



St. John's Lutheran Church



St. John's Lutheran Church
1320 Church St
Ambridge, Pa 15003
(724) 266-5618

www.st.johnsambridge.org
Email: office@stjohnsambridge.org
Facebook: [StJohnsLutheranAmbridge](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsLutheranAmbridge)

News & Notes ~ August 2023

The Empty Chair. Living by Faith Not by Sight

Bob was dying of cancer. When his minister arrived to encourage him and pray with him, he found Bob lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows. And there was an empty chair sitting beside his bed. The minister assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit. "I guess you were expecting me Bob," he said.

"No. I was not expecting you," said Bob. "Who are you?."

"I'm the new minister at your church," he replied. "When I saw the empty chair, I figured you knew I was going to show up."

"I have never told anyone this, not even my daughter," said the man. "But all of my life I have never know how to pray. At church I used to hear the pastor talk about prayer, but it went right over my head. I abandoned any attempt at prayer," the old man continued, "until one day about four years ago my best friend said to me, "Bob, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus."

"Here is what I suggest. Sit down in a chair; place an empty chair in front of you, and in faith see Jesus on the chair. It's not spooky because he promised, "I'll be with you always." Then just speak to him and listen in the same way you're doing with me right now."

So, I tried it and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple hours every day. I'm careful though. If my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair she'd either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm."

The pastor was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old guy to continue on the journey. Then he prayed with Bob, anointed him with oil, and returned to the church.

Two nights later the daughter called to tell the pastor that her daddy had died that afternoon.

"Did he die in peace?" he asked.

"Yes, when I left the house about two o'clock, he called me over to his bedside, told me he loved me and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the store an hour later I found him dead. But here was something strange about his death. Apparently, just before daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on the chair beside the bed. What do you make of that?"

The Pastor wiped a tear from his eye and said, "I wish we all could go like that."



WE LIVE BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT

THE BEAR FACTS

Well, summer is almost over and I am ready for fall. I love fall cause it is nice and cool and I can be outside more. Mom was sick for awhile with a bad sinus infection (whatever that is) she wasn't feeling good so I was her nurse. I laid by the couch with her and pleaded to go outside a few times (I think she got mad at me cause I wanted to go out so much, but you know how it is when you drink a lot of water!!!!) I comforted her by giving her puppy kisses and sad eyes. It never ends with me. Mom had to rush me to the doctor. I wasn't responding to her, I was lethargic (whatever that is). So they did an ultrasound of my belly (they put jelly on my belly and I thought oh jelly I can eat, well it didn't taste good) cause they thought it might be my liver acting up cause I was throwing up. I was dehydrated so they gave me fluids under the skin, a shot for nausea and I had a temperature of 103. So they sent us home with antibiotics. I was feeling much better by that evening. I had a bug in my belly that was making me sick. (Wonder what kind of bug? A lady bug, a stink bug, etc.) Mom said it was a flu bug. I'll take her word for it. Keep your paws crossed that I stay healthy. Hope you all had a nice summer and if you went on vacation, I hope you had a nice time and was safe.

Stay well my friends until we bark again next month.



Hugs & Puppy Kisses,
Bear

Usher Captains for August

Aug 6 –
Aug 13 – Fred Kolenda
Aug 20 – Fred Ross
Aug 27 – Mark Blaho

Preaching schedule for August

Aug 6- Paul Kamzelski & Fred Kolenda
Aug 13- Pastor Strunk
Aug 20-
Aug 27-

August Greeters

Aug 6-
Aug 13- Jennifer Lindgren
Aug 20-
Aug 27- Jennifer Lindgren

Lectors for August

Aug 6- Fred Kolenda
Aug 13- Paul Kamzelski
Aug 20- Tom Lindgren
Aug 27- Fred Kolenda

Communion Assistants for August

Aug 6- Bob Ferry

Bible Study & Prayer Time

Please join us every Tuesday @ 10am for Bible Study. We are studying "The Chosen".
Prayer time with Paul is every 3rd Wednesday @ 10am in the Chapel.

Sewing get together

Stitches in Time for sewing meet every Tuesday evening from 6pm-8:30pm. What a great way to make things and have some great fellowship.

August Grass Cutting

Aug 5- Fred Ross
Aug 12- Bob Ferry
Aug 19- Mark Blaho
Aug 26- Fred & Carmella

Can't make it to church

No worries. Watch us on Facebook live on Sundays @ 10:30am

Save the dates

August 6- Congregational Picnic @ Old Economy Park Barn
September ?- Festival of Churches @ the park on 11th St.
October 7- Erntedankfest, Food Sale and Bake Sale
November 19- Thanksgiving luncheon
December 2- Live Nativity & Food Sale and Bake Sale

Keep in Prayer

The Board of Trustees- prayers as they get the pastor's office ready with cleaning, painting, new carpet, new furniture, et.

Homebound members'- prayers that although they can't be with us to worship we keep them in our prayers for their well-being and strength in their faith.

Lord Jesus, thank you for the summer you gave us. Help us to show your love to others, even when we are feeling like a ball of stress inside. Lord with you anything is possible, so help us to have the capacity to be the best version of ourselves so that your light will shine through us. Lord for all the unspoken prayers, we pray you hear them and wrap your arms of comfort around them as you work out all the things for your glory. In Jesus' Precious Name. AMEN