Submitted by Diane Felegy, Stewardship Committee

## Celebration Sunday Service and Luncheon

On Sunday, **November 13**, we are having a special Sunday Celebration Church Service. Please note there is only one worship service on this day at 9:30 am.

The committee will serve a catered lunch from Biaggio's Pizzeria/Restaurant. We are asking for a few desserts from the congregation and have a list hanging on the bulletin board outside the parish hall. If you are willing to bake, please sign the list. Note: once the sheet is filled we will have plenty of desserts. Thank you

## Cadence Chorus is coming to St. John's Sunday, November 13

Cadence Chorus will be singing for St. John's Congregation on Celebration Sunday after the 9:30 am church service in the Parish Hall.

This ensemble represents a select group of 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders from Lower Macungie Middle School that are involved in a curricular chorus. Students must audition and not all who audition will be accepted. This group performs at numerous venues including Veterans Day at LMMS, elementary schools, community events, competitions, middle school exchanges and spring and winter concerts.



## Pastor Appreciation Month

The Mutual Ministry Committee celebrated Pastor Appreciation Month on October 9. Invitations were sent to all the pastors to attend a fellowship hour in their honor, thanking them for their dedication to St. John's.

**Pastor Jeffrey Carstens** was ordained January 27, 2013 and answered the call to St. John's beginning December 1, 2018. St. John's is grateful for his leadership and dedication. We are blessed to have him call us his church family, and for making St. John's his home.

**Pastor Fred Foerster** is our Pastor Emeritus, and was ordained 61 years ago in 1961. He answered the call to St. John's on April 19, 1970 and led his last service on June 30, 2001 after serving 30 years at St. John's. He is unable to attend today, but sent this note: "Thank you and the St. John's congregation for inviting us to attend a fellowship hour. I regret that my physical health does not permit me to mingle publicly with others. I'm still on 2 feet above ground." Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Shalom!"

**Pastor Lyn Langkamer** was ordained on May 24, 1973 and will celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> year of ordination next year. He served St. John's on a part-time basis beginning in 2011, then served as our interim pastor for 1 ½ years. Although retired from his part-time ministries at St. John's, he sometimes serves as a supply pastor. He and his wife joined us today for the celebration.

**Pastor David Newhart** was ordained in 1970. He took us under his wing as interim pastor on January 15, 2017. He dedicated himself to serving St. John's until December of 2018 when Pastor Jeff answered the call. He is well known for teaching through his portrayal of Biblical characters. A picture of him speaking as Martin Luther is on the poster board outside the parish hall.

**Pastor Roger Timm** was ordained in April of 1971, and celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> year of ordination in 2021. He came to Emmaus in 2013. He cannot be with us today as he is serving as supply pastor at St. Luke's in Allentown. For a few years he was the author of skits used during our Wednesday evening Lenten services. He sent a note: "Thank you for the invitation. Unfortunately, I'm supply preaching at St. Luke's in Allentown that Sunday and I won't be able to attend. I do appreciate your plan to include me. Thank you."

The Mutual Ministry Committee hosted a fellowship hour in the Parish Hall to honor our pastors. We thank Nancy Matika, Kathy Mintzer and Connie Young for helping. St. John's thanks and appreciates all the pastors who share the Gospel and spread the Good News. Thank you Pastor Jeff for choosing us to be your flock.

## Financial Report—September 2022

**Income \$18,470 Expenses \$27,500 Deficit \$9,030**

This month's deficit has drained our "checking account" balance from \$17,511 to \$8,477 as of September 30, 2022. While most expenses were on budget through September, there were additional expenses for our quarterly donations to the Lehigh County Conference of Churches, Lutheran Congregational Services, and the Lehigh Mission District. These donations are a reminder that **the mission of St. John's is to GO share God's love and serve others.**

The Finance Committee is beginning to prepare the 2023 budget and we do not want to decrease our yearly tithing amounts. We will be examining the everyday expenses of the church, but the chairs of the various committees have already been keeping their expenses to a minimum. Our church is old and requires constant repairs; utility rates are rising; prices for paper and postage are increasing. However, our monthly income is not increasing. As you can see from the above income amount, we did not receive enough money to cover the monthly payroll of \$21,800. In November, we hold Celebration Sunday, a time for self reflection of how to use one's gifts for St. John's. Please prayerfully consider your financial gift to St. John's.

Annette Roth, Finance Committee Chair



## St. John's Newsletter

Published Monthly by

St. John's Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship: 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Sunday School for all ages: 9:15 am  
(Sept.-May)

Office hours: M-Th 8:30-3:00

Telephone: 610-965-9885

pastor@stjohnsemmaus.org

Pastor's Cell Phone: 484-544-9403

Website: www.stjohnsemmaus.org

Hospital ID #279

Deadline: Noon the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month

Email: officemanager@stjohnsemmaus.org

### Staff

The Rev. Jeffrey S. Carstens, Pastor

Timothy M. Ginder, Music Ministry Director

Denise Mill, Preschool Director

Mary Racek, Preschool Teacher Assistant

Barbara E. Walck, Office Administrator

Anna Galante, Bookkeeper

Brian P. Dunton, Custodian

The Rev. Fred S. Foerster, Pastor Emeritus

## Advent and Christmas Worship

Sunday, **December 4** 6:00 pm Soup Supper  
7:15 pm Advent Evening Worship

Sunday, **December 18** 3:00 pm Blue Christmas Service

Saturday, **December 24** 5:00 pm Children's Worship Service  
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service  
10:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve

Sunday, **December 25** 9:00 am Christmas Day service

Sunday, **January 1** 9:00 am New Year's Day service

*(No German Christmas Service this season)*

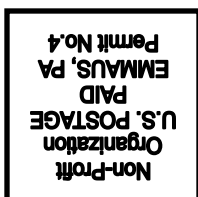
**St. John's 2022-23 Congregation Council:** Brad Albright (*Secretary*), John Ashcraft, Peg Duelfer, Sandy Farkas, Jane Harps, Stacy Kemmerer, Cheryl Kraemer, Bill Lake, Marlea McAdoo (*Vice President*), Elise Spayd (*President*), Myron Yoder

Address Service Requested

November 2022

501 Chestnut Street  
Emmaus, PA 18049

**NEWSLETTER**  
LUTHERAN + CHURCH  
**ST. JOHN'S**







501 CHESTNUT STREET • EMMANUS, PA 18049  
610-965-9885  
WWW.STJOHNSEMMANUS.ORG



Number of Poinsettia Plants \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Total enclosed)

Full payment must accompany order.  
(Checks payable to St. John's)

**GIVEN BY** \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

To the Glory of God

**Please check one of the following:**

I will pick up my plant(s) after the **December 25** service or the following week.

I would like my plant(s) delivered to a homebound member.

**ORDER DEADLINE – Thursday, November 10**

**All orders must be received with payment in the church office by this date. Please make a separate check payable to St. John's. As this amount is not recorded on your contribution statement, funds are kept separate from other donations. Thank you for your cooperation.**



## INGATHERING 2022

It is time again for Lehigh Mission District's annual Ingathering of Gifts. Each congregation is responsible for two agencies, which will receive small items. Our agencies are **Daybreak** and the **Topton Home**. The items requested are listed on this insert. Please mark the items with the agency's name and put in the boxes provided in St. John's coat room.

### **DAYBREAK**

Daybreak, the weekday drop-in center of the Lehigh Conference of Churches, gives people living with mental illness or physical disabilities and those struggling with addiction or HIV/AIDS, as well as the neighborhood's elderly, a place to belong.

- ❖ Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
- ❖ Shampoo/Conditioner
- ❖ Shower gel/Body wash (unisex)
- ❖ Shaving Cream/Disposable razors
- ❖ Hand lotion
- ❖ Hats, Gloves & Scarves (new)
- ❖ Sweatpants & Sweatshirts (new) – Sizes XL-XXL
- ❖ Women's T-shirts (new) – Sizes L-3X
- ❖ Men's Underwear (new) – Size L-XXXL
- ❖ Women's Underwear (new) - Size L
- ❖ Sweat socks
- ❖ Men's and Women's Slippers
- ❖ Shower curtains
- ❖ Pillows & Pillowcases (new) – standard size
- ❖ Sheets (new) – twin and full sizes
- ❖ Walmart gift cards - \$10



## TOPTON HOME

The Topton Home was founded as an orphanage and evolved into a residential facility for elderly people. They also offer children's programs for family services and adoptions.

- ❖ Small sand art bottles/colored sand
- ❖ Jars of bubbles
- ❖ Children's board games
- ❖ Children's scissors
- ❖ Large gift bags (non-holiday)
- ❖ Tissues
- ❖ Stickers
- ❖ Colored construction paper
- ❖ Rolls of large white paper (to trace kids for prep lessons)
- ❖ Markers and Pens/Gel pens
- ❖ Large sidewalk chalk
- ❖ Glue Sticks
- ❖ Plain popsicle sticks
- ❖ Children's books (any theme)
- ❖ Scotch tape
- ❖ Scrapbooking supplies
- ❖ Washable paint
- ❖ Hand soap/Hand sanitizers
- ❖ Baby wipes/Clorox wipes

In addition, we will be contributing gifts to two other agencies. Those tags will be on a Christmas tree at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday, November 6. All small gifts, donations and gifts from the tags need to be returned to the church by Sunday, **November 27**. Watch for updates in the bulletins and next month's newsletter. Thank you for your support. Please contact Mary Bealer at 610-965-5419 with questions.