

MAY 2025

# THE MESSENGER

St. John's Episcopal Church  
321 W. Chestnut St., Lancaster PA 17603  
[www.stjohns-lancaster.org](http://www.stjohns-lancaster.org)



**Join us on Sunday,  
May 4<sup>th</sup> for our  
Bishop's visit!  
Bishop Audrey will  
be with us for both  
the 8:00 a.m. and  
10:15 a.m. services!**

## NEWS & STORIES FOR THIS ISSUE:

- Rector's Message
- TLC Game Night
- Poor People's Campaign
- Earth Connection Retreat
- Foyer Groups
- Summer Book Study
- Musings from the Organ Bench
- Financials
- Food Pantry
- Soles4Souls
- Gratitude Dinner
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Calendar



## A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

What a glorious and transforming Holy Week and Easter Celebration we had! Thank you to the staff, choirs, altar guild, worship leaders, ushers, hospitality team, decorators, and volunteers who made this year's celebration one for the books! I look forward to continuing our celebrations throughout the great fifty days of Easter!





## **TLC GAME NIGHT! - MAY 5 @ 5:30PM**



TLC, St. John's LGBTQIA+ Affirming ministry group, invites you to a fun evening of games & snacks on Cinco de Mayo from 530-730pm in the Parish Hall. The night will be geared towards teens and adults with several multi-player and team-play games to choose from. All are welcome, and feel free to bring a friend! FYI this takes the place of our monthly May meeting. RSVPs helpful though not required: [MariaWeaverH@gmail.com](mailto:MariaWeaverH@gmail.com)



## **SAVE THE DATE: LANCASTER PRIDE FESTIVAL**

**SAVE THE DATE:  
LANCASTER PRIDE  
SATURDAY, JUNE 28TH  
12PM-6PM AT THE  
LANCASTER CONVENTION  
CENTER (THE MARRIOTT IN  
DOWNTOWN LANCASTER)**

**IN JUNE, TLC WILL AGAIN  
RECRUIT PARISHIONERS TO  
STAFF THE ST. JOHN'S TABLE  
AT PRIDE TO WELCOME AND  
SUPPORT OUR LGBTQIA+  
COMMUNITY WITH LOVING  
PRESENCE. STAY TUNED!**

## UPCOMING EVENT AT ST. JOHN'S!

# YOU ONLY GET WHAT YOU'RE ORGANIZED TO TAKE:

Lessons from the Poor Organizing the Poor,  
Past and Present, to Take Our Human  
Rights Today

Join us for a community discussion with Rev. Liz  
Theoharis and Noam Sandweiss-Back, authors of a  
groundbreaking new book, and local organizers  
around **building a movement to end poverty today**

weds  
MAY 7  
4-6pm

**CHRIST LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**  
124 S 13th ST,  
HARRISBURG, PA 17104



REGISTER HERE

thurs  
MAY 8  
6-8pm

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH**  
321 W CHESTNUT ST,  
LANCASTER, PA 17603







3283 Pinch Rd., Mt. Gretna, PA 17064 - <http://www.parkatgovernordick.org>

## IN-PERSON DAY RETREAT

MAY 16, 2025  
10 AM - 3:30 PM



*We will walk, wander, play and tend to our relationship with Earth in 1,100 acres of forest, boulders, and boardwalk at Clarence Schock Memorial Park in Mt. Gretna, PA. We will engage The Work that Reconnects and Forest Bathing as community-centered methods of tending Earth Connection and Eco-Grief.*

## COST-SUGGESTED DONATION: \$75 - \$100

To register: <https://oasismn.org/day-retreats>

*We will enjoy indoor and outdoor gathering spaces.*



*Restroom facilities include indoor and well-maintained outdoor options.*

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE ON THIS RETREAT:



*Oasis will provide water, tea and snacks.*

- Your lunch, snacks
- Reflection tools; notebook, pen, colored pencils, sketch pad
- Water in reusable bottle/thermos
- Comfortable trail-appropriate shoes



- Layers for changing weather
- Sunscreen, bug repellent
- EpiPen if prescribed
- Hat, sunglasses, gloves, coat

**\*\* Please advise Justin of any mobility needs. Accommodations are available.**  
[justin@wildspiritpaths.com](mailto:justin@wildspiritpaths.com)



## FOYER GROUPS ARE COMING TO ST. JOHN'S!

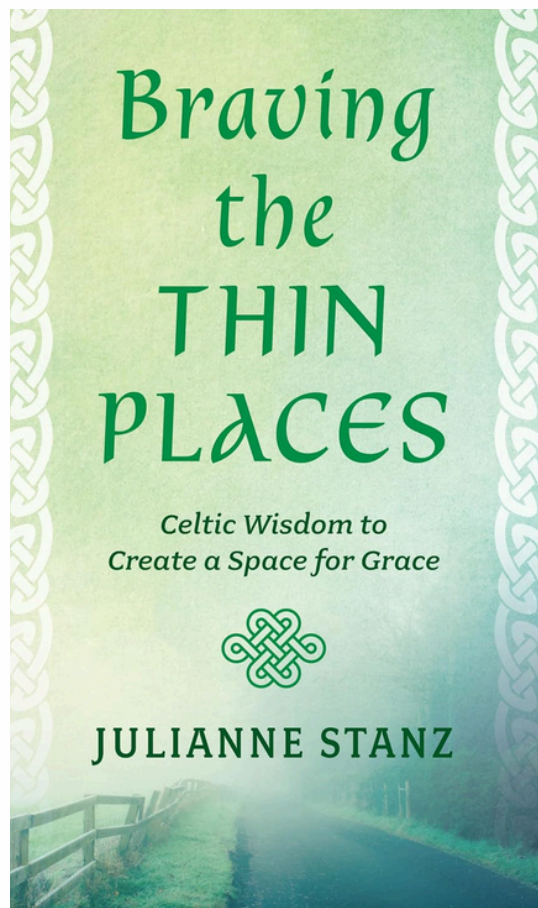


Announcing Foyer Groups to start in September!

What is a Foyer Group, you ask? It's a small, random, intergenerational group of adult parishioners that gather informally, once a month, during the school year, to share a simple meal and fellowship. Then the following year, we mix up the groups and do it again! Here is the great part; NO LIMIT to how many people, total, can participate! We will form as many groups as we need.

We will have a whole-group kick-off in September in the Parish Hall. On this date you will meet your group for the first time, dine together, and discuss when and where you will meet monthly. It is completely up to your group as to meeting in your homes, at a venue or at church. Meals should be very simple; pot-luck style or even, byo. And, there is NO agenda except getting to know one another! We will have ideas for you. Intrigued? Interested? Sign-up options to follow soon!

## BRAVING THE THIN PLACES BOOK STUDY



As we read in the rector's letter, while Amanda+ is on sabbatical she will be reading Braving the Thin Places by Julianne Stanz. The vestry hopes we can read along with her and will create small groups for discussions based on interest. If you are interested in joining a small discussion group, please email Sarah Jones at [selizabethjones@gmail.com](mailto:selizabethjones@gmail.com) and they will be in touch with more information regarding meeting places, days, and times.

Here is a little about the book and a link to the webinar from the author. "Braving the Thin Places" explores the concept of "thin places" in Celtic spirituality, where the veil between the earthly and spiritual realms thins, allowing for deeper encounters with God and oneself. It offers practical guidance on identifying & experiencing these moments, drawing from Celtic traditions and faith practices. The book emphasizes the transformative power of these encounters, leading to a more authentic and meaningful life." [Braving the Thin Places \(webinar about the book\)](#)



## MUSINGS FROM THE ORGAN BENCH



*De colores se visten los campos la primavera* (Sing of colors that over the hills in profusion are springing....)

Around 45 years ago, I had the opportunity to attend and participate in an Episcopal Cursillo retreat weekend. This movement, "Cursillo", was created by the Spanish Catholic church to renew and revitalize the spiritual life of men in the Roman Catholic church in Spain around 1949 in Mallorca, Spain. Eventually, it made its way to the United States and was "gifted" to the Episcopal church and from the Episcopal church to the Moravian churches in Bethlehem, PA. Talks by lay persons, Eucharistic celebrations daily, eating and socializing together, mutual encouragement were all a part of the weekend. At first, it was geared for married couples. Eventually, it was opened to single men and women. The idea was that it was to be a movement of not just individuals, but of communities. Weekly gatherings for support, praise, prayer and fellowship followed for those who had attended.

One of the key words that is part of the weekend is the word "Palanca", which are spiritual letters of care, and love that are given to the attendees on their return from the weekend. I still have my little paper bag of these which often include illustrations along with the prayers given at the end of the weekend.

Music was an active part of the weekend and one of the key songs was "De colores". The lyrics are often sung in Spanish, but we learned the English on the Episcopal retreat held north of Allentown, Pa. Here is a link where one can hear the English words of praise and joy for the coming of life in the spring. But as Spring reminds us of the colors of nature...we too are part of God's beautiful world...in all of our personhoods, relationships, gifts and talents. In spite of sad ugliness of how we often treat one another, our message and lives as a Christian family are here to draw us all upward to God's grace and love. This is the link to "De colores" : <https://youtu.be/kZSwohD7Cqg>.

Although it is often learned as a secular children's song, the Cursillo movement adopted it to remind us, lay and clergy alike, that, as a church family we are filled with a rainbow of color in our relationships, in our faith journeys, our many homes near and far that we have come from, our ministries, our needs and our blessings.

The choir will be singing this several times during the month of May, when we experience more and more the beauties of God's blessings.

P. S. Having nearly 60 chickens, peacocks, golden & ring neck pheasants, doves, pigeons, I am surrounded by their many voices and colors every day I go to take care of them. As I care for their many personalities and needs, I am reminded that God created all and after every day of creation, the liturgical statement in Genesis says that as God looked out on each day of creation, "And God saw that it was good." Sing God's praises with whatever voice you are given...for "it is good"!!



## FINANCIALS BY CHARLES WEAR, TREASURER

- March income exceeded expenses resulting in an operating surplus of \$8.3k. March was the first month that the assistant rector position was vacant, which accounts for most of the monthly surplus. The YTD surplus is \$41.2k.
- St. John's is one of ten beneficiaries of the Lyet-Summy trust. We expect a one-time distribution of approximately \$70k in the near future.
- There were no transactions in our non-operating investment accounts. The changes in account balances reflect depressed market conditions.
- Operating expenses for the 209 Concord property were unusually high for the month due to property taxes (\$1.6k) and completion of a sewer repair (\$9.3k YTD).
- Capital gifts of \$4.3k were received in March, bringing the total gifts for the project to \$748.4k. Additional one-time bequests and pre-campaign donations bring the grand total to \$863.7k, with \$243.2k in pledges outstanding. The revised estimate for the total project cost is \$1.24 million, leaving \$134.3k as additional need.
- Besides the monthly debt service for the Heistand loan, the only major capital expense in March was a \$5.9k installment payment to Willet for the Mary window.

	March		Year to Date		Annual
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget
<b>Income</b>					
Contributions	\$43.3	\$42.1	\$159.9	\$126.3	\$505.1
Investment Draws	\$0.0	\$6.1	\$0.0	\$18.4	\$73.6
Other Income	\$3.8	\$2.9	\$11.7	\$8.6	\$34.4
Jubilee	\$1.3	\$3.0	\$22.0	\$9.0	\$36.1
Transferred Income	\$0.0	(\$3.3)	\$0.0	(\$10.0)	(\$40.0)
<b>Total Income</b>	\$48.5	\$50.8	\$193.6	\$152.3	\$609.2
<b>Expenses</b>					
Clergy	\$10.6	\$23.1	\$59.4	\$69.4	\$277.5
Lay Staff	\$7.6	\$9.4	\$27.9	\$28.1	\$112.4
Vestry/Finance/Comm	\$1.3	\$2.5	\$7.1	\$7.6	\$30.3
Utilities	\$3.6	\$3.3	\$10.9	\$9.8	\$39.0
Building Repairs & Supplies	\$6.2	\$3.0	\$11.1	\$9.0	\$36.1
Other Property	\$4.3	\$3.1	\$10.5	\$9.2	\$36.6
Worship/Ed/Community	\$0.7	\$1.9	\$4.4	\$5.6	\$22.2
Outreach	\$4.9	\$5.3	\$16.0	\$16.0	\$64.2
Jubilee	\$1.0	\$3.1	\$5.2	\$9.3	\$37.1
Transferred Expenses	\$0.0	(\$3.9)	\$0.0	(\$11.6)	(\$46.3)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$40.1	\$50.8	\$152.4	\$152.3	\$609.2
<b>Net Total</b>	\$8.3	(\$0.0)	\$41.2	(\$0.0)	\$0.0



## FOOD PANTRY NEWS & UPDATES

### Local Food Insecurity and St. John's Food Pantry

Food programs and pantries face some challenging times as we enter into May 2025. You are probably aware of some of the changes being implemented in federal government funds supporting food programs such as USDA grants.

In addition, SNAP food benefits are being looked at closely and some states have already cut back on these programs. We are fortunate that our current state government has not made changes and is even challenging some of these policies. Our food pantry is seeing a strong increase each month in visitors.



#### Month 2025 Average Visitors Per Week

January 36.5

February 48

March 62

April (1st 3 weeks) 56.3 (MTD)

We believe that this trend will continue for the foreseeable future. Even with the amazing generosity of our beloved St. John's members, we know that we can only meet the current need by partnering with the community and other churches. We are pursuing relationships with passion and will dedicate our space on the Parish Hall bulletin board and our table to share with you this May and June more information about these partners. Please keep them in your prayers and know that by working together, we can meet the needs of the hungry. Many thanks to our supporters and our volunteers for all you do to make this possible! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Marion Wear at [mwear2016@outlook.com](mailto:mwear2016@outlook.com).



## SOLES4SOULS RECORD!



Thank you to everyone who donated shoes for this year's Soles4Souls collection. Together we donated 2482 pairs of shoes!!!! Shoes were gathered from St. John's, James Street Mennonite, St. Thomas, St. Edwards, along with neighbors and coworkers of so many!

Our friends from the Friday NA Group joined us as we moved 228 boxes and loaded them into the truck. Phoenix Transport graciously delivers them for free which otherwise would cost us a dollar a pair to ship out. Just imagine the smiles on SO many faces at getting a pair of shoes from unknown sources that simply see them as neighbors. Have no doubt that the shoes felt the caring karma from the Food Pantry so close.

In today's divided world it's SO important to connect rather than separate.

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## GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE

Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend." Martin Luther King, Jr. In our troublesome world, kindness was never more important, for ALL God's Children - Here, There, Everywhere

### **Global Partnership Challenge for May 4th**

"When I admire the wonders of the sunset or the beauty of the moon, my soul expands in the worship of the Creator." Mahatma Gandhi Take a step, any size, to care for the earth given to us by God. A single gift of something to the Food Pantry from each of us could be huge to those looking for help. It feeds their stomach but also feeds their hearts.

### **Global Partnership Challenge for May 11th**

We are all surrounded by "mothers" both by blood and by caring. Give thanks to all for their love and then spread it forward.

### **Global Partnership Challenge for May 18th**

"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better." Albert Einstein. If you are having a rough day, go outside, see the beauty created by God for us ALL and take a walk in silence as you say your prayers and listen for answers. Our Father is with us always.

### **Global Partnership Challenge for May 25th**

Memorial Day

Give thanks and say prayers for those defending our world and prayers that kindness will become more prevalent than fighting. We are ALL God's children - No exceptions. Every act of kindness counts and is an example for each other.



**GRATITUDE DINNER SAVE THE DATE**

You're Invited  
to a

Gratitude  
Dinner

May 31, 2025  
5:30 PM

Let's honor the  
St. John's Worship teams

Look for your  
invitation soon!

## BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ginny Young
- 2 Don Doolittle
- 2 Dave Overbagh
- 3 Barbara Graeter
- 3 Linda MacDougall
- 6 Vivian Doolittle
- 9 Ruth Knouse
- 12 Fred Cluck
- 18 Brad Zuke
- 19 Jon Forrester
- 20 Camper Olah
- 23 Sal Barbieri
- 25 Jen Hreben
- 26 Theodore Bowser
- 26 Ruth McFarland
- 27 John Houston
- 27 Eleanor Watts

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Lois & Michael Gobel
- 28 Scott & Sherry Qualls
- 29 Anne Almy-Webber & Ben Webber
- 29 Michael & Susan Bowser
- 29 Bob & Maggie Lee
- 31 Bob & Lyn Bailey
- 31 Penn & Mary Glazier

## OUR FRIENDS AT HOME

Ellen Keller, Nancy Nemith, Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney, Al Kuser, Mary Sue Farmer, Ellen Sellers, Edith Kane, Merle Schnee, Sandy Grove, Peggy Zuke, Peggy Buscher

## SERVING IN THE MILITARY

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

## CHURCH PRAYER LIST

Nancy Strasburg, Ella, Kevin, Judy Modene, Andrew Gilpin, Cheryl & Rhoda, Ted Griswold, Richard Anderson, Collin, Eileen Waite, Andrew Wright, Denise Chandler, Marshall, Sandy Patrone, Carol Stigelman, Kim, Bonnie, Debbie Linton, Wade Winkle, Ken Brown, Heidi, Danny & Kenneth



Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts, may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



# May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> <i>Coffee hour after each service</i> 8.00am Holy Eucharist: Rite I 9.15am Sunday School 10.15am Holy Eucharist: Rite II 12.00pm Vestry Meeting 1.00pm <del>EM</del>	<b>28</b> 12.00pm NA 5.00pm Finance and Stewardship Combined Committee Meeting 7.00pm SLAA	<b>29</b> 1.30pm Martha's Ministry 2.30pm Food Pantry 5.00pm Immigration Clinic 6.00pm AA (AP)	<b>30</b> 12.00pm Holy Eucharist with Healing 12.00pm NA 2.00pm Men's Bible Study 7.00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>1</b> 9.00am Morning Prayer 10.00am Worship Committee 2.30pm Food Pantry 7.00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b> Rector's Day Off 12.00pm NA	<b>3</b> 8.00am <b>Betty Finney AIDS Garden Clean Up</b> 1.00pm AA 6.00pm AA
<b>4</b> Birthdays & Anniversaries <b>Bishop's Visit!</b> <i>Coffee hour after each service</i> 8.00am Holy Eucharist: Rite I 9.15am Sunday School 10.15am Holy Eucharist: Rite II 1.00pm <del>EM</del>	<b>5</b> 12.00pm NA <b>5.30pm Trans Loving Community Game Night!</b> 6.00pm Ministries Council 7.00pm SLAA	<b>6</b> 1.30pm Martha's Ministry 2.30pm Food Pantry 4.00pm Caring Ministry Meeting 5.00pm Executive Committee 5.00pm Immigration Clinic 6.00pm AA (AP)	<b>7</b> 12.00pm Holy Eucharist with Healing 12.00pm NA 7.00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 9.00am Morning Prayer 2.30pm Food Pantry <b>6.00pm Poor People's Campaign meeting</b> 7.00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b> Rector's Day Off 12.00pm NA	<b>10</b> 12.30pm Citizen's Climate Lobby Group 1.00pm AA 6.00pm AA
<b>11</b> <i>Coffee hour after each service</i> 8.00am Holy Eucharist: Rite I 9.15am Sunday School 10.15am Holy Eucharist: Rite II 1.00pm <del>EM</del>	<b>12</b> 12.00pm NA 7.00pm SLAA	<b>13</b> 1.30pm Martha's Ministry 2.30pm Food Pantry 4.00pm Finance Committee 5.00pm Immigration Clinic 6.00pm AA (AP)	<b>14</b> 12.00pm Holy Eucharist with Healing 12.00pm NA 7.00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b> 9.00am Morning Prayer 2.30pm Food Pantry 7.00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> Rector's Day Off 12.00pm NA	<b>17</b> 9.00am Community Breakfast (First Reformed) 1.00pm AA 6.00pm AA
<b>18</b> <i>Coffee hour after each service</i> <b>Ministries Fair</b> 8.00am Holy Eucharist: Rite I 9.15am Sunday School 10.15am Holy Eucharist: Rite II 1.00pm <del>EM</del>	<b>19</b> <b>Clergy Conference</b> 12.00pm NA 7.00pm SLAA	<b>20</b> <b>Clergy Conference</b> 1.30pm Martha's Ministry 2.30pm Food Pantry 5.00pm Immigration Clinic 6.00pm AA (AP)	<b>21</b> <b>Clergy Conference</b> 12.00pm Holy Eucharist with Healing 12.00pm NA <b>6.00pm Moms Demand Action meeting</b> 7.00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b> 9.00am Morning Prayer 2.30pm Food Pantry 7.00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b> Rector's Day Off 12.00pm NA	<b>24</b> 1.00pm AA 6.00pm AA
<b>25</b> MESSENGER DUE 8.00am Holy Eucharist: Rite I 10.15am Holy Eucharist: Rite II 1.00pm <del>EM</del>	<b>26</b> 12.00pm NA 7.00pm SLAA	<b>27</b> 1.30pm Martha's Ministry 2.30pm Food Pantry 5.00pm Immigration Clinic 6.00pm AA (AP)	<b>28</b> 12.00pm Holy Eucharist with Healing 12.00pm NA 7.00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b> <b>Ascension Day</b> 9.00am Morning Prayer 2.30pm Food Pantry 7.00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b> Rector's Day Off 12.00pm NA	<b>31</b> 1.00pm AA <b>5.30pm Gratitude Dinner</b> 6.00pm AA