

Who We Are

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church has been serving the spiritual needs of the Stroudsburg area for over 150 years. We are a congregation of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Lutherans trace their history back to the time of the apostles of Jesus Christ. As a reforming church movement within the Christian Church, we take our name from Martin Luther, the 16th century German monk who sought to renew the church with an exclusive emphasis on the Word of God.

When newcomers consider joining or affiliating with a Christian congregation, questions they ask include:

- What is important to this church?
- On what do they spend their time and energy and money?
- What do they value?
- These are questions we'd like to answer for you.

What is important to us:

Worship and Celebration

The worship of God in Word and Sacrament is the heart of Lutheran congregational life. In worship we hear the good news of the Gospel and are strengthened for our weekday witness in the world. At St. John's, we celebrate Holy Communion at our Sunday morning services. We offer special midweek worship and learning opportunities during Lent and at other times of the year. Our building is handicapped accessible and our sanctuary is air-conditioned.

Education and Learning

Lifelong learning and growth in the Christian faith are important priorities for Lutherans.

St. John's offers Sunday School, beginning at age 3.

Adult learning opportunities include a Wednesday morning Bible Study group.

Early Communion instruction is given to 5th graders during the Lenten season of the year. The children receive their First Communion during Holy Week.

Confirmation classes (2-3 year) are conducted for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to help them move into their proper roles in the congregation. Second year confirmands participate in an overnight trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the Holocaust Museum, the National Cathedral, and other sites of special interest.

Summer Vacation Bible School (VBS) offers a unique intergenerational learning experience.

Youth, Family, and Fellowship

St. John's ministers to and with the youth and families of the congregation. We encourage fellowship - and fun - through a variety of activities and events throughout the year, such as: fall outing to Mazezilla (local corn maze), First Sunday Intergenerational Potluck Breakfasts, annual church picnic, recreational outings (baseball games, bowling, hikes, & winter outings).

Of course, since it's church, you will find plenty of opportunities for fellowship and food: Sunday coffee hour, Shrove Tuesday spaghetti supper, Women's appreciation dinner, annual pig roast supper, and other special events.

Community Service

Our Mission Statement says that the church exists so that we may be strengthened to live out our faith in the world. St. John's and its members are committed to Christian service, both within and outside the congregation.

Our activities include:

- Good Samaritan Fund and Food Pantry
- Rainbow Trail Child Care Center (serving 100 children)
- Offering the hospitality of the building to: AARP, Boy and Girl Scouts, Church Women United, & Narcotics Anonymous.
- A wide variety of community volunteer commitments by our members
- Continuing donation of our parsonage to Pocono Area Transitional Housing (PATH)
- Contributions to ELCA Domestic Disaster Relief and the World Hunger Appeal.