

MESSENGER

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No. 5





Dear Friends,

This month we are going to take a break from looking at various parts of our church service. In late March we started offering a Growing Young Assessment/Survey produced by the Fuller Youth Institute, to our members at St. John's. The assessment/survey comes after our Church Council, Parish Ed/Youth Committee, Worship and Music Committee, and Mutual Ministry Committee read the book Growing Young. This book, Growing Young, looks at key foundations for attracting and working with youth and families in the church.

The assessment/survey will identify where we are doing well in attracting and working with youth and families. It will also reveal to us the areas in our life together that we need to work on with our youth and family ministries.

The survey takes about 10-15 minutes to complete. There are several ways to complete the survey. If you use technology we have a QR code that gives people instant access on your smart phone, that's available after worship, through the office, or Pastor Mark. If you prefer to use a computer you can find the link for the assessment/survey on our website. The church office can also email it to you upon request.

If you don't use technology we have paper copies of the assessment/survey that you can pick up after worship, or at the church office. Volunteers will take the written copies and type them into the online assessment/survey.

We want the assessment/survey to be as accurate as possible to show us where we are in our youth and family ministry. This is why we have been encouraging as many people as possible from our church to take the assessment. We have set May 15th as the deadline for completing the survey.

Once the assessment/survey is completed we will receive our results. After receiving the results we'll be able to see where we

are doing well in our youth and family ministry. We'll also learn what the areas are where we need to grow as a congregation in our outreach and overall ministry with youth and families. At this point leadership will look at 2-3 areas where we need to grow. Leadership will be looking at ways we can work on these areas during the next 2-3 years.

Thank you to everyone who has already filled out the Growing Young assessment/survey. We appreciate you taking the time to fill out the assessment/survey.

If you have any questions regarding the assessment/survey please contact me.

We look forward to the completion of the assessment/survey and what its results will bring to our parish as we continue to serve in Christ's name.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Mark



Saturday Communion Worship Service will be held on May 4, 2024. **There will be no Saturday Night Worship Service during the months of June, July, August, and September.**



Summer worship hours will begin on May 26, 2024. Services will be held at 9:30 AM until September 8, 2024.

Special Dates

- National Day of Prayer, *May 2, 2024*
- Saturday Night Worship, *May 4, 2024 5:30 PM*
- Ascension Day, *May 9, 2024*
- Game Night, *May 10, 2024 6:30 PM*
- CPR Training, *May 11, 2024 8:00 AM*
- Mother's Day, Blessing of the Quilts, *May 12, 2024*
- Armed Forces Day, *May 18, 2024*
- Pentecost, Confirmation Sunday, *May 19, 2024*
- Trinity Sunday, Blessing of the Graduates, *May 26, 2024*
- **9:30 AM Services begin, May 26, 2024**
- Memorial Day, *May 27, 2024—Office Closed*
- Baccalaureate, *May 30, 2024 7:00 PM*
- Taco Friday, *May 31, 2024 5:00 PM -7:00 PM*



Join in the celebration as several of our Youth affirm their baptism. Kadryn Adam, Adam Brensinger, and Thomas Johnson have completed St. John's two-year Confirmation program including class and service work. Wear red as we celebrate the birth of the church and the confirmands confessions of faith as they affirm their baptism on Pentecost, May 19, 2024.



Please contact the church office by May 15th with names of any high school or post secondary students who will be graduating in May or June. Please provide is with the name of the student, school name, date of graduation, degree earned if appropriate, and future plans. Graduates will be recognized during 9:30 AM service on May 26, 2024.

Special thanks to my colleagues, Kate Kauffman and Don Schilke, for their assistance with the organ rededication ceremony. Our goal was to pull out all the stops (literally) and highlight all the amazing new organ sounds made possible by the renovations. How blessed are we to have such an awesome sacred instrument.

Betsy



To Our St. John's family:

We wish to extend our thanks and gratitude for welcoming our son, Isaac, and finance, Lauren, to St. John's on Saturday, March 16th.

Our daughter, Kamilla, and Mark and I had a wonderful time planning and including our ladies in this fun celebration.

We are overwhelmed at how much you do for us as a family!

Thank you so much. They enjoyed meeting many of you both at the shower and at worship on Sunday.

When we share our sorrows with you, they are lessened. When we share our joys with you, they are doubled and more!

Blessings to you all for your kindness. (Can you tell we are excited about the October wedding? We certainly are!!)

Sincerely,

Pastor Mark, Karla

Isaac, Lauren and Kamilla Jensen

Thank You!

On **Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024**, all were invited to celebrate with a Breakfast before the church service.

Many church members provided a variety of delicious casseroles, breads, drinks, breakfast desserts & monetary donations.

The Fellowship Committee would like to say "Thank You" to them as well as all who helped in serving, and clean-up and with many other duties that were needed. Approximately 90 members were served.

We also "Thank the Lord" for a sunshiny day.

Members of Fellowship Committee-Lynne Baganstose, Mary Brensinger, Carol Fink, Kay Hagenberger, June Kline, Joyce Thren, Joan Adams, Chair, Pastor Mark.



Memorial Scholarship funds are available to any active member of St. John's who has been accepted and will attend an approved program of higher education for 2024-2025. The scholarship is for books and/or other educational supplies. Amount is determined by number of selected recipients. Amounts have typically been in the \$300-\$500 range. Recipients are selected anonymously by the Scholarship Committee. Applications are available by contacting the church secretary at (610)562-3808, by e-mail at secretarykellyz@gmail.com or at www.stjohnshamburg.org. All applications MUST be submitted by July 15, 2023.



May Scrip News

Spring is upon us, and it's time to do all those chores that warmer weather brings with it.....mowing grass, cleaning out flower beds, planting a garden, spring cleaning, etc.... Why not use gift cards to purchase the necessary supplies needed to get those tasks completed!

Two important events are coming up this month. First is Teacher Appreciation Week (May 6-10). Treat your favorite teacher to a gift card! Also, Mother's Day (May 12) is coming up. Purchase gift cards to treat your mother to her favorite meal, or give her a gift card so she can treat herself to something special.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support St. John's Church by buying gift cards.



The last day of Sunday School will be May 19, 2024.

SAVE THE DATE

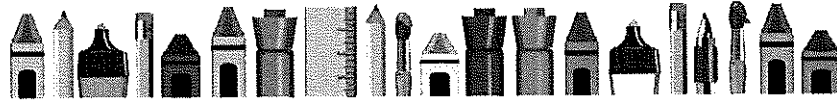
VBS 2024
JULY 15-18
6PM-8:30PM

SWIM ON OVER TO
EDENBURG PARK
FOR THE BEST
WEEK OF SUMMER!

SCAN TO REGISTER NOW!

BEAR CREEK CAMP 2024

Registration is now open for Bear Creek Summer Camp 2024. Camper-ships to help with costs are available through Bear Creek Camp and ST. JOHN'S CHURCH! See Bethany Thren for an application! Check out resources outside the Sunday School Classroom for information on the camp. Bear Creek Camp's overnight program is centered on spiritual growth, outdoor living, and small group development for all children who have completed grades 1-12. Each age group experiences a mix of small-group and all-camp activities throughout the week to meet their group's spiritual, social, and developmental needs.



Happy Spring from Kinder Klass!

As we near the end of our year, the month of May will bring lots of fun and review. We hosted a fun Family Spring Fling- Tie Dye and Potluck event with students and families! We hope to get outside and enjoy the nice weather and learn more about some of God's creatures and gifts. We recently got caterpillars to observe their life cycle and then release back into nature.

We will be preparing for our Preschool End of Year Program Thursday May 23rd and Pre-K Graduation Friday May 24th. We have had an amazing year with these kids, but we know they are ready to fly to Kindergarten!

We are happy to announce both our classes for next year are at capacity and have a waiting list. Thank you for sharing our program with your friends and family, your word of mouth is the best advertisement! We will be back in the classroom over summer to plan our "Colorful Year" for 2024-2025!

Warm Regards, Steph Kramer

THE HAMBURG COMMUNITY GARDEN

RESERVE YOUR SPACE FOR THE 2024 GROWING SEASON



**ORGANIC VEGETABLE & FLOWER GARDEN
LARGE BOX SIZE: 10FT x 4FT x 1FT
LOCATION: APPLE ALLEY, HAMBURG PA 19526**

Cost \$30 per box

RESERVE YOUR BOX TODAY!

Call Our Town Foundation - 610-562-3106 or email otfmanager@aol.com

DANIEL

Sight & Sound's Millennium Theatre
Lancaster, PA
September 17, 2024
3:00 PM Performance

The Fellowship Committee of St. John's Lutheran Church is planning a bus trip to see "**Daniel**". The C&R bus will leave the St. John's Parking Lot at 10:45 AM. At 12:30 PM, we will have the Lunch Smorgasbord at the Bird-In-Hand Family Restaurant and then travel to Sight & Sound for the 3:00 PM Show. The approximate time of our return to the church is 7:15 PM.

The cost per person is \$153.00 which includes the ticket to the show, your meal, and bus transportation. Payment is due by July 1, 2024.

**For information or reservations contact
June Kline at 610-562-4440
Or Lynne Bagenstose at 610-562-8913**



Family Game Night

Are you ready for a night of fun, fellowship, and food?
St. John's Evangelism
Committee is hosting our 2nd Family Game Night on
Friday, May 10 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Bring your favorite
board or card game and a snack to share with
others. Drinks will be provided! Everyone is invited!

GROWING YOUNG



In recent weeks Pastor Mark has been announcing that our congregation is going to be taking a Growing Young Survey. This survey is produced by the Fuller Youth Institute who wrote the book, Growing Young which our council, Parish Ed/Youth Committee, Worship and Music Committee, and Mutual Ministry Committee have read. This survey will help us to see what we are doing well to encourage Youth and Families at St. John's and the areas that we need to grow. In order for the survey to give us an accurate sense of our congregation we need as many people as possible to take the survey.

There will be a direct link to the survey at: <https://www.oursurvey.church/StjohnsLutheranChurchHamburg>

There is also going to be a paper copy of the survey for those who need it. We will need volunteers from our church to take the paper copies of the survey and type them into the online link for the survey. We will also have someone available after worship to help anyone who would like to fill on the online survey.

The Growing Young survey is available now. The survey needs to be completed by May 15, of 2024.

We anticipate it will take 5-10 minutes to complete the survey, and your responses will remain confidential as they are incorporated into a larger report.

If you have any questions, please contact: Rev. Mark Jensen 610-562-3808.

Thank you.



FAITH NIGHT 2024

The Hamburg Strand

Join us the 2nd Tuesday of
each month at 7pm. Tickets are
\$8, include popcorn & soda

4/9: The Hill

Sponsored by Strouse Brothers Inc.

5/14: Jesus Music

6/11: Soul Surfer

Sponsored by Mind Matters

7/9: Sound of Freedom

Sponsored by Saunders Real Estate

8/13: Woodlawn

Sponsored by Grace Bible Church of Hawk Mt.

9/10: Jesus Revolution

sponsored by St. Michael's Church

10/8: Russ Taff: I Still Believe

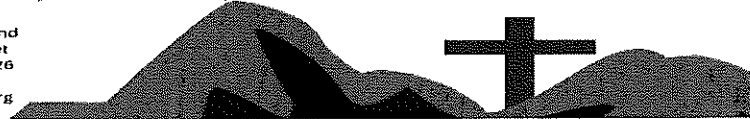
sponsored by St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

11/12 Pilgrims Progress (animated)

12/10: The Least of These; A Christmas Story

sponsored by The Bridge Church

The Hamburg Strand
6 South 4th Street
Hamburg, PA 19526
610-662-4760
hamburgstrand.org



IHartHarvest Inc. - The Potato Project Invitation To Seed Potato Cutting

Scheduled Saturday and Sunday, April 20 & 21, 2024, 1PM-4PM.

ASSUME COVID-19 DIRECTIVES

Rain or Shine, Bare bones event, bring your own knife, cutting board, drinks, and snacks. We'll be cutting the seed potatoes for planting season at Becker's St. Peter's ELC, 265 Maiden Creek Rd., Fleetwood (Molltown) PA 19522. Benefits local hungry neighbors in need. All are invited! Public welcome. Volunteers needed! Just Walk-in and HELP! No age limit. Persons attending, age specific, need to be attended to by the accompanied responsible adult, as well as 'special needs individuals', about whom we should be notified, likewise. Bring a steak knife and cutting board.

50# Bags of Potatoes and buckets will be made available as soon as arrival, for folks to come, get, and take (home), to cut in private, and to return as soon as possible, as desired. 1 Bag takes about 1/2 hour.



STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

*Sponsored by
St. John's/Thrivent Members*

**St. John's Lutheran Church
99 Church St, Hamburg, PA**

**Saturday, June 15, 2024
3:00 PM-7:00 PM**

**Soup, Beverages, Hot Dogs, BBQ,
Homemade Baked Goods
Strawberries & Ice Cream**





Geraniums will once again adorn our chancel on **Pentecost, May 19, 2024**. If you wish to sponsor a plant as a memorial or in honor of family or friends, please complete this form and return it along with payment in the offering plate or to the church office no later than **Sunday, May 12, 2024**.

_____ Geraniums @ \$3.00 each \$ _____ enclosed

In memory of _____

by _____

In honor of _____

by _____

The Organ Fund is the alternative to geraniums this year for those who wish to make a donation in memory or in honor of family or friends.

Donation to **The Organ Fund** \$ _____ enclosed

by _____

In memory of _____

by _____

In honor of _____

Make checks payable to St. John's. Contributors will be in the bulletin on Pentecost. Plants may be taken after the service or picked up by noon on **Monday, May 20th**. Any remaining geraniums will be planted outside to beautify the front lawn of the church.

WORSHIP HOURS

Sunday Worship: 10:15 AM

Communion:

1st & 3rd Sunday of the month
@10:15 AM

Office Hours

Mon.-Fri. 8:00-1:00

Rev. Mark Jensen

revmarkjensen@comcast.net

Church Secretary:

Kelly Zimmerman

secretarykellyz@gmail.com

Choir Dir. /Organist:

Betsy Zimmerman-Morgans

**Assistant Organist, and
Junior & S.S. Choir**

Director:

Kate Kauffman

Parish Ed Coordinator:

Bethany Thren

President: Rose Schultz

Vice Pres.: Kay Hagenberger

Secretary: Joyce Thren

Treasurer: Jennifer Herman

Financial Secretary: Tara
Simpson

LAUREL CENTER

Dick Keiser

TOPTON

Elaine Spooner

Louise Kempka

KEYSTONE VILLA

Erna Fortescue—Blandon

MAIDENCREEK PLACE

Erma Merkel

**THE MANOR AT MARKET
SQUARE**

Charlotte Uhler—Reading

LUTHER RIDGE

Phelma Hinderliter

THE HIGHLANDS

Selena Moll

ABOVE ALL SENIOR LIVING

Grace Fronefield

March 2023

Income		
40000—Weekly Offering Income		
40101—Current envelope	16,162.00	
40102—Benevolence	1,333.00	
40103—Communion Envelope	74.00	
40105—Sunday School	69.00	
40106—Beginning of Year Envelope	10.00	
40124—Lent	130.00	
40125—Maundy Thursday	15.00	
40127—Easter	160.00	
40128—Ash Wednesday	<u>25.00</u>	
Total 40000—Weekly Offering Income		17,978.00
41000—Other Receipt Income		
41100—Rent—98 Church Street	725.00	
41200—Rent—100 Church Street	725.00	
41300—Bulletins	140.00	
41500—Northern Berks Food Pantry	32.50	
41525—Joyful Noise to be designated	81.39	
41600—Flowers & Church Decorations	388.25	
41900—Other Income	561.61	
41915—Organ Renovations	<u>1,070.00</u>	
Total 41000—Other Receipt Income		3,723.75
43000—Investment Income		
43100—Income	2,061.10	
43300—Change in value	<u>4,652.90</u>	
Total 43000—Investment Income		6,714.00
45000—Dedicated Income		
45200—Memorial	315.00	
45500—Youth Fund	40.00	
45600—Kinder Klass Taxes	<u>-34.65</u>	
Total 45000—Dedicated Income		320.35
Total Income		28,736.10
Expense		
50000—Outreach		
50100—Benevolence	<u>1,096.00</u>	
Total 50000—Outreach		1,096.00
52000—Ministry of the Pastor		
52100—Pastor's salary	2,708.34	
52200—Utility and Housing Allowance	2,708.34	
52300—Travel allowance	416.66	
52400—Pension & Family Protection	<u>2,846.66</u>	
Total 52000—Ministry of the Pastor		8,680.00
55000—Parish Administration		
55100—Office Secretary's Salary	1,604.16	
55150—Financial Secretary's Salary	500.00	
55200—Treasurer's Salary	500.00	
55250—Social Security contribution	276.78	
55300—Medicare	64.73	
55350—Office Supplies	227.27	
55400—Telephone	249.01	
55450—Postage	184.00	

55500—Kitchen Supplies	17.73	
55550—Internet & Cable Service	131.28	
55600—Copier Supplies & Service Cont.	769.70	
55700—Other	59.00	
Total 55000—Parish Administration		4,583.66
56000—Ministry of Worship		
56100—Organist's Salary	683.34	
56150—Bell Choir Salary	255.84	
56200—Choir Director's Salary	683.34	
56250—Jr Choir Director	237.50	
56300—Supply Organist	900.00	
56430—Bulletins	56.54	
56800—Organ, Piano Tune, Bell Repair	840.00	
56850—Narthex Literature	113.21	
Total 56000—Ministry of Worship		3,769.77
57000—Maintenance		
57100—Cleaning Service	913.46	
57150—Repairs & Maintenance	1,408.37	
57300—Electricity	898.98	
57310—Gas	617.00	
57320—Trash removal	129.00	
57330—Sewer & Water	134.11	
57350—Snow Removal	205.00	
57400—Insurance	4,210.00	
57400—Property Taxes	1,456.74	
57500—Service Contracts	810.00	
Total 57000—Maintenance		10,782.66
58000—Evangelism		
58200—Publicity—Newspaper	167.50	
Total 58000—Evangelism		167.50
59000—Stewardship		
59100—Offering Envelopes	274.01	
59300—Other	496.25	
Total 59000—Stewardship		770.26
Total Expense		<u>29,849.85</u>
Net Income		<u>-1,113.75</u>

**GOD
HEARS
YOUR
PRAYERS**