



The Messenger

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

FROM YOUR PASTOR...

"The LORD Is My Shepherd"

A Psalm of David.

23 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.

³ He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death,

I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

A few thoughts on the 23rd Psalm. This is a profession of joyful trust in the Lord as the Good Shepherd-King. In the original language this Psalm is a balance Hebraic poem. In verse One David acknowledges that the Lord is his Shepherd-King. Shepherds were used in imagery for Kings. In Verse two the flocks lie down contented and secure in rest. The green pastures are a metaphor for all that makes life flourish and quiet waters are literally waters of resting places. They are the waters that provide refreshment and well-being. In verse three restores my soul the Lord revives you, refreshes your spirit. He guides you in paths of righteousness as a Shepherd leads his sheep in paths that offer safety and wellbeing. So David's and your Shepherd-King guides him and you in ways that cause him to be secure and prosperous. The Paths of righteousness also refer to paths that conform to God's moral will. The phrase for his name's sake is a referent to the prosperity of the Lord's servant brings honor to the Lord's name. In verse four the rod is an instrument of authority. It was also used by shepherds for counting,

guiding, rescuing and protecting his sheep. The staff was an instrument of support and together they comfort you or reassure you. In verse five David is honored as the a lesser or vassal King by the Lord, yet The Great Shepherd King has prepared a place of Honor before or in front of his enemies as a guest of the God the King. David's head is anointed with oil as was the custom of the day and continued through the time of Christ. In verse six goodness and love both frequently refer to covenant promises made by the Good Shepherd- King. To follow was literally to pursue or dwell in the house of the Lord. Forever is suggestive of throughout the years in the Hebrew language. As Summer continues on there is much to be thankful for here at St. John's. Our Lord continues to comfort, guide and lead us in His paths of righteousness. He has rescued us from our sin and continues to do so daily. In each of our graduations to glory we will be in a place of honor in Christ's presence. We are refreshed each week in Word and Sacrament. He continues to give us resting places and keeps you secure in his pasture of eternal life.

In July we will have the Chrismon workshop for those interested 7/11- 7/13 from 6-8pm. Please see Gayle for choosing the Chrismon you would like to work on. Once she knows how many people are interested and everyone has chosen their Chrismon to make a check payable to her and she will make one order for everyone.

We will also commission VBS Volunteers in the Divine Service on 7/15 with VBS starting that night and ending on Friday the 20th with hot dogs, and ice cream and other foods. Pastor's Bible Study will be held 7/11 & 7/25. The community meal and worship service will be 7/28. Movie night is also 7/28 at 6 pm. We will view the film Courageous.

For August, Pastor's Bible study will be held 8/8 & 8/22, movie night will be 8/25 also at 6 pm. Perhaps the biggest event of the month is the annual Church picnic the 3rd Sunday 8/19 at the Wargo Grove. We will have special music as my dad will be here with his keyboard to play for us. The community meal and worship service will also be held on 8/25. We may review the movie War Room or another film that has not yet been determined.



Our Dear Sister Sharon Roegge has been called home to her Eternal Rest on June 12, 2018, at 7:15 pm. She has asked us to join her in her celebration of life and her

homecoming with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Homecoming Celebration and Memorial Service will be held on June 30, 2018, at 11 am with a meal to follow in her honor. Visitation will take place at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church [621 N. Vine St. Hazleton PA 18222](#).

YOUTH NEWS—Jolene Evancho & Carrie Drasher

Thank You!

I cannot express my gratitude to everyone who supported me and our youth during the planning and carrying out of the Tricky Tray Auction. We raised a good amount of money toward Minnesota.

So many members, family, and friends answered the call to help, whether it was by attending, donating, baking, cooking, picking up items, and most importantly, their time on Saturday. I cannot thank you all enough. The youth are truly blessed to have such wonderful supporters.

Thank you and God Bless,
Carrie Drasher

MAY 2018 LWML CONVENTION



The youth will be hosting a Trash to Treasure Sale on Saturday, August 4 from 8am—1pm. We will be accepting donations till Sunday, July 29. Please see a list of items in the bulletin. Any questions or concerns, please see Jolene or Ruth.

The second upcoming fundraiser is a Fall Craft and Vendor Sale on October 13 at Holy Family. We are still looking for crafters and vendors; if interested or know someone who might be, please see Carrie.



St. John's will be hosting Vacation Bible School from July 15—July 20, 6—8 pm. The theme will be "A Mighty Fortress." This program is open to all children ages 5—12. Please see Jolene or Pastor for more information.

MITES—JULY/AUGUST 2018—Karen Ann Kowalczyk



LWML GRANT

Our congregation will be the recipient of a \$2,000 grant for the Spanish Bibles, that was voted on at the LWML SELC District convention in Chicago, in May. However, the grants will not be awarded unless the mites are received. The total SELC District grant budget is \$10,400, of which St. John's will be receiving \$2,000. As a congregation we need to get behind the mite program, there are a few women now who support the mites, but we need more to support mites. On the LWML website conventions page, Debbie Larson, LWML Vice President of Organization said of the convention, "This has been a weekend packed with inspiration. The women and men of the SELC District are serving and sharing Jesus' love with joy!" Let our congregation follow the lead of the SELC District LWML Convention.

There will be a big Purple mite box at the top of the stairs; please consider dropping your loose change in the box.

LWML Mites have sponsored mission projects for LCMS for the past 75 years. The mission budget adopted at Albuquerque last year for 2017-2019 is over \$2 million dollars. As President Harrison said at the SELC District convention in April, LCMS has been the recipient of LWML funding for missions over the years. Some mission projects might not have happened had it not be for LWML Mites.

Serving Christ Through LWML,
Karen Ann Kowalczyk

PRAYERS FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



We pray Jesus' hand would rest on **Peter Panco, Anna Belko, Bob Gould, Jack Ross, MaryAnne and Frank Gilham, Alma Yale, Anne Goranitis, Gertie and Bob Mandak, Bob Onder, Pauline Onder**, and all in need of His physical, emotional and spiritual care. If you have a prayer chain request, please call Gertie Ann Mandak, (570) 497-9361.

If Pastoral Care is required, please call Pastor Joe (570-459-6423) and the necessary arrangements will be made.

St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church

621 N Vine St
Hazleton PA 18201
Rev Joseph L Leech, pastor
Phone: 570-459-6423
Email: stjohshazleton@gmail.com
Website: stjohshazleton.org



Our Mission and Vision Statement:

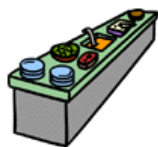
"We are to be growing people in our faith and helping others to come to faith and grow in it."

TRUSTEE NEWS

If anyone is interested in helping to mow the grass at church, please speak to Kevin or John. They will make the appropriate arrangements concerning the lawn mower.

Another project we are looking at is removal of the landscape timbers in front of the church. They were put in when the front addition was put in back in 1983. We would like to remove them and taper the grass into the concrete.

COMMUNITY
LUNCHEONS



The next luncheons will be held on Saturday, July 28, and August 25 from 11am to 12 noon,

beginning at 11am. Sponsors are the Thrivent Action Teams. Thank you

PRESIDENT'S CORNER—Paul Kowalczyk

As we reach the mid-point of the year we have a chance to look back to see where we had been and a chance to look forward to see what may lie ahead for us. While we cannot do anything about what has already passed and we cannot do anything about the future we can only live in the present. *The LORD will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right' (Psalm 84:11). It is also said that 'I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content' (Philippians 4:11).* As I see it our Lord and Savior will bless us for our faith and actions on His behalf and we should be content with what He has provided to us. We have to be willing to take Faith filled steps and move forward and we will be blessed.

I remember a study done a number of years ago that reached the following conclusions: 20% of the people do 80% of the work and 20% of the people contribute 80% of the funds needed for a project. We have all been blessed with various talents as well as time and treasure. If the study is correct we should try to be part of the 20% in support of the ministry at St. Johns. The ultimate goal is 100% of the congregation supports our ministry. We all have to be part of the greater good. *As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. James 5:11*

"Well done good and faithful servant" is a blessing we should all try to live up to. Over the last three and half years I have been blessed to work with a group of people serving on Church Council who do their best to be a faithful servant in the service of our Lord. When you see one of the council members please give them your thanks for a job well done.



A Mighty Fortress
Sunday, July 15—
Friday, July 20,
6-8pm