

# The Circle

## September Worship at St. John's

*Note: Our new Sunday schedule begins on September 8<sup>th</sup> with fellowship time beginning at 8:30 a.m., Christian education at 9:00 a.m. and worship at 10:15 a.m.*

### 12<sup>th</sup> Weekend after Pentecost

Labor Day Weekend  
Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup>  
Evening Light, 5 p.m.  
Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>  
Holy Communion, 9 a.m.

It is wonderful to be invited, to be asked to join a celebration, to be part of a gathering. St. John's is an inviting community of faith where Jesus is our host and guest. Who are you going to invite to St. John's this year?

### God's Work, Our Hands Weekend

Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>  
Evening Light, 5 p.m.  
Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>  
Fellowship, 8:30 a.m.

Sunday school for ages 3-5 years and mission trip report for older children and adults, 9:00 a.m.

Holy Communion 10:15 a.m.

What does it mean to follow Jesus? How do we do God's work with our hands? On this weekend, one of our mission trip teams will share how they followed Jesus and what they discovered about love and grace in places where they did not expect it.



### 14<sup>th</sup> Weekend after Pentecost

Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>

Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Confirmation Lock-In

Saturday at 6 p.m. until Sunday at 11:15 a.m.

Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>

Fellowship, 8:30 a.m.

Christian Education, 9:00 a.m.

Holy Communion, 10:15 a.m.

It is so easy to get lost without even going anywhere. We can get lost in our work, in anger and frustration, in addictions, in unhealthy relationships, in . . . you name it. We can be lost without even realizing we're lost. On this day may you be found by God who persistently seeks the lost and then throws a party to celebrate.

### 15<sup>th</sup> Weekend after Pentecost

Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>

Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>

Fellowship, 8:30 a.m.

Christian Education, 9:00 a.m.

Holy Communion, 10:15 a.m.

Today Jesus invites us into a new way of thinking—that instead of being “owners” of all that we have, we are really managers. Think about it, apart from the generosity of God, we have nothing—we are nothing. And yet by God's gracious favor we have everything we need.

### St. Michael and All Angels

Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>

Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>

Fellowship, 8:30 a.m.

Christian Education, 9:00 a.m.

Holy Communion, 10:15 a.m.

How do we stand up to evil in our lives and in the world? Where do we find real courage? On this day we join Michael and the angels of God in a heavenly battle against the forces of evil. There will be a dragon, angels, and VICTORY! The story from Revelation gives us strength, courage and determination and we deal with evil in our lives and the world.

# The Pastor's message:

## Practicing Resurrection

That's what followers of Jesus do every day of their lives—they practice resurrection. Eugene Peterson writes: “The practice of resurrection is an intentional, deliberate decision to believe and participate in resurrection life, life out of death, life that trumps death, life that is the last word, Jesus life.”<sup>i</sup> It is a bold move that declares that death does not have the last word, God does and that is always the word of life, of YES!

In the past 18 months the people of St. John's have practiced resurrection through the development of a strategic plan. We've listened to God's word and one another. We've prayed and thought deeply about where God is calling us and our life together. We've dreamed, discussed, debated and decided to make some changes. One is in our worship schedule, moving from three services on a weekend to two: Saturday Evening Light at 5 p.m. and Sunday morning worship at 10:15 a.m. We hope this change will better able us to share our lives with one another while continuing to invite new people to worship. We are adding a Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries to our staff to help us learn and grow. Our Sunday morning Christian education will take place between 9 and 10 a.m. and will include special activities and more intergenerational events. Fellowship time starts at 8:30 a.m. in Kley Hall, giving us an opportunity to gather and grab a cup of coffee and/or a treat before Sunday school. So many possibilities lay before us!

Every Sunday (starting with sundown on Saturday and therefore including Evening light) we celebrate the Resurrection. Every Sunday is Easter! We come with our sins and failures, our doubts and despair. We get down on our knees and acknowledge that we are “captive to sin and cannot free ourselves” which is another way of say,

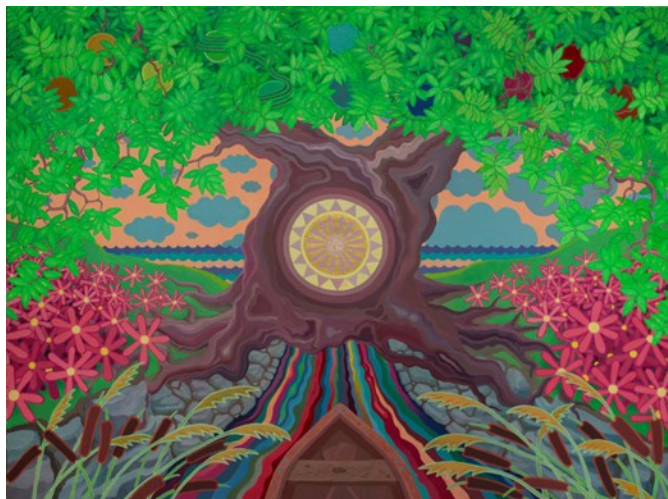
“we are dead” and then we hear that God loves us, saves us, forgives us and that Christ lives in our hearts through faith and we are resurrected. We hear God's word and open our hearts and minds, receiving it as a gift given for us and for all of creation and we are again resurrected. When we pray for the Church, those in need and all of God's children, all of it including terrible, horrible things that happen every day, everything is drawn up into the heart of God. And then we gather at the table of grace, we are fed with the very body of Christ and once again, resurrected. When we leave in peace, Christ goes with us as we practice resurrection in the world.

Martin Luther put it this way: “Christians live not in themselves, but in Christ and in their neighbor. They live in Christ through faith, and in their neighbor through love.”<sup>ii</sup> Let us practice resurrection!

Pastor Cynthia Krommes

<sup>i</sup>Eugene H. Peterson, *Practice Resurrection*, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Eerdmans, 2010, 12.

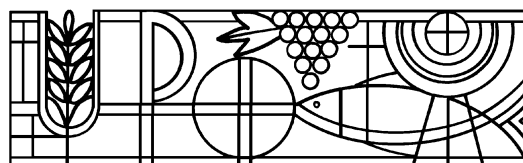
<sup>ii</sup>Luther's Works, Volume 31, page 371.



The Yes Tree by Todd Stong

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## Announcing Jen Wentworth our new Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries



Dear St. John's Congregation:

It is with great pleasure that I inform you of the hiring of Miss Jennifer Wentworth (Jen), as St. John's new Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries. Jen graduated from Cedar Crest College in 2008 with degrees in both history and education, followed by a master's in middle school science education from Western Governors University in Salt Lake City. Since graduating college, Jen has held teaching positions in both public and private schools in the region.

Alongside her teaching vocation, Jen has been an extremely active member of Augustus Lutheran Church in Trappe, where she was baptized. Participating in various committees, Vacation Bible School and teaching Sunday school have given Jen the local Lutheran background which will lend many skills to us at St John's.

As of this writing, Jen is already busy organizing her office so that she can hit the ground running with us upon the new education programming year in September. Please introduce yourself to Jen and welcome her!

Best,  
Mitch Reading  
Council President

### Saturday, September 7, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Rain or Shine

"God's Work, Our Hands" is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)—one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor. This is our way of life.

St. John's is embracing this church-wide ministry opportunity by having an all-church, family service day as we prepare our grounds and building for Rally Day on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Sample opportunities for families, youth, and adults include the following:



#### Family Projects

- Wash toy shelves in Creation and Noah Rooms
- Wash outside Sunday school windows
- Clean venation blinds in Sunday school classrooms
- Weed outside stone beds
- Possibly plant some fall flowers (TBD)
- Re-paint the playground fence -if time permits

#### Youth/Adult Projects

- *Plumbing:* Install new sacristy toilet
- *Electrical:* outside lighting repair (ladder work); inside lighting repair (some ladder work); light switch replacement
- *Building exterior:* gutter and downspout maintenance (some ladder and one-story roof work); new stone bed beside propane tank; various window cleaning and screen replacement tasks (some ladder work); paint curbs
- *Building interior:* move Stephen Ministry file cabinet; replace kitchen ice maker water filter; repair Sunday school hallway bulletin board; fix doors under choir loft stairs; clean fluorescent light panels in Sunday school rooms (step-ladder work)

Come for some of the day or come for the whole day. Come early to get your own *God's Work, Our Hands* tee shirt (quantities limited!). Come ready to serve. Come one and all. Lunch and ice cream will be served from 12 p.m.-1 p.m.

Oops! We missed a graduate in our last newsletter. **Cecilia Knaub** graduated from the University of Washington with a B.A. in Political Science. Congratulations Cecilia!



## God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

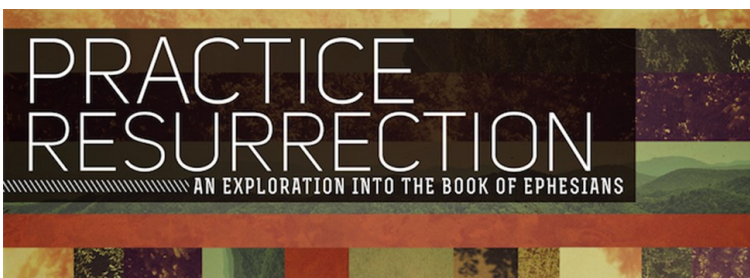
We begin our new Sunday schedule on September 8<sup>th</sup> with the celebration of God's Work, Our Hands Sunday! What has been previously called "Coffee Hour" and is now called "Fellowship" begins at 8:30 a.m. in Kley Hall. There will be time for visiting with friends, enjoying coffee and a treat before Christian education begins at 9 a.m. The Rally Day opening ceremony for all elementary aged children and younger and will start out in the sanctuary. Confirmation, older youth and adults are invited to Kley Hall for the mission trip report by those who went to South Dakota. We will give thanks for the holy work they did with their hands. And we will thank all those who supported them. Worship begins at 10:15 a.m. and our Christian education leaders will be blessed during the service.

Now is the time to enroll in Sunday School, confirmation program, youth group and adult education classes. If you have previously enrolled in Sunday school, you can simply check your child's information in the notebooks provided in the narthex. If you have never registered, forms are available in the narthex, or on our St. John's website ([www.stjohnluthphoenixville.org](http://www.stjohnluthphoenixville.org)).

**We begin confirmation with the South Dakota mission trip report on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.** At 10:15 a.m., the confirmation students will take part in the blessing of students and teachers/guides during the morning worship.

The next weekend, **Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> and into the 15<sup>th</sup>**, all the confirmation students and guides will take part in the **CONFIRMATION LOCK-IN**, which begins at 6 p.m. sharp on Saturday. While the parents meet with Pastor Krommes, the confirmation students and their guides will prepare a taco supper for everyone. After the meal the parents head home while the students participate in an evening of learning, service and fellowship. At 9 am the seventh and eighth grade students will meet downstairs in the light blue room at the end of the hall, while the ninth grade students will gather in the Youth Room. Then at our 10:15 a.m. Sunday worship, our new confirmation students will knock on the church door and ask to be received into confirmation. They will then be welcomed by the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

If you have any questions about Sunday school and confirmation, please contact Pastor Krommes.



## Wednesday Adult Bible Studies "Practicing Resurrection"

How do we live the Christian life, how are we "church"? In other words, what does it mean to practice resurrection? During the fall, our Wednesday adult Bible studies will be exploring this through a study of Paul's letter to the Ephesians. There are two opportunities to be part of a St. John's Bible study on Wednesdays. The **Morning**

**study** begins on September 11<sup>th</sup> and takes place in the community room at the Episcopal House, an independent-living apartment building for seniors on Mason Street in Phoenixville from 10 to 11 a.m. The **Evening Study** also begins on September 11<sup>th</sup> and is from 7 to 8 p.m., meeting in the Fireside Room. **YOU ARE INVITED!!!!**

### Fall 2019 Christian Education Calendar

- Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>–Rally Day; South Dakota mission trip report
- Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>–Confirmation lock-in and start of adult Christian education classes
- Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>–Intergenerational event: St Michaels & All Angels
- Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>–Children's backpack stuffing and ASP mission trip report (TBD)
- Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>–Children's Good Gifts program; Adult education stewardship event with Rev. Wilk Miller
- Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>–Intergenerational Christmas services invite preparation; assignment of roles for children's Christmas pageant
- Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>–Christmas pageant rehearsal
- Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>–Christmas pageant dress rehearsal, followed by pageant at 10:15 a.m.

## St. John's Adult Sunday School

Adult Christian education classes will begin on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. With the addition of a group for parents with young children, there will be at least five different learning and sharing activities with an occasional combined adult activity. The adult program is divided into four eight-week cycles offering a variety of opportunities for the year. All adults are welcome and encouraged to participate. The adult programs for the fall session are:

- ◆ **THE EXPERIMENT**, this brand-new group will be shaped by 20- and 30-somethings—some single, some married, some couples with children, some without. Chris and Melissa Thompson will help to bring everyone together to garner ideas and find a name, all while sharing God's love and growing in faith. This class will meet in half of the Eisenhower Room.
- ◆ **Sunday Morning Book Club**. Books are selected from recommendations by members. Most books are read over a three- or four-week period, with some coming from the Chester County Library's "Books in a Bag" Program. This fall the Club plans to read "The Vengeance of Mothers" by Jim Fergus and "Pachinko" by Min Jin Lee. Jean Herbranson serves as the coordinator. The Book Club meets in Pastor Krommes' office.
- ◆ **Bible Study: Second Timothy and Titus**. Linda Landis will lead a class based on Paul's letters to two of his young associates, Timothy and Titus. Both letters explore what it means to be leaders in the church and how that leadership is shaped, nurtured and depends upon God. The class meets in the Fireside Room.
- ◆ **Happy Hour**. This is a class that focuses on parenting issues and faith, with the class led each week by various members of the group. Discussions may touch on concerns raised at home, at school, or events in our society. Coordinated by Teresa Olsen, the group will meet in the other half of the Eisenhower Room.
- ◆ **Faith Life Class**. This class discusses topics of the day from a Christian perspective. Participants in the class share leadership and always welcome new insights into what it means to live as a faithful Christian in our very real world. Coordinated by Jack Ertell, the class meets in Kley Hall Meeting Room #1.



## The Oxford Trio

In Concert at St. John's  
4 p.m. Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>

The Oxford Trio is a chamber ensemble comprised of Katie Slauch-Boozler, violin, Julia Farber, horn, and Nancy Pedrick, piano. Julia and Nancy are sisters, and Katie is their cousin. The three have entertained audiences for well over a decade with their unique instrumentation and varied repertoire at community concerts, patriotic celebrations, church services and weddings in the Oxford Area. The main focus of their efforts has been to raise awareness of and to raise funds for community concerns.

Plan now to enjoy this delightful performance 4 p.m. on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.



## Calling all St John's Women

Please join us on Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. to kick off our 2019/2020 meeting year. Bring your enthusiasm and resourcefulness as we discuss program ideas and outline plans for the upcoming year. As usual, we will enjoy a pizza lunch after our business meeting. Looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday, September, 24<sup>th</sup>!



## MUSIC MINISTRY AT ST. JOHN'S

Music is a gift of God and part of the created order.

From its inception, "when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy" (Job 38:7), to its consummation, when "every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them" will sing to the Lamb on the throne (Rev. 5:13), creation is musical. Human music-making participates in the music of creation and reflects the order, beauty, and diversity of God's creation.

Karl Barth

### CHILDREN'S CHOIR

- Youth in grades two to five or six
- Simple reading ability is a key to success
- Rehearses Sunday 8:30-8:55 AM
- Sings about monthly
- Rehearsals begin September 15

### ADULT CHOIR

- Teens through adults
- Rehearses Wednesday, 8:00 – 9:30 PM
- Provides worship leadership September through May Sunday mornings except the second Sunday of each month
- Rehearsals begin September 4

### CHRISTMAS CHOIR

- Provides leadership for 7:00 PM Christmas Eve worship and pre-service music beginning at 6:30 PM
- Rehearses Wednesday at the beginning of Adult Choir
- Rehearsals begin October 9

### ADULT HANDBELLS

- Older teens through adults
- Rehearses Thursday, 7:15 - 8:15 PM
- Moderately advanced ensemble
- Rings about once a month as members' scheduling allows
- Rehearsals begin September 12

### SECOND SUNDAY SERIES

- Second Sunday of each month a guest musician (singer or instrumentalist) is invited to provide offertory music during worship.

### ST. JOHN'S CHOIR & FRIENDS

- Community Choir which presents an annual concert
- In 2019, 60 singers from 24 area churches participated
- Rehearsals: Sunday 3/24, 31, 4/7, 14, 28, 7 – 9:00 PM
- Performance date is Sunday, May 5, 7:00 PM
- Psalm settings and spirituals

St. John's recognizes the importance of music in its worship life. You are invited to join and be part of this joy-filled ministry and fellowship. New members are welcomed in all groups. Age groupings are guidelines.

Tom Snyder, Director of Music [ftsiii@gmail.com](mailto:ftsiii@gmail.com)  
John Quinn, Organist & Evening Light Musician

### 2019-2020 Concert Series

#### The Oxford Trio

September 29, 2019, 4 PM

A chamber ensemble comprised of violin, horn, and piano. The three have entertained audiences for well over a decade with their unique instrumentation and varied repertoire.

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#### Concordia Choral Arts

October 6, 2019, 3 PM

*Concordia is the Latin word for "harmony," literally translating to "with one heart."*

S. Katherine Shealy directs the 40-voice choir Concordia Voices.

Ticketed performance, available at the door or through:

[www.concordiachoralarts.org](http://www.concordiachoralarts.org)

⌘

#### Winds of the Providence Chamber Orchestra

November 17, 2019, 4 PM

A delightful concert of music for winds featuring Charles Gounod's *Petite Symphony*.

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#### Thomas Keesecker

December 8, 2019, 7 PM

The Quiet Center: An Advent Reflection of Music, Songs, and Poetry.

[www.facebook.com/ThomasKeesecker.composer](http://www.facebook.com/ThomasKeesecker.composer)

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#### Concordia Choral Arts

January 26, 2020, 3 PM

(See above)

⌘

#### Simple Gifts

March 15, 2020, 4 pm

Two women plus ten instruments:

A concert of ethnic folk music

[www.simplegiftsmusic.com](http://www.simplegiftsmusic.com)

⌘

#### St. John's Choir & Friends

May 3, 2019, 7 PM

30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert

John Rutter's *Requiem*

Accompanied by The Providence Chamber Orchestra

Rehearsals: March 22, 29, April 5, 19, 26, 7 – 9 P.M.

Singers are welcome, music will be provided.

## Greeter Teams

The Welcoming Team has gathered a great group of people together to help welcome newcomers to St. John's. The Greeter Team will be in the narthex beginning in the next couple weeks looking for new faces. We have also prepared a tri-fold brochure that new attendees will find useful. These will be in the narthex and in the pews for people to read and take along. There is always room for more helpers, so if you are interested in joining the Greeter Team, please let us know via the YCC. Our present rotation only requires greeters to handle one Sunday service a month. So there is not too much extra work involved . . . just arrive 15 minutes early and stay 15 minutes late to be sure newcomers can find everything they need. We'd love to have you join the team!



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Church Bowling League

Do you like to bowl? Would you like to meet new people? Come bowl with us from September through May on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at Limerick Bowl. All ability levels ages 12 and up are welcome.

- ◆ Youth/college students \$10/month
- ◆ Adults \$17/month

If interested, see Jen Wentworth or contact the League Secretary, Diane L. Fels at [vjianefels@comcast.net](mailto:vjianefels@comcast.net) by September 7<sup>th</sup>.



## SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED



## School Supplies Needed!

Consider shopping for your children AND children around the world when you hit the stores for the great back-to-school-supplies deals now in progress.

Lutheran World Relief accepts donations of "school kit" backpacks which they distribute around the globe to school-aged children (<https://lwr.org/instructions>). The St. John's children's Sunday school program will be participating and assembling LWR backpacks on Sunday, October 13, 2019.

One "kit" consists of:

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 4 - 70-sheet notebooks         | 1 - 30-cm ruler (inches on one side and centimeters on the other) |
| 1 - pencil sharpener           | 1 pair - scissors (blunt or safety tips)                          |
| 1 - 2.5-inch eraser            | 5 - #2 pencils with erasers (unsharpened)                         |
| 1 box - crayons (16 04 24 ct), | 5 - ball point pens (black or blue, no gel-pens)                  |

Please consider donating to this special cause. New items only are needed. You can buy items as a "kit," buy a lot of just a few items or make a monetary donation that will allow us to purchase anything necessary to complete our kits. Donations can be left in the designated bin in the narthex.

Thank you in advance - The Christian Education Committee

*Living, Growing, and Sharing in God's Love*



## Bishop Davenport on the ELCA as a “sanctuary denomination”

Beloved siblings in Christ,

At our Churchwide Assembly, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recommitted itself to walking alongside immigrants and refugees **as a matter of faith**. This Assembly action affirmed our history as an immigrant faith in the United States and the Lutheran Church’s long history of assisting strangers in our land.

We live in a time when the immigration system in our nation is stressed to the point of breaking, and the legal processes for dealing fairly with those seeking refuge and asylum in America is overwhelmed. As immigration is part of our national debate, our ELCA is emphasizing the biblical and historic basis for walking with one another in the form of accompaniment, and the increased opportunity for diversity and inclusivity as we build relationships with global immigrants. To be light to those who are in darkness through separation of parents and children and the threat of deportation of loved ones, we are called to be beacons of hope. This is truly “God’s work. Our hands.”



Dancing sunbeams  
Moon glows  
Gentle whispers each calls  
Come rejoice for we are warmth and  
Gentleness  
In summer’s light  
We fear not cold  
Moonlight gives a light of peace  
That we in peace shall sleep  
Till morning’s warmth awakens  
Soft the breezes blow  
The sun’s warmth awakens us  
Song of birds uplifted to the heavens  
Softly we hear softly calling  
Darkness is bidden stay  
Light dances shadows away  
Come dance a while o’er valleys, hills  
Through meandering water  
Listen a thrush sings a song  
Greeting the new morn  
Come rejoice for here is a world  
The city knows not  
With its hustle and clamor  
Soft sounds raise no voice in cities dim  
Come listen a while in woodlands cool  
Where a song of a bird  
That calls softly  
Where a fox rolls in soft grass  
There a rabbit drinks from a brook  
No fear has she of the fox  
Drinking near her  
All are at peace with one another  
Sharing a peace  
That man dost not know  
Here in this glade  
For it is written  
The lion shall lay down with the lamb  
Here is peace that man cannot know  
That one may dwell in peace  
Hunted and the hunter  
Share a peace unknown  
In city’s clamor

-Margaret Walker

The Churchwide Assembly proclaimed that the ELCA aspires to be “a sanctuary denomination.” The Assembly acted to lean into our prophetic call to provide support and comfort to immigrants, recognizing that “sanctuary” will be embodied differently across the church. Sanctuary may include providing information about undocumented persons’ rights, connecting them with legal assistance, providing food, funds or housing—or simply having faithful discussions of immigration issues in our churches. In the months and years ahead we will, together, determine how expressions of the ELCA offer “sanctuary.”

Let me be clear that **this Assembly action in no way encourages Lutherans to break any immigration laws** (as some news media outlets have suggested). In fact, this decision by our church to recommit to working for the rights of migrants and refugees **in no way compels any congregation to take a particular course of action**.

Instead, I encourage you to consider this decision a call to consider how you and your congregation engage with immigrant populations and to discern how you could meet local needs and/or advocate for laws that reflect the biblical values of loving our neighbors and seeking the welfare of immigrants in our midst.

This action should not be construed as a “top-down” decision by ELCA leaders. This issue was placed before the Assembly by an action from the Metropolitan New York Synod, and the language about “sanctuary denomination” was added from the Assembly floor. Discussion was civil and rooted in Scripture and our Lutheran heritage. This grassroots initiative was affirmed by more than 900 voting members elected from each of the ELCA’s 65 synods.

In Christ’s love, The Rev. Patricia A. Davenport, Bishop

For more information, please visit [http://ministrylink.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/2019\\_08\\_16\\_Bishop-Letter-Sanctuary.pdf](http://ministrylink.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/2019_08_16_Bishop-Letter-Sanctuary.pdf)

### 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.





### Blessing of the Animals

There will be a special blessing of the animals on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 p.m. in the Circle in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. Pets of all shapes and sizes (or pictures of pets) are invited to be blessed. This has become a wonderful St. John's tradition for humans and animals. Please invite your friends and their pets to attend!



### Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Save the date November 9<sup>th</sup>, for a SEPA Synod Vitality Training workshop for Congregational Leaders (location to be announced at a later date).

Stewardship, our duty and delight, is an important part of our Beloved Community. Save the dates January 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at Trinity Lansdale for a workshop entitled **EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY, A Stewardship Extravaganza**. Keynoters include Clif Christopher, author of *It's Not Your Father's Offering Plate, Whose Offering Plate Is It? The Church Money Manual* and Aimee Laramore speaking about *Pathways to Generosity: Year-round Giving and Gratitude*.



### Pasta Party!

The Phoenixville Area Time Bank is having our annual Pasta Party at St. John's in September 14<sup>th</sup>!

Phoenixville Area Time Bank  
 Annual Italian Pasta Party  
 At St. John's Lutheran Church  
 Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> 5-7:30 p.m.  
 (take-out dinners available 4:30-7:30 p.m.)  
 Tickets: adults \$12, children \$8

This year in addition to our authentic Italian dinner, we will be entertained by the famous Luigi Fettucini and his dysfunctional family! Please join us for great food, fun and wonderful raffles!!

This annual event raises money to support the programs and operations of the Phoenixville Area Time Bank serving the greater Phoenixville Area. Donations are tax deductible.

Tickets are available via the Time Bank's website at [patimebank.org/events-1/annual-pasta-party-and-auction](http://patimebank.org/events-1/annual-pasta-party-and-auction) You can also purchase tickets in person at the Time Bank booth at the Farmers' Market every Saturday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. or from St. John's member Kelly LeMarbe at [keep\\_faith315@yahoo.com](mailto:keep_faith315@yahoo.com) or (517) 915-8386, or by filling out the Yellow Communication Card in church.



### One More Newcomer

In the July/August *Circle* we missed one of our spring newcomers. You are invited to meet Joan Wilson, who first came to St. John's last Christmas Eve at the children's service and loved it! Since then she's joined WELCA and was the Blue Group Leader for our awesome Vacation Bible School. She lives with her daughter in Phoenixville and she has daughters in Boston and in Philadelphia. She delights in her six grandchildren. She enjoys studying philosophy and the Bible. She said she has never felt more welcomed!

Our next session of The WAY—St. John's newcomers' group—will begin on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> with dinner at Pastor Krommes' home at 5 p.m. Please think and pray about who you want to share the joy of our life together at St. John's and invite them to worship this month.

# People of God Involved in God's Work

## September Schedule

### Altar Guild

- 1 Nancy Cressman & Janet Ertell
- 8 Jean Herbranson
- 15 Jean Herbranson, Barb Place, John Westerman
- 22 Betty Hans & Elena Wallace
- 29 Donna Anderson, Nancy Cressman, Barb Place

### Assisting Ministers

- 1 Dale Herbranson
- 8 Sandi Stotler
- 15 Nancy Cressman
- 22 Zach Pekofsky
- 29 Brittney Walters

### Bread Baking

- 1 Pr. Krommes
- 8 TBD
- 15 Lynn Titus
- 22 Rich Latella & Rich Skoniczin
- 29 Adam & Gwen Supplee

### Communion Assistants/Lectors

- 1 Aimee Hillegas (L) & Erica Lucas
- 8 Mark Gerner (L) & Teresa Olsen
- 15 Mitch Reading (L) & LuAnne Bindschusz
- 22 Don & Lynn Titus
- 29 Bill & Sue Starling

### Counters

- 1 Stephen & Jennifer Drewes, Donna Anderson, Peg Yanoviak
- 8 Heather Yonosh, Donna Searchfield, Jeanne Schanzenback
- 15 Mary Heiser, Mike & Cathy Kahl
- 22 Jack Ertell, Lilly Khan, Imtiaz Khan Lawrence
- 29 Mary Heiser, Kevin Gallagher, Mike & Cathy Kahl

### Greeters

- 1 Joan Wilson, Dale Herbranson, Donna Searchfield
- 8 Mike & Cathy Kahl, Lynn Titus
- 15 Faye Donovan, Beverly Rote, Debbe Welsh
- 22 Kelly LeMarbe, Denise Longbine
- 29 Mike & Cathy Kahl

### Lock-Up

- 1 TBD
- 8 Donna Searchfield
- 15 Mitch Reading
- 22 TBD
- 29 TBD

### Ushers

- 1 Paul Miller, Greg Krueger, Tyler Pekofsky, Donna Anderson
- 8 Barb Rambo, Cathy Garrett, Rich Latella, Rich Skoniczin
- 15 Erica Lucas, Bev Rote, John Westerman, Barry Church
- 22 Nancy Cressman, Carol Cully, Brian Becker, Dale Herbranson
- 29 Beth Williams, Don Titus, LuAnne Bindschusz, Cindy Gadzicki

## Summary Report as of July 31, 2019

	Monthly		Year-to-Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
<b>Income:</b>				
Envelope Giving	\$ 32,971	\$ 23,408	\$ 230,801	\$ 221,644
Other Income	2,118	1,864	14,823	16,343
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 35,089</b>	<b>\$ 25,272</b>	<b>\$ 245,624</b>	<b>\$ 237,987</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 35,089</b>	<b>\$ 28,568</b>	<b>\$ 245,624</b>	<b>\$ 220,947</b>
<b>Income (Deficit)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(3,296)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17,040</b>

## Membership Directory

The Welcoming Team is moving ahead with its plans to create a new member directory. However with vacation season upon us, 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.

**Attention Married Couples:** Have you signed up for one of the fall Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends? Whether you have been married one year or 60+ years, the Weekends are designed to allow married couples to take time off from the daily pressures and responsibilities and search out and discover a warmer, closer, more joyful marital relationship. Also, remember that because we are celebrating 50 years of Worldwide Marriage Encounter this year, we are offering 50% off on all registration fees for 2019, so the registration fee is \$50 instead of \$100.

The 2019 fall Weekends are:

\* October 11-13, 2019 at the spacious, modern decor rooms at the Hyatt Place Pittsburgh/Cranberry in Cranberry Township, PA -- Only a few openings left!

\* November 1-3, 2019 at the award-winning Hampton Inn Berkshires beautifully situated on the edge of a nature preserve in Lenox, Massachusetts

Please go to the website: [www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org) to see the cost for the Weekend of your choice. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included. Financial assistance is available for those in need. Fill out and submit the form, and complete your registration with a credit card, or you may choose the option to mail a check. For questions, please contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or [fjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.net).



**St. John's Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
July 29, 2019**

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

Absent: L. Caughlan, D. Titus

Guest: Pastor Ronald Wesemann

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm with a prayer offered by Pastor Krommes.

Meeting minutes from the June 10, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Sonya Sowards requested a correction to the minutes. Minutes should read: Pastor's report amended to state Pastor is working on a booklet of 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Motion was made by Dick Kunsch, seconded by Donna Searchfield to approve June 10, 2019 meeting minutes as amended. Motion approved with no objections or abstentions.**

**Staff and Committee Reports**

- J. Quinn's Report from July 27, 2019
- T. Snyder's no report
- Pastor's Report from July 29, 2019
  - Closing of Strategic Plan will take place Reformation Sunday with Elise Brown preaching. Pastor Miller will be coming also and we will need to pay both.
  - Roll Cleaning (note someone removed from the roll will be returned to the roll if they make a contribution of record or complete a yellow communication card.)  
**Motion from Dick Kunsch seconded by Rick Kramer to remove those presented on the list from the rolls. Motion passed with no objections or abstentions.**
- Christian Education Report from July 9, 2019  
**Motion from Committee: Request 2 flat-screen smart TVs 40 to 50 inches purchased for the yellow and blue room for SCS. Recommend that these be paid for by Memorial Wreath fund. Motion passed.** Electronics committee and property committee will handle.
- Worship and Music Report from June 2, 2019
- Welcoming Team Report from July 16, 2019
- Fellowship – No report. Sandra coordinates coffee hour host volunteers that are not on a committee.
- Property – No report. Did not meet.
- Stewardship – No report.
- Social Ministry – No report.
- Finance – Executive Committee will meet regarding reserve funds.
- Youth and Family – Hiring team interviewed one candidate for Director of Youth Ministry that will move to final interview. If approved Council will be asked to approve a package.

**A motion was made by Donna Searchfield, seconded by Dick Kunsch to accept the Staff Reports. Motion approved with no abstentions or objections.**

**A motion was made by Donna Searchfield, seconded by Sandy Zimmermann to accept the Committee Reports. Motion approved with no objections or abstentions.**

Pastor Ron Wesemann met with Council to provide a look at how transition will work from retirement of Pastor Krommes to the hiring of a new Pastor. At Pastor's retirement we will have an interim pastor which St. John's will interview prior to appointment. A call committee will be formed which will consist of a broad cross-section of members, primarily not serving on Council. Expect process from Pastor's departure to new Pastor in place a year or more. For details on the process, visit <http://ministrylink.org/resources/library/pastoral-transition-guide/>

July 29, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes (continued)

Old Business

None

New Business

- Bobbi Riley reported the work on the parking lot was completed. There was additional cost incurred for addition hot tar and lines contracted while work was taking place. **Motion was made by Dick Kunsch, seconded by Donna Searchfield to approve \$500 additional (previous motion approved \$7580, current request \$8080) for the parking lot work. Motion approved with one abstention.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Naylor



Dear Pastor Cindy,  
 I had a blast at Bear Creek Camp. Thank you so much for the scholarship and allowing to get the chance to go back to Bear Creek camp. My friend Bobby Kovaleski had as much fun as I did.  
 Sincerely,  
 Connor Huddle

Thank You So Much!

Morgan <sup>Benny</sup> Maguire, Max Strunk, Cele O'Neill  
 Bryan Maguire, Dylan New, Rick, Bobbi Riley, Tom Snyder  
 Tyler Pektosky, Jason Sirelli, Zach Pektosky, Jason Sirelli, Jason Sirelli, Jason Sirelli  
 Carmen Murphy, Molly Hahn, Hannah, Galonelle VanDermeer

St. John's Congregation -  
 We appreciate all of your support, contributions and prayers for our mission trip to West Virginia. We have been blessed by your generosity to represent St. John's and give these families to keep their homes warm, safe & dry. It has been an incredible experience for us all.  
 In peace, The ASP Team

Dear Friends at St. John's:  
 Your gift is changing lives! Thank you so very much for your generous donation of \$103. Your contribution makes it possible to continue to provide free childcare and support for low income, single parents that are pursuing their full-time education. Since Mom's House does not receive any state or federal funding, we depend on donations such as yours to help us with operating expenses and enable us to continue our mission. Mom's House is celebrating 32 years of service in the Phoenixville area this year! We could not continue our mission without the generosity of our supporters. Thank you again!  
 Sincerely,  
 Wendy McKeon, Executive Director  
 On behalf of the moms, staff, volunteers and children of Mom's House

# September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9am Holy Communion	<b>2</b> 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Stephen Ministry 7:30pm Property	<b>3</b> 12:30pm PACA 2pm Staff 7:30pm Worship & Music	<b>4</b> 3pm Social Ministry 7pm Alanon 7pm Christian Education 8pm Adult Choir	<b>5</b> 10am Mom's Monthly Mingle 5:30pm Juniors Troop #4514 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 7pm Naranon	<b>6</b> 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	<b>7</b> 9am God's Work, Our Hands Workday 5pm Evening Light
<b>8</b> 8am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Sunday School / Mission Trip Report 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks 2pm PCO Rehearsal	<b>9</b> 11am Alanon Family Group 7:30pm Church Council	<b>10</b> 5:30pm Daisy/Brownie Troop #42024	<b>11</b> 10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	<b>12</b> 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 5pm Evening Light 5pm Phoenixville TimeBank spaghetti dinner 6pm Confirmation Lock-In
<b>15</b> 8am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education 9am Electronics 10:15am Holy Communion & welcoming confirmands 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks	<b>16</b> 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Stephen Ministry 7pm Welcoming Team	<b>17</b> 4:30pm PACS Board	<b>18</b> Circle deadline 10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	<b>19</b> 10:30am Moms' Music & Crafts Club 5:30pm Juniors Troop #4514 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells 8:15pm Naranon Support	<b>20</b> St. Peter's lunch 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	<b>21</b> 5pm Evening Light
<b>22</b> 8am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks 2pm PCO Rehearsal	<b>23</b> 11am Alanon Family Group 8pm Brownies	<b>24</b> 10:30am WELCA 4:15pm PACS Development/Marketing 5:30pm Daisy/Brownie Troop #42024 5:30pm Stewardship 7pm Parent Grief Support Group	<b>25</b> 10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	<b>26</b> 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 5pm Evening Light
<b>29</b> 8am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks 4pm The Oxford Trio Concert (reception following)	<b>30</b> 11am Alanon Family Group 8:30pm Kiwanis Board 7pm Finance Committee	<b>1</b> 12:30pm PACA 2pm Staff 7pm Parent Grief Support Group 7:30pm Worship & Music	<b>2</b> 10am Bible Study 3pm Social Ministry 6:30pm Concordia Choral Arts rehearsal 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7pm Christian Education 8pm Adult Choir	<b>3</b> 10am Mom's Monthly Mingle 5:30pm Juniors Troop #4514 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	<b>4</b> 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	<b>5</b> 5pm Evening Light

# September 2019 Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 John and Pam Westerman's anniversary	2 Jack Ertell's birthday	3 Justin Caple's birthday	4 Barry Church's birthday Donald and Harriet Carr's anniversary Elizabeth Sitkowski's birthday Leslie Kern's birthday	5 Cole O'Neill's birthday Jay Ritchie and Heather Bourdeau's anniversary	6 Annabelle Greco's birthday Barbara Place's birthday Margaux VanDerveer's birthday Ryan Hadfield's birthday	7 Chuck and April Liedike's anniversary
8 Lori Jones's birthday	9 Robb and Joan Cadigan's anniversary Ryan DesMarais's birthday	10 Bobbi Riley's birthday Claire Gallagher's birthday Lindsey Snyder's birthday	11 Danielle Blackledge's birthday Janet Sifford's birthday Katelyn Blattner's birthday Kyle and Joanna Oszeyczik's anniversary Mark Rutherford's birthday Tyler Pekofsky's birthday	12 Kevin Rambo's birthday Robb and Lisa Frees's anniversary Robert and Dodi Strunk's anniversary Violet Liedike's birthday	13 Addilyn Smith's birthday Kenneth Tulish's birthday	14 Andrew Carr's birthday Scott and Laura Geiger's anniversary
15 Byron and Marlene Seyler's anniversary	16 Amy Fox's birthday Avary Carr's birthday Todd and Michella Ehrhart's anniversary Wyatt Barker's birthday	17 Michelle Friday's birthday	18 Chuck and Danielle Blackledge's anniversary Marybeth Salamone's birthday Michelle Bader's birthday	19 Reese Thompson's birthday	20 Chris and Melissa Perrotto's anniversary	21 Barbara Rambo's birthday
22 Janet Gerner's birthday Myron Cratty's birthday	23 Giovanna Brown's birthday Sarah Blattner's birthday	24 Henry Duern's birthday Robb Cadigan's birthday	25 Courtney Quaglia's birthday P.J. Gadzick's birthday Sandi Stotler's birthday	26 Charles and Heather Thompson's anniversary Chloe Fox's birthday Donald Bechtel's birthday Jennifer Brown's birthday Mitch Reading's birthday	27 Brett Emery's birthday Sophia Seidel's birthday	28 Bob Valenteen's birthday Heather Yonosh's birthday Nicholas VanDerveer's birthday Peter and Diane Sitkowski's anniversary
29 Allyssa Andrews's birthday Julie Andrews's birthday Kent and Jennifer Brown's anniversary Megan Tribuno's birthday Nicholas Bonavita's birthday	30 Brian and Amy Becker's anniversary	1 Ulrich Rimrott's birthday	2 Isaac Henderson's birthday Jim Taylor's birthday	3	4 Rhett and Margit Grejdus's anniversary William Renner's birthday	5 Patrick and Jill DesMarais's anniversary

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

**www.stjohnphoenixville.org**  
**E-mail: [stjohnsphoenixville@verizon.net](mailto: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:**

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:**

Debbe Welsh, Chair  
Laura Caughlan, Council Rep.

##### **Stewardship:**

Mike Kahl, Chair  
Stephen Drewes, Council Rep.

##### **Welcoming Team:**

Cathy Kahl, Chair  
Donna Searchfield, Council Rep.

##### **Worship and Music:**

Jean Herbranson, Chair  
Brian Greenwald, Council Rep.

##### **Office Assistants:**

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

##### **The Circle Editor:**

Sonya K. Sowards

#### **Pastoral Acts**

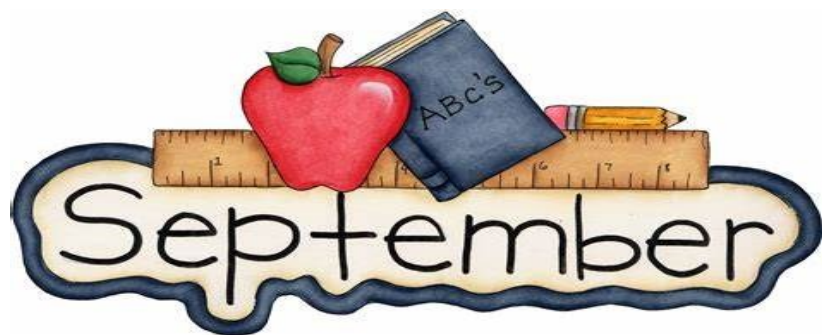
##### **Baptisms**

Jensen Sue Smith  
Eli Langlee Smith Kiser  
Addilyn Hemphill Smith  
July 7, 2019

Olivia Eve Cady Heinbaugh  
July 14, 2019



**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](http://www.stjohnluthphoenixville.org)

E-mail: [office@stjohnphoenixville.org](mailto: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 10:15 a.m.

*Handicapped Accessible*

**THE CIRCLE**

