

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL



“For the Beauty of the Earth”

EAGLE'S WINGS NEWSLETTER

Volume 36, Number 1 February 2025

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MISSION STATEMENT

We are a community of Christians who, through God's Word and Sacraments, are enabled by the Holy Spirit to grow and serve Christ at home and in the world.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Faith Formation/Sunday School - 9:00am

Fellowship Time - 9:45-10:15am

Worship 10:15am (online and in-person)

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**NEWSLETTER FOR
February 2025**

Pastor Shawn's Reflection

Dear St. John's Family,

As we step into the new year, we have much to be excited about at St. John's! We recently experienced one of our best Christmas Eve worship attendances in a long time, and we are grateful for all who joined us in celebrating the birth of Christ. As we move forward, we are introducing a new worship schedule designed to foster deeper faith formation, stronger fellowship, and meaningful worship each Sunday.



If you invited friends, neighbors, or family to our Christmas Eve services, please share this new schedule with them and encourage them to join us in the coming weeks.

January and February also bring special opportunities for designated giving, allowing us to live out our call to serve others. We are excited to support **Annie's Blanket Drive**, where we will be collecting new blankets for the Children's Hospital at Penn State Hershey. Additionally, we are participating in the **Souper Bowl of Caring**, and we invite you to contribute generously by donating laundry detergent and peanut butter. Both of these initiatives reflect the generous and compassionate spirit that thrives within our congregation throughout the year.

There are many exciting things happening at St. John's, and we hope you will find something that connects with you in this month's newsletter. Thank you for your continued commitment to our community of faith.

Blessings,

Pastor Shawn

Deacon Amy's Message



Dear siblings in Christ,

As the cold days of winter are upon us, and we have already endured two snow storms this year, I am filled with gratitude for the gifts God has given to me and my family. We have a cozy new house that is well-insulated and has been well maintained by previous owners. We have food to fill our bellies and the love of one another to fill our souls. We have inspiring stories to read, entertaining TV shows to watch, and joyful music which incites countless kitchen dance parties. Our home is full of love and laughter, warmth and delight.

And yet...there are so many people in our community who are suffering. There are those with no safe place to lay their heads at night. There are those who don't know where their next meal will come from, or even when that meal will be. There are those who are lonely, afraid, and grieving.

And, perhaps, some of those people are even reading this right now. There is so much need and hurt, right in our backyards. My dear siblings in Christ, God has called us for such a time as this. In the story of Queen Esther, her uncle Mordecai implores her to act boldly - to go against the law, appearing before the king without being summoned, to ask for deliverance for her people. Esther resists this request, understandably so, as she fears for her life. Mordecai persists, suggesting to her: "Perhaps you have [become queen] for just such a time as this." (Esther 4:14) Much like Esther, God has blessed each of us with many gifts. Esther's identity as a Jew and as Queen placed her in a unique position to be able to advocate for her people, even if that meant putting her very life on the line. She responded faithfully to God's call, revealed her [previously hidden] Jewish identity to the King, and her people were spared.

What identities do you hold? How do they intersect to form your own call, your own vocation? I myself am a mother, the spouse of an naturalized citizen, a person of faith, and a clergy member. Each of these identities gives me a unique perspective on parenthood, immigration, and the needs of people on the margins, all through the lens of faith. God has indeed prepared me for such a time as this - to serve and love people with my whole being, to boldly speak against the injustices I see in our community and our world, and to call the community of St. John's to join me in the work of loving our neighbors. If you are looking for a tangible way to contribute to this work, I invite you to consider donating to our "Touch of Grace" community assistance fund. Information about this fund can be found in our February bulletins, as it is our special giving designation for the month. If you are feeling the Spirit move, do not hinder Her. Like Esther and Mordecai, engage in conversation with one another, dream about what our world could be, and act boldly to make those dreams a reality. For God has called us for such a time as this.

In Peace, *Deacon Amy*

St. John's Happenings

Welcome Seth!

In case you're wondering "who is that guy helping to lead worship"... it's Seth! Seth Zimmann is a first-year MDiv student at United Lutheran Seminary. Currently, he also serves as a lab instructor at Gettysburg College, and worked for three years as a high school teacher. He is excited to worship with



us at St. John's for the 2024-25 academic year, and welcomes all questions whether math, science, or Lutheran. If you've yet to meet Seth, be sure to visit with him some Sunday following worship.



Coming Soon!

ST. JOHN'S
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
est. 1760

GOLF OUTING 2025

SUPPORTING OUR DIAPER BANK MINISTRY

26 JULY
8:00AM SHOTGUN
4 PERSON SCRAMBLE
\$235 PER TEAM
INCLUDES A MEAL

REGISTER NOW
shawn@stjohnsatown.com

Hickory Heights Golf Course
5158 Lehman Rd,
Spring Grove PA 17362

2025 COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

President: Barbara Colandreo
Vice President: Michele Trent
Secretary: Dick Sharrer



*We want to recognize
our newly elected
Congregation leaders,
and everyone who serves
on Congregation Council
and our Committees.
Your commitment
to service is
appreciated by us all!*

St. John's Happenings



**ANNIE'S
BLANKET
DRIVE**



NEW

COLLECTING NEW CHILDREN'S THROW
BLANKETS (ANY SIZE) FOR PENN STATE
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT ST. JOHN'S
NOW THROUGH FEBRUARY 9TH
COLLECTION BIN IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING
New HOPE Ministries
SOUPER BOWL OF CARING
2025
COLLECTING NOW UNTIL FEB 16

BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM



The Pink Pig will be with us in worship through Feb 16 to collect your change for the Souper Bowl of Caring

We hope you can join us on Feb 11 at the Altland House for good food, good company, and good conversations.



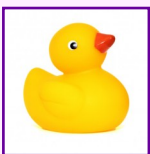
Good News & Brews
Second Tuesday of the Month

at the Altland House
(1 Center Square, Abbottstown)

6:30pm to 8:00pm

Good News and Brews is a time of faithful discussion and enjoying good food. Pastor Shawn and other faith leaders will bring a conversation to the table for discussion and those that gather can order off the menu at the Altland House.

St. John's wishes to congratulate Bree and Alex Huntington on the birth of their daughter, Colby, on Jan 9th. May God bless your family in this new chapter of your lives together



Prayer Breakfast
Returning this spring!
8:30am @ Five Loaves / Deja Brew



Staying Connected

Sunday Morning Schedule -

9:00am -- Faith Formation for everyone (Sunday School) - at St. John's Lutheran Church

9:45-10:15am -- Fellowship Time

10:15am – In-Person Worship - at St. John's Lutheran Church

10:15am – Remote Worship – You Tube, Facebook, and your telephone (toll free):

You Tube - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLYusK7PV28KOqSVH6xpbFA>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/St.JohnsAbbottstown/live>

PhoneLiveStreaming - dial toll-free from your telephone to listen live at 10:15am,
or to hear the previously recorded service at **(833) 435-4458**

Listening to Worship on Your Telephone

St. John's is testing a new phone system, allowing guests and members to listen to the worship service live on their telephone. Phone Live Streaming is a program that will replace our ZOOM connection during worship. The new toll-free phone number is **(833) 435-4458**. One of the nice features this system provides is that it can call you when our worship service goes live. We hope this service will help those without the internet or individuals or families that would simply like to listen to the service rather than watch it on YouTube or Facebook.



 PhoneLiveStreaming

**Call (833) 435-4458
and give it a try!**

Hospital Admittance

If you or a loved one is admitted to the hospital, please be sure to identify St. John's, Abbottstown, as your congregation. According to HIPAA regulation, if you provide this information to the Hospital, they will notify us of your admittance.

Additionally,

If you or a loved one has become ill, or homebound, please inform the church office so we can include you on our prayer list. Also, please let Pastor Shawn or Deacon Amy know if you would like them to call or visit you. Thanks!



Please inform the church office of any changes that can be made to the "Prayer Concerns" list: let us know if someone can be removed from the list, or if their status has changed. Also, please contact us with any additions to the list.

Thank you for faithfully praying for our community.

Music and Birthdays

MUSIC NOTES



Chancel Choir regularly sings Sunday anthems. Anyone who enjoys singing is welcome to join us! **We rehearse at 9:45am**, prior to the 10:15am worship service. Please consider sharing your talents with us! If you have any questions, please contact **Donna Renaut at (717) 451-0959**, or dkrenaut@gmail.com



Junior Choir usually sings once per month and has a rehearsal at 8:30am, before Sunday School, and then sings at the 10:15am worship service. We welcome any children in grades 3 and older to sing with us! If you have any questions, please contact Donna Renaut (*see above.*)

Our next rehearsals are on Feb 9 & 16 at 8:30, and then we'll sing at worship on Feb 16.

Happy February Birthdays!

Clare Colgan	February 1	Kaitlyn Frey	February 13	Barb Colandreo	February 19
Ainsley Harman	February 2	Darcy Tyson	February 13	Luke Frey	February 19
Luke Sprenkle	February 3	Lindsay Mummert	February 14	Vicki Stewart	February 20
Joshua Rickrode	February 4	Kelly Kirchner	February 15	Peter Petrie	February 21
Sarah Legore	February 5	Peggy Tyson	February 15	Stacey Bupp	February 23
Tom Linebaugh	February 8	Sandy Haverstick	February 16	Ethan Garrett	February 23
Alexis Cutshall	February 9	Joan Sauter	February 17	Rylee Haugh	February 23
Cameron Miller	February 11	Liam Shafer	February 17	Carol Zeigler	February 24
Lisa Hart	February 12	Gary Landis	February 18	Samuel Fox	February 25
				Delores Lillich	February 25
				Keith Shively	February 26
				Quynn Menges	February 27
				Leah Slothour	February 27
				Bodhi Harman	February 27



Service Opportunities

FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH- 5:30PM to 7:00PM
SPRING FORGE SHOPPING PLAZA

LAUNDRY LOVE

LOVING PEOPLE ONE LOAD AT A TIME



Join us on February 4 and help to spread the love!



RUTH'S HARVEST - BERMUDIAN SPRINGS ELEMENTARY

ST. JOHN'S HAS BEEN ASKED TO COLLECT CHEF BOYARDEE SINGLE SERVE MEALS AND PUDDING CUPS

Our next packing date is
Wednesday, February 19, at 12:40pm

Please place items on the stage in the Fellowship Hall, and thank you for helping our neighbors in need. Your gifts make a big difference in the lives of children and their families.



PAL LUNCH TEAM

Sharing God's love through food and community

The Hanover Area Council of Churches serves a hot meal 365 days a year to approximately 130 to 200 people every day. These meals are lovingly made by member congregations from all across the area.

St. John's PAL Team is scheduled to serve our next meal on

Friday, March 7, from 9AM-Noon
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED



If you are interested in joining our PAL team, please contact Larry Welty at (717) 253-4744.

Assisting With Worship

Date	Acolyte	Communion Assistant	Greeter(s)	Lector	Usher(s)
February 2		Jim Hoff	Bob & Wanda Wagaman	Michele Trent	Michele Trent
February 9	Matty Sharrer	Barb Colandreo	Lorna Runk & Eunice Mntzr	Norbert Mamet	Michele Trent
February 16	Kylie Slothour	Lori Slothour	Megan, Kylie, Leah Slothour	Elizabeth Berkebile	Barb Colandreo
February 23		Alison Baker	Banda Family	Chelsey Banda	Michele Trent
March 2		Michele Trent		Michele Trent	Brent Sauter
March 5 <i>Ash Wed</i>	Clara Berkebile	Warren Smith	<i>Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or contact the church office to volunteer!</i>	Warren Smith	
March 9				Mike Omlor	
March 16		Norbert Mamet			Norbert Mamet
March 23	Kylie Slothour		Megan, Kylie, Leah Slothour	Megan Slothour	
March 30					

For those assisting with worship: an email reminder is sent out on the Thursday before your scheduled service. Included with the email is a copy of the lessons for the week for the lector to preview. Empty boxes above indicate the need for volunteers. Please use the blue “Worship Assistants” notebook in the Fellowship Hall to sign-up, or call or email Bill Sowers at St. John’s (see page 1.)



St. John's Lutheran Church 2024 Financial Narrative

As we reflect on the financial health of St. John's Lutheran Church and share the December 2024 report, we want to express our deep gratitude for the steadfast generosity and commitment of our congregation. This year has been financially strong, but not without its challenges. With the



addition of a larger staff, our expenses have naturally increased, and the ever-changing costs of energy and materials have posed ongoing challenges. However, through careful planning and faithful stewardship, we have navigated these hurdles well and emerged in a solid financial position.

The December 2024 financial results show a gain of \$7,214.83 compared to a December 2023 loss of \$526.57. This positive shift reflects the dedication of our members and the prudent management of our resources. Additionally, our December 2024 income exceeded budget expectations by \$14,725.57, while our expenses were over budget by \$7,510.74. Despite these increased expenses, the overall financial picture remains encouraging.

Looking at the year-to-date (YTD) figures, our income exceeded budget projections by \$9,899.74, a testament to the continued generosity of our congregation. However, our YTD expenses have also come in over budget by \$16,035.14, highlighting the impact of rising costs in areas such as utilities, maintenance, programming, and staffing.

While we enter the new year with a slight financial deficit, it is important to emphasize that our church remains committed to running a lean and responsible expense model. Thanks to the faithful gifts of the past, we are starting the year in a stable position and looking ahead with optimism and hope. We are fully aware of the challenges ahead, particularly with the rising costs of energy and materials, but we remain confident in our ability to steward our resources wisely. As we move forward, we invite our congregation to prayerfully consider how they can support the work of St. John's. If you are in a position to give a little more, your contributions will go a long way in sustaining the vital ministries and outreach programs that make a difference in our community. At the same time, please know that we remain unwavering in our commitment to sharing the gifts God has first given us, ensuring that our mission and ministries continue to thrive.

Thank you for your faithfulness and support throughout 2024. Together, we will continue to be a beacon of hope and service in our community.

With love,

Pastor Shawn

"Well done good and faithful servant(s)."

-Matthew 25

Treasurer's Report

7:09 AM
01/15/25
Cash Basis

St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church Actual vs Budget - Summary December 2024

	Dec 24	Budget	Jan - Dec 24	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income	36,028.57	21,303.00	265,537.74	255,638.00	255,638.00
Expense					
BENEVOLENCE EXPENSES NON SYNOD	1,516.00	63.00	3,243.63	750.00	750.00
BENEVOLENCE EXPENSES THRU SYNOD	916.67	1,000.00	12,000.04	12,000.00	12,000.00
PASTORAL MINISTRY	8,186.43	8,308.00	97,448.54	99,688.00	99,688.00
ADMINISTRATION	4,306.91	3,263.00	46,698.60	39,157.00	39,157.00
WORSHIP AND MUSIC	3,583.40	1,383.00	17,208.08	16,600.00	16,600.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	5,571.69	2,829.00	33,989.75	33,950.00	33,950.00
CHURCH COMMITTEES	173.05	175.00	2,695.91	2,100.00	2,100.00
PROPERTY	4,559.59	4,282.00	58,388.59	51,393.00	51,393.00
Total Expense	28,813.74	21,303.00	271,673.14	255,638.00	255,638.00
Overage (Shortfall) to meet current expenses	7,214.83	0.00	-6,135.40	0.00	0.00

Offering Envelope Special Designated Giving

During the month of February, our *Special Monthly Designation* will go to support the Touch of Grace fund, providing support to our neighbors in need. Thanks for your continued support of ministries that bring light and hope to our world.

ONLINE GIVING AT ST. JOHN'S

Looking for an alternative to cash or checks to give to the ministry and mission of the church? Go to our website www.stjohnsatown.com and click on the "Make a Donation" tab, or follow the QR Code below and help us grow in our giving by making an online gift. You will have the option to make a one time donation or a recurring donation. This website is quick and secure. Thank you for your continued support!

Our online giving page has a new look—check it out today!



We are praying for:

Those serving the larger church:

Dr. Stephan J. Swanson and Jodi Lynn Swanson, RN - our missionaries in Tanzania

Persons who are ill or hospitalized:

Sandy Haverstick - prayers for healing

Ruth Edwards - having heart problems

Christine Uhercik - preparing for surgery

Lisa Wildasin - continuing in her fight with MS

Joan Plank - recovering from heart surgery

Glenna Kirchner (mother of Hans Kirchner) - recovering from a stroke

Bobbie Bevas - recovering from abdominal surgery

Linda Utz - receiving care for pneumonia and kidneys

Scarlette (great granddaughter of Bonnie Staub) - receiving care from home

Michael Stein (Ruth's Harvest volunteer) - receiving hospice care

Bonnie Staub - in need of healing for her shoulder

Vicky Slonaker - receiving care at Transition Health/Rehab in Gettysburg

Pastor Terry McCarthy - recovering from an infection at Apple Hill Rehab

Myra Miller - recovering from injuries in an automobile accident

Lona Talaber - recovering from injuries in an automobile accident

Deb Litten - recovering from injuries/surgeries following an automobile accident

Jeanne Hoke - recovering at Cross Keys Village following a fall and surgery

Persons undergoing treatment for Cancer:

Jane Miller (mother of Corey Miller) - receiving care for breast cancer

Polly Stein (Ruth's Harvest volunteer) - receiving care for breast cancer

Daniel Bowers (nephew of Lorna Runk) - receiving care for prostate cancer

Gloria Baker - receiving care for liver cancer

Chuck Gabrielson - receiving care for lung cancer

Norah Shively - receiving care for stage 1 melanoma

Doug Balko - receiving care for colon cancer

Fred Gebhart - receiving care for prostate cancer

James Mauk - receiving care for cancer and his heart

Jack Leib - receiving care for cancer at WellSpan Gettysburg

Irelyn Sprengle (SGIS student) - receiving care for kidney cancer at Hershey Medical Center

We also pray for:

Those in our area who are homeless: including Katie, Paul, Deb and Lucky.

Everyone affected by war: in the Middle-East, Ukraine, and elsewhere around the world. May God be present with you all.

Our homebound members:

Gloria Breighner Dorothy Hoffheins

Esther Swope

Kathy McMaster - receiving kidney dialysis

Dr. Anne Quinn - receiving care for ALS

Terry Murren - in need of prayers

Sarah Dutrow - in need of healing

