

# SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

## St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church of Mahoning

826 Mahoning Drive West Lehigh, PA 18235

Phone: (570) 386-9960 Email: [stjohns@ptd.net](mailto:stjohns@ptd.net) Instagram: st\_johns\_mahoning

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

Pastor: The Rev. Lauren Wolfe Blatt

**Core Purpose Statement: "A family of friends alive with God's love. You're home!"**

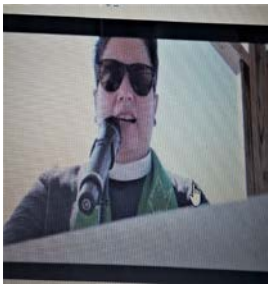
"FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL  
BLESS YOU IN ALL YOUR  
HARVEST AND IN ALL THE WORK  
OF YOUR HANDS, AND YOUR  
JOY WILL BE COMPLETE."

♥ Deuteronomy 12:15b



**Worship with us every Sunday at 10:00 AM.**

**Harvest Home & God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, Sept. 20**



### *A Message from our Pastor*

Siblings in Christ,

On Sunday August 23, 2020, I preached on Matthew 16 where the author writes,

“Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14 And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.””

I am eternally struck by Jesus’ questions to the disciples, “BUT who do YOU say that I am?” This is the question I preached on because I think it’s a question that is perpetually pertinent to us and our faith journey.

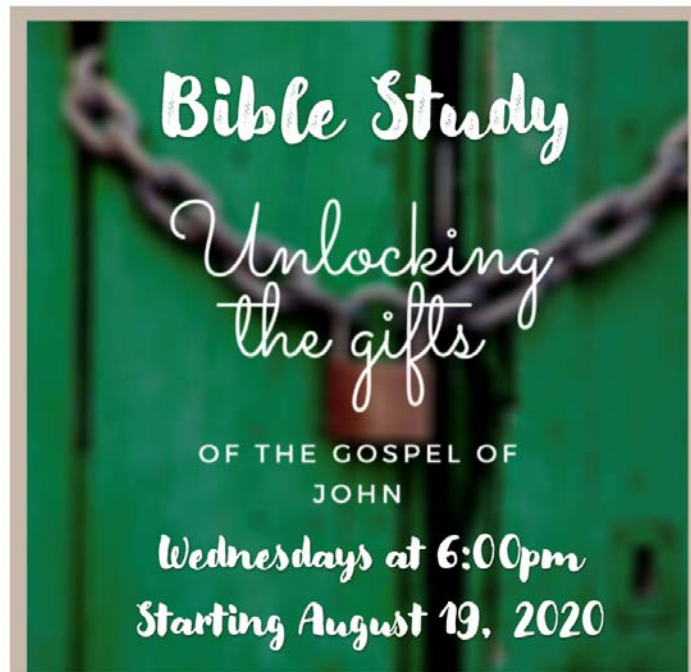
Over the past year, I have listened, prayed, taught, questioned, pastored... As you know, our congregation has grown smaller over the past few decades. This is a national phenomenon in mainline churches, but this narrative, that of church death, that of dwindling attendance, is not one I am willing to accept. I think we need to start with one small change. Let’s begin to think of Jesus’ question to the disciples, and let’s begin to wonder about how this question applies to us.

Who do *we* say that Jesus is? We might dig deep into our Sunday school learnings to answer this question – Jesus is the messiah, the anointed one, the King of the Universe, the Savior... Jesus is, of course, all of these things and more, but who is Jesus for us and how are our lives different for it? How are we to share the good news of God in Christ?

The Future Investigation Team is being rebranded as the Vitality Team. This group will be in charge of discerning how we will answer God’s call on our lives, in our church, and in the world. If you are interested in serving on this team, we’d be happy to have you. The first meeting of the **Vitality Team will be on September 27** after Sunday worship. I hope to see you there, so that we can work together to transform from a worshipping community that sometimes does mission to a missional community that worships. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [pastor@stjohnsmahoning.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnsmahoning.org) or at 610 568 8397.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Blatt



***10 Week Bible Study here at St. John's. It's OK if you can't make it every week. You can still join in on the conversation. No study on Sept. 9 & 16 (Pastor on vacation.)***

---

***Church Office Hours are not set at this time. The best way to reach our church admin is to send an email to [secretary@stjohnsmahoning.org](mailto:secretary@stjohnsmahoning.org). You may also leave a voicemail on the church phone at 570-386-9960 or send an email to [stjohns@ptd.net](mailto:stjohns@ptd.net). Colleen will check messages and emails routinely and make sure your questions, requests and concerns are answered in a timely manner.***

***Pastor Blatt has no set office hours at this time. You may speak with her after worship any Sunday or email her at [pastor@stjohnsmahoning.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnsmahoning.org) or at [pastorblatt@gmail.com](mailto:pastorblatt@gmail.com). If you need pastoral care or have an emergency you may contact her by phone at 610-568-8397.***

---

### ***Did you notice the NEW Contact Email Addresses?***

***You can reach Pastor Blatt and our Church Admin, Colleen at the following new email addresses:***  
***[pastor@stjohnsmahoning.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnsmahoning.org) and [secretary@stjohnsmahoning.org](mailto:secretary@stjohnsmahoning.org)***



---

### ***The Window Project is in full swing!***

The window project is moving along very nicely and all the new windows look great. There was, however, much old rotten wood that had to be removed and concrete sills will be ordered so the windows can be completed. We still need a few thousand dollars to pay for the entire job. If you are able to contribute, it will be greatly appreciated. Thanks to everyone for their donations.

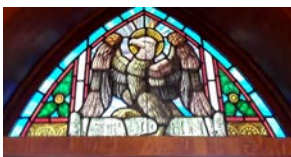
*These are the meetings and events we are aware of at the time of printing.*

Wed., Sept 2	Bible Study – The Gospel of John	6:00 PM
Sun., Sept 6	Worship outside at pavilion (in your vehicle if inclement weather) Pastor on vacation – Josh, Vicar at Trinity is our guest preacher	10:00 AM
Tues., Sept 8	Book Club in fellowship hall or at pavilion	6:30 PM
Wed., Sept 9	Fundraising Committee meeting in fellowship hall or at pavilion DONUT order deadline	6:30 PM
Sun., Sept 13	Worship outside (see Sept 6) Pastor on vacation – Josh, Vicar at Trinity is our guess preacher	10:00 AM
Sun., Sept 20	Worship outside (see Sept 6) Harvest Home & God's Work, Our Hands Sunday	10:00 AM
Mon., Sept 21	Grief Support Group	6:00 PM
Tues., Sept 22	Book Club in church office or at pavilion Church Council meeting in fellowship hall	6:30 PM 6:30 PM
Wed., Sept 23	Bible Study – The Gospel of John	6:00 PM
Sat., Sept 26	DONUT pick up & Raffle Ticket Drawing Soup & Filling Order Deadline	9:00 AM – 12:00 noon
Sun., Sept 27	Worship outside at pavilion (see Sept 6) Vitality Team meeting immediately after worship	10:00 AM
Wed., Sept 30	Bible Study – The Gospel of John	6:00 PM



**Your music director, Colleen,** is quite bummed about not singing hymns, having choirs sing or praise bands perform, BUT, she is putting her best paw forward in making sure her recorded musical selections are pleasing to the hear and uplifting to the soul. **This musical cat hopes you all stay safe and well and remember to Wear Your Masks! Peace+.**





## **St. John's Council Notes**

**The following is a synopsis of August council meeting:**

**Worship & Music:** Due to Covid-19 we are taking all necessary precautions and are worshipping outside. We have provided enough shade under the pavilion and around it with canopies. Pastor Blatt continues to put her Sunday message on YouTube and Facebook. It can also be accessed via our church website. If we encounter inclement weather on a Sunday morning, congregants will stay in their vehicles and Pastor Blatt will conduct the service via radio transmission. **Council is considering moving our first worship into our church Sanctuary on Sunday, October 4. If we choose that date, we will notify our members via email, a one-call message and postal mail.**

**Pastor's Report for July:** Pastor presided over the memorial service of Lewis Flexer on August 6, 2020. She placed several phone calls to shut-ins and did pastoral visits. On July 28, she attended the Synod Assembly planning meeting. The assembly will be virtual.

**Mutual Ministry Committee** has been created by Pastor Blatt. The members are Joy Armbruster, Pat Digilio, Cheryl Kistler and Colleen Rudelitsch.



### **DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN GIVE ELECTRONICALLY?**

If you do electronic banking, you can easily set up a recurring payment to St John's that will send your weekly offering directly from your bank to us if you can't be at worship. You can put your envelope number and any designations in the memo line to assist Lori when she receives it through the mail. If you decide to give this way, please contact Colleen in the office, and she will notify our bookkeeper, Andrea, to stop ordering your envelopes. Another way you can give a one-time or recurring amount is to go onto our website [www.stjohnsmahoning.org](http://www.stjohnsmahoning.org). On the home page, click onto GIVE ONLINE and follow the simple instructions. Help sustain God's ministry here at St. John's. Thank you!

## **Fundraising**



***Due to restrictions arising from Covid 19, we postponed our Rummage Sale. We will continue to accept donations. It is our hope that we can reschedule for Spring 2021. Please contact Cheryl Kistler at 610- 377-4662 with any questions.***

### **Fundraising Raffle Tickets Sale!**

**Winners will be drawn Saturday, September 26.**

After 7 long months, we are going to have a **DONUT SALE in September!** We will not advertise or reach out to businesses. It will be word or mouth only. Please reach out to those who usually order from you. They will probably be ready to fill their freezer again! Order form attached.

We will also be selling **SOUPS & FILLING**. That order form is attached as well!

**Yum!**

**Next Fundraising Committee Meeting – Wednesday, September 9 at 6:30 PM**



### St. John's SEPTEMBER "Babies" (of all ages)

Sept 1	Donna Hall	Sept 19	Scott Heintzelman
Sept 2	Doreen Roth	Sept 20	Codi Balliet
Sept 3	Jodi Breiner	Sept 22	Garyt Schleicher
Sept 3	Cynthia Cygler	Sept 23	Brenda Leiby
Sept 4	Olive Haupt	Sept 25	Lucinda Anthony
Sept 4	Kathryn Leibenguth	Sept 25	Robert Leffler
Sept 7	Franklin Mertz	Sept 26	Nora Merluzzi
Sept 7	Nicolas Yaro	Sept 26	Amber Rodgers
Sept 9	Mackenzie Hartranft	Sept 27	Kathleen Merluzzi
Sept 10	Randy Flexer	Sept 27	Hunter Rex
Sept 11	Steven Tyson	Sept 27	Carole Semmel
Sept 12	Sean Jensen	Sept 28	Bryn Miller
Sept 14	Thomas Breiner	Sept 28	Robert Zacharias
Sept 16	Franklin Althouse	Sept 29	Brady Nothstein
Sept 17	Jason Nothstein	Sept 30	Ronald Jennings

*(If we missed your birthday, we deeply apologize. It's possible the date is not in our computer system. Please feel free to contact the office, and let us know what date you came into the world!)*



We recently honored our graduates at worship. Our **high school grads are Aidan Malloy, Mikayla Nothstein, Tia Tyson and Logan Wentz.** **Courtney Everett** received her Master's Degree from Temple University. Congratulations to all!



### **RECIPIENTS OF THE SMITH SCHOLARSHIP**

**Hannah Wolfe Blatt** – just completed her first year of the Master of Arts in Clinical Counseling program at Alvernia University. She has two more years before graduating and hopes to become a licensed practicing counselor in the mental health field.

**Alex Hawk** – is in his second year at Penn College of Technology, pursuing a degree in Heavy Equipment Operator.

**Elyse Kistler** – is in the part-time process of receiving her Master's Degree in a field that she is greatly passionate about, Organizational Development and Leadership with a concentration in Organizational Psychology.

**Aidan Malloy** – will be attending Moravian College, majoring in Physics, to pursue a career in research.

**Tia Tyson** – will be attending Lehigh County Community College and will study to be a Vet Tech.

**Logan Wentz** – will be attending Mansfield University with a major in Biology.

**Nolan Wentz** – will be in his third year at Bloomsburg University pursuing his Degree in Accounting and two years later receive his Master's.

## **PRAYER LISTS:**

### **Prayers for our Congregation Members**

Judith Ahner	Richard Semmel	Kay Gilbert	Earl Andrews
Charles Frey	Louisa Steele	Marie Boyer	David Semmel
Linda Beers	Florence Duffy	Linda Pollock	Myron Everett
Betty Mertz	Cash Althouse	Shirley Anglovich	Charles & Diann Urban
Oscar Beck	Earl Reichard	Kim Gerhard	Chester Bredbenner

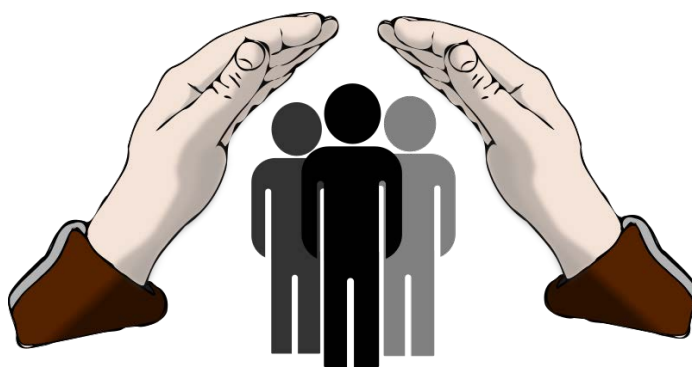
### **Prayers for Our Friends**

Beth Baldwin	John Fikentscher	Anthony Outlaw	Lori Lesisko
Michelle Baldwin	Lynn Gerber	Dr. Shaefali Rodgers	Fern Miller
Mitchell Nace	Chris Blackwell	Richard Frey	Meredith Elinich
Bill Lavin	Shane Boyle	Millie Henritzy	Annette Davis
Richard Bloom	Drew Strohl	McCoy Rapa	Peggy Gruber & Family
Erin Coombe	Kian Nothstein	Dan Myers	Rev. Nathan Kennedy
Ellen Diaz	Mike Duffy	Judith Snyder	Vaughn Sensinger
Michael Hunsicker	Hope Mazenko	Kathryn Moyer	Jim Malloy, Sr.
Clarence Derby	Joan Frey	Loise Fritz	LeRoy Coleman, Sr.
Gail Mills	Steven Nuss	James Meckes	Larry Schaeffer
Tim Mazenko	Georgetta Perez		

### **Prayers for Our Homebound & Long Term Care Members**

Yvonne Hibbler	Helen Stahler	Lois Fisher	Florence Rudelitch
Ruth Foster	Alberta Frey	Terry Terray	

**All military personnel at home and abroad:** Daniel & Dalton Berger, Christopher Knittle, Douglas Boyer, Aaron Cetnar, Austin Heilman, Dylan White, Jordan Blatt and Sean Fisher.



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Mahoning  
826 Mahoning Drive West, Lehighton, PA 18235

**Orders Due By – September 26, 2020**  
Call or Text orders to: Lisa Moyer: 570-778-6152 or Anne Yenser: 570-390-9108

**Pick up, Saturday, October 10, 2020 – 10 AM to 12 PM**

[illegible]

**\*\*Make Checks payable to: St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Total:**





# Donut Sale



Sat. September 26, 2020

Please return by Wednesday, September 9, 2020

Call/Text/Email Anne Yenser 570-390-9108 or anneyens@ptd.net

(checks payable to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ (1) Persian X \$1.50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (2) Iced Long Johns X \$3.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (2) Coconut Long Johns X \$3.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (6) Cider Donuts X \$5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pick up Only (No Deliveries) 9:00AM-12:00 Noon

## Fill Your Freezer Fundraiser

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Mahoning  
826 Mahoning Drive West, Lehigh, PA 18235

Orders Due By – September 26, 2020

Call or Text orders to: Lisa Moyer: 570-778-6152 or Anne Yenser: 570-390-9108

Pick up, Saturday, October 10, 2020 – 10 AM to 12 PM

### Chili:

Pints - \$3.50: \_\_\_\_\_

Quarts - \$7.00: \_\_\_\_\_

### Beef Vegetable:

Pints - \$3.50: \_\_\_\_\_

Quarts - \$7.00: \_\_\_\_\_

### Ham & Bean:

Pints - \$3.50: \_\_\_\_\_

Quarts - \$7.00: \_\_\_\_\_

### Chicken Pot Pie:

Pints - \$3.50: \_\_\_\_\_

Quarts - \$7.00: \_\_\_\_\_

Pan of Filling: \$7.00 - \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_