

The Circle

May Worship at St. John's

Third Weekend of Easter

Saturday, May 4^h – Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, May 5th

Confirmation Retreat Weekend

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

Sunday School 9:25 a.m.

St. John's Choir and Friends Concert, 7 p.m.

The disciples make a big splash and then have breakfast on the beach with Jesus. So will our Confirmation students this weekend as they go "down the shore" in Cape May to explore the Church's treasure of the Apostles' Creed. In the evening beginning at 7 p.m., St. John's Choir and Friends will perform their 29th anniversary concert with psalms and spirituals beginning at 7 p.m. Truly a weekend of Easter joy!

Fourth Weekend of Easter

Saturday, May 11th – Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, May 12th

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

Sunday School 9:25 a.m.

The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus who is our good shepherd. On this Mother's Day weekend we will also hear about Dorcas in Joppa who was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the early Church.



Fifth Weekend of Easter

Saturday, May 18th – Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, May 19th

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

Sunday School Breakfast and Celebration at 9:25

Youth Mission Trip Car Wash – all morning

This weekend our readings testify that God is making all things new. We will give thanks to God for all the new learning we experienced in Sunday school during the past academic year and celebrate with a special breakfast and games. Come to worship to celebrate the resurrection and to reflect on both what is old and what is new.



Sixth Weekend of Easter

(summer worship schedule begins)

Saturday, May 25th – Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, May 26th

Holy Communion at 9 a.m.

Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. The risen Lord Jesus provides visions of peace that passes human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

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The Pastor's message:

Do Not Fear"

Someone has counted that there are 365 times in the Bible where we are told, "do not fear"—one for every day of the year. In the Easter Gospels, fear is the most frequently mentioned resurrection response—six times in four stories. It's a natural response if the only two things that are certain in life are death and taxes (I am writing this on April 15th) and suddenly only taxes are certain, resurrection is something to fear. When we're suddenly caught off guard and don't know what to do, when we don't know what will happen to us or when reality is different than we thought it was, we experience fear. When the women went to the tomb to tend



to the body of the dear, dead friend, Jesus, and he wasn't there—fear was their natural response. For them it was far more than being scared and included disorientation, not knowing what's going to happen, the realization that there is far more going on here than they had any idea of, and that something more is the work of God.

There have been times in my life when I have been afraid: the second date with my husband John (I liked him so much on the first that I was afraid he was too good to be true); at the unexpected and sudden death of my mother; when John and I lost a child through a miscarriage; and some other times. But the time I was most afraid was about a week after I'd been ordained and realized the challenges that were facing the people and their very young pastor at St. Bartholomew's Lutheran Church in Trenton. By then I had a good look at the church finances and furnace. There were major issues with both. I called one of my internship supervisors, Pastor John Cochran, to confess that I didn't know if I could do this. I told him they didn't have enough money to cover my first paycheck (at \$1,167 a month) and that I had no idea if this would work. I will never forget his response, "Cindy, do the mission and the money will come." Well before "Field of Dreams," John's response moved me from fear to faith. Do not be afraid. Do the mission.

This is precisely what the women do on that Easter Sunday—they remember Jesus' words about being crucified and rising again, they go and tell the disciples, and even though their words are dismissed as an idle tale, they persist in believing. They do the mission.

In God's love through Jesus, we live, grow and share—that's our mission. As we continue on our Strategic Plan and begin to put it into action, there will be days when we have no idea if it will work, days when we will be tempted to fear change, days when we will want it to slow down or speed it up, days when we doubt and get upset and are full of worry and for each one of those days God gives us the command, "Do not be afraid" 365 times. Do the mission—live, grow and share in God's love through Jesus.

Pastor Cynthia Krommes




Welcome and Farewell

On the weekend of April 27th and 28th we will welcome ten new members to our community of faith! They are Kevin Beck, the Bomberger family, Peg Groening, Sean Kahl, Denise Longbind and Joan Wilson. You are invited to the Newcomers' Brunch beginning Sunday, April 28th at noon in Kley Hall. Their bios will be included in our June Circle.

At the brunch we will also honor and thank Debbie Gordon, our seminarian from the United Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia. Debbie has been a wonderful blessing to us for the past two years. Her final weekend with us will be on May 4th and 5th when she serves as our preacher. Debbie will be graduating from the seminary on May 17th. In the coming

year she will be serving on the staff of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Devon. There will be a "card basket" for Debbie at the brunch. You can also share your appreciation for her ministry with her through her mailbox in Kley Hall. Let us give thanks for the blessings God gave us through her and wish her Godspeed in her future ministry.



Psalms AND Spirituals

SUNDAY MAY 5, 2019 7:00 PM

OUR
29TH ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT
ST. JOHN'S CHOIR & FRIENDS

F. THOMAS SNYDER, III - DIRECTOR
JOHN A. QUINN, III - ACCOMPANIST
DEREK MANINFIOR - GUEST ACCOMPANIST

PSALM SETTINGS BY:
JOHN NESS BECK, CÉSAR FRANCK,
RANDALL THOMPSON,
AND RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS.

SPIRITUALS INCLUDING:
SWING LOW, SWEET CHARIOT;
THERE IS A BALM IN GILEAD;
GIVE ME JESUS;
THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE;
AND AIN'T GOT TIME TO DIE.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
355 ST. JOHN'S CIRCLE
PHOENIXVILLE, PENNA.
610-933-3947

FREEWILL OFFERING

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

NUMBER 39 IN A SERIES

LAWRENCE PHILLIPS/DESIGN

Confirmation Retreat

Cape May . . . here we come! On Friday, May 3rd at 6 p.m. our 7th, 8th and 9th grade confirmation students, along with their guides, will meet at the church to head “down the shore” for the weekend for their spring retreat. (Please pray for nice, warm weather.) The theme of the retreat is The Apostles’ Creed—which though an ancient creed continues to comfort and challenge as we ponder the amazing mystery of God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier—the Holy Trinity. They’ll be camping out at the DeMutis’ shore house and gathering at Cape May Lutheran Church for their learning events. The weekend will include some time for relaxing, prayer, and weather permitting, Holy Communion on the beach on Sunday morning. The confirmation students will return refreshed and relaxed on Sunday afternoon while the leaders and guides will be ready for long naps. Please keep them in your prayers!



Psalms and Spirituals

On Sunday, May 5th, at 7:00 p.m., 55 singers from 24 area churches join together in the 29th annual St. John’s Choir & Friends concert. This year’s program, entitled “Psalms and Spirituals,” features Psalm settings by John Ness Beck, Randall Thompson, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and César Franck and Spirituals including *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*, *There is a Balm in Gilead*, *Give Me Jesus*, *This Little Light of Mine*, *Ain’t Got Time to Die*, and



Take Me to the Water. Director of Music Tom Snyder conducts and accompaniment is provided by John Quinn playing both organ and piano. John is joined by Derek Maninfior, Music Director at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Phoenixville and flutist Andrea Engle.

Last year over 60 singers from 25 area churches joined in Sacred and Secular Christmas selections. Past programs have included Dan Forrest’s *Requiem for the Living*, 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 *Spirituals*.

Plan now to attend this inspiring concert. Come early as we anticipate a full-house. A reception follows the program.

Help is Needed on May 5th

Help is needed for the May 5th, St. John’s Choir & Friends supper and reception following the concert. We’ll be feeding supper to 55 performers and anticipate about 200 at the reception. The Fellowship Committee will be coordinating both the supper and reception. Assistance is needed for the supper: setting, serving, and cleaning up, as well as the same jobs for the reception. If you can help, please contact Sonya Sowards at (610) 933-3947, send an email to office@stjohnphoenixville.org or check the Yellow Communication Card. Thank you!

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 your support!



Sunday School Celebration Breakfast

On Sunday, May 19th we will celebrate a wonderful year of Sunday school at St. John's with a breakfast and games. Everything begins at 9:30 a.m. in Kley Hall. Information will be sent home with the children about how parents can help with the food and fun. While you are enjoying breakfast you can also have your CAR WASHED!

Youth and Family Car Wash

Sunday, May 19th 8-noon

Is your car dirty with pollen? Drop your car off with our youth, and while you worship, they will wash your car! Donations will be accepted for the car wash, which benefits our youth mission trip fund.

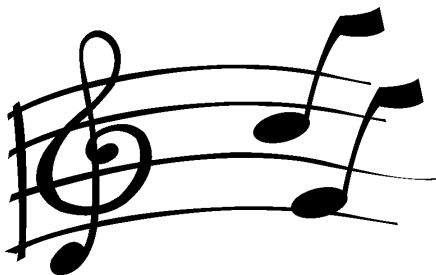


Congratulations

On Sunday, June 2nd at our 9 a.m. worship, we will rejoice in the high school graduation of six of our students: Paige DeMutis, Madison Muller, Carmen Murphy, Cole O'Neill, Gabrielle Perrotto and Gabrielle VanDerveer. We would also like to honor our trade school and college graduates that day. Please contact Sonya Sowards at (610) 933-3947 or office@stjohnphoenixville.org so they are included in our celebration.

Confirmation Blessings!

On Sunday, June 9th, seven of our young people will affirm their Baptism through the rite of Confirmation. They will be presenting their "faith statements" as the sermon that day. Let us give thanks for parents keeping baptismal promises, for a congregation that keeps them too, for two terrific guides, Karen and Josh Romano, for Master Teachers Manny DeMutis and Pastor Krommes and ESPECIALLY for Stephen Hollander, Andy McMahon, Zack Pekofsky, William Stotler, Margaux VanDerveer, Katherine Yonosh and Sarah Yonosh.



Band Members Needed

On Sunday, June 9th, at the single 9 a.m. service, we'll be singing a contemporary song called "Send Down the Fire" for confirmation. We'll need an acoustic guitar, electric bass, and conga player to join Nate Romano on the drum set, Aimee Hillegas on flute, and John Quinn on piano. Please email Tom Snyder, Director of Music, at ftsiii@gmail.com if you are able to play. We'll arrange rehearsals once we have all the players lined up. Listen to the link—really cool music. https://www.hopepublishing.com/W196195_SEND_DOWN_THE_FIRE

Calling all Musicians

Pentecost Languages

Pentecost will be celebrated on Sunday, June 9 at 9:00 a.m. with Confirmation, or Affirmation of Baptism. One way we recognize Pentecost is with Prayers of Intercession spoken in many other languages. If you are willing to speak a foreign language, please contact Jean Herbranson, deherb@juno.com, or sign up on the YCC in May.





Pentecost Geraniums

We will decorate the chancel and altar area on June 8th and 9th with red geraniums in observance of Pentecost (red is the color of celebration—many people also wear red colors on Pentecost). Plants will cost \$7.00 each and may be ordered on the sign-up sheets in the narthex or hallway or by contacting Sonya Sowards at (610) 933-3947 or office@stjohnphoenixville.org. Please note "Pentecost Geraniums" on your check. You may dedicate them in someone's honor or memory and you are encouraged to take them home after Sunday's service. Plants left at church will either be planted on the church grounds or donated to a community organization.

This year Vacation Bible School will take us beyond our world—To Mars!!



It begins on Monday, June 17th at 9 a.m. and concludes at 12 noon on Friday, June 21st. Over 70 children are already signed up so it is important to get your registration in today. Forms are in the narthex, on the website, or can be obtained by emailing office@stjohnphoenixville.org. Children aged 11 or older can sign up to be helpers. (They will need to fill out the form too.) Many thanks to WELCA and our VBS Planning Team for their help in preparation for the big week!

VBS Staff Helpers Needed!

If you have completed 5th grade we need your help at VBS! If you are an adult who has mornings free, we need your help! If you are in junior/senior high school or home from college, we need your help! Every year, we need about 60 staff volunteers to make our VBS the best it can be. Please consider giving your time to this important ministry for children as a VBS staff member. Please speak with Pastor Krommes to apply. Applications are due ASAP for planning purposes.

Afternoon Adventures is back!

Afternoon Adventures will take place June 17th-21st from 12 noon to 5:30 p.m. for children ages five and above. This day camp is designed to reach out to those children who, because of their child care needs, have been unable to participate in VBS. We'll play, swim, learn a little, make crafts, and generally have a great time. If you are interested in this program for your child, complete that portion of the registration form and include the \$100 registration fee. Also, if your child is not a member of the Phoenixville YMCA, there will be an additional fee which pays for a week swim pass at the YMCA. You can use the VBS form to register for Afternoon Adventures.

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.

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.

Please pray for our mission teams this summer!.





BEAR CREEK CAMP

Explore, celebrate & grow in God's creation!

After a wonderful Bear Creek Camp Sunday at St. John's in March, a bunch of our children are already registered for the best week of their summer (or maybe the best week after VBS at St. John's.) If your child has not yet registered, you can do so at bearcreekcamp.org. If a camp scholarship from St. John's would be helpful, please speak with Pastor Krommes.

Membership Directory

The Welcome Team is moving ahead with its plans to create a new member directory. However, with everything that is happening at St. John's right now and vacation season rapidly approaching, we decided to delay taking new pictures of everyone until September. We will keep everyone posted as to dates and times in future bulletins and issues of *The Circle*.

Once the directory is finalized, we will be able to provide each family with a digital copy. We also plan to print out black and white copies for people who don't have access to computers and printers.



On Saturday, April 6th, 22 women gathered at St. John's for WELCA's annual retreat. The theme for this year was "Meeting Life's Changes with Hope," with the Reverend Kris Peterson facilitating. The retreat opened with a call to worship which included scripture, prayer, hymns, and sharing of items of "hope" brought by each attendee. The program included three sessions spread over the morning and early afternoon, with a break for lunch and another break during which the women could chose an activity. Pastor Kris brought her labyrinth and a few of the women chose that for their activity; others elected a nature walk or to color postcards or mandalas imprinted with applicable scripture. Our day ended with a closing Eucharist Service. We were very pleased to hear the many positive comments made by attendees. WELCA sincerely thanks St. John's member Tammy Klotzbach for generously supporting our group. Her contributions helped make our retreat another great success.

Next year our retreat will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2020. Please "save the date" and plan on joining us for a day filled with inspiration and enrichment.

Please note that there is no meeting scheduled for May. We have set a tentative date of June 4th to meet for annual VBS preparation.

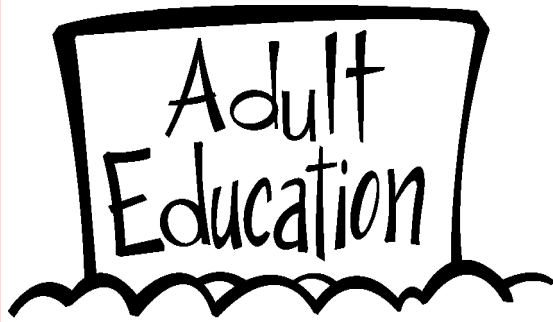
The St. John's youth are collecting aluminum beverage cans as a fund raiser to help with the costs of the 2019 mission trips. The aluminum beverage cans we collect can be taken to a local recycling center and we receive CASH for the aluminum based on weight. This is a very EASY way to earn money and 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.

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!!





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.

Strategic Planning Update!

. . . we have heard you and need your help . . .

During Council's latest meeting, Monday April 8th, the entire team including staff, committee chairs, Council and Dr. Elise Brown met to discuss next steps in working on concrete action and implementation of our five focus areas (see the minutes of our meeting on page 11 of this newsletter). Those areas, leaders and contact information are below—please reach out to any of them to lend your thoughts or expertise:

- **Worship and Music**—Led by Jean Herbranson (deherb@juno.com), Tom Snyder (ftsiii@gmail.com) and Lynn Titus (nanatitus67@gmail.com), this Team will be working on enlivening worship, experimenting with new forms of worship, consider the worship schedule and overall work on making worship an engaging, spiritually uplifting experience for all who attend.
- **Ministry Leadership**—Led by Mitch Reading (mitch.reading@cbre.com) and Dick Kunsch (snugie@icloud.com), this Team will be working on lay and clergy leadership that empowers people to use their gifts in the ministry to the glory of God and strengthening of St. John's.
- **Newcomers**—Led by Donna Searchfield (dsearch519@gmail.com), Cathy Kahl (robertsaccounting@comcast.net), and Shelley Saeger (shellsaeger@hotmail.com), this Team will examine how newcomers experience St. John's, what encourages them to return, how visitors learn about the church, how visible we are in the community and ways to encourage the growth of the congregation.
- **Youth**—Led by Teresa Olsen (jtbertesa@gmail.com), Brian Becker (becker1970@hotmail.com) and Rick Kramer (rickkramer@outlook.com), this Team will look at new models for youth ministry and how to most effectively engage and encourage young people to grow in faith. They will also work to identify potential new staffing for this ministry area.
- **Christian Education**—Led by Mark Gerner (mark_gerner@comcast.net) and Bobbi Riley (mrs.r.pville@gmail.com), this Team will look at education models that will encourage participation of families and others in the congregation. This Team will also work with Youth to identify potential new staffing for this ministry area.



Dear Rev. Krommes:

On behalf of Phoenixville Women's Outreach and The House, I would like to thank you for your recent gift of \$372.50 in support of our program for women in need. Your donation will help us continue to fulfill our mission to help homeless and low-income women break the cycle of poverty and dependence and work toward becoming self-sufficient, independent and successful. Thank you for helping to continue this vital work.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Messere,
Executive Director, The House

Dear Pastor Krommes:

On behalf of Good Samaritan Services, I would like to thank you for your recent donation of \$500. Because of your contribution, we will be able to help hundreds of individuals and families to overcome or steer clear of the crisis of homelessness in Lancaster and Chester Counties. Every day, we are providing shelter and housing services to nearly 200 men, women and children. Your gift changes lives!

With a grateful heart,
Nate Hoffer
Chief Executive Officer
Good Samaritan Services

Dear Pastor Krommes:

Thank you for your gift of \$500 to the Phoenixville Community Education Foundation in support of Phantom Food Packs. Your gift helps ensure that our youngest students are receiving proper nutrition throughout the weekend so they can return to school on Monday ready to learn. We are truly grateful for your generosity.

Sincerely,
Joan Cadigan
Executive Director, PCEF

Dear Rev. Krommes:

We are so grateful for your very generous donation to Orion and our neighbors in need! Last year, due to the generous support of people like you, Orion was able to help 1,190 families who were struggling with shelter, food, and other basic life essentials. We are honored to receive your donation of \$1,290. Your gift allows Orion to continue to be a safe and helpful place for our neighbors in times of crisis.

With gratitude,
Kris Keller
Executive Director
Orion Communities

Dear St. John's Lutheran Church:

God's boundless grace propels us to share abundantly in faith and love. Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,000 to the ELCA in support of missionaries. To learn more about the impact of your gift, visit ELCA.org/globalchurch.

With gratitude,
Andrew G. Steele
Director, ELCA Global Mission Funding

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

On behalf of the staff, board, and volunteers of Phoenixville Area Community Services, thank you for your generous contribution of \$1,290 given through your special Advent offering. Thanks to your generosity, we will continue to provide assistance to our neighbors in need, not just through their time of crisis, but with referrals and follow-up so they can get back on their feet. Thank you for all you do for PACS and the Phoenixville community!

With gratitude,
Carol A Berger
Executive Director
Phoenixville Area Community Services

Dear Pastor Krommes and Friends:

Thank you for your generous gift of \$500 to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. Your gift is providing life-sustaining care for migrant and refugee families both as they arrive and during the time it takes to build a new life. Thanks to you, children who were separated from their parents have been reunited with their loved ones and given the resources and connections needed to recover from trauma. By helping LIRS welcome the stranger, you are sending a powerful message of hope conquering fear. Thank you so much for your gift!

Together in faith,
Krish O'Mara Vignarajah
President and CEO
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Dear Rev. Krommes:

On behalf of Ann's Heart, I would like to thank your church for your donation in the amount of \$1,290 toward the Code Blue Overnight Emergency Warming Center. The Code Blue Center provides a safe and warm overnight shelter for men, women, and children. Thank you for your ongoing support of this program! Your generosity is overwhelming and will make a big impact!

Sincerely,
Kristen McGee
Executive Director
Ann's Heart

Dear St. John's Lutheran Church:

Thank you for your gift of \$3,238.68 to ELCA World Hunger. Your generous gift is enabling transformative works of love here in the United States and in 60 countries around the world, providing what is needed to end hunger and poverty: access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education and peace and justice. Together we are creatively and courageously working toward a just world where all are fed.

In Christ,
The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director
ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

Dear St. John's Lutheran Church:

Thank you very much for donating \$200 worth of Wawa coupons to Bear Creek Camp's Campfire and Cocktails Gala. Your support helped us raise over \$34,000 for our Campership Fund! Please check out all our pictures from the Gala on Facebook! We would also welcome you to visit the camp as we would love to show you around and explore all we have to offer. Thank you once again for your gift! We thank God for you!

Sincerely,
Karen Hesper
Program and Development Assistant

St. John's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting/Strategic Planning Minutes
April 8, 2019

Attendees: C. Krommes, S. Sowards, L. Caughlan, B. Riley, R. Kramer, D. Kunsch, P. Naylor, B. Greenwald, S. Zimmermann, M. Reading, K. Gallagher, D. Titus, D. Searchfield, S. Drewes

Guests for Strategic Plan: E. Brown, T. Kochendorfer, L. Titus, J. Herbranson, T. Snyder, M. Gerner, T. Olsen, S. Saeger

The meeting with all attendees listed above was called to order at 7:30 pm with a prayer offered by Pastor Krommes.

Dr. Brown presented an update on our Mission Planning Process:

Path Forward/Actions with the creation of concrete actions in our 5 priority areas identified

- Build out team to work on each area.
 - Dr. Brown will contact each team (not committee).
 - Teams will work with existing committees.
 - New team recruits will not be obligated to a long-term commitment to the area of focus.
- Implementation plan and timeline
- Communication plan to the whole congregation

During the process/change, it is essential to make the WHY clear to the congregation; this will strengthen and grow our congregation.

- Go Slow - Introduce change elements at a rate the congregation can absorb.
- Be Transparent - Over-communicate to the congregation that changes will be happening in the 5 areas of priority and what changes the congregation can expect and the timing.
 - Dedicated bulletin board in the hallway nearest the sanctuary
 - Bulletin inserts, Newsletters, e-mail blasts
 - Act as a Community - No small caucuses; no exclusions
 - Monthly or twice a month updates from the 5 areas. Sonya will coordinate input from the teams and disseminate.
 - What do we communicate, when do we communicate?
 - Communication should let congregation know who leaders are in the areas. March 23 ideas are going to the teams.
 - Mitch will boil down communication. Mitch to write up something for initial communication and Elise will review.
 - Next step Council will consider Sunday morning schedule and Christian Education model/schedule. Christian Education and Worship and Music to work together to bring a recommendations for Council and review at the June 10 Council Meeting.
 - Electronic screen for announcements in the narthex. This is approved for implementation.
 - Communicate on Easter - have names of team leaders and contact information, distribute on Palm Sunday
 - Be Calm - Stay the course; remain non-reactive to people's fear or unrest about changes. Be caring and thoughtful in dealing with congregation.
 - Expect Push-Back - If everyone agrees, people are not alert to what is happening.
 - Be Fair - Everyone needs to be heard.
 - Assume positive intent - Everyone's point comes from a good place. They have best possible intention in what they are trying to do.
 - Be positive - with a hopeful message about strengthening and growing St. John's for the future.

- Try new things – Think outside the box, get out of our comfort zone. Move beyond same, same, same.
 - Ability to go back - After thoughtful consideration give new things adequate time for adoption. If it's not working, don't be afraid to abandon it and try something different.
- Emphasize - the things that are working well at St. John's and will continue and the things that need work.

Build Out Teams

- Dr. Brown with work with the teams to build the teams.
 - How do members find their way into these 5 areas of focus?
 - Be inclusive and transparent
 - People need to be asked
 - At least two new voices should be included in each Team.

Implementation Plan and Timeline

- The 3/23 Meeting resulted in good ideas to feed into the 5 area. Teams will take these ideas and create concrete action steps
 - Create a time line or continuum; what ideas can be implemented immediately, what is the sequence. Consider the low and high impact to the congregation of each action.
 - Congregation is ready – no more meetings, they want to see action now
 - Take the post-it notes down and divide them into the 5 areas and give them to teams. Leads need to look at what's on the post its. Bobbi will divide the post-it notes.
- How do Teams and Committees Work together?
 - Teams are not coming into committees; they will work together for a couple of months.
 - Not folding into committees forever; Team Leads have not yet had their meetings.
 - Keep standing committees involved with teams
 - Use committee meeting time with people who have expressed interest in the teams.
- Implementation
 - Final Decision – Council Committees need to bring forward to Council the WHY and what problem they are trying to fix, and how this change will directly address this problem. Look at the root of the issues.
 - What needs to come to Council for a decision?
 - Budget Impact, Staff, Hiring
 - Large scale purchases
 - Major changes such as worship time, services impact.
 - Executive Committee vets these first and determines what needs to come to the full Council if there are questions.
 - What does not need Council approval
 - New welcoming plan/ambassadors
 - Christian Education curriculum (rotational model)
 - Things to increase physical or virtual visibility
 - Some ideas can be implemented immediately, others will take more time.
 - If teams or committees are unsure if they have authority to implement it, send questions to the Executive Committee, Mitch Reading or Dick Kunsch (Council President or Vice President)
 - Who does the timeline – Steven Drewes is familiar with the process and he and Shelley agreed to help build out a communication plan that would go along with the timeline.
 - Committees work together on things that have an impact on other groups, i.e., Worship and Music and Christian Education regarding worship and Sunday school schedule/timing.

Guests joining for the Strategic Planning Meeting were dismissed and the Council Meeting was called to order at 9:35 pm.

Meeting minutes from the March 11 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Dick Kunsch, seconded by Bobbi Riley to approve the meeting minutes. Motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.

Staff Reports:

- Pastor’s Report from April 8, 2019 - Pastor would like to move Debbie Gordon’s farewell and gift to Coffee Hour on May 5. At the 8:00 am service on May 5, Kelly Gallagher will thank Debbie during announcements and Donna Searchfield will thank her during announcements at the 10:45 am service. Mitch will get a thank you gift certificate at a restaurant near Downingtown. Kelly Gallagher will work on written thank you cards from young people for Debbie.
- T. Snyder’s Report from April 2, 2019
- J. Quinn’s Report from April 2, 2019

A motion was made by Dick Kunsch, seconded by Bobbi Riley to approve the Pastor and Staff Reports. Motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.

- Finance Committee – Don Bechtel was approved as a substitute counter. Finance report is incomplete; we will review the report at the May meeting.
- Social Ministry from April 3, 2019
- Christian Education from March 19, 2019
- Welcoming Team from March 18, 2019
- Executive Committee - no report
- Fellowship – no report
- Stewardship from February 26, 2019
- Property from April 1, 2019
- Electronics from March 17, 2019
- Worship and Music – March 5, 2019
- Columbarium – Verbal report – A niche was sold to someone outside the congregation. They are inscribing both names on it at this time, however one person has not yet died. Council has no problem.
- Youth and Family – Verbal report – Pancakes on Saturday

Old Business:

1. Lock up sheet was circulated.

New Business:

- None

A motion was made by Bobbi Riley, seconded by Sandra Zimmermann to adjourn. Motion approved with no objections or abstentions. The meeting ended with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Naylor



Confirmation—Save the Dates

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

Summary Report as of March 31, 2019

We love to see little ones using the Children's Worship Bags during worship services, but the bags are intended to stay at church. A few of the worship bags are missing, so please check your home and vehicles and return any found bags to church. Thank you!

	Monthly		Year-to-Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income:				
Envelope Giving	\$ 32,971	\$ 41,414	\$ 98,915	\$ 105,089
Other Income	2,118	2,168	6,352	7,116
Total Income	\$ 35,089	\$ 43,582	\$ 105,267	\$ 112,205
Expenses	\$ 35,089	\$ 32,320	\$ 105,268	\$ 101,842
Income (Deficit)	(0)	11,262	(1)	10,363

People of God Involved in God's Work

May Schedule

	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>
<u>Acolytes</u>		
5	Luke Olsen	Nathaniel Becker
12	Evan DesMarais	Wyatt Barker
19	Nicholas Hollander	Lucas Becker
26	9:00 a.m.—Elsa Lucas	
<u>Altar Guild</u>		
5	Janet Ertell & Nancy Cressman	
12	Jean Herbranson	
19	Jean Herbranson & John Westerman	
26	9:00 a.m. Betty Hans & Elena Wallace	
<u>Assisting Ministers</u>		
5	Debbie Gordon	Debbie Gordon
12	Cole O'Neill	Sandra Zimmermann
19	Ron Stevens	Sandi Stotler
26	9:00 a.m. Teresa Olsen	
<u>Bread Baking</u>		
5	Lynn Titus	
12	Pastor Krommes	
19	Rich Latella & Rich Skoniczin	
26	TBD	
<u>Coffee Hour</u>		
5	Book Club	
12	Mother's Day—calling all dads to help	
19	St. John's Crafty Folks	
26	n/a	
<u>Communion Assistants/Lectors</u>		
5	Teresa Olsen (L) Walt Deichmann	Brian Becker (L) Mitch Reading
12	Don Titus Lynn Titus	Kim Fetters Larry Fetters
19	Jay Stearly (L) Pam Freehafer	Sandi Stotler (L) Shelley Saeger
26	9:00 a.m. Aimee Hillegas & Erica Lucas	
<u>Counters</u>		
5	Stephen & Jennifer Drewes, Donna Anderson, Peg Yanoviak	
12	Heather Yonosh, Donna Searchfield, Eileen Subacus	
19	Mary Heiser, Mike & Cathy Kahl	
26	Jack Ertell, Lilly Khan, Imtiaz Khan Lawrence	
<u>Lock-Up</u>		
5	Don Titus	Stephen Drewes
12	Kelly Gallagher	Rick Kramer
19	Dick Kunsch	Mitch Reading
26	9:00 a.m. Brian Greenwald	
<u>Ushers</u>		
5	Cindy Gadzicki Bob Gorman Debbe Welsh John Rawlins	Barb Rambo Dale Herbranson Glen Murphy John Westerman
12	Erica Lucas Greg Krueger Dick Wolstenholme Judy Wolstenholme	Travis Brown Brian Becker Deb Ahola Donna Anderson
19	Rich Skoniczin Rich Latella Dick Kunsch Cathy Garrett	Beth Williams Paul Miller Nancy Cressman Gabrielle VanDerveer
26	9:00 a.m.—Don Titus, Luanne Bindschusz, Barry Church, & Bev Rote	

The Youth of St. John's

They struggle to help one another
 Their thoughts turn to those who need
 Their aid so help them achieve that they
 Succeed in the task they've set
 To help others has been their goal
 Thanks to our youth who give
 Of themselves so maybe at times when
 Heads shake, what 'ere they will be
 Give thanks to God that life is one
 Of utmost joy in our youth
 Of our youth we can be proud
 They follow in the steps of Christ
 Praise be to them may our youth
 Ever be the pride of St. John's
 Driving us crazy, they work hard
 Toiled nightly to raise enough to go to help
 Others giving time away from all known
 Youth trying, working, having fun, driving
 One another crazy will they ever be grown up in
 All of their crazy ways yet in all through
 Driving us crazy their thoughts are for others
 Remember they are really great crazy funny
But great because they're our St. John's youth.
 -Margaret Walker

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.



May 2019

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 Newcomers' Brunch 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks 3pm Concordia Choral Arts rehearsal 7pm St. John's Choir & Friends Rehearsal	29 11am Alanon Family Group 6:30pm Kiwanis Board 7pm Finance Committee	30 5:30pm Stewardship 7pm Parent Grief Support Group	1 10am Bible Study 3pm Social Ministry 5pm Girl Scouts #4308 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	2 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	3 Synod Assembly Confirmation Retreat 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	4 Synod Assembly Confirmation Retreat 5pm Evening Light
5 Confirmation Retreat 8am Holy Communion 9am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9:25am Christian education classes 10:45am Holy Communion 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks 7pm St. John's Choir & Friends Concert (reception following)	6 11am Alanon Family Group 5:45pm Daisy girl scouts 7pm Stephen Ministry 7:30pm Property	7 12:30pm PACA 2pm Staff 7pm Parent Grief Support Group 7:30pm Worship & Music	8 10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	9 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	10	11 5pm Evening Light
12 8am Holy Communion 9am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9:25am Christian education classes 10:45am Holy Communion 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks 3pm Concordia Choral Arts concert	13 11am Alanon Family Group 2pm Food Packs meeting 6:30pm Girl Scouts #4330 7:30pm Church Council	14 7pm Christian Education 7pm Parent Grief Support Group	15 10am Bible Study 5pm Girl Scouts #4308 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	16 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	17 St. Peter's lunch 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections 7pm McIntyre piano recital	18 Circle deadline 5pm Evening Light
19 youth fundraising car wash 8am Holy Communion 9am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9:25am Christian education--Sunday school breakfast and celebration 9:30am Electronics 10:45am Holy Communion w/baptism of Chloe Ann Dewey 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks	20 11am Alanon Family Group 5:45pm Daisy girl scouts 7pm Stephen Ministry 7pm Welcoming Team	21 1pm Afternoon Music Club 4:30pm PACS Board	22 10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	23 5:30pm Daisy Troop #42024 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	24	25 5pm Evening Light
26 9am Holy Communion 10am St. John's Crafty Folks	27 11am Alanon Family Group 6:30pm Girl Scouts #4330 6:30pm Kiwanis Board 7pm Finance Committee	28 10:30am WELCA 4:15pm PACS Development/Marketing 5:30pm Stewardship	29 10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	30 5:30pm Daisy Troop #42024 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon	31 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	1 2:30pm Greenwald Renewal of Vows 5pm Evening Light



May 2019—Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Kay Mann's birthday Morgan Klotzbach's birthday	29 Bob Karcher's birthday Jason and Tracy Stewart's anniversary Jason Mara's birthday Ramona Moreland's birthday	30 Jason Birdsell's birthday Joe Themens's birthday Stephen Drewes's birthday	1 Erin Schaible's birthday	2 Linda Landis's birthday	3 Donald Can's birthday	4 Allan Moreland's birthday
5 Donna Thompson's birthday Madelyn Hicks's birthday	6 Allen and Beth Kramer's anniversary Jeanne Schanzenbach's birthday Nolan Blain's birthday Ryan Younker's birthday Scott Levan and Tammy Klotzbach-Levan's anniversary	7 Anna Gerner's birthday Rosa Gerner's birthday Charles and Paula Weiss's anniversary Joan Benne's birthday	8 Bob and Joanne Karcher's anniversary Jeff Schanzenbach's birthday	9	10 Anthony Shirk's birthday Eric Friday's birthday Matthew and Jessica Craty's anniversary	11 Donna Searchfield's birthday Emily Birdsell's birthday Max Strunk's birthday Mike and Nicole Glinski's anniversary Sandra Zimmermann's birthday Todd Stong's birthday
12	13 Laura Geiger's birthday Mark and Jackie Feinberg's anniversary Rachel Carr's birthday	14 John O'Connell and Andrea Hart's anniversary	15 Claudine Niness's birthday Mary Faddis's birthday Nancy Cressman's birthday Nancy Perchalski's birthday Stephanie Bearoff's birthday	16 Greyson Tobin's birthday Mark Blattner's birthday Rebecca Williams's birthday	17	18 Alex Brown's birthday Christopher Bliss's birthday Nicole Dalasio's birthday Robert and Barbara Rambo's anniversary
19 April Liedike's birthday David Frees's birthday Kiersten Kraft's birthday Melissa Thompson's birthday Ron Williams's birthday Rosie LaRoocca's birthday William Davis's birthday	20	21 Britta Pekofsky's birthday	22 Kevin Dastalfo's birthday	23 Devon Mensch-Unruh's birthday Pat Lucas's birthday Randall and Karen Carr's anniversary Teddy Wimple's birthday Walt and Dana Deichmann's anniversary	24 Fred and RuthAnn Schell's anniversary Marc and Amber Herbranson's anniversary	25 Bonnie Henderson's birthday
26 Alexander Feinberg's birthday Emerson Carr's birthday Gavin Moreland's birthday Mark Woelflin's birthday Marti Steiner's birthday Nick Mara's birthday	27 James and Teresa Olsen's anniversary	28	29	30 Justin and Jodi O'Neill's anniversary Stephen and Kimberly DiGioia's anniversary	31 Donald Platzer's birthday Rich Latella and Richard Skoniczin's anniversary Susan Shirk's birthday	1 Dax Kunsch's birthday Dodi Strunk's birthday

St. John's Lutheran Church
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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:
Mitch Reading
Vice President:
Dick Kunsch
Secretary:
Pam Naylor
Treasurer:
Shirley Platzer
Assistant Treasurer:
Rose Gatlos
Financial Recording Secretary:
Mary Heiser
Fund 3 Secretary:
Kevin Gallagher
Executive Committee:
Rick Kramer
Don Titus
Laura Caughlan
Other Members of Church Council:
Sandra Zimmermann
Bobbi Riley
Brian Greenwald
Stephen Drewes
Donna Searchfield
Kelly Gallagher

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

COMMITTEES

Christian Education:
Mark Gerner, Chair
Pam Naylor, Council Rep.

Youth & Family
Teresa Olsen, Chair
Kelly Gallagher, Council Rep.

Columbarium:
Bill Starling, Chair
Sandra Zimmermann, Council Rep.

Electronics:
William Schoellkopf, Chair
Mitch Reading, Council Rep.

Executive:
Dick Kunsch, Chair

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

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

Property:
Rick Kramer
Chair & Council Rep.

Social Ministry:
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Laura Caughlan, Council Rep.

Stewardship:
Mike Kahl, Chair
Stephen Drewes, Council Rep.

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Donna Searchfield, Council Rep.

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Pastoral Acts

Funerals

Robert Kaeppler Momyer
March 30, 2019

John W. Manney
April 4, 2019

One who waits for a child
That will never come
A child that dwells
Deep in the heart
She waits and dreams
Of what might have been
Of one who dances
In everlasting sunlight
Dreams of happy joyous days
Days that might have been
Happy Mother's Day
And she weeps.

-Margaret Walker



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



2019

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.

9:00 a.m. only beginning May 26th

Handicapped Accessible

THE CIRCLE

