

September/October Newsletter

Join us for worship!

Lead Pastor—The Rev. Sarah Keilholtz
Associate Pastor—The Rev. Elizabeth Eckman
Director of Children and Youth—Grace Roux
Minister of Music—Thomas A. Notestine
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Office Hours: 9 am—1 pm (Monday—Thursday)



Pastors Page -Renovation Reformation!



“So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.” Matthew 6: 24

This is one of my both favorite and least favorite verses from the Bible. Favorite, because it reminds me that I don’t have to worry about so many things all the time. I can trust that God has control and that things will be ok.

Least favorite, though, because I still worry and it makes me feel like I shouldn’t. I shouldn’t worry but I still do. I shouldn’t focus on what is to come so much as to look at what is happening right now. But I still do – I worry about so many things and sometimes I don’t like being told not to worry.

What are things that you worry about? I worry about my family – will my children be happy? Are they doing ok as school starts once again? Will we ever find time to do all the things that they need and want to do? I worry.

I worry about the future of the church. I look at our finances and worry that we are falling behind. I look at our space and wonder what we could be doing with it that might serve more people. I look at who is present in worship and I worry about what happens when they aren’t there anymore. Where have they gone? Are they coming back? I worry a lot about things that haven’t even happened yet.

But sometimes that worry leads to new things and excitement. We have been looking at our space in the church building and have been doing some dreaming about what it might be and how we might better use it to serve God’s people around us. And some of those worries have given way to excitement about what might be.

And I want to share that excitement with you. We have been working with an architectural firm, KD3 Design Studio, Inc, and we have reached a point that we want to get some feedback from the congregation. They have created a design for us that uses our space in a much different way and gives us a chance to be more accessible and welcoming to all.

In September, we will be displaying these designs and having a few chances to talk about them and share feedback. **THESE ARE NOT MEETINGS TO VOTE ON A RENOVATION** – yet – but they are instead a chance to see where we are in the process of planning and designing before we get to a vote in the not too distant future.

Please take time when these are shared to look at the displays and be part of the conversation about the future of our congregation. Yes, there are always things to worry about, but there are also things to come that are exciting and wonderful! The worries will always be there, but so is the love and grace of God that we are blessed to share in this place!

Pastors Page- The Church is dying...or is it?

I reeled you in with that catchy title didn't I?

Most articles you'll read these days are about the church dying and we can't help but notice who isn't here.

The people we use to sit next to, the kids who are not

coming back, the reality that regular attendance in worship is once a month now.

We can't help but notice what we don't have. But what if we changed that mindset? What if we stop thinking we are dying, and trying to function as if we are surviving, and look at the ways that we are thriving!



Changing ones mindset is hard. I'm asking you to jump into this year with us with an abundance mindset, and change our culture into one of generosity. One that tells our story of how we are thriving in God's love. We are a congregation that is great at collecting, great at raising money, great at caring about one another and supports our mission. This is huge! This year, I want to be a collector of stories, of our stories. I'll be reaching out to you this year to learn about how God has blessed you in your life. How giving financially to this church and our mission has changed you, and where you see God working in your life. I believe that our stories will help transform us from a scarcity mindset to a mindset of abundance - stories will help us see God's love in action! As we learn to tell our stories and share them, I want you to think about this scripture.

Matthew 6:21. Jesus says, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." I was nearly done with seminary when I thought I finally understood what Jesus meant. I thought that, where our hearts were, our treasures naturally followed behind. I thought that if we got people to like the church more, like us more, like theology more, then they would give more. But Jesus says that's all backwards. It is where our treasures are that we will find our hearts. Think about your own life and where your treasure might be. Is it in travel sports for your children, a vacation, your car, or something else tangible in this world? As you ponder this, then think about whether Jesus is correct that your heart is tied into that item or activity. What has captured your heart, and where would you like your heart to be?

Peace,

Pastor Elizabeth Peter Eckman

Children and Youth activity schedules for the year are available for pick up in the narthex!

Upcoming Events for Children!



October 8th

Join us from 2:30 - 4 pm in St. John's Youth room for songs, games, a bible story, and crafts. Grades k - 5 are welcome! Parents are required to stay.

Upcoming Events for Youth!

September 17th

Youth Group Kick-off at St. John's 6-8 pm! All youth 6th - 12th grade welcome!



September 22nd - 24th

Alive fall retreat for students grades 6-8 at Nawakwa! See Grace for registration details.



Lutheran Community for Middle Schoolers

October 1st

Youth Group Meeting in St. John's Youth Room. We will play games, eat food, and learn about our theme!

Middle School 4-5 pm

All youth dinner 5-6 pm

High School 6-7 pm



October 20th - 22nd

Youth Group Retreat at Nawakwa! All youth are welcome! Adult advisors are needed. Please register for the retreat by October 13th

October 29th, 2023

Fall Fest Fundraiser 11- 2 pm
Come help us set up, serve food, and clean up! Part of our fundraising for our trip to the 2024 youth gathering in New Orleans.

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO
the table

BE

MYLE
Young Adult Gathering

A note from Grace

It is the start of a new school year and a new year of youth group! I am very excited to get to know all of our children, youth, and families better! As we start this new year I am reminded of Matthew 14 where Jesus calls Peter to step out on the water in faith to meet him. As we grow, learn, and serve we are called to step out in faith.

I am excited to see the ways we do that this year.

Youth Directors page- Camp! Why we send our kids.

This summer ten of our youth attended confirmation camp and four of our youth went to LT camp. Camp gives our kids a chance to learn about God outside the walls of the church. Here are a couple of words from Jonah K. who was able to attend both.



This year I attended both Confirmation Camp and Leadership Training Camp at Camp Nawakwa. Throughout my time, I learned about the attributes of a Jesus-like leader. This mainly focused on the ideas of servant leadership, a quality exhibited many times in the gospel. This was exhibited at camp through foot washing and other activities. We also participated in multiple activities designed to test our patience and group synergy, but also our ability to at times lead and at times follow. We also learned about what it means to be a Lutheran Christian and dug deeper into theology and some hard questions. Overall. These experiences helped to strengthen my faith and taught me how to use Jesus-style leadership in a secular environment, as well as in church settings.

-Jonah K.

Schedule of Fall worship services: Starts September 10th

Saturday: 6 pm

Sunday: 8 am

Sunday School: 9:15 am

Sunday: 10:45 am



UPDATE

**Please contact the Office if you have any
changes/updates to your:**

- 1. Mailing Address**
- 2. Cell/Home Phone Number (s)**
- 3. Life Events**
- 4. Children going to college (Address!)**
- 5. Adult children information!**
- 6. Births/ Baptism requests**
- 7. Emails**



To how you receive the Good News

(If you already responded online, you do not
need to fill this out)

Household name _____

____ I would like to have the Good News **emailed** to
me.

email address: _____

OR

____ I would like to have the Good News **mailed** to
me.

Garden Mums Sale

Help support St. John's Youth Group by buying mums! Please see our youth or the order form in the Narthex!

SALE FROM AUGUST 14TH - SEPTEMBER 8TH |
ORDERS AND PAYMENT DUE SEPTEMBER 8TH |
ORDER PICK UP AT CHURCH | 5-6 PM SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 16TH OR SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH
BETWEEN SERVICES





Sunday School

September 10— That is the day we have been waiting for because Sunday School is back! Join us for fellowship and learning at 9:15 in the Education Building. We have classes for all ages – really – ALL ages – and there is a place for you! Make plans now to join our classes and learn together!

****There will be coffee, tea and snacks before so be sure to join us and meet someone new.****



Darts

Bullseye! We have a great opportunity for you if you are looking for a new fellowship group. Did you know that St. John's has a Dart Team? They have been on hiatus but are ready to get throwing again this fall. They practice weekly and play against other church dart teams. If you would like more information or want to join, please

contact Kurt A. at (717)514-0578 or Radmr78@gmail.com.





Honest Beans of Specialty Coffee

Do you love coffee? And do you like drinking coffee that you know is going towards a good cause? Well then join us for our kick off Sunday school coffee hour between services on September 10th for a special tasting of Chicabean coffee from Guatemala. Learn more about Tree4Hope ministry and how they've partnered with Chicabean to create well paying jobs, opportunities and internships with Hope Academy. check out chicabean.com



2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

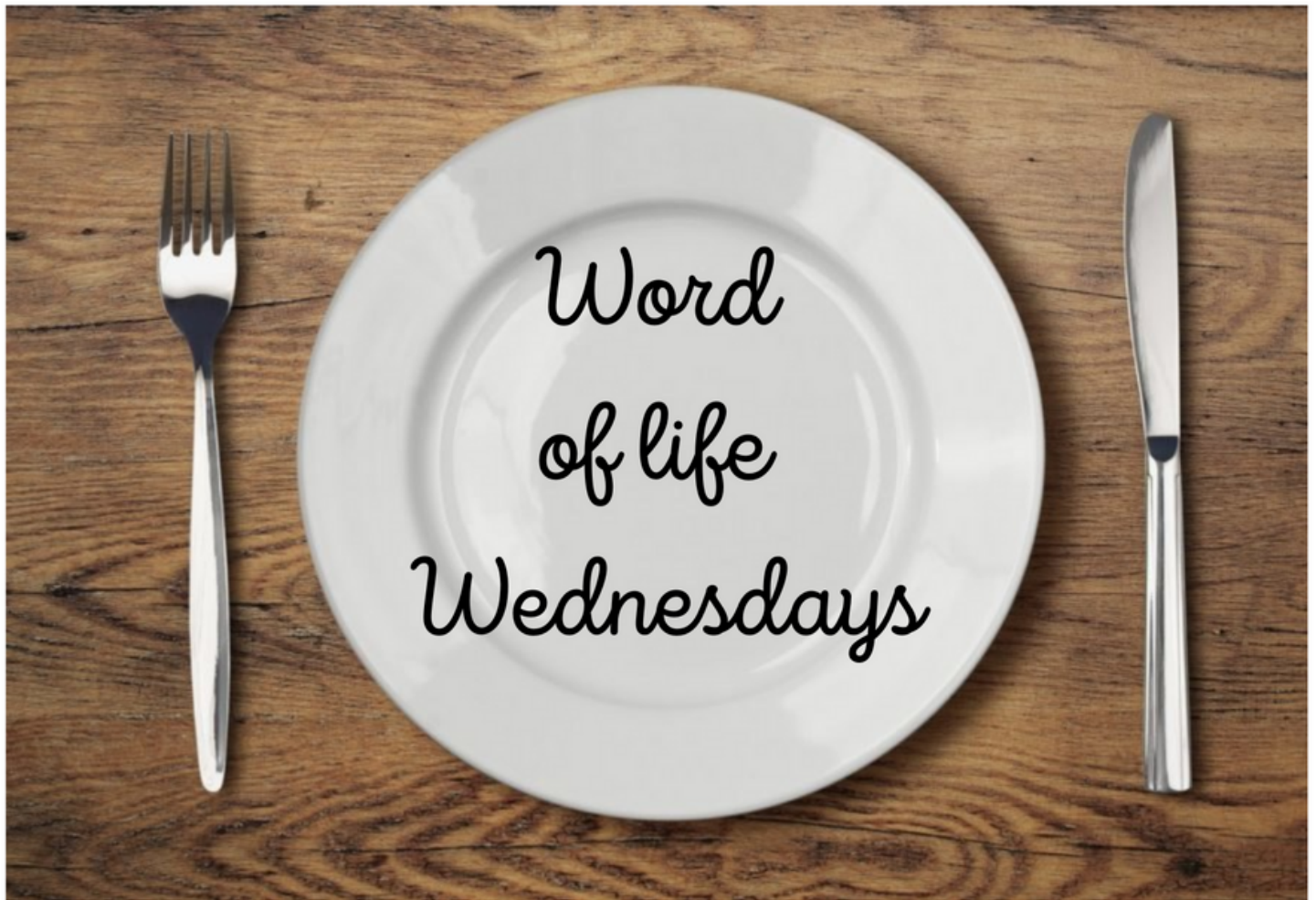
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the tAble

BE

MYLE
Young
Adult
Gathering

Adult Youth Group

Join Grace on Wednesday
Nights starting **September
13th** from **6:15 - 7:30** to learn
about the 2024 Youth
Gathering theme! A great way
to follow along with what our
youth are learning this year!



**WE ARE BACK. STARTING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH.
Join us in the Multipurpose room
for dinner.**

Dinner 5-6 pm

3rd year Confirmation 6:15-7:30 pm

Adult Youth Group 6:15-7:30 pm

Bible Basics 6:15-7:30 pm

Bells 6:15-7 pm

Choir 7-8 pm



Property Work Day!

Please join us on Saturday, September 23rd from 8am-11am for a Fall Property Work Day! This year we will need help raking leaves and cleaning out the flower beds. Please bring rakes and pruners/trimmers. Thank you for your help!





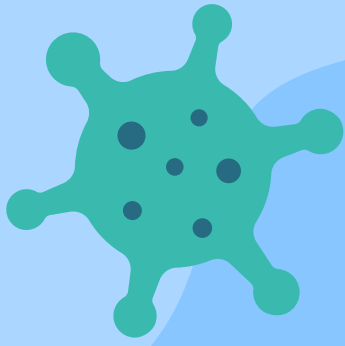
PENN STATE ESSENCE OF JOY CHOIR

**With local
High School
choirs!**

**OCT. 7TH
3PM**

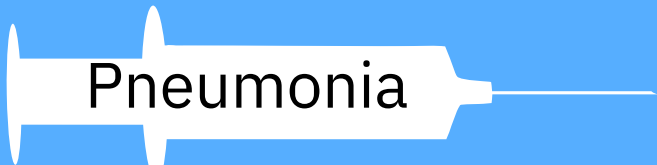
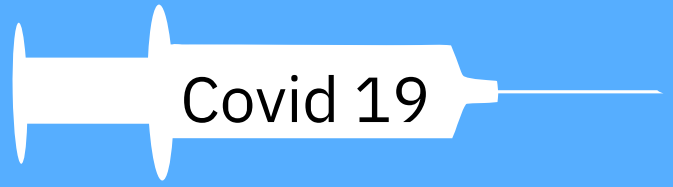
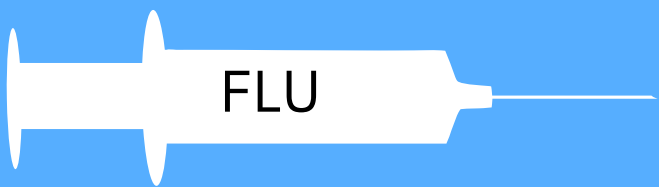
**TICKETS
\$10
ON OUR
WEBSITE**

**CONCERT IN OUR SANCTUARY AT
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
44 W. MAIN STREET, SHIREMANSTOWN, PA 17011
[WWW. STJOHNS1787.ORG](http://WWW.STJOHNS1787.ORG)**



Wegmans

Let's Get Vaccinated



Wegmans Pharmacy Vaccine
Clinic

October 15th

9 am—12 pm in the Church
Parlor.



****Must Sign up to participate****



CROP Hunger Walk 2023

The original Crop Project began in 1947 when farmers were asked to donate food and seed crops to our hungry neighbors in post-WWII Europe and Asia. One of the first CROP Hunger Walks took place in York Pa in 1970. CROP Hunger Walks are fundraising events created to support the global mission of Church World Services (<https://cwsglobal.org>) In 2022 the local CROP walk had 200 walkers, 25 teams and raised \$24,000. To see more go to: events.crophungerwalk.org/2023.

The 2023 Mechanicsburg/West Shore event Sunday October 22, 2023 at Soldiers Memorial Park Mechanicsburg will benefit local organizations New Hope Ministries and Mechanicsburg Meals on Wheels. There is a 5K and a 1.5 mile walk. If you want to join our team, see the link below.

Please support our team. NOTE Mike Kadjeski is in training to do the walk. He needs A LOT of support and encouragement. To donate go to events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/mechanicsburgpa. Scroll down to see our team.

You can also support CROP by dining at Hoss's on Thursday Sept. 7, 2023. Look for the ticket in the church lobby.

Additional questions may be directed to Laura Keller





Is it too early to think about Halloween? Definitely not! Keep an eye out for trick or treat night in Shiremanstown and an opportunity to meet the neighbors on this spooky night!



Did you know that you can sponsor the weekly altar flowers? New dates have been added. If you would like to sponsor one or both of the altar flowers, go to our website (stjohns1787.org) and click on volunteer sign-up.



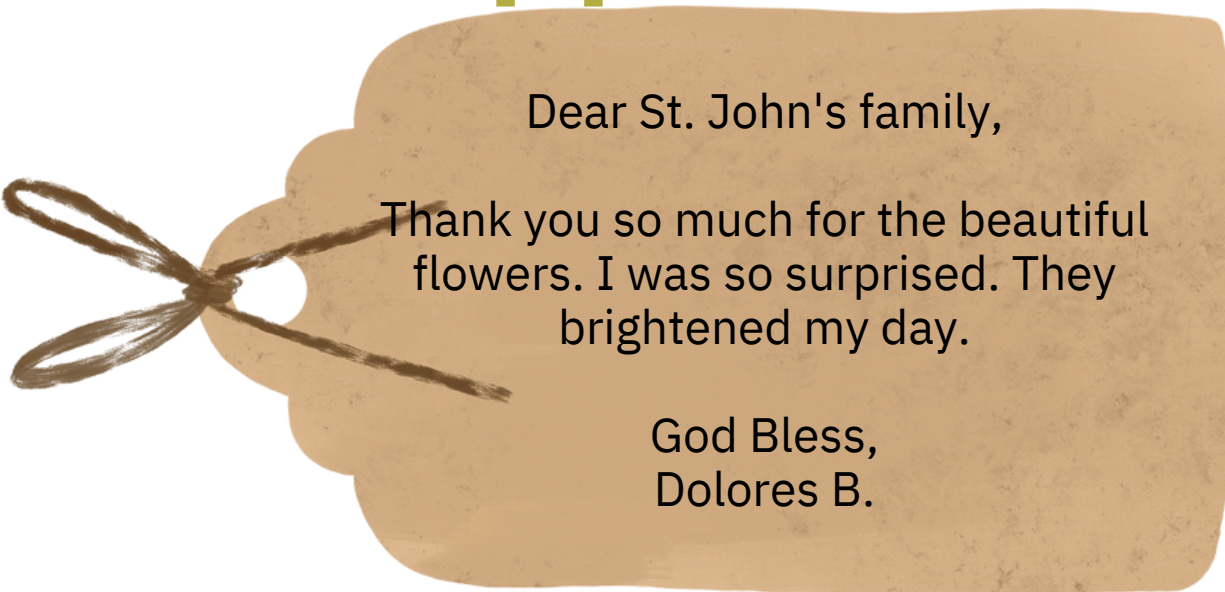
ST. JOHN'S FALL

festival

October 29
12—3pm

Join us for fun, crafts, booths and a chili cookoff. If you're interested in submitting a crockpot of chili, please email
Pastor Elizabeth
(eeckman@stjohns1787.org)

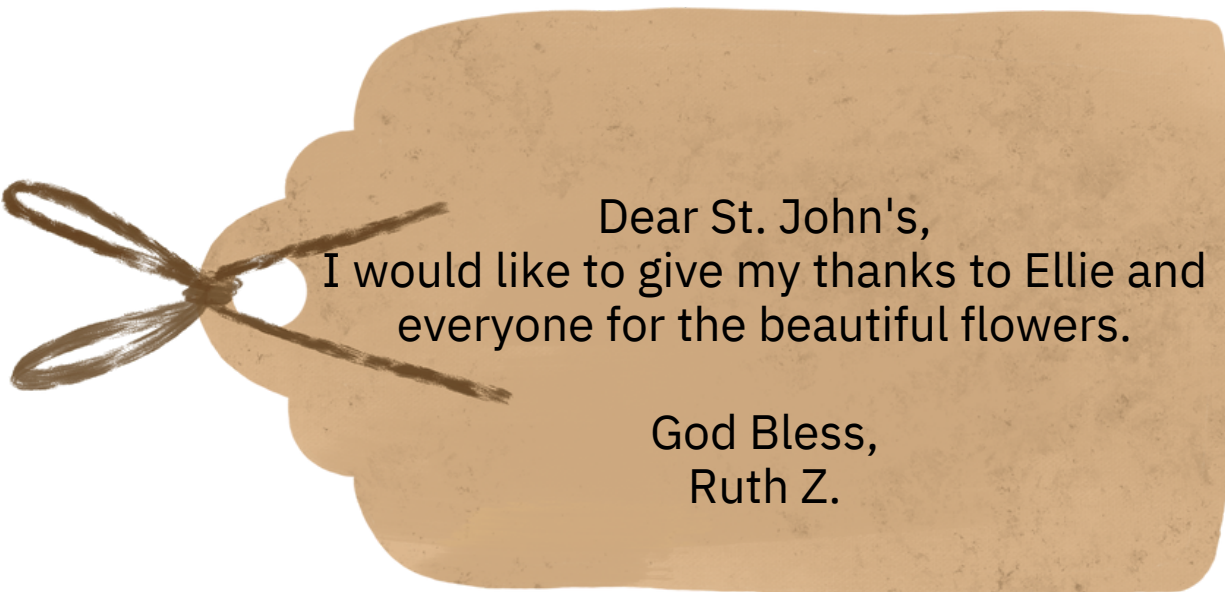
With Appreciation



Dear St. John's family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers. I was so surprised. They brightened my day.

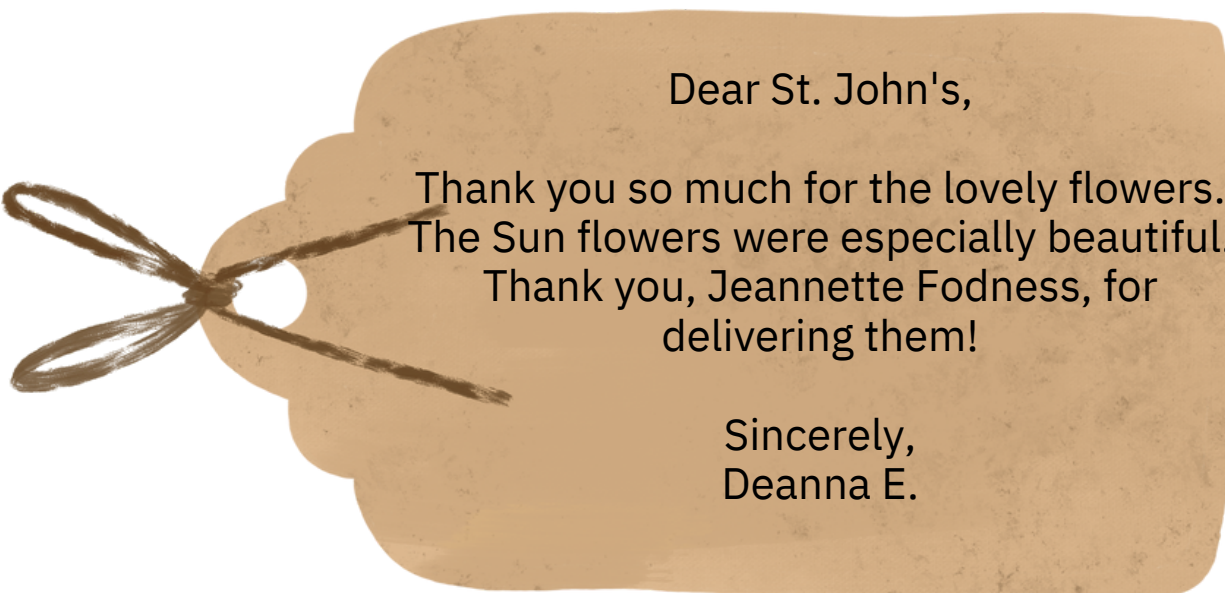
God Bless,
Dolores B.



Dear St. John's,

I would like to give my thanks to Ellie and everyone for the beautiful flowers.

God Bless,
Ruth Z.



Dear St. John's,

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers. The Sun flowers were especially beautiful. Thank you, Jeannette Fodness, for delivering them!

Sincerely,
Deanna E.

Thank you



On July 22, eighteen volunteers from St. John's packed 240 boxes at the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank.

The boxes will be provided to low-income seniors, supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA food. The Food Bank provides approximately 6,500 senior boxes each month across 27 counties.

July 2023 – Financial Report

		Beginning Balance	Income	Disbursements	Ending Balance
CURRENT		16,691.08	53,461.43	54,775.00	15,377.51
BENEVOLENCE	Benevolence	0.00	1,646.00	1,646.00	0.00
	World Hunger	0.00	1,428.00	1,428.00	0.00
	Organ Fund	4,522.00	20.00	0.00	4,542.00
BUILDING		94,840.31	2,054.00	1,000.00	95,894.31
MEMORIAL		42,735.97	25.00	1,500.00	41,260.97
Trust and Endowment		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Youth Ministry		10,606.81	419.85	182.50	10,844.16
TOTALS		169,396.17	59,054.28	60,531.50	167,918.95

ST. JOHN'S QR CODE

The QR code displayed here will take you to St. John's secure eGiving web page. Once there, you'll see several options to donate to St. Johns.





-Wreath Sale

New Hope Christmas Blessings

-November 12th Annual Congregation Meeting (1 worship service for the weekend at 10 am Sunday. Meeting to follow).

-Blue Christmas Service, December 13th

-Christmas Eve Services, December 24th



The Church office will be closed on the following dates:

Monday: September 4th

Monday: October 9th

Regular office hours are Monday -
Thursday 9am - 1pm

