

The Circle

March Worship at St. John's

Transfiguration Weekend

Saturday, March 2nd – Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, March 3rd

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

Christian Education, 9:30 a.m.

Over the past two months we have seen Jesus show himself to be Christ, the one anointed by God to be our Savior. This weekend, the Transfiguration, when Jesus appears on a mountain in divine glory, concludes the time after Epiphany. In three days, on Ash Wednesday, we begin the climb to the mountain of Jesus' crucifixion. The Church holds side-by-side the brilliance of God and the cross of Jesus.

Ash Wednesday, March 6th

Worship 12:15 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

The beginning of Lent gives us the occasion to admit that we will die and that we are sinners. On Ash Wednesday we are marked with ashes—a sign of our death and of our sorrow for sin—but the ashes trace a cross on our forehead, where the baptismal water first marked us with God's grace. Besides our 12:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. worship services, ashes will also be distributed at 11 a.m. at the Episcopal House located at 601 Center Street.

First Weekend in Lent

Saturday, March 9th – Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, March 10th

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

Christian Education, 9:30 a.m.

The WAY begins with dinner, 5 p.m.

Daylight Savings Time – turn clocks ahead one hour

Each year on the first Sunday in Lent we hear about Jesus being tested in the wilderness. In this way Jesus joined with us, who are also, one way or another, tested in some wilderness. We say Sundays "in" Lent, since when counting the forty days of Lent, we omit the six Sundays, because Sunday is always a celebration of Christ's resurrection. So this Sunday we are both in Lent and beyond Lent.

Please see the table of contents on the inside back cover of this issue of *The Circle*



Community Lent Worship

Wednesday, March 13th, 7:30 p.m.

St. John's UCC Church of Christ

God's Holy People: Dietrich Bonhoeffer

315 Gay Street, Phoenixville

Rev. Cynthia Krommes of

St. John's Lutheran, preacher

Second Weekend in Lent

Saturday, March 16th – Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, March 17th

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

BEAR CREEK CAMP SUNDAY, 9:30 a.m. in Kley Hall

Christian Education, 9:30 a.m.

In this weekend's gospel reading, we are like chicks that need protection, for a fox is nearby. Come to worship, and join us in praising the God who gathers us as if under loving wings.

Community Lent Worship

Wednesday, March 20th, 7:30 p.m.

Bethel Baptist Church

God's Holy People: Dorothy Day

412 Fairview Street, Phoenixville

Rev. Dr. Koshy Matthews of

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, preacher



Third Weekend in Lent

Saturday, March 23rd – Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, March 24th

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

Christian Education and First Bible, 9:30 a.m.

Some Christians imagine either themselves or other people to be no more than barren trees that might as well be uprooted and discarded. Come to worship this Sunday, and hear what the gardener says about barren trees.

Community Lent Worship

Wednesday, March 27th, 7:30 p.m.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

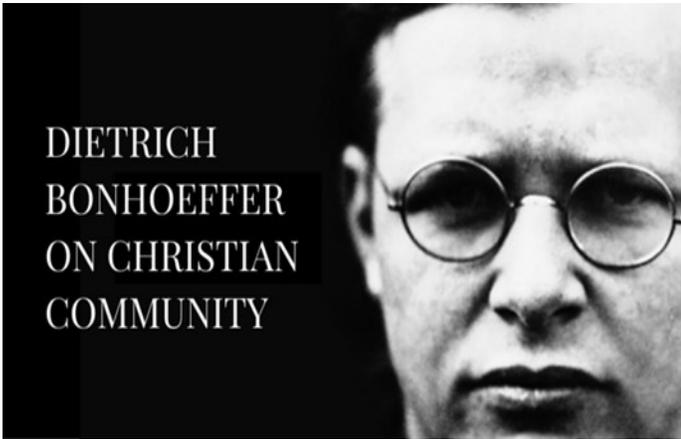
God's Holy People: Bishop Oscar Romero

121 Church Street, Phoenixville

Episcopal Bishop Daniel G. P. Gutierrez,

preacher





The Pastor's message:

Through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ

In preparing for preaching at the first Phoenixville Community Evening Lent Worship on March 13th, I've been spending time re-reading *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. I was given a copy by Pastor John Cochran on my first day of being a sociology intern at Emanuel Lutheran Church in South Philadelphia in the spring of 1975. Pastor Cochran told me about Bonhoeffer, who was a German pastor, theologian, and anti-Nazi dissident and who was executed by the Nazis on April 9, 1945 after being accused of being in a plot to assassinate Hitler. He asked me to read *Life Together*, which is a meditation on the nature of Christian community and I did so while diligently underlining key passages in red ink. Re-reading it after 38 years of serving as a pastor, a leader in Christian community, and specifically of St. John's at a time when we are giving a great deal of thought about our mission and ministry, has been invigorating. I invite you to ponder and pray with Bonhoeffer and me.

"Christianity means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ. No Christian community is more or less than this We belong to one another only through and in Jesus Christ," Then like Luther in his *Small Catechism*, Bonhoeffer asks: What does this mean?

He answers: "It means, first, that a Christian needs others because of Jesus Christ." He goes on, "the Christian no longer seeks salvation, deliverance, justification in him/herself, but in Jesus Christ alone . . . living by God's claim and God's justification The goal of all Christian community: to meet one another as bringers of the message of salvation As such, God permits us to meet together and gives us community . . . the community of Christian springs solely from justification through grace alone." (pp.21-23) *Question: How do we, will we, meet one another as bringers of the message of salvation?*

Bonhoeffer continues, "Second, a Christian comes to others only through Jesus Christ." He goes on, "Without Christ there is discord between God and human beings and between human beings and human beings. Christ became the Mediator . . . without Christ we should not know God . . . we also would not know our brother or sister The way is blocked by our own ego. Christ opens up the way to God and others. Only in Jesus Christ are we one, only through Jesus as we bound together. (pp.23-24) *Question: How does Jesus bind us together and what weakens that bond?*

More, "Third, when God's Son took on flesh, he truly and bodily took on, out of pure grace, our being, our nature, ourselves Now we are in him. Where he is, there we are too, in the incarnation, on the Cross, and in his resurrection. We belong to him because we are in him . . . Christian community means community through and in Jesus Christ Our community with one another consists solely in what Christ has done to both of us (to all of us.) (pp.24-25) *Question: In that we are in Jesus Christ, how are we also in the world?*

Know that I thank God every day for our Life Together through and in Jesus Christ!

Pastor Cynthia Krommes

March Worship (continued)

Fourth Weekend in Lent

Saturday, March 30th – Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, March 31st

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

Christian Education and FIRST BIBLE, 9:30 a.m.

This weekend, the gospel reading is the well-known story of the prodigal son. Which brother are you like? Come to worship, whichever one you are, and join in God's feast of mercy.

Community Lent Worship

Wednesday, April 3rd @ 7:30 p.m.

GraceCrossing Community Church

God's Holy People: John Knox

248 Church Street, Phoenixville

Rev. Douglas Hagler of

First Presbyterian, preacher



Pancake Supper Shrove Tuesday, March 5th

Before the fast of Lent begins, we go a little wild. In New Orleans, it's Mardi Gras. In Phoenixville, it's PANCAKES! Eating pancakes, running while flipping pancakes, tossing pancakes, making pancake self-portraits and creating pancake art—we do it all! Our pancake dinner will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5th in Kley Hall. The cost is \$7 per adult, \$5 per child with children under 3 free or \$20 for a family. All proceeds benefit our youth and adults attending the Appalachian Service Project trip to West Virginia and the SEPA Mission Trip to Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Invite friends and RSVP through our Yellow Communication Card or by emailing Sonya Sowards at office@stjohnphoenixville.org.



Ash Wednesday Worship – March 6th

Lent begins with ashes and dust. On Ash Wednesday we are marked with ashes—a sign of our death and of our sorrow for sin. However, the ashes trace a cross on our forehead, where the baptismal water first marked us with God's grace. You are invited to worship at St. John's on Ash Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. in the afternoon or at 7:30 p.m. in the evening. Ashes will also be distributed at The Episcopal House on Wednesday morning, March 6th at 11 a.m. following Bible Study.

It is time for another session of The WAY, where prospective members will have a chance to learn more about St. John's and explore their faith before officially joining the congregation. It is slated to begin with a kick-off event at Pastor Krommes' home on March 10th and will culminate in new members joining the weekend of May 4/5th. We will be having a Welcome Brunch on May 5th. Stay tuned for more information. Please make sure to take a **FREE** St. John's car magnet to display on each of your cars to help advertise St. John's while you are out and about in the Phoenixville area. You can find them in a basket in the narthex.



Bear Creek Camp Sunday – March 17th

On Sunday, March 17th beginning at 9:30 a.m. Kley Hall will turn into Bear Creek Camp for an hour in order to give our grade school and confirmation youth a small experience of the fun at camp. A member of the staff at Bear Creek will lead us in songs, share the camp experience, reconnect with "old" campers and encourage our children and youth to become first time campers. Last year 12 of our children and youth attended camp and most, if not all, came home looking forward to doing so again this year. For our younger campers, Bear Creek offers a "try me" camp, which is a little shorter and helps our young ones adjust to being away from home. Check out registration online at www.bearcreekcamp.org. Camperships from St. John's are available. Please speak with Pastor Krommes for more information.



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. Our next lunch is March 15th!

MUSIC News



Lenten Journey to Easter

“The experience of worship on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter is, in many ways, a tunnel we ride through together. It is a shared experience of Jesus’ loving final acts, his death, and his resurrection.”¹

Consider deepening your worship experience by singing with the Adult Choir this season. Holy Week music will be programmed at the beginning of Wednesday rehearsals starting March 6th. This rehearsal follows the Ash Wednesday Service.

“Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.”²

Sing with us, worship with us, fellowship with us.

¹Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress

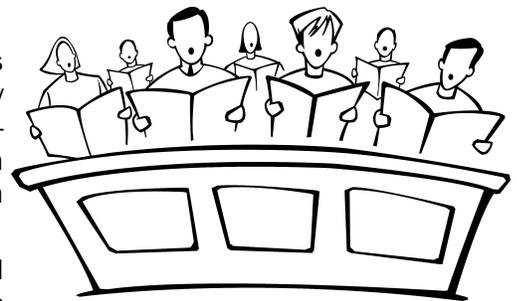
²Ibid

St. John’s Choir & Friends

Enjoy singing but Wednesdays don’t work? Sunday evening rehearsals for the 29th annual “St. John’s Choir & Friends” concert on Sunday, May 5th at 7 p.m. begin March 24th, from 7-9 p.m. Entitled “Psalms and Spirituals,” this year’s program explores Psalm settings and joy filled African American spirituals. Last year’s program included over 60 singers from 24 area churches.

2019 marks the 29th concert in the series. Past programs have included Gabriel Fauré’s *Requiem* and *Cantique de Jean Racine*, W. A. Mozart’s *Requiem* and *Te Deum*, Franz Schubert’s *Mass in G*, Howard Hanson’s *Song of Democracy*, John Rutter’s *Te Deum* and *Requiem*, a concert version of Gilbert and Sullivan’s *Pirates of Penzance*, *Glorias* by Antonio Vivaldi and Francis Poulenc, J. S. Bach’s *Magnificat*, Johannes Brahms’ *German Requiem*, Ralph Vaughan Williams’ *Five Mystical Songs*, Luigi Cherubini’s *Requiem*, Maurice Durufle’s *Requiem*, parts II and III of G. F. Handel’s *Messiah*, *Patriotic Selections*, *Broadway Selections* and *Spiritual*, and *Christmas in May*.

Rehearsals are scheduled in Kley Hall Sundays, March 24th, 31st, April 7th, 14th, and 28th from 7 to 9 p.m.; and Sunday May 5th, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. A light supper will follow the May 5th rehearsal. Music will be provided for the singers. For additional information contact Tom Snyder, Director of Music at St. John’s, ftsiii@gmail.com.



The Strategic Action Workshop will be held on March 23rd from 10:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in Kley Hall to generate ideas to move forward with our

strategic plans. This session will be facilitated by members of our own congregation and is open to all. Please come with an open mind and a willingness to participate in generating a vision for the future. A light lunch will be provided. To sign up, contact Sonya Sowards at (610) 933-3947 or use this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0b4faeab2da3fd0-strategic>

Dear Friends:

Warm greetings from Lutheran World Relief! And thank you for helping a person in need unwrap a better



life with an LWR gift. Your special gift helps lift people out of poverty and into futures of promise. Please visit our website at lwr.org for pictures and stories of the life-changing work you support.

Warm regards,

Daniel V. Speckhard
President and CEO, LWR



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 and 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.

Meeting Change with Hope

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Romans 15:13

As we move through life, changes meet us at every turn. We look forward to many of these with enthusiasm. New experiences. New situations. New people. New seasons. It’s exciting! At other times, though, we dig in our heels and grab onto the guard rails to slow down the inevitable, the unwanted changes that lie ahead. While we don’t know what the future holds, we live in hope for we do have God’s promises to accompany us through all the ups and downs of life.

On April 6th we will be exploring change and hope at the women’s retreat entitled “Meeting Change with Hope.” The retreat will begin at 9:00 a.m. with coffee and fellowship and end at 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$15. Please bring an item that symbolizes hope in your life. Call or email Sonya Sowards in the church office to register. Contact Linda Landis with any questions.

The Work Goes On . . .

As you will read in Dr. Mark and Linda Jacobson’s newsletter, they are in a time of transition as they spend ½ of the year in Minnesota and ½ in Tanzania. This means that Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre and Selian Lutheran Hospital are also in transition. Nonetheless, the ministry goes on and our support through our Lent offering is as important, if not more, than ever before. To learn more about what is happening at both hospitals, please check out their websites: Selian Lutheran Medical Center (www.selianlh.habari.co.tz), and Arusha Lutheran Medical Center (ALMC) (www.almc.habari.co.tz).



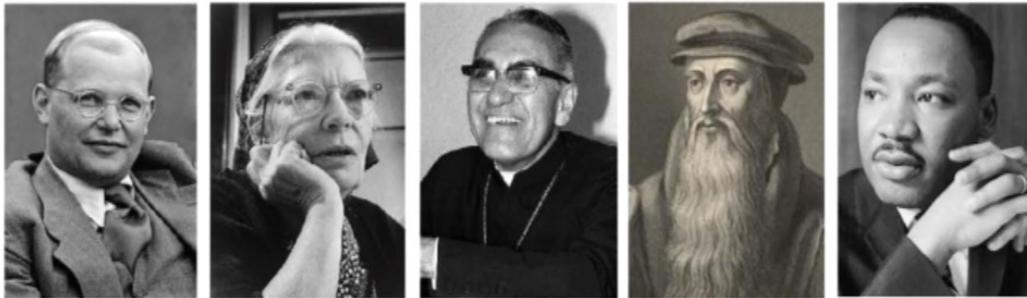
Some of the accomplishments achieved by your past Lent offerings include enlarging the Plaster House surgery center, planning a new clinic in Juba, South Sudan and assisting the Kilimanjaro Christina Medical Center start a zonal Cancer Care Center, developing the first Hospice and Palliative Care Program in all of East Africa, a large HIVS program, a school for nurses, assistant medical officers and medical officer interns, and one of the best neo-natal intensive care units in all of Africa.

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 21st.

We continue to sell Wawa hoagie certificates between services and to collect aluminum beverage cans in Kley Hall to help fund our upcoming mission trips. Thank you for buying Wawa certificates and bringing cans!

Young at Heart (St. John’s social group for senior adults) is on hiatus until April. Be sure to look for our upcoming events this spring!





God's Holy People

2019 Wednesday Evening Community Lent Worship

All Services begin at 7:30 pm

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

March 13 at St. John's United Church of Christ

315 Gay Street, Phoenixville

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Cynthia Krommes of St. John's Lutheran Church

Dorothy Day

March 20 at Bethel Baptist Church

412 Fairview Street, Phoenixville

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Koshy Mathews of St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Bishop Oscar Romero

March 27 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church

121 Church Street, Phoenixville

Preacher: Episcopal Bishop Daniel G. P. Gutierrez

John Knox

April 3 at GraceCrossing Community Church

248 Church Street, Phoenixville

Preacher: Rev. Douglas Hagler of First Presbyterian Church

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

April 10 at First Methodist Church

865 Main Street, Phoenixville

Preacher: Rev. Dan McDowell of GraceCrossing Community Church

25th Annual Community Prayer Breakfast

You are invited to the 25th annual Community Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, April 6, 2019 in the Phoenixville Area Middle School cafeteria beginning at 7:45 a.m. The theme of the breakfast this year is: “Living My Dream of Social Justice.” The keynote address will be by Frank Cervone of the Support Center for Child Advocates. Tickets are \$12 per person or a reserved table for \$125 (seats 8). For tickets, please contact Pastor Krommes.



Three special awards are presented as part of the breakfast—The Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award, the Emma Valenteen Award of Compassion and the Ruby Armour Love Thy Neighbor Award. Over the years, six of our brothers and sisters have received rewards. We are blessed with their legacy of faith, service, justice and compassion. The morning also includes presentations by Phoenixville Elementary, Middle School and High School students on Dr. King, music by a mass choir and a wonderful opportunity to visit with friends and neighbors.

The Social Concerns Committee was formed in 1977 as a subcommittee of the Phoenixville Council of Churches. The name “Phoenixville Area Social Concerns Committee” was adopted in 2012. The mission of the Committee is “to promote social justice and community harmony throughout the Greater Phoenixville community in the spirit of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., through direct action and relevant events.” Presently, we do not have anyone from St. John’s serving on this important community committee. If you are interested in learning more about it, please speak with Pastor Krommes.



Synod Assembly Delegates



St. John’s is part of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod which is made up of the churches in the five counties in the Delaware Valley. The Rev. Patricia Davenport serves as our Bishop.

Each year the Synod has a gathering of lay and rostered (pastors and professional church workers) leaders to celebrate, encourage and direct the ministries of the church. This year the Assembly meets on May 3rd and 4th at the Mennonite Meetinghouse in Franconia.

Beyond Pastor Krommes and Deacon Tom Synder, St. John’s sends two delegates to the yearly Assembly. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the church, to grow in understanding and to connect with others. For more information about the Assembly and the Synod, please check out www.ministrylink.org. If you are interested in serving as one of our delegates,

please use our Yellow Communication Card in your bulletin or email Sonya Sowards at office@stjohnphoenixville.org.

Thoughts on a Sermon

By Margaret Walker

As rain from heaven
Becomes wine of Christ’s blood
May we receive this wine
Given that we may share
The gift of God’s mercy.
Come receive the gift
Of life.
Kneel, accept bread, wine
Given of our Christ
Given for you, for me
For all.
Come accept the gift
Of life
As rain restores Earth’s
Bounty, so we are
Given the wine of Christ’s
Blood; given that we
May share the gift of God’s eternal
Mercy.

Dear Rev. Krommes and Friends at St. John’s:

On behalf of the staff, board, and volunteers of Phoenixville Area Community Services (PACS), thank you for your ongoing food collection for its emergency pantry. The food and groceries which you deliver throughout the year helps keep our shelves filled with the essential items our neighbors need. Thank you for your continuing support!



With gratitude,
Carol A. Berger
Executive Director

Jacobson Family Greetings 2018

Dear Friends and Family,

January 2019

Greetings in the Name of Christ!

2018 has been a particularly significant year for the Jacobsons. The New Year marks the first day of official retirement for Mark and Linda as ELCA missionaries in Tanzania. It comes after 36 years of service in multiple hospitals and in many varied ministries in Arusha (33 years) and across Africa. This year we celebrated the 25th anniversary of Selian hospital and 10th anniversary of ALMC! Mark has turned the Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre over to a wonderful team of Tanzanian colleagues and is filled with hope for its future.

We come to this point in our lives with an incredible mix of emotions. We are grateful to God for the opportunities we have had to serve God's people in Tanzania. We are contemplating what's next and also our future roles at ALMC and with other organizations providing health care globally. We are reflecting on a lifetime of serving others in the name of Christ and figuring out this next chapter.



Practically, we have retired from the ELCA and turned ALMC over to colleagues, specifically, to our good friend and longtime colleague, Dr. Paul Kisanga, and a strong management team. We have six months of reintegration provided by the ELCA. Then, the Global Mission Department of the ELCA together with our Tanzanian Bishop, have requested that we continue in a supportive role for ALMC. We will spend part of the year in Tanzania and part of the year in the USA.

It's been an incredible story and an incredible year. From our early years in community health, to building two hospitals, to starting our palliative care program and our rehabilitative surgery program and Plaster House. This year we saw ALMC recognized as one of only two hospitals in Tanzania with the highest Level 5 rating from SafeCare, our international accreditors. ALMC again received the award for cleanest hospital in the country.

Linda and I are both profoundly aware of the honor we have had in serving here. We have had an incredible run of creative and innovative improvements in health care in Tanzania. Now as we begin to step back, we are confident in the leadership which we have prepared to follow us. What a blessing it has been to help develop a team of Tanzanian leaders to be ready to not only carry the hospital forward but to lead it to even greater heights.

As we enter this New Year, we are feeling our way forward. We are in Minnesota, where we have bought a house in Falcon Heights (that's between Como Park and the state fairground). We have opportunities to serve in Cancer Care, in our Lutheran ministries in Juba, South Sudan, with long term supporters, Global Health Ministries, and with our special friends in American Refugee Committee. So, we will definitely continue to serve the church here and in Tanzania!



I, Mark, am very eager to expand my roles while reducing the responsibilities and the amount of time required. As I share with our hospital staff, you can't find the word retire anywhere in the Bible.

Linda continued to welcome church and medical visitors to Tanzania, to host a big Thanksgiving dinner and to work with the widows at the annual Christmas fair in Arusha. This year we were sad to say goodbye to a Tanzanian missionary sister, Carol, and our dear Aunt Grace. Learning opportunities included a writing class, reflexology class, eye surgery, working with the ELCA young adult volunteers in Global Mission, and learning to live for the first time in Minnesota!

As a family we had a wonderful, delayed Christmas as all three of our daughters came to Minnesota from New York, San Francisco and Cape Town. Laura came with James, and Sarah surprised us all by bringing Stéphane from Paris where they were visiting his family. We enjoyed some winter sports and extended family, including 3 new grand-nephews!



Laura and James continue to live in New York City and visited James' parents in Taipei this year. Laura fit in a side trip to Japan with Katherine. Laura also went with Katherine to visit Sarah in Cape Town and most of our family made it to Toronto for Laura's childhood best friend Miriam Booy's wedding.



Katherine spent the first half of 2018 continuing her work at Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) in Boston, managing vocational training programs within the Refugee Department and working with clients to help them find employment. She moved to San Francisco in the summer. She has spent time traveling, visiting friends and family in Spain, South Africa, Canada, Alaska and Hawaii. She's enjoying exploring her new city, especially all the hiking and outdoor activities around the Bay Area, where she will look for work. Andrew has started his residency at UCSF in internal medicine.

Sarah is still in Cape Town with Stéphane. She works for Dimagi, a social enterprise that provides tech solutions for health and development in low resource settings. Her job has sent her to Lesotho, and to Tanzania four times this year. She loves getting to go home (and see her parents!). Outside of work, she spends her time outdoors: hiking, rock climbing, and cycling. She still makes music whenever she can, singing with friends and playing the piano (a recent addition to the flat!).



We approach this transition in our lives with uncertainty for sure, and yet, with certainty of God's faithfulness. We trust in God's continual leading in this chapter of our new life together. Please enjoy some pictures from this past year!

Blessings and thanks,

Mark and Linda



On Tuesday, January 22nd, we had the pleasure of having guests Mike and Cathy Kahl. Mike presented a very interesting program on the fine art of glass blowing, showing a number of video clips showing steps that take place to shape pieces into their final form. They also brought along several very unique and beautiful completed pieces from their collection. We are so fortunate to have members with such wonderful talent to share with us.



Also in January, several members and a few of St John's youth and their leaders met in the church kitchen to assemble pint jars of Hot Cocoa Mix. The youth are selling the mix to help finance their upcoming mission projects. Please show your support by buying a jar of Hot Mix when you see it available. The cost is \$6.00 per pint jar or \$10 for two pints.

Our members and planning committee are very busy preparing for the upcoming Women's Retreat. This year's theme is "Meeting Life's Changes with Hope." Ladies, please invite your friends and join us on Saturday, April 6th from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The retreat promises to be enriching and uplifting, with Reverend Kris Peterson facilitating. The cost to attend is \$15.00 and includes lunch. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. Look for the signs posted at St. John's and throughout the surrounding communities.

Our SOUPER Sale continues although we are down to Potato Soup Mix only. Quart jars are now selling for \$5; orders can be placed using the Yellow Communication Card (YCC) in your bulletin.

Our March 26th meeting promises to be fun for all. WELCA President, Linda Landis, is preparing a program based on humor. This is an annual program theme for us, typically presented during the dreary winter months and always brings much laughter and joy to our group. We hope to see you on Tuesday, March 26th at 10:30 a.m. as we say goodbye to winter and welcome spring.



Youth Summer Mission Trips

There will be two St. John's Mission Trips this summer!

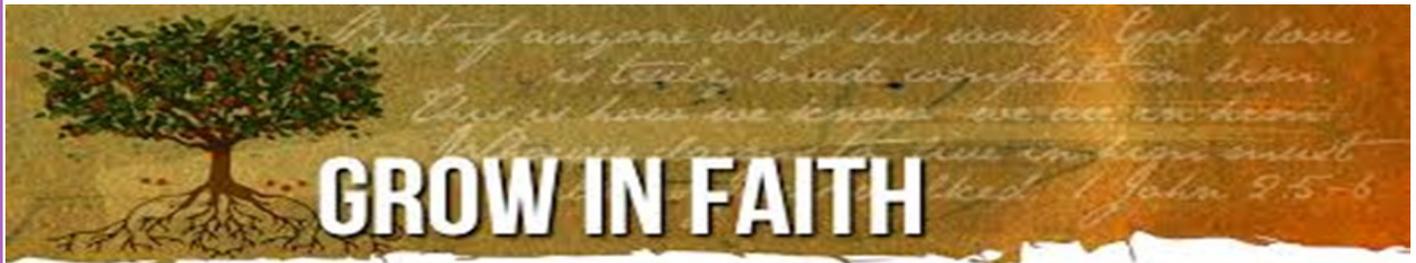
Four of our youth, Rosa Gerner, Anna Gerner, Will Stotler and Katie Kramer, along with adult leader Shelley Saeger will join the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Youth on a servant trip to Rapid City, South Dakota and the **Rosebud Native American Reservation** from July 12th through July 21st. This powerful experience promises to be a wonderful week of exploring faith and service in a context very different from that with which we are familiar. Reservations for this trip are closed.

Just before the South Dakota Group arrives home on July 21st our Appalachia Service Project Team will be heading out to repair homes and buildings in West Virginia and will return on July 27th. Youth planning to attend include: Jason, Madison and Cole O'Neill, Gabrielle and Margaux VanDerveer, Katie and Sarah Yonosh, K. Saeger, Tyler and Zack Pekofsky, Dylan New and Max Strunk. Adults going on the trip are Jodi and Justin O'Neill, Tom Snyder, Jeff VanDerveer, Claudia Borst, Len Pekofsky and Bobbi Riley. We hope that some of our college students will also join them. There may still be a few spots left. Youth must currently be in 8th-12th grade to participate. Any interested youth or adults should contact Jodi O'Neill at oneillsinvf@comcast.net.



Confirmation—Save the Dates

- April 14th—9th grade leads the reading of the passion during worship at 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
- April 23rd—9th grade mission day at Feast Incarnate
- April 26th-28th—Confirmation spring retreat in Cape May
- May 19th—Last day of confirmation classes for 7th and 8th grades, YOUTH CAR WASH
- June 9th—PENTECOST/confirmation (rehearsal at 8:30 a.m.; confirmation at 9 a.m.)
- June 17th-21st—Vacation Bible School and Afternoon Adventures



On Sunday mornings there are many 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. On the first Sunday of each month, 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 discussions are 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. They meet in Pastor 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 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.

A Study of Katie Luther

Sandra Zimmermann leads a study of *Katharina von Bora: Wife, Mother, Businesswoman and Reformer* in Fireside Room.

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.

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 begins on Sunday, March 10th, with dinner at the home of Pastor Cindy Krommes and John Stong at 5 p.m. From Sunday, March 17th through April 28th (not counting Easter) it meets on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Kley Hall. Don't worry if you need to miss a week or two, for there is a notebook to help you catch 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 in 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 Pastor Krommes at (610) 933-3947 or email at office@stjohnphoenixville.org.

First Bible

First Bible classes for 3rd grade students and parents will be held March 24th, 31st and April 7th during the Sunday school hour from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Children and parents will meet Kate Demutis in the red room in the downstairs Sunday school wing. The Bibles will be presented to children on Sunday, April 7th.





The St. John's youth are collecting aluminum beverage cans as a fund raiser to help with the costs of the 2019 mission trips.

The aluminum beverage cans we collect can be taken to a local recycling center and we receive CASH for the aluminum based on weight. This is a very EASY way to earn money and we would really appreciate ALL your cans to help in this effort.

Not only will bringing your aluminum beverage cans to St. John's help support the youth fundraising effort but recycling aluminum is wonderful for the environment.

The aluminum beverage can is by far the most recycled and recyclable beverage container on the market today. Aluminum cans are unique in that they are most often recycled directly back into themselves meaning that the average can has a very high percentage of recycled content. It takes

just 8 percent of the energy to produce aluminum from recycled material versus producing new aluminum so high recycled content is a good indicator of the can's environmental footprint.

- The average aluminum can is made from 68 percent total recycled content, the highest of any beverage container.
- Cans go from the recycling bin to store shelves within 60 days.
- The aluminum can is the only package that more than covers its recycling costs, helping to finance the collection and recycling of other materials such as glass and plastic.

PLEASE help us and bring us your cans. All aluminum cans are welcome. There is a special aluminum recycle bin in Kley Hall for can collection. Please bag your cans and drop them in this bin. Thank You!!

St. John's Social Ministry Committee was able to give the following gifts to our neighbors in need in February:

Fund I (5 County Area):

- Emmanuel Lutheran Church—\$500
- Silver Springs/ Martin Luther School—\$500
- Petra Community Housing—\$1,000

Fund III - Outreach (Global, National, Local):

- ELCA Good Gifts—\$1,500
- Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre—\$1,000
- Lutheran World Relief—\$300
- Ann's Heart—\$500
- Phantom Food Packs—\$500
- The Clinic—\$500
- St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter—\$500
- Good Samaritan Shelter—\$500
- Senior Center—\$500
- The House—\$500
- Mom's House—\$500
- Orion—\$500
- Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Services—\$500

TOTAL \$9,800



Thank you to all who contribute to St. John's! Your gifts make a difference!

People of God Involved in God's Work

March Schedule

	Early	Late
Acolytes		
3	Kevin Yonosh	Wyatt Barker
10	Evan DesMarais	Nicholas Hollander
17	Luke Olsen	Lizzie Strunk
24	Jason O'Neill	Steven Hollander
31	Elsa Lucas	Kevin Yonosh

Altar Guild

3	Janet Ertell & Nancy Cressman
6	Jean Herbranson TBD
10	Jean Herbranson
17	Jean Herbranson & John Westerman
24	Betty Hans & Elena Wallace
31	TBD

Assisting Ministers

3	Cole O'Neill	Paige DeMutis
6	Margaret Walker	Dale Herbranson
10	Jay Stearly	Tyler Pekofsky
17	Teresa Olsen	Nancy Cressman
24	Ron Stevens	Debbie Gordon
31	Brittney Walters	Dale Herbranson

Bread Baking

3	TBD
10	TBD
17	Pam Freehafer
24	TBD
31	Rich Latella and Rich Skoniczin

Coffee Hour

3	5th and 6th grade
10	Stewardship
17	Altar Guild
24	Happy Hour
31	The WAY/Welcoming Team

Communion Assistants/Lectors

3	Teresa Olsen (L)	Deb Ahola (L)
	Brittney Walter	TBD
6	n/a	Rich Latella
	n/a	Rich Skoniczin
10	Aimee Hillegas (L)	Bill Starling
	Mark Gerner	Sue Starling
17	Walt Deichmann (L)	Nancy Cressman (L)
	Pat Lucas	TBD
24	Don Titus	Mitch Reading (L)
	Lynn Titus	Sandi Stotler
31	Greg Krueger (L)	Dale Herbranson (L)
	Erica Lucas	Margaret Walker

Counters

3	Stephen & Jennifer Drewes, Donna Anderson, Peg Yanoviak
10	Heather Yonosh, Donna Searchfield, Eileen Subacus
17	Mary Heiser, Mike & Cathy Kahl
24	Jack Ertell, Lilly Khan, Imtiaz Khan Lawrence
31	Mary Heiser, Kevin Gallagher, Mike & Cathy Kahl

Lock-Up

3	TBD	Laura Caughlan
10	TBD	TBD
17	TBD	Rick Kramer
24	Dick Kunsch	TBD
31	Bobbi Riley	TBD

Ushers

3	Erica Lucas	Beth Williams
	Bob Gorman	Glen Murphy
	Luanne Bindschusz	Margaret Walker
	Barry Church	Travis Brown

March Schedule (continued)

	Early	Late
6	n/a	Donna Anderson
	n/a	TBD
10	Carol Cully	Deb Ahola
	Dick Wolstenholme	Barb Rambo
	Judy Wolstenholme	Dale Herbranson
	Margaret Walker	John Westerman
17	Greg Krueger	Donna Anderson
	Bev Rote	Brian Becker
	Cathy Garrett	James Ninness
	Debbe Welsh	Gabrielle VanDerveer
24	Dick Kunsch	Paul Miller
	Cindy Gadzicki	Cathy Garrett
	John Rawlins	Margaret Walker
	Barry Church	Nancy Cressman
31	Don Titus	Donna Anderson
	Rich Latella	Beth Williams
	Rich Skoniczin	Glen Murphy
	Luanne Bindschusz	Deb Ahola

Summary Report as of January 31, 2019

	Monthly	
	Budget	Actual
Income:		
Envelope Giving	\$ 32,972	\$ 36,898
Other Income	2,118	3,292
Total Income	\$ 35,089	\$ 40,191
Expenses	\$ 35,089	\$ 35,736
Income (Deficit)	\$ (0)	\$ 4,454

Donating Stock to St. John's

One of the many ways to financially support St. John's 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 St. John's, 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.



March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24 youth group bake sale 8am Holy Communion 9am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9:25am Christian education classes for children 9:30am Annual Meeting w/worship (no communion) 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks 2pm Dewey shower	25 11:30am Covered Bridge Garden Club 1:30pm Peterson Advisory Meeting 6:30pm Girl Scouts #4330 6:30pm Kiwanis Board 7pm Finance Committee	26 10:30am WELCA 4:15pm PACS Development/Marketing 5:30pm Stewardship	27 10am Bible Study 5:30pm Daisy Troop #42024 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	28 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	1	2 5pm Evening Light
3 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	4 5:45pm Daisy girl scouts 7pm Stephen Ministry 7:30pm Property	5 12:30pm PACA 2pm Staff 5pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 7:30pm Worship & Music	6 10am Bible Study (ashes distributed) 12:15pm Ash Wednesday service 3pm Social Ministry 5pm Girl Scouts #4308 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Ash Wednesday service 8pm Adult Choir (after service)	7 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	8 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	9 5pm Evening Light
10 8am Holy Communion 9am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9:25am Christian education classes 10:45am Holy Communion 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks 5pm The WAY dinner at Pastor's house	11 8:30pm Girl Scouts #4330 7:30pm Church Council	12 7pm Christian Education	13 10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Community Lent Worship at St. John's UCC 8pm Adult Choir	14 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	15 St. Peter's lunch	16 5pm Evening Light
17 8am Holy Communion 9am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9:25am Christian education classes-- Bear Creek Sunday & The WAY begins 9:30am Electronics 10:45am Holy Communion 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks 2pm PCO Rehearsal	18 Circle deadline 5:45pm Daisy girl scouts 7pm Stephen Ministry 7pm Welcoming Team	19	20 10am Bible Study 12pm Young at Heart 5pm Girl Scouts #4308 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Community Lent Worship at Bethel Baptist 8pm Adult Choir	21 10:30am Moms' Music & Crafts Club 5:30pm Junior Troop #4514 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells 8:15pm Naranon Support	22 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	23 10:30am Strategic Action Workshop 5pm Evening Light
24 8am Holy Communion 9am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9:25am Christian education classes-- First Bible begins 10:45am Holy Communion 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks 12:30pm GSEP Gateway Travels 7pm St. John's Choir & Friends Rehearsal	25 11:30am Covered Bridge Garden Club 6:30pm Girl Scouts #4330 6:30pm Kiwanis Board	26 10:30am WELCA 4:15pm PACS Development/Marketing 5:30pm Stewardship 7pm Parent Grief Support Group	27 10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Community Lent Worship at St. Peter's Episcopal 8pm Adult Choir	28 5:30pm Daisy Troop #42024 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	29	30 5pm Evening Light 6pm covered dish dinner and Luther movie
31 8am Holy Communion 9am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9:25am Christian education classes 10:45am Holy Communion 12pm DiGloria baptism luncheon 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks 2pm PCO Rehearsal 7pm St. John's Choir & Friends Rehearsal	1 5:45pm Daisy girl scouts 7pm Stephen Ministry 7:30pm Property	2 12:30pm PACA 2pm Staff 7pm Parent Grief Support Group 7:30pm Worship & Music	3 10am Bible Study 3pm Social Ministry 5pm Girl Scouts #4308 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Community Lent Worship at GraceCrossing 8pm Adult Choir	4 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	5 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	6 7:45am Community Prayer Breakfast 9am WELCA Retreat 5pm Evening Light

March 2019 Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24 Robin Emery's birthday	25 Chuck and Carol Cully's anniversary David Lacy's birthday	26 Lily Lane-Aharonian's birthday Scott Deichmann's birthday	27 Samantha McIntyre's birthday Tyler Thompson'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 Carr'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	6 Bennett Taylor's birthday Beth Fryer's birthday Lucas Becker's birthday Nathaniel Becker's birthday	7 Jeanette Dewey's birthday	8 Nioci 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	12 Eric Gardner's birthday	13 Paige DeMutis's birthday William Breiterger's birthday	14 Joan Cadigan's birthday Shannon Renner's birthday Zachary Brown's birthday	15 Heather Bourdeau's birthday Kathy Hardy's birthday Kim Themens's birthday	16 Brianna Greenwald's birthday
17	18 Carla Carr's birthday Devon Niness's birthday Evan Koups's birthday Jack and Janet Ertell's anniversary	19	20 Benjamin Blackledge's birthday	21 Anne Komaga's birthday Karen Singer's birthday	22 April Fryer's birthday Jay Borzumati's birthday	23 Gabrielle VanDerveer's birthday Michelle Wilkinson's birthday Will Blackledge's birthday
24 Charlotte Daywalt'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 Cornina Geiger's birthday David Frees's birthday Emily Riley's birthday	29 David Carr's birthday M. Jeanette Hopkins's birthday Victoria Gliniski's birthday	30 Joshua Saeger's birthday Ron Stevens's birthday
31 Malika Khan's birthday	1 Janet Reading's birthday Jeremy Unruh's birthday	2 Bob Faddis's birthday Stephen Hollander's birthday	3 Jay Greco's birthday Judy Wolstenholme's birthday Kendall Tobin's birthday Robert Kunsch's birthday	4 James Reading's birthday John and Bobbi Riley's anniversary	5 Todd Ehrhart's birthday	6 Arlene Greenwald's birthday Lexi Booz's birthday Paul Miller's birthday



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 & Pianist:
John A. Quinn III
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

Updated Contact Information

Brooke and Dan Free
1458 Woodmere Drive
Pottstown, Pa 19464

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

Serena Rae Greninger
Carsen Grace Veneziani
Sophia Irene Veneziani
February 3, 2019

Funerals

Michael T. Merroth
January 31, 2019

Clarence S. Carl
February 7, 2019

Inside this issue:

March Worship	1-2
The Pastor's Message	2
Pancake Supper / Ash Wednesday / Welcoming / Bear Creek Sunday / St. Peter's lunches	3
Music News / Strategic Action Workshop / LWR	4
Scholarships / Women's Retreat / Lent Offering	5
Community Lent Worship	6
Prayer Breakfast / Synod Assembly	7
Jacobsons Letter	8-10
WELCA News / Mission Trips / Confirmation	11
Education News	12
Collecting Cans / Social Ministry	13
March Schedule / Financials	14
Calendars	15-16
Staffing / Contact Info / Pastoral Acts	cover



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



2019

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

