

The Circle

December Worship at St. John's

First Weekend of Advent

Saturday, December 1st

Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 2nd

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

Christian Education, 9:25 a.m.

Advent begins this weekend. God is "advancing" towards us: in the past in the life of Jesus; in the present in word and sacrament; and in the future, even if there is disaster, in everlasting life. This Sunday we light the first candle on our Advent wreath, and we begin a year-long reading from the gospel of Luke.

Second Weekend of Advent

Saturday, December 8th

Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 9th

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

Christian Education, 9:25 a.m.

On the second weekend of Advent, we light two candles on the wreath, and we listen to John the Baptist, preaching, baptizing, and urging us to prepare for the coming of Christ. Come to worship, to see "the salvation of our God."

Third Weekend of Advent

Saturday, December 15th

Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 16th

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

Christian Education, 9:25 a.m.

This weekend we light three candles on the Advent wreath. While our society goes crazy with Christmas preparations and the northern hemisphere grows darker each day, we gather to hear John the Baptist urging us to accept God's good news.



Fourth Weekend of Advent

Saturday, December 22nd

Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 23rd

Pageant Preparation, 8:30 a.m.

Coffee Hour begins at 8:30 a.m.

Christmas Pageant and Communion, 10 a.m.

Hanging the Greens, 11:30 a.m.

This weekend we will have ONE service on Sunday, beginning at 10 a.m. Evening Light remains at its regular time of 5 p.m. on Saturday. We light all four candles of the Advent wreath, and we read the story from Luke about Mary visiting Elizabeth. Christians believe that in baptism we too are filled with the Holy Spirit so that Christ will dwell in us. Come to worship: the mystery approaches. Our Sunday school children will present a Christmas pageant at 10 a.m. (Pageant preparation begins at 8:30 a.m. in their Sunday school classes.) The morning ends with everyone "HANGING THE GREENS" as we decorate the church for Christmas.

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24th



Children's Christmas Worship, 4 p.m.



Christmas Music, 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Candlelight Worship

with Holy Communion, 7 p.m.

and the St. John's Adult Choir



Christmas Music, 9:30 p.m.

Christmas Candlelight Worship

with Holy Communion, 10:00 p.m.

and the Providence String Quartet

On Christmas Eve we celebrate God being born on earth as a poor Jewish child, whom we call Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. With the angels we sing, "Glory to God!"

First Weekend of Christmas

Saturday, December 29th

Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 30st

Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols

with Holy Communion, 10 a.m.

Bring in the new year by worshiping either at Evening Light at 5 p.m. or Sunday morning at 10 a.m. Christian Education will resume on January 6th.

The Pastor's message:

Seeing God . . .

Mary astounds me. She was likely the same age as our ninth grade Confirmation students—14 into 15 with some 16 years old. And while they are children of the 21st century and she was a daughter of the first, I suspect they are not all that different from each other. Sure, the 21st century ones have cell phones, the Internet and high school, while she gathered at the village well to communicate with her friends and perhaps knew how to read and write, but perhaps didn't. Still there is something about all of them that greets the world with hope. Maybe it's naiveté, or simply having so much of life ahead of them. When asked to step out in faith, they are probably 70% likely to say yes—sometimes with questions about what they are getting into, but often times not. Neuroscientists posit this is because their pre-



The Annunciation by Henry Ossawa Tanner

frontal cortex is not yet fully formed and therefore, they don't always think through the consequences of their behavior before saying, "YES!" That explains a lot, including why Mary doesn't tell the Angel Gabriel, "Let me check with my parents before consenting to be the mother of God," but instead, after asking just one question, "How can this be?" responds, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

Mary's openness to God opens us to God—to the Word being made flesh and blood and "moving into the neighborhood" (as Eugene Peterson translates John 1:14). This year our ninth graders begin each Confirmation class by answering the question, "Where did you see God this week?" At first, they found it challenging, but now after a few months, they've learned to look for God everywhere. Sometimes God shows up in a coach or a friend, in an unexpected exam result that seemed to be a pure gift, in the blessing of a day off. Listening to them and to their guides, Karen and Josh, is a weekly gift, for indeed, the Word does move about our neighborhood and we are blessed beyond measure. So, where did you see God today?

To see Henry Ossawa Tanner's *The Annunciation*, visit the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Tanner was an American artist and the first African-American painter to gain international acclaim. Born in Pittsburgh, he studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts with Thomas Eakins. Tanner moved to Paris, France, in 1891 to study, and continued to live there after being accepted in French artistic circles.



Confirmation Retreat

signup deadline is January 2, 2019

Dear Confirmation Students and Parents/Guardians,

It's retreat time! The theme of the Winter Confirmation Retreat is The Passion of Christ! As Christians this is the heart of our faith—we will walk with Jesus from Palm Sunday through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday—remembering and experiencing the most holy of weeks. There will also be time for having fun, playing games and eating good food,

The basic info:

Where: Tel Hai in Honeybrook

When: January 11 & 12, 2019

Leave from church at: 6 p.m. Friday night (retreat begins at Tel Hai at 7:00)

Retreat ends: 7 p.m. Saturday night (after worship at Tel Hai.) We will leave Tel Hai at 7 p.m. You are invited to attend worship which will begin at 6 p.m. and transport your child home.

Cost: \$95.00 per student (scholarships available—see Pastor Krommes)



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Advent Wreath Lighting 2018

December 2 nd	8:00 a.m.	Chuck, April, Ava & Violet Liedike
	10:45 a.m.	Chris, Melissa, Annalynne & Tyler Thompson
December 9 th	8:00 a.m.	Tom, Erin, Anna & Ellie Schaible
	10:45 a.m.	Brian, Amy, Nathaniel, Lucas & Evan Becker
December 16 th	8:00 a.m.	Pat, Erica, Elsa & Ainsley Lucas
	10:45 a.m.	Sarah, Addilyn & Eli Smith
December 23 rd	10:00 a.m.	Mark, Sarah, Katelynn & Mark Blattner



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. On Saturday, December 1st our children’s 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.

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.



Join the Angels!

For the past 14 years St. John’s has provided full tuition for five students at the Lutheran Secondary School for MaaSae Girls (LSSMG) in Monduli, Tanzania through our Angel Tree. Educating girls is the key to ending poverty throughout the world, especially in rural Africa. This is because educated young men tend to migrate to urban

areas while educated young women tend to stay in villages serving as teachers, nurses and other leaders. The standard of living for everyone is raised.

Since 2004 St. John’s has raised money to provide full scholarships for five “St. John’s girls” at LSSMG each year. We are in our fourth cohort of students which means 20 girls have or are receiving an education. Many of them have gone on to college, becoming teachers, nurses, accountants, physical therapists and other professionals.

Our Wednesday evening Bible study group organized an ornament making workshop and our St. John’s Crafty Folks group has created beautiful handmade objects for our Angel Tree. The tree will be up for the first weekend of Advent, December 1st and 2nd. If you would like to fund 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. Or simply make a donation and take one of our lovely handmade ornaments off the Angel Tree to give as a gift this year. To learn more about the school, visit the Operation Bootstrap Africa website at www.bootstrapafrica.org.





Advent offering

Each year St. John's dedicates our special Advent offering to non-profit agencies in our community who serve our neighbors in need. This year our gifts will provide shelter from the cold for the homeless, assistance for those in need and food for the hungry. Please be generous—your gifts make a big difference in our community.

Code Blue Shelter is an overnight emergency warming center that opened in November 2016 in Sacred Heart Church on Bridge Street in Phoenixville. The Shelter serves individuals experiencing some form of homelessness from mid-November through mid-April from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. seven days a week. The Shelter describes the situations that their guests face as anywhere from catastrophic house fires to abrupt and unprecedented evictions. They often fall into the category of the “working poor.” Some of the guests live under bridges or in the woods during warmer seasons. The Shelter is in need of funds and especially

volunteers. To learn more go to www.AnnsHeart.org/CodeBlue.

PACS (Phoenixville Area Community Services), located at 257 Church Street in Phoenixville, has offered support, aid and hope for residents in our community you need information and direction as well as emergency aid since 1972. Most of the people served by PACS are the “working poor.” While employed, their incomes aren't sufficient to provide all their basic needs such as food, housing and utilities. PACS gives out one ton of food each week. In 2017-2018 PACS gave food to over 303 people in need each month; provided \$35,740 in aid for emergency heat, housing, medicine, electricity, assisting 93 families; provided 17,816 referrals to people who contacted PACS looking for services and help locating resources in our community and beyond, and helped local governments by providing efficient and economical services they would otherwise need to provide at taxpayer expense. The current president of PACS Board, Susan Starling, and the PACS Administrative Assistant, Donna Searchfield, are members of St. John's. To learn more go to www.pacsphx.org

Orion Communities, located at 237 Bridge Street in downtown Phoenixville, believes that every person deserves shelter, food, clothing, transportation, access to healthcare and human interaction. Orion listens at the street level and responds to the unmet needs of our most vulnerable neighbors with creativity, compassion and collaboration. Orion has a team of case managers who specialize in offering support, serving over 2,500 neighbors in need in 2017. It provides a tech resource center where people can use computers, copies, phones and faxes to apply for jobs, pay bills and make important connections with resources. STARS (Sharing Technology Advances Reading Skills) addresses the academic gap for children from low income households. The curriculum was developed with trained volunteers, teachers, and computer experts with the Phoenixville Area School District. Orion also sponsors GLAD (Gutsy Ladies Achieving their Destiny), a free eight-week educational motivational group for single moms. To learn more go to www.orioncommunities.org.

A special Advent offering envelope will be in the mail for you to use to make your gift. Advent offering envelopes are also available in the narthex. Thank you for your generous sharing!



Hanging the Greens

Sunday, December 23rd, 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 23rd promises to be filled with JOY! We will have ONE worship service beginning at 10 a.m. that will include our children's Christmas pageant as well as Holy Communion. The children are very excited!!!!

Following worship, the annual Hanging of the Greens will begin at about 11:30 a.m. Volunteers are needed to put up the Christmas trees, set up the nativity set, assemble candles/holders, set up the iron candlesticks, change banners, and hang the garland. This is a great family activity for one and all. A pizza lunch will be provided along with gluten-free alternatives. You are invited to take part in decorating the sanctuary as we prepare for the birth of the Christ child!

Finally, help will be needed with “un-decorating” on January 6th at noon. Please notify our Parish Administrator, Sonya Sowards, at (610) 933-3947 or office@stjohnphoenixville.org or sign up via the Yellow Communication Card in the bulletin if you plan to attend. (It helps us to be sure enough pizza is ordered.)



Our Sunday school children will present a Christmas pageant as part of worship on Sunday, December 23rd at 10 a.m. (There will be one Sunday service that day as well as Evening Light on December 22nd at 5 p.m.). There's a lot to do to get ready for the pageant. Here's the plan:

December 2nd – Pageant Director, Elisa Kahn, will do “the casting” for the pageant. While every child that wants to participate will have a part, this will be the day speaking parts will be assigned.

December 9th – Practice for cast members with speaking parts.

December 16th – Rehearsal for everyone in the pageant.

December 23rd – Meet in classrooms at 8:30 a.m. to put on costumes and then participate in two “run throughs” before the pageant begins at 10 a.m. (Parent volunteers are needed to help with the costumes.) Note that those with speaking parts need to be present on the 2nd for assignments and on the 9th and 16th for practice.

December 23rd – 10 a.m. – CHRISTMAS PAGEANT!!!

Christmas Lessons and Carols

December 30th at 10:00 a.m.

By the morning of December 26th the radio stations and shopping malls that have been playing Christmas carols since Halloween cease the holiday music even though the celebration is just beginning! This year at our worship on the sixth day of Christmas, Sunday, December 30th at 10 a.m., we will sing the glorious carols of Christmas and hear the sacred texts of the Bible that reveal the wonder of the gift of the Christ Child. We will also receive the Sacrament of Holy Com-

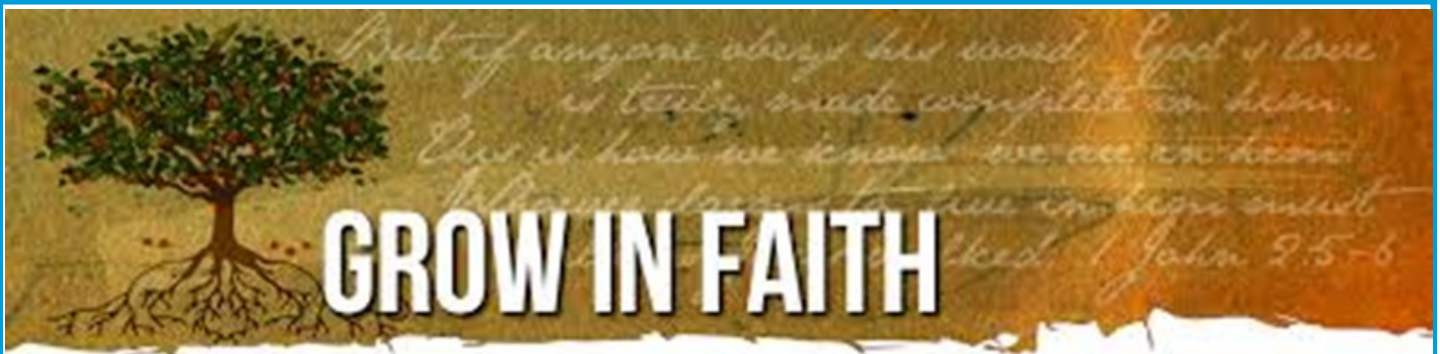
munion. This is the only service that Sunday, however there will be Evening Light on December 29th beginning at 5 p.m. We are in need of readers for this special worship. If you would like to serve, please contact our Sonya Sowards, our Parish Administrator, at (610) 933-3947 or office@stjohnphoenixville.org by December 22nd.

During the past six months, the people of St. John's have dreamed dreams and shared visions as we engaged in a strategic planning process that is helping us move into the future with faith. God is with us. We've seen this as we listened carefully to one another, prayed for our ministry and engaged in deep conversations about the shape of our future. Dreams and visions for mission and ministry need resources of time, talent and money to become reality.

We are called to be generous people in **sharing our time**—worshiping together every week so that we can receive God's grace through Word and Sacraments and the gift of sacred community. Sharing time moves into **sharing talents**—maybe as a hospitable usher, a gracious worship leader, a wise teacher, singer or ringer or both, a gracious guide, a giver of hospitality, a cook, a compassionate Stephen Minister, a leader, a gardener or grass cutter, a fixer of all things in need of repair . . . the list goes on and on and includes YOU and your gifts. The **sharing of treasure** enables ministry to happen and mission to take place. The Hebrew Scriptures talk about giving a tithe—or ten percent—back to God. Jesus points to the poor widow in the temple and tells his disciples that she gave all she had. She was “all in”—living by faith and generosity. Let us be “all in” too!

2019 Commitment cards were mailed early in November and are also available in the narthex. If you have not yet filled it out and returned your card, please do so TODAY!





On Sunday mornings during December there are four learning opportunities for adults at St. John's. Class locations are listed outside of Kley Hall near the church office. All the classes begin at 9:25 a.m. New folks are always welcomed.

Happy Hour

This class is called Happy Hour because they are happy their children are in Sunday school so that they can enjoy the gift of Christian community. The group also enjoys planning activities and events for our Youth and Family ministry. They meet in the church library (Meeting Room #2).

Sunday Morning Book Club

Our Sunday Morning Book Club is currently reading *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng. 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 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.

Grit and Grace: Heroic Women of the Bible

This group is exploring the lives of 17 fascinating women of the Bible. Led by Linda Landis in the Fireside Room, new members are always welcome to join in the learning and laughing.

The WAY

Our newcomer group, The Way, will begin in March. 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 Episcopal House Community Room located at 601 Center 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.



New to St. John's?

Welcome! You are invited to join "The WAY" our newcomers' group which begins on March 10th. In the meantime, wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome. To learn more about St. John's and The Way, visit our website at www.stjohnluthphoenixville.org or connect with Pastor Cindy Krommes at (610) 933-3947 or ckrommes@verizon.net.

The **Phoenixville backpack program** is looking for transport volunteers. Help nourish our community's young minds!

The volunteers would need to be able to lift large boxes and have a van, truck or SUV to transport the boxes from church to the local schools. The whole process takes about twenty minutes (on Thursday evenings 1-2 times a month) and it's a great volunteer opportunity with kids!

For more information, contact Laura Geiger at (267) 312-6337.

Keeping CHRIST in Christmas

Many of us cherish everything about the Christmas season – except those incessant advertisements telling us to buy this and buy that. We ask, “Where’s Jesus in all this commercialism?”

This is the right question. Though it asks us to examine every aspect of our lives, stewardship particularly challenges us to question the role money plays in our personal lives and our culture.

Christmas presents are wonderful expressions of love that makes both giver and recipient feel good. At the same time, we want to be wary of advertising’s lure to make us overspend, or to think that the cost of our gift is proportionate to our love.

Most of all, we need to be sure that the main point of our Christmas is not the gifts we *give*, but the gift we *receive* from God – Jesus. Here are some ideas:

- Challenge yourself to spend less for presents this year. Set a budget and stick to it.
- Attend worship regularly in Advent and Christmas.
- Give some handmade presents: A scarf or hat, a photo album, a batch of fudge, a card, a poem.
- Prayerfully read Advent daily devotions (Richard Rohr’s *Preparing for Christmas* is amazing!).
- Give your time: a concert together, a shared meal, a day at a museum, a walk in the woods.
- Use an Advent calendar to help you remember all that God has given you.
- Give service: wash a loved one’s car, help clean the garage, paint a room, babysit for an evening.
- Play Christmas music that has religious themes (More “Silent Night,” less “Frosty the Snowman.”)
- Instead of buying a present, make a donation to a charitable organization in honor of your loved one (or check out ELCA Good Gifts!).
- Make a generous year-end contribution to your congregation.

Our thoughtful practices for Advent and Christmas not only make for good stewardship of our time, talents, relationships and money, they also help us to draw near to Our Lord and experience God’s greatest gift to us.

Rob Blezard

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Let the Girl Scouts Do Your Baking

Girl Scout Troop #4069 is a small troop of three high school students for which St. John’s has been the gracious hosts for many years. We are extremely blessed to be a part of this community and thankful for all St. John’s has done for us in helping our girls grow to be strong leaders. Once again, we will have our annual Cookie Bake-off. This year, our Senior Ambassador, Paige Ritter, is taking the lead for the cookie sales to complete her service hours toward her Senior Project. She is a National Honor Society member and a leader in many other organizations including Drum Major for the marching band.

Paige has designated a nonprofit family shelter as her target organization to benefit from our sales.

Due to scheduling, we will be baking off-site. Trays will again be pre-sold and quantities are limited. The trays will cost \$25 for a large (5 dozen) and \$15 for a small (2½ dozen) and include a variety of different holiday cookies. Delivery date is December 15th-16th. To order, please contact Sue Doepping at susan.doepping@verizon.net or Kim Fern at kimfern@gmail.com by December 7th. Thank you! Merry Christmas!

Coventry Singers at St. John's

The Coventry Singers present their Christmas concert "Silence . . . and the Glory" at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 2nd at St. John's. The concert includes classical and traditional Christmas works including selections from Handel's Messiah and Bach Cantata No. 142, "To Us a Child is Given." More contemporary music includes pieces by Dan Forrest and Will Todd. The concert concludes with the John Rutter "Gloria," accompanied by brass and organ.

The conductor for the Coventry Singers is interim director Lisa VanHeldorf. Lisa is a graduate of New England Conservatory with a Bachelor of Music degree in voice performance. She holds a Master's degree from Notre Dame in voice performance. She has held the position of choir director and music coordinator at Media Presbyterian Church since 2011 and has been directing choirs throughout the greater Philadelphia area for the past 20 years. Nadine Lydic returns as piano accompanist. Nadine holds a Bachelor's degree in music education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Her Master's degree in music is from West Chester University. She is a retired teacher from the Boyertown School District and has been a beloved member of the Coventry Singers for many years.

The Coventry Singers, a choir of about 40 voices, have been performing in the Pottstown area since 1972. They have performed with the Pottstown Symphony, the Lehigh Valley Chamber Orchestra, and at Longwood Gardens Christmas Concert Series. More recently they have performed Handel's Messiah with the Reading Choral Society, the National Anthem at the Reading Royals hockey games and participated in the Pottstown Relay for Life Luminaria lighting ceremony.

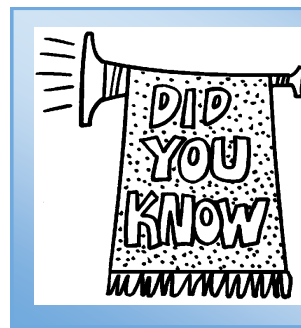
The concert is free and all are welcome. A freewill offering will be accepted. For more information about the Coventry Singers, visit their website www.coventrysingers.org or find them on Facebook at Coventry Singers-Pottstown, Pa.



A big "Thank You" to all members who contributed to our holiday collection of stocking stuffers for Silver Springs Martin Luther School and who made cookies and contributed to the Christmas goodie bags for our homebound members. Once again, these projects were a great success due to your generosity! Don't forget to order your soup! These dry soup mixes make great holiday gifts. Choose from beef barley, chicken spiral, and potato. The cost is \$8 per quart and two quarts for \$15. You can pre-order 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.

Our November meeting will be the last meeting of this year. Join us at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 27th to pack cookies and prepare goodie bags for homebound members. Lunch will follow.

Regular monthly meetings resume at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 22, 2019. Hope to see you there!



Our Youth & Family Team now meets during Happy Hour on the first Sunday of the month at 9:30 a.m. Come join us and help plan fun events!

ASP

Appalachia

SERVICE PROJECT®

2019 Summer Mission Trips— Sign up and Support!

This year, St. John's is sponsoring two mission opportunities in July. Three high school students and one chaperone will participate in the Syn-

od trip to South Dakota from July 12th-21st. We are also planning to participate in the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) next summer.

Interested in Joining Us for ASP

ASP provides one of the most rewarding structured service opportunities in the nation—bringing thousands of volunteers from around the country to rural Central Appalachia to repair homes for low-income families. No construction experience is necessary—just a willing heart to serve.

When: Either July 14th-20th or July 21st-27th (the date will depend on what works best for the majority of people who express interest).

Who: Youth ages 14+ (completed 8th grade) and adult helpers

Support for Mission Trips

In addition to the spring car wash, youth will soon be selling Wawa hoagie certificates and hosting various events throughout the spring, including a spaghetti dinner, raffles, and a bake sale. We will continue to share updates in the newsletter, on Facebook and in our weekly emails.

For questions about the South Dakota trip, please contact Shelley Saeger at shellsaeger@hotmail.com.

For questions about the ASP trip, please contact Jodi O'Neill at oneillsinvf@comcast.net.

Candles soft light bestowing softly the organ calls come one come all come kneel before a child born of Mary shepherds kneel in humble adoration wisest of the wise bow down come you mighty come you poor, forgotten lonely come for the child that lies in a manger bare hath a love that shall shine on poor, rich, downtrodden, despairing, lonely forgotten. A child that calls all what'ere they be come to the manger for love dwells there a love everlasting heavenly gift given all mankind behold a wondrous love for God gave his only son in wondrous love so a world would know love eternally let hatred cease for now the Prince of Peace is here in love we are born in love we die for Christ a child is with us so come to the manger kneel down worship this child given to us by our loving God peace on earth goodwill

To all men, angels proclaim the echoing reply peace shall yet be on the earth mankind shall be one in adoration of our Christ
Margaret Walker

Dear St. John's:

One in every nine children receive services to assist an identified disability. One in every 20 families has a member of the family living with a disability. Your generosity ensures that children and adults with various needs and abilities can enjoy the playground at Reeves Park.



With your help many children and their families who could not previously access their local park and playground will be able to make lasting memories together in the heart of Phoenixville. Once completed, generations of people with disabilities will be able to better take part in community events and activities. Thank you for giving them the opportunity to grow and play within this beautiful park.

The Kiwanis Club of Phoenixville and the Phoenixville Jaycees Foundation want to extend a heartfelt thank you for your generosity and for helping us to "BUILD IT," because every child deserves to play!

With gratitude,
Erica Klinedinst
Executive Director
The Phoenixville Jaycees Foundation



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. Please contact Deb Welsh at djwelsh1453@yahoo.com if you can help out.

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 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 Finance Committee 7pm Welcoming Team	27 10:30am WELCA 5:30pm Stewardship	28 10am Bible Study 12pm Young at Heart 5pm Girl Scouts--cookie baking prep 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	29 5:30pm Daisy Troop #42024 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells 7:30pm Cottage Meeting	30 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	1 9am First Communion workshop 5pm Evening Light
2 First Communion 8am Holy Communion 9am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9:25am Christian education classes 10:45am Holy Communion 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks 3pm The Coventry Singers	3 5:45pm Daisy girl scouts 7pm Stephen Ministry 7:30pm Property	4 12:30pm PACA 3:30pm Staff 7:30pm Worship & Music	5 10am Bible Study 3pm Social Ministry 5pm Girl Scouts--cookie baking prep 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	6 10am Mom's Monthly Mingle 5:30pm Junior Troop #4514 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	7	8 5pm Evening Light
9 8am Holy Communion 9am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9:25am Christian education classes 10:45am Holy Communion 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks 5pm Spaghetti Dinner	10 5pm Girl Scouts #4308 6:30pm Girl Scouts #4330 7:30pm Church Council	11 7pm Christian Education 7pm Parent Grief Support Group	12 10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	13 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	14 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	15 12pm Soroptimist Club of Phoenixville-lunch with Santa 5pm Evening Light
16 8am Holy Communion 9am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9:25am Christian education classes 10:45am Holy Communion 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks	17 5:45pm Daisy girl scouts 7pm Stephen Ministry 7pm Welcoming Team	18 Circle deadline 4:30pm PACS Board 6:30pm Kiwanis Board	19 12pm Young at Heart 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	20 10:30am Moms' Music & Crafts Club 5:30pm Daisy Troop #42024 5:30pm Junior Troop #4514 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells 8:15pm Naranon Support	21 St. Peter's lunch	22 5pm Evening Light
23 9am Children's Choir Rehearsal 10am Holy Communion and Christmas pageant 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks	24 4pm Children's Service 6:30pm Music 7pm Candlelight Service 9:30pm Music 10pm Candlelight Service	25	26 7pm Alanon	27 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 7pm Naranon	28 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	29 5pm Evening Light
30 10am Holy Communion	31	1	2 10am Bible Study 3pm Social Ministry 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	3 10am Mom's Monthly Mingle 5:30pm Junior Troop #4514 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	4	5 5pm Evening Light

December 2018—birthdays and anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 Diane Sitkowski's birthday John and Nancy Perchalski's anniversary Mark Yanchek's birthday	26 Olivia Schumacher's birthday	27 Corey Deputy's birthday	28	29	30 Gabiella Geiger's birthday Mary Miller's birthday Nancy Renninger's birthday	1 Bill Ahola's birthday
2 Karen Cattafesta's birthday Pat Clark's birthday Raymond Fulmer's birthday	3 Beth Roesener's birthday Eric Carr's birthday Lu Anne Bindschusz's birthday	4 Don Titus's birthday Lindsey Jones's birthday	5 Owen Birdsell's birthday	6	7	8
9 Dave Volpe's birthday Dylan New's birthday	10 Dick Wolstenholme's birthday Sheldon and Shari Bradley's anniversary	11 Carol Cully's birthday Ryan Cadigan's birthday	12 Pam Westerman's birthday	13 Christopher Onder's birthday Peg Yanoviak's birthday William Borowy's birthday	14 Aaron Westerman's birthday Christopher Duen's birthday Molly Wallace's birthday	15 Claire New's birthday
16	17 Nolan Leong's birthday Walter Deichmann's birthday	18	19 Jodi VanDerveer's birthday RuthAnn Schell's birthday Savanna Muller's birthday Tom Schaible's birthday	20 Emmett Guici's birthday Karen Roesener's birthday Suzanne Manney's birthday	21 Amber Khan's birthday Morgan Frees's birthday	22 Tina Deputy's birthday
23 Paula Weiss's birthday Tim Leong's birthday	24 B. Mary Roesener's birthday Mike Platchek's birthday	25	26 Ava Liedike's birthday Helen Manney's birthday Mary Miller's birthday	27 Jim Niness's birthday Layla Lozada's birthday	28 Andrea Newman's birthday Jennifer Drewes's birthday Madelynn Doepping's birthday	29 Justin O'Neill's birthday Mark and Deborah Wallace's anniversary
30 Seth Clark's birthday William and Susan Shirk's anniversary	31 Jodi O'Neill's birthday	1 Emily Walters's birthday Robert Dyer's birthday	2 Bruce and Elena Wallace's anniversary Craig Emery's birthday Ella Drewes's birthday	3 Ev and Melody Thomas's anniversary Jayden Carey's birthday	4 Ashley Westerman's birthday Debbe Welsh's birthday Sam Knaub's birthday	5 Alison Thomas's birthday Barbara Robinson's birthday Janet Ertell's birthday

People of God Involved in God's Work

December Schedule

	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>
<u>Altar Guild</u>		
2	Janet Ertell	
9	Donna Anderson & Jean Herbranson	
16	Jean Herbranson	
23	Betty Hans & Elena Wallace	
24	Jean Herbranson	
30	Donna Thompson	
<u>Assisting Ministers</u>		
2	Cole O'Neill	Tyler Pekofsky
9	Paige DeMutis	Donna Thompson
16	Paige DeMutis	Tyler Pekofsky
23	10 a.m.—Brittney Walters	
24	TBD	TBD
30	10 a.m. Donna Thompson	
<u>Bread Baking</u>		
2	First Communion class	
9	Rich Latella & Rich Skoniczin	
16	TBD	
23	Lynn Titus	
24	Supplee family	
30	TBD	
<u>Coffee Hour</u>		
2	WELCA	
9	Worship & Music	
16	9th Grade Confirmation	
23	Church Council	
<u>Communion Assistants/Lectors</u>		
2	Erica Lucas (L)	Shelley Saeger (L)
	LuAnne Bindschusz	TBD
9	Lynn Titus (L)	Kim Fetters
	Chuck Liedike	Larry Fetters
16	Brittney Walters (L)	Bill Starling
	Pam Freehafer	Sue Starling
23	10 a.m.—Brian Becker (L) & Aimee Hillegas	
24	Teresa Olsen	Rich Latella (L)
	Erica Lucas	Rich Skoniczin
	TBD	Dale Herbranson
30	10 a.m. Teresa Olsen (L) & Walt Deichmann	
<u>Counters</u>		
2	Stephen & Jennifer Drewes, Donna Anderson, Peg Yanoviak	
9	Heather Yonosh, Donna Searchfield, Eileen Subacus	
16	Mary Heiser, Ed Naylor, Mike & Cathy Kahl	
23	Jack Ertell, Lilly Khan & Imtiaz Lawrence	
24	TBD	
30	Kevin Gallagher, Mary Heiser, Mike & Cathy Kahl	
<u>Lock-Up</u>		
2	Dick Wolstenholme	Brian Greenwald
9	Bobbi Riley	Laura Caughlan
16	Don Titus	Bill Starling
23	10 a.m.—Brian Becker	
24	4 p.m.—TBD; 7 p.m.—Laura Caughlan; 10 p.m. Dale Herbranson	
30	10 a.m.—TBD	
<u>Ushers</u>		
2	Carol Cully	Deb Ahola
	Chuck Liedike	Glen Murphy
	Cathy Garrett	Margaret Walker
	LuAnne Bindschusz	Sandi Stotler

	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>
9	Dick Kunsch Cindy Gadzicki Judy Wolstenholme Dick Wolstenholme	Travis Brown Brian Becker Barb Rambo Dale Herbranson
16	Don Titus John Rawlins Barry Church Debbe Welsh	Cathy Garrett James Ninness John Westerman Gabrielle VanDerveer
23	10 a.m.—Bob Gorman, Bev Rote, Donna Anderson & Paul Miller	
24	TBD	
30	10 a.m.—Rich Latella, Rich Skoniczin, Greg Krueger & Donna Anderson	



Summary Report as of October 31, 2018

	Monthly		Year-to-Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income:				
Envelope Giving	\$ 35,347	\$ 27,015	\$ 353,466	\$ 300,021
Other Income	1,658	3,544	16,583	19,289
Total Income	\$ 37,005	\$ 30,559	\$ 370,049	\$ 319,310
Expenses	\$ 38,785	\$ 32,577	\$ 387,856	\$ 345,960
Income (Deficit)	\$ (1,780)	\$ (2,018)	\$ (17,807)	\$ (26,650)

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.

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

www.stjohnphoenixville.org
E-mail: stjohnsphoenixville@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

CHURCH COUNCIL

President:
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:

Bill Starling
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

Christian Education:
Mark Gerner, Chair
Bill Starling, Council Rep.

Youth & Family
Teresa Olsen, Chair
Rick Kramer, Council Rep.

Columbarium:
Bill Starling, Council Rep.

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

Executive:
Dale Herbranson, Chair

Fellowship:
Sandra Zimmermann, Chair
Bobbi Riley, Council Rep.

Finance:
Jack Ertell, Chair
Don Titus, Council Rep.

Property:
Rick Kramer, Chair
Dick Wolstenholme, Council Rep.

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

Stewardship:
Stephen Drewes, Chair
Dick Kunsch, Council Rep.

Welcoming Team:
Donna Searchfield, Chair
Pam Naylor, Council Rep.

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

Office Assistants:
June Henzie
Beverly Ott Kay Mann
Joan Carl Pat Renninger
Dottie Doepping

The Circle Editor:
Sonya K. Sowards

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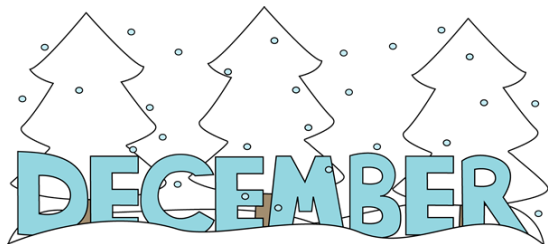
Jim & Mary Miller
1361 Boot Road, Apt. 218
West Chester, PA 19380
(484) 653-1681

LAST CALL FOR COTTAGE MEETING!

Missed signing up for a Cottage Meeting or were you snowed out? No worries! We have scheduled another Cottage Meeting for Thursday, November 29th at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in Kley Hall at St. John's. Please go to the link sent via email or contact Sonya at (610) 933-3947 if you need help signing up. We need to hear what your priorities are for the Strategic Plan to be developed early next year.



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,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

