

The Circle



February Worship at St. John's

Fourth Weekend after Epiphany

Saturday, February 2nd

Community Engagement Panel—10 to 11:30 a.m.

Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, February 3rd

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

Community Engagement Panel—9 to 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School—9:25 a.m.

Child care will be available all morning.

In this weekend's Gospel reading, Jesus speaks to religious insiders about God's care for the outsiders. How appropriate that as part of our Strategic Planning process on Saturday and Sunday mornings we will have Community Engagement Panels featuring key leaders from the Phoenixville Community to share with us what is currently happening in our town! Wherever you are in your journey of faith come to worship, to hear God's word and receive the food of mercy.

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Saturday, February 9th—Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, February 10th

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

Sunday School, 9:25 a.m.

In the texts this weekend, unlikely instruments and circumstances reveal the glory of the Lord. "Who will go for us?" queries the voice of the Lord. A man of unclean lips, a former persecutor of the church of God, and three fishermen who couldn't catch a thing. More surprising still, perhaps, is the fact that we are also called.

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Saturday, February 16th—Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, February 17th

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

Sunday School, 9:25 a.m.

Blessings and curses abound this weekend. We would do well to listen closely to whom the "blessed are" and the "woe tos" are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him and the power to heal us all.

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Saturday, February 23rd—Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, February 24th

Holy Communion, 8 a.m.

Sunday School, 9:25 a.m.

Annual Meeting with Worship, 9:30 a.m.

Our texts this weekend are full of mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the gift of the life-giving Spirit, a reflection of the glory of God revealed in the Christ.

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The Pastor's message:

I was young child when I learned the rhyme and corresponding hand-motions to "This is the church, this is the steeple, open the doors and see all the people." It delighted me that by folding my fingers into my palms, then extending my index fingers up and placing my thumbs just so, I could the doors and then, turning my wrists around, could see all the people. The church was literally in my hands . . . and in yours too. The motto adopted by the ELCA a few years back, *God's Work, Our Hands* reminds me of this childhood rhyme. As does the good work in which we have engaged during the past year with the development of the St. John's Strategic Plan.



With the guidance of Rev. Dr. Elise Brown of Kairos, we have deeply listened to one another through individual interviews and in groups, sharing our hopes and dreams for God's Work at St. John's and then discussing them at cottage meetings together. On Saturday, February 2nd and Sunday, February 3rd we will engage in deep listening to key leaders of Phoenixville as they share with us joys and challenges of our community. Please plan to attend at least one, if not both mornings. On Saturday, there will be three leaders and on Sunday, four different ones. Then at our annual meeting on Sunday, February 24th at 9:30 a.m., we will gather as a congregation to discuss and endorse our plan for mission and ministry for the next few years. I deeply appreciate of all the work our Strategic Plan Team, Dr. Brown and our whole congregation has put into the process and look forward to our putting the plan into action. But I also know that without the people being engaged, being present, being active and committed, simply BEING HERE week-in and week-out, all the plans, hopes and dreams will be nothing more than dust and ashes.

God is with us—of that I am certain. God is for us—even dying on the cross—for nothing separates us from God. And God is bringing us into a new day, a new time, new possibilities. Don't miss any of it. BE HERE—open the doors and see ALL THE PEOPLE!!!!

Pastor Cynthia Krommes

Strategic Plan Community Engagement Panels



Ministry is always done in the context of a specific time and place. For us at St. John's it is in the context of the Borough of Phoenixville and Schuylkill Township during the early 21st century! So as we plan for mission and ministry it is extremely important to understand our time and place. For this purpose there will be two Community Engagement Panels that will allow us to have conversations with key community leaders and residents.

The first panel will be on Saturday, February 2nd from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Kley Hall. The leaders that morning are Dr. Louis Beccaria, President/CEO of Phoenixville Community Health Foundation, E. Jean Krack, Borough Manager of Phoenixville, and Steve Tullman, President/CEO of Phoenixville Hospital.

The second panel will be on Sunday, February 3rd from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., again in Kley Hall. The Sunday leaders are **Jessica Capistrant**, President/CEO of the Phoenixville Chamber of Commerce, Rey Rodriguez, President of Phoenixville Jaycees, Peter Urscheler, Mayor of Phoenixville and Dr. Le Roy Whitehead, Assistant Superintendent of the Phoenixville Area School District.

Areas to be discussed are the major changes that have taken place in our community in the past five years and what it might look like in another five years, the difficult issues and challenges our community leaders face, the signs of hope they see in the future and what groups are doing the most to address community needs, and the role of religious communities in addressing important issues.

While the panels have been organized by a sub-group of our Strategic Plan Team, the whole community is invited. **Please invite friends and neighbors to attend with you.** It is such a gift to have these community leaders give of their time and expertise to us. We are blessed!

Annual Meeting February 24th at 9:30 a.m.

This year's annual meeting will include the presentation of the strategic plan by our Congregation Council and the Rev. Dr. Elise Brown of Kairos. For the past year we have been engaged in a listening process that included individual interviews, cottage meetings and community engagement panels. Now it is time for the presentation to the whole congregation, so please plan to be present.

On the 24th we will celebrate Holy Communion with preaching at 8 a.m. in the sanctuary as we regularly do. (Evening Light will take place at 5 p.m. on Saturday.) Coffee hour (really coffee half-hour) will begin at 9 a.m. in Kley Hall. Sunday school for children ages two through sixth grade will be at 9:25 a.m. with combined classes. At 9:30 a.m., youth and adults will gather in Kley Hall for our worship/annual meeting. We will have a short worship service with no communion in conjunction with the meeting. Besides the presentation of the plan, new council members will be elected and the budget for 2019 approved. Everyone is urged to attend this very important meeting.



Synod Assembly Delegates

St. John's is part of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod which is made up of the churches in the five counties in the Delaware Valley. The Rev. Patricia Davenport serves as our Bishop.

Each year the Synod has a gathering of gathering of lay and rostered (pastors and professional church workers) leaders to celebrate, encourage and direct the ministries of the church. This year the Assembly meets on May 3rd and 4th at the Mennonite Meetinghouse in Franconia.

Beyond Pastor Krommes and Deacon Tom Synder, St. John's sends two delegates to the yearly Assembly. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the church, to grow in understanding and to connect with others. For more information about the Assembly and the Synod, please check out www.ministrylink.org. If you are interested in serving as one of our delegates, please use our Yellow Communication Card in your bulletin or email Sonya Sowards at office@stjohnphoenixville.org.

Chester County Conference Meeting – February 5th

The congregations of the Synod are divided into eight conferences defined by geography. St. John's is part of the Chester County Conference of which the Rev. Ron Wesemann of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Chester Springs currently serves as dean. Deans advise the bishop and staff on congregational placements and concerns, and serve as deployed synod staff in each conference. At the annual cluster meeting on February 5th we will be electing a new dean. We are in need of members of St. John's to attend this meeting at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Unionville beginning at 7 p.m. Transportation will be provided, leaving St. John's at 6 p.m. If you are interested in being part of this important decision, please speak with Pastor Krommes or email Sonya Sowards at office@stjohnphoenixville.org.

St. Peter's Lunches

We are currently providing lunches at St. Peter's for the homeless and other people who are struggling in our community. We do this the third Friday of every month and are in dire need of more volunteers to help prep and serve lunch. Donated desserts would also be a big help. Please contact Deb Welsh at djwelsh1453@yahoo.com if you can help out.

Valleys are not so low
that mountain visages are
unseen one step it takes
one at a time for none
may climb the mountain
top if not for that one
step at a time

Margaret Walker

Who's Hungry?

Join us to support our 2019 Youth Mission Trips

In six months, St. John's will sponsor two mission trips for 24 youth and adults. Three youth and one chaperone will join our synod trip to Rose Bud Reservation in South Dakota, and 20 will travel to West Virginia to support the Appalachia Service Project.

To help raise funds for these trips, mission trip participants and their families are sponsoring a few fundraising events.

- Saturday, Feb. 9th from 4-7 p.m.: Spaghetti dinner and raffle 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.
- Sunday, Feb. 24th from 9-11 a.m.: Bake sale on annual meeting day!
- Tuesday, March 5th: Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner

We will also continue selling Wawa hoagie certificates between services. Please contact Jodi O'Neill or Shelley Saeger for questions about our mission trips or these events. Thank you for your continued support!



Cake Wars

Everyone is welcome to join us for St. John's CAKE WARS. Teams will be given pre-selected supplies and a sheet cake to decorate in 30 minutes or less. The theme will be a surprise. ALL AGES WELCOME! Join us on Sunday, February 10th from 2:00-3:30 p.m. Please sign up by February 3rd so we know how many cakes to bake. Sign up with Britta Pekofsky by texting (610) 721-8328 or emailing BPekofsky@gmail.com.

Everyone is welcome to join us for
CAKE WARS
Teams will be given pre selected supplies and a sheet cake to decorate in 30 minutes or less.
The theme will be a surprise.
ALL AGES WELCOME



**Sunday
Feb. 10th
2:00-3:30**

Please sign up by 2/3 so we know how many cakes to bake.
Sign up with Britta Pekofsky text 610-721-8328 or
BPekofsky@gmail.com

The **Phoenixville backpack program** is looking for transport volunteers. Help nourish our community's young minds! The volunteers would need to be able to lift large boxes and have a van, truck or SUV to transport the boxes from church to the local schools. The whole process takes about twenty minutes (on Thursday evenings one-two times a month) and it's a great volunteer opportunity with kids! For more information, contact Laura Geiger at (267) 312-6337.

Young at Heart (St. John's social group for senior adults) is on hiatus until April. Be sure to look for our upcoming events this spring!



WELCA took a short vacation in December but resumed monthly meetings in January and have a full program schedule for the duration of the meeting year. All St John's women are invited to join us at 10:30 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

We look forward to beginning the new program year on Tuesday, January 22nd at 10:30 a.m. Mike Kahl will be our guest speaker presenting a program on glass blowing. Please join us for what promises to be a fun, interesting program. Lunch will follow!

We have another interesting program scheduled for February. On Tuesday, February 26th at 10:30 a.m. Jack Ertell will present a program on Majolica pottery which was made right here in Phoenixville during the late 1800s. Jack is a very active member of the Phoenixville Historical Society where there is a display of these old pottery pieces. Come and learn about this very special collectible.

Planning sessions are scheduled for our annual retreat which will take place on Saturday, April 6th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with Pastor Chris Peterson once again facilitating. Many hands, and heads, are needed to make this another successful event for the community. If you are interested in helping, please contact Linda Landis.

You may have already noticed that we are having a SOUPER Sale. Although we are down to potato soup mix only, jars are now selling for \$5 per quart. Stock up for the cold winter months. Orders can be placed using the Yellow Communication Card (YCC) in Life Together.

We look forward to resuming our program year and hope to see some new faces!



Youth Summer Mission Trips

There will be two St. John's Mission Trips this summer! Four of our youth, Rosa Gerner, Anna Gerner, Will Stotler and Katie Kramer, along with adult leader Shelley Saeger will join the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Youth on a servant trip to Rapid City, South Dakota and the **Rosebud Native American Reservation** this from July 12th through July 21st. This powerful experience promises to be a wonderful week of exploring faith and service in a context very different from that with which we are familiar. Reservations for this trip are closed.

Just before the South Dakota Group arrives home on July 21st our Appalachia Service Project Team will be heading out to repair homes and buildings in West Virginia and will return on July 27th. Youth planning to attend include: Jason, Madison and Cole O'Neill, Gabrielle and Margaux VanDerveer, Katie and Sarah Yonosh, K. Saeger, Tyler and Zack Pekofsky, Dylan New and Max Strunk. Adults going on the trip are Jodi and Justin O'Neill, Tom Snyder, Jeff VanDerveer, Claudia Borst, Len Pekofsky and Bobbi Riley. We hope that some of our college students will also join them. There may still be a few spots left. Youth must currently be in 8th-12th grade to participate. Any interested youth or adults should contact Jodi O'Neill at oneillsinvf@comcast.net.



Confirmation—Save the Dates

- April 14th—9th grade leads the reading of the passion during worship at 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
- April 23rd—9th grade mission day at Feast Incarnate
- April 26th-28th—Confirmation spring retreat in Cape May
- May 19th—Last day of confirmation classes for 7th and 8th grades, YOUTH CAR WASH
- June 9th—PENTECOST/confirmation (rehearsal at 8:30 a.m.; confirmation at 9 a.m.)
- June 17th-21st—Vacation Bible School and Afternoon Adventures



The St. John's youth are collecting aluminum beverage cans as a fund raiser to help with the costs of the 2019 mission trips.

The aluminum beverage cans we collect can be taken to a local recycling center and we receive CASH for the aluminum based on weight. This is a very EASY way to earn money and we would really appreciate ALL your cans to help in this effort.

Not only will bringing your aluminum beverage cans to St. John's help support the youth fundraising effort but recycling aluminum is wonderful for the environment.

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.

PLEASE help us and bring us your cans. All aluminum cans are welcome. There is a special aluminum recycle bin in Kley Hall for can collection. Please bag your cans and drop them in this bin. Thank You!!

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your generosity! Gratitude from some of the most vulnerable people on earth is flowing today for you and all who make Global Health Ministries (GHM) possible. In thirteen countries GHM is building the capacity of local partners to save lives in the name of Christ. From shipping medical equipment and supplies to training leaders and supporting grassroots efforts, we call it "the helping hands that heal" and it is possible thanks to your support. Thank you for the generous and vital support for ALMC in Tanzania! Together we are partnering and making an enormous difference in people's lives in the name of Christ. Thank you and Happy New Year!

United in service,

Pastor Doug Cox

GHM Executive Director

Gift amount: \$10,000

Designated for: TZ: ALMC 10th anniversary

Dear Rev. Krommes:

On behalf of the Spring-Ford Area Historical Society, I would like to thank your congregation for their generous donation of "Lutheran Patriots at Valley Forge," by George F.H. Walters. The painting has been hung in our gallery and will become part of a recently acquired military exhibit.

Sincerely,

Joyce L. Brunner

Secretary





On Sunday mornings there are many learning opportunities for adults at St. John's. Class locations are listed outside of Kley Hall near the church office. All the classes begin at 9:25 a.m. New folks are always welcomed.

Happy Hour

This class is called Happy Hour because they are happy their children are in Sunday school so that they can enjoy the gift of Christian community. On the first Sunday of each month, the group also enjoys planning activities and events for our Youth and Family ministry. They meet in the church library (Meeting Room #2).

Sunday Morning Book Club

Our Sunday Morning Book Club is currently reading "A Column of Fire" by Ken Follett. Discussion is always lively with much laughter. Beyond Sunday morning the Club gathers for evenings at the movies, particularly enjoying films on books they have read together. Coordinator Jean Herbranson lets everyone know what's happening through *Life Together* and our weekly email update. They meet in Pastor Krommes' office.

Faith Life

Faith Life is for those who want to think deeply about what's happening in the world in relationship to their faith. This weekly discussion is coordinated by our Dean of Education, Jack Ertell, and is led by people from a variety of specialties including science, politics, education, and health care.

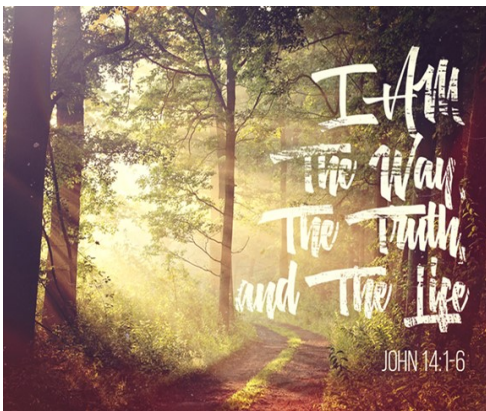
A Study of Paul's Letters to Timothy/A Study of Katie Luther

In the Fireside Room, Linda Landis will soon finish an exploration of Paul's letters to Timothy. Then, on February 10th, Sandra Zimmermann will begin a study of Katharina von Bora: wife, mother, businesswoman and reformer.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDIES

Every Wednesday there are two Bible studies. The first meets at 10 a.m. in the Episcopal House Community Room located at 601 Center Street in Phoenixville. The second meets at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room at St. John's. Each group delights in welcoming new people to the study. No previous knowledge of the Bible is necessary.

Welcome to THE WAY



Are you looking for new meaning in your life? Is St. John's a community of faith that is a place of growth for you? If so, consider being part of THE WAY which begin on Sunday, March 10th with dinner at Pastor Krommes' home from 5 to 8 p.m. Following that gathering there will be sessions on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. beginning on March 17th through April 14th and then April 28th and May 5th. Our newcomer program is called THE WAY after the first followers of Jesus, who were known as "People of the Way" before being called Christians. The WAY is an opportunity for faith to be explored, nurtured and renewed, to prepare for baptism and the baptism of children, to affirm your baptism and to grow in the Christian life. For more information or to sign up, please speak with Pastor Krommes, send an email to office@stjohnphoenixville.org or fill out the Yellow Communication Card in the bulletin

First Bible

First Bible classes for 3rd grade students and parents have been postponed to March 24th, 31st and April 7th during the Sunday school hour from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Children and parents will meet Kate Demutis in the Red Room in the downstairs Sunday school wing. The Bibles will be presented to children on Sunday, April 14th.





A Global Sunday School Christmas

For the past few years our Social Ministry Committee has asked our Sunday school students to help St. John's with selecting what we will give through the ELCA Good Gifts and Lutheran World Relief Gifts Program. Chairperson of Social Ministry, Debbe Welsh, meets with each class, explains the process and then gives them the responsibility to choose \$500 worth of gifts. They "go shopping" through catalogues provided by the ELCA and Lutheran World Relief. This year they gave four piglets, twenty-two chicks, two hens, two roosters, one sheep, three goats, a fish farm, a water filter, two smokeless cook-stoves, three shares of an emergency water filtration system, fruit-tree seed-

lings for four farms, a community vegetable garden, twenty-four mission quilts, three containers of medical supplies, stock for a health clinic for a week, mosquito nets, five backpacks of food, five Bibles, toys for a playground, and a \$125 microloan for a woman to start her own small business—all of this for \$2,000! As our children make these important decisions they strategize about what might be most helpful to families and villages. They do math while carefully adding up the prices and when they are over budget enter into serious negotiations. This year when our 5th and 6th graders failed to find a workable compromise, they all decided to add some of their own money so that all the gifts could be given. (The money comes from our St. John's Outreach Fund that was started by the sale of Central Lutheran Church to the Phoenixville Historical Society and designated for outreach—the gifts of faith that established that congregation continue to change the world—one chick, one fruit tree, one micro-loan at a time!!!!)



Attention Married Couples

Have you signed up for your spring Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend? Don't delay—remember that because we are celebrating 50 years of World-wide Marriage Encounter, we are offering 50% off on all registration fees for 2019! Whether your marriage is practically perfect or whether you have some

struggles, couples overwhelmingly report that the Weekend is the best thing they have ever done for their relationship!

The 2019 Northeast US spring Weekends are: April 5-7, 2019 at Country Inn & Suites just off of Hwy 99 in State College and April 26-28, 2019 at Heritage Hotel Lancaster in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

We are also taking reservations for our fall Weekends: October 11-13, 2019 at the Hyatt Place Pittsburgh/Cranberry in Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania, and November 1-3, 2019 at Hampton Inn Berkshires in Lenox, Massachusetts.

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

Poem/Prayer by Margaret Walker

Thanks be to Thee Loving Creator
for Thou art our All in All.
None fall.
Thy hand beneath, Thy love above
O Lord our God
May our thanks to you ascend.
To you Almighty,
eternal our everlasting Creator
in thanks we praise you O Lord
Our God we kneel before Thee.
Our thanks eternally rise.
Blessed three in one,
grant that thy peace
dwell within all the Earth. Amen



Jacobsons in Africa and Beyond

Sharing the Love and Compassion of Christ

17 January 2019

Dear, dear Friends in Christ,

A Blessed New Year to you all.

What a year! What a time! What a gift of ministry that God has given to us all, together in Tanzania.

Linda and I have now spent 33 years of our lives in Arusha and 36 years in Africa, 33 of them in Arusha. I first heard God's call to Tanzania 43 years ago when I visited Lutheran missionaries with my father.

And now, we have come to the point of turning the next phase of this ministry over to the team we have developed over the past twenty years. The time is right. We have always believed that what was most important was to help develop a team who would carry on after us and not only continue what we have done but to surpass it. We believe we are at this point. The team in place has now really taken the lead.



Largely under their direction, ALMC has achieved another two huge awards of recognition this year. First, for the second year in a row, we are the cleanest hospital in Tanzania! And secondly, and more importantly, we have been recognized by international evaluators to have achieved the top level of care in all of Tanzania.

On the 16th of December, we celebrated 10 years of service at Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre. What a fantastic day it was with worship, fund raising, but much more importantly, a celebration of compassionate care to over 1.2 million patients over the past ten years!

It turns out that this was my birthday as well and so it was an opportunity for our staff to honor me as one who led the way to the new hospital and all its achievements.



What does this mean for us, for Linda and Mark? I have stepped down as the Executive Director of ALMC effective January 1, 2019. But as I have stated again and again to our staff, I am not retiring and leaving them behind. Rather, we are stepping back and turning the day to day running of the hospital over to our successors. Wonderfully, the Diocese has agreed with my recommendation that Dr. Paul Kisanga, Surgeon and Director of Clinical Services succeeds me. He is an incredible leader and I fully expect that he will surpass what we have done so far.

Our Diocese in Arusha and the ELCA Global Mission department, have jointly requested that Linda I continue to serve in a support capacity. We anticipate being regularly available to provide connections and networking, to lend historical perspective, and to undertake some of the long term planning for the next phases of the hospital. Both churches would like us to continue to be a liaison with our many friends and

supporting organizations. And so we intend to spend about half our time still living in Tanzania and the rest in Minnesota.

The ELCA wants us to remain in partnership with you and so we feel honored and blessed. With more time in the US, it will be more convenient to connect with you and visit you with some regularity. Linda and I do look forward to visiting and sharing with you dear and faithful friends who have been our partners for years and years!

For me, Mark, it feels very right and yet very strange to be stepping back. Truly, the time is right in so many ways to turn the running of ALMC over to my Tanzanian colleagues. But it also feels very much like ALMC has been such a huge part of our lives and we cannot simply shut the door and depart. We will continue to support ALMC, with prayer, with relationships, and with the wisdom we have gained so far.



My hope and my prayer is that you will remain in relationship with us at ALMC and the ELCA - both as partners and supporters. Let us keep this dream alive together.

Blessings,

Mark and Linda

Mark and Linda Jacobson

New Address: 1429 Hoyt Ave. W., Falcon Heights, MN 55108



“If I am devoted solely to the cause of humanity, I will soon be exhausted and come to the point where my love will waver and stumble. But if I love Jesus Christ personally and passionately, I can serve humanity, even though people may treat me like a doormat. The secret of a disciple’s life is devotion to Jesus Christ.” Oswald Chambers

The WordSearch

St. John's

C	B	N	S	S	D	L	E	P	S	H	R	B	T	ST JOHNS
S	H	C	N	M	S	O	T	A	R	E	O	P	S	PASTOR
H	S	O	T	S	S	O	I	S	E	C	T	O	I	MUSIC DIRECTOR
A	S	C	I	L	N	C	C	T	H	A	C	S	N	ORGANIST
R	N	I	W	R	O	H	G	O	S	L	E	L	A	CHOIR
I	M	H	R	E	E	V	O	R	U	T	R	L	G	BELLS
N	Y	S	U	C	L	S	E	J	E	E	I	E	R	STEWARDSHIP
G	H	I	S	I	R	C	S	H	T	R	D	B	O	SHARING
R	H	T	I	A	F	M	A	F	R	S	C	H	S	LOVE
M	I	S	S	I	O	N	T	R	I	P	I	P	I	ALTER
P	I	H	S	D	R	A	W	E	T	S	S	C	S	BIBLE STUDY
R	E	E	S	B	I	B	L	E	S	T	U	D	Y	FAITH
T	C	O	M	M	I	T	T	E	E	S	M	S	S	USHERS
C	O	O	I	S	R	B	E	E	Y	M	J	E	E	WELCA

Description

Things associated with St. John's Lutheran Church

People of God Involved in God's Work

February Schedule

Early Late

Acolytes

3	Brayden Hawkins	Lizzie Strunk	
		Dylan Oszeyczik	
10	Evan DesMarais Nicholas Hollander	Nathaniel Becker	
17	Ava DeMutis	Jason O'Neill	
24	Trevor O'Neill	n/a	

Altar Guild

3	Janet Ertell	
10	Donna Anderson & Jean Herbranson	
17	Jean Herbranson & John Westerman	
24	Betty Hans & Elena Wallace	

Assisting Ministers

3	Paige DeMutis	Tyler Pekofsky	
10	Ron Stevens	Debbie Gordon	
17	Teresa Olsen	Nancy Cressman	
24	Jay Stearly	(9:30a) Debbie Gordon	

Bread Baking

3	Pam Freehafer	
10	Rich Latella & Rich Skoniczin	
17	Pr. Cynthia Krommes	
24	Adam & Gwen Supplee	

Coffee Hour

3	Christian Education
10	Faith Life
17	Adult Choir
24	Fellowship/Council

Communion Assistants/Lectors

3	Greg Krueger (L)	Kim Fetters	
	Pam Freehafer	Larry Fetters	
10	Jay Stearly (L)	Brian Becker (L)	
	Pat Lucas	Shelley Saeger	
17	Erica Lucas (L)	Bill Starling	
	LuAnne Bindschusz	Sue Starling	
24	Walt Deichman (L)	n/a	
	Debbe Welsh	n/a	

Counters

3	Stephen & Jennifer Drewes, Donna Anderson, Peg Yanoviak
10	Heather Yonosh, Donna Searchfield, Eileen Subacus
17	Mary Heiser, Mike & Cathy Kahl
24	Jack Ertell, Lilly Khan, Imitaz Khan Lawrence

Lock-Up

3	TBD	Brian Greenwald	
10	Dick Kunsch	Laura Caughlan	
17	Dale Herbranson	Rick Kramer	
24	Bobbi Riley	(9:30) Brian Becker	

Ushers

3	Luanne Bindschusz, Cathy Garrett, Barry Church, Erica Lucas
10	Rich Latella, Rich Skoniczin, Chuck Liedike, Dick Kunsch
17	Greg Krueger, Debbe Welsh, John Rawlins, Bev Rote
24	Cindy Gadzicki, Barry Church, Carol Cully, Bob Gorman



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 December 31, 2018

	Monthly		Year-to-Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income:				
Envelope Giving	\$ 35,347	\$ 58,198	\$ 424,159	\$ 387,362
Other Income	1,658	11,727	19,900	32,200
Total Income	\$ 37,005	\$ 69,925	\$ 444,059	\$ 419,562
Expenses	\$ 38,785	\$ 43,964	\$ 465,427	\$ 418,151
Income (Deficit)	\$ (1,780)	\$ 25,961	\$ (21,368)	\$ 1,411



February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 8am Holy Communion 9am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9:25am Christian education classes 10:45am Holy Communion 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks 3pm Concordia Choral Arts concert	28 11:30am Covered Bridge Garden Club 6:30pm Girl Scouts #4330 6:30pm Kiwanis Board	29 4:15pm PACS Development/Marketing	30 10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	31 5:30pm Daisy Troop #42024 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	1	2 10am Community Engagement Panel 5pm Evening Light
3 8am Holy Communion 9am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Community Engagement Panel 9:25am Christian education classes 10:45am Holy Communion 12pm GSEP Gateway Travels 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks 2pm PCO Rehearsal	4 5:45pm Daisy girl scouts 7pm Stephen Ministry 7:30pm Property	5 11am Staff 12:30pm PACA 7pm Chester County Conference Meeting 7:30pm Worship & Music	6 10am Bible Study 3pm Social Ministry 5pm Girl Scouts #4308 5:30pm Junior Troop #4514 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	7 10am Mom's Monthly Mingle 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	8 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	9 4pm Spaghetti Dinner 5pm Evening Light
10 8am Holy Communion 9am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9:25am Christian education classes 10:45am Holy Communion 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks 2pm Cake Wars	11 6:30pm Girl Scouts #4330 7:30pm Church Council	12 7pm Christian Education 7pm Parent Grief Support Group	13 10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	14 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	15 St. Peter's lunch	16 5pm Evening Light
17 8am Holy Communion 9am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9:25am Christian education classes 9:30am Electronics 10:45am Holy Communion 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks 2pm PCO Rehearsal	18 Circle deadline 5:45pm Daisy girl scouts 7pm Stephen Ministry 7pm Welcoming Team	19 4:30pm PACS working session	20 10am Bible Study 5pm Girl Scouts #4308 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	21 10:30am Moms' Music & Crafts Club 5:30pm Junior Troop #4514 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells 8:15pm Naranon Support	22 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	23 6:30am Kocher pancake breakfast 5pm Evening Light
24 youth group bake sale 8am Holy Communion 9am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9:25am Christian education classes for children 9:30am Annual Meeting w/worship (no communion) 12pm St. John's Crafty Folks	25 11:30am Covered Bridge Garden Club 6:30pm Girl Scouts #4330 6:30pm Kiwanis Board 7pm Finance Committee	26 10:30am WELCA 4:15pm PACS Development/Marketing 5:30pm Stewardship	27 10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	28 5:30pm Daisy Troop #42024 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	1	2 5pm Evening Light

February 2019 Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 William Stotler's birthday	28 Daisy Custer's birthday John Manney's birthday Lily Stewart's birthday Thomas Zollers's birthday	29 Alexander Kraft's birthday Whitney Wilkinson's birthday	30 Charles Soult's birthday Cindy Gadzicki's birthday Pam Naylor's birthday	31 Stephanie Riley's birthday	1 Evan DesMarais's birthday Madison Muller's birthday	2 Chris Thompson's birthday Jane Hadfield's birthday Jeffrey Hadfield's birthday Lhotse Durfinger's birthday
3 David Wilkinson's birthday	4 John and Michelle Wilkinson's anniversary	5 Derek Carr's birthday Kate Endres's birthday Sean Clark's birthday	6 David Reading's birthday Martin Emery's birthday	7	8	9 Jason O'Neill's birthday
10 David Horvath's birthday Joel Zimmermann's birthday Norah DiGioia's birthday	11 Beverly Rote's birthday Bill Schoellkopfs birthday Kim Birdsell's birthday Mark Wilkinson's birthday	12 Cole Church's birthday Mae Cratty's birthday	13	14 Benton Drewes's birthday Gary Barker's birthday Marlene Seyler's birthday	15 Kate Warren's birthday Rachel Gadzicki's birthday	16
17	18 Alexander Seidel's birthday	19 Aimee Hillegas's birthday Miles Church's birthday Sally Tomasco's birthday	20 Alicia Dewey's birthday	21 Chris Boyle's birthday John Dorward's birthday	22 Bill Wimble's birthday Cathy Kahl's birthday Melody Thomas's birthday	23 Addison Kunsch's birthday Carmen Murphy's birthday Connie Moore's birthday Will and Sandi Stotler's anniversary
24 Robin Emery's birthday	25 Chuck and Carol Cully's anniversary David Lacy's birthday	26 Lily Lane-Aharonian's birthday Scott Deichmann's birthday	27 Samantha McIntyre's birthday Tyler Thompson's birthday	28 Carlee Henderson's birthday Jocelyn Mowrer's birthday Tammy Klotzbach-Levan's birthday	1 Andrea Hart's birthday Jackie Feinberg'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 Stephen Doepping's birthday

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

www.stjohnphoenixville.org
E-mail: 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:
John A. Quinn III
Evening Light Pianist:
Sondra L. Andrews
Parish Administrator:
Sonya K. Sowards
Sexton:
Mark Yanchek, Jr.
Nursery Coordinator:
Arlene Hudak

CHURCH COUNCIL

President:
Brian Becker
Vice President:
Dale Herbranson
Secretary:
Pam Naylor
Treasurer:
Shirley Platzer
Assistant Treasurer:
Rose Gatlos
Financial Recording Secretary:
Mary Heiser
Fund 3 Secretary:
Kevin Gallagher
Executive Committee.:
Rick Kramer
Sandra Zimmermann

Other Members of Church Council:
Bill Starling
Don Titus
Dick Wolstenholme
Bobbi Riley
Laura Caughlan
Dick Kunsch
Brian Greenwald

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

COMMITTEES

Christian Education:
Mark Gerner, Chair
Bill Starling, Council Rep.

Youth & Family
Teresa Olsen, Chair
Rick Kramer, Council Rep.

Columbarium:
Bill Starling, Council Rep.

Electronics:
William Schoellkopf, Chair
Dale Herbranson, Council Rep.

Executive:
Dale Herbranson, Chair

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

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

Property:
Rick Kramer, Chair
Dick Wolstenholme, Council Rep.

Social Ministry:
Debbe Welsh, Chair
Laura Caughlan, Council Rep.

Stewardship:
Stephen Drewes, Chair
Dick Kunsch, Council Rep.

Welcoming Team:
Donna Searchfield, Chair
Pam Naylor, Council Rep.

Worship and Music:
Jean Herbranson, Chair
Sandra Zimmermann, Council Rep.

Office Assistants:
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Beverly Ott Kay Mann
Joan Carl Pat Renninger
Dottie Doeping

The Circle Editor:
Sonya K. Sowards

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20 Indian Run Road
Glenmoore, PA 19343-1302

Jim Taylor
JHT@mail.com

Kevin & Kelly Gallagher
109 Brimful Drive
Phoenixville, PA 19460

Pastoral Acts

Baptism
Elisa Rose Snyder
January 6, 2019

Funeral
David Wilford Allen, Sr.
January 7, 2019



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



2019

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

www.stjohnluthphoenixville.org

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

Sunday mornings

Holy Communion at 8:00 and 10:45 a.m.

Handicapped Accessible

THE CIRCLE

