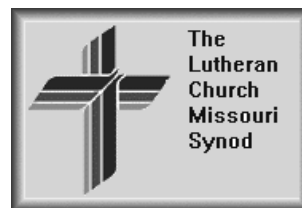


The Messenger



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

FROM YOUR PASTOR

I Am the Resurrection and the Life

¹⁷Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off,¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house.²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "[Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.](#)"

John 11:17-27

Last month I asked you about the following things.

So, I ask you to think about ways in which you can bring new life and reconciliation into the family of St. John's. What are some things that each of you can do to encourage new life and new growth here in the life of St. John's? Your sin has passed away, you are made new in Christ. You and I are reconciled to

him. Christ also makes you His ambassadors, His messengers of this great news of life eternal. How can you as a family think past the few of you who attend weekly? How can you begin to bring new life into this place called St. John's with the help of the Holy Spirit? There have been several generations of families here. How do you begin to ensure that those same families will have a place to worship for the next several generations? Let's enter into a season of Easter here at St. John's. Let's be intentional about bringing new life, to the life of your church. Celebrate the life of Christ that is yours in the resurrection of Christ that comes to you in your baptisms.

This season of new life. The season of eternal life in our resurrected Lord Jesus, our Messiah, and Savior. On Maundy Thursday we will hear, "The Voice of Grace," the final voice in the sermon series in "The Voices in The Trials of Jesus." On Good Friday we will have our annual Tenebrae service. Then Easter morning we will have a resurrection celebration. Let's show Hazleton and the world that we believe as Martha did. "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

In Christ's service to you his beloved Children,

Pastor Joe

THRIVENT UPDATE

Although it is too late to designate your 2018 Choice Dollars to St. John, Hazleton, PA, here is what our congregation received as of February 2018.

2018 \$740

2017 \$1,652

Total dollars St. John's received since the program began \$10,665.

Although we are down for 2018, maybe 2019 will be better. Look at what we received since the program began, and all we had to do was either call the home office or designate them on the computer. It is a very simple process that is the result of having certain financial products with Thrivent and is a no cost item. It is free money that we can give away to help St John's and other not for profit organizations.

LWML

Thank you to the Lydia Society for a \$100 check, as well as a few who filled mite boxes or gave a check for the last quarter of mites. The next newsletter will have the total that was received by national LWML and we'll see if the goal of \$2,000,000 plus was reached. This money funds mission projects at home and abroad.

If you need a mite box, speak with me and I will give you one.

I will be attending the LWML national convention in Mobile, Al. in June. It is a very inspirational event, that includes presentations from organizations that have either received or are on the ballot for funding of future projects. As the SELC Eastern Zone delegate, I will be voting for the projects that will be funded, as well as the new LWML President and other officers. It is nice to see all the women gathered for the opening Communion worship service.

Please keep the LWML in your prayers that God's will be done through the Bible studies, presentation, singing and other fellowship activities.

Praise God for LWML and the work it has done for 77 years,
Karen Ann Kowalczyk

YOUTH FUNDRAISERS

We want to say thank you to the congregation for your continued support. Our halupki and haluski sale at the mall brought us a little over \$1,000. We could never have done that without our amazing congregation helping us. A special thank you to Sylvia Wargo for making the haluski, and Dave and Nancy Trovitch for making the halupki. Thank you to the Drasher, Dice, Panco and Beishline families and youth members who spent the day at the mall working the stand.

Our next fundraiser will be a Kraft and Karry. This event will be held at the church on May 11th. This is an event which we will have a host who will walk us through creating a wooden craft that will be taken home and used to decorate your home. There will be one craft for adults as well as a children's craft. We plan to have babysitting available to those who need it. If you are interested in this event, please reach out to Jolene, Carrie or Krista Panco. Thank you for your support of our youth group. We ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers as we prepare for our trip.

- Jolene Evancho



CHURCH FUNDRAISER

We are looking at holding a fundraiser in the near future to help with church finances and projects. It will be a dinner prepared by church volunteers and sold to the public. Volunteers are needed in order to proceed with this event. Are you able to help with cooking, serving, cleaning tables, dishwashing or selling tickets? Please sign the volunteer sheet posted at the bottom of the stairs and indicate what you are willing to do. Also indicate if there is a time frame that you are not available so we can select a date based on volunteer availability. Let's all pull together so we can have a successful fundraiser to benefit St. John's.

DISASTER UPDATE—Karen Ann Kowalczyk

I'm looking for volunteers who are willing to crochet mats for homeless or people in third world countries who sleep on the floor. They are made from the plastic bags you receive at the grocery store. If you are able to crochet, and willing to do this, please contact me at 570-459-0501 or karenannkow@hotmail.com.

Any Thrivent member who is willing to do an action team, please contact me and I will give you the instructions for purchasing and putting together "Health Kits". The OGT warehouses are desperate for these items. With all the hurricanes in the US and shipments to third world countries, they can't keep them in stock so when a disaster strikes they need to have enough health kits so they can send them to the areas where they are needed.

As I write this article, the mid-west of our country is experiencing flooding especially Nebraska. I know first hand since my sister and her family have been effected by the

flooding. They are all safe now, but it was hard for her to travel from my niece in Lincoln to her home in Norfolk, NE. Roads have been washed out or are flooded, bridges have been destroyed by ice that hits the pillars and the road collapses. They are in need of your prayers. Keep your eyes open for how we will be responding to this latest disaster in the Sunday bulletin.

God's Blessings as we "Serve the Lord with Gladness"

Karen Ann Kowalczyk
Maryland Orphan Grain Train
Disaster Response Coordinator

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, Meralea Oberto, Bill and Lorraine (Onder) Ray, Megan Crume's mother, Patti, Elaine and John Belko** 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

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Hazleton PA 18201
Rev Joseph L Leech, pastor
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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."

Congratulations to Dave and Nicole Onder on the birth of their baby daughter, Evelyn Rose, on March 12! Evelyn made her debut at 2lb 11.6oz and 15 3/4". May your new beautiful baby girl bring you years of happiness and love.

COMMUNITY LUNCHEONS

A Community Luncheon will be held on **Saturday, April 27**. It will begin with worship at 10:30



followed by the meal at 11am.

We are looking for Thrivent members to apply for an Action Grant to sponsor the luncheons. See Nancy if you want to help out.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER—Daniel Starry

After a long winter, spring is finally on its way, bringing with it warmer temperatures, longer days, and the bright colors of blooming flowers. The budding plants and new growth also remind us of Jesus' resurrection and our new life in Him thanks to His death on the cross and His willingness to bear our sins. As we continue to progress through the Lenten season where we have heard the voices in the trials of Jesus, we enter into Holy Week with the arrival of Palm Sunday on April 14th. Then we have Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and finally Easter Sunday on April 21st. Thanks to Jesus' resurrection on Easter morning, our sins are forgiven and we will all live eternally with Him. This news is too good not to share. Invite a friend or family member to worship with us so that they too may hear the good news that Jesus has risen! Alleluia!

As council has been busy working to maintain operations and prepare for the future of the church, an area that we have focused on is fundraising opportunities. One possibility that has been discussed is having a dinner such as those in years past. Numerous churches in the area hold fundraising dinners with great success. However, in order to accomplish this, we need volunteers. There will be more info to come in the bulletins and announcements. If we have enough volunteers, we will continue to plan the event. Please keep your eyes and ears open for this and other opportunities in the near future.

Although we are a small congregation, St. John's is continuing to help others and spread God's Word in a big way. Thank you to everyone for your support as we work to revitalize the church so that the younger generations can carry on the legacy created nearly 100 years ago. God has continually blessed St. John's and its members, and He still has much in store for us.

LENTEN SERVICES

Join us for the remaining Wednesday Lenten services on April 3 and April 10 at 7pm. Pastor will preach on the various voices in the trials of Jesus. We will begin with a soup supper at 6pm. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board for anyone who would like to prepare soup.