

THE LAMPLIGHTER



image courtesy of Cate Simmons

ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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DECEMBER 2025

Rev. Michael Lozano, III Bishop, NWPA Synod

You may remember that just a little over three years ago, as we celebrated Reformation and our 185th anniversary year in October of 2022, we also welcomed a number of new members, one of whom was Bishop Lozano.

Now easing into his retirement, St John's is quite fortunate to have him as part of our church body, being willing to share his gifts for leadership, both spiritual and practical.

Rev. Lozano is a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now known as United Lutheran Seminary) and was ordained on January 16, 1993 after being called to St Paul Lutheran Church in Numidia, PA. Details about life in Numidia (population 274 in 2020) would be good fodder for conversation during Fellowship hour. He served there until 1996 when he was called to Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mt Holly Springs, PA. Enlisted in the US Army Reserve, he was ordered in 2003 to active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2005 he was called to serve Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Gainesville, Florida, and then in 2008, the ELCA called him to serve as a mobilized Army chaplain. Prior to being elected to serve as the third bishop of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, he was the pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Sharon.

Academically, he holds an Associates Degree of Applied Science in Business Computer Science from Williamsport Area Community College; a B.S. in Business Computer Science from Mansfield University; and a Master of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College in Carlisle, PA.

Now retired from the United States Army Reserves, Colonel Lozano committed over 30 years to that ministry, receiving a number of awards for service and achievement. In a 2019 interview with Living Lutheran magazine, shortly after being elected as bishop of the synod, he was asked about the dynamic of a congregation "loaning" its clergy to the military. His response both clarified and supported in saying, "ELCA pastors are not "loaned" to the military. ELCA pastors working as military chaplains are an extension of the local parish and synod ministries. And as far as our Lutheran-ness can allow, we should be proud that our pastors serve in the active,

Guard and Reserve components of our country's military. What a great means of witnessing to God's love."

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2019/11/bishops-reflect-on-military-chaplaincy/>

A couple of months ago, I had the pleasure of a leisurely Sunday afternoon lunch with Pastor and his wife, Patti, who met when he was serving his first church in Numidia, Patti's hometown. Now married for more than 30 years, they shared much about how they've allowed the priorities of both careers to ebb and flow, determining, at times, what the next geographic move would be. Their family includes two sons, Lynn (*d. 1998*) and Christopher. Christopher is a sophomore at the University of Pittsburgh in the Digital and Interactive Design Degree program. Their home is in Sharon.

FELLOWSHIP

If you have volunteered to host for fellowship time in the coming weeks (and we do hope that you'll consider doing so), please know that a recent kitchen cleanup revealed a surplus of quite a few items that do NOT need to be purchased:

- Artificial sweetener
- Paper products
- Plastic cutlery
- Creamer
- Coffee

If it seems like the obligation might be overwhelming, know that it can be very simple – just cookies, coffee cake, or something similar. Also know that it is not expected that the hosts bear the costs of any food or supplies that they prepare or purchase. We have a Fellowship Fund from which to reimburse anyone who has chosen to host.

It encourages a really nice social interaction that provides the opportunity for us to learn more about one another.

And help is available. If you'd like to bring something but need assistance getting the coffee set up, or other details, just let that be known when signing up. The sheet is next to the kitchen door across from the bulletin board, but you can also

just email the church office to select a convenient date (greenvillestjohns@gmail.com)

There are always willing hands to help with clean-up afterward! The fellowship is the focus – the details can be quite simple.

Birthday Celebrations this month:

Jessica Aley	December 3
Mary Ann Thatcher	December 5
Martha Anderson	December 6
Andrew Buyan	December 6
Galyn Stahl	December 8
Nancy Daugherty	December 21
Connie Stoyer	December 25
Kim Smith	December 26
Early Stoyer	December 26
Matthew Gosser	December 30

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Through Thrivent Choice[®], clients with membership can contribute to organizations and causes they care about—and influence how Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funding through Choice Dollars[®].

Members can make a personal donation to a favorite enrolled organization—Thrivent pays the processing fees. Eligible clients with membership can also direct Choice Dollars or nominate an organization to be a part of the program.

In 2025, St John's has received over \$1,200 from participation in the Thrivent Choice program. Thrivent clients do not have to be St John's members to designate dollars here.

DORCAS CIRCLE

The Dorcas Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 2nd, from 9:30 to 11:00am. Bring your own sewing project and ideas for other group projects.

THE BRUNCH BUNCH

The Brunch Bunch continues to meet at Mama Jane's restaurant, 36 Hadley Road, Greenville, on the third Thursday of each month at 11:15. The next meeting is set for December 18th. The time and location have been added to Google calendar so that reminders are provided.

MEN'S LUNCH

Men's Lunch meets at 12:00 noon, usually on the fourth Wednesday of each month. This month, that falls on Christmas Eve, so the date for December is Wednesday the 17th, at Jules Tavern, 34 Ohl Street, Greenville. The time and location have been added to Google calendar so that reminders are provided.

Good Shepherd Center Requests for December

SOUP & STEWS
PASTA & PASTA SAUCE
CRACKERS

The ongoing program needs shopping list includes:

- Canned Pineapple
- Canned Fruit Cocktail
- Kid Friendly Cereal
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Kleenex
- Hygiene Products



St John's continues to host the Mobile Pantry distribution by the Mercer County Food Bank. The next date is Thursday, December 11th, from 11:00am until 1:00pm, or until supplies last.

If you would like to participate as a volunteer at future events, please complete a Volunteer Application and submit the application to the Food Bank. The Food Bank office will respond directly to you through email. Once registered with the Food Bank, please be sure that you have signed up for each event that you would like to participate in.

SENIOR HOLIDAY DINNER

Greenville High School and the GHS Student Council are pleased to announce plans to host a holiday dinner for **senior citizens of the district**. The dinner will be served on **Wednesday, December 17th in the high school cafeteria beginning at 1:15pm**. Guests are asked not to enter the building prior to 1:00pm. Greenville High School's Music department will provide entertainment. There is no cost for the dinner, though donations will be accepted.

Any senior citizen wishing to attend is asked to **make a reservation** by calling the high school office at 724.588.2500, ext 2131, by Wednesday, December 10th.

CALL COMMITTEE

On November 16th, we installed the call committee, chaired by Jessica Lasko, who will begin the process of working with the synod to prepare the congregation for a pastoral search. These members have been chosen to serve:

Diann Bost
Bradley Gosser
Jessica Lasko

Rev. Michael Lozano
Thomas Redfoot
Ron Shollenberger

Handel's Messiah

Celebrate the sounds of the season with the Greenville Area Singers as they perform Handel's "Messiah" at First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, on Sunday, December 14th at 2:00pm.

CHURCH SEXTON

David Lineman has worked diligently over the last three years to keep the church in good order. With multiple commitments, he has decided to ask us to find a replacement. In the meantime, he is making sure that the basics are covered.

If you know someone who might be interested in this work, please contact Anne Bayer: 724.992.9680

Serving in Worship this Month

December 7th

Jessica Aley – Assisting Minister & Lector
Mary Liz Suddoth – Usher
Dolly Heim – Greeter
Debbie Yoos - Fellowship

December 14th

Diann Bost - Assisting Minister
Debbie Yoos – Lector
Jessica Aley – Usher
Sherry Lesnett – Greeter

December 21st

Jessica Aley – Assisting Minister & Lector
David Bayer – Usher
Mary Lineman – Greeter

December 24th

Jessica Aley – Assisting Minister & Lector
Rick Eckley – Usher
Beth Eckley – Greeter

December 28th

Charla DiSalvo – Assisting Minister
Ron Shollenberger – Lector
TBA – Usher
Karen Shollenberger – Greeter
Social Ministry – Fellowship

Crucifer: Nate Stahl

Service Supervisor: TBD

Counters: Anne Bayer, TBD

This Month's Lectionary

December 7, The Second Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

December 14, The Third Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm 146:5-10

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

December 21, The Fourth Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

December 24, The Nativity of our Lord

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

December 28, The First Sunday of Christmas

FIRST READING: Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalm 148

SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:10-18

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23



Christmas Poinsettias

The cost of poinsettias this year is \$9.50 for a 6" potted single stem poinsettia in red, pink, or white. Please place your order by Sunday, December 7th.

I would like to place a ____red ____white ____pink poinsettia in memory of:

I would like to place a ____red ____white ____pink poinsettia in honor of:

Ordered by: _____

Orders can be placed by dropping the form and payment in the offering plate, sending in the mail, or requesting the order by email (greenvillestjohns@gmail.com) and sending payment to the church.

If the deadline is missed and you'd still like to provide a plant of some kind and have the memorial/honoree named in the bulletin, please notify the office via phone or email by December 19th.

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