



SERVE • CARE • WORSHIP • LEARN

# ST. JOHN'S

Evangelical Lutheran Church

4125 Penn Avenue  
Sinking Spring, PA 19608  
610-678-1088

### Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 AM – 2PM

Friday: Closed



The Light Volume 2024, Issue 4



## The staff at St. John...

**Reverend Drew Neidig**, Pastor:

[pastor@saintjohnss.com](mailto:pastor@saintjohnss.com)

**Deacon Diana Pelletier**,

Director of Children and Youth Faith Formation:

[deacondiana@saintjohnss.com](mailto:deacondiana@saintjohnss.com)

**Arlene Moll**, Director of Music Ministries

[music@saintjohnss.com](mailto:music@saintjohnss.com)

**Becky Ruth**, Bell Choir Director

**Lexie McLaughlin**: Church Administrator

[stjohnsec@saintjohnss.com](mailto:stjohnsec@saintjohnss.com)

**Jane McClellan-Renner**, Finance Administrator:

[finance@saintjohnss.com](mailto:finance@saintjohnss.com)

**Michele Brossman**, Custodian

**Kevin Brossman**, Custodian

**Barbi Connor**-Genesis Preschool Administrative Director

**Jen Kovalchick**- Genesis Preschool Director of Education

[genesispreschool@saintjohnss.com](mailto:genesispreschool@saintjohnss.com)



### Congregational Council:

President—Deb Dietrich

Vice President - Tim Fox

Secretary - Jim Schlegel

Treasurer— Gary Triviets

Care Team Liaison— Georgianne Jones

Learn Team Liaison— Mason Sassaman

Serve Team Liaison - Antonette Rosenmerkle

Worship Team Liaison - George Balchunas

### Congregational Team Leaders:

Care Team - Deb Scheidt

Learn Team - Danielle Hale

Serve Team - Cole Luscombe

Worship Team - Cleann Pauley



**Flowers(\$55) , Bulletins(\$20) & Newsletter (\$30)**

**Sponsorships are needed.** Please fill out the form which is on the table at the front door, and put it in Lexie's mailbox. Thank you.

**Flower and Bulletin Sponsors are needed!**



First, a word of thanks for the warm welcome you gave both Sara and me on March 17th, our first Sunday with you. Thanks, too, for all the “goodies” at the reception after worship. We are truly grateful for the outpouring of welcome and support.

I arrived here as your interim pastor at a bit of an unusual time during the liturgical year, just one week before Palm Sunday, then Holy Week. While I don't want to dwell on the challenges of the recent past, I do know that this has been a difficult time in the life of St. John's. Some of you may be angry or disappointed or frustrated or maybe all of the above and more.

Please know that I am here for you and to listen to you. One of the most important roles of a pastor is to be present for the people of the congregation. That is one of my goals as your interim pastor - to be a present, active listener.

My hope is that we can begin a new chapter in our life together, not forgetting our past, but moving forward in our relationships with one another, and just as importantly, being the church Christ calls us to be for the sake of a world in need.

Thank you for all you do for this community of faith. Thank you for sticking together during challenging times. As we move into the Easter season, we are reminded that death never has the final word, and that life springs forth out of darkness.

My promise to all of you is that I will dedicate myself to being the best pastor I can be during my time with and among you. God is always up to something new. Both Sara and I are excited to be a part of what the Risen Lord has in store for all of us here at St. John's!

Many Blessings,

Pastor Drew



**Contacts for Pastor Drew**  
Mobile/Text Msg: 631-291-5995  
Email: [pastor@saintjohnss.com](mailto:pastor@saintjohnss.com)



## What's rain got to do with it?

The English Proverb, "April Showers bring May Flowers," originates from the United Kingdom, where April for them is one of the more soggy months based on the position of the jet stream. Since this area typically has a cooler climate, the lower temperatures often push back the appearance of flowers to late April and early May. The phrase is also believed to come from an

early poem with a line that goes, "Sweet April showers, do spring May flowers."\*

With the ever-changing weather patterns this proverb may not hold true any longer. However, as followers of Jesus we can find comforting reminders of God's love in the rain, puddles, lakes, rivers, streams, even in the water coming from our own faucets. You see, God's love washed over you in the waters of your Baptism. This water cleansed you of your sins on that day and has been every day since.

This April, that message feels to me to be even closer as the Season of Easter begins on April 1st. This is no April Fools joke! Jesus died for YOUR sins. Jesus overcame death and rose again to be seated at the right hand of God on YOUR behalf. God sent YOU an advocate in the Holy Spirit. These things happened to gift YOU with eternal life.

The question becomes, "what are you going to do with that gift?" Will it sit in a 'corner' collecting dust or will you put it to good use?

We are called into a covenant with God by those same waters that splash over us in baptism to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. This call is a call to reach out to those who are lonely, to fill the needs of those without, to feed those who are hungry, to love those who are unloved.

So, whether or not we have a rainy April here in Berks County, I pray when we see, touch, hear, taste, or smell sources of water, you are reminded to find meaningful ways to live into your baptismal call. If you need or want ideas or folks to partner with please reach out and I will help. We are all in this together!

peace, *Diana* 

\*<https://blogs.missouristate.edu/international/2021/04/30/learn-english-proverbs-april-showers-bring-may-flowers/>

## Mark your Calendars

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>April 2</b>       | All Teams Meeting   |
| <b>April 7</b>       | Faith in Action ~ field trip to UCC of Robesonia                  |
| <b>April 18</b>      | Genesis Pop Up Meal ~ Salute                                      |
| <b>April 21</b>      | Congregational Conversation after worship                         |
| <b>April 28</b>      | Community Free Meal 5:30-7 in the Fellowship Hall                 |
| <b>May 5</b>         | Carnival & Genesis Sunday   |
| <b>May 19</b>        | Graduation Celebration  |
| <b>June 2</b>        | Congregational Meeting for Budget Approval & Lay Leader Elections |
| <b>July 8-12</b>     | SCUBA VBS   |
| <b>July 27-Aug 3</b> | Mission Trip  |
| <b>Sept 8</b>        | Rally Day   |



SAVE THE DATE FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Get Ready to Dive In  
to Friendship and Fun  
at VBS This Summer!

**Register Here:**

Summer 2024

We hope you'll join us!

**Meet New Dive Buddies and Make a Splash!**  
**July 8-12, 2024      9am-12pm**  
**4125 Penn Ave Sinking Spring**  
**610-678-1088**

# FAITH IN **ACTION**

On April 7th our middle and high school youth will be visiting the United Church of Christ of Robesonia for their worship service at 10:15 followed by a time of fellowship. We are called to serve with, and care for, our neighbors... first we need to know them!



**Circle of Friends**  
 Please join us 1pm, April 16, 2024 at  
 Ganley's Irish Pub  
 500 Brownsville Rd, Sinking Spring, Pa 19608  
 Call Jeanette Minnich 610-678-1740  
 for questions

## ALL Teams Conversation

**Are you have a member of St. John's? Are you a friend of St. John's? Do you have ideas about sharing God's love with children, youth, adults, and/or our local community? Would you like to have your voice heard regarding the ministries of St. Johns?**

**future of ministries at St. John's.**

**WHO:** ALL Members & Friends of St. John's  
**WHEN:** Tuesday, April 7th 6:30pm  
**WHERE:** Faith Journeys room off of the Fellowship Hall

**If you answered, "Yes" to any of the questions above PLEASE join our ALL Team Conversation where we meet to envision the**

# Joyful Noise Noisy Offering



**MAKE A  
"JOYFUL  
NOISE!"**

THANK YOU SO MUCH for supporting **Mary's Shelter** in March by giving to our Noisy Offering. With your help we were able to raise **\$100** to support their mission to be a multifaceted comprehensive housing and social service agency that addresses pregnancy, parenting and youth homelessness through proactive preventative work, crisis intervention services and stabilization back into the community.

**MEAL  
POPUP  
FUNDRAISER**

MADE POSSIBLE BY

**do it  
LOCAL**

doitlocalberks.com

**MADJ  
marketing**

madjmarketing.com



Details & easy online  
ordering available at  
**MealPopUp.com**

[www.doitlocalberks.com/familymeals](http://www.doitlocalberks.com/familymeals)

## GENESIS POPUP MEAL ~ SALUTE ~ 4/18

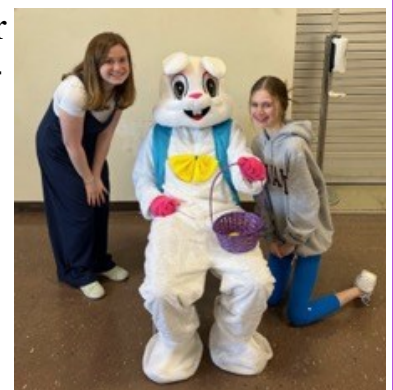
Take the night off from cooking and help support our pre-school **and** a locally owned restaurant.

Order by 4/17 9pm

## Moment of Magic Easter brunch



About 300 people joined Ashley Witkowski, her Moment of Magic club members, and the Reading Youth Volunteer Corps for food, fellowship, and fun, on Saturday, March 16th at Wilson High School. Ashley helped raise over \$400 along with 300 donated items, to support Hope Rescue Mission and Mary's Shelter! **What an amazing way to be Jesus in the World!!**





**INCOME AND EXPENSES**  
Month: February 2024

	Year to date Feb 2024	Year to date Feb 2023	Year to date 2024 budget
<b>INCOME</b>			
General Fund Giving	\$34,896	\$39,956	\$33,467
Targeted Giving	\$4,409	\$6,195	\$4,974
Fundraising	-\$2,546	\$2,603	\$750
Other Income	\$506	\$3,313	\$250
Subtotal	<b>\$37,265</b>	<b>\$52,067</b>	<b>\$39,440</b>
Genesis Income	\$28,779	\$20,797	\$16,602
Bequests	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$66,044</b>	<b>\$72,864</b>	<b>\$56,043</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Care Team	\$0	\$0	\$48
Learn Team	\$257	\$607	\$374
Serve Team	\$918	\$953	\$933
Worship Team	\$1,020	\$869	\$683
Property Team	\$23,593	\$15,316	\$14,634
Hospitality	\$0	\$0	\$50
Office/Support Team	\$6,062	\$3,051	\$3,877
Subtotal	<b>\$31,850</b>	<b>\$20,795</b>	<b>\$20,600</b>
Staff	\$39,323	\$42,800	\$44,657
Genesis Expense	\$23,684	\$15,672	\$15,694
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$94,857</b>	<b>\$79,268</b>	<b>\$80,951</b>
UnBudgeted Expense	\$1,073	\$6,131	
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-\$29,886</b>	<b>-\$12,535</b>	<b>-\$24,909</b>
<b>Unbudgeted Expense</b>			
Easter Egg Funds used		\$4,905	
Maintenance & Repair	\$0	\$0	
Pastor Discretionary Fund	\$0	\$538	
Speidel Bequest	\$0	\$0	
Use of Memorial Funds	\$0	\$0	
Youth	\$720	\$688	
VBS	\$353	\$0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,073</b>	<b>\$6,131</b>	
Forgiven Covid 19 Loan		\$0	
<b>Change in Investment Value</b>	<b>\$524</b>	<b>\$3,552</b>	

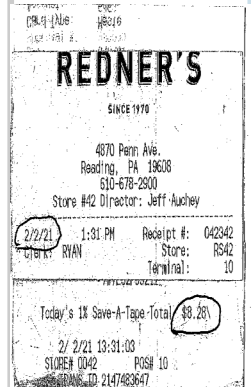
Comfy Corners in the Sanctuary

We have a 'soft space' in the back corner of the sanctuary with carpet, a rocking chair and quiet toys. The other corner has crayons and coloring pages. We are inviting families with infants, toddlers, children, or even adults that need to move around more freely, or who need some extra space, to stay in worship more comfortably. Please check out these spaces and invite folks to use them.



**Redner's Save-a-Tape program is simple:**

Please put your receipts in your envelopes that you mail into the church or when you drop them off in the locked mailbox outside and also on the table inside the door. St. John will receive 1% of each bill. **You need to use your Redner card in order for the church to Receive the 1% as shown on receipt...Thank you!**



**CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE CALENDAR**

Saint John's has a newly updated online calendar. You can find this on our church website. Use the QR code on the right to check it out now. Check it to see what's happening, when is the newsletter deadline, or when Sunday's service includes Holy Communion.



While you're there...  
Click to print the calendar.  
Click to add the calendar feed to your device.



**We are still collecting** for animals in need: blankets, towels, throw rugs, etc.

Thank you for your donations!



**We are continuing to collect** soda and soup can tabs to help support the **Ronald McDonald House of Philadelphia**. Put them in the jar on the table outside the church office. Thank you!

All 2024 income lines are substantially lower than 2023, except Genesis. Total income is down by 28.5%. Genesis income is higher by 38.4%.

To make things even worse is the fact that our total expenses are 19.7% higher than last year. Genesis expenses are higher by 51.1%. However, even with that, their overall net is only \$30 lower than last year, \$5,095 vs. \$5,125.

Staff expenses are 8.1% lower than 2023. This is mainly due to the reduction in hours for the office manager. It will continue in this direction as the Interim Pastor's salary and benefits are less than Pastor Rich's.

All team expenses are relatively identical to last year with the exception of the property team and the office/support team.

The office/support team expense has been almost double to what it was last year. Most of it can be attributed to all the computer related problems we have had. This has resulted in a large increase of IT support fees. Also, to a lesser degree, though still an increase, are higher Simply Giving Fees.

Moving to the property team, the expenses are 54% above last year. Three main reasons for that are higher snow removal costs, higher scheduled maintenance costs, and a \$2,400 bill to replace all the horns and strobes due to a different voltage coming from the new alarm system.

We have again taken on the task of attempting to assemble a budget that you the congregation will approve. What will make things even more difficult is the fact that the original budget proposal assumed a 3% increase in giving. With all income being lower after the first two months, it does not appear as though that will be likely. Which means that either cuts will need to be made from the expense side of the budget or we just continue to deplete the balance in our financial account.

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## WILSON AREA FOOD PANTRY NEWS



The Wilson Area Food Pantry distributed food to 79 families (279 individuals) on Friday March 15. These families express their gratitude to us for helping them and it gives many of us a really good feeling that we can help those in need.

Donations to the pantry are vital to the support that we can give to the families in need. Food donations such as peanut butter, soup, spaghetti, pasta sauce, mac and cheese, canned fruit and vegetables, cereal, and canned tuna or chicken which will be collected April 17 will be combined with food provided by Helping Harvest and food purchased with the generous donations from our member congregations. Please fill our two grocery carts especially at this time of year when we emphasize giving to help those in need even as God has given to us. Our next pantry distribution April 19.

We are very grateful for all the support that Saint John's gives the pantry. That support is both food donations and financial donations which is used to buy food as well.



It is our mission to serve God by helping those in need.

We are also grateful for our volunteers give of their time to serve our neighbors. The volunteers tell us they find joy in serving others and in the fellowship of working together to serve our neighbors. We welcome new volunteers for the distribution at the West Lawn United Methodist Church Community Center 3 to 5 on Friday or for the setup 12:30 to 2:30 Thursdays prior to the distribution.

## Congregational Council Meeting Report

Your Congregational Council met on March 19, 2024. Highlights include:

- Discussed the formation of an Audit Committee to review actual expenditures against the budget and consider processes to ensure alignment in the future, should any misalignment be found. A small group will work on the committee description which will be shared with the congregation. Volunteers will be sought with appointment to be made by Council.
- Authorized the withdrawal of \$34,000 from a certificate of deposit, with associated penalty, to provide cash for operating expenses until the CD matures and the balance can be transferred to the money market account.
- Learned the Community Meal Committee has been formed with members being Allen and Lori Fritz, Robert Fick, Leon Moll and Georgie Jones. The next Community Meal will be Thursday, April 25th.
- Discussed ongoing IT issues for the church staff. A new IT tech support company is being sought. Congregation members are asked to share any recommendations with Tim Fox.
- Reviewed the Electronic Sign Guidelines.
- Planned a Strategic Planning session for Council to be held in April to discern ministry priorities.
- Determined the next Congregational Conversation will be April 21st.
- Determined the next Congregational Meeting for budget approval and lay leadership elections will be June 2nd.



February 2024 mission was to benefit Safe Berks and together we raised \$597.42. April's mission is Western Berks Shepherding.

### Commitment Campaign Coming in April

Every family has an opportunity to fill out a Commitment Card and place it in the offering plate during worship during the Sundays in April. We are hoping each family will consider their commitment to supporting our operating budget. The Commitment Card will ask you to share what you believe your dutiful giving will be going forward and whether that represents an increase. This commitment is between you/your family and God. We are simply facilitating your conscious consideration of your dutiful giving. Names are completely optional. We will not be recording your commitment (this isn't a pledge campaign). We will not be using the figures we collect to inform budget planning. We will collate the results and celebrate your commitment to dutiful giving at the end of the campaign. This is meant to be a low-pressure opportunity for our members to consider their dutiful giving. Please consider participating. If you have any questions, just reach out to a member of the Giving Team (Deb Dietrich, Heather Riegel, Andy Romberger, Patrick Velekei).





ST JOHN'S & GENESIS PRESCHOOL PRESENT

**SUNDAY**

May 5th  
11-2pm

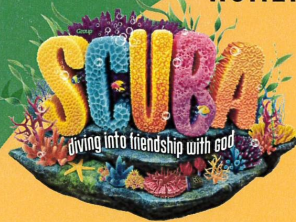
4125 PENN AVE  
SINKING SPRING  
19608

# SPRING FLING & ART SHOW

OBSTACLE COURSE, FACE PAINTING,  
YARD GAMES, ART SHOW, BASKET  
RAFFLE & MORE!!



MESSY PIG BBQ, CANDY'S  
HOMEMADE ICE CREAM, TRI  
BOBA & MORE!



Join us as we gear up for summer fun at St John's!  
Enjoy our preschool art, FREE fun for kids, basket  
raffle, food trucks and MORE!

4125 PENN AVE SINKING SPRING 19608

Find us on Facebook @ Genesis Preschool & Saint John's Lutheran Church



The Manor Care Bingo Team is  
in need of cookies, chips,  
pretzels, peanut butter crackers  
and  
**PLAIN Hershey Bars-NO NUTS!!!**  
Thank you all!! :)

Genesis Preschool is in need of  
**unscented baby wipes.** Please  
drop all  
donations in the box  
underneath Genesis  
bulletin board.



Hello and Happy Spring,

I am looking forward to warmer weather and more sports outside! I have been here at St. John's a year now and I am learning something new every week. Did you know we have a puzzle closet? If you did not know, there is a puzzle closet in the Women's Enrichment Room. There was a large donation of brand new, unopened and a few preloved puzzles. There is also a wonderful library to borrow books and DVDs located right across from the Women's Enrichment Room. That will come in handy this summer when you are lounging by the pool or wanting to escape the heat. If you have not done so, please check both the puzzle closet and the library out.

Bill and Joyce Aukamp have notified us that they have retired from handling the Redner's receipts. To date we have gotten over \$225 from Redner's this year and about \$1000 last year. We are looking for someone to take over the preparation and submitting of Redner's receipts. If you are interested, please contact me and we will get you set up.



Thanks,  
Lexie

**Genesis Preschool Summer Camp**

**HANDS-ON LEARNING & FUN!**

**Summer Fun Camp**  
May 28 - 30

**Science Camp**  
July 22-26

**Around the World Camp**  
June 24-28

**Get Ready for Kindergarten Camp**  
\*for those off to K this fall  
August 19-23

**All Camps**  
9am-12pm  
Ages 3-5\*  
(must be potty trained)

**To Register:**  
[www.saintjohnss.com/ourpreschool](http://www.saintjohnss.com/ourpreschool)  
610-678-9908  
[genesispreschool@saintjohnss.com](mailto:genesispreschool@saintjohnss.com)

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

Food | Fellowship | Faith

**2nd and 4th Thursdays, 9 AM**

**Red Plate**  
**DINER**

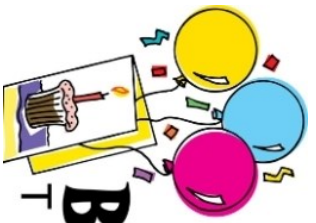
Please RSVP  
to Jerry Stump  
By the prior Tuesday  
[Gerald.Stump@aol.com](mailto:Gerald.Stump@aol.com)  
484-706-2846



# April Happenings



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b> 9:00am Easter Morning Worship with Holy Communion 8:00pm AA/Alanon Meeting	<b>1</b> Church Office is closed	<b>2</b> <b>Bulletin announcements due by Noon</b> Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM 6:30pm Team Meetings	<b>3</b> Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM	<b>4</b> Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>5</b> Church Office is Closed Deacon Diana Day Off	<b>6</b>	
<b>7</b> 9:00am <b>Worship Service with Holy Communion</b> 8:00pm AA/Alanon Meeting	<b>8</b> Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM	<b>9</b> <b>Bulletin announcements due by Noon</b> Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM 6:30pm Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm Spring Township Women's Club	<b>10</b> Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM 6:30pm Property Committee Meeting	<b>11</b> Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM 9:00am Men's Breakfast 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>12</b> Church Office is Closed Deacon Diana Day Off	<b>13</b>	
<b>14</b> 9:00am <b>Worship Service</b> 8:00pm AA/Alanon Meeting	<b>15</b> Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM <b>Monthly Newsletter/Articles Due</b>	<b>16</b> <b>Bulletin announcements due by Noon</b> Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM 6:30pm Church Council	<b>17</b> Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM	<b>18</b> Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM 12:30pm Food Pantry Setup 5:15pm Genesis Salute Pop-Up Meal 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>19</b> Church Office is Closed Deacon Diana Day Off 10:00am Soup Kitchen 2:30pm Food Pantry Distribution	<b>20</b>	
<b>21</b> 9:00am <b>Worship Service with Holy Communion</b> 10:00am Congregational Conversation 8:00pm AA/Alanon Meeting	<b>22</b> Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM	<b>23</b> <b>Bulletin announcements due by Noon</b> Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM	<b>24</b> Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM	<b>25</b> Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM 9:00am Mens Breakfast 5:30pm Free Community Meal 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>26</b> Church Office is Closed Deacon Diana Day Off 5:30pm Free Community Meal	<b>27</b> 7:00pm Opportunity House	
<b>28</b> 9:00am <b>Worship Service</b> 8:00pm AA/Alanon Meeting	<b>29</b> Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM	<b>30</b> <b>Bulletin announcements due by Noon</b> Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM	<b>1</b> Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM	<b>2</b> Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	



# BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

# April



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

31 Aidan Yoder's birthday  
Debbie Fick's birthday  
Ryan Yanchock's birthday

1 David Cook's birthday

2 Ian Roth's birthday  
Lorraine Honig's birthday  
Robert Wagoner's birthday

3 Alexandra Nimfo's birthday

4 Jack Yoder's birthday  
Kent Winklemann's birthday  
Stefanie Steffey's birthday

5 Janelle Biffel's birthday

6 Abigail Urbina's birthday  
Carol Barnett's birthday

7

8 Diane Ruth's birthday

9 Joanne Conard's birthday

10 Gabriel Roth's birthday  
Katie Lucas's birthday  
Lucille Kavanaugh's birthday

11 Harold Webber's birthday

12

13 Andrew Scheidt's birthday

21

14

15

16 Jason and Jennifer Schwambach's anniversary  
Kirk and Cathy Sassaman's anniversary

17 Ronald and Charlene Wessner's anniversary

18 Laura Gifford's birthday

19

20 Al Muchoney's birthday  
Nancy Watycha's birthday

21 Julianne Arnold's birthday  
Timothy and Debra Bohn's anniversary

22 Barbara Stoner's birthday  
Larry Jones's birthday  
Nicole Nimfo's birthday

23 Todd Frasso's birthday

24 Harper Fox's birthday  
Veronica Stump's birthday

25

26 Barry Smith's birthday  
Nicole LeVan's birthday

27 Jean Potteiger's birthday

28 Piper Rosenmerkel's birthday

29 Eric Gajewski's birthday  
Richard Moore's birthday  
Ronald Wessner's birthday

30

1

2

3

4