

# The Circle

## November Worship at St. John's

### All Saints' Weekend

Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>

Fellowship 8:30 a.m., Christian Education 9 a.m.,  
Worship 10:15 a.m.

*Clocks are set back an hour on Saturday night.*

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

### 22<sup>nd</sup> Weekend after Pentecost

Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>

Fellowship 8:30 a.m., Christian Education 9 a.m.,  
Worship 10:15 a.m.

Angel Tree Workshop 11:30 a.m.

To our many questions about what the afterlife will be like, in the gospel for this coming Sunday Jesus speaks about the Lord as the God of the living. All believers, those alive and those dead, are alive in God. Come to worship to receive this good news.

### 23<sup>rd</sup> Weekend after Pentecost

#### Stewardship Weekend

Living, Growing, Sharing TOGETHER!

Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>

Fellowship 8:30 a.m., Christian Education 9 a.m.,  
Worship 10:15 a.m.



We live in uncertain times. How do we find hope? While the texts for this weekend are challenging, this is a time for us. Our preacher for this Stewardship Weekend will be the Rev. Wilbert Miller. He has served as the pastor of congregations in Philadelphia, Washington D.C., San Diego and

most recently at Trinity Lutheran Church in Manhattan. Now retired, he lives with his wife, Dagmar, in Essex Village, Connecticut.



### Christ the King Weekend

Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>

Fellowship 8:30 a.m., Christian Education 9 a.m.,  
Worship 10:15 a.m.

We expect kings to reign from a throne, not a cross. But that is where we find Jesus in our gospel on Christ the King Sunday. There he reveals that to be Messiah and king is to give one's life for others. Jesus uses his power to welcome a despised sinner to paradise but puts his own death into God's hands. Our third graders will receive their first Bible during worship this weekend.

### Thanksgiving Eve Community Worship

November 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.

at First Methodist Church

865 Main Street, Phoenixville

Everyone is invited to participate in a wonderful Phoenixville tradition—the community interfaith Thanksgiving Eve worship.

### First Weekend of Advent

Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> – Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>

Fellowship 8:30 a.m., Christian Education 9 a.m.,  
Worship 10:15 a.m.

It is the first weekend of Advent, the beginning of a liturgical year during which we will hear from the gospel of Matthew. In our readings, the coming of Christ means the hope of justice, peace, and honorable living. Come to worship, to pray for such a world as this.



## From the Pastor:

### The Secret . . .

My friend David Lose writes a blog for preachers called “In the Meantime. . .” I almost always read it and often find insight into a Bible passage I would have missed completely. A few weeks ago when our gospel reading was about Jesus healing ten lepers and only one, a Samaritan, came back to thank him. David wrote that ten were made clean, but only one was saved—you guessed it—the Samaritan. He goes on to write, “the secret to life: gratitude. Noticing grace, seeing goodness, paying attention to healing, stopping to take in blessing, and then giving thanks for the ordinary and extraordinary graces of our life together. This is the secret to a good life and the heart of saving faith.”

I believe that this is true. At our family Thanksgiving dinners my father, who will be a wise and healthy 94 year-old in December, always prayed the prayer. This was different than our nightly recital of “Thank you God for the world so sweet . . .” With dinner on the table and his family gathered ‘round he would begin praying, thanking God for the blessings of the past year, for his daughters, family, friends and about halfway through he’d choke up, have to take a deep breath and then end with “Amen.” Gratitude overflowed in his heart. Growing up this was one of the holiest moments in my life.

What are you grateful for? ‘Tis the season to count blessings. On November 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> we will fill our commitment cards for our life together as a congregation for the coming year. We can do so only because of the gifts God has given us. That we do this together, freely, with grace and thanksgiving is something I am deeply grateful for—and not just because my salary is one of the lines in the budget, but because of all the miracles that will come out of the giving. Children singing “Jesus Loves Me” with such gusto and joy as they did today so that the angels in heaven were surely dancing. Youth who are empowered to explore their doubts and faith, their skills and commitments, their love for others and God through Confirmation, Vacation Bible School, mission trips . . . the list goes on and on. Adults learning, discussing difficult issues, making important and sometimes challenging decisions about our mission. Leaders courageously embracing new ways of doing ministry while at the same time growing in depth of understanding. I am grateful that we live, grow and share God’s love TOGETHER!

More David: “what I find so amazing—this gratitude which restores and heals and completes and saves . . . it’s available to us at every single moment of our lives . . . So there it is—the secret to life, the heart of faith. Because we were, I believe, *made* for gratitude. It completes us and saves us and transforms us and makes us whole.”

Thank you.

Pastor Cynthia Krommes

October 20, 2019

<http://www.davidlose.net/2019/10/pentecost-18-c-the-secret/>



## Inside this issue:

November Worship	1
From the Pastor	2
From the Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries / Music News	3
All Saints / Angel Tree / PACS Empty Bowls	4
Stewardship / Thanksgiving Feast / Thanksgiving Eve Worship / Poetry / Christian Ed Calendar	5
November Schedule / Stewardship Workshop / Employer Match / Donating Stock / Financials	6
Global Ministries	7
Council Minutes	8-10
WELCA	10
Calendars	11-12
Staff / Updated Contact Info / Pastoral Acts	back cover

## From the Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries:

Feeling thankful . . .

. . .To all who donated to the school kits project. With your generosity, the Sunday school students put together 100 kits to be given to children throughout the world. Special thanks to Bobbi Riley who offered to drive the kits to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in Maryland.

. . .For our Sunday school students who chose to donate their offering from October 13<sup>th</sup> to November 17<sup>th</sup> to purchasing socks for the homeless.

. . .To those who volunteered to decorate their cars for Trunk or Treat on October 27<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m.

. . .For our First Bible students and their parents. Letters were sent out to parents of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and 4<sup>th</sup> graders who have not taken First Bible. First Bible is scheduled for students and parents on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>. Join us at worship on November 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> to witness the students receiving their Bibles. Parents please let Miss Jen know if your child will participate.

. . .For Elisa Khan who will be directing the Christmas pageant during worship on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Parents keep in mind these other important dates: November 24<sup>th</sup>—casting for the pageant and rehearsals on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>.

. . .For a special activity on Thanksgiving weekend—Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. The 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday school students will meet in Kley Hall where they will be led by our Confirmation students in learning about Advent and Christmas. The children will also design Christmas cards to be mailed to our new neighbors, inviting them to worship with us on Christmas Eve. Younger children will meet in their regular classroom. Adults are invited to Kley Hall too, where they will help address envelopes for the Christmas mailing.

With Many Thanks,

Miss Jen



### **SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.**

Composer and pianist Thomas Keesecker will lead us in an inspirational hour of piano music, reflection, poetry, laughter, and hymn singing featuring his collection of Advent piano music, *The Quiet Center*.

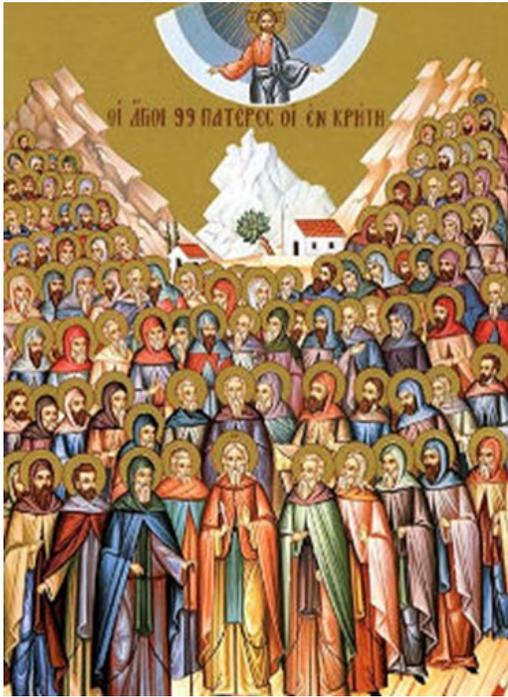
Think of it as the George Winston and Garrison Keillor show!

In 2010 Tom composed *Sing to the Lord a New Song* dedicated to former organist Joseph J. Lewis and music director F. Thomas Snyder, III, in grateful appreciation for their many years of service at St. John's.

### **Winds of the PC**

**Sunday, November 17, 4:00 p.m.**

The winds of The Providence Chamber Orchestra present a program of music featuring Richard Strauss's *Serenade, Op. 7*, and Charles Gounod's *Petite Symphonie*, both composed specifically for winds (flutes, oboes, clarinets, bassoons, and French horns.) Also included on the program will be transcriptions of music by W. A. Mozart, Franz Schubert, and Sir Arthur Sullivan. Plan now to attend this concert of music sure to delight the listening ears! Director of Music Tom Snyder conducts the ensemble.



## For All the Saints

On All Saints' weekend, November 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, we give thanks for the saints of every time and every place and especially remember those saints who have died in the past year. It is a "mini-Easter" in which we rejoice in the gift of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the promise of life everlasting. We will begin our worship around the water flowing from the rock fountain/font in the St. John's Columbarium. There we will affirm our baptisms, wherein we died and rose again with Christ. Then a bagpiper will lead us into the sanctuary as together we sing the glorious "For All the Saints."

As part of our celebration you will be invited to remember particular saints of every time and place by writing their names on a copper tag and then hanging the tags from a tree in the Columbarium Garden. This act of thanksgiving and remembrance reminds us of God's goodness and grace.

While we have the names of members of the congregation who have died since All Saints 2018, if you would like to add the name of someone who has died since November 4, 2018 to be included in the prayers of intercession that day, please contact Sonya Sowards at (610) 933-3947 or office@stjohnphoenixville.org or place their name on our Yellow Communication Card. We ask you to remember those who have died before November 2018 in your silent prayer that day.

## Angel Tree Creativity

**Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

Join us for a time of intergenerational fellowship, learning and creativity as we hear about the important ministry we support at the Lutheran Secondary School for MaaSae Girls in Monduli, Tanzania. Every year, the St. John's Angel Tree is the way we raise scholarship money for the five "St. John's Girls" we support at the school. We have been providing scholarships for 13



## PACS' 13th ANNUAL EMPTY BOWLS



Please join us for a simple meal of soup and bread and help fight hunger in our community.

Friday, November 1st from 4:30 until 7:30  
 Technical College High School – Pickering Campus  
 1580 Charlestown Rd., Phoenixville, PA

Ticket Price: \$25.00 Dine-in or Take-out  
 Purchase ticket(s) online at [www.pacsphx.org/events](http://www.pacsphx.org/events)  
 or emailing [development@pacsphx.org](mailto:development@pacsphx.org)  
 or purchase at the door

years. About 20 young women have received the gift of an excellent high school education. All of them have graduated, with some going on to college to become teachers, nurses, accountants, or physical therapists. Educating the women of a village raises the standard of living for the whole village.

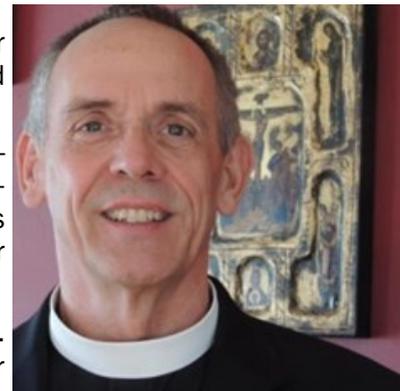
We will make Christmas ornaments with age-appropriate projects for children and teens. Our ornament making session will be led by Kelly LeMarbe who is coordinating the Angel Tree project. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate and lunch will be served! You can help by making ornaments and donating hand-made objects for the table under our Angel Tree to be sold. Monetary donations are also needed—perhaps a full or partial scholarship: \$85 per month or \$1,000 per year provides a young woman with a full year's room, board, fees, books, supplies and uniform, giving her an education she would otherwise not receive. So come on November 10<sup>th</sup> and be an angel by making angel ornaments to support our five angels at the LSSMG in Monduli! To learn more about the school, visit the Operation Bootstrap Africa website at [www.bootstrapafrica.org](http://www.bootstrapafrica.org).

## 2019 Stewardship Weekend

“Living, Growing, Sharing: TOGETHER” is our 2019 stewardship theme. From our St. John’s mission statement, it defines who we are and what we do in mission and ministry.

This year’s stewardship weekend will be November 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> with the Rev. Wilbert ‘Wilk’ Miller serving as our preacher at both Saturday Evening Light and Sunday morning worship. Pastor Miller is recently retired, having served congregations in Philadelphia, Washington D.C., San Diego, and Manhattan. He is a stellar preacher and a visionary leader.

Please bring your 2019 commitment card to worship with you that weekend. (Cards will be mailed and available in the narthex.) Cards received by November 17<sup>th</sup> will be included in a raffle for a beautiful hand blown glass bowl created by Mike Kahl.



### Welcome to the Feast!

On Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Evening Light worship begins at 5 p.m. in the sanctuary. Our St. John’s Thanksgiving dinner follows at 6 p.m. The Fellowship Committee provides the feast and welcomes gifts of sides and desserts. You are invited to come either to worship at 5 p.m. or dinner at 6 or BOTH! Guests are especially welcome. Please RSVP through the Yellow Communication Card or to [office@stjohnphoenixville.org](mailto:office@stjohnphoenixville.org).



**Phoenixville Community Interfaith  
Thanksgiving Worship  
Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>—7:30 p.m.  
First Methodist Church  
865 Main Street, Phoenixville**

Pastor Bret Burton of the Phoenixville Seventh Day Adventist Church will serve as our preacher. Offering will be directed to the Phoenixville Clergy Association Emergency Fund and food donations will also be received for the PACS Food Bank for our neighbors in need. Don’t miss this wonderful Phoenixville Community tradition!

Sunrise over ocean  
Ascends in prayer to our Maker  
Listens softly tenderly  
Calling all come come  
As seas shoreward flow  
Bringing a love  
Unbounded given to all  
Sinners come  
Forgiveness is God’s gift to all  
Come come as oceans flow o’r us  
Come for love is given  
As vast as oceans flow

Margaret Walker  
thoughts on a prelude:  
BEACH SPRING

*The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844  
setting, Wayne L. Wold

### Fall 2019 Christian Education Calendar

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. 22<sup>nd</sup>—Christmas pageant dress rehearsal,  
followed by pageant at 10:15 a.m.

# People of God Involved in God's Work

## November Schedule

### Acolytes

- 3 Elsa Lucas
- 10 Nathaniel Becker
- 17 Luke Olsen
- 24 Zach Pekofsky

### Altar Guild

- 3 Nancy Cressman & Jean Herbranson
- 10 Barbara Eng & Janet Ertell
- 17 Jean Herbranson, Barb Place, John Westerman
- 24 Betty Hans & Elena Wallace

### Assisting Ministers

- 3 Dale Herbranson
- 10 Zach Pekofsky
- 17 Nancy Cressman
- 24 Sandi Stotler

### Bread Baking

- 3 Lynn Titus
- 10 Richard Skoniczin & Rich Latella
- 17 Adam & Gwen Supplee
- 24 Pastor Krommes

### Communion Assistants/Lectors

- 3 Aimee Hillegas (L) & Erica Lucas
- 10 Dale Herbranson (L) & Brian Becker
- 17 Teresa Olsen (L) & Walt Deichmann
- 24 Don & Lynn Titus

### Counters

- 3 Stephen & Jennifer Drewes, Donna Anderson, Peg Yanoviak
- 10 Heather Yonosh, Donna Searchfield, Jeanne Schanzenbach
- 17 Mary Heiser, Mike & Cathy Kahl
- 24 Jack Ertell, Lilly Khan, Imtiaz Khan Lawrence

### Fellowship Time

- 3 9th Grade Confirmation
- 10 Youth & Family
- 17 Fireside Class
- 24 Stewardship

### Greeters

- 3 Joan Wilson, Dale Herbranson, Donna Searchfield
- 10 Mike & Cathy Kahl, Faye Donovan
- 17 Beverly Rote, Debbe Welsh, Lynn Titus
- 24 Kelly LeMarbe, Denise Longbine

### Lock-Up

- 3 Stephen Drewes
- 10 Donna Searchfield
- 17 Kelly Gallagher
- 24 Bobbi Riley

### Ushers

- 3 Greg Krueger, Bev Rote, Don Titus, Barry Church
- 10 Erica Lucas, Nancy Cressman, Donna Anderson, Luanne Bindschusz
- 17 Brian Becker, Debbe Welsh, Glen Murphy, TBD
- 24 Barb Rambo, Donna Anderson, Rich Latella, Rich Skoniczin



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**. Key-noters 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*.



## **Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**Did you know?** Many employers offer the ability to have your donations deducted from your paycheck and then forward those donations on to us. Some, such as Vanguard, offer a generous match so that your donation has the potential of a nice increase. Contact your Human Resources Department to see if this is a possibility for you.

## **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.

## **Summary Report as of September 30, 2019**

	Monthly		Year-to-Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
<b>Income:</b>				
<b>Envelope Giving</b>	\$ 32,971	\$ 30,537	\$ 296,744	\$ 275,473
<b>Other Income</b>	2,118	5,138	19,059	23,008
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 35,089</b>	<b>\$ 35,675</b>	<b>\$ 315,803</b>	<b>\$ 298,481</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 35,089</b>	<b>\$ 34,665</b>	<b>\$ 315,803</b>	<b>\$ 290,540</b>
<b>Income (Deficit)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,010</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,941</b>



**Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**God's work.  
Our partnership.**

## Global Connections

**T**here's an African tradition that when someone is physically present, it's not just their "face" that is present, but life itself.

Bishop Davenport, Pastor Bradley Burke, and Ms. Yvonne Curtis visited our companion North Eastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania this summer, sharing not only the life of our Synod but your prayers and gifts. In the previous year, SEPA congregations had donated more than \$16,000 toward the ministries of the diocese, including more than \$10,000 for the Sebastian Kolowa Memorial University that SEPA people were instrumental in starting. Thank you for your global vision!

"These partnerships help the global church to come together," says Bishop Stephen Munga of the North Eastern Diocese. "We learn so much from each other, from our similarities and our differences," adds Bishop Davenport.

While visiting, our bishop helped dedicate a new church building for Lushoto sub-parish. The SEPA team also visited the Rainbow School for children with developmental needs, Irente Children's Home and School for the Blind, the Irente Mountain Biodiversity Reserve and SEKOMU.

**"We are blessed to be partners of a global church, and interconnected in so many ways with amazing work taking place continents apart," says Pastor Burke. "Thank you to ALL who make this incredible work possible!"**



Bishop Davenport greets children at Lushoto (top) and prepares for worship with Bishop Munga (above, center). The bishop also participated in a nationwide gathering for women pastors and theologians.



### Young Adult Called to Global Mission

Cassandra Singh-Heuter, of Advent Lutheran in Harleysville, is one of 69 ELCA young adults selected for this year's Young Adults in Global Mission program. Cassandra will be serving alongside Lutheran companions in Argentina and Uruguay. Congratulations, Cassandra!

The YAGM volunteers will be sent to serve in 11 countries in a variety of areas, including congregational ministry, human rights work, development projects, health care, education and youth work. A year of service through the YAGM program helps young adults think more critically about their identity, God's work in the world and their place within it all.

**St. John's Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
September 9, 2019**

Attendees: Pr. Krommes, Mitch Reading, Don Titus, Kelly Gallagher, Stephen Drewes, Donna Searchfield, Dick Kunsch, Bobbi Riley, Sonya Sowards, Rick Kramer, Brian Greenwald, Jen Wentworth, Tom Snyder, John Quinn

Absent: Pam Naylor, Laura Caughlan, Sandra Zimmermann

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. with a prayer offered by Mitch Reading.

Meeting minutes from the July 29, 2019 meeting and the vote by email from August 6-8, 2019 were reviewed. **A motion was made by Dick Kunsch and seconded by Kelly Gallagher to approve the minutes. The motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.**

Council reviewed the following Staff Reports:

- Pastor's Report from September 9<sup>th</sup>
  - Pastor is working with Jen and the staff to begin the new program year.
  - Rally Day was a success.
  - Pastor suggested the following motion, which Bobbi moved and Rick seconded: **St. John's will donate \$1,300 from the St. John's Outreach Fund to The Rev. Kenneth S. Ensminger Scholarship Fund at Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church in thanksgiving for Pastor Ensminger's life and 13 years of ministry with St. John's. The motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.**
- T. Snyder's Reports from July 28 and September 3, 2019
- J. Quinn's Report from September 3, 2019
  - John described the deterioration of the organ's current digital voice system and the recommendation from Walker Technical Company to upgrade to the POET digital voice system. This will completely fix the problem and provide a 10-year warranty. John then answered questions from Council members. There is \$2,500 left in the organ refurbishing fund and some money in memorial funds (including \$4,000 remaining in Diane Davidson's fund after her window is finished). **Dick Kunsch moved and Donna Searchfield seconded to proceed with the upgrade by first depleting the organ fund, then the Diane Davidson memorial fund, and then defer to the Finance Committee to determine where other monies can be found. The motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.**
- J. Wentworth's Report from September 9, 2019
  - Jen has been meeting with parishioners and staff and organizing upcoming events. She noted that grant money is available from the ELCA for disability ministries and she would like to use it to help our blind student get more out of Sunday school. The deadline to apply is October 15<sup>th</sup>.

**A motion was made by Don Titus and seconded by Stephen Drewes to approve the Pastor and Staff Reports. The motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.**

Council reviewed the August 2019 financial reports. Don Titus noted that we are \$25,000 ahead of last year through August, although August expenses were higher due to some property-related expenses. **A motion was made by Dick Kunsch and seconded by Donna Searchfield to approve the Financial Reports. The motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.**

Council reviewed the following committee minutes:

- Social Ministry passed the following motions in their July 31 and September 4 meetings:
  - To send \$1,000 to help refurbish the science lab at MGLSS;
  - To donate \$1,000 from the St. John's Outreach Fund to Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Services;
  - To request that Council exempt the Maasae Girls Fund from the Reserve Fund (addressed below);
  - To support Meals on Wheels by providing an Easter dinner; and
  - To donate \$500 from the St. John's Community Outreach Fund to GraceCrossing Church to cover transportation costs for Phoenixville's volunteer police chaplain, Pastor Dan McDowell's attendance at

the national gathering of police chaplains. Pastor Krommes noted that Phoenixville area clergy encouraged Pastor McDowell to become our police chaplain because the assistance of a chaplain has been shown to improve police officers' morale and well-being. Pastor McDowell is well-suited, but the position is not funded. His attendance at the national police chaplain gathering is valuable to his ministry and the costs should be borne by all area churches. Pastor Krommes has suggested to the mayor that these expenses be included in the Borough's budget in future.

- Christian Education minutes from September 4, 2019
  - New flat screen televisions have been installed in the blue and yellow rooms.
  - Britta Pekofsky volunteered to be the second teacher for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade and will also manage the acolyte schedule.
  - A Michaelmas event is planned for September 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Property minutes from September 2, 2019
  - The Committee met on Labor Day to prepare for the God's Work, Our Hands parish workday.
  - A new toilet has been installed in the sacristy.
  - The Diane Davidson stained glass window is in progress.
  - An Eagle Scout project has been approved.
  - A property condition assessment by Seller + Drury is proceeding.
  - The Flooring Task Committee has made an attribute chart of the flooring needed.
  - Carpet cleaning was done over the summer.
  - Property is considering expanding our pest control contract to include rodent prevention.
  - Janet Ertell will make new shades for the Noah Room.
  - A new sign has been installed.
  - The Sunday school bulletin board will be repaired.
  - A mowing accident has resulted in damages to the green room. We have received a report and a settlement check from the insurance company, but the Property Committee believes that their adjustor underestimated the damage. The insurance company will need to approve any work we do beyond their report in order for us to receive reimbursement, so we may consult an independent structural engineer (working on a contingent basis) to assess the damage or ask the insurance company to reassess. Council members suggested parishioners with expertise who may be able to help.
- Worship and Music from September 3, 2019
  - The worship bags have been re-done.
  - The Committee has been listening for comments about the new communion procedures but hasn't heard anything negative. Council members made observations about the new procedures.
  - Brian Greenwald noted that the Welcoming Team has put together a tri-fold brochure for visitors. Donna added that the Team is also developing the greeter team and working on the new session of The WAY.
  - The ASP team will report on October 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>.
  - Animals will be blessed on October 6<sup>th</sup>
  - The All Saints Day tradition of copper tags with names of saints will continue. Bobbi emphasized the importance of making sure these are well-affixed to the trees.
- The Fellowship Committee did not meet but Sandra Zimmermann is working on the schedule for Fellowship Time. We may revisit to check that the new 8:30 a.m. time is feasible.

#### Old Business:

- The Social Ministry Committee has requested that certain accounts be exempted from the Fund 3 Reserve Fund. Their February 6, 2019 motion to exempt the Outreach Fund and the Community Outreach Fund was approved at the February 11, 2019 Council meeting. Their May 1<sup>st</sup> motion to also exempt the Massae Girls Fund from the Reserve Fund was discussed and tabled at Council's May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, pending review by the Executive Committee. The Social Ministry Committee repeated their motion in their July 31, 2019 minutes. The Executive Committee has now discussed the matter and Mitch Reading presented Council with a page explaining the various funds, giving background information, and noting which would be exempted. Discussion ensued and

Council members encouraged the Finance Committee to be more generous in the future when giving Social Ministry the totals of funds available for distribution. **Don Titus moved that Council vote on Social Ministry's motion from their May 1 and July 31, 2019 minutes and Donna seconded. The motion passed with two objections, seven affirmations and one abstention. Council's March 26, 2018 motion is therefore amended to exempt the Outreach Fund, the St. John's Community Outreach Fund, the St. Johns Scholarship Fund and the Massae Girls Fund.** These exemptions are retroactively effective to January 1, 2019. All other designated Fund 3 funds will be capped per the March 26, 2018 motion.

- Our master calendar is still in process. Pr. Krommes noted that she has always put together a master calendar which should be used as a principal resource, along with Sonya's building use calendar.

#### New Business

- The concept of "committee night" was discussed. Tom Snyder suggested going back to existing committees to consider.
- **A motion was made by Stephen Drewes to move Council meetings to 7:00 p.m. in the future. Rick Kramer seconded the motion and it was passed with no objections or abstentions.**
- The Executive Committee has discussed a celebration of Pastor Krommes on her retirement and planning has begun. The proposed date is May 31<sup>st</sup> (Pentecost) with a brunch after church. Parishioners will be encouraged to help, and some were suggested to be contacted.
- Rick asked about our policy for removing committee members who are not attending meetings. Low attendance can make a committee unable to vote due to the lack of a quorum. Discussion ensued and solutions, such as email voting, were suggested.

**Mitch Reading adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.** The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya Sowards

WELCA kicked off our meeting year on September 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. with a planning session to set up programs and activities for the upcoming year.

During the business meeting we once again agreed to support Silver Springs Martin Luther School by donating items for their Christmas wish list. This year's items are:

- sketch books and drawing paper (not spiral bound)
- gel pen sets
- crayons, colored pencils, washable markers
- coloring books
- journals
- hardback children's books
- Matchbox and Hot Wheels cars
- LEGO sets
- playing cards and card games
- sports socks for boys and girls (adult sizes 6-11)
- hair brushes and combs
- lip gloss and lip balm
- Batteries—AAA, AA, C, D, and 9-volt



There is a box in the narthex designated for your items; donation deadline is Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Please help support this very worthy cause.

Our November meeting is postponed until **Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 a.m.** We will assemble cookies and goody bags for St. John's homebound members. If you can help by baking a batch or two of cookies, please have them in the kitchen no later than 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

As in years past, we are asking for help with gathering travel-sized toiletries; toothbrushes; dental floss; pocket combs; small puzzle books, devotionals, and tablets to include in the goody bags. Look for the donation box in the narthex soon.

Please join us at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> for fun and fellowship!

# November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>27</b></p> <p>Reformation 8:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks 4pm Trunk or Treat 5pm The WAY dinner</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>28</b></p> <p>10:30am Covered Bridge Garden Club 11am Alanon Family Group 6:30pm Girl Scouts #4330 6:30pm Kiwanis Board 7pm Finance Committee</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>29</b></p> <p>7pm Parent Grief Support Group</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>30</b></p> <p>10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>31</b></p> <p>5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>1</b></p> <p>10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>2</b></p> <p>5pm Evening Light</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>3</b></p> <p>All Saints Sunday--set clocks back 8:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks 2pm PCO Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>4</b></p> <p>11am Alanon Family Group 5:45pm Girl Scouts #41766 6pm Brownies 7pm Stephen Ministry 7:30pm Property</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>5</b></p> <p>mission day for ninth grade 12:30pm PACA 7pm Parent Grief Support Group 7:30pm Worship &amp; Music</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>6</b></p> <p>10am Bible Study 3pm Social Ministry 6pm Girl Scouts #4308 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7pm Christian Education 8pm Adult Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>7</b></p> <p>10am Mom's Monthly Mingle 5:30pm Juniors Troop #4514 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>8</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>9</b></p> <p>9am SEPA Synod Vitality Awareness Event 5pm Evening Light</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>10</b></p> <p>8:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education-First Bible 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am Angel Tree Workshop 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks 2pm PCO Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>11</b></p> <p>11am Alanon Family Group 6:30pm Girl Scouts #4330 7pm Church Council</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>12</b></p> <p>10:15am Staff 5:30pm Daisy/Brownie Troop #42024 7pm Parent Grief Support Group</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>13</b></p> <p>10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>14</b></p> <p>5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>15</b></p> <p>St. Peter's lunch 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>16</b></p> <p>5pm Evening Light</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>17</b></p> <p>Stewardship Sunday 8:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education--First Bible 9am Electronics 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks 11:30am WELCA 4pm Winds of the Providence Chamber Orchestra (reception following)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>18</b></p> <p>Circle deadline 11am Alanon Family Group 5:45pm Girl Scouts #41766 6pm Brownies 7pm Stephen Ministry 7pm Welcoming Team</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>19</b></p> <p>4:30pm PACS Board</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>20</b></p> <p>10am Bible Study 6pm Girl Scouts #4308 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>21</b></p> <p>10am Moms' Music &amp; Crafts Club 5:30pm Juniors Troop #4514 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells 8:15pm Naranon Support</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>22</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>23</b></p> <p>2pm Ringing Hills Chorus 5pm Evening Light 6pm Thanksgiving Dinner</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>24</b></p> <p>Christ the King 8:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education--First Bible 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am Newcomers' Brunch 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>25</b></p> <p>10:30am Covered Bridge Garden Club 11am Alanon Family Group 6:30pm Girl Scouts #4330 6:30pm Kiwanis Board</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>26</b></p> <p>4:15pm PACS Development/Marketing 5:30pm Daisy/Brownie Troop #42024 5:30pm Stewardship</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>27</b></p> <p>10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship 8pm Adult Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>28</b></p> <p>5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>29</b></p> <p>10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>30</b></p> <p>2pm Johnson wedding 5pm Evening Light</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>1</b></p> <p>8:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>2</b></p> <p>11am Alanon Family Group 5:45pm Girl Scouts #41766 6pm Brownies 7pm Finance Committee 7pm Stephen Ministry 7:30pm Property</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>3</b></p> <p>10:15am Staff 10:30am WELCA 12:30pm PACA 7:30pm Worship &amp; Music</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>4</b></p> <p>10am Bible Study 3pm Social Ministry 6pm Girl Scouts #4308 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7pm Christian Education 8pm Adult Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>5</b></p> <p>10am Mom's Monthly Mingle 5:30pm Juniors Troop #4514 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>6</b></p> <p>Phoenixville Christmas parade 4:30pm Testa rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>7</b></p> <p>2pm Testa wedding 5pm Evening Light</p>

## November 2019 – Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Iain Riley's birthday Lizzy Strunk's birthday Paul and Mary Miller's anniversary	28 Dale Herbranson's birthday Harper Themens's birthday Mary Wenner's birthday Mike and Maryanne Mara's anniversary	29 Elisabeth Stevens's birthday	30 Gracie Themens's birthday Miranda McMahon's birthday Noah Deichmann's birthday	31 Alexandra Perrotto's birthday Edwin Walters's birthday Terri McDonnell's birthday	1 Charles and Donna Sout's anniversary James Miller's birthday Lisa Wimble's birthday Matt Endres's birthday	2 Audree Bonavita's birthday Iain and Bridget Riley's anniversary
3	4 Jim Steiner's birthday Tom and Lindsey Snyder's anniversary	5 Rachel Possinger's birthday	6 Katherine Yonosh's birthday Laurie Griggs-Williams's birthday Mildred Wilson's birthday Nicholas Castellano and Kelly LeMarbe's anniversary Patrick DesMarais's birthday Richard and Leilani Ash's anniversary Sarah Yonosh's birthday	7	8 Ed and Pam Naylor's anniversary	9 Lisa McIntyre's birthday Will Stotler's birthday
10	11 Katie Henderson's birthday Nils Aho's birthday	12 Andy and Katie Henderson's anniversary Jay Renninger's birthday	13 Pat and Erica Lucas's anniversary Rachel Zimmemann's birthday	14 Chris and Shelley Saeger's anniversary	15	16
17 Karen Romano's birthday	18 Tammy Plumley's birthday	19 Danielle Reading's birthday Jill DesMarais's birthday	20 Margit Grejdus's birthday	21 Bradley LaBoon's birthday Brett Gallagher's birthday	22 Brandon Jones's birthday Emilio Lozada's birthday	23 Sophia Ehrhart's birthday
24 Maddie Gadzick's birthday Rick and Leslie Kern's anniversary Tom Johnson's birthday	25 Diane Sitkowski's birthday John and Nancy Perchalski's anniversary Mark Yanchek's birthday	26 Olivia Schumacher's birthday	27 Corey Deputy's birthday	28	29	30 Gabriella Geiger's birthday Gary Carl's birthday Mary Miller's birthday Nancy Renninger's birthday
1 Bill Ahola's birthday	2 Karen Cattafesta's birthday Pat Clark's birthday Raymond Fulmer's birthday	3 Lu Anne Bindschusz's birthday	4 Don Titus's birthday	5 Owen Birdsell's birthday	6	7

**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  
**Director of Children,  
Youth & Family Ministries:**  
Jennifer A. Wentworth  
**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 Doeping

**The Circle Editor:**  
Sonya K. Sowards

#### **Updated Contact Information**

Kimberly Rutherford  
36-2 Fort Evans Road NE, Apt. 3  
Leesburg, VA 20176-4442

#### **Pastoral Acts**

**Baptism**  
Ethan John Walls  
October 6, 2019

**Marriage**  
Lisa M. Wimble  
Michael J. Mangialardi  
September 21, 2019



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

# November



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

10:15 a.m. in fall, winter and spring

9:00 a.m. Memorial Day through Labor Day

*Handicapped Accessible*

## THE CIRCLE

