The Circle

March Worship at St. John's

Third Weekend in Lent

Saturday, March 3rd -- Evening Light, 5 p.m. Sunday, March 4th Holy Communion, 8 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Christian Education, 9:30 a.m.

This weekend we are given the gift of the law in the Ten Commandments! This gift seeks to prevent us from falling back into the slavery of sin. In the Small Catechism, Martin Luther begins his explanation of the commandments with "We are to fear and love God." He then goes on to tell us what we are not to do followed by what we are to do. Keeping the commandments is more than avoiding sin, it

also involves fulfilling righteousness. Wednesday Evening Community Lent Worship

March 7th at Bethel Baptist Church 412 Fairview Street, Phoenixville

Rev. Eva Johnson of First Methodist, preacher

Fourth Weekend in Lent

Saturday, March 10th – Evening Light, 5 p.m. Sunday, March 11th

Holy Communion, 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Christian Education, 9:30 a.m.

Daylight Savings Time – turn clocks ahead one hour The readings this weekend include what is perhaps the Bible's most famous sentence—John 3:16—as well as the ancient and odd story about faith-healing from snake bite.

Wednesday Evening Community Lent Worship March 14th at Centennial Lutheran Church 1330 Hares Hill Road, Kimberton

Rev. Nathan Coleman of Bethel Baptist, preacher

Fifth Weekend in Lent

Saturday, March 17th – Evening Light, 5 p.m. Sunday, March 18th

Holy Communion, 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Christian Education, 9:30 a.m.

We are nearing the conclusion of Lent. In this weekend's gospel, Jesus is likened to a grain of wheat that once buried in the earth comes alive to bear much fruit. We hear the word and receive the meal and so renew God's covenant among us.

Wednesday Evening Community Lent Worship March 21st at First Presbyterian Church 145 Main Street, Phoenixville

Rev. Dan McDowell of Grace Crossing Community Church, preacher





Palm-Passion Weekend Saturday, March 24th – Evening Light, 5 p.m. Sunday, March 25th Holy Communion, 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Christian Education, 9:30 a.m.

This weekend's worship begins with a parade and shouts of Hosanna! But then the Gospel takes us to the cross of Good Friday. Our seminarian, Debbie Gordon, serves as our preacher at Evening Light. On Sunday morning our ninth grade confirmation class will present the Passion of our Lord according to the Gospel of Mark. Come to sing both "Hosanna!" and "Lord, have mercy upon us."

Maundy Thursday, March 29th

Holy Communion, 12:15 and 7:30 p.m. This Thursday is called "Maundy," which means "command," from the verse in John's gospel in which Jesus commands us to love one another as he loved us. At this service, you may come forward for individual forgiveness. We hear about the Passover lamb, Jesus' last meal with his disciples before his death, and Jesus washing his disciples' feet. At our 7:30 p.m. service you are invited to have your feet washed and then to wash the feet of another worshiper. Finally we strip the chancel bare, to ready ourselves for Good Friday.

Good Friday, March 30th

Tenebrae, 12:15 and 7:30 p.m.

Why do we call this day "good"? In John's telling of Jesus' passion, Jesus is "I AM," the God who reigns from the cross, the king who discusses theology with Pilate. Listen for the differences between John's passion and Matthew's passion that we heard on Sunday. At the cross, our old life of captivity to sin is finished, and our new life of discipleship begins.

Holy Saturday, March 31st Easter Vigil, 7 p.m.

The Great Vigil of Easter begins with fire and ends with Alleluias! In between we experience God's saving acts through words of scripture, the joyous splashing of water in Baptism, the wonder of resurrection, and a life-giving Easter Feast. Don't miss it!

Easter Sunday, April 1st

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:45 a.m.

Easter Breakfast, 9 to 10:30 a.m.

On this day the Lord has acted! On the first day of the week God began creation, transforming darkness into light. On this, the "eighth day" of the week, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. We celebrate this new creation in the feast of victory. With great joy we celebrate this day of days, even as we begin the great fifty days of Easter. Filled with hope, we go forth to share the news that Christ is risen!

The Pastor's Message:

Holy Week invites us to enter into mystery and therein discover love beyond all our expectations.

On Sunday, March 25th we begin with a parade—shouting hosanna and waving palm branches as the Messiah is welcomed into the city. (In some ways quite similar to the recent parade featuring the Eagles, for while they were the under-dogs, so was Jesus.) There is such joy. But then very quickly we are drawn into the inevitable passion of our Lord. This year we'll hear Mark's version as our ninth grade confirmation students take on the roles of Jesus, his disciples, the high priests, Pilate and others. We are there when they crucify our Lord—an innocent one killed like so many innocent ones then and now. Nothing separates us from God—not even death.

On Thursday, March 29th, we are invited to Jesus' last supper with his disciples at 12:15 p.m. and later at 7:30 p.m. At the table we hear his words, "this is my body," "this is my blood," take and eat, do this remembering me. Our evening worship includes the washing of feet, just as it did in the upper room where Jesus and his disciples gathered all those years ago. The first time I experienced the washing of feet, it made me feel vulnerable and deeply loved, both at the same time. I "got" why Jesus insisted on taking the role of a servant and washing his disciples' feet in spite of Peter's protest. If you have been shy about participating in loved-filled act, I encourage you to try it this year.

Friday, March 30th at 12:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. we hear the Passion of Christ—this time from the Gospel of John. Listen for the differences from Sunday's reading and discover a Christ who is "in charge," fully giving himself up as a sacrifice to sin and death in order to defy the power of both. The mystery deepens, ending in darkness.

On Saturday, March 31st at 7 p.m. (not quite dark, but almost) we begin with fire! Fire to break the power of darkness, fire to light the Paschal (Christ) Candle and to be carried into the world. From fire, we tell and hear ancient stories of God's actions through the ages and know that God continues to act today. Then there will be baptisms!!! Lots of water blessed by the Spirit!!! Joy abounding as three children of God are reborn. And finally, the EASTER feast where heaven touches earth in new life, new hope, new peace. (For planning purposes, last year the Vigil was about 90 minutes. It is intentionally child-friendly.)

On Easter Sunday, April 1st, worship at 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. begin with shouts of "Alleluia, Christ is risen, risen indeed!" Then there's amazing good news, carols of praise, a victory feast and endless hope. It's April Fool's Day this year—how appropriate, for God's love and grace always has the last laugh!!!! There's a scrumptious Easter breakfast beginning at 9 a.m. to which everyone is invited.

Enter the mystery

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Pastor Cynthia Krommes



Easter Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast Helpers are needed!

We need help in the kitchen at 6:30 a.m. and help hiding eggs and setting up the prize room at 7:45-8 a.m. Please contact Pastor Skyle <u>pastorskrea@gmail.com</u> or Sonya Sowards at <u>office@stjohnphoenixville.org</u> or (610) 933-3947 if you can help. Proceeds from the breakfast go to fund our Appalachia Service Project Mission Trip to Kentucky. Thank you!



Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Spaghetti Everyone is invited to a delicious spaghetti dinner to support the scholarship fund of the Phoeningille Activity States scholarship fund of the Phoenixville Area Children's Learning Centers on Saturday, March 10th from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in Kley Hall. The menu includes all you can eat pasta (including glutenfree pasta), salad, meatballs, sausage and garlic bread and desserts. There will be raffle baskets! Costs: adults \$10, children 3-10 \$5, toddlers free. Sign up on YCC or by email to office@stjohnphoenixville.org.

First Holy Communion for Fifth Grade and Up

Parents of 5th and 6th graders: First Communion classes have begun! If your child has not vet received formal first communion instruction, please sign up for our First Communion classes meeting for four weeks—February 25th, March 4th, March 11th and March 18th—during the Sunday school hour for First Communion instruction with Kate DeMutis. The class will be held in the Red Room in the downstairs Sunday school wing. Please contact Sonya Sowards at office@stjohnphoenixville.org if your child plans to participate. First Holy Communion will be received at a special celebra-



tion on March 18th at 10:45 a.m. worship service. Godparents, family and friends are invited to attend worship on March 18th. Please RSVP via the YCC or by email to office@stjohnphoenixville.org.



Lions and tigers and bears . . .

-okay, maybe not bears in Africa, but certainly giraffes and elephants. And of course, the wonderful ministry of Dr. Mark and Linda Jacobson. What started out 20+ years ago as a small, rural town hospital has grown into the Selian Lutheran Medical Center (www.selianlh.habari.co.tz), plus the new urban Arusha Lutheran Medical Center (ALMC) (www.almc.habari.co.tz) was added in the past few years.

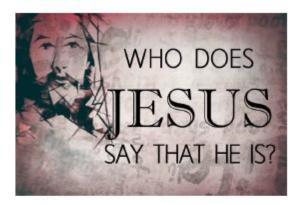
Because of our continued support, the ALMC has now been able to include a dialysis unit, add to the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (the pride of the nation), and the ALMC School of Nursing continues to graduate nurses. As you know, every year St. John's supports five Maasai Girls from that region with their education. The sharing, giving

and growing in God's love continues in many ways, in some of the most remote places, with truly life-saving accomplishments.

As in the past, St. John's special Lent offering will be dedicated to the Jacobson's ministry to enhance their efforts in Tanzania. Some of the accomplishments achieved by your past Lent offerings include enlarging the Plaster House surgery center, planning a new clinic in Juba, South Sudan and assisting the Kilimanjaro Christina Medical Center start a zonal Cancer Care Center. Check out the February issue of The Circle for a recent letter and update from the Jacobson's.

Together, let's see what we at St. John's can help the Jacobson's achieve this year!!! A special Lent offering envelope will be mailed to you or can be picked up in the narthex. Please be generous and return it by Easter on April 1st.





Wednesday Evening Community Lent Worship

All Services begin at 7:30 pm

Jesus: Good Shepherd March 7 at Bethel Baptist Church 412 Fairview Street, Phoenixville Rev. Eva Johnson of First Methodist, preacher

Jesus: Resurrection and Life March 14 at Centennial Lutheran Church 1330 Hares Hill Road, Kimberton Rev. Nathan Coleman of Bethel Baptist, preacher

Jesus: Way, Truth and Life March 21 at First Presbyterian Church 145 Main Street, Phoenixville Rev. Dan McDowell of Grace Crossing Community Church, preacher



The WAY Begins

What's The WAY? It's a time of learning about God, our community of faith and yourself as you are "on the way" of following Jesus.

When is The WAY? It began the week of February 18th and continues through April 15th. It meets on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Kley Hall. Is it too

late to get started? No. With our Annual Meeting on February 25th, you've only missed one session that can easily be "made up."

Why, The WAY? To grow in depth of understanding God's Word and God's Way in your life and the world.

Who is in The WAY? Led by our Welcoming Team, the WAY invites all those who are interested being baptized and/or joining St. John's. Each newcomer is paired with a member of the congregation who serves as their guide.

How do I become part of The WAY? Connect with one of the pastors via phone at (610) 933-3947 or email at office@stjohnphoenixville.org.



Do You See Who God Sees? St. John's Women's Retreat April 14, 2018

In the book of Isaiah we read, "The Lord delights in you." (Isaiah 62:4) The dictionary defines delight as joy, extreme satisfaction, or something giving great pleasure. The Lord, our Creator, not only loves us, but rejoices over us and takes great delight in us, having created us in God's image . . . created GOOD! When we look in the mirror what do we see? Do we see only flaws and imperfections? Or do we see the woman God sees . . . precious, chosen, forgiven, loved and blessed?

In this year's women's retreat, "Do You See Who God Sees?" we will explore how God delights in us and loves us just as we are. We will gather at 9:00 a.m. for registration and coffee. The retreat will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 3:00 pm. The cost is \$15. Once again Pastor Kris Peterson will be facilitating this retreat. Please bring an item (photograph, artwork, music, etc.), in which you find delight.



Don't Know Much about the Bible?

One of the best ways to grow in faith is to grow in knowledge of the Bible. By doing so you experience how God has worked in the past and discover how God is working now, especially in your own life. A brand-new Bible study began on January 7th at 9:30 a.m. in Kley Hall. Led by Pastor Cindy Krommes, the study explores Bible basics and what it means to you. For more information, email Pastor Krommes at c.krommes@verizon.net.



Youth Summer Mission Trip

We are excited to partner with St. Luke Lutheran Church in Devon for our very first Appalachia Service Project trip. We will be traveling to Kentucky by vans to help repair homes and buildings. As of this printing, the group that will be participating includes:

Adult leaders: Jodi O'Neill, Justin O'Neill, Mark Gerner, Shelley Saeger and Jeff Vanderveer

Youth: Evan Aho, Anna Gerner, Rosa Gerner, Madison Muller, Savanna Muller, Cole O'Neill, Mo O'Neill, Gabrielle Vanderveer

There are just a few spots left. Youth must currently be in 8th-12th grade to participate. Any interested youth or adults should contact Pastor Skyle at pastorskrea@gmail.com right away!

Donating Stock to St. John's

One of the many ways to financially support St. Johns is through the donation of stock. Donating appreciated stock will benefit the church and provide a potential tax benefit to the donor. For stock that has been held for more than a year and has appreciated in value, one can take a charitable deduction based on the stock's fair market value on the day of donation. Additionally, making such a donation will avoid capital gains taxes on the increased value of the stock.



If interested in donating stock to the St. Johns, contact our Church Treasurer Shirley Platzer at (484) 933-7763. The donated stock would be sold and the funds placed in St. John's investment accounts. Shirley can arrange the stock transaction through our church's brokerage account with Vanguard.



Scholarship Applications

Applications for the St. John's Scholarship established by Earl and Grace Dahms open on March 1st and are due by April 1st. Applications will be sent to all our active 12th graders: nontraditional students of any age pursuing a course of study in academics or technical skills are also encouraged to apply. Please contact Sonya Sowards at (610) 933-3947 or office@st.johnphoenixville.org if you would like to receive an application.

Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 24, 2018 9 a.m. breakfast, 10 a.m. egg hunt

Please bring your appetites and your baskets and join us on Saturday, March 24th for St. John's annual Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt. First, enjoy a delicious meal at 9:00 a.m., prepared and served by our talented youth and adult helpers, and then at 10:00 a.m. watch the little ones seek out and find the hundreds of Easter eggs "hidden" around the church property. (Don't worry-if it rains, the hunt is held inside!) We invite you to make this part of your family's Easter tradition.



To help us with head count, please make your reservations via the Yellow Communication Card or by email to office@stjohnphoenixville.org. The hunt is open to children, ages toddler to age 10. The



cost is 50 cents for the hunt only. Breakfast, with the hunt included, is \$5 for children ages 3-17 and \$7 for adults. Please invite your friends and neighbors too. In the weeks from now until Easter, you will find a box in the narthex to receive donations of prizes such as stuffed animals, activity books, other toys, as well as wrapped candy to stuff inside eggs. All donations are greatly appreciated.

SAVE THE DATE! Monday, April 16th–Iron Hill Give 20 event

Help our youth fund their ASP servant trip to Kentucky . . . and have a great night out in Phoenixville. Go to Iron Hill for lunch or dinner on April 16th, and present them with a Give 20 coupon. 20% of your food bill will help our youth participate in the Appalachia Service Project trip to Kentucky. We had a great time last year-hope you can make it this year. Thanks for your support!



9th ANNUAL BOX CITY EVENT **April 7th-8th, 2018**



Sponsored by Saint James Lutheran Church 93 Kugler Rd. Limerick, PA 19468 In partnership with area congregations to support Main St Homeless Shelter, Pottstown

Purpose:

To raise awareness about homelessness in Montgomery County and to raise funds for Main St Homeless Shelter in Pottstown, PA. During this event, youth hear real-life stories about homelessness. They will discuss & learn about this social issue in fun ways, and experience what it's like sleeping without proper shelter.

Participants:

Youth in Grades 7-12 and Adult Chaperones (min of 1 adult Chaperone for every 7 youth are needed) Event Dates and Details

- Box City: Saturday, April 7th 3:00pm-Sunday, April 8th 10:00 A.M. 2018
 - Soup Kitchen meal provided for dinner Saturday Night
 - Mass Gathering, Music, Guest speakers, Small group discussions, Entertainment
 - Bon Fire and Games throughout the evening
 - Fellowship Hall opens to people in case they get too cold.
 - Breakfast will be served Sunday morning before worship
 - Worship at 9am on Sunday morning.
 - Cost per person- \$30 per youth; \$15 per chaperone
 - Things to Bring:
 - A box big enough to sleep in (Large appliance boxes are best) Congregations can drop boxes off at St. James prior to the event, but must make prior arrangements.
 - Items to decorate your city (spray paint, paint & brushes, markers, lights, extension cords)
 - A warm sleeping bag & blanket
 - Your signed permission slip - Snacks to share
 - Layers of clothing, gloves, hat, warm socks.
 - Personal hygiene items
 - Your completed sponsor sheet and funds raised

- A plastic tarp - Change of clothes **Registration Information:**

Pre registration is encourage and appreciated. A registration link will be mailed out on Feb 3rd

Every youth attending must have a completed permission form signed by a parent or guardian, and a sponsor sheet to hand in on day of event. The sponsor checks should be written out to "Ministries at Main Street Shelter", cash is acceptable. Supplies are also accepted - please visit the website below for a list of needed shelter supplies. There must be a minimum of (1) Adult for every (7) youth participating in the event and they must be gender specific to your group. Please note: St. James will be providing additional chaperones to monitor the Box City event, but your congregation is required to have their own chaperone ratio. Registration opens February 3r and closes February 28, 2017. Registration during this timeframe includes an event tshirt per participant. Registration after this may be accepted, but may not include an event tshirt.

Important Links:

Saint James Lutheran Church-Main St Ministrieswww.stjameslimerick.com www.ministriesatmainstreet.org



Leadership Morning

St. John's is blessed with a cadre of faithful congregational leaders! Let us thank God for them! On Saturday, March 3rd our congregational council and committee/ team leaders will gather for a morning of discernment, conversation, prayer and planning from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the Eisenhower Room. Please keep them and our whole congregation in prayer, especially on that morning.

Thank you!

Many thanks to Sandy Zimmermann, our Fellowship Team and youth for a great Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Not only did we enjoy breakfast for dinner, amazing Pancake Olympics, and great fellowship, but you helped our youth raise over \$500 for their Appalachia Service Project summer mission trip. Thank you!!!

Phoenixville Community Prayer Breakfast

For 24 years the Phoenixville Area Social Concerns Committee has held a Community Prayer Breakfast on the first Saturday in April in memory of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year's breakfast will be on Saturday, April 7th beginning at 8 a.m. in the Phoenixville Area Middle School Cafeteria. The theme is "The Value of Diversity" with the Rev. Jim Wallis, the Founder of Sojourners, serving as the Keynote Speaker. During the breakfast three awards will be presented: The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award, the Emma Valenteen Award of "Compassion," and the Ruby Armour "Love Thy Neighbor" Award to community members who preserve and protect the quality of life that was the dream of Dr. King. Tickets are \$12 each and can be obtained through Pastor Krommes or at the Phoenixville Community Health Foundation, 821 Gay Street, Phoenixville.



24th Annual Community Prayer Breakfast Theme: "The Value of Diversity" Keynote Speaker: Rev. Jim Wallis, Founder, Sojourners Saturday, April 7, 2018 Phoenixville Area Middle School Cafeteria, 8:00am Tickets – \$12 per person Reserved Table of 8 - \$150





On Sunday mornings there are many learning opportunities for adults at St. John's. All the classes begin at 9:25 a.m. and new folks are always welcomed.

Happy Hour–Dwelling in God's Word

This class gathers to support and encourage one another and also to be fed by God's Word. They explore the weekly Gospel text and how it relates to their lives. By doing so, faith and friendship grow. Many of those who participate in this group are parents so there are always connections being made and mutual support given. The class meets in the church library (Meeting Room #2).

Sunday Morning Book Club

The Sunday Morning Book Club meets in Pastor Krommes' office and discussion is always lively with much laughter. Beyond Sunday morning the club gathers for evenings at the movies, particularly enjoying films on books they have read together. Coordinator Jean Herbranson lets everyone know what's happening through *Life Together* and our weekly email update.

Faith Life

Faith Life is for those who want to think deeply about what's happening in the world in relationship to their faith. This weekly discussion in Meeting Room #1 is coordinated by our Dean of Education, Jack Ertell, and is led by people from a variety of specialties including science, politics, education, and health care.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

One of the best ways to grow in faith is to grow in knowledge of the Bible. By doing so you experience how God has worked in the past and discover how God is working now, especially in your own life. A brand-new Bible study has begun on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in Kley Hall. Led by Pastor Krommes, the study explores Bible basics and what it means to you.

A New Class

Linda Landis leads a discussion of the book **31 Verses to Write on Your Heart** by Liz Curtis Higgs in the Fireside Room.

The WAY

Our newcomer group, The Way, began on February 18th. Please speak with Pastor Krommes to learn more, especially if you are interested in becoming a member of St. John's.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDIES

Every Wednesday there are two Bible studies. The first meets at 10 a.m. in the St. Peter's Place Community Room located at 601 Centre Street in Phoenixville. The second meets at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room at St. John's. Each group delights in welcoming new people to the study. No previous knowledge of the Bible is necessary.

Confirmation—Save the Dates Saturday, March 24th

We need help! Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt (kitchen help at 6:30 a.m.; egg hiders at 7:45 a.m.) mandatory for all youth/adults attending the ASP Summer Mission Trip.

Sunday, March 25th

9th-12th graders lead worship at 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services—mandatory for 9th grade confirmation students.

Tuesday, April 3rd

Annual 9th grade Mission Day in Philadelphia—mandatory for 9th grade confirmation students; optional 10th-12th graders

Friday, April 27th - Sunday, April 29th

Spring Confirmation Retreat in Cape May–mandatory for 7th, 8th and 9th grade confirmation students.

Sunday, May 20th

Confirmation Sunday–9th grade students report to sanctuary at 9:40 a.m., 7th and 8th grade students report to Kley Hall. Confirmation worship service at 10:45 a.m. is mandatory for all 7th, 8th and 9th grade students.

HAPPY HOUR

Happy Hour Gathering

It's time for another Happy Hour Happy Hour! Our Second Authentic Happy Hour, sponsored by the Sunday Morning Happy Hour group will be Friday, March 16th beginning at 6 p.m. in Kley Hall. Happy Hour is a group of parents who come together for spiritual and social connections . . . and you and your family are invited! You don't have to be a Happy Hour regular to participate in this fun night. BYOB and bring traditional happy hour food to share. Fire pit, weather permitting. Childcare provided. RSVP to Sonya at office@stjohnphoenixville.org.



2018 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends Announced

Your marriage relationship is one of the things in life that provides the greatest potential for happiness. Is yours living up to this potential? Please make 2018 the year you resolve to attend a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend to learn how to maximize the joy and intimacy that God intends for your marriage.

The following Weekends have been scheduled with one more to be added in Massachusetts in the fall.

* March 16-18, 2018 at Heritage Hotel Lancaster in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. A newly renovated hotel, home of the unique treehouse-inspired restaurant, "Loxley's."

* April 6-8, 2018 at Toftrees Golf Resort in State College Pennsylvania. A peaceful resort surrounded by a golf course and nestled in the woods in the center of Pennsylvania.

* September 14-16, 2018 at Spruce Lake Retreat in Canadensis, Pennsylvania. A lovely hotel-style facility In a wooded area of the Poconos, an hour north of Allentown.

* October 19-21, 2018 at Olmsted Retreat Center. A stunning, hotel-style retreat next to Olmsted Mansion in Allegheny National Forest, two hours north of Pittsburgh.

Two nights lodging, five meals for each of you, and all supplies are included with your \$100 per-couple registration fee, plus toward the end of the weekend you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward the continuation of the program. To be sure to get the Weekend of your choice, sign up at your earliest convenience by going to the website, <u>www.GodLovesMarriage.org</u>, and paying the registration fee with your credit card, or marking the option to mail a check. For questions or if you would like a brochure with registration form mailed to you, contact Northeast U.S. Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at (724) 325-3166 or <u>fischamber@comcast.net</u>.



Children's Worship Bags

We are delighted to see so many children using and enjoying the worship bags during church services, but one of the tan bags has recently gone missing. Please check your vehicles and home for the missing bag and if found, return it to the baskets in the Narthex.

Parents and Grandparents: we

need you! Our Christian Education team needs a few more voices around the table. We meet once a month for planning purposes. Please see Mark Gerner or Pastor Skyle if you would be willing to serve!



Bear Creek Camp

Parents—did you know we have an awesome Lutheran camp in Pennsylvania? Bear Creek Camp is a great place to send your kids for a camping experience they won't forget. For our younger campers, they offer a "try me" camp, which is a little shorter and helps our young ones adjust from being away from home. Check out registration online: <u>www.bearcreekcamp.org</u>. The camp is also looking for a few great and enthusiastic counselors—maybe you know a college student who would be great! Contact Pastor Skyle for more details. Last year, the following youth represented St.

John's as campers at Bear Creek Camp: Wyatt Barker, Mea Borzumati, Jack Kramer, Katie Kramer, Luke Olsen, Cole O'Neill, Jason O'Neill, Mo O'Neill and Trevor O'Neill. Ask them about their experience!

VBS – Save the Dates and Register NOW!

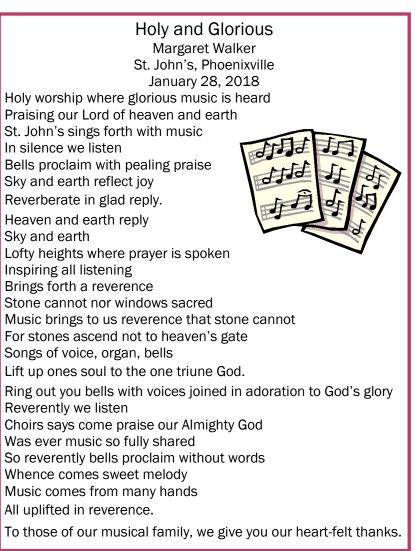
Vacation Bible School will be here before you know it. Mark your calendars for June 18th-22nd. Our theme is "Time Lab: Discovering Jesus from Eternity Past to Eternity Future."

Registration forms are in the narthex, on our website under the "forms" tab, or just call or email Sonya Sowards at (610) 933-3947 or office@stjohnphoenixville and she'll be glad to send you one.

Please register your children no later than June 1st. There are a limited number of spots available for 3 and 4 year-olds. (3 and 4 year-olds must be potty trained in order to attend.)

Children entering 6th grade or older can sign up to be helpers. Adult volunteers are also needed. Please see Pastor Skyle and sign up on the registration form if you can help.

Afternoon Adventures will take place June 18th-22nd from 12 noon to 5:30 p.m. for children ages 5 and above. This day camp is designed to reach out to those youngsters who, because of their child care needs, have been unable to participate in VBS. We'll play, swim, learn a little, make crafts, and generally have a great time. If you are interested in this program for your child, complete that portion of the registration form, or contact Pastor Skyle Rea for more information. There is a \$100.00 registration fee for this program, and your child must also be enrolled in our VBS program. Also, if your child is not a member of the Phoenixville YMCA, there will be an additional fee which pays for a week swim pass at the YMCA. Registration for Afternoon Adventures closes on June 1. We are also looking for qualified teenagers to staff our day camp. If you are in 8th grade or older and would like to apply to be on staff at Afternoon Adventures, a paid position, please speak with Pastor Skyle.





The Giving Factory

Sunday School Lenten Clothing Drive

To celebrate the Lenten season, our Sunday School will be doing a special clothing drive to benefit Cradle to Crayons in West Conshohocken, which provides children who are homeless or live in low-income situations all the essentials to help them thrive. Our Sunday School children and parents are invited to bring an offering of the following items each week until April 1st: new pajamas in children's sizes 0-20; new socks in children and youth sizes; new underwear in children and youth sizes: gentlyused clothing in children's sizes up to 20 (no holes, tears, stains please). Disposable diapers still in packaging will also be accepted. We will collect these items just outside of the Sunday school classrooms downstairs and by the nursery. All members are invited to participate in the collection. If you are interested in helping deliver our collection, please see Pastor Skyle.



past to Eternity Fulure

People of God Involved in God's Work

Late Service

March Schedule

Early Service

Altar Guild

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- 4 Leilani Ash & Janet Ertell 11 Jean Herbranson
- 18 Sandra Zimmermann
- 25 Betty Hans & Elena Wallace
- 29 Betty Hans & Jean Herbranson

Assisting Ministers

4	Nancy Cressman	Donna Thompson
11	Lynn Titus	Sam Ahola
18	Teresa Olsen	Cole O'Neill
25	Debbie Gordon	Jake New
29	Sandra Zimmermann	Dale Herbranson
30	Margaret Walker	Brittney Walters

Coffee Hour

- 4 5th and 6th grade
- 11 Young at Heart
- 18 Stewardship
- 25 Altar Guild

Communion Assistants/Lectors

0011		
4	Brittney Walters (L)	Mitch Reading (L)
	LuAnne Bindschusz	Bill Starling
11	Don Titus (L)	Sandi Stotler (L)
	Mark Gerner	Will Blackledge
18	Greg Krueger (L)	Brian Becker (L)
	Pam Freehafer	Tyler Pekofsky
25	Erica Lucas (L)	Sam Ahola
	TBD	TBD

Counters

- 4 Jeanne & Jeff Schanzenbach, Stephen Drewes, Dick Kunsch
- 11 Heather Yonosh, Shirley Platzer, Peg Yanoviak, Donna Searchfield
- 18 Mary Heiser, Ed Naylor, Mike & Cathy Kahl
- 25 Jack Ertell, Lilly & Elsa Khan, Donna Anderson

Lock-up

4	Bobbi Riley	Bill Starling			
11	Dick Wolstenholme	Rick Kramer			
18	Sandra Zimmermann	Brian Becker			
25	Laura Caughlan	Dale Herbranson			
Ushers					
4	Bev Rote	Travis Brown			

Dick Wolstenholme Judy Wolstenholme Dick Kunsch 11 Cindy Gadzicki

- Madison Gadzicki Barry Church Carol Cully 18 Erica Lucas
- Debbe Welsh Cathy Garrett John Rawlins
- 25 Don Titus Rich Latella Rich Skoniczin LuAnne Bindschusz

Paul Miller James Niness Carter Niness Beth Williams Deb Ahola Barb Rambo Brian Becker Donna Anderson Sandi Stotler John Westerman Glen Murphy Dale Herbranson Cathy Garrett Tyler Pekofsky Gabrielle VanDerveer

Counters Needed

Because of retirements, two of our counting groups are in need of a new team member. We need a counter for the first and second Sundays of the month. Counting generally takes about an hour and is easy to learn. Please contact Finance Chairman Jack Ertell at (610) 948-1278 or jertell@comcast.net.

Dear Pastor Krommes: The meals your congregation supplied to our shelter last week will merit many blessings for your parish family. We would like to convey our special gratitude to Deb Welsh for



her wonderful coordinating efforts that brought meals every night to the shelter in the past week. Thank you so much!

Gratefully,

Sr. Bernadette Dougherty, staff and residents of St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter

Dear Pastor Krommes, Pastor Rea, Pastor Kochenderfer and the saints of St. John's:

On behalf of a grateful synod, I thank you for your support of our *Forward Together in Faith* campaign through your generous gift of \$15,000. I hope you can see how, by the power of God, we can accomplish far more together than all we as individuals can ask or imagine. Your support allows us to focus on our mission of equipping leaders and congregations for ministry in the challenging 21st century mission field. I pray that your generous gift will be multiplied for future generations by our small part in God's great mission.

With and in Christ,

The Rev. Claire S. Burkat, Bishop

Summary Report as of January 31, 2018

		Monthly			
	E	Budget		Actual	
Income:					
Envelope Giving	\$	35,347	\$	28,559	
Other Income		1,658		1,234	
Total Income	\$	37,005	\$	29,793	
Expenses	\$	38,786	\$	38,365	
Income (Deficit)	\$	(1,781)	\$	(8,572)	

March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 8am Holy Communion 9:25am Children's Sunday school (combined classes) - First Communion class begins 9:30am Annual Meeting w/worship (no communion) 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks 2pm PCO Rehearsal	26 10:15am Covered Bridge Garden Club 11am Peterson Advisory Meeting 6:30pm Brownie Troop #4330 0:30pm Kiwanis Board 7pm Finance Committee 7pm Welcoming Team	27 10:30am WELCA 5:30pm Stewardship	28 10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Community Lent Worship 7:30pm Nicotine Anonymous 8pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	1 10am Mom's Monthly Mingle 5:30pm Brownie Troop #4514 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 0:30pm Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbell Rehearsal	2	3 9am Leadership Moming 4:30pm Spaghetti Dinner 5pm Evening Light
4 8am Holy Communion 9am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9:25am Christian Education Classes 10:45am Holy Communion 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks	5 5:45pm Daisy Troop #4041 7pm Stephen Ministry 7:30pm Property	6 12:30pm PACA 3:30pm Staff 7:30pm Worship & Music	7 10am Bible Study 3pm Social Ministry 5pm Girl Soouts #4308 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Community Lent Worship 7:30pm Nicotine Anonymous 8pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	8 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6:30pm Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbell Rehearsal	9 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections 10:30am Mom's Music Club	10 5pm Evening Light
11 8am Holy Communion 9am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9:25am Christian Education Classes- pajama day 10:45am Holy Communion (w/First Communion) 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks 2pm PCO Rehearsal	12 6pm Daisy Troop 0:30pm Brownie Troop #4330 7:30pm Church Council	13 7pm Christian Education	14 10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Community Lent Worship 7:30pm Nicotine Anonymous 8pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	15 10am Mom's Music & Crafts Club 5:30pm Brownie Troop #4514 5:30pm Daisy Troop #42024 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 8:30pm Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbell Rehearsal 8:15pm Naranon Support	16 8pm Happy Hour gathering	5pm Evening Light
18 Circle deadline 8am Holy Communion 9am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9:25am Christian Education Classes 9:30am Electronics 10:45am Holy Communion 12pm Girl Scouts Gateway Travels Switzerland 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks	19 5:45pm Daisy Troop #4041 7pm Stephen Ministry 7pm Welcoming Team	20 10:30am WELCA 4:30pm PACS Board 7pm Youth & Family Meeting	21 10am Bible Study 12pm Young at Heart 5pm Girl Scouts #4308 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Community Lent Worship 7:30pm Nicotine Anonymous 8pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	22 5:30pm Brownie Troop #4514 5:30pm Daisy Troop #42024 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6:30pm Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbell Rehearsal	23 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	24 9am pancake breakfast & egg hunt 1pm Stripping of the Palms 5pm Evening Light
25 8am Holy Communion 9am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9:25am Christian Education Classes 10:45am Holy Communion 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks 2pm PCO Rehearsal 7pm St. John's Choir & Friends Rehearsal	26 10:15am Covered Bridge Garden Club 11am Peterson Advisory Meeting 8pm Daisy Troop 6:30pm Brownie Troop #4330 6:30pm Kiwanis Board	27 5:30pm Stewardship 7pm Parent Grief Support Group	28 10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Community Lent Worship 7:30pm Nicotine Anonymous	29 12:15pm Maundy Thursday 5:30pm Brownie Troop #4514 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 0:30pm Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Maundy Thursday (followed by Adult Choir Rehearsal)	30 12:15pm Good Friday 7:30pm Good Friday	31 7pm Easter Vigil
1 8am Holy Communion 9:30am Easter Breakfast 10:45am Holy Communion Scholarship Applications due	2 5:45pm Daisy Troop #4041 7pm Stephen Ministry 7:30pm Property	3 12:30pm PACA Feast Incarnate9th grade mission day 3:30pm Staff 7pm Parent Grief Support Group 7:30pm Worship & Music	4 10am Bible Study 3pm Social Ministry 5pm Girl Scouts #4308 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Nicotine Anonymous 8pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	5 10am Mom's Monthly Mingle 5:30pm Brownie Troop #4514 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6:30pm Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbell Rehearsal	6 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	7 8am MLK Prayer Breakfast 11am GSEP Gateway Travels Box City 5pm Evening Light

Birthdays and Anniversaries - March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 Carl Kraft's birthday Chuck and Carol Cully's anniversary David Lacy's birthday	26 Charles Thompson's birthday Duane Landis's birthday Ellie Kurtz's birthday Lily Lane-Aharonian's birthday Scott Deichmann's birthday	27 Bentley Perchalski's birthday Samantha McIntyre's birthday	28 Carlee Henderson's birthday Jocelyn Mowrer's birthday Tammy Klotzbach- Levan's birthday	1 Andrea Hart's birthday Jackie Feinberg's birthday James Moreland's birthday Karen Cart's birthday Sam and Beth Fryer's anniversary	2 Diane Blattner's birthday Kevin Yonosh's birthday Stephen Doepping's birthday	3 Kenneth and Joan Tulish's anniversary Kinley Walters's birthday
4 John Stong's birthday Sharon Tobin's birthday	5 Joanna Oszeyczik's birthday John Perchalski's birthday	6 Bennett Taylor's birthday Beth Fryer's birthday Lucas Becker's birthday Nathaniel Becker's birthday	7 Jeanette Dewey's birthday	8 Carol Petiet's birthday David Allen's birthday Nicci Granacher's birthday Nicholas Platchek's birthday	9 Kimberly Rutherford's birthday Scott Geiger's birthday	10 Bob and Mary Faddis's anniversary Tyler Frees's birthday
11 Barbara Sell's birthday Bobby Strunk's birthday Kyle McGoldrick's birthday Ralf Rimrott, U's birthday	12 Eric Gardner's birthday Hank and Patti Bell's anniversary	13 Paige DeMutis's birthday William Breitinger's birthday	14 Joan Cadigan's birthday Shannon Renner's birthday Zachary Brown's birthday	15 Bethany Ferguson's birthday Kathy Knaub-Hardy's birthday Kim Themens's birthday	16 Brianna Greenwald's birthday Dennis Callaghan's birthday	17
18 Carlla Carr's birthday Devon Niness's birthday Evan Koup's birthday Jack and Janet Ertell's anniversary	19	20 Benjamin Blackledge's birthday Tom Norman's birthday	21 Anne Kornaga's birthday Karen Singer's birthday	22 April Fryer's birthday Jay Borzumati's birthday Kristi McIntyre's birthday	23 Allison Emery's birthday Dave Zinn's birthday Gabrielle VanDerveer's birthday Michelle Wilkinson's birthday Will Blackledge's birthday	24 Charlotte Daywalt's birthday Devon Landis's birthday Grayson Salamone's birthday Kyle Peronteau's birthday Melissa Perrotto's birthday Nathan Stewart's birthday
25 Meredith Younker's birthday	26 Jack Robinson's birthday	27 Cheryl Speaker's birthday Erin Riley's birthday	28 Corrina Geiger's birthday David Frees's birthday Emily Riley's birthday Michael and Debi Wolf's anniversary	29 David Can's birthday Lois Craven's birthday M.Jeanette Hopkins's birthday Victoria Glinski's birthday	30 Hal and Kathy Atkinson's anniversary Joshua Saeger's birthday Mike Glinski's birthday Ron Stevens's birthday	31 Malika Khan's birthday
1 Carla Fox's birthday Janet Reading's birthday Jeremy Unruh's birthday	2 Bob Faddis's birthday Erin Hennessey's birthday Phyllis Larsen's birthday Stephen Hollander's birthday	3 Jay Greco's birthday Judy Wolstenholme's birthday Kendall Tobin's birthday Robert Kunsch's birthday Valerie Landis's birthday	4 Brandon Moore's birthday Georgia Lewis's birthday James Reading's birthday John and Bobbi Riley's anniversary Seth Perchalski's birthday	5 Todd Ehrhart's birthday	6 Alexis Booz's birthday Arlene Greenwald's birthday Paul Miller's birthday	7 Lucas Pekofsky's birthday

St. John's Lutheran Church 355 St. John's Circle Phoenixville, PA 19460 (610) 933-3947

www.stjohnphoenixville.org E-mail: <u>stjohnsphoenixville@verizon.net</u>

CHURCH STAFF

Lead Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Krommes Youth & Family Pastor: The Rev. Stacey-Kyle Rea **Pastoral Associate:** The Rev. Thomas Kochenderfer, Jr. **Director of Music:** F. Thomas Snyder III Organist: John A. Quinn III **Evening Light Pianist:** Sondra L. Andrews Parish Administrator: Sonva K. Sowards Custodian: Pat Fatale **Nursery Coordinator:** Arlene Hudak

CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Brian Becker Vice President: Shelley Saeger Secretary: Dale Herbranson Treasurer: Shirley Platzer **Assistant Treasurer:** Rose Gatlos **Financial Recording Secretary:** Mary Heiser Fund 3 Secretary: Kevin Gallagher **Executive Committee.:** Laura Caughlan, Brian Becker Shelley Saeger Dale Herbranson **Rick Kramer**

Other Members of Church Council: Bill Starling Allen Kramer Sandra Zimmermann Don Titus Dick Wolstenholme Stephen Ministry Leaders: Linda Landis — (610) 933-9544 Lee Dalasio — (610) 454-9884

COMMITTEES

Christian Education: Allen Kramer, Council Rep.

Youth & Family Shelley Saeger, Council Rep.

Columbarium: Bill Starling, Council Rep.

Electronics: William Schoellkopf, Chairperson Dale Herbranson, Council Rep.

Executive: Shelley Saeger, Chairperson

Fellowship: Sandra Zimmermann, Chairperson Allen Kramer, Council Rep.

> **Finance:** Jack Ertell, Chairperson Don Titus, Council Rep.

Property: Keith Kenyon, Bill Schoellkopf Co-Chairpersons Rick Kramer, Council Rep.

Social Ministry: Debbe Welsh, Chairperson Laura Caughlan, Council Rep.

Stewardship: Stephen Drewes, Chairperson Bill Starling, Council Rep.

Welcoming Team: Aimee Hillegas, Chairperson Allen Kramer, Council Rep.

Worship and Music: Jean Herbranson, Chairperson Sandra Zimmermann, Council Rep.

> Office Assistants: Debbe Welsh June Henzie Beverly Ott Kay Mann Joan Carl Pat Renninger

> > The Circle Editor: Sonya K. Sowards



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church 355 St. John's Circle Phoenixville, PA 19460-2582



2018

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

355 St. John's Circle Phoenixville, PA 19460-2582 (610) 933-3947 www.stjohnluthphoenixville.org E-mail: office@stjohnphoenixville.org office hours 9-3 M-Th & 9-12 F (barring exceptions) please call for appointments with staff members

A Caring, Sharing, Growing Congregation Participating in Stephen Ministry

Worship Schedule

Saturdays 5 p.m. Evening Light with Holy Communion

Sundays 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Holy Communion

THE CIRCLE



Handicapped Accessible