St. John's Lutheran Church
of Highland
311 Cumberland Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Information as of
SEPTEMBER 2024

DATED MATERIAL
Please deliver by August 29, 2024

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Pittsburgh, PA
Permit 125

"Making Christ Known"
Volume 5, Number 8

Email - sjlutheran@verizon.net
phone - 412-364-1606

Saturday Worship:
5:30 p.m.

Starting September 8, 2024

Sunday Morning Worship:
8:15 a.m. - *Traditional with Livestream*

Christian Education
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

10:45 a.m. - *Contemporary with Livestream*

www.stjohnslutheranchurch.com

Pastor Kari Smail
Pastor Beth Clementson

SEPTEMBER 2024

ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HIGHLAND

Through God All Things Are Possible

"Making Christ Known"

SEPTEMBER 2024 EDITION

Current Church Council Members

President - Christian Ed.	Steve Gottschalk
Vice President - Cemetery	Sam Sesti
Treasurer - Finance	Jessica Gamaché
Secretary - Evangelism	Wendy West Hickey
Senior Pastor	Pastor Smail
Associate Pastor	Pastor Clementson
Mutual Ministry	Matthew Galbraith
Youth Ministry	Jay Caulkins
Stewardship	Marcie Emory
Social Ministry	Tony Good
Worship & Music	Marsha Logan
Preschool	Jody Removchik
Fellowship	Sandra Allen
Evangelism	Lloyd White

St. John's Current Staff

Senior Pastor	Kari Smail
Associate Pastor	Beth Clementson
Dir. of Contemporary Music	Ron Baling
Organist & Dir. of Choirs	Joseph Tuttle
Office Administrator	Mary Lynne Martin
Office Assistant	Andrea Miller
Accounts Payable Clerk	Rich Volpe
Chief Financial Officer	Laura Coombs
Dir. of St. John's Preschool	Jennifer Bolinda
Youth Ministry Coordinator	Linda Meyerdierks
Building Usage Coordinator	Mike Sheleheda
Custodian	George Tunney

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Note from Pastor Kari

Worship Opportunities
- Regular Worship Schedules

Christian Education
- Rally Day

Ministry Highlights
- WELCA
- Saintly Sewers
- Prayer Wall
- Pleasant Valley Men's Shelter
- Free Community Pantry

Partners in Ministry
- Refuge News

Youth News
- Cumberland Kids

2024 Operating Budget

Activities at St. John's
- Having Fun Staying Young
- Stampers
- A Visit to Bethlehem

St. John's Lutheran Church
"Making Christ Known"

Current Information as of September 2024
Vol. 5 Issue 8

Note from Pastor Kari

It's time to rally everyone!

Our program year is beginning this month and we need you! We need your presence as we come together for the start of Sunday School and our regular worship times. We need you as we resume choir and look for folks to usher and read and acolyte and distribute communion. We need you as we get ready for Bethlehem at the beginning of December. We need you as we collect supplies for our free pantry and North Hills Community Outreach and Northside Common Ministries. We need you as we take care of our massive property footprint. We need you as we make quilts and send them to people around the world. We need you as we support children in Tanzania so they can have clothes and books and supplies and the chance to go to school. We need you to look out for one another, to be a listening ear and to hold people up, to celebrate with people and let them know they are valued. We need you.

This September 2024 newsletter is a reminder that you are needed and you have been called to rally together with others at our church so that we can continue the work of "Making Christ Known."

Soli Deo Gloria!
(*To God Alone be the Glory!)*
Pastor Kari Smail

Worship Opportunities

Saturdays
5:30p.m. ~ Traditional Servic

Sundays
8:15a.m. ~ Traditional service
9:30a.m. ~ Christian Education
10:45a.m. ~ Contemporary service
All Sunday services are now Livestreamed
www.stjohnslutheranchurch.com

~Communion~
We offer a hybrid style of receiving our Lord's Supper. Those attending services in person may choose to come up to the Altar to receive bread and wine, or remain in their seat and participate with our current no touch method. For those who are more comfortable still worshiping at home, consecrated cups are available for pickup in the vestibule at the main entrance of the church office area 9a.m. Friday – Sunday morning to be used while participating with the Sunday Livestream worship.

Christian Education

We kick off our
2024/2025 Christian Education Programs
on **Sunday, September 8, 2024!**

Join us from 9:30am - 10:30am.

We will gather in our Sanctuary to hear about our class choices and then everyone will go to their respective classrooms to meet their teachers. The hour will end with ice cream sundaes!

All ages are invited to learn more about Jesus!

Ministry Highlights

SAINTLY SEWERS

The Saintly Sewers have been working hard all year on our quilts. Finished quilts are 60" by 80". We hope to beat our total of 73 quilts from last year. We have about 15 or more quilts that need to be tied to complete them.

We could use any help with this task. If you are free on Tuesdays at 12:30, and can tie a knot, please join us!

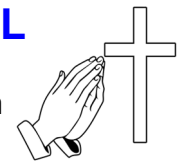
September 22 will conclude our production year when we will display our beautiful quilts in the church to be blessed. We will then send them off to needy families all over the world!

Our group must provide money towards shipping costs. Each quilt will have an envelope attached. If you would like to contribute some cash towards sending a beautiful quilt on its way we would greatly appreciate it! Just slip your donation into an envelope on a quilt. Thank you!

In addition, we will be raffling off a beautiful quilt that you will have a chance to own! Keep a watch for this quilt raffle towards the beginning of September. We hope to raise more money to send these quilts to their new homes. Watch for our display coming soon!

As we conclude this quilt year, we say thanks to all who have supported us from financial donors, fabric donors and volunteers to get the job done!

ST. JOHN'S PRAYER WALL



You can find it beyond the elevator in Highland Hall and here's how the Prayer Wall works:

Next to the Prayer Wall, there is a cart where you will find three different colored slips of paper for you to write a prayer request on.

Red slips - will be requests that are solely between the writer and God *(no one else will read these and they will be shredded each week)*

Yellow slips - are for prayers that the writer would like someone else to read and pray about.

Green slips - are for prayers that the writer would like someone else to read and pray about and also have the option to have this person's name added to the prayer list and/or for a pastor to follow up with them.

After you write out your prayer concern/celebration, you will roll up your slip of paper and place it into one of the openings on the Prayer Wall. The slips will then be removed each week and prayed over by our church staff and prayer teams.

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

We would like to thank Dee Shanley, Jean Martz's sister, for presenting an interesting and inspirational program to us about her volunteer ministry teaching high school students in Belize how to sew. We hope to continue supporting her in this work.

On September 17th, we will be back to our regular yearly schedule of meeting every third Tuesday at 7 pm in Highland Hall. Our devotional topics this year will be based on the book "New Morning Mercies" by Pastor Paul David Tripp. All women are welcomed and encouraged to join us as we enjoy fellowship and friendship together!

PLEASANT VALLEY MEN'S SHELTER

Thank you to **Linda Meyerdierks and the youth group members** for providing the **August** meal to the men staying at the Pleasant Valley Shelter. Each month members or organizations of our congregation provide a meal to the clients of the shelter on the 4th Wednesday evening of the month.

If you'd like to be involved in this Ministry outreach project please contact Dianne Barbin (412) 364-3045 or Jean Martz (412) 364-2894.

St. John's Community Pantry

We have a **Free** Community Pantry in the rear parking lot to provide personal care, and small household items to those in need. It has been a blessing to many in our community however; the shelves empty quickly. **Please help us restock!**

This month we are focusing on Paper Products Please consider purchasing some items or specify a donation to our **Family Emergency Fund** to continue this much needed ministry.

Useful items that are always needed:

toilet paper	paper towels	soaps/shampoos
toothpaste	toothbrushes	dental floss
deodorants	feminine products	General cleaning products

First Aid items (*band-aides, ointments, disinfectant wipes, tissues, etc*)

The only **RESTRICTIONS** to our pantry are *food* items, medicines, used and/or open packaged items or things that can melt or freeze in outdoor weather conditions.

Partners in Ministry

"I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave drink.
I was a stranger and your welcomed me." ~ Matthew 25: 35

The North Hills Refugee Ministry (NHRM) is comprised of volunteers from St. Johns, Trinity of Wexford and Perry Highway Lutheran churches. We work with an official resettlement agency, the Jewish Federation of Community Services, to help families who have been forced out of their home country and are seeking a safe place to live in the United States. The NHRM is currently working with a family of 6 from Syria and we are continuing to work with the family to help overcome language and cultural barriers that can be extremely challenging.

New adventures this past month have been adult family members starting new jobs in addition to attending English classes. And the children have toured their new school and have met with their school counselors to learn what their first days will be like. They are very excited to be starting school.

This ministry is possible because of your support of funds and donated goods and a generous grant awarded to the NHRM from the Southwestern PA Synod's Ethel L. Verney Fund. We are grateful, too, for a grant from the St. John's Mission Endowment fund. We still need your help because as this family becomes more independent, we will be helping another refugee family find a home here among us.

We are always looking for volunteers who would like to find joy in working directly with our new neighbors or in working behind the scenes such as helping to get a house or apartment ready for their arrival. If you are interested, please email Pastor Beth at **beth@sjhighland,com** or Cris Ruffalo at (412)-721-8422 or **ruffonews@gmail.com**

Youth News

Cumberland Kids will be resuming on Wednesday, October 2nd!

It is an afterschool program for 1st through 8th graders from 3:45 pm until 5:45 pm each Wednesday. Transportation is available from McKnight Elementary and Carson Middle School, and children from other schools are welcome as well as long as their families can provide transportation. Each week consists of a snack and time for homework, a craft or service project, time in the arena, and dinner. The suggested donation is $3 a week.

Please contact the church office for more information or a registration form!

2024 Operating Budget

2024 Operating Budget

YTD Income vs. Budget – July 2024

YTD Income Budgeted	$ 395,861.08
YTD Income Received	$ 398,683.64
Over (Under) Budgeted	**$ 2,822.56**

YTD Expenses vs Budget – July 2024

YTD Expenses Budgeted	$ 395,861.08
YTD Expenses Incurred	$ 405,061.49
Over (Under) Budgeted	**$ 9,200.41**

YTD Income Received	$ 398,683.64
YTD Expenses Incurred	$ 405,061.49**
YTD Surplus (Deficit)	**($ 6,377.85)**

We accept credit payments for a variety of missions. **Scan the QR code,** indicate the amount you would like to donate then click the dropdown arrow and choose the specific fund you would like it directed to. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Please note: If you currently choose to have your monthly contribution automatically withdrawn from your checking account, this method of contributing does not replace the ACH-Auto Debit

** Expenses Incurred include $7,000 to finish the extra lines to the Generator, $5,118 for the Refrigerator and $6,330 for the pump to fix the water pressure for a total of $18,448 paid out of the surplus funds in the General Fund.

Good Things to Know..

ST. JOHN'S LISTENS!

You can **email** the Congregation Council at listeningconcerns@stjohnslutheranchurch.com.

St. John's Congregation Council members are available to hear your feedback and concerns. **Please share your thoughts with:**

Sandra Allen
Jay Caulkins
Marcie Emory
Matthew Galbraith
Pastor Kari
Jessica Gamache
Tony Good
Steve Gottschalk
Wendy West Hickey
Pastor Beth
Marsha Logan
Jody Removchik
Sam Sesti
Lloyd White

PROMOTE YOUR EVENT!

Holding an event through St. John's that you'd like to promote on our website?

⇒ Fill out a paper form at the church office, or
⇒ complete the online form found at
www.stjohnslutheranchurch.com/mediarequest

Please note, web postings for church events are subject to staff approval.

Activities at St. John's

Having Fun Staying Young!

A Silver Sneakers sponsored exercise group that meets on **Mondays and Thursdays at 10:15a.m.** in Highland Hall. Having Fun Staying young is growing in numbers each week. Why don't you come and join us? This is a friendly group that comes to exercise and helps each other and we continue to have fun while trying to stay fit.

We meet at 9:30 for coffee and our class has men and women of all ability levels.

Come and join this fun group!

Fall is fast approaching, time to think about cards for the holidays! **The St. John's Stampers** will be doing just that on **Saturday, September 21st from 9a.m.-noon** in the Fellowship Hall.

All are welcome to join us. There is a $5/person fee to help cover the cost of materials. If you plan to attend please let Betsy Fackler know by September 11th. Email Betsy Fackler at pdfeaf@zoominternet.net, or by text: 412 427-2045.

Additional fall dates: October 19th, November 9th.

Save A Date

to Visit Bethlehem this Year

December

6 • 7 • 8 • 14 • 15

Explore the True Meaning of Christmas

Come to St. John's this December to walk through the streets of this ancient village and experience the holiest of nights with the people who live there.

NEW for 2024 will be a **Candlelight Processional Concert** following the Advent Dinner on Friday**, December 6th**.

Following the concert, those in attendance will be the first to Visit Bethlehem.

It takes a village to bring "A Visit to Bethlehem" to life. We will need

- **ACTORS**
- **SET BUILDERS**
- **CHOIR SINGERS**
- **MUSICIANS**
- **PUBLICITY HELP**
- **PARKING ATTENDANTS**

and more.

SIGN UP FORMS WILL BE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE STARTING ON SPETEMBER 1ST

If you are interested in being a part of Bethlehem or if you have any questions please contact Bryan Abbott at Bryansworld8@gmail.com