

St. John's Lutheran Church

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Join us for Worship

*Sundays
at 9:30 AM*

Or by via zoom

See stjsumneytown.org

For more information



St. John's Lutheran Church Sumneytown

www.stjsumneytown.org 215-234-4888 stj.stown@verizon.net Issue 2021 Volume 27 Issue 1



I recently saw a meme on Facebook about how when a flashlight goes dim or stops shining light at all, you don't just throw it out – you change the batteries. The theme of the August's *Living Lutheran* magazine was The Spiritual Discipline of Rest. As I sit in my office writing this article, I feel like rest is hard to come by these days. As a parent of four kids – two who have been sick the majority of this week, one who is moving into college for her freshman year in less than five days and one who is starting his senior year of high school in a week – rest is usually the last thing I think about – literally, because it doesn't occur to me until I finally crawl into bed at the end of the day.

But if I am honest, I can say that this summer has provided opportunities for rest. I enjoyed a week at the beach with my family – and while it was exhausting to pack and unpack from that vacation, the time spent in a different location, smelling the salt air, sticking my toes in the sand, feeling the waves crash at my feet, disconnecting from work and technology, enjoying spontaneous adventures with the five people I love the most in this world, it was food for my soul, even if rest wasn't easy to come by in a strange bed.

After a particularly rough year of pandemic living, the stresses of life both professionally and personally were piling up and I reached out to my doctor for help. I started taking medication to help me deal with all of the stress, anxiety, fear and sadness that has weighed heavily and taken its toll since life seemed to spin out of my control back in the spring of 2020. I am grateful for the examples that we have seen recently in the public arena who have spoken about the importance of mental health in recent months and their attempts to de-stigmatize mental illness in all its shapes and forms.

And yet, we're walking into another program year with a pandemic continuing to rage around us, impacting school and community life, causing continued divisions in families, communities, schools and congregations as we figure out how to navigate life in this changing times. Our primary focus at church has been, and will continue to be, keeping everyone safe, especially the most vulnerable. It sometimes feels that the attempts I made this summer to rest and prioritize my mental health have not equipped me for the continued struggles we are facing as a family, as a congregation and as a community.

In those moments, I am finding that taking space to breathe, to rest, to reconnect with nature and my family all help feed my soul in ways that help me feel better equipped to do what it is God is calling me to do. As we walk into another fall that is turned upside down because of this pandemic, I pray that you too are finding ways to rest, because sometimes just living in the midst of it all is exhausting. I pray that you are prioritizing your mental, spiritual and physical health as you journey through this fall. And I pray that the community of St. John's continues to be a source of support for you in your life of faith.

Blessings in this continuing time of change,

Pastor Becky



Bible Workshop

Saturday, October 2
9:00-10:30 AM

Do you have a student in grades 2-4 who hasn't received a Bible from St. John's? Then we invite you to be part of our Bible workshop. A parent/guardian is expected to attend the workshop with each student.

Visit the link below to register your student for the workshop by September 26.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084FA8AD2CAAFD0-bible>



First Communion Workshop

Saturday, November 13

9:30-11:30 AM

Do you have a young person in grades 2-6 who hasn't received communion yet but is interested in doing so? Then this workshop is for you! This workshop will prepare students to receive Holy Communion, which they will do within worship on Sunday, November 21.

A parent/guardian is expected to attend the workshop with each student.

Visit the link below to register for the workshop by Sunday, November 7

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084FA8AD2CAAFD0-first3>



Season Opener

September 19th - 8:45 to 9:15 for Sunday School children in Pre-K through 5th grade.

Please wear a mask😊

Sunday School will be held every Sunday. We will engage in many wonderful seasonal faith formation encounters.

Connections (Grades 6, 7 and 8) and the High School Youth Class (Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12) will meet on the first Sunday of each month, beginning in October. October 3rd, November 7th, December 5th, January 2nd, February 6th, March 6th, April 3rd, May 1st & June 5th

We hope you can join us!

Questions...email Jamie Hovanec @ jlhovanec78@gmail.com



Holy Baptisms

Leena Madalin-Rose Cuevas, daughter of Jacob Cuevas and Sommer Buno, was baptized on August 22, 2020.

Avery Jessica & Emily Virginia Leska, twin daughters of Andrew and Tara (Weber) Leska, were baptized on September, 19, 2020.

Jaxon Theodore Papay, son of Aaron Papay and Alexa Mack, was baptized on September 20, 2020.

Emelyn Marie Reber, daughter of Andrew and Tiffany (Detwiler) Reber, was baptized on October 17, 2020.

Emily Grace Quinque, daughter of Geoffrey and Amanda (Gordon) Quinque, was baptized on November 7, 2020.

Noah Matthew Renner, son of Matthew & Katelyn (Burns) Renner, was baptized on November 8, 2020.

Lacey Evelyn Gerth, daughter of Andrew and Rebecca (Kelly) Gerth, was baptized on November 15th, 2020.

Theo John Schmidt, son of John and Michele Schmidt, was baptized on January 10, 2021.

Gage Parker Wilson, son of Steven and Kelly (Snyder) Wilson, was baptized on May 2, 2021.

Jack James Stout, son of Bradley and Rebecca (Reber) Stout, was baptized on May 8, 2021.

Fletcher Harris Loughnane, son of Dennis and Garrity (Harris) Loughnane, was baptized on June 16, 2021.

Grayson Michael Perry, son of Andrew and Amanda (Turner) Perry, was baptized on July 11, 2021.

Charlie Mae Sell, daughter of Remy Sell and Margaret Preletz, was baptized on August 8, 2021.

Evan Richard Homrich, son of Paul and Alana (Cordisco) Homrich, was baptized on August 15, 2021.

Bodhi Liam Petty, son of John and Amanda (Bardman) Petty, was baptized on August 22, 2021.

*Baptized in water,
Sealed by the Spirit*



Homebound Members

Stay in touch as you can

Myrt Beideman (9/26) 12 Lutheran Drive PC 305 Telford, PA	Elmer & Phyllis Holsinger (12/11 & 8/11) 142 Oak Wood Court Lansdale, PA 19446	Jean Leister (2/20) 436 Main Street, 1st Floor Green Lane, PA 18054
Doris Blair (8/2) 815 Maplewood Drive, Apt. 352 Harleysville, PA 19438	Bob Moran (6/19) 50 Oak Street Gilbertsville, PA 19525	Nancy Terpoilli (6/7) 1050 Main Street, B58 Hellertown, PA 18055
Sonny & Darlene Carlson (7/12 & 12/4) 329 Ashford Lane PO Box 603 Hereford, PA 18056	Erik Ockenlaender (12/24) 2830 Burton Road Harleysville, PA 19438	Carl & Doris Slonaker (11/22 & 9/14) 616 Main Street, 1st Floor Red Hill, PA 18076
Marie Fretz (1/14) 4436 Upper Ridge Road Pennsburg, PA 18073	Arlene Rivers (9/9) 207 West Summit Street Parkview, Room 3505 Souderton, PA 18964	

Our Christian sympathies are extended to the following families:



- Larry Shipe, who died July 7, 2020.
- Irene Taglieber, who died August 20, 2020.
- Melanie Vermillion, who died September 3, 2020

- Alice Gregor, who died September 12, 2020.
- Joanne Little, who died September 17, 2020.
- William Clement, who died January 8, 2021.
- Eugene Stanley, who died June 11, 2021.
- Betty Walker, who died July 17, 2021.

Larry and Eveline Walker, who died June 14, 2021 (Larry) and August 14, 2019 (Eveline).



YPO

Fall Kick-Off around the Fire Pit
Sunday, September 19 7 PM
Join Pastor Becky at the fire pit to discuss YPO activities for this year.
Bring a chair – munchies and drinks will be provided.

Confirmation Info

Confirmation Classes for students entering 7th grade will begin this fall. First and second year confirmation classes meet on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM, starting September 1st. If you have a student in 7th or 8th grade who is interested in being part of this fall’s confirmation class, please reach out to Pastor Becky.

St. John’s Faith Formation needs your help. Would you like to teach Sunday School, Connections or the High School Youth Class? Everything will be prepared for you and ready to go on the day you teach. Our theme for the 21-22 school year is...

Celebrating the Seasons: Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall...God is with us through them all!

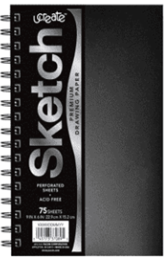
The Season Opener for Sunday School is on September 19th - 8:45 to 9:15 for children in Pre-K through 5th grade.

Sunday School will then be held every Sunday at that same time. We are hoping to be able to run two classes (1 class – Pre-K – 1st and the other class – 2nd – 5th). You can teach every other week or once a month or every single week. Whatever works for you and your schedule.

Connections (Grades 6, 7 and 8) and the High School Youth Class (Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12) will meet on the first Sunday of each month, beginning in October. October 3rd, November 7th, December 5th, January 2nd, February 6th, March 6th, April 3rd, May 1st & June 5th. If you would like to teach these classes, it would be great for one teacher to volunteer for the once a month class throughout the duration, but we are flexible.

If you can’t teach, perhaps you can donate supplies. Here is what we need...Hand Sanitizer, Spray Cleaners, Wipes, Sketch Pads (really any kind will work...they are about 5 dollars at Walmart...6x9 or 8 1/2x11), Gel pens (really any brand but the paper mate brand lasts longest), Canvas Tote Bags (like the kind you can get at Michaels but any kind would work) and Oriental Trading, Michaels or Amazon Gift Cards.

Contact Jamie Hovanec jlhovanec78@gmail.com if you have any questions or if you are interested in helping this year☺



"God's work. Our hands." Sunday

God's Work Our Hands



On **Sunday, September 26**, St. John's will celebrate God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. We will offer two ways for the congregation to use their hands to do God's work on this day.



JOIN US for a day of service

1) Community Food Collection

As we've done in past years, we will be doing a collection of food items to support the food pantry at Open Link. Bags will be distributed into a number of local community neighborhoods on Sunday, September 19. The bags will then be picked up on September 26 and all the items collected will be displayed for worship on Harvest Home Sunday, October 3.

How can you participate?

- Individuals and families are needed on Sunday, September 19 to distribute bags in local neighborhoods. A map will be provided along with bags that are to be dropped off. Teams will be sent out from church following worship (approx. 10:45 AM).
- Individuals and families are needed on Sunday, September 26 to go back out to those local neighborhoods and pick up the bags that have been filled and left out for us. A map will be provided. Once food has been collected, it is unloaded at church, unpacked, expiration dates checked and displayed in the sanctuary. The time commitment will be from the end of worship (approx. 10:45 AM) till 12:30 PM.
- Individuals will also be needed on Sunday, October 3 to package up all the donations for delivery to Open Link's food pantry. The time commitment is from the end of worship (approx. 10:45 AM) until 11:45 AM.

Sign up for all time slots for the Food Collection here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084FA8AD2CAAFD0-gods>

2) Cleaning Bags

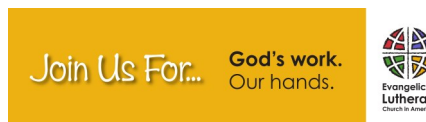
Another project we'll be doing this year for God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is putting together cleaning bags for Keystone Opportunity Center to distribute to families that are moving into a new home to give them some of the necessary supplies they need. The great thing about this project is you can do it all at home – do your shopping, package all the items in a reusable grocery bag and then bring them to church on Sunday, September 26 for God's Work, Our Hands Sunday or on Sunday, October 3 for Harvest Home Sunday.

What all goes in a Cleaning Bag?

Well, it's up to you – you can pick as many of the items listed as you feel comfortable including, we just ask that you package all the items in a reusable shopping bag (not plastic grocery bags or paper grocery bags)

Items that can be included:

- Sponges or scrubbies
- 1 roll of paper towels
- Dish soap
- Laundry soap
- Lysol wipes
- Trash bags (13 gal size)
- Toilet bowl cleaner and brush
- Liquid spray cleaner
- 4 pack of toilet paper



Even in a pandemic, we can continue to find ways to use our hands to do God's work in our local community. We hope you'll come out this September to use your hands to do God's work with us!



Thank you's continued

Dear PB and Friends at St. John's. I just received the plant and chocolate covered pretzels (how did you know they were my favorite?). Thank you so much. I think of you often and remember you in my prayers. Take care. With love, Myrt Beideman

Evan and I want to thank whomever surprised us with the delicious cookies on Valentine's day. What a sweet, thoughtful gift. Thank you so much, Sharon and Evan Moll

A very special thank you to Joyce Foesig and all the people involved in making and delivering cookies. It was a very pleasant surprise and greatly appreciated. They were delicious and brought a smile to our faces. Thank you so much, Charlie and Pat Krupp

It was good to hear Brian Allebach sing during the service on Sunday.

What a lovely surprise! Definitely made me smile! Thank you so much for thinking of me as well as for the tasty cookie treats! They were delicious. Dona Cuppett

Thanks so much for the delicious cookies. There were a pleasant surprise and much appreciated. We enjoyed them on these snowy days! Sincerely, Judy, Fred and Erik Ockenlaender

It was such a delight to see a lady from church at our door on Valentine's Day and to have cookies for us, was so kind and thoughtful. Ray and I very much enjoyed them and to be remembered was even nicer. Thank you, Ray and Mary Kleinsmith

A great big thanks and hugs for the bag of delicious cookies. What a nice way to be greeted. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. Thanks you, Joyce Allebach

Thank you for all the card, flowers and sweet treats I have received. I enjoyed them all. Jean Leister

Thank you for remembering me with a variety of delicious cookies. Dorothy Shipe

Dear Pastor Becky, Thank you very much for the baptism service, we really enjoyed the outdoor service. Thanks again, Kelly, Steve and Gage Wilson

Thank you so much for you donation of hats, gloves, scarves to Mitzvah Circle. The need for our services has increased dramatically. Your support makes all the difference. Gratefully yours, Fran Held, Founder & Executive Director

Dear PB and congregation, Thank you so much for the care package. It means so much to me during these tough times! Thank you, Sam Lewis

Dear St. John's, Thank you so much for the care package! It made my day! I am doing well at Rider, I will definitely be thankful to have the snacks, food, gift card and school supplies in the coming weeks as school gets more intense. Love, Jenna Krauss

To the ladies of St. John's, Thank you for the flowers that were on the altar on Easter Day. That was very thoughtful of you folks. Since I cannot plant them, I passed them on to my children to plant in their gardens. Best wishes to all at St. John's, Doris Blair

Dear St. John's and YPO, Thank you so much for the multiple graduation gifts! I will be sure to put the monetary gifts towards my textbooks this fall! Love, Evan Shade

Dear St. John's, Thank you very much for your generous gift in honor of my graduation! Your gift helped me purchase a new laptop that I will take to college! Thank you for being an important part of my faith journey. Love, Erin Eisenhart



OPEN LINK FOOD COLLECTIONS

I thought it might be nice to let our church family know that throughout the pandemic just how helpful some of you have been to your neighbors in need.

Twice a month, quite a few of you have gotten up early on a Saturday morning and arrived at the back door of the church with groceries in hand.

Would you believe that from January until yesterday August 21 you have contributed 2,247 items to go into the food pantry !!

I never thought of the idea of totaling the monthly amounts last year, but I am sure Pastor Becky was surprised and pleased when the Thank You letter {which usually includes the poundage total} arrived in the mail from the Open Link Office at the end of 2020.

Having had the opportunity to greet many of the food pantry recipients over a five year period I can assure you, they are most grateful for this generous ministry you so graciously are willing to participate in on a continuing pattern.

Please remember – there will be NO COLLECTION Labor Day Weekend September 4.
Thank You!

Respectfully submitted.
Diane L. Appold



Dear Reverend Schanely and members of St. John's,
Your generosity improves and enriches the lives of your neighbors in the Upper Perkiomen Valley! On behalf of the board and staff of The Open Link, I extend our sincere thanks for your donation of \$25.00, 299 pounds of food, and \$400.00 in Redner's gift cards to support our 2020

Thanksgiving food program. Thanks to your considerate donation, we can help those in need in the Upper Perkiomen Valley have a bountiful Thanksgiving!
Sincerely, Stuart Bush, Executive Director

The flowers were beautiful and the cake was delicious! My thanks to WELCA and also Pastor Becky. We are all doing our best to stay healthy; and all our prayers give everyone that special strength we need.
Love, Hope Long

Thank you for your gift of \$3,000 to Bear Creek that we received in November of 2020. Your gift ensures that in this 'in-between time' we are able to maintain our beautiful facility and property. Your donation also supports our staff working on the essential planning necessary to provide safe and enriching programs in ways that take into consideration our ever changing landscape.

Thank you all for your support and generosity.
Sincerely, Collin Grooms, Bear Creek Executive Director

Thank you for thinking of me on my confirmation. Thank you for the cross decoration. I love it and look forward to putting it in my room. Thanks again for everything you do for me!
Love, Lindsay Detwiler

Thank you so much for your generous donation of gifts to our residents at Pennsburg Manor.
Sincerely, Activities Department, Pennsburg Manor

Harvest Home Sunday, October 3

Didn't get a bag dropped off at your house as part of the God's Work, Our Hands Sunday food collection? No worries! The congregation is invited to support our fall food collection for Open Link by bringing non-perishable food items to church on Sunday, October 3. Food donations can be added to the display in the front of the sanctuary or in the windowsills. Please check expiration dates on all food items that you bring!

Thank you for helping us make sure that no one in the Upper Perkiomen Valley goes hungry!

Calling ALL members of St. John's!

Invitation to Join a New Ministry of St. John's. There are many wonderful opportunities for service at St. John's and we are adding one more to the list - **The Card Crew**.



The Member Engagement Committee is starting a greeting card ministry. We will be sending cards to our members, their families, and their friends for all sort of occasions.

We will meet together at church once a month to share fellowship and snacks while we address cards. That's it! How easy is that? You can make someone's day by spending just an hour or so once a month to send a few cards. We are hoping for members of all ages to join.

So, Ready . . . Set . . . **WAIT!** We would like to start The Card Crew right away, however, we must wait just a little while longer until we can meet safely and comfortably due to COVID restrictions. We are hoping to start in October.

In order to know what day and time of the week is convenient for most people; for example, the 3rd Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM or on a week night at 7:00 PM, we need your input. Please contact Erika Haldeman at rwebhald1@verizon.net or 610-287-7289 to suggest a time and day to meet or if you have any questions about our new Card Crew ministry at St. John's.

Please prayerfully consider joining our new ministry!



You can support St. John's every time you shop at Amazon—and it costs you nothing!

Simply go to smile.amazon.com to select "St. John's Evangelical Lutheran, Green Lane" as your supporting charity. Then all purchases you make through smile.amazon.com (same prices as amazon.com) will donate a percentage on to St. John's.

If you use **Amazon's mobile app**, you will have to go into the app to turn Amazon Smile on. Just go into the Amazon app, click on settings, then click on AmazonSmile and follow the prompts to select St. John's and turn on AmazonSmile so all your purchases count! For more information, call the church office!

Do you have a passion for St. John's? Growing our church? Communications? Social media?

The Marketing & Communications committee is welcoming new members, including students (think about a special project for school credit). If you are interested in helping St. John's to improve both internal communications with our members and outreach inviting area residents to visit and experience our faith community, reach out to Linda Lewis (lewisld@comcastnet) or Kristie Faust (jdkafaust@verizon.net) to learn more.



As with every person and committee, Heavenly Helpers had a challenging 2020. Because of the COVID-19, we were not able to make any trips all of 2020 and so far in 2021. As the disasters continued to hit the world in 2020 and the names of the storms went well into the Greek alphabet, the team watched knowing we could do nothing to help. This was really very difficult for us. This team was created by people who want and need to help.

The Book Club read a book during 2020 called The Book of Joy by Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu. This book really highlighted the basis of Heavenly Helpers. We were all created to help one another. Joy is created by doing for others not by what we do for ourselves. Every member of our Heavenly Helpers team believes this to be true.

We have been doing our mission trips several times a year since 2007. In the process of the 20+ trips we have met so many wonderful people, we have learned new skills and learned what is really important in this life. And we learned it all as a team. It doesn't get better than that.

So, as so many businesses had to do during 2020, we reevaluated how we could help without actually getting out there. When we heard that the Outreach Committee was planning to make hoagie lunches for the Penn Assisted Care and Upper Perk Manor, we decided since we usually make hoagies all summer and did not in 2020, we could donate some of the fixings. Then we heard that the Pine Ridge Reservation was really hurting with the virus. On top of being very sick, they had no volunteers or donated clothes. We decided we could help. We sent almost 1000 masks and individual hand sanitizers for the residents of Pine Ridge. And with the help of all of you here at St. John's, we collected over 500lbs of clothing. You also helped us offset the \$800+ for the cost of postage. You are all amazing. We are so grateful you are a part of our team.

In May, we again started up our monthly hoagie sales. I'm not sure if you all missed our hoagies or want to share in growing the funds for our missions. Or maybe just hungry for our hoagies (they are good!!) but the sales are far better than they have ever been. We are heading up to almost 300 a month. (In 2019, our totals were about 175). Thanks for all your support and your appetites. For those that have come out to help build them, an additional heartfelt thank you to you too.

We are hoping and praying this virus kicks down a couple notches so we can again make a trip in November. Stay tuned for more information.

If you have any questions about Heavenly Helpers or would like to talk about joining the group, please contact me.

Elaine Keller
elaineakeller@comcast.net
 215.262.5366

Dear Elaine,

2020. We adapted. We innovated. At times we struggled. Ultimately, we succeeded. Why? Because YOU are Re-Member. And even though you couldn't be with us this year, YOU ensured that Re-Member could continue to serve.

Our first (and only) volunteers of the year arrived on Saturday, March 7. On March 8, tribal leaders enacted travel restrictions in response to COVID-19's emerging threats. We immediately embraced the decisions of the tribe and took steps to ensure the safety of the Pine Ridge Reservation community. When our 36 volunteers departed on Friday, March 13, our volunteer season came to an abrupt, but necessary conclusion.

To be honest, during the tenuous days and weeks that followed, I was not sure that Re-Member would still be here today. Ultimately, we were guided by one principle: The safety of our volunteers, and the peace of mind and good health of Pine Ridge residents was, and remains, our top priority.

Budgets were adjusted, reviewed, and adjusted again. Tough questions were posed: Would Re-Member be able to function without volunteers? How would our construction services be rendered safely? Could our limited staff maintain the Feather II gardens? How would our donors respond?

Tribal leaders issued reservation-wide lockdowns as the virus spread. Border monitors were deployed to checkpoints. Nightly curfews were put in place across Pine Ridge. Lumber prices spiked, as other commodities became increasingly sparse on the shelves of our local suppliers.

Yet our staff persevered, and embraced the unknown, with passion and unwavering commitment in the face of an unprecedented challenge. Fewer than a dozen staff members were tasked with trying to do the work of what would have been accomplished by 1,000-plus volunteers.

Over the summer, our construction partner at Badlands Enterprises, a Lakota owned-and-operated general contractor, has completed another building on our Porcupine property at Feather II. Originally envisioned to be Re-Member's future office once we relocate our program, we have made temporary modifications to the building to host short-term volunteers who wish to work – and stay – on site at Feather II.

Elsewhere on the property, we relocated a large water cistern for our two hoop houses. This will allow Re-Member to extend the growing season well into the spring and fall, beginning in 2021.

Early-season snow and cold reminded us in October that the winter heating season had arrived. So out came the chainsaws and log splitters. Already this year, we have completed more than 100 firewood deliveries, bringing the “gift of warmth” to homes across Pine Ridge. For the balance of the winter, we will also provide emergency utility assistance, filling propane tanks and supplementing electric bills.

We were only able to do what we do, because of you. This year has proven that without you, there would be no Re-Member. Because YOU are Re-Member.

Thank you for your commitment to help improve the quality of reservation life. Thank you for trusting us to serve on your behalf.

We hope to welcome you back to Pine Ridge in 2021. We will be in touch soon with updates regarding our plans for the year ahead.

On behalf of the Oglala Lakota community we serve, thank you for your continued generosity.

Cory True
 Executive Director and the Re-Member staff
re-member.org

The results:

- 5 acres of “Feather II” gardens planted and harvested
- 4 wheelchair ramps built, assisting elders and the disabled
- 4 trailer skirts completed, lowering winter heating costs
- 18 sets of decks/steps finished, providing safe entry/exit to homes
- 26 outhouses installed, providing dignity and functionality
- 118+ single and bunk beds delivered with bedding and books