



ST. JOHN'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

100 E Water Street

Abbottstown, PA 17301

717-259-0796

www.stjohnsatown.com



Introduction

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

About Holy Communion

St. John's practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are invited to join us for Holy Communion, to receive the Lord's body and blood for forgiveness of sin and renewal of life. The church provides pre-filled communion elements, that were consecrated to be used in the pews or in the home, please help yourself. If you need these communion elements, please take a few from the rear of the church or stop by the church office.

June 16, 2024

PRELUDE

"Poeme"

Beethoven/Chesterton

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

THE GATHERING

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,
help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live.

We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you.

We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world.

Amen.

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished.

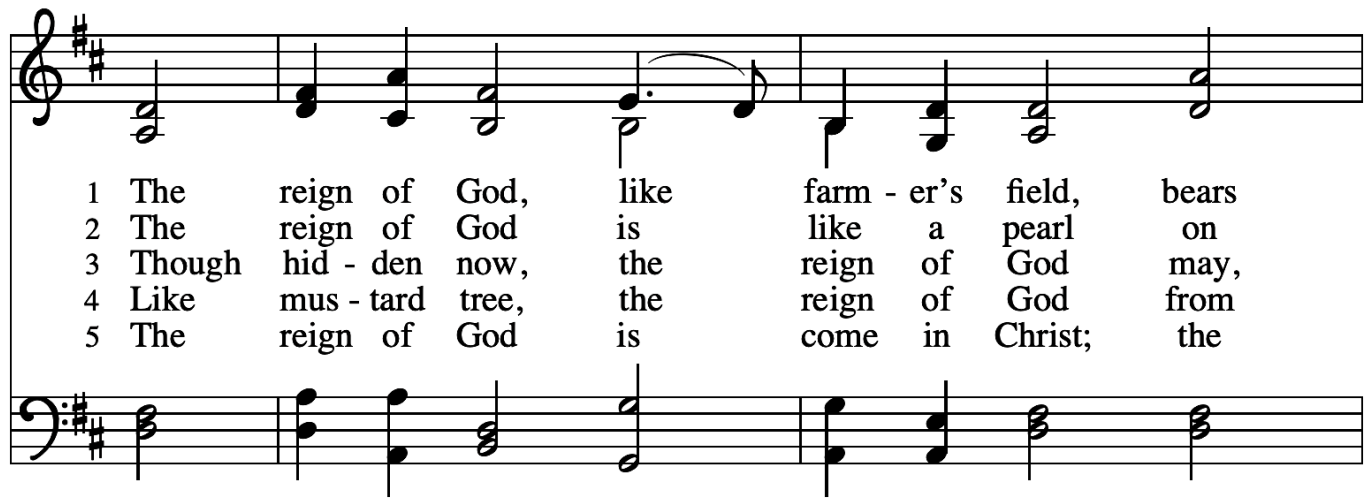
By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy:

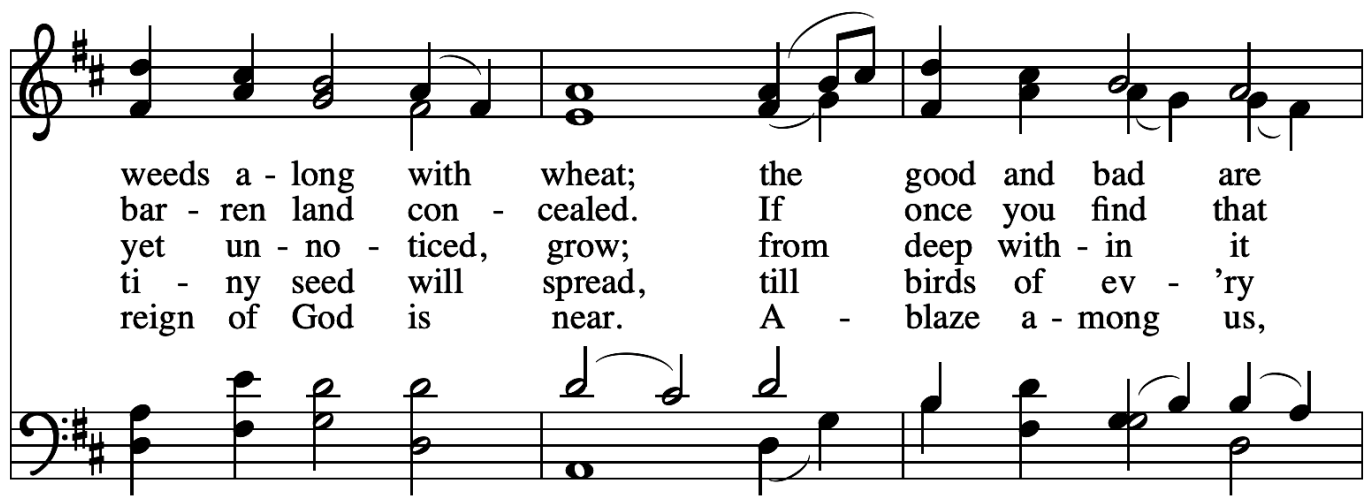
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

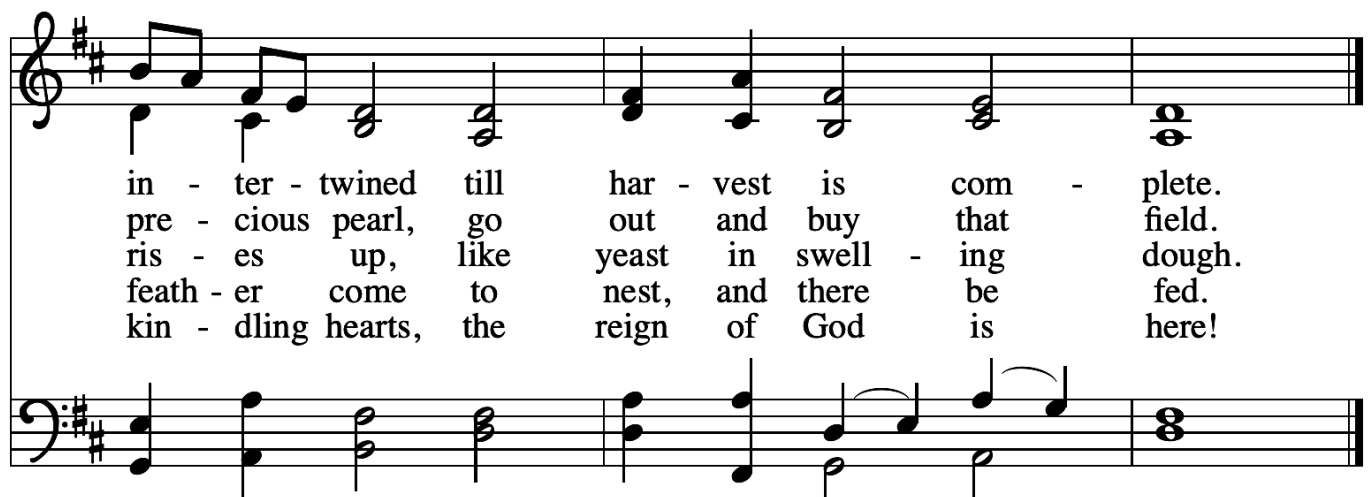




1 The reign of God, like farm - er's field, bears
2 The reign of God is like a pearl on
3 Though hid - den now, the reign of God may,
4 Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God from
5 The reign of God is come in Christ; the



weeds a - long with wheat; the good and bad are
bar - ren land con - cealed. If once you find that
yet un - no - ticed, grow; from deep with - in it
ti - ny seed will spread, till birds of ev - 'ry
reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,



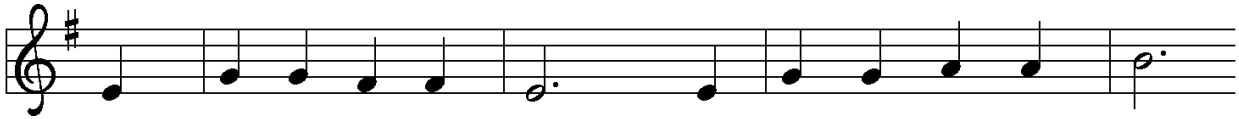
in - ter - twined till har - vest is com - plete.
pre - cious pearl, go out and buy that field.
ris - es up, like yeast in swell - ing dough.
feath - er come to nest, and there be fed.
kin - dling hearts, the reign of God is here!



*THE GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*THE KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray... O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



THE WORD

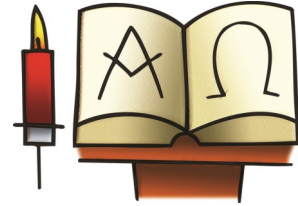
FIRST READING: Ezekiel 17:22-24

²²Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.
I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;
I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

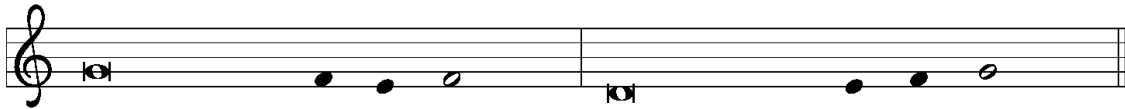
(continued)

²³On the mountain height of Israel
 I will plant it,
 in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
 and become a noble cedar.
 Under it every kind of bird will live;
 in the shade of its branches will nest
 winged creatures of every kind.
²⁴All the trees of the field shall know
 that I am the LORD.
 I bring low the high tree,
 I make high the low tree;
 I dry up the green tree
 and make the dry tree flourish.
 I the LORD have spoken;
 I will accomplish it.



Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 92:1-4, 12-15



¹It is a good thing to give thanks ¹ to the LORD,
 to sing praise to your name, ¹ O Most High;
²**to herald your love ¹ in the morning**
and your faithful- ¹ ness at night;
³on the psaltery, and ¹ on the lyre,
 and to the melody ¹ of the harp.
⁴**For you have made me glad by your ¹ acts, O LORD;**
and I shout for joy because of the works ¹ of your hands.
¹²The righteous shall flourish ¹ like a palm tree,
 and shall spread abroad like a ce- ¹ dar of Lebanon.
¹³**Those who are planted in the house ¹ of the LORD**
shall flourish in the courts ¹ of our God;
¹⁴they shall still bear fruit ¹ in old age;
 they shall be ¹ green and succulent;
¹⁵**that they may show how up- ¹ right the LORD is,**
my rock, in whom there is ¹ no injustice.

***GOSPEL READING: Mark 4:26-34**

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the 4th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶[Jesus] said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Pastor Shawn Berkebile

SERMON

Deacon Amy Mambu



"For the Fruit of All Creation"

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

(a brief silence)

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of peace with those in your household.

If you are watching on Facebook offer a message of peace in the comment section.

THE MEAL

THE OFFERING

Follow the QR Code, [\(click here\)](#) or go to www.stjohnsatown.com to make your gift. You will have the option to make a one time donation or a recurring donation. This website is easy, quick and very secure.

Thank you for your support!



OFFERTORY RESPONSE*ELW 691***"Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring" vs. 1 & 3*

1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to
 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They
 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we



place up - on your ta - ble. We do not wor - ship
 grew in your good plea - sure. What once was com - mon,
 lift in prayer be - fore you. Lord, by your grace now



as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
 dai - ly food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
 come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray... Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal.

Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **Amen.**

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*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.



*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

And now, let us pray together using the words Jesus has taught us...

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.

Come!

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.



The Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God, and on this Father's Day in memory of Family Members, by Thomas and Ruthetta Baker.

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray... Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

Amen.

THE SENDING

*BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✚ be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

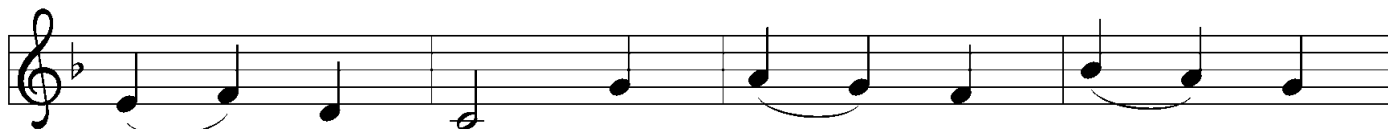


***SENDING HYMN** *"The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve" vs. 1 & 4*

ELW 551



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
joy like seed and, all our days, to
to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
share a dream and help the blind to see.
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

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***THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God. We Will!

POSTLUDE

"Sing to the Lord"

Smith

+

+

+

Happy Father's Day!

Happening soon:

All Saints Confirmation Camp - June 9-14 - Camp Nawakwa

Father's Day - Sunday, June 16

Congregation Council mtg. - Tuesday, June 18 - 7:00pm

PAL Lunch Team service - Friday, June 28 - 9:00am - Hanover Area Council of Churches

Serving St. John's - June 16

Head Usher Alison Baker
Communion Assistant Barb Colandreo
Acolyte Matty Sharrer
Greeters Haverstick Family
Lector Ang Sharrer

Serving St. John's - June 23

Head Usher Joe Rickrode
Acolyte Max Bupp
Greeters Dick and Barbe Sharrer
Lector **volunteer needed**

We are looking for worship assistant volunteers. Please see the sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall. There is a blue notebook with listings for acolytes, communion assistants, greeters and lectors. We also need congregation council members to be the head usher. Thanks!

Sign-up sheets through Sept. 1 are now available



ALTAR FLOWERS

We are looking for sponsors for our Altar Flowers. Please see sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall or call the office at 717-259-0796 to sponsor your flowers today. Altar flowers cost \$30.

Our next open date is July 7th.

Please inform the church office of any changes that can be made to the "Prayer Concerns" list: let us know if someone can be removed from the list, or if their status has changed.

Also, please contact us with additions to the list.

Thank you for faithfully praying for our community.

PRAYER CONCERNS

For homebound members:

Erma Becker, Gloria Breighner, Dorothy Hoffheins, Esther Swope, Tom Baker, and Larry LaRue

For those serving the larger church:

Dr. Stephan J. Swanson and Jodi Lynn Swanson, RN - our missionaries in Tanzania

For persons who are ill or hospitalized:

Sarah Dutrow - in need of healing

Ruth Edwards - having heart problems

Christine Uhercik - preparing for surgery

Bobbie Bevas - recovering from abdominal surgery

Linda Utz - receiving care for pneumonia and kidneys

Scarlette (great granddaughter of Bonnie Staub) - receiving care from home

Michael Stein (Ruth's Harvest volunteer) - receiving hospice care

Jay Bowers (nephew of Lorna Runk) - recovering from appendicitis

Darlene Bowers - in need of healing for her head and jaw

Jeff Harman - recovering from back surgery at UPMC Hanover

Nancy Emig - recovering from Covid at UPMC Hanover

AJ Warner - receiving care for his back from home

Mary Lawrence - receiving care at home

Dr. Anne Quinn - receiving care for ALS

James Gallagher - in need of healing



For persons undergoing treatment for Cancer:

Jane Miller (mother of Corey Miller) - receiving care for breast cancer

Polly Stein (Ruth's Harvest volunteer) - receiving care for breast cancer

Rev. Julie Beall (Zwingli UCC) - receiving care for cancer that has returned

Daniel Bowers (nephew of Lorna Runk) - receiving care for prostate cancer

Larry LaRue - receiving care for prostate cancer and new pacemaker

Gloria Baker - receiving care for liver cancer

Chuck Gabrielson - receiving care for lung cancer

Audrey Watts - receiving care for cancer

Doug Balko - receiving care for colon cancer

Fred Gebhart - receiving care for prostate cancer

James Mauk - receiving care for cancer and his heart

Jack Leib - receiving care for cancer at Wellspan Gettysburg

Irelyn Sprenkle is 10 yrs-old and receiving care for kidney cancer at Hershey Medical Center

Wesley Beam is 4 yrs-old and receiving care for DFIG brain cancer

Carol Brown - receiving care for cancer

Kim H. - receiving care for lymphoma

Janet Heflin - receiving care for cancer

Sharon Ingram - receiving care for cancer

St. John's prays for the family and friends of Jean Sloan who passed away on June 10th.



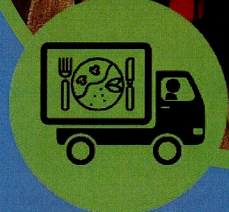
Hanover Area Council of Churches

WE NEED YOU!

Volunteer today to help with Meals-On Wheels. The program needs your help this summer. Thanks!

Volunteer Drivers and Runners Needed

Deliveries made weekdays between 10:30am-11:30am.



We Need Help With :

- Packing Meals for delivery
- DRIVERS to drive one of four routes
- RUNNERS to make the delivery to the client's door

For more information please visit www.hanoverareacouncilofchurches.org or call 717-633-6353

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30am – Sunday morning “Coffee Break” fellowship time

9:00am – In-Person Worship at St. John’s Lutheran Church

9:00am – Remote Worship – You Tube, Facebook, and your telephone (toll free):

You Tube - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLYusK7PV28KOqSVH6xpbFA>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/St.JohnsAbbottstown/live>

PhoneLiveStreaming - dial toll-free from your telephone to listen live at 10:00am, or to hear the previously recorded service at **(833) 435-4458**

Music Notes :

The Chancel Choir will be rehearsing at 8:40am on June 16.



Calling all Graduates...

St. John's would like to recognize all of our 2024 graduates in the June/July newsletter. If you, or someone in your family is graduating this year (or within this past year) please email St. John's (click below) with the following information: Graduate's name, school/college, degree, future plans, and a picture. Thanks!



stjohnsatown@comcast.net

JOIN OUR PAL LUNCH TEAM

(Sharing God's love through food and community)



The Hanover Area Council of Churches serves a hot meal 365 days a year to approximately 130 to 200 people. These meals are lovingly made by member congregations from all across the area.

St. John's PAL Team is scheduled to serve our next meal on

Friday, June 28, from 9AM-Noon

If you are interested in joining our PAL team, please give Larry Welty a call at (717) 253-4744.

Register for Summer Camp Today!

→ Registration/information brochures are available in the Fellowship Hall, or visit - <https://www.lutherancamping.org/summer-camp/>

June Special Giving Designation

Lower Susquehanna Synod Missionary Support

Our June Special Offerings will provide support to Dr. Steve and Jodi Swanson, RN, and the missionary work they are doing in Tanzania. They are pictured here (Jodi and Steve are in the center) with 6 pediatric



Doctors-in-training. God is using our gifts and their hands and hearts and experience to provide care to mothers and their new-born/young children in Tanzania, as well as to train new doctors who will be able to continue and expand care throughout the region. Continued blessings to all!

CREATED TO BE BRAVE

This is the first in a series of articles to let you know what our youth will be experiencing at this year's youth gathering.

BRAVE:

The first theme of the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering is BRAVE. We are created to be brave, to show up with an open mind and heart, willing to be challenged. Psalm 27:1 says *"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"* Being brave doesn't mean being without fear. In fact, being completely comfortable doesn't require any bravery at all. On the contrary, researchers find a direct link between bravery and vulnerability. By saying YES to attending the Gathering and traveling to New Orleans, our youth and adult leaders have already been brave. Traveling to a new place with thousands of new people from all over the country is brave. We are excited to share our experiences of courage and vulnerability with the community of St. John's later this summer. Siblings in Christ, all of us are created to be brave.

[adapted from the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering Getting Ready curriculum]