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JULY 2025 - MESSENGER

Freedom in Christ

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1).

On July 4th we give thanks for the freedom that we enjoy in our nation and for those who have made sacrifices to help bring us that freedom.

But the freedom that we enjoy as Christians is even more important. Jesus died on the cross and rose again from the dead so that we would be free to live as His people.

This is a freedom that must be safe-guarded. In Galatians 5 (above), the apostle Paul cautions his readers not to “be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” He was referring to the fact that there were some among them, known as the Judaizers, who insisted that if they really wanted to be Christians that they must follow all of the laws under the Old Covenant, specifically circumcision.

Now, there’s nothing wrong with following God’s Law. It is good in every way. The problem was, that they believed that by doing so, they would be saved. And as Paul wrote, “no one will be justified by the keeping of the Law” (Romans 3:20). The Law was never intended to be the way by which a person gained eternal life. Instead, it was to show us our sin and therefore point us to the One who alone can forgive us our sin and give us eternal life, and that is Jesus Christ. By faith in Him, we are forgiven and free! And Paul is saying that Jesus has set you free. So why would

you ever want to go back to a way of life that would only enslave you all over again?

Now this, of course, doesn't mean that we are free to do whatever we please, no matter what. The Lord has given us freedom within limits. When God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, they were at liberty to do anything they wanted, except for one thing: They were not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. It was a freedom within certain boundaries.

And God gives us liberty within certain boundaries. Absolute, unbridled freedom with no limits whatsoever, would lead to chaos. So, God, in His love for us, sets up borders, beyond which we are not to go. We have freedom within limits.

Freedom for what purpose? To enjoy life? Yes. But especially freedom to serve others.

We are saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ, not by keeping the Law. But we are saved for the purpose of fulfilling God's Law, meaning that we are free to love Him and others. Now that Jesus has set us free, let's use that freedom to serve!

Knowing Christ and making Him known,

Pastor Chris

ST. JOHN'S STAFF:

Pastor Christian Bode Office: 964-2550 Cell: 585-353-9698
PastorChris_@hotmail.com

Secretary

MaryAnn Rath Office: 964-2550 M-TH. 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM
stjohnhamlin@outlook.com FRI. 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM
Cell: 585-259-4084

Custodian

Steve Tipton Cell: 489-5463

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Roy Heise	738-2066	Jonathan Marriott	260-3408
Jim Krygier	747-7854	Chris Marshall	409-3848
Karl Meyer	964-3434	Wes Miller	943-8092

Appointed Communion Assistants: Dave Bader, Doug Foelsch, Jim MacMaster

Church Office Deadlines:

For the weekly Sunday bulletin Wednesdays @ Noon.

(Mondays @ Noon if it is a holiday week)

For the Monthly Messenger the deadline is the 15th of every month.

For Church Council meetings: the Wednesday before the Sunday meeting date. Email:
stjohnhamlin@outlook.com

Check out our website for Daily Inspiration, Sunday Messages, Worship Bulletins & Monthly Newsletter: stjohnhamlin.org

Due to Pastor's busy schedule, if you make an appointment with him in passing, please confirm the appointment with MaryAnn in the Office. Thank you!

Worship News for July

The Sundays after Pentecost continue through July.

Although we will be having an Independence Day Celebration on July 6th.

VBS Sunday is July 13th.

MISSING from the Altar Guild cupboard in the Annex: 2 blue matching flower vases. If you know their whereabouts, please return them to the cupboard. Thank you!

LADIES SAVE THE DATE! July 12th

A bridal shower for Ella Bode will be held at St. John's at 12:30 PM.

She is registered at Target. *Please sign up on the Annex bulletin and plan to join us!*

Donations for the Fall Festival / Rummage Sale.

They can be taken to the lower level in the room where everything will be sorted, a sign is on the door. *The south side parking lot door will be unlocked on Saturdays 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM & Sundays, 7:30 AM - 2:00 PM for your convenience.* Any questions? Contact Tracey 301-0716 or Diane 964-2861

Holly Jennejahn's new address & cell is:

7A Prescott Road, Brentwood, NH 03833

603-732-7781

From the 150th Committee:

We still have some sweatshirts, t-shirts and mugs available for sale. They are set up in the middle meeting room. Sweatshirts are \$20, t-shirts and mugs are \$10 each. Thank you!

Prayer Shawl Ministry - If you have a friend or relative who is going through a "tough time" and would appreciate a prayer shawl, please call the church office or Cherie Rockow at 964-3179 or Cindy Smith 964-3772. If you would like to join us in this ministry, patterns and yarn are available. Call Cherie or Cindy for information.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE PROTECTING OUR COUNTRY

United States Air Force Contact Person:

Andy Smith - 964-3772 / asmith240@rochester.rr.com

Seth Bolon Thomas Harley Joel Hebert Jacob Knapp

Michael Lintz Brett Schickler Andrew Trelly Lydia Clark

Reserves: Kevin Smith

United States Army

Lee Bellows William Bernreuther Dan Cappuzzo

Michael Cappuzzo Kyle Ketcham Raymond Nichols

United States Army National Guard

Jeremiah Graupman Wanda Graupman Nick Hamilton

Olin Miller Moira Rath

United States Marine Corps Contact Person:

Jim Raymond - 410-3714/ raymondJim65@yahoo.com

Nate Bill Malcolm Elder Jonathon Fico

Clayton Leverenz **Reserves:** Luke Rath

United States Navy Contact Person:

Jim Raymond - 410-3714/ raymondJim65@yahoo.com

Jonathen Smith

United States Coast Guard Contact Person:

Pam Leverenz - 964-8932/ pamela_leverenz@yahoo.com

Derek D. Wilson



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ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – "NOAH" IN LANCASTER

Thursday
October 9, 2025
TO
Friday
October 10,
2025



	SINGLE	DOUBLE	TRIPLE
PRICE PER PERSON:	\$649.00	\$535.00	\$489.00
DEPOSIT: \$100 Deposit Due at time of booking. FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE 60 DAYS BEFORE TRIP – AUGUST 8, 2025 TRAVEL PROTECTION is self-enroll. Rates are based on excursion cost. To purchase visit https://nta.aontravelprotect.com/index.jsf and use Tour Operator Location Number: 326296 Basic travel insurance can be purchased up to 72 hours before the departure. Enhanced travel insurance must be purchased up to 14 days after initial deposit is made.			

Noah at SIGHT & SOUND in LANCASTER

Day 1: Travel south to Lancaster, PA for a matinee performance of *NOAH* at Sight and Sound Theatre. With a catastrophic storm on it's way, Noah is given a monumental task; build a boat big enough to save his family from a flood that will cover the entire earth! Returning for one season only, this landmark production will take you on board of the world's best-known voyages as live animas fill the stage and aisles. Set sail inside the enormous ark as this extraordinary story comes to life in this special 30th anniversary season! After the show, you will enjoy an included dinner at **Casey Jones Restaurant**! Following dinner, you will check into the Best Western Intercourse PA for a one-night stay.

Please select an entrée when making a reservation:

- Pot Roast – served with mashed potatoes & vegetable of the day.
- Chicken Parm – served with spaghetti.
- Cheddar Jack Chicken – Sauteed chicken breast with Casey's birch beer BBQ sauce, bacon, cheddar, and Colby jack cheese.

Day 2: After an included breakfast, we will visit the **Strasburg Railroad**. Travel through Pennsylvania Dutch Country as an authentic steam locomotive pulls your group past working farms, their Amish neighbors, and beauty as far as the eye can see. After, enjoy lunch on your own at the Strasburg Railroad Café. Next, we will head to **Elva's Studio** for a **Chalk Talk**. Enjoy a presentation reviving the old art of chalk talk, a fun, motivational and inspiring event you will never forget. Complete with colored lights and ultraviolet black light show which creates beautiful effects on the artwork. You must see it to believe it! Comfort stops will be made enroute home.

7:30 AM DEPART: ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
(1107 LAKE ROAD N., HAMLIN, NY 14464)

10:00 PM RETURN: ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VBS 2025 – July 14-18

St. John Lutheran Church



“The Lord your God is with you wherever you go”

Joshua 1:9

Day 1 Bible Story – Abraham and Sarah Follow God (Genesis 12:1-9) God is with us on the journey!

Day 2 Bible Story – The Israelites Take the Scenic Route (Exodus 13: 17-22) God is with us when we go off course!

Day 3 Bible Story – Mary & Elizabeth’s Family Reunion (Luke 1:39-56) God is with us when we’re joyful!

Day 4 Bible Story – Jesus visits Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) God is with us when we’re lonely!

Day 5 Bible Story – On the Road with Paul (Acts 18:1-11) God is with us near and far!

Fellow members of the congregation at St. John – I am excited to give you a preview of the VBS program we are planning for this July. It will truly take “a village” to put this all together and I am happy that I already have many volunteers who have expressed interest in once again creating a great week for children who will be attending. If you are interested in helping, please call the church office. Your prayers are always needed! Please pray that we can truly reflect the love of Jesus to everyone who participates as a volunteer or participant! Your fellow servant of our Lord and Savior – Laurie Streb VBS Director

VBS 2025

Save the Dates

July 14-18



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

BIRTHDAYS

July 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 LISA CRUZ JACOB WALISZEWSKI	3 LAURIE STREB JASON WEITZ	4 JOY ROSE RITCHIE WOOD	5
6 DEB ARMSTRONG	7 SUSAN ROSE	8	9 ALISSA JOHANSEN	10 KELLY LEVERENZ	11 BARB BRAUN	12 DUANE ROCKOW
13 JIM KRYGIER	14 BILLY WOOD	15 KAREN LEIDIG	16	17 LARRY HUESER	18	19 KAREN BERLEW
20 KATHLEEN BEGEMANN DON BRAUN	21 DAVID LEVERENZ TIM OPHARDT JR CONNIE SNYDER	22 ALLISON DONN LYNN PAAP ALLAN SMITH JOY WHALEN	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 GINNY STEPHENSON		

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

FACILITY SCHEDULE

July 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8:30 AM PRAYER GROUP 9:00 – 10:30 AM GYM RESERVED 9:45 AM BIBLE STUDY 6:30 PM GYM RESERVED	2 9:00 AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM GYM RESERVED 6:30 PM GYM RESERVED 7:00 PM ZOOM BIBLE STUDY	3 9:00 -10:30 AM GYM RESERVED	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5
6 8:30 AM / 11:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICES 9:45 AM COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	7 9:30 AM – 11:30 GYM RESERVED 7:00 PM WORSHIP COMMITTEE MTG	8 8:30 AM PRAYER GROUP 9:00 – 11:00 AM GYM RESERVED 9:45 AM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM ELDERS	9 8:30 AM FINANCE 9:00 AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM GYM RESERVED 6:30 PM HAMLIN TOWN HALL MTG. 7:00 PM ZOOM BIBLE STUDY	10 9:30 -11:00 AM GYM RESERVED	11	12 12:30 PM BRIDAL SHOWER FOR ELLA BODE
13 8:30 AM / 11:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICES 9:45 AM COFFEE FELLOWSHIP NOON VBS SET-UP	14 VBS 9:15 AM – NOON NOON FINANCE	15 VBS 9:30 AM - NOON	16 VBS 9:30 AM – NOON 7:00 PM ZOOM BIBLE STUDY	17 VBS 9:30 AM - NOON	18 VBS 9:30 AM - NOON	19 3:00 PM GYM, MTG.RM. RESERVED
20 8:30 AM / 11:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICES 9:45 AM COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	21 8:00 AM – NOON GYM RESERVED	22 8:00 AM - NOON GYM RESERVED 8:30 AM PRAYER GROUP 9:45 AM BIBLE STUDY 6:30 PM GYM RESERVED	23 8:30 AM FINANCE 9:00 AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 8:00 AM - NOON GYM RESERVED	24 6:30 PM GYM RESERVED	25	26

July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 8:30 AM / 11:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICES 9:45 AM COFFEE FELLOWSHIP 12:30 PM GYM, MTG.RM., RESERVED	28 8:00 AM - NOON GYM RESERVED 9:00 AM FINANCE 7:00 PM WORSHIP COMMITTEE MTG.	29 8:30 AM PRAYER GROUP 9:45 AM BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM - NOON GYM RESERVED 6:30 PM GYM RESERVED	30 9:00 AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM - NOON GYM RESERVED	31 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM GYM RESERVED 6:30 PM GYM RESERVED		