

The Circle



November Worship at St. John's

All Saints' Weekend

Saturday, November 3rd, Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, November 4th

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

Christian Education, 9:25 a.m.

Clocks are set back an hour on Saturday night.

This weekend worship begins with remembering our baptisms in the Columbarium Garden and then, led by a bagpiper (on Sunday morning), we will go into the sanctuary to hear God's Word and to gather at God's Table with ALL THE SAINTS!

Stewardship Weekend

Into the Future with Faith and Generosity

Saturday, November 10th, Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, November 11th

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

Christian Education, 9:25 a.m.

In our reading for this weekend we meet two poor widows who move into the future with unexpected faith and generosity. We are asked to do the same as we make commitments in the giving of time, talent and treasure for the coming year. Commitment cards will be mailed and will be available at church.

26th Weekend after Pentecost

Saturday, November 17th, Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, November 18th

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

Christian Education, 9:25 a.m.

As the Church year draws to a close, our readings tell of the final resurrection and the end time. Know that Christ makes a way for us where there is no way, and we walk it confidently, trusting that God is always with us.

Thanksgiving Eve Community Worship

Thanksgiving Mitzvah

Wednesday, November 21st, 7:30 p.m.

at St. John's Lutheran Church

Everyone is invited to participate in a wonderful Phoenixville tradition—the community interfaith Thanksgiving Eve worship. Pastor Mark Young will serve as our preacher. Please bring canned goods to share with our neighbors in need as well as some "goodies" for the fellowship time that follows the service.

Christ the King Weekend

Saturday, November 24th, Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, November 25th

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

Christian Education, 9:25 a.m.

On this final weekend of the Church year the gospel story of Jesus and Pilate presents two different ways of exercising power: through force or with love. Which one do you think is most effective?

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The Pastor's message:

Growing Up is Hard to Do . . . For All of Us!

Recently I asked a friend how his family was doing. He replied that his 12 year-old son was retreating into his cell phone and while sometimes he could see the boy he was, there was increasing distance and "attitude." We went on to talk about how hard growing up can be and how, when overwhelmed, sometimes children and teens (and dare I add adults too) retreat from the challenge. I shared with him how mission projects have helped our children, youth and adults to step out of their "comfort zone" and create a climate for amazing growth. Over the years I've notice that's true whether it's 5th graders working as VBS assistants, 9th graders preparing and serving dinner for Feast Incarnate in West Philly, high schoolers learning how to hang sheet-rock as Dylan and Max are doing in this picture, or adults on a hospice visit in an Tanzanian village. When risks are taken, defenses come down, the Holy Spirit has room to work and wondrous things happen!

In the summer of 2019 there are two mission trip opportunities for youth and adults. Here's the basic information:

South Dakota Servant Trip to Rosebud Native American Reservation - July 12-21

Cost: \$550 plus airfare to Rapid City

Open to youth currently in 9th-12th grades. We need at least one adult older than 25. This trip is known to fill up and so please make a decision soon!

Deadline: Need to confirm and provide first deposit of \$150 by Nov. 1st.

This trip is sponsored by the Synod and runs every three years.

Contact Shelley Saeger at (262) 424-4939 or shellsaeger@hotmail.com ASAP!

Appalachian Service Project (ASP) – July 14-20 or 21-27

Cost: \$325 plus travel (by SUVs)

Open to youth age 14 and over and adults.

Deadline: No immediate deadline, but you should plan to attend our fundraising planning meeting if you think you are interested. Contact Jodi O'Neill at jodi-oneill@hotmail.com with your preferred date but also let her know if both dates work for you.

Plan to attend a meeting on **November 11th at 6:30 p.m. at the church** to create a fund-raising plan for the trips.

Pastor Cynthia Krommes



Martin Luther: The Idea That Changed the World

Last year, when we celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, St. John's coordinated the showing of the new movie *Martin Luther: The Idea That Changed the World* at the Colonial Theatre. The show was sold out! Now, this year for the 501st anniversary of the Reformation, we are showing the same movie in the Fireside Room on Saturday, October 27th. We'll begin with a covered dish supper at 6 p.m., followed by the movie beginning at 7:00 p.m. The participants of The WAY, our newcomers' group, are especially invited, but so are you!!

Please RSVP via the Yellow Communication Card or by contacting our Parish Administrator, Sonya Sowards, at (610) 933-3947 or office@stjohnphoenixville.org. It's a very fine movie, one not to be missed!





Trunk or Treat!

Please join us for St. John's Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 28th from 2 to 3:30 p.m. rain or shine! This is a fun way for kids to gather goodies and for families to work together in transforming the family car into a trunk full of treasures. We have seen such creative ideas the past two years and look forward to seeing just how imaginative folks can be. This event is open to the community—invite your friends and neighbors!



Phoenixville Area Community Services' 12th Annual Empty Bowls Event

Friday, November 2nd from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

1580 Charlestown Road, Phoenixville

Please join us at the Technical College High School—Pickering Campus for a simple meal of soup and bread, and help fight hunger in our community. For tickets or more information call (610) 933-1105 ext. 214 or click <http://www.pacsphx.org/>

Your support of Empty Bowls and PACS makes a meaningful difference, not just in providing essential food and supplies, but in giving people hope.



For All the Saints

On All Saints' weekend, November 3rd and 4th, we give thanks for the saints of every time and every place and especially remember those saints who have died in the past year. It is a "mini-Easter" in which we rejoice in the gift of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the promise of life everlasting. We will begin our worship around the water flowing from the rock fountain/font in the St. John's Columbarium. There we will affirm our baptisms, wherein we died and rose again with Christ. Then a bagpiper will lead us into the sanctuary as together we sing the glorious "For All the Saints."

As part of our celebration you will be invited to remember particular saints of every time and place by writing their names on a copper tag and then hanging the tags from a tree in the Columbarium Garden. This act of thanksgiving and remembrance reminds us of God's goodness and grace. Mark your calendar now to be part of this great feast and wonderful days of celebration. While we have the names of members of the congregation who have died since All Saints 2017, if you would like a name of someone who has died since November 5, 2017 included in the prayers of intercession that day, please contact Sonya Sowards at (610) 933-3947 or office@stjohnphoenixville.org or place their name on our Yellow Communication Card. We ask you to remember those who have died before November 2017 in your silent prayer that day.

Phoenixville Gun Violence Awareness Day – November 4th

In memory of God's children, join St John's and other Phoenixville area faith communities in a memorial walk to honor the lives lost to gun murders and to appeal for more effective laws and regulations to stop illegal trafficking in handguns.

4:00 p.m.—St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 121 Church Street, Phoenixville. Educational forum and call to action.

4:30 p.m.—Witness Walk through Phoenixville with stops en route to the First United Methodist Church on 865 South Main Street.

5:00 p.m.—Remembrance service at Memorial to the Lost tee-shirt display on the front lawn of First United Methodist Church.





Angel Tree Creativity Sunday, November 11th @ Noon

Join us for a time of intergenerational fellowship, learning and creativity as we hear about the important ministry we support at the Lutheran Secondary School for MaaSae Girls in Monduli, Tanzania.

Every year, the St. John's Angel Tree is the way we raise scholarship money for the five "St. John's Girls" we support at the school. We have been providing scholarships for twelve years. Fifteen to twenty young women have received the gift of an excellent high school education. All of them have graduated with some going on to college to become teachers, nurses, accountants, or physical therapists. Educating the women of a village raises the standard of living for the whole village.

We will make Christmas ornaments with age-appropriate projects for children and teens. Our ornament making session will be led by Kelly LeMarbe who is coordinating the Angel Tree project. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate.

You can help by making ornaments and donating hand-made objects for the table under our Angel Tree to be sold. Monetary donations are also needed—perhaps a full or partial scholarship. \$85 per month or \$1,000 per year provides a young woman with a full year's room, board, fees, books, supplies and uniform, giving her an education she would otherwise not receive. So come on November 11th and be an angel by making angel ornaments to support our five angels at the LSSMG in Monduli! To learn more about the school, visit the Operation Bootstrap Africa website at www.bootstrapafrica.org.

Newcomers' Welcome and Brunch

On the weekend of October 13th and 14th, twelve adults and children knocked on the church door and asked to become part of the WAY—our newcomers' group at St. John's. (If you missed this and want to join St. John's, there will be another The WAY beginning on March 10, 2019). Since then the children have been attending Sunday school or Confirmation and the adults have been learning about God's love and the mission and ministry of St. John's on Sunday mornings in Kley Hall.

On the weekend of November 17th and 18th they will join our congregation during worship and then we will all celebrate with a newcomers' brunch! YOU ARE INVITED AND indeed, EXPECTED so that you can meet and greet the wonderful people that God has sent to be part of your community of faith. The brunch begins at noon and signing up would help the Welcoming Team to properly prepare. If you want to bring something, a salad, side or dessert would be helpful. Sign up by calling Sonya Sowards at (904) 933-3947 or emailing the office at office@stjohnphoenixville.org, via the sign up boards in the narthex or Kley Hall or the Yellow Communication Card in the bulletin.



Notice from Your Property Committee

Due to recent changes in leadership, the Property Committee has decided to put the pole barn project on hold until we can reevaluate our immediate and long-term needs. Schuylkill Township has been notified and has placed our permit on hold and returned our application fees. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to any member of the Property Committee.

**Phoenixville Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship
Thanksgiving Mitzvah
Wednesday, November 21, 2018—7:30 p.m.**



Artist Teresa Haag, used with permission

**at St. John's Lutheran Church, 355 St. John's Circle, Phoenixville
Pastor Mark Young of First United Methodist Church, Preacher**

Offering will be directed to the Phoenixville Clergy Association Emergency Fund
and food donations will also be received for the PACS Food Bank for our neighbors in need.



On Thanksgiving weekend—Sunday, November 25th—the first through sixth grade Sunday school students will meet in Kley Hall where they will be led by our Confirmation students in learning about Advent and Christmas. The children will also design Christmas cards to be mailed to our new neighbors, inviting them to worship with us on Christmas Eve. Younger children will meet in their regular classroom. Adults are invited to Kley Hall too, where they will help address envelopes for the Christmas mailing.

Stewardship News

Drumroll . . . *Into the Future with Faith and Generosity* is St. John's Stewardship theme for 2018-2019! Our Stewardship Committee thought deeply about what God is calling us to do and be, listened carefully to the Strategic Plan Listening Report presented by Pastor Elise Brown on September 9th and in talking with one another heard each other using the words, future, faith and generosity. Consider this—moving into the future takes faith in a world that's often full of fear. Remember the Star Trek theme: To boldly go where no man has gone before. That's true whether you are venturing into outer space or into a new day. To do so with generosity is to be confident that God always provides whatever we need, so our giving of time, talent and treasure may be done with joy!





Sign up to Attend a Cottage Session

As part of our strategic planning process in partnership with Kairos Consultants, we are offering a series of Cottage Sessions for members to discuss the results of Pastor Brown’s listening report and to vote on focus areas to include in our three-year strategic plan.

Cottage Sessions are 90-minute meetings hosted and facilitated by members of St. John’s in a variety of locations. Pastor Brown will facilitate one virtual session for those not able to attend another session. Each session will have space for 6-12 people.

Please review the dates and locations below. We ask that you register to attend only one session using the Sign-up Genius link below or by contacting Sonya Sowards at (610) 933-3947 or office@stjohnphoenixville.org.

Date	Location
Friday, 11/2 @ noon	Elise Brown Virtual Meeting (GoToMeeting instructions will be provided)
Sunday, 11/4 @ 3:30 p.m.	Mitch Reading at Jim Reading's home: 365 Valley Park Rd, Phoenixville
Monday, 11/5 @ 7 p.m.	Diane Sitkowski: 105 Brimful Dr, Phoenixville
Sunday, 11/11 @ 3:30 p.m.	Bill Starling: 3 Hidden Valley Rd, Royersford
Friday, 11/9 @ 10 a.m.	Lynn Titus: St. John's Eisenhower Room
Thursday, 11/15 @ 7:30 p.m.	Jodi O'Neill: 115 Davis Rd, Phoenixville
Saturday, 11/17 @ 10 a.m.	Teresa Olsen: 315 Woodmere Way, Phoenixville

To register, go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4FAEAB2DA3FD0-stjohns>

After all Cottage Sessions are complete, the votes and information from all participants will be sent to Pastor Brown, who will combine the data and share the results with Council and members of the Strategic Planning committee. We are planning to share results and next steps with the congregation early in 2019.

Please contact Mitch Reading or Brian Becker with questions about this process, or Sonya Sowards for help with registering for one of the Cottage Sessions.

We are always looking for new faces and invite all women of St. John’s to join us when we meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in the Eisenhower Room.

During our September meeting we had the pleasure of listening to our own new member and published author and illustrator, Claudia Borst. Claudia entertained and enlightened us with the story of her Pembroke Welsh Corgi, Rugby Jones. Rugby Jones is the hero of Claudia’s children’s books: [The “Tail” of Rugby Jones – A Rascal’s Journey from Disability to Ability](#) – [The Wit & Wisdom of a Lovable Dog with a Disability](#) and [The Diary of a Different Dog – Rugby Jones](#).

Rugby tells the story himself, teaching that overcoming differences and adversity is possible, and that kindness and acceptance makes the world a better place. He even has his own Facebook page at claudia@rugbyjones.com. Check it out, you won’t be disappointed!

Thanks to all who are helping us meet our collection goals for stocking stuffers for Silver Springs Martin Luther School and Christmas goodie bags for homebound members. The collection bins will be in the narthex until November 25th so you still have time to help if you haven’t already.

We need bakers to help provide Christmas cookies to go along with the goodie bags. Cookies should be clearly marked for WELCA and left in the kitchen by Sunday, November 25th. We will pack cookie cans during our November 27th meeting.

Don’t forget our annual soup sale! We are selling beef barley, chicken spiral, and potato soup for \$8 per quart to two quarts for \$15. These dry soup mixes make great gifts during the upcoming holiday season! Pre order using the using the Yellow Communication Card in the church bulletin and pay at time of pick up the following Sunday at either service. Arrangements can be made for delivery to members who attend Evening Light by adding a comment on the YCC.



At My Church....



A hippie (a/k/a Tom Snyder) at the 2016 Trunk or Treat!

In our September meeting, the Welcoming Team discussed a blog post published in *Living Lutheran* on June 22, 2016 titled, “Why we will no longer be a welcoming church” by Rob Moss. Though the title of the post is provocative, and a bit tongue in cheek, it made an important point about the difference between a “welcoming” church and an “inviting” church. Moss states, “Welcoming, from a missional perspective is passive. It denotes waiting for visitors and guests to drop by. Inviting is different. Inviting is active. Being an inviting church means that we leave the comfort of Sunday morning worship and seek out our neighbors. Being an inviting church starts with who God has called us to be as church and mandates joining God at work in the world.”

Being an “inviting” church can be very scary, especially if you are an introvert, or are uncomfortable discussing your faith outside the walls of the church. But Moss suggests that practicing small asks or invites with our friends, neighbors or colleagues every week will eventually make the task easier.

The Welcoming Team felt that, while we as a congregation are very good at welcoming people, maybe we need a little practice when it comes to inviting. With that in mind, we developed a list of suggestions and are challenging members of St. John’s to use them to make at least one invitation a week to flex our “inviting” muscle. Just like any exercise, it will become easier the more frequently and faithfully we practice. Here are our suggestions:

Week of October 21st – “My church is holding a Halloween Trunk or Treat next Sunday, October 28th from 2 to 3:30 p.m.”

Week of October 28th – “My church supports the PACS Food Bank and especially Empty Bowls being held on Friday, November 2nd from 5 to 8 at TCHS-Pickering.”

Week of November 4th – “My church has a “come as you are” worship service every Saturday evening that begins at 5 p.m.”

Week of November 11th – “The youth and adults at my church go on summer mission trips. Last year they went to Kentucky through the Appalachian Service Project.”

Week of November 18th – “My church is hosting the Phoenixville Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Worship on November 21st

The Welcoming Team will continue to suggest invites throughout the year. If you have any recommendations, please let Donna Searchfield (Welcoming Team Chair) know at dsearch519@gmail.com so it can be listed in a future issue of *The Circle*. The full address of the blog post is <http://www.livinglutheran.org/2016/06/will-no-longer-welcoming-church/>.

Attention Married Couples:

Last chance to sign up for the final 2018 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend to be held on November 9-11, 2018, at the lovely Hampton Inn Berkshires in Lenox, Massachusetts. Learn new communication skills which will result in more closeness and intimacy in your marriage. Register TODAY by going to: www.GodLovesMarriage.org, and paying the \$100 registration fee. Toward the end of the Weekend an opportunity will be provided to make a contribution of whatever amount you wish to help cover expenses of two nights in the hotel and five meals for each of you. For questions, please contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber at fjschamber@comcast.net or (724) 325-3166.

God Loves
MARRIAGE

St. Peter's Lunches

We are currently providing lunches at St. Peter's for the homeless and other people who are struggling in our community. We do this the third Friday of every month and are in dire need of more volunteers to help prep and serve lunch. Donated desserts would also be a big help. If you do a dessert for November 16th, it would be very helpful if you sign up ahead of time. Please contact Deb Welsh at djwelsh1453@yahoo.com if you can help out.

First Communion Class Beginning



When children are baptized parents, godparents and the whole congregation promise to raise them in the faith and specifically to bring them to the table of grace—Holy Communion. Some of our children receive Holy Communion when they are quite young. Others do so after a period of instruction that is provided in fifth grade. Both those who have been receiving the sacrament and those who look forward to doing so are invited to participate in First Holy Communion instruction during the month of November.

On Sundays, November 4th, 11th and 18th, Kate DeMutis will be leading our First Holy Communion class from 9:25 to 10:25 a.m. in the “red room” in our downstairs Sunday school hall. Children will go the regular opening of Sunday school and then meet with Kate until 10:25 a.m. On Saturday, December 1st their instruction concludes with a First Communion workshop from 9 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Eisenhower Room and kitchen. As part of the morning they will make the bread for Holy Communion the next day. They will also receive acolyte

training so they can contribute to worship leadership at St. John’s.

If you son or daughter missed out on First Communion instruction when they were in fifth grade, it would be wonderful to have them serve as “helpers” for the class and especially for the workshop on December 1st. That way they can “overhear” and learn at the same time, while being of welcomed assistance!

First Communion will be received during the first weekend of Advent, Saturday, December 1st at Evening Light or Sunday, December 2nd at either 8 a.m. or 10:45 a.m. worship. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Krommes c.krommes@verizon.net or (610) 933-3947.

Dear Friends at St. John’s:

Thank you for your generous gift of quilts and kits for LWR’s distribution overseas. These gifts of your hearts and hands are beautiful expressions of God’s grace and love to people all around the world. Last year, we distributed school kits to more than 28,000 Honduran children, increasing their chances of breaking the chains of chronic poverty and avoiding the very real risk of gang involvement. We also shipped quilts and kits to Georgia, Angola, Thailand, Pakistan, Mali and Burkina Faso. On behalf of our neighbors in villages, schools, hospitals and refugee camps around the world, I extend our deepest thanks for your contribution, and pray God’s richest blessings on your life and work!



In Christ,
Melanie W. Gibbons
Quilt & Kit Manager
Lutheran World Relief

Dear Rev. Krommes:

Thank you for helping the hands that heal with your generosity! Your Lenten offering gift of \$3,798.28 is truly helping to change lives.

Together in Christ,
Pastor Doug Cox
Global Health Ministries Executive Director

Dear St. John’s Confirmation Class:

Thank you so much for allowing me to come and share our story with you at your lock-in. Your shopping purchases were perfect and showed you were truly engaged and thought hard about what would be the best use of your funds to go to helping everyone experiencing homelessness.

Donna Searchfield
Phoenixville Area Community Services

Sunday Learning Opportunities for Adults @ 9:30 a.m.



Little Ones and Parents

Meeting in the “Noah Room” downstairs and to the left, infants, toddlers and parents gather for story-time, snack, games and crafts while growing in God’s love together.

The WAY

The WAY is one of the “ways” we welcome new people into the life of our congregation. Called The WAY after the first followers of Jesus, who were known as “People of the Way” before being called Christians, this is an opportunity for faith to be explored, nurtured and renewed. It is also a wonderful way to meet the people of St. John’s and to learn about our life together. If you are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Krommes at (610) 933-3947 or c.krommes@verizon.net. If you have been thinking about inviting a friend or neighbor to St. John’s, now is the time to do so! Here are the November sessions:

November 4th, All Saints Sunday, 9:30-10:30 a.m. We will learn how our congregation makes decisions. A council member will lead us in a discussion about the role of council and how our budget is created/ approved.

November 11th, 9:30-10:30 a.m. We will be learning about stewardship of time and talent by asking that leaders of the various ministries at St. John’s make a guest appearance to give a short, three-minute elevator speech about their ministry.

November 18th the prospective members will be joining the church, and the congregation will welcome them with a brunch afterwards.

Happy Hour

This group is called “Happy Hour” because the group is largely made up of parents whose children are in Sunday school—that’s why they’re happy! This class talks about faith and life while sharing the joys and challenges of raising children. They also do much of the planning for Youth and Family ministry at St. John’s.

Sunday Morning Book Club

Do you love to read? Perhaps the Sunday Morning Book Club is for you. Each year the club formulates a list of books to read and then gathers weekly for a time of discussion and support. Beyond Sunday morning the Club enjoys evenings at the movies, particularly films on books they have read together. Coordinator Jean Herbranson lets everyone know what’s happening through “Life Together” and our weekly email update. The Book Club meets in Pr. Krommes’ office.

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 fall our Seminarian Debbie Gordon will be meeting with this group. Faith Life meets in the Meeting Room #1 to the left of the stage in Kley Hall.

Grit and Grace: Heroic Women of the Bible

Experience the grit and grace of seventeen women of the Bible through creative first-person retellings of each person’s story. Led by Linda Landis, this group meets in the Fireside Room.

New participants are welcome in every class. Please join us!

People of God Involved in God's Work

November Schedule

Early

Late

Acolytes

4	Lizzi Strunk	Evan DesMarais
11	TBD	Trevor O'Neill
18	Evan DesMarais	Wyatt Barker
25	Luke Olsen	TBD

Altar Guild

4	Janet Ertell & Donna Thompson
11	Barbara Eng & Jean Herbranson
18	Elena Wallace & Margaret Walker
25	Betty Hans & Elena Wallace

Assisting Ministers

4	Ron Stevens	Dale Herbranson
11	Teresa Olsen	Donna Thompson
18	Jay Stearly	Sandi Stotler
25	Lynn Titus	Debbie Gordon

Coffee Hour

4	Youth & Family
11	Welcoming Team
18	Grit and Grace
25	Happy Hour

Communion Assistants/Lectors

4	Chuck Liedike (L)	Bill Starling
	Pat Lucas	Sue Starling
11	Mark Gerner (L)	Shelley Saeger (L)
	Greg Krueger	Heather Yonosh
18	Walt Deichmann (L)	Dale Herbranson (L)
	Debbe Welsh	Debbie Gordon
25	Erica Lucas (L)	Mitch Reading (L)
	LuAnne Bindschusz	Margaret Walker

Counters

4	Donna Anderson, Stephen Drewes, Peg Yanoviak
11	Jack Ertell, Eileen Subacus, Donna Searchfield
18	Mary Heiser, Ed Naylor, Mike & Cathy Kahl
25	Heather Yonosh, Intiaz & Lilly Khan

Lock-Up

4	Dick Wolstenholme	Brian Becker
11	Dale Herbranson	Rick Kramer
18	Bobbi Riley	Laura Caughlan
25	Brian Greenwald	Bill Starling

Ushers

4	Bev Rote	Nancy Cressman
	Carol Cully	Margaret Walker
	Debbe Welsh	Deb Ahola
	Dick Kunsch	Glen Murphy
11	Cathy Garrett	Travis Brown
	Erica Lucas	Tyler Pekofsky
	Luanne Bindschusz	Brian Becker
	Cindy Gadzicki	Sandi Stotler
18	Dick Wolstenholme	Donna Anderson
	Judy Wolstenholme	John Westerman
	Rick Skoniczin	Cathy Garrett
	Rich Latella	Barb Rambo
25	Greg Krueger	Dale Herbranson
	Bob Gorman	Donna Anderson
	Barry Church	Paul Miller
	John Rawlins	Gabrielle VanDerveer

What is faith?

A reflection by Margaret Walker

In earth's highest mountains, in deepest valleys I
wondered,
but faith was not there.
In space beyond the stars I roamed,
but faith was not there.
In the depths of the ocean to the bottom I swam,
but faith was not there.
Where does faith dwell?
I sought faith in the heights, in the depths.
Where are you faith? I cried.
Dismayingly, a small voice answered,
Here I am beneath thy feet,
where you went I guided thee
For faith is just a grain of sand
each grain one with another
becomes a thousand fold.
For faith is not haughty, proud
Faith is a soft whisper, a gentle caress, a loving touch
Faith is a guide that brings us through many trails
till we see in grains beyond
all knowing a love beyond knowing
for God's love lies not in a single grain of sand,
His love a thousand, thousand times
that single grain of sand.
In faith I sought in faith I found.

Summary Report as of September 30, 2018

	Monthly		Year-to-Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income:				
Envelope Giving	\$ 35,347	\$ 33,379	\$ 318,119	\$ 273,007
Other Income	1,658	2,073	14,925	15,744
Total Income	\$ 37,005	\$ 35,452	\$ 333,044	\$ 288,751
Expenses	\$ 38,785	\$ 29,034	\$ 349,071	\$ 313,382
Income (Deficit)	\$ (1,780)	\$ 6,418	\$ (16,027)	\$ (24,631)

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) 938-7763. 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.

November 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8am Holy Communion 9am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9:25am Christian education classes 10:45am Holy Communion 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks 2pm Trunk or Treat	29 5pm Girl Scouts #4308 7pm Finance Committee	30 10:30am Littlest Music Makers 7pm Parent Grief Support Group	31 10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	1 10am Mom's Monthly Mingle 10am Remed 5:30pm Junior Troop #4514 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 8pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	2 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections 5pm PACS Empty Bowls	3 5pm Evening Light
4 All Saints Sunday 8am Holy Communion 9am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9:25am Christian education classes-- First Communion begins 10:45am Holy Communion 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks 2pm PCO Rehearsal 4pm Phoenixville Area Gun Violence Awareness	5 7pm Stephen Ministry 7:30pm Property	6 10:30am Littlest Music Makers 12:30pm PACA 3:30pm Staff 7pm Parent Grief Support Group 7:30pm Worship & Music	7 10am Bible Study 3pm Social Ministry 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	8 10:30am Moms' Group 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 8pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	9 10am Cottage Meeting at St. John's	10 5pm Evening Light
11 Stewardship Sunday 8am Holy Communion 9am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9:25am Christian education classes 10:45am Holy Communion 12pm Angel Tree Creativity 12pm Cadet Girl Scout Journey Day 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks 2pm PCO Rehearsal 6:30pm Mission Trip Fundraising Meeting	12 5pm Girl Scouts #4308 5:45pm Daisy girl scouts 6:30pm Girl Scouts #4330 7:30pm Church Council	13 10:30am Littlest Music Makers 7pm Christian Education 7pm Parent Grief Support Group	14 10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	15 10:30am Moms' Music & Crafts Club 5:30pm Junior Troop #4514 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 8pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells 8:15pm Naranon Support	16 St. Peter's lunch 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	17 10am Cottage Meeting 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 Newcomers' Brunch 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks	19 5:45pm Daisy girl scouts 7pm Stephen Ministry	20 10:30am Littlest Music Makers 4:30pm PACS Board	21 10am Bible Study 12pm Young at Heart 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship 8pm Adult Choir	22 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 8pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon	23	24 5pm Evening Light
25 Christ the King 8am Holy Communion 9am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9:25am Christian education classes-- inter-generational 10:45am Holy Communion 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks	26 5pm Girl Scouts #4308 6:30pm Girl Scouts #4330 6:30pm Kiwanis Board 7pm Coventry Singers rehearsal 7pm Welcoming Team	27 10:30am Littlest Music Makers 10:30am WELCA 5:30pm Stewardship	28 10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	29 5:30pm Daisy Troop #42024 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 8pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	30 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	1 5pm Evening Light

November 2018 – Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Brendan Stefanowski's birthday Dale Herbranson's birthday Harper Themens's birthday Mary Wenner's birthday Mike and Maryanne Mara's anniversary	29 Elisabeth Stevens's birthday	30 Gracie Themens's birthday Miranda McMahon's birthday Noah Deichmann's birthday	31 Alexandra Perotto's birthday Edwin Walters's birthday Terri McDonnell's birthday	1 Charles and Donna Soult's anniversary James Miller's birthday Lisa Wimble's birthday Matt Endres's birthday	2 Audree Bonavita's birthday Faith Rawlins's birthday Iain and Bridget Riley's anniversary Lisa Schanzenbach's birthday	3 Nathaniel Napoli's birthday
4 James Keddie's birthday Jim Steiner's birthday Tom and Lindsey Snyder's anniversary	5 Rachel Possinger's birthday	6 Jax Thombum's birthday Jim Ulinski's birthday Katherine Yonosh's birthday Laurie Griggs-Williams's birthday Mildred Wilson's birthday Nicholas Castellano and Kelly LeMarbe's anniversary Patrick DesMarais's birthday Richard and Leilani Ash's anniversary Sarah Yonosh's birthday	7 Eric Koup's birthday	8 Carole Lauer's birthday Ed and Pam Naylor's anniversary	9 Lisa McIntyre's birthday Will Stotler's birthday	10 Christopher Scavello's birthday Ryan and Melissa Blacker's anniversary Sean Seraphin's birthday
11 Cecilia Knaub's birthday Katie Henderson's birthday Nils Aho's birthday	12 Andy and Katie Henderson's anniversary Jay Renninger's birthday	13 Ella Koup's birthday Pat and Erica Lucas's anniversary Rachel Zimmermann's birthday Ryan Blacker's birthday	14 Chris and Shelley Saeger's anniversary	15 Wanda Valenteen's birthday	16 Shayne Tobin's birthday	17 Jacob Wolf's birthday Karen Romano's birthday
18 Amy Borowy's birthday Tammy Plumley's birthday	19 Danielle Reading's birthday Jill DesMarais's birthday Megan Cahill's birthday	20 Margit Grejdus's birthday	21 Bradley LaBoon's birthday Brett Gallagher's birthday Cassandra Obert-Thorn's birthday Jennifer Soley's birthday	22 Brandon Jones's birthday Emilio Lozada's birthday	23 Chris Cully's birthday Sophia Ehrhart's birthday	24 Lucy Masciangelo's birthday Maddie Gadzicki's birthday Rick and Leslie Kern's anniversary Rylin White's birthday Thomas Johnson's birthday
25 Ben Ash's birthday Diane Sitkowski's birthday Jack Kelly's birthday John and Nancy Perchalski's anniversary Mark Yanchek's birthday	26 Azaria Ford's birthday Emily Batzel's birthday Olivia Schumacher's birthday	27 Corey Deputy's birthday	28 Elsa Beltran's birthday Johana Shoen's birthday	29 Tyler Beatty's birthday	30 Gabriella Geiger's birthday Gary Carl's birthday Mary Miller's birthday Nancy Renninger's birthday	1 Bill Ahola's birthday

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

www.stjohnphoenixville.org
E-mail: stjohnphoenixville@verizon.net

CHURCH STAFF

Lead Pastor:
The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Krommes
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:
Sonya K. Sowards
Sexton:
Mark Yanchek, Jr.
Nursery Coordinator:
Arlene Hudak

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Brian Becker
Vice President:
Dale Herbranson
Secretary:
Pam Naylor
Treasurer:
Shirley Platzer
Assistant Treasurer:
Rose Gatlos
Financial Recording Secretary:
Mary Heiser
Fund 3 Secretary:
Kevin Gallagher
Executive Committee.:
Rick Kramer
Sandra Zimmermann

Other Members of Church Council:
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Don Titus
Dick Wolstenholme
Bobbi Riley
Laura Caughlan
Dick Kunsch
Brian Greenwald

Stephen Ministry Leaders:
Linda Landis — (610) 933-9544
Lee Dalasio — (610) 454-9884

COMMITTEES

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Bill Starling, Council Rep.

Youth & Family
Teresa Olsen, Chair
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Columbarium:
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Beverly Ott Kay Mann
Joan Carl Pat Renninger
Dottie Doeping

The Circle Editor:
Sonya K. Sowards

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms
Gavin Allan Moreland
October 7, 2018

Carson William Melton
October 21, 2018

Funeral
Gary A. Dries
September 28, 2018

Change of Contact Info

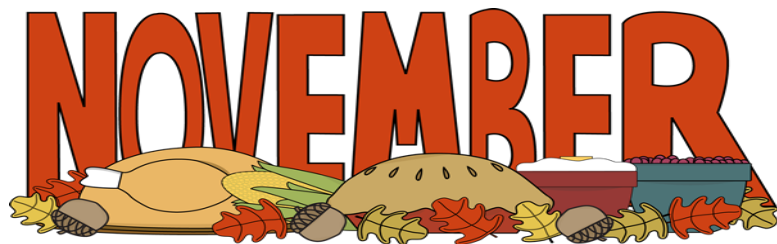
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2018

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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office hours 9-3 M,T,Th & 9-12 W,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

Sunday mornings

Holy Communion at 8:00 and 10:45 a.m.

Handicapped Accessible

THE CIRCLE

