

The Circle

December 2020

St. John's Lutheran Church, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania



Pastor Wayne ... For Your Consideration

Ahhh . . . by now the grocery store, post office, doctor's office, gas station, streets of the neighborhood, almost everywhere is filled with seasonal sights, sounds, aromas, and anticipated visits by friends and loved ones. I am always surprised by the lengths some will go to during this time: dazzling light shows, bulging calendars, competitive decorations, much too much wonderful food, and the cookies—yum. It is an intense time in preparation for the arrival of this expected child. And then the moment, the great arrival with all of the joy and gratefulness we would expect in the arrival of a newborn.

And the very next day when trash cans are filled with packaging, decorations begin to come down, the refrigerator is bulging with leftovers, and not a single radio station is playing Christmas music, we have to admit that we Christians have not told the world the Christmas story very well. Christmas Day is not the end of the story; it is only the anxious hope-filled beginning. No parent on the second day of this new life believes this story can be shelved for even a minute, much less the next eleven to twelve months. This new life invades, affects, and inconveniences every single moment of every day for the foreseeable future.

Let us tell this story better! Let us Christians spend at least the following twelve days (of Christmas) relishing in this amazing story of the birth of Jesus, of the arrival of God's son in our midst. Let's have some more festive gatherings, reach out to neighbors and friends, share some additional gifts (and for less money), play Christmas music—lots of it in our homes and offices—all to acknowledge publicly the intrusion of this child on our lives. This story, like the newborn, will need to be fed, protected, nurtured, and told over and over and over again if it is to grow up and change the world. Christmas Day is just the beginning of a remarkable story of life and love.

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PLEASE NOTE: At the recommendation of our Bishop, the Governor, and our parishioner who is an epidemiologist, St. John's building is closed. Effective immediately and until further notice, all services will be online only and available on our YouTube page. You can find each week's service by going directly to YouTube, or you can watch for the link to be posted on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter (all of those links are at the top left side of our website <http://stjohnluthphoenixville.org/>).

No one should be in the building except staff, our recording team, and those 12-step members who feel they must meet in person. The Council will re-address this decision at the next Council meeting on December 14th; however, the Bishop has recommended that we remain closed until January 1st.



Poinsettias

Beautiful red poinsettias will decorate our sanctuary for Christmas Eve. You are invited to sponsor one or more 6" pots with 4-7 flowers. The cost is \$9.00 per plant and checks should be made payable to St. John's Lutheran Church, with the memo of "Poinsettias" and mailed to the church. Deadline to order by phone or email is December 21st. Poinsettias may be dedicated "in honor of" or "in memory of" someone. Because of COVID, they will not be taken to shut-ins this year. A pick-up date after Christmas will be announced later.

Decorating the Church/Undecorating

Decorating the sanctuary for Christmas will be done by staff and a few selected others. Many thanks to those who already volunteered to help, but with the building closed, it is not wise to have many others inside. Decorations will be somewhat scaled back, but we hope you enjoy the simple beauty of the season in our wonderful worship space.

Advent begins the weekend of November 28th-29th and we will prepare for the birth of Christ for the four weeks leading up to Christmas Eve. Each week, one more candle will be lit on the Advent wreath and one more large candle banner will grace the sanctuary. Even the manger awaits the Christ Child! Watch each week as animals gather around the stable in anticipation. If you have an Advent wreath at home, light one candle each week—just like at church! Our Advent services will be virtual and available on YouTube.

Christmas Eve Children's Service will be filmed in advance and available on YouTube that afternoon. Hint: Obtain enough glow sticks (or battery operated candles) for everyone in your family for "Silent Night" and have a creche (manger scene) or a picture of one available to look at during "Away in a Manger."

Traditional Christmas Eve Worship Service will be livestreamed at 7 p.m. Gather your immediate family to watch and participate in the service as we all celebrate the birth of Jesus. Hint: Obtain enough glow sticks, candles, or battery operated candles for everyone in your family as we sing "Silent Night" together but separate.

Worship on December 27th with Lessons and Carols will be pre-recorded and available to watch on YouTube. Hear the lessons and then sing the familiar carols which tell the story of Baby Jesus.

A personal note

This is certainly not how the Worship & Music Committee envisioned how we would celebrate Advent and Christmas. We planned and then most of our plans had to be shelved. We are grateful that we have the capabilities of recording and livestreaming worship services, but we realize that not everyone is able to watch our services in this way. We miss seeing you as much as you might miss being in church. This is a year of changes for all of us and we will grow and adapt as necessary. Pray for your church family and reach out to each other in the weeks ahead. If you are able, attend church on YouTube—binge watch if you miss a week—and keep praying. We will get through this pandemic, with the help of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Jean Herbranson, Worship & Music Chair

Angel Tree

Since the building is closed, we're being creative with our Angel Tree project this year. Photos of our crafted ornaments will be posted on the website and our Facebook Family & Friends page. Just let Sonya Sowards know which one(s) you'd like to take home, drop off a donation and take home a beautiful ornament! Contact Sonya at (610) 933-3947 ext. 2 or email office@stjohnphoenixville.org to set up a time to pick up your ornament to benefit our girls in Tanzania.





Music of the Season

As we begin Advent and look to Christmas what I'll miss the most is the singing! We won't join the herald's voice in the desert in the warning cry to ". . . prepare for God a way. Valleys, rise to greet the Savior . . ." Instead of singing with the Angel Gabriel in telling Mary "For now a blessed mother thou shalt be . . . thy son shall be Emmanuel. . .," we will listen. The "Gloria in excelsis Deo" cry of the Angels on Christmas Eve this year will be one we hear but don't sing. "Silent Night" will indeed be silent. We will sing differently this year but we will still sing. To quote Howard Thurman, Dean Emeritus of Marsh Chapel, Boston University we will "make music in the heart."ⁱ

Dan Forrest's setting of Thurman's poem "The Work of Christmas" was to be sung by the Adult Choir on Christmas Eve. (A link to the music is below.) Thurman reminds us, even more importantly this year, "The work of Christmas begins"

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry,
 To release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations,
 To bring peace among brothers,
 To make music in the heart.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQd94aUPHDM>

ⁱThe Mood of Christmas. Copyright ©1973. Howard Thurman. Friends United Press.

Food Drive for PACS

During this time of uncertainty, many of our friends and neighbors are facing food insecurity. Phoenixville Area Community Services (PACS) is the local lead agency responsible for assessing needs and providing access to healthy foods. Since COVID-19 has arrived, PACS has seen a 5x increase in needs. We at St. John's can respond to serve our community by participating in an Advent food drive. A listing of most-needed items can be found at <https://www.pacsphx.org/donate-goods>. Please, NO frozen or refrigerated items.



Volunteers from Social Ministry Committee will be in the circle drive at St. John's :

Saturday, December 5th, 4-5 p.m.

Sunday, December 6th, 9-10 a.m.

Please have your items bagged or boxed, open your trunk and we can easily transfer items to another vehicle.

Masks must be worn during this transfer and we will remain socially distant.

Thank you for your generosity! Blessings to you and your loved ones this Advent Season!



From the Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries:

Everyone stop and take a deep breath. Breathe in the spirit of the season of Advent: of hope, faith, joy and love. These are four things we need even more in our lives right now than ever before. But how do we do this in what feels like the endless darkness of COVID? For me, I look for the silver lining. For once this Christmas season, I will not be running around stressed out flitting from one event to the next. I have the opportunity to relax in the spirit of the season and enjoy its peaceful quiet. I can still enjoy the things I love about Advent and Christmas, just in a different way.

We can still have hope. Go ahead and think about the fun things you want to do in the future. There will be a time where

we can all be together again. Remember while you are hoping for the future that there are many in the community just hoping that they can afford their next meal or pay their heating bill. Use this as an opportunity to teach your children about giving to others.

We can still have faith. Read the Christmas story aloud from the Bible or read a children's version of the story or find a movie version to watch. Revel in Mary and Joseph's faith that everything would be okay.

We can still have joy. There are still Christmas hymns, carols, and songs to be sung. I started playing my Christmas collection November 1st. We can drink hot chocolate, bake cookies, decorate the house inside and out, and give gifts. This year I determined my gifts should bring joy to my family in the form of the 12 days of Christmas. The 12 gifts include a can of pears, a rubber chicken, an Easter egg filled with Hershey kisses, and a kazoo all wrapped up in comics. Have fun with your family.

We can still have love. God loved us first so we could love others. Share that love with others. How about hand-made Christmas cards this year made by your kids or a new light-up yard decoration that says "YOU ARE LOVED"? There are endless ways to share God's love.

So although being in person for Christmas might be in doubt right now, just remember. You don't need to be at church to bring the spirit of Advent and Christmas into your house. It's already there—you just need to light a candle or four to spot it.

Merry Christmas and have a Blessed New Year!

Jennifer Wentworth

Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Who's Ready for ASP?

We are gathering volunteers for the Appalachian Service Project in the summer. We are planning as if ASP will be running for summer 2021. All high schoolers and adults are welcome to participate in this life-changing time of service in the Appalachian Mountains. Please email Jen Wentworth (wentworthj@stjohnphoenixville.org) if you are interested.



Appalachia
SERVICE PROJECT®

Save Your Cans

The St. John's youth are collecting aluminum beverage cans as a fundraiser to help with the costs of our mission trips. Please bag your cans and drop them off in Kley Hall. Thank you!!

We are reorganizing the St. John's prayer chain. If you are willing to participate please contact Sonya Sowards or Linda Landis. Let us know if you prefer a phone call or email as both will be available.

New Flooring Coming Soon . . .

The Church Council and the Property Committee have finalized new flooring recommendations for Kley Hall and the ground-floor hallways. The Property Committee took advantage of the recent reduced church activity and had the original asbestos floor tiles removed in June. A Flooring Task Committee, composed of *ad hoc* church members, worked diligently to select new flooring products that would complement the beauty and style of our building while providing safety, low maintenance and acoustical benefits.

For Kley Hall, a relatively new product called Kinetex, which is a Textile Composite Flooring manufactured by the J+J Flooring Group, will be used. The pattern is Network Modular, and the color is Modem. You can check it out on their website: <https://www.jjflooringgroup.com/product-category/kinetex>

For the hallways, we will use Luxury Vinyl Tiles (LVT) also manufactured by the J+J Flooring Group. The pattern is Legend and the color is Fiction: <https://www.jjflooringgroup.com/product/legend/>

We are waiting to hear about the availability of the flooring and will proceed to create an installation schedule after that. Most likely, the flooring will be installed in January 2021. It might not be practical to shut down the hallway for a week so near to Christmas.

Also, during the last few months, the Kley Hall room dividers were removed, and all the walls received a fresh coat of paint. Janet Ertell graciously offered her time and talents to remove, clean, and reinstall the window treatments in Kley Hall. Once the new flooring is laid, we will have a wonderful, clean, new looking social space to use.

A big thank you to the Flooring Task Committee, chaired by Walt Deichmann, for their very time-consuming effort and excellent products selected.

Thank you to all the staff and church members for their patience during this extended process.

Best regards to all,
The Property Committee



WELCA thanks the congregation for their generosity toward Silver Springs and our shut-ins and staff. Despite COVID challenges, we successfully collected Christmas gifts for Silver Springs students and purchased cookies for the shut-in gift bags. Thank you for your continued support.

A sincere thank you for letting our children use your great property to bike ride and have their lunchtime gatherings with the neighborhood. In this strange time, those 30-minute bike ride sessions are the highlight of some days. Please accept this donation as our thanks.

Sincerely,
The Kerr Family

If you haven't already, please prayerfully consider what you can share with God in the upcoming year and return your pledge card to the church. The Church Council will use this information in 2021 budget preparation. Thank you for your generosity!

God's gift to me



My gift to God

Dear Friends at St. John's:

On behalf of Phoenixville Women's Outreach, I would like to thank you for your generous donations of \$1,000 for a loan principal payment and \$800 for a loan interest payment toward our mortgage on our Next Step House. Our organization relies on the generosity of donors like you, and we are grateful for your support. Your donation allows us to continue fulfilling our mission of providing transitional housing, resources, and support to women experiencing homelessness. Thank you for your kindness.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Messere
Executive Director





**The Schuylkill Valley Regional Dance Company (SVRDC.org)
Presents its 49th Edition of *THE NUTCRACKER!*
*THE NUTCRACKER REIMAGINED—The Movie***

Warm your hearts & Ignite your spirits!

SVRDC.org is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization that has produced a spectacular Nutcracker ballet performance for the community since 1971. This year SVRDC is proud to bring this legendary Yuletide tale to the comfort and safety of your own home in the form of a professionally produced and edited film! Led by the creative choreography of Brittany Ryan and Tim Early, the show features 50 dancers plus professional guest artists.

Come join Clara, The Nutcracker, Sugar Plum Fairy, and their friends as they battle the mighty Mouse King, then journey from the Kingdom of Snow to the enchanted Land of Sweets meeting performers from around the world. Enjoy the classical iconic music of Tchaikovsky! There is something for the entire family in this fun filled Christmas tradition!

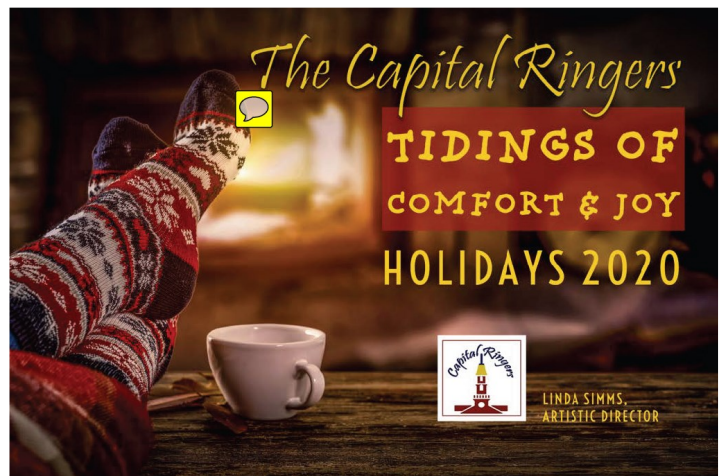
Reflections

Those who create out of nothing beauty
A gift I have not
Yet a gift I have
'tis a simple gift
Not hard or difficult
For beauty is as nothing without it
'Tis a gift I bring
That I may appreciate
Those gifts
That others create

To know what one does
Not understand
Jesus bridges the gap
Between nations for he
Came for all to be
Set free, frees all
From shame


What is this life a trust of God
What we cannot know relies on God's
Care for none can live on
Heaven's earth or exists
Without God's love

Margaret Walker




Capital Ringers Handbell Ensemble of Lewes, Delaware, is unable to perform in person for the holiday season 2020. However, with the assistance of a skilled tech team Capital Ringers has created a virtual concert, *Tidings of Comfort and Joy*, to bring handbell music to you this holiday season. For more information, go to <https://www.capitalringers.org/tidings-of-comfort-and-joy/>.

All of us have the responsibility of warding off this poison to the best of our ability because God has commanded us to care for the body, to protect & nurse it so that we are not exposed needlessly.



- Martin Luther, 1527

Whether One May Flee from a Deadly Plague



I heard about an Angel Tree
'Tho I have never seen one
As through the woods I go
An Angel Tree I think would be a happy tree
Spreading joy to all
I would protect it to see no harm come near
I will lay beside the Angel Tree
To guard the Angel Tree from harm

"Sidney"

People of God Involved in God's Work

December Sunday Staffing

Altar Guild

- 6 Nancy Cressman & Janet Ertell
- 13 Donna Anderson & Cathy Garrett
- 20 Betty Hans & Jean Herbranson
- 24 Jean Herbranson
- 27 Jean Herbranson

Counters

- 6 Stephen & Jen Drewes
- 13 Jack & Janet Ertell
- 20 Jack & Janet Ertell
- 24 Jack & Janet Ertell (lock-up)
- 27 Jack & Janet Ertell, Mary Heister, Shirley Platzer

Upon a hill stands a cross
 God's love a rainbow over all the earth
 Climb a hill rejoice
 Heaven's rainbow shines on all the earth
 All receive a gift no man can give
 Eternal mercy of love everlasting
 For when you have peace
 Anywhere is home

Margaret Walker

END OF YEAR REMINDER

All contributions to St. John's must be received by 11 a.m. on Thursday, December 31st to be credited as a 2020 donation for tax purposes. Contributions can be deposited in the locked mailbox outside the double glass doors. Thank you!

Summary Financial Report as of October 31, 2020

	Monthly		Year-to-Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income:				
Envelope Giving	\$ 32,223	\$ 22,034	\$ 322,237	\$ 264,999
Other Income	3,987	1,427	39,867	41,825
Total Income	\$ 36,210	\$ 23,461	\$ 362,104	\$ 306,824
Expenses	\$ 37,235	\$ 37,564	\$ 372,351	\$ 335,056
Income (Deficit)	\$ (1,025)	\$ (14,103)	\$ (10,247)	\$ (28,233)

Note: This report does not include the funds from the Paycheck Protection Loan received in May.

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.

Communion Records

We need your help. At St. John's, having communed is usually recorded on our Yellow Communion Card; however, due to the pandemic, we are currently not providing the YCC. Our constitution states a member must have communed and contributed in this or the previous year to be a voting member. Please contact Sonya Sowards at office@stjohnphoenixville.org or (610) 933-3947 ext. 2 to share with her the date on which you communed. Thank you!

Live Generously

If you are a member of Thrivent, you are eligible to apply for two Action Team Grants each year to benefit your church. Please contact your Thrivent representative if you would like to apply for an Action Team Grant in the coming year. You can learn more about Thrivent at www.thrivent.com.

Amazon Smile

Did you know that Amazon will donate to St. John's on your behalf? Simply log-in to Amazon using <https://smile.amazon.com> and choose St. John's from the list of charities you support (make sure you choose St. Johns (no apostrophe) Lutheran Church in Phoenixville). Amazon will send 0.5% of your purchase to St. John's every time you shop eligible items!

Tanzania

Several St. John's parishioners were looking forward to seeing the documentary advertised on the ELCA's Facebook page about our missionaries, Mark and Linda Jacobson's, work in Tanzania. When it didn't appear on the scheduled date, we emailed the ELCA and got this response:

Thank you so much for asking! I'm Cat, the communications manager working with Global Mission, and I just want to sincerely apologize that the documentary didn't air on Facebook on the planned date that we shared in Global Links.

The documentary is still coming, and we will be airing it as a Facebook Watch Party at a later date! I can circle back with you to let you know when it's releasing, and we'll announce the new date in Global Links.

We apologize again and thank you for your interest and support!

Many thanks,

Cat

We had also emailed Mark and Linda Jacobson to see if they could solve the mystery. We received this response:

Many greetings from the Jacobsons. How we miss you and are saddened by how Covid keeps us distant from friends like you.

We too were unable to view the documentary. But I want to bring some joy to you all by sharing this collage of photos from the opening of the new School of Nursing and our first graduation there.

Blessings,

Mark and Linda

Please enjoy the collage below and continue to pray for our friends in Tanzania.



**St. John's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2020**

Attendees:							
Pastor Shelor	P	Mitch Reading	P	Dale Herbranson	P	Stephen Drewes	Z
Kelly Gallagher	P	Janet Gerner	P	Brian Greenwald	Z	Sandra Zimmermann	Z
Pam Naylor	P	Bobbi Riley	P	Don Titus	P	Donna Searchfield	P
Dick Kunsch	P						
Guests:							
Sonya Sowards	P	Tom Snyder	P	Jen Wentworth	P	Doug Seiler	P

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mitch Reading. Bobbi Riley presented the flooring choice samples for Kley Hall and the Hallways. A brief discussion followed.

7:10: Doug Seiler, of Seiler+Drury Architects, was a guest to review and answer questions on the Property Condition Assessment (PCA) process and report that their firm did for St. John's beginning in March 2019.

- A PCA is designed to be a tool for an organization to use in creating short and long term plans to address building and ground needs.
- Short Term usually means proceed in 3 and no more than 5 years.
- St. John's top short term needs:
 - Address deterioration and leaks of the Sanctuary Tile Roof.
 - Have our 1,000-gallon, underground, heating oil storage tank tested and replaced as necessary.
 - Engage PECO to address the primary step-down isolation transformer within our building.
- St. John's additional short term needs:
 - Prepare to replace the Sanctuary HVAC System: The unit is inefficient and at "end of life"; the R22 refrigerant it uses is being phased out.
 - Replace Asbestos containing floor tiles.
 - Improve safety features: emergency lighting, safety signage; etc.
- Stephen Drewes lead discussion that Property now should itemize and prioritize the needs and projects for a short term and long term plan.
- Doug left the meeting with thanks at 7:50 pm.

7:50 pm Business Meeting commenced.

Meeting minutes from the September 14, 2020 meeting were reviewed.

Motion by Dick Kunsch, Second by Donna Searchfield to accept the minutes; Motion passed.

Staff Reports

- T. Snyder's Report – accepted as written. In-person worship attendance continues to increase, and YouTube views continue strong. Tentative Christmas worship plans will be to have a 4:00 pm Virtual Family Service, and 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm in-person services.
- J. Quinn's Report – accepted as written.
- J. Wentworth's Report – accepted as written.
- Pastor's Report – accepted as written.

Motion by Donna Searchfield, Second by Dale Herbranson to accept the staff reports; Motion passed.

Council reviewed the following Committee Reports:

Finance Committee and Income & Expense Report from August 31, 2020.

- Don distributed a condensed 9mo TYD report with and without PPP funds. Finance needs to address what to do about using the PPP funds. (Federal Payroll Protection Plan)
 - Finance Committee Motion regarding the pay-down of the columbarium loan needs clarification. Referred back to committee.
 - Finance Committee Motion regarding waiving interest on the columbarium loan was referred back to committee to review the original congregational approved terms.
- Stewardship Committee met but no minutes. Congregational Letter in the works.
 - Electronics Committee did not meet but Dale gave an update that the cameras have arrived, some misc cables are still needed, they have the names of five people interested in being part of this ministry and Seiler+ Drury is working with them on a structural plan for the A/V area.
 - Christian Education and Youth and Family Committee met October 7, 2020 but no minutes available to council. Trunk or Treat still being planned; considering a virtual Christmas Pageant; Sunday School will be re-evaluated at the end of the first term in November.
 - Property Committee from October 5, 2020. Accepted as written.
 - Worship and Music Committee from October 6, 2020. Working on a new format for Evening Light treating it more as a Vespers Service. Details to follow.
 - Welcome Team Committee from September 21, 2020. Accepted as written.
 - Social Ministry Committee from October 7, 2020. Accepted as written.
 - Fellowship Committee did not meet.
 - Columbarium Committee did not meet.
 - Executive Committee did not meet.

Motion by Dale Herbranson, Second by Don Titus to accept committee reports; Motion passed.

Old Business

- The Electronics Committee has applied for a Live Stream (Together in Faith) Grant.
- No new discussion on the Constitution Update.
- The “Meet & Greet” sessions for Pastor Shelor had spotty attendance.
- Sonya has sent worship packages to some shut-ins to keep them connected.
- The Welcome Team Committee has stayed in touch with new members.

New Business

- St. John’s will open our facility to select groups allowing the use of the Eisenhower Room and Kley Hall. All rules and protocols must be followed.
- The first council terms of Pam Naylor, Sandra Zimmermann, Brian Greenwald and Dick Kunsch are expiring. Pam Naylor is moving away from the area and therefore will not seek another term. Sandra, Brian and Dick will let their intentions be known to Mitch and they will form and be the new council member call committee.

Motion by Dick Kunsch, Second by Bobbi Riley to adjourn; Motion passed.

The next meeting will be November 9, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting ended at 9:10 pm with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi Riley

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Worship (YouTube) 9am Christian Education (Zoom)	30 11am Alanon Family Group	1 10:15am Staff 4:30pm Girl Scouts #41788 7:30pm Worship & Music	2 3pm Social Ministry 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7pm Christian Education 7pm Sunday Morning Book Club	3 6pm Girl Scouts #4514 7pm Naranon	4 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	5
6 Worship (YouTube) 9am Christian Education (Zoom) 11:30am 9th grade Confirmation (Zoom)	7 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Property	8 7pm Finance Committee 7pm Parent Grief Support Group	9 6pm Girl Scouts #42024 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7pm Sunday Morning Book Club 8pm Adult Choir Meeting	10 7pm Naranon	11 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	12
13 Worship (YouTube) 9am Christian Education (Zoom) 11:30am 9th grade Confirmation (Zoom)	14 11am Alanon Family Group 11am Transition Team 7pm Church Council	15 4:30pm Girl Scouts #41788 7pm Parent Grief Support Group	16 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7pm Sunday Morning Book Club	17 6pm Girl Scouts #4514 7pm Naranon 8:15pm Naranon Support	18 Circle deadline St. Peter's lunch 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	19
20 Worship (YouTube) 9am Christian Education (Zoom) 11:30am 9th grade Confirmation (Zoom)	21 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Stephen Ministry 7pm Welcoming Team	22 5:30pm Stewardship 7pm Parent Grief Support Group	23 6pm Girl Scouts #42024 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7pm Sunday Morning Book Club 8pm Adult Choir Meeting	24 4pm Children's Service 6:30pm Music 7pm Candlelight Service 7pm Naranon 9:30pm Music 10pm Candlelight Service	25 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	26
27 Lessons & Carols (YouTube) 9am Christian Education (Zoom) 11:30am 9th grade Confirmation (Zoom)	28 11am Alanon Family Group	29 7pm Parent Grief Support Group	30 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7pm Sunday Morning Book Club	31 6pm Girl Scouts #4514 7pm Naranon	1 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	2

December 2020 Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	3 Lu Anne Bindschusz's birthday	4 Don Titus's birthday	5 Owen Birdsell's birthday
6	7 Jonathan Onder-Testa and Ashley Onder's anniversary	8	9 Dave Volpe's birthday Dylan New's birthday	10 Dick Wolstenholme's birthday Sheldon and Shari Bradley's anniversary	11 Carol Cully's birthday Ryan Cadigan's birthday	12 Pam Westerman's birthday
13 Christopher Onder's birthday Peg Yanoviak's birthday	14 Aaron Westerman's birthday Christopher Duerr's birthday Molly Wallace's birthday	15 Claire New's birthday	16	17 Nolan Leong's birthday Walt Deichmann's birthday	18	19 Jodi VanDerveer's birthday RuthAnn Schell's birthday Savanna Muller's birthday Tom Schaible's birthday
20 Emmett Guici's birthday Suzanne Manney's birthday	21 Amber Khan's birthday Morgan Frees's birthday	22	23 Paula Weiss's birthday Tim Leong's birthday	24 Mike Platchek's birthday	25	26 Ava Liedike's birthday Mary Miller's birthday
27 Jim Ninness's birthday Layla Lozada's birthday	28 Jen Drewes's birthday Madelynn Doepping's birthday	29 Justin O'Neill's birthday Mark and Deborah Wallace's anniversary	30 Seth Clark's birthday	31 Jodi O'Neill's birthday	1 Robert Dyer's birthday	2 Bruce and Elena Wallace's anniversary Craig Emery's birthday Ella Drewes's birthday

As flows all rivers to the sea
 All earth all that dwells
 In earth sky sea
 We are a gift from God
 Who made cares created
 Living earth
 In doubt call upon Him
 In hope praise Him
 In fear trust Him
 In sorrow feel his love
 All in all praise give thanks
 That God is all in all
 His mercy grants to all
 Margaret Walker



Come before the Lord
 With singing and dancing
 Come rejoice before Me
 Come one come all
 For from none do I
 Withhold My love
 Listen I call all
 People of the earth
 Dwell in peace raise voices
 Sing dance in joyful
 Adoration let all the earth
 Come before me in
 Thanksgiving
 Margaret Walker

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

www.stjohnluthphoenixville.org
E-mail: office@stjohnphoenixville.org

CHURCH STAFF

Interim Lead Pastor:
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Pastoral Associate:
The Rev. Thomas Kochenderfer, Jr.
Director of Music:
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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

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Mitch Reading
Vice President:
Dale Herbranson
Secretary:
Bobbi Riley
Treasurer:
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Assistant Treasurer:
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Mary Heiser
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Kevin Gallagher
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Dick Kunsch
Stephen Drewes
Bobbi Riley
Other Members of Church Council:
Sandra Zimmermann
Brian Greenwald
Donna Searchfield
Kelly Gallagher
Janet Gerner
Don Titus
Pam Naylor

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

COMMITTEES

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Sandra Zimmermann, Council Rep.

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Rick Kramer, Chair
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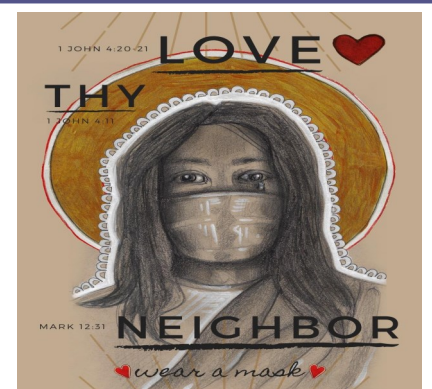
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Pastoral Acts

Interment
Beverly Ott
November 1, 2020

Photo Credits: David Beale, Annie Spratt, Rayner Simpson, Nick Fewings, Ame-
lie & Niklas Ohlrogge and Ben White on
Unsplash



We continue to follow the guidelines issued by the Governor of Pennsylvania to combat COVID-19. Worship continues to be available on our YouTube channel for those who do not feel comfortable returning to in-person worship. Materials for at-home worship are being sent to parishioners without computer access on request.

Please wear a mask when interacting with others in the building. Thank you for keeping us all healthy!

**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
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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 of the ELCA
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

