

The Circle



March Worship at St. John's

First Weekend in Lent

Saturday, February 29th—Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, March 1st

Fellowship, 8:30 a.m.

Christian Education, 9 a.m.

Holy Communion, 10:15 a.m.

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

Community Lent Worship

Wednesday, March 4, 7:30 p.m.—**Bridge Over Greed**

St. Ann Roman Catholic Chapel

604 Main Street, Phoenixville

Preacher: Pastor Nathan Coleman
of Bethel Baptist Church

Second Weekend in Lent

Saturday, March 7th—Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Spaghetti Dinner for ASP Mission Trip, 4 p.m.

Sunday, March 17th

Fellowship, 8:30 a.m.

Christian Education, 9 a.m.

Holy Communion, 10:15 am

Daylight Savings Time—turn clocks ahead one hour

This weekend we set off along with Abraham as he journeyed to the Promised Land and with Nicodemus when he visited Jesus in the night, for we are heading through Lent to arrive at Easter. Come join the people of God in prayer and praise, word and meal.

Community Lent Worship

Wednesday, March 11, 7:30 p.m.—**Bridging Over Fear**

St. John's Lutheran Church

355 St. John's Circle, Phoenixville

Preacher: Pastor Eric Woodworth
of Charlestown United Methodist



St. John's
Lutheran Church

Third Weekend in Lent

Saturday, March 14th—Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, March 15th

Fellowship, 8:30 a.m.

BEAR CREEK SUNDAY

Christian Education, 9 a.m.

Holy Communion, 10:15 a.m.

During Lent we accompany Jesus to his cross and resurrection, and this coming Sunday we stop at a well to receive a drink of water. The water turns out to be Christ himself. Come to worship, and join all of us thirsty people, made alive in Christ.

Community Lent Worship

Weds., March 18th, 7:30 p.m.—**Bridging the Swamp**

St. Peter's Episcopal, 121 Church Street, Phoenixville

Preacher: Pastor Dan McDowell
of Grace Crossing Church

Fourth Weekend in Lent

Saturday, March 21st—Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, March 22nd

Fellowship, 8:30 a.m.

Christian Education, 9 a.m.

Holy Communion, 10:15 a.m.

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children.

Community Lent Worship

Weds., March 25, 7:30 p.m.—**Bridging Difference**

First Presbyterian Church

Main and Morgan Streets, Phoenixville

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

(continued next page)

From the Pastor:

Phoenixville Community Lent Worship and Bridges

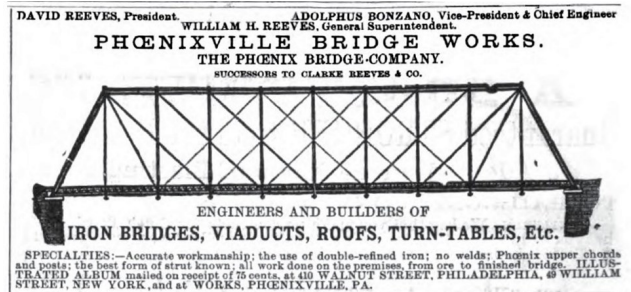
Every Lent, for the past 40 to 50 years, the churches of Phoenixville have worshipped together on Wednesday evenings. With the exception of Ash Wednesday and Holy Week Wednesday, we are together. Congregations take turns hosting a worship service from their liturgical tradition while the preachers are from another congregation. Afterwards, the host congregation invites everyone to “break the Lenten fast” for a time of fellowship and sweet treats. Each year the clergy pick a theme and then set the schedule. The positive impact of this pattern of neighborly worship cannot be overestimated. Priests and pastors, who often only hear the echo of their voices, receive the Gospel from other clergy and are fed beyond their expectations. Protestants are invited to join the Stations of the Cross and Catholics to shout out “Amen” with the Baptists. Couples, separated on Sunday morning, one perhaps a Lutheran, the other, a Catholic, sit side by side holding hands. Everyone receives the gift of sacred community while bridges are built—between congregations, neighbors, traditions, but mostly between God and God’s people.

This spring the theme is *Bridges—Bridges over Greed, Bridges over Fear, Bridging the Swamp, Bridging Difference and When to Burn a Bridge*. It promises to be interesting, even provocative. And yet the very action of worshipping together, of hearing the Gospel together, of singing the hymns and sharing the peace together creates bridges—between God and us and others—bridges of hope, of faith and love.

I remember my first Lent in Phoenixville. I went to all five services and felt blessed to be in this place—a community that built bridges that were installed all over the world—over 1,400 in all. But also a community that continues to create bridges between cultures and languages, traditions and faiths, new immigrants and old settlers, you and me—all by God’s grace. I am looking forward to St. John’s serving as the host church on March 11th, being the preacher on March 25th at First Presbyterian, and in the congregation all the other Wednesdays.

Pastor Cynthia Krommes

Graphic: 1884 Advertisement



March worship (*continued*):

Fifth Weekend in Lent

Saturday, March 28th—Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, March 29th

Fellowship, 8:30 a.m.

Christian Education, 9 a.m.

Holy Communion, 10:15 a.m.

The Bible readings this weekend are for everyone who feels half dead, for everyone who sees death everywhere, as well as for everyone who is afraid to even think about death. Come to worship to receive the breath of the Spirit, to hear the voice of Christ, to be fed at the table, and to celebrate the life God gives.

Community Lent Worship

Wednesday, April 1, 7:30 p.m.—When to Burn a Bridge

Grimes AME Church, 338 Morris Street, Phoenixville

Preacher: Pastor Doug Hagler

of First Presbyterian Church

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From the Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries:

In the last few weeks in both worship and children's Sunday school, we have been learning to let our light shine. We have talked about ways we can fill other people's buckets by our kindness, smiles, and helpfulness. We also talked about times when we are bucket dippers and make our light dim when we are mean to others and let our anger take over. This dimming and brightening of our light was illustrated using a flashlight during opening one Sunday.

We also talked about spreading our light to other places outside our community like using the Sunday school offering to purchase school kits supplies and trees through ELCA good gifts. As of this writing, they have reached \$136.75 of the \$150 needed to give a tree farm. Adults too spread their light beyond the community when making an Angel Tree purchase, purchasing Free Trade items, and supporting ASP mission trip fundraising.

Thank you for shining your light both near and far. It makes the world a brighter place.

God Bless,

Jennifer Wentworth

Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry



Crock Pot Cook-off Winner!

Congratulations to Kelly Gallagher the winner of the First Annual St. John's Congregational Cook-off. Her winning crockpot entry was a Reese's Cake. Thank you to all who came out to judge these crockpot dishes. It was a close finish with only one vote separating the top three finishers.



Confirmation—Save the Dates

March 3rd —9th grade mission day at Feast Incarnate
April 26th—Appalachia Service Project Car Wash
May 1st-3rd —Confirmation spring retreat in Cape May
May 17th—Last day of confirmation classes for 7th and 8th grades
May 31st —PENTECOST/confirmation (rehearsal at 8:30 a.m.; Confirmation at 9 a.m.)
June 15th-19th—Vacation Bible School and Afternoon Adventures



Who's Hungry?

Please support the ASP mission trip on Saturday, March 7th from 4-7 p.m. at the **Spaghetti Dinner** in Kley Hall! The cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for kids 3-12, and free for kids under 3. A hearty meal will be served all-you-can eat buffet style or take-out. Gluten free pasta is available.

The ASP team also continues to sell Wawa hoagie certificates and hot chocolate before and after worship and to collect aluminum beverage cans in Kley Hall to help fund its upcoming mission trip. Thank you for your support!

Attention 9th through 12th graders!

High school youth only are invited for food, fellowship, and conversation after church on March 15th in the Eisenhower Room. Come help plan what the high school youth group looks like. How often do you meet and when? What do we call it? What activities and discussions do you want to have? Come be part of the planning process to create a group just for you. Email Jen Wentworth with any questions at wentworthj@stjohnphoenixville.org.

From the Director of Music:

Singers Invited

Singers are invited to join the Adult Choir in the annual St. John's Choir & Friends concert on Sunday, May 3rd, at 7:00 p.m. Performed will be John Rutter's *Requiem*. Full orchestral accompaniment will be provided by our own Providence Chamber Orchestra joined by harpist Janet Witman.

2020 marks the 30th concert in the series. Past programs have included Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem*, W. A. Mozart's *Requiem* and *Te Deum*, Franz Schubert's *Mass in G*, Howard Hanson's *Song of Democracy*, John Rutter's *Te Deum* and *Requiem*, a concert version of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*, *Glorias* by Antonio Vivaldi and Francis Poulenc, J. S. Bach's *Magnificat*, Johannes Brahms' *German Requiem*, Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*, Luigi Cherubini's *Requiem*, Maurice Durufle's *Requiem*, parts II and III of G. F. Handel's *Messiah*, *Patriotic Selections*, and *Broadway Selections*. Last year over 60 singers from 24 area churches joined in a program of Psalms and Spirituals.

Rehearsals are scheduled at St. John's on Sunday March 22nd, and 29th, April 5th, 19th, and 26th from 7 to 9 p.m., and Sunday May 3rd, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. A light supper will follow the May 7th rehearsal. Music will be provided for the singers. For additional information contact Tom Snyder, Director of Music, ftsiii@gmail.com

Tom Snyder

Simple Gifts

Two women plus ten instruments equals one good time when Simple Gifts takes the stage at St. John's on March 15th starting at 4:00 p.m. This award-winning band performs on an impressive array of instruments, including two violins, mandolin, hammered dulcimer, recorders, and guitar plus some more unusual instruments like the bowed psaltery, baritone fiddle, banjolin, guitjo, and dombek.

Simple Gifts presents a wide variety of ethnic folk music, including everything from lively Irish jigs and down-home American reels to hard-driving Klezmer *freilachs*, haunting Gypsy melodies, and exotic Balkan dance tunes. Throughout their performances, they put their own distinctive stamp on traditional tunes, blending styles from diverse cultures with their American roots.

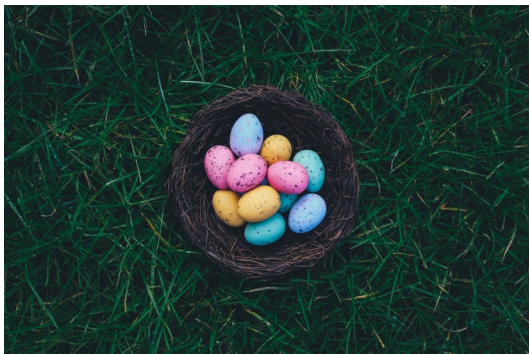
According to the Celtic Classic Festival in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, "few musicians can match the warmly personal stage presence Simple Gifts possesses." It is obvious that these women love the music they play, and they know how to share their talents, their enthusiasm, and their sense of humor with the audience.

Linda Littleton and Karen Hirshon have performed as Simple Gifts since 1995. The group was founded by Littleton in 1989 and has performed throughout the mid-Atlantic region, including appearances at the Smithsonian, Brooklyn Museum of Art, National Governors' Convention, Longwood Gardens, National Theater, Whitaker Center, Hershey Theatre, Philadelphia Folk Festival, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Ontario Center for Performing Arts, and dozens of colleges and universities throughout the region. Simple Gifts has opened for Natalie MacMaster, Tom Paxton, John McCutcheon, Robin and Linda Williams, Jay Unger and Molly Mason, and Boys of the Lough. Visit their website www.simplegiftsmusic.com to listen to performances.

"These women share a chemistry that infuses their music with energy, integrity, and joy. Theirs is a special gift." – David W. Johnson, Boston Globe

"Simple Gifts wowed our audience with a cultural and educational program that was fun, informative, and energetic." –Teresa Bush, Smithsonian Institution





Easter Egg Hunt Help Wanted

It's almost time for the Easter Egg Hunt and we need have 2 needs:
~candy to put in the eggs. If you would like to help, please place the candy into the donation box outside the sanctuary.
~help to fill the eggs. WELCA will be helping fill the eggs around 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24th. Anyone else who would like to help is more than welcome to come.

Thank you for your donations of candy and your time. Please contact Jen Wentworth at wentworthj@stjohnphoenixville.org with any questions.

Thanks for Your Generosity!

The Stewardship Committee is pleased to announce that our matching drive resulted in seven new pledgers for the 2020 year. We would like to thank the Drewes family, the Reading family, Dick Kunsch, Peg Groening, Don and Lynn Titus, Pastor and John Stong, and Mike and Cathy Kahl for generously funding those matching contributions.

We would also like to thank the entire congregation for their generosity in this year's Advent Offering. We were able to send \$1,570.00 each to Phoenixville Area Community Services, Orion Communities and the Clinic. It is quite an honor to be able to support the wonderful work that these organizations provide to our community.



Garden Bed Mulch Day

Well, actually TWO days: Friday March 27th and Saturday March 28th 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

(Weather dependent!)

John and Bobbi Riley will coordinate mulching activities for the Columbarium on Friday, March 27th for anyone whose life schedule allows weekday service and Walt Deichmann will coordinate mulching activities for the Kunsch Garden and front beds on Saturday March 28th. Our church garden beds are essential cornerstones in the outdoor beauty of our building. Their spring cleanup and mulching will enliven our church spirit and offer beauty and serenity to all attending our Holy Week activities. If you are able, please plan to come on one of these two days to help spread the beauty.



God's Work, Our Hands "2"

Saturday April 25th, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Rain or Shine

St. John's is planning a spring "God's Work, Our Hands" service day at the church to provide some loving care to our building and grounds. This will follow the format of our wonderful fall event as a church-wide, family-based ministry. Projects again will include small repairs, painting, yard/garden work and special cleaning. Tasks are

available for all ages. Please plan to come for some of the day or spend the whole time with us in fellowship and service. Lunch and dessert will be served from 12-1 p.m.

Please sign up for either or both of these events by using the YCC, calling Sonya Sowards in the church office or e-mailing Bobbi Riley at mrs.r.pville@gmail.com. These events are sponsored by the Property Committee.

Lutheran Night at the Phillies

- Saturday, May 30, 2020
- Phillies verses the Washington Nationals
- Game time: 7:15 p.m.
- Contact Bobbi Riley at mrs.r.pville@gmail.com or (610) 955-8851 if you are interested in going as part of a St. John's block.
- Everyone will be responsible for their own transportation to the game.
- Ticket reservations and payment are due by March 15th.
- Proceeds from the Lutheran Night ticket sales will benefit SEPA Synod Youth Programs.
- Make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church.

GO Phillies!

Lutheran Night at the Phillies



Please join us for Lutheran Night at Citizens Bank Park on Saturday, May 30 when the Phillies host the Washington Nationals at 7:15 p.m.

Event Details

Saturday
May 30
7:15 PM



Washington
Nationals

300 Level Tickets
Estimated Cost
\$32.00 per Ticket



WELCA meets in the Eisenhower Room on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. We have some great programs planned to fill out our program year. Join us on March 24th for Jack Ertell's presentation on Phoenixville's history. In April Pastor Kochenderfer will be our presenter. All St. John's women are welcome!

We also have a few projects planned. This year we are helping with preparation for the annual Easter egg hunt, as well as for Vacation Bible School. Both of these projects will be incorporated into our monthly meetings.

Also, mark your calendars and look for upcoming information on the annual WELCA Women's Retreat. This year the retreat will be on Saturday, April 18th. All women from surrounding communities are welcome. Plan to come and bring your friends!

We hope to see you on Tuesday, March 24th at 10:30 a.m.!

Surrey Concert at St. John's!

You are invited to a Surrey Concert here at St. John's on Wednesday, April 29th. The group is led by our member, Linda Landis, and provides a wonderful concert featuring a mixed chorus of 40 singers, a hand chime choir and an instrumental ensemble. The program will include both sacred and secular numbers in a variety of styles as well as seasonal pieces. Lunch will be served at noon and the concert will begin at 1:00 p.m. Please sign up using the Yellow Communication Card (YCC) in your bulletin so we'll know how many will be there for lunch. Here's hoping we have at least 40 people attend so there is an audience as big as the Surrey group!



Dear Brothers and Sisters at St. John's Lutheran Church:

On behalf of Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church, I would like to thank you for your donation in memory of Pastor Ken Ensminger in the amount of \$1,300. The love and generosity which prompted this gift is known by God and appreciated by us.

Yours in Christ,
Glenda Ortiz, Secretary



St. John's Scholarship

Scholarship applications for the St. John's Scholarship established by Earl and Grace Dahms open on March 1st and are due by April 1st. The scholarship is available to anyone in the St. John's community for education costs beyond 12th grade. Both college-bound and nontraditional students of any age pursuing a course of study in academics or technical skills are encouraged to apply. You may only win it once, and the funds will be paid directly to the school or college you are attending on your behalf. Please contact Sonya Sowards at (610) 933-3947 or office@st.johnphoenixville.org if you would like to receive an application.

The St. John's Social Ministry Committee oversees the yearly donations from our three designated Outreach Funds. Fund 1 Outreach comes from the yearly giving of the congregation. Fund 3 Outreach is from the general outreach fund that was created by the sale of the Central Lutheran Church property. The Community Outreach Fund is from money from the Grace and Earl Dahm's estate and, according to their will, is to go toward helping "the poor and financially disadvantaged members of the congregation as well as the community of Phoenixville at-large." At their February meeting, the Committee approved the following donations:



Fund 1 Outreach—five-county area—\$5,839 available, \$5,000 designated

- Martin Luther/Silver Springs—\$1,000
- Emmanuel Lutheran Church—\$1,000
- Alianzas de Phoenixville—\$1,000
- Ann's Heart-Code Blue—\$500
- Senior Center—\$500
- Feast Incarnate—\$500
- Feast of Justice—\$500

Fund 3 Outreach—anywhere—\$23,791. available, \$7,000 designated, \$15,000 on reserve

- Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre —\$1,000
- Lutheran World Relief—\$1,000
- Doctors Without Borders—\$500
- Lutheran Disaster Relief—\$500
- Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Services—\$1,000
- St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter—\$500
- St. John's ASP Mission Trip—\$1,000
- PACS—\$500
- The Clinic—\$500
- Orion—\$500

Reserve for possible kitchen renewal to enable our fuller participation in meals at St. Peter's—\$15,000

Community Outreach—Phoenixville—\$2,647 available, \$2,500 designated

- Good Samaritan Shelter—\$500
- Mom's House—\$500
- Phantom Food Packs—\$500
- The House—\$1,000

Note: In 2019, Church Council approved a gift of \$10,000 from this fund toward the building of the all-abilities playground in Reeves Park.

On Saturday, January 18th and Sunday, January 19th, as we listened to the Gospel from John 1:35-51, we heard Jesus invite Andrew and his friend to “come and see” and then the next day, Philip invited Nathanael to “come and see” too. Then as part of the sermon everyone was asked to share what they would invite someone to “come and see” at St. John’s. Here’s some of our responses:



- Come and see the children’s activities—Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk or Treat, Spaghetti Dinner
- Come and see our congregation as a whole—all the pieces make for a truly great experience
- Come and see COMMUNITY
- Come and see VBS
- Come and see music, faith and fellowship at work
- Come and see Sunday school
- Come and see our people of faith singing hymns and our communion at the rail
- Come and see the beautiful church and hear the peaceful singing
- Come and see Pastor’s sermons . . . real life experiences shared
- Come and see comradery at Fellowship Time and go to services and a Sunday school class
- Come and see where my grandfather first brought me to Sunday school and church
- Come and feel God’s presence
- Come and see fellowship
- Come and see the grace of God in confession
- Come and see the natural look and the radiant cross
- Come and see friendliness
- Come and see a welcoming community of worship
- Come and see a church family
- Come and see welcoming faces and sharing
- Come and see God’s love with the children in VBS and the caring for each other demonstrated in WELCA
- Come and see a community of acceptance
- Come and see the choir and hear the music

After sharing what we would invite people to come and see, everyone was asked to extend an invitation to a specific person. **NOW IS THE TIME TO DO THAT**, if you haven’t already done so. Our spring session of The WAY—where prospective members will have a chance to learn more about St. John’s and explore their faith before officially joining the congregation, begins with a kick-off event at Pastor Krommes’ home on March 8th and will culminate in new members joining the weekend of April 25th and 26th. We will be having a Welcome Brunch on Sunday, April 26th following worship. So say a prayer and ask God to help you extend an invitation to “come and see.” Come and experience God’s love alive at St. John’s!

Bear Creek Camp Sunday—March 15th

On Sunday, March 15th beginning at 9:00 a.m. Kley Hall will turn into Bear Creek Camp for an hour in order to give our grade school and confirmation youth a small experience of the fun at camp. A member of the staff at Bear Creek will lead us in songs, share the camp experience, reconnect with “old” campers and encourage our children and youth to become first-time campers. Last year several of our children and youth attended camp and most, if not all, came home looking forward to doing so again this year. For our younger campers, Bear Creek offers a “try me” camp, which is a little shorter and helps our young ones adjust to being away from home. Check out registration online at www.bearcreekcamp.org. Camperships from St. John’s are available. Please speak with Jen Wentworth for more information.

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2020**

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

Absent: L. Caughlan, B. Riley

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm with the sharing of "what would you invite someone here to see" in response to a passage from the Bible read by Pastor Krommes. Pastor offered a Prayer.

Meeting minutes from the December 9, 2019 meeting were reviewed. **A motion was made by Don Titus, seconded by Dick Kunsch to approve the minutes. The motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.**

Staff Reports

- Pastor's Report from January 13, 2020
- J. Quinn's Report from January 6, 2020
- T. Snyder's Report from January 6, 2020
- J. Wentworth's Report for December 2019

A motion was made by Dick Kunsch, seconded by Don Titus to accept the Staff Reports. The motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.

Finance Report

- Finance Committee Summary from January 7, 2020. Don Titus reported they don't have the final year-end financial report at this time. 2020 Budget will be discussed under Old Business.

A motion was made by Donna Searchfield and seconded by Sandra Zimmermann to approve the Finance Report. The motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.

Council reviewed the following Committee Reports:

- Christian Education and Youth and Family Meeting of January 8, 2020 verbal report.
 - The Committee asked Council who will serve as the review committee for the Scholarship Applications. Mitch Reading will ask Bill Starling and Dale Herbranson if they will do it again this year.
 - The Committee asked Council if the Christian Education and Youth and Family budgets will be merged as the committees have been merged. Yes
- Welcoming Team – Did not meet
- Property Committee Minutes from January 6, 2020
- Worship and Music Committee Minutes from January 7, 2020
 - A motion was made by Donna Searchfield, seconded by Stephen Drewes to discontinue the experiment with the practice of continuous communion and to return to the previous communion practice as recommended by Worship and Music Committee. Motion was approved with two abstentions.**
 - Pastor will notify the congregation via "Life Together".
- Social Ministry Committee Minutes from January 8, 2020
 - Kitchen Certification was discussed. Social Ministry will let Council know how much money it will cost. The possible use of Community Outreach funds was discussed. Chester County Food Bank may assist with the required 3-hole sink.
- Stewardship Committee – No Report
- Electronics Committee – No Report
- Fellowship Committee – No Report

A motion was made by Dick Kunsch and seconded by Donna Searchfield to accept the committee reports. The motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.

Old Business

- Budget – the 2020 Budget – Working was reviewed and changes noted to be taken back to Finance. **A motion was made by Stephen Drewes and seconded by Don Titus to accept the 2020 Budget-Working as edited. Motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.**
- St. John’s Constitution – A review of the Worship and Meeting schedule for the Annual Congregation meeting was reviewed. Coffee Hour will be 8:30 am to 9:00 am. Worship will begin at 9 am in the Sanctuary and will continue through the readings. The meeting will begin. Sonya has the constitution document and will highlight everything we can vote on. Brian Becker will assist Sonya with the goal of having the highlighted Constitution completed by February 2, 2020. Council Members will be installed followed by Communion. The meeting should be accomplished in 1-1/2 hours.
- Committee Minutes form – The form is working well.

New Business

- **New Council Members/Nominating Committee**
Bobbi Riley and Don Titus will stay on Council. We need 2 new council members.
- **Insurance** – We received an estimate to compare our current premium, priced comparably with our current carrier. No change is recommended as we received excellent response to our recent claim.
- **Building policy/alcohol.** Our current policy is to require a policy exception to serve alcohol in our building. Sonya received a request for an exception to serve champagne at the 80th Birthday party for Mary Burkhart.
Rick Kramer made a motion seconded by Dick Kunsch to allow champagne to be served in our building at the 80th birthday party for Mary Burkhart. Motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.

A motion was made by Donna Searchfield, seconded by Sandra Zimmermann to adjourn. The motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.

The meeting ended at 8:30 pm with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Naylor

VBS: Wilderness Escape

The planning has begun for setting up a Moses-worthy oasis and we **need your help.**

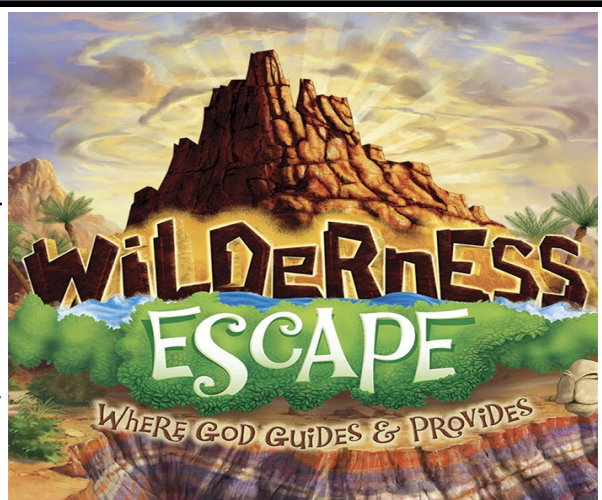
~**To give:** We need **cereal boxes and shoe boxes** un-collapsed to turn into rocks. They can be put on the stage in Kley Hall.

~**To borrow:** During the VBS (June 15-19th), do you have **big wicker baskets, colorful blankets, throw rugs, fake trees and bushes, or large pieces of solid colored or white fabric/sheets** that we could borrow?

~**To donate your time:**

~**Paper mache party**—date and time to be determined

~**May 30th**—Help put together our decorations for VBS in Kley Hall. Be prepared to paint, create rocks, palm trees, and other oasis necessities. The work will start at 9 a.m. with the end time yet to be determined.



Please see Jen Wentworth or email her at wentworthj@stjohnphoenixville.org if you can help with any of these needs. Registration forms for Vacation Bible School and Afternoon Adventures can be found on our website (stjohnluthphoenixville.org) under the “forms” tab.



26th Annual Community Prayer Breakfast

You are invited to the 26th annual Community Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, April 4, 2020 in the Phoenixville Area Middle School cafeteria beginning at 7:45 a.m. The theme of the breakfast this year is: “Building Bridges to Justice.” The keynote address will be by Dr. Herbert H. Lusk II, Pastor of Greater Exodus Baptist Church. Tickets are \$12 per person or a reserved table for \$125 (seats 8). For tickets, please contact Pastor Krommes.

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

The Social Concerns Committee was formed in 1977 as a subcommittee of the Phoenixville Council of Churches. The name “Phoenixville Area Social Concerns Committee” was adopted in 2012. The mission of the Committee is “to promote social justice and community harmony throughout the Greater Phoenixville community in the spirit of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., through direct action and relevant events.” Peg Groening serves as our representative on the Social Concerns Committee.

Recycle Aluminum Cans and Support Mission Trips!

The St. John’s youth are collecting aluminum beverage cans as a fund raiser to help with the costs of the 2020 mission trips. Not only will bringing your aluminum beverage cans to St. John’s help support the youth fundraising effort but recycling aluminum is wonderful for the environment. The aluminum beverage can is by far the most recycled and recyclable beverage container on the market today. Aluminum cans are unique in that they are most often recycled directly back into themselves meaning that the average can has a very high percentage of recycled content. It takes just 8 percent of the energy to produce aluminum from recycled material versus producing new aluminum so high recycled content is a good indicator of the can’s environmental footprint.

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

All aluminum cans are welcome in the aluminum recycle bin in Kley Hall. Please bag your cans and drop them in this bin. Thank You!!



BRIDGES

Phoenixville Community Lent Worship 2020 Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

March 4 - Bridge Over Greed

St. Ann Roman Catholic Chapel, 604 Main Street, Phoenixville
Preacher: Pastor Nathan Coleman of Bethel Baptist Church

March 11 - Bridges Over Fear

St. John’s Lutheran Church, 355 St. John’s Circle, Phoenixville
Preacher: Pastor Eric Woodworth of Charlestown United Methodist Church

March 18 - Bridging the Swamp

St. Peter’s Episcopal, 121 Church Street, Phoenixville
Preacher: Pastor Dan McDowell of Grace Crossing Church

March 25 - Bridging Difference

First Presbyterian Church, Main and Morgan Streets, Phoenixville
Preacher: Pastor Cynthia Krommes of St. John’s Lutheran Church

April 1 - When to Burn a Bridge

Grimes AME Church, 338 Morris Street, Phoenixville
Preacher: Pastor Doug Hagler of First Presbyterian Church

Picture: Barkley School Children on the 1872 Phoenix Column Bridge over French Creek near the Foundry. Phoenix Columns were used by the Phoenix Bridge Company, a subsidiary of the Phoenix Iron Company, to build almost 1,400 bridges all around the world.

People of God Involved in God's Work

March Schedule

Acolytes

- 1 Luke Olsen
- 8 Evan DesMarias
- 15 Ava Demutis
- 22 Trevor O'Neill
- 29 Nicholas Hollander

Altar Guild

- 1 Nancy Cressman & Janet Ertell
- 8 Barbara Eng & Jean Herbranson
- 15 Jean Herbranson & John Westerman
- 22 Betty Hans & Elena Wallace
- 29 Barbara Eng, Donna Anderson & Sandra Zimmermann

Assisting Ministers

- 1 Ron Stevens
- 8 Sandi Stotler
- 15 William Stotler
- 22 Zach Pekofsky
- 29 Sandra Zimmermann

Bread Baking

- 1 First Communion Class
- 8 Pastor Krommes
- 15 Pam Freehafer
- 22 Rich Latella & Rich Skoniczin
- 29 Rich Latella & Rich Skoniczin

Communion Assistants/Lectors

- 1 Teresa Olsen (L) & Dale Herbranson
- 8 Aimee Hillegas (L) & Brian Becker
- 15 Nancy Cressman (L) & Pat Lucas
- 22 Bill & Sue Starling
- 29 Greg Krueger (L) & Debbe Welsh

Counters

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

Fellowship Time

- 1 Altar Guild
- 8 5th and 6th grade
- 15 Happy Hour
- 22 Welcoming Team
- 29 Christian Education

Greeters

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

Lock-Up

- 1 Stephen Drewes
- 8 Kelly Gallagher
- 15 Brian Greenwald
- 22 Mitch Reading
- 29 Mitch Reading

Ushers

- 1 Deb Welsh, Paul Miller, Glen Murphy, Zach Brown
- 8 Deb Ahola, John Rawlins, Cathy Garrett, Luanne Bindschusz
- 15 Beth Williams, John Westerman, Barry Church, Erica Lucas
- 22 Nancy Cressman, Donna Anderson, Dick & Judy Wolstenholme
- 29 Don Titus, Barb Rambo, Rich Latella, Rich Skoniczin



New to St. John's? Welcome to The WAY

What's The WAY? It's a time of learning about God, our community of faith and yourself as you are "on the way" of following Jesus.

When is The WAY? It begins on Sunday, March 8th, with dinner at the home of Pastor Cindy Krommes and John Stong at 5 p.m. From Sunday, March 15th through April 26th (not counting Easter) it meets on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. in Kley Hall. Don't worry if you need to miss a week or two, for there is a notebook to help you catch up.

Why The WAY? To grow in depth of understanding God's Word and God's Way in your life and the world.

Who is in The WAY? Led by our Welcoming Team, the WAY invites all those who are interested in being baptized and/or joining St. John's. Each newcomer is paired with a member of the congregation who serves as their guide.

How do I become part of The WAY? The Welcoming Team will be sponsoring the next session of The WAY, beginning Sunday, March 8th. The first meeting will be held at Pastor Krommes house at 5 p.m. The newcomers will be prepared to join our church at our service on April 26th. Anyone interested in joining St. John's should connect with Pastor Krommes at (610) 933-3947 or contact our Welcoming Committee Chair, Cathy Kahl, at (610) 850-5280 or Roberts.cathy.1951@gmail.com

Summary Report as of January 31, 2020

	Monthly	
	Budget	Actual
Income:		
Envelope Giving	\$ 32,223	\$ 29,329
Other Income	3,987	2,666
Total Income	\$ 36,210	\$ 31,995
Expenses	\$ 37,235	\$ 37,392
Income (Deficit)	(1,025)	(5,397)

March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks	2 11am Alanon Family Group 6pm Brownies 7pm Property 7pm Stephen Ministry	3 12:30pm PACA 4:30pm PACS Fundraising Committee Philadelphia Mission Trip 7:30pm Worship & Music	4 10am Bible Study 3pm Social Ministry 6pm Girl Scouts #4308 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7pm Christian Education 7:30pm Community Lent @St. Ann's 8pm Adult Choir	5 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	6 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections 5pm spaghetti dinner set-up	7 4pm Spaghetti Dinner 5pm Evening Light
8 8:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks 2pm PCO Rehearsal 5pm The WAY dinner at Pastor's house	9 11am Alanon Family Group 5:45pm Girl Scouts #41766 6:30pm Girl Scouts #4330 7pm Church Council	10 10:15am Staff 5:30pm Daisy/Brownie Troop #42024	11 10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Community Lent @St. John's 8pm Adult Choir	12 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	13	14 5pm Evening Light
15 8:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education 9am Electronics 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks 12pm Senior High Youth meeting 4pm Simple Gifts Concert (reception following) Bear Creek Sunday	16 11am Alanon Family Group 6pm Brownies 7pm Stephen Ministry 7pm Welcoming Team	17 4:30pm PACS Board	18 Circle deadline 10am Bible Study 6pm Girl Scouts #4308 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Community Lent @St. Peter's 8pm Adult Choir	19 10am Moms' Music & 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	20 St. Peter's lunch 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	21 12:30pm Girl Scouts Escape Rooms 5pm Evening Light
22 8:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks 2pm PCO Rehearsal 7pm St. John's Choir & Friends rehearsal	23 11am Alanon Family Group 5:45pm Girl Scouts #41766 6:30pm Girl Scouts #4330	24 10:30am WELCA 5:30pm Daisy/Brownie Troop #42024 5:30pm Stewardship 7pm Parent Grief Support Group	25 10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Community Lent @1st Presbyterian 8pm Adult Choir	26 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	27 9am Mulch Day#1	28 8am St. Luke's Stephen Ministry Retreat 9am Mulch Day #2 5pm Evening Light
29 8:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks 7pm St. John's Choir & Friends rehearsal	30 10:30am Covered Bridge Garden Club 11am Alanon Family Group 6:30pm Kiwanis Board 7pm Finance Committee	31 7pm Parent Grief Support Group	1 10am Bible Study 3pm Social Ministry 6pm Girl Scouts #4308 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7pm Christian Education 7:30pm Community Lent @Grimes AME 8pm Adult Choir	2 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	3 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	4 7:45am Community Prayer Breakfast 9am pancake breakfast & egg hunt 1pm Stripping of the Palms 5pm Evening Light

March 2020 Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Andrea Hart's birthday James Moreland's birthday Karen Carr's birthday Sam and Beth Fryer's anniversary	2 Diane Blattner's birthday Kevin Yonosh's birthday	3 Kenneth and Joan Tulish's anniversary Kinley Walters's birthday Liz Cady's birthday	4 John Stong's birthday	5 Joanna Oszeyczik's birthday Livi Cady Heinbaugh's birthday	6 Beth Fryer's birthday Lucas Becker's birthday Nathaniel Becker's birthday	7 Jeanette Dewey's birthday
8 Nicci Granacher's birthday Nick Platchek's birthday	9 Kimberly Rutherford's birthday Scott Geiger's birthday	10 Bob and Mary Faddis's anniversary Tyler Frees's birthday	11 Barbara Sell's birthday Bobby Strunk's birthday Kyle McGoldrick's birthday	12	13 Paige DeMutis's birthday William Breitingers birthday	14 Joan Cadigan's birthday Shannon Renner's birthday Zachary Brown's birthday
15 Chloe Dewey's birthday Heather Bourdeau's birthday Kim Themens's birthday	16 Brianna Greenwald's birthday	17	18 Carla Carr's birthday Devon Niness's birthday Jack and Janet Ertell's anniversary	19	20 Benjamin Blackledge's birthday	21 Karen Singer's birthday
22 April Fryer's birthday Jay Borzumati's birthday	23 Gabrielle VanDerveer's birthday Will Blackledge's birthday	24 Charlotte Daywalt's birthday Melissa Perrotto's birthday Nathan Stewart's birthday	25 Meredith Younker's birthday	26	27 Cheryl Speaker's birthday Erin Riley's birthday	28 Corina Geiger's birthday David Frees's birthday Emily Riley's birthday
29 David Carr's birthday M. Jeanette Hopkins's birthday	30 Joshua Saeger's birthday Ron Stevens's birthday	31 Malika Khan's birthday	1 Janet Reading's birthday Jeremy Unruh's birthday	2 Bob Faddis's birthday Stephen Hollander's birthday	3 Jay Greco's birthday Judy Wolstenholme's birthday Robert Kunsch's birthday	4 James Reading's birthday John and Bobbi Riley's anniversary



Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive
Those who trespass against us
Christ taught these words
Foreseeing the cross
Teach us that evil will not stand
Before thy cross forgiveness is greater
For evil will bow down
Seeking forgiveness.

Margaret Walker

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

www.stjohnsphenixville.org
E-mail: stjohnsphenixville@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

Donald and Harriet Carr
135 Farvu Drive
Phoenixville, PA 19460-2059

Sandra Sheplock
106 Oxford Drive
Douglassville, PA 19518-8764

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

Amelia Danielle Hicks
February 9, 2020

Evelyn Grace Liedike
February 16, 2020

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.

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.

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



2020

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

355 St. John's Circle
Phoenixville, PA 19460-2582
(610) 933-3947

www.stjohnluthphoenixville.org

E-mail: office@stjohnphoenixville.org

office hours 9-3 M,T,Th & 9-12 W,F (*barring exceptions*)

please call for appointments with staff members

A Caring, Sharing, Growing Congregation

Participating in Stephen Ministry

Worship Schedule

Saturdays

5 p.m. Evening Light with Holy Communion

Sundays

10:15 a.m. Holy Communion

(fall, winter and spring)

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

(Memorial Day through Labor Day)

THE CIRCLE

