



St John's Episcopal Church, Lancaster PA

The Messenger - SEPTEMBER

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Are you looking for new ways to serve your church community, local city, and world through St. John's? You'll be shocked at how many ways there are to serve! If you are new to St. John's or just want to explore new ways to become involved, consider taking this survey. The survey links to short descriptions about each of the ministries to help you learn more. If you would like to explore the many options, either type <https://forms.gle/JmSpcPjYgRbiJPk27> into your browser or scan the qr code. By expressing an interest in learning more about any ministry area, you are not signing up, but rather allowing the leader of that ministry to know of your interest and reach out to you to discuss the ministry and the ways that you could become involved.



Rector's Message

Dear St. John's family and friends,

What a spectacular summer we had! Worshipping as one throughout June, July, and August was such a gift. There is something so life giving about worshipping in a full and vibrant church. I hope you met some new faces and enjoyed being together as much as I did! I would love to hear about your worship experiences over the past three months and any thoughts you have regarding our one summer service. Please feel free to email me at amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org or stop by the office during the week for a chat!

As much as I loved having one service, I know the value and importance of offering multiple worship services. We will return to our regular service times beginning Homecoming Sunday, September 10th ! Each service we offer is prayerfully and intentionally created and has its own unique style. Below is a description of each of our weekly services:

SUNDAY AT 8:00 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I

Our 8:00 A.M. spoken service is for our early risers. Using the Rite I liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer, this service is contemplative in nature and invites one to pause and connect with God in the midst of a busy world. Throughout this traditional service, scripture is read, prayers offered, and Eucharist shared. The Rite I liturgy connects us to our roots and those who have gone before us through timeless prayers and the holy sacrament.

SUNDAY AT 10:15 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II WITH CHOIR

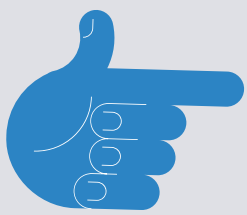
Our Rite II service is filled with vibrant music, sacred scripture, and the breaking of bread. This service is filled with the joyful sound of children rustling in the pews, anthems sung to the glory of God, and the heartfelt prayers of those gathered. With acolytes and processions, communal singing, and a mission to love and serve our neighbors, this service invites one to participate in the coming of the Kingdom.

WEDNESDAY AT 12:05 P.M. HEALING SERVICE WITH HOLY EUCHARIST

Our Wednesday healing service is an invitation to lay before God the people and situations on our hearts in need of healing. This service, using the Book of Common Prayer and other resources, is grounded in healing prayers, anointing with holy oil, and the sharing of the sacrament. The service is short enough to accommodate lunch breaks yet full enough to transform hearts.

I have never met an Episcopal priest who didn't love the passage from Hebrews that reads, "Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near." Worship has united Christ's disciples for thousands of years and is as important today as ever. Everything we do as Christians stems from our worship experiences, so invite a friend, pick your favorite service, and join others as we launch into a new program year at St. John's! I look forward to praising God with you in the weeks and months to come!

I remain faithfully yours,
Amanda+



Vestry Update



“God doesn’t necessarily call the equipped, he equips the called.” During my 30 plus years at St. John’s, I’ve been asked a number of times to serve on the vestry. For much of that time, the meetings were held on Monday evenings, a night that was already committed, and so it was easy to say no. Besides, what could I contribute? Truth be told, serving on the vestry seemed a little intimidating. But when I was asked 3 years ago to consider serving and was reminded by the “asker” that with a new rector in place, this was an exciting time to be involved with shaping the vision for St. John’s, I said yes!

During my term on the vestry, we have rebounded from being a “zoom” parish to full pews at worship. We have transformed the Concord Street property from a rental unit to a transitional housing space for refugee families. We have added an assistant rector and a communications minister, welcomed over 50 new members, expanded our outreach ministries, and have established ourselves as an affirming and welcoming congregation.

Currently, we are gearing up to address major infrastructure issues facing our beautiful, but aging worship space. All of these things are accomplished through the hard work and dedication of the entire parish, but with the guidance of those who say yes to being part of the lay leadership of St. Johns. Amanda and Jen are more excited than ever about what the coming year holds for St. John’s and they are anxious to welcome fresh ideas from new vestry members. Over the next several weeks, current vestry members will be reaching out to parishioners asking for volunteers to serve a three-year term on St. John’s Vestry. Please consider saying yes!

If you are a member of St. John’s and are feeling a call to serve,
please reach out to me or Leslie Morgan.

We would love to hear from you!



Feast of Saint Michael

BLESSING OF THE BADGES

Please plan on joining Pastor Amanda and Sister Stacey in celebration of the Feast of St. Michael with the Blessing of the Badges. We will gather in the courtyard on Friday, Sept. 29th at 7:20 am and pick up coffee and baguettes as we walk down to the police station. Help us lift up those who protect our community with their lives.

On the 29th of September, Episcopalians observe the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, commonly known as Michaelmas.

The biblical word “angel” (Greek: angelos) means, literally, a messenger. Messengers from God can be visible or invisible, and may assume human or non-human forms. Christians have always felt themselves to be attended by helpful spirits—swift, powerful, and enlightening. Those beneficent spirits are often depicted in Christian art in human form, with wings to signify their swiftness and spacelessness, with swords to signify their power, and with dazzling raiment to signify their ability to enlighten.

Of the many angels spoken of in the Bible, only four are called by name: Michael, Gabriel, Uriel, and Raphael. The Archangel Michael is the powerful agent of God who wards off evil from God’s people, and delivers peace to them at the end of this life’s mortal struggle. “Michaelmas,” as his feast is called in England, has long been one of the popular celebrations of the Christian Year in many parts of the world.

Michael is the patron saint of police officers, paramedics, and first responders; please join us as we bless the badges and the people who wear them in our city.

Prayer for the Feast of St Michael and All Angels

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted in a wonderful order the ministries of angels and mortals: Mercifully grant that, as your holy angels always serve and worship you in heaven, so by your appointment they may help and defend us here on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE



I Am, WE Are, One World - Here, There, Everywhere

SEPTEMBER 3RD

Labor Day

On this day and forward, consider giving thanks to those who help you in any way - Teachers, store clerks, waiters, mail persons, clergy, fellow employees, garbage pick-up, cleaning personnel, anyone who helps you. Any unexpected "thank you" can be very powerful and supportive. Imagine what we can change with even the smallest thanks or a smile.

SEPTEMBER 10TH

Grandparents Day

Grandparent figures who give support, love and caring can be blood related and/or a gift from above. Give them thanks, either way. Remember - We are ALL one family.

SEPTEMBER 17TH

International Day of Peace

"If you want peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies." -Desmond Tutu

Coming together in any way has never been more important or needed. Prayers sent above - needed. Action from each of us below - vital.

SEPTEMBER 24TH

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." -Mother Teresa

Imagine the ripple the Food Pantry, the school supplies and Fulton Elementary School connection, Soles4Souls, Community Breakfast, open welcoming doors, signs of peace on the front of the church, our young people's projects, make in our community - Here, There, Everywhere



FOOD PANTRY

Debbie Carter

Our Food Pantry ministry helps to meet the needs of our neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity, and we see about 50 visitors each week.

Financial Status

We budgeted \$20,000 for 2023 (both expenses and contributions), and our spending (a bit over \$13,000 through mid-August) has fallen in line with that. However, we've received just under \$9,000 in Food Pantry contributions so far this year.

** If you're willing and able to make a financial contribution, please write "Food Pantry" in the memo line.

Volunteers Needed

We are now doing bulk buying of many of our foods, and we could use volunteers to pick up those orders once each month. If you're interested in helping, please contact Paul West at 518-593-1084, or pauljohnwest@gmail.com

Food Donations

Canned items: tuna, chicken, vegetables, black beans, fruit, pork 'n' beans or baked beans, and soup.

Other foods: peanut butter, spaghetti & other pasta, pasta sauce, rice, and cereal.

You may place these items in the basket near the ushers or in one of the red carts (in Parish Hall or inside the glass doors from the courtyard).

Thank you for your continued generosity for this ministry!





YARD GIVE

A Follow-Up

The 7th annual Yard Give was another smashing success! From the beginning, the motto has always been for our guests to "Take what you need; give what you can." This year, as before, we saw God's grace running throughout the event. Some of the shoppers are the typical yard sale regulars, looking for the diamond in the rough or the deal that they just can't live without. Some of the visitors were curious neighbors who welcomed an opportunity to visit the church in a way that was not intimidating to them. The largest group of shoppers, though, was a group of our neighbors in need, many of them shopping for themselves or others with limited fiscal means. At 6:30am on Friday, there was already a line of more than twenty people waiting to enter when the doors didn't open until 7:00am. For some people, they left with bags of clothes and household items and thanked us again and again for the blessings that they had received. Others brought us donations of things that they could give: a pack of paper, baby clothes that no longer fit, or a book they had read. Still others found a sense of pride in offering a dollar and being thanked for their gracious donation.

While the Yard Give did generate \$1,320.42 in income, its true impact will always be measured by the impact it has on the people of Lancaster, and the message of love and dignity that it spreads. Thank you for your generous support, and start saving your items for next year.

Thanks,
Leslie Morgan

Blessing of the Animals



Friday, October 6th @ 6:00PM

Join us for our annual gathering as we give thanks for our pets,
both great and small! Taking place in the church courtyard,
parking is available off of Mulberry Street.
A free will offering will be taken to benefit
Lancaster City's Mounted Unit.

St. John's Episcopal Church
321 West Chestnut Street, Lancaster PA 17603
www.stjohns-lancaster.org

F3: Faith, Food & Fellowship



- Have I a gift for listening?
- Am I called to be a caring presence for someone without trying to 'fix them'?
- Could I serve a meal once a month in this place of fresh starts?
- Am I interested in learning about this program?
- Do I feel called to make a contribution to this group of courageous mothers?

Our First Anniversary!

Who knew in creating "Food - Faith - Fellowship" last September, we would trip over ourselves and our ideas, realized in hindsight we made the wrong plan, often stumbled in relating to each other? Who knew these women transitioning from prison would just break our hearts with their surprise at experiencing unconditional love?

Our dedicated ministry team is typically in awe of them. Would many of us have the stamina and courage to begin a new life, to learn everything in a new way: parenting, finances, employment, relationships, life skills, et al?

Time with F3 has been anything but ordinary! It has brought us each deepening humility, new understanding of ourselves and each other, and awareness of the beautiful interventions of the Holy Spirit. It doesn't get any better!

With excitement we invite you to join us in a life giving ministry. And we welcome your support or donations. This transitional period for these women is crucial. We came before you one year ago with a covenant to minister to these incredible mothers reuniting with their children. As we celebrate our anniversary, we invite you to consider!

Questions? Wishes? Please be in touch!

Sea Macleish

si-sea@comcast.net

717.413.1753

FALL FORMATION SERIES

A LIFE OF GRACE FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

Celebrate the Season of Creation! September through October is celebrated by Christians around the world as a time of renewing, repairing and restoring our relationship to God, one another, and all of creation.

Join Sue Dodge and Sister Stacey, as we deepen our faith and commitment to care of God's Creation and address the environmental crisis facing us. A Study Course on the House of Bishop's Pastoral Teaching on the Environment, for youth and adults, reclaims the theology of salvation and redemption for all creation.

Dates:

Sept 10th-Oct 29th

Time:

9:15-10 am.

Where:

All-Purpose Room

**Intergenerational
Upcycle Project**

Guest Speakers:

Brother Joe Nuber, Community of Francis and Clare;
and Katie Jane, Executive Director at Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light.

**Adult & Youth Study
Booklets will be provided.**

Sign-up Sheet in the
Parish Hall.

Trans Loving Community

Dear friends of St. John's,

I would like to introduce a new ministry: TLC or Trans Loving Care. This ministry is inclusive of anyone who may identify as LGBTQ+ or is an ally of someone who does. Our goal is to provide a safe space to gather and support. The only thing needed is a loving heart, St. John's is such a loving and welcoming place and we are hoping to spread the word and include more of our community.

We will be meeting once a month and our next meeting is Monday September 11, 2023 4:30-6:30 in the parish hall. We ask that everyone provide a dish, snack, or drink to share with the group. If you are interested or have questions see Dani or Stacey in church or email Stacey at: scatigano@gmail.com.

Peace, Dani



SCHEDULE:
WORSHIP AT
8:00 AM & 10:15 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL
AGES AT 9:15 AM
J2A CLASS & YOUTH GROUP
EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING!



HOMECOMING
SUNDAY



SEPTEMBER 10,
2023

MARTHA'S MINISTRY

Meet the folks who are sharing their gifts and talents with Martha's Ministry and the Holiday Bazaar:



Nan Garthwaite

Nan came to St. John's from Christ Church in Ridley Park, PA. She has been attending St. John's for a year and is involved with the Food Pantry Ministry. Nan also supports Martha's Ministry with items she sews and knits at home. Her hobbies include sewing, knitting, cooking, and reading.

Christine Shevock

Christine has been at St. John's for about 5 years. She volunteers at the Food Pantry. Christine also volunteers with Martha's Ministry. Christine is a member of Red Rose Quilt Guild and Lancaster Spinners and Weavers Guild. She has fiber interests of knitting, crocheting, and weaving. Quilting and gardening are Christine's favorite hobbies.

Tom Shevock

Tom has been at St. John's for about 5 years. He volunteers at the Food Pantry. Tom has been woodworking for 30 plus years. He enjoyed working with making different types of boxes and learning Kumiko box making. Tom also enjoys photography and is a member of two local photography groups. He is enjoying volunteering and teaching at Make717 in Lancaster City,



Nursery Attendant

St. John's is a place for people of all ages and stages including our youngest members! Our nursery is staffed by our fabulous Nursery Attendant, Ellia, and one volunteer each Sunday. We practice Safe Church policies at St. John's which requires two adults to be present with our littlest members at all times. If you would like to volunteer in the nursery, information regarding background checks, our safe church policy, and the signup sheet can be found on the church website! Any questions can be directed to Karen DiPace at Karen.dipace@gmail.com

Coffee Hour

With a new program year on the horizon, it's time to plan for Coffee Hour! Jesus spent a great deal of time breaking bread with friends and neighbors throughout his ministry and as Episcopalians we know the importance of building community over a cup of coffee and mid-morning snack! Coffee Hour is an essential ministry of any parish seeking to build and strengthen relationships and it requires little effort! Please consider signing up to help after either service or both. A beverage, piece of fruit, or donut go a long way in welcoming newcomers and connecting with folks you only see on Sundays! Don't worry if it's your first time, Karen Di Pace and others, can answer all of your questions, so sign up already!



Church Volunteers help to make everyone feel welcome and involved-- have you asked yourself how you can contribute to this community?



TREASURER'S REPORT

CHARLES WEAR

	2022			2023		
	Actual July	Actual YTD	Budget Full Yr	Actual July	Actual YTD	Budget Full Yr
Income						
Pledge Income	\$19.6	\$228.8	\$384.6	\$25.6	\$255.9	\$415.0
Other Contributions	\$1.4	\$28.4	\$35.5	\$2.6	\$46.4	\$50.5
Investment Draws	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$63.0	\$30.0	\$30.0	\$63.6
Other less Transfers	\$1.9	\$16.4	\$23.6	\$4.8	\$35.8	\$20.7
Jubilee	\$0.4	\$8.2	\$16.9	\$0.8	\$9.4	\$23.9
Total Income	\$23.3	\$281.8	\$523.5	\$63.9	\$377.4	\$573.7
Expenses						
Clergy	\$15.3	\$109.8	\$205.6	18.6	\$139.2	\$247.0
Lay Staff	\$10.0	\$46.0	\$90.8	9.5	\$58.3	\$116.5
Vestry/Finance/Comm	\$1.5	\$11.5	\$25.3	\$2.8	\$16.9	\$27.6
Utilities	\$2.0	\$25.5	\$29.5	\$2.5	\$30.3	\$39.2
Building Repairs & Supplies	\$0.6	\$14.3	\$38.4	\$1.9	\$16.6	\$33.6
Other Property	\$3.0	\$18.6	\$29.6	\$3.1	\$19.4	\$28.9
Worship/Ed/Community	\$5.2	\$9.6	\$14.1	\$16.2	\$25.5	\$17.2
Outreach	\$7.3	\$40.2	\$65.8	5.2	\$36.6	\$64.6
Jubilee	\$2.8	\$8.5	\$24.4	\$5.4	\$18.0	\$34.2
Total Expenses	\$47.7	\$283.9	\$523.5	\$65.2	\$360.7	\$608.7
Net Total	(\$24.4)	(\$2.1)	\$0.0	(\$1.4)	\$16.7	(\$35.0)

We have reached the income deficit period of the financial year and as such, we transferred \$30k from our endowment savings account to our operating fund in July. This transfer represents about half of the annual budgeted draw amount established by policy.

July expenses were higher than usual due to a one-time charge for pension contributions, an annual property tax payment for Concord, and continuing high demand for food pantry items. The \$15.3k proceeds from the Gratitude Dinner were also transferred from the operating fund to the restricted music investment account in July. The brick repointing work for both church and Concord was completed in July. Total cost of the project was \$15.3k of which \$11.6k will show up as August expenses.

Respectfully submitted,
C Wear, Treasurer

Church Prayer List

Claire Phillips, Michael Stank,
Debbie Carter, Pat Pankey, Kate,
Jeannie Zeller, Kate, Nancy Strasburg,
Justin & Lisa, Ella & Colleen,
Matt Patterson, Michael Yoder, Carmen,
Mike Patrone, Maggie Selviz,
Angie Stamm, Kathy Novotel,
Kent Stricker, Maria Sander

Anniversaries

5 - Andy & Mia Welaish
7 - Jim & Barbara Snyder
8 - John & Rebecca Modene
10 - Ericka & Joel Sipe
13 - Amanda & John Knouse
24 - Neil Clark & Susan Burlingame

Friends at Home

Ellen Keller, Nancy Nemith,
Peter Plaxa, Ricky Smith,
Joanna Sweeney, Al Kuser,
Mary Sue Farmer, Ellen Sellers,
Edith Kane, Merle Schnee,
Carol Greenfield, Sandy Grove,
Carole Humphrey, Tiny Nolan,
Darlene Bentley, Carolyn Archer,
Peggy Zuke, Paula Wolf

Birthdays

3 - Sea Macleish
3 - Paula Wolf
4 - Leslie Morgan
6 - Deborah Logan
7 - John Waskowicz
8 - Al Kuser
9 - Barbara Snyder
11 - Jeff Stone
12 - Katie Mausolf
13 - Amy Dissinger
13 - Sue Heilman
14 - Jay Noble
14 - Carol Stigelman
17 - Emelia Hale
17 - Sophia Hale
17 - Mary Huber
17 - Graham Welaish
18 - Marianne Eckert
18 - Fiona Mausolf
19 - Steve Forry
19 - Natalie Visco
21 - John Mann
22 - Bob Lee
22 - Henry Noble
24 - Dana Sanborn
27 - Max Lester
29 - Kathy Novosel

Serving in the Military:

Amelia Dissinger, Alex Kelly,
Brooks Morgan, Brian Hobbins,
Joshua Watkins, Kirby
Kinderwater, Kyle Kinderwater,
David Wolfe

Church CALENDAR

Friday the 1st

Rector's Day Off

Sunday the 3rd

9:00AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II
10:15AM Lemonade in the Courtyard

Monday the 4th

5:00PM Executive Committee
6:00PM Daughters of the King

Tuesday the 5th

1:30PM Martha's Ministry
2:30PM Food Pantry

Wednesday the 6th

12:00PM Healing Service
7:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday the 7th

9:00AM Minister's Meeting
2:30PM Food Pantry

Friday the 8th

Rector's Day Off

Sunday the 10th

Homecoming Sunday
8:00AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:15AM Sunday School
10:15AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Monday the 11th

4:30PM Trans Loving Community
6:00PM Caring Ministry Meeting
6:00PM Ministries Council

Tuesday the 12th

1:30PM Martha's Ministry
2:30PM Food Pantry
4:00PM Finance Committee

Wednesday the 13th

12:00PM Healing Service
6:30PM J2A & MS Youth Group
7:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday the 14th

1:30PM Martha's Ministry
2:30PM Food Pantry
7:00PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Friday the 15th

Rector's Day Off
10:00AM Committal Service
for Alice Simpson
6:00PM Music in the Courtyard

Saturday the 16th

9:00AM Community Breakfast
at First Reformed Church

Sunday the 17th

8:00AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:15AM Sunday School
10:15AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Monday the 18th

6:00PM Daughters of the King

Tuesday the 29th

1:30PM Martha's Ministry
2:30PM Food Pantry

Wednesday the 20th

12:00PM Healing Service
7:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00PM J2A Class

Thursday the 21st

1:30PM Martha's Ministry
2:30PM Food Pantry
6:30PM Men's Gathering
No Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Friday the 22nd

Rector's Day Off
6:00PM Music in the Courtyard

Sunday the 24th

St. John's Day
8:00AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:15AM Sunday School
10:15AM Holy Baptism
and Eucharist Rite II

Monday the 25th

6:00PM Stewardship Committee

Tuesday the 26th

1:30PM Martha's Ministry
2:30PM Food Pantry

Wednesday the 27th

12:00PM Healing Service
7:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00PM J2A Class

Thursday the 28th

1:30PM Martha's Ministry
2:30PM Food Pantry
7:00PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Friday the 29th

Rector's Day Off
8:00AM Blessing of the Badges