



# **The Lutheran**

A Publication of St. John Lutheran Church

and

Church of the Redeemer (Episcopal).

Sayre, PA 18840

June 19, 2025

## **REMINDER:**

### **Combined Summer Worship**

Combined Summer Worship continues this Sunday at 10 a.m. at St. John. We'll be worshipping on Sundays at St. John through July 20. We'll be at Redeemer beginning July 27 through August 31st.

Pastor Melinda is away this Saturday officiating at the marriage of her sister. The Rev. Hazel Hunt will be presiding at the 5:15 pm service at Redeemer on Saturday. On Sunday, Pastor Melinda will find herself in Scranton, fulfilling her monthly duty to the Diocese of Bethlehem. Consequently, this Sunday we welcome back Pastor Horace King (and we hope, his wife!) Thank you to both Mother Hazel and Pastor King for leading us in worship.

### **Under Construction**

You will notice when you come to SJLC that each entryway has been covered in plywood. This step was necessary to get an accurate measurement of the replacement glass. Please pardon our appearance for the next week or so.



Redeemer's parking lot is expected to be torn up beginning Monday!

# The First Juneteenth

On June 19, 1865, nearly two years after President Abraham Lincoln emancipated enslaved Africans in America, Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas with news of freedom. More than 250,000 African Americans embraced freedom by executive decree in what became known as Juneteenth or Freedom Day. With the principles of self-determination, citizenship, and democracy magnifying their hopes and dreams, those

Texans held fast to the promise of true liberty for all. Juneteenth has been celebrated since 1866, and it became a Federal Holiday when the 117th Congress passed it into law in 2021. This is now the 12th Federal Holiday on the calendar when all federal government services are closed, such as the postal service and banks. You can read more about Juneteenth here:

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/historical-legacy-juneteenth>



In our country's history, we have made some incremental and some momentous changes in bringing us a little closer to God's Kingdom. We celebrate American independence from the tyranny of Great Britain on July 4th. We now celebrate the full abolition of slavery on June 19th. On August 18, 1920 women were granted full citizenship status with the right to vote. It wasn't until 1974 that women were granted access to credit and opening bank accounts in their own names. Looking through the lens of our faith, what other barriers need to come down to draw us closer to realizing God's vision of us, here on earth?



## Reflection for June 22

When do I feel the most separated from God?  
When do I feel closest to God?

## June 15 Lessons

**First Lesson:** 1Kings 19:1-15a

**Psalm:** 42&43

**Second Lesson:** Galatians 3:23-29

**Gospel:** Luke 8:26-39

## Living into Our Mission @ St. John



For the month of June as part of living into our mission St. John members will be collecting hygiene items for the Athens School District. (Redeemer members are welcome to participate as well!) As in the past, items such as tooth paste, body wash, deodorant etc. are much appreciated.

## Serving in Worship @ St. John

**Reading the lessons & Prayers**

**Usher**

**Greeter**

**June 22:** Margaret Cole

Bob Cornell

Bev Cornell

**June 29:** Jennifer Joyce

Bruce Carpenter

Rose Carpenter

## **Welcome to the Christian family Andrew, Axel & Violet**

On Pentecost at the Church of the Redeemer, we welcomed into the Household of God Andrew (top right), Axel (bottom left) and (baby) Violet Lewis through the sacrament of Baptism.



## **Calling all crafters (or those who can use scissors, glue, glitter, paper stock, and similar items).**

On Monday, June 23rd  
from 6:30 until 8:30 PM  
the South Wing of SJLC  
we need your help creat-  
ing decorations for our up-  
coming Vacation Bible

**WAVES OF  
WONDER**

in

School. Please let Louise Sackett or Pastor Melinda know if you are willing to help provide the enchantment of a water themed event.

## **BOOK SALE!**

If the sun is shining, then come and browse Redeemer's Book Sale—outdoors, Parkside side yard.

**Friday 10 until 2**

Look for NY Times bestsellers, popular authors and more. Both hardbacks and paper backs will be featured.



### **Birthdays @ St. John**

Dakota Smith	6/20
Dawn Farrell	6/21
Dominic Musick	6/27
Kyler Roberts	6/28
Emalie Shaffer	6/29

### **Anniversaries @ St. John**

Tom & Deb Brandt	6/23
Gil & Helen Herbert	6/26

### **Birthdays @ Redeemer**

Jack Wheeler	6/18
Ellen Croft	6/14
Erin Wayman	6/21
Nathan Prickitt	6/15
Abigail Prickitt	6/15

### **Anniversaries @ Redeemer**

Kevin & Jen Prickitt	6/24
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**COFFEE TIME** is making a special appearance this Sunday! The SJLC family so enjoyed having Pastor and Mrs. King with us earlier this spring, and they seemed to enjoy us as well that our coffee providers thought it good to facilitate a time of fellowship and refreshment while they are among us. Please come enjoy each other's company after worship and extend a warm welcome to the Kings.







## Grant-Funded Tech Project Sparks New Ministry Opportunities at Ziegels

*Written by: Winona Schappell of Ziegels Union Church, Breinigsville*

In the fall of 2024, Ziegels Union Church, comprised of two sister congregations, the Ziegel United Church of Christ and Ziegels Lutheran Congregation, embarked on a joint effort to upgrade the shared 1908 church building's Fellowship Room with upgraded technology to enhance and increase informal worship and educational mission opportunities. With the potential of applying grants to support the goal of ministries using technology, Mary Redline (UCC) and Winona Schappell (Lutheran) used local community and current congregation demographics to piece one initiative with the application

of four grants: three from UCC Penn Conference grants, Energizing Ministries, Neighbors in Need, and Operational Love of Church, and one from the NEPA Synod Witness and Service grant. With creative planning, the grants were written to cover the funding of a \$13,000 technology initiative. By January 2025, we received notice from Penn Conference and NEPA Synod confirming that all four grant applications were accepted and approved. Excited about the opportunities that these grant approvals offered,

there were still more obstacles to address. The grants did not cover the full quote for a PC projection system from Lehigh Valley Sight and Sound, so fundraisers and memorial/donation drives were needed. However, Lehigh Valley Sight and Sound started work on the project, trusting that we would be successful in raising the balance.

The Lord's blessings came in many shapes and forms.

Communications started with the Union Treasurer on establishing an accounting system to monitor grant expenditures. Union committees (Christian Education, Worship and Music, History, Fellowship) were contacted to

begin considering how to incorporate the use of the technology for our 275th Anniversary Celebrations in 2025. The Technology Committee helped to wire Internet connections, and the Property Committee found an electrician to complete the required electrical work. And with the Lord's blessings, individual members contributed donations and memorial funds of over \$6,300. With the support of the congregational members and committee volunteers, this whirlwind project was completed in three months.







On March 19th, Lehigh Valley Sight and Sound completed all the installations for a PC-controlled multimedia projection system. That same evening, Pastor Andy Meckstroth, Lutheran Pastor, used the projection system for the second Wednesday Lenten service held in the Fellowship Room. Both Pastor Andy and Pastor Larry Pickens, UCC Pastor, continued to use the projection system for the remaining Wednesday Lenten services.

Since March, several 275th Anniversary events have been held. Christian Education used the technology for a Martha Washington Tea Party and Youth Sunday worship service. The History Committee sponsored two presentations: *The Pennsylvania Germans: Past, Present & Future* by Dr. W. Donner and *The Muhlenberg Family and the Lutheran Church in Early Pennsylvania* by Christopher Malone, Curator of Historic Trappe. Weekly PowerPoint slideshows of church announcements were presented during the Fellowship Hour that is held between the Lutheran and UCC Sunday services. Families have used the system to share family photos during viewings and funeral luncheons. The system is providing an avenue of endless ministry opportunities for church committees and leadership. It is an exciting future of ministry at Ziegels Union Church, thanks to the seed funding from the Synod and Penn Conference grants.



**DID YOU KNOW** that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod like this one and many other important initiatives? Your contributions are making a significant impact and helping others grow in faith, supporting the synod's lanes of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the directions of loving like Jesus, healing like Jesus, and engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit [godslove.org/missionsupport](https://godslove.org/missionsupport).

## WITNESS & SERVICE GRANTS



Grab your leadership or ministry team and complete an application!

[godslove.org/witness-service](https://godslove.org/witness-service)

- 01 Complete an application
- 02 The Grant Team reviews your application and notifies you
- 03 Complete your project!
- 04 Submit your evaluation form

The Grants Team is looking for members to join in their work.  
Contact [grants@nepsynod.org](mailto:grants@nepsynod.org) if interested



## **Redeemer Corner**

### **Weekly Video Spotlight**

As a part of our Year of Transition to become the Diocese of the Susquehanna, we are sharing weekly videos from Bishop Nichols, Bishop Scanlan, and ministry leaders from the Dioceses of Bethlehem and Central Pennsylvania. In this week's video, Bishop Nichols addresses the recent, unjust, and heartbreaking raid in Southside Bethlehem, where 17 construction workers were detained by ICE agents. Bishop Nichols reminds us of our call to walk in love, to live as one interconnected and diverse body of Christ, and to honor our baptismal vow: to strive for justice and respect the dignity of every human being. [Weekly Video Spotlight: Bishop Kevin Nichols](#)

### **New Alarm System**

The new alarm system is up and running at Redeemer. For those that may need to be in the office outside of office hours, there are detailed instructions outside of the office door. The code is the same. If you do not remember the code it is on the sheet in the office next to the keypad. Ladies of the Altar Guild. The instructions for the sacristy are next to the keypad. The code is the same. If you do not remember the code please ask one of the other ladies or give Jerry a call. Her number is on the instruction sheet in the sacristy.

### **Parking Lot Reconstruction**

Reconstruction of parking lot will begin on Monday, June 23rd. During this time of construction the parking lot will not be accessible. For the Wed. & Sat. services please park in the spaces available at the park side of the church. We will let you know as soon as the pro-

### **Outreach at Redeemer**

For the month of June we are collecting canned chicken and tuna for our local food pantries. You may drop off you items here at St. John while in church on Sunday if you like, and we will make sure it gets to the pantries.





Hello churches,

My Brother's Keeper just had it's 33RD anniversary of making sleeping bags for the homeless and blankets for shelters. This all-volunteer group keeps going with mostly donated materials.

Presently we have plenty of fabric but need batting,( that is the warm center of each blanket or bag sandwiched between front and back) .It can have stains or blemishes because it doesn't show, just needs to be clean. If you have any old mattress pads, blankets, fleece, comforters, old commercially made sleeping bags, drapes (without rubber backing),quilt batting or flannel sheets, we can turn them into warmth for those in need. We have even used rolls of pool table felt!

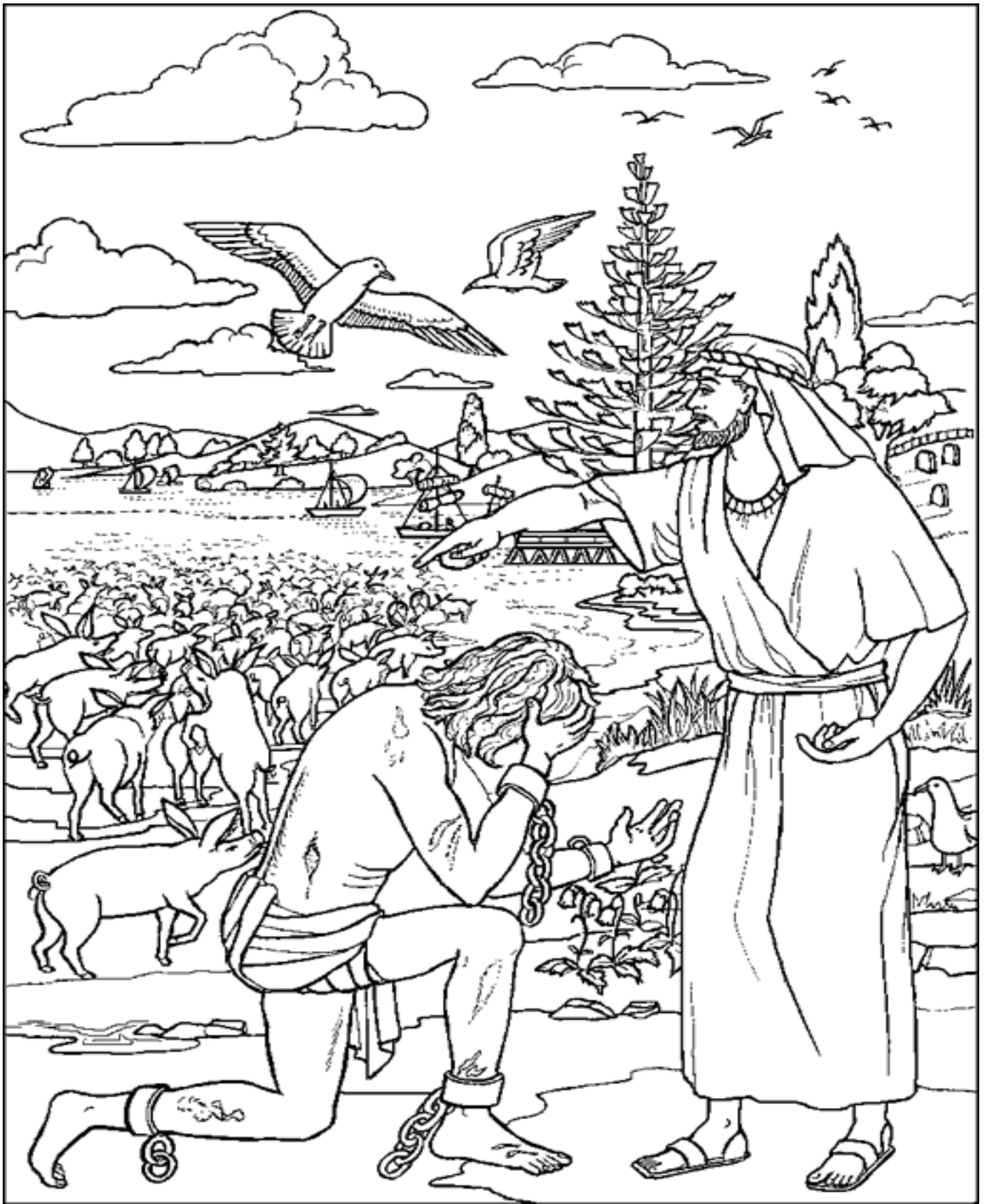
We also need 3/4" to 1" wide band aids, any brand, men's cloth hankies, bandanas or even cloth napkins work.

We have been blessed with new volunteers recently, but many hands make light work, so anyone interested in joining us Tuesdays from 9:30- 12:00 is welcome. No regular attendance required. Only skill needed is to be able to tie a knot. If you can tie your shoes, you can tie a quilt.

Anyone that wants to knit or crochet scarves, hats or mittens at home,( we always need mittens), we can provide yarn.

Donations can be dropped off at the Athens Methodist church 118 S Main St Athens, PA. Church is unlocked between 9-1 Monday thru Friday ,use ramp door around back ,turn right past kitchen, leave items in closet labeled Thelma's Room. Many thanks for your continued support. Grateful for our generous community!

“We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked, and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty.” – Mother Teresa



Jesus heals a demon possessed man.

# Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Man

And they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting down at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind.  
Luke 8:35 (NIV)

Unscramble the letters and write the word correctly in the space provided.

1. TIRSIP \_\_\_\_\_
2. SIPG \_\_\_\_\_
3. DDERSSE \_\_\_\_\_
4. DNEOM \_\_\_\_\_
5. LKEA \_\_\_\_\_
6. IELV \_\_\_\_\_
7. EESSDPOSS \_\_\_\_\_
8. NDOREDW \_\_\_\_\_
9. CREUD \_\_\_\_\_
10. IADLSE \_\_\_\_\_

sailed	demon	evil	pigs	cured
lake	possessed	spirit	drowned	dressed



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Luke 8:35 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 8:26-39 (NIV).

A E E X A M N L A T G T R L J  
C U U K V F V U V E V I L E J  
D R E P O R T E D C I U T U Z  
R S P I G S B I I C I K N G B  
O D F D Y Z S R M C J E S U S  
W H O Q B L F C O Q U W M A U  
N A O N L P Y G H K K R G R R  
E N T I B L E D A A E N E D N  
D D H M E F A O P L I N G D D  
J S D Z G S N K P D I N K E I  
X M E R G P H W E L J L S C E  
F X M X E I N E E H E S E J W  
F W O R D R F X P T E G P E E  
C F N E O I Y W T R J G Y P U  
F P N O O T Y M D U P U N O B

FOOT	BEGGED	PEOPLE	HAND	CHAINS
PIGS	BROKEN	REPORTED	DROWNED	CURED
GUARD	GALILEE	HILLSIDE	DRESSED	JESUS
DEMON	FEEDING	SPIRIT	LAKE	EVIL