

The Circle

Christmas Lessons and Carols December 29th at 10:15 a.m.

On the fifth day of Christmas, Sunday, December 29th at 10:15 a.m., we will sing the glorious carols of Christmas and hear the sacred texts of the Bible that reveal the wonder of the gift of the Christ Child. We will also receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Evening Light will also enjoy Lessons and Carols on December 28th at 5 p.m.

January Worship at St. John's

Weekend of the Feast of the Epiphany

Saturday, January 4th–Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, January 5th

Fellowship, 8:30 a.m.

Christian Education, 9 a.m.

Holy Communion, 10:15 am

We end our celebration of Christmas with the Feast of Epiphany. It is “officially” on January 6th, but this year at St. John’s we are moving up a day. The word “epiphany” means “showing forth,” and it names the day that the Church tells Matthew’s story of the magi from foreign lands who follow the light of the star and thus “see” Jesus as Christ. Their gifts are symbols: gold, because they honor Jesus as the king; frankincense, because they worship Jesus as divine; and myrrh, because they are readying for his death.

Baptism of our Lord

Saturday, January 11th–Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, January 12th

Fellowship, 8:30 a.m.

Christian Education, 9 a.m.

Holy Communion, 10:15 am

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God’s beloved children.

Second Weekend after Epiphany

Saturday, January 18th–Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, January 19th

What are you looking for? In our Gospel for today we hear Jesus ask that question to two men who were following John the Baptist. He then invites them to “come and see.” It’s not a question for them, but for us too—“what are we looking for?” We are also invited to “come and see.”



Third Weekend after Epiphany

Saturday, January 25th–Evening Light, 5 p.m.

YOUTH Sunday, January 26th

Fellowship, 8:30 a.m.

Christian Education, 9 a.m.

Holy Communion, 10:15 am

On their winter retreat on January 3rd through the 5th at Bear Creek Camp, our Confirmation students learned about worship and pondered what does it mean to follow Jesus. They also prepared for YOUTH SUNDAY. This weekend they will lead Sunday worship, including preaching the sermon. Don't miss it!

Inside this issue:

Worship	1
Pastor's Message / Nominations	2
Director of CYF Message / ASP	3
Music News / Concordia Choral Arts Concert / Pledge Cards	4
New Members / The WAY / Sharing God's Love / Confirmation Retreat / Thank You	5
Thrivent Grants / Congregational Cookoff / Thank You	6
News from the Jacobsens	7-8
WELCA / Marriage Encounter	9
January Schedule / Financial Info	10
Council Minutes	11-2
Staffing	Inside cover

From the Pastor:

Worship at the Center of the Universe

During these final six months of serving as the Pastor at St. John's, I want to reflect on an aspect of our life together in each one of my *Circle* articles. This month it is worship—the center of our life within the center of the universe (or depending upon your physicist, the multiverses) which is God.

When I was on internship I was given a small flier entitled *Holy Week and Easter* by Pastor Daniel Erlander. In it he wrote, “Ritually and symbolically the worship room becomes our Jerusalem. Here we will participate in Christ's suffering, death and resurrection.” Our altar, along with the altar of Jerusalem, our cross, with its nails (or are they rays of the rising sun), is crucifixion and resurrection, the bread and wine become Jesus. In worship we are at the center. We are with God.

This is more than being self-centered, seeing from our point of view. In worship we enter into the holy. God comes to us—and does so whether we realize it or not. But for us realizing makes all the difference.

There are astonishing moments in our worship life. Kneeling as we confess our sins and then hearing the amazing words that we are forgiven, freed from all that binds us up in fear and regret. You, me, all freed! Watching your faces as the Gospel is brought right into the center of our community to be read and heard as the amazing grace of God. Peace shared with spouses and family, friends and strangers. The choir singing a glorious song as offering—our holy gifts—are collected and then brought forward with bread and wine is one of them. Singing “Holy, Holy, Holy” with all the heavenly hosts, for we are in the heaven itself, with the saints of every time and every place, with God. Then we are fed a glorious feast, given to us by Christ. Hymns sung with gusto, and the new ones with hesitation. At the end the resounding, “Thanks Be to God!” for all the mercy and grace, and to be honest, that sometimes that worship is over and we can be on to other things, which in one way or another is sharing God's love over and over again.

One of my teachers once said, “By Friday, I'm not sure I believe anymore. Life can be so hard. On Sunday, I run back to the water (the baptism renewed in forgiveness), to the word, to the bread and wine, to God,” To the center of the universe. I confess that I do too. You?

Pastor Cynthia Krommes



Is God Calling You?

It is time to think about and pray for nominations to our Church Council. Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 23rd. Part of the meeting includes approval of a spending plan (budget) for 2020 and election of two new Council members and two delegates to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly. Perhaps God is calling you to serve on Council or to attend Synod Assembly on behalf of St. John's.

Council is the ongoing decision-making body of St. John's that gives leadership for us to fulfill our mission of living, sharing and growing in God's love through Jesus Christ our Lord. The responsibilities of a member of Council include attendance at one Council meeting each month, serving as a liaison to a committee and once-a-month lock-up of the offering. Beyond that Council members are asked to pray for St. John's each day, continue to grow in their knowledge of God's Word, attend worship regularly, be faithful stewards of time, talent and treasure and to build up our community of faith.

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly is the annual meeting of the synodical expression of the Church, a 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 2nd and 3rd at the Mennonite Meeting-house in Franconia. Beyond Pastor Krommes and Deacon Tom Snyder, St. John's sends two delegates to the yearly assembly.

For more information about the assembly and the synod, please check out www.ministrylink.org. To make a nomination for Council or for the Synod Assembly, just use our Yellow Communication Card in the Sunday bulletin or email Sonya Sowards at office@stjohnphoenixville.org.



From the Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries:

Happy New Year! With the new year comes new resolutions that we set to improve something in our lives. Consider adding one of the following to your list this year:

Never forget to say “Thank you.”

Special thanks to Eliza Khan for writing and directing this year’s Christmas pageant. Thank you to the behind the scenes crew who put up and took down the set, got the costumes ready, and who moved mikes and props during the play. Special thanks goes to Barb Rambo and Bobbi Riley for painting the new backdrop.

Engage in upcoming church events.

- Parents are welcome to stay with their children during education hour on January 19th for the All Sunday School event on Martin Luther King weekend.
- February 9th from 5-7 p.m. is the first Annual St. John’s Congregational Cookoff. This year’s theme is anything made in a crock pot.
- First Holy Communion classes will be held for the Fifth Grade class on January 26th and February 2nd and 9th. They will receive their First Holy Communion on February 29th or March 1st during worship.
- The annual congregational meeting is February 23rd. There will be a modified children’s Sunday school so parents can attend the meeting without distraction.

Walk with Christ during the week.

How do you practice your faith during the week? Consider adding the Home Connection to your weekly routine. In Life Together, you will find a little boxed text that ties the week’s lessons to something you can do at home. It might be focusing on a prayer need or having a conversation with your family.

Yearly resolutions are hard to keep . . . find someone to hold you accountable.

We often go gung-ho at the beginning of the year keeping up with our resolutions only to slowly slack off. Find a friend to hold you accountable and support you in keeping your resolution. Consider someone who has made the same resolution as you. You can work together to achieve your goals.

Early birds get the worm.

Help out event planners by indicating your interest in participating in church events by signing up on the YCC, with an email, on sign-up genius, or by calling the church office. Signing up helps planners know there will be enough food, paper products, and other items for the event.

Advanced planning is key.

VBS and Afternoon Adventures 2020 will be the week of June 15th through the 19th.

Remember to support the youth.

Hot chocolate mix in jars will be sold starting January 12th after Sunday worship to support the mission trips—\$5 for the pint jars and \$7 for quart jars. Pay attention to the *Circle* and *Life Together* for other mission trip fundraisers.

Have a blessed New Year and may you stay true to your resolutions!

God Bless,

Jennifer Wentworth

Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry



ASP Needs to Know ASAP

Jodi O’Neill needs to know who is interested in participating in the Appalachian Service Project this summer so St. John’s can reserve its spot. We are looking at dates for this year’s trip to fall between July 12th and August 1st. All high schoolers and adults are welcome to participate in this life-changing trip. Please email Jodi at oneillsinvf@comcast.net or indicate your interest on the YCC.

From the Director of Music:

Thanks

Thanks to all those at St. John's who were a part of the wonderful concert by Thomas Keesecker on December 8th. Thanks to everyone who brought food to share. Thanks to Sandy Zimmermann and Jim Taylor (members of the Fellowship Committee) for setting up and serving the reception. Thanks to audience members who stayed to help clean up. Thanks to Bill Schoellkopf for providing the audio support. Thanks to our resident greeter Margaret Walker. Thanks to Linda Landis for introducing Tom Keesecker to St. John's. Thanks to all who came to enjoy the concert. Thanks to anyone whose name I forgot to mention.



Concordia Choral Arts

Sunday, January 26th at 3:00 p.m., Concordia Choral Arts, presents its winter concert "Sleepers Awake." Featured is Bach's Cantata 140 "Wachet auf ruft uns die Stimme" with soloists and organ accompaniment provided by Derek Maninfor, Director of Music at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Phoenixville. The program also includes a rousing spiritual and an arrangement of "Over the Rainbow". Tickets for the performance are available at the door.

Angels Singing at Christmas

If you enjoyed the angels (well actually adult choir) singing on Christmas Eve, why not consider joining. Rehearsals are Wednesdays in the balcony choir room from 8:00-9:30 p.m. You'll find a group of welcoming people having a great time together. No auditions, just the ability to carry a tune and follow some direction. No wings required. Hope to see you!

THANK YOU!

Our Stewardship Committee thanks all those who have returned their 2020 Commitment Cards. If you have yet to do so, please return it as soon as possible. Our Council will be making the final revision of the 2020 spending plan at their January 13th meeting. Pledge cards can be found in the narthex or on our website, stjohnluthphoenixville.org. You are also invited to make your commitment via email to office@stjohnphoenixville.org. Thank you for your ongoing support of the ministry of St. John's!



A CHORAL CONCERT PRESENTED BY

concordia
choral arts

sleepers
AWAKE

featuring J.S. Bach's beloved
Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, Cantata 140

**SUNDAY
JANUARY 26TH
3PM**

Saint John's Lutheran Church
355 St. Johns Circle, Phoenixville, PA

For tickets and pricing, please visit concordiachoralarts.org

On December 15th, St. John's welcomed new members:

Liz Cady and her daughter Olivia Eve
Donna Marie Papsun
Lisa and Greg Sandherr
Santino Sicilia
Mario Walls and Courtney Morgan and
their son Ethan



A wonderful Welcome Brunch was held on December 15th so we could all get to know each other better.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the brunch and brought a dish to share.

Spring's THE WAY class will begin with a dinner at Pastor Krommes' home in March. The exact dates have yet to be determined. So it's time to think and pray about who you want to share God's love with through St. John's, and then to invite them to worship, Christian Education or a special activity.

New to St. John's?

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 on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. Called THE WAY after the first followers of Jesus, who were known as "People of the Way" before being called Christians, this is an opportunity for faith to be explored, nurtured and renewed. It is "the way" to prepare for baptism and the baptism of children, "the way" to affirm your baptism and "the way" to grow in the Christian life. A new session of THE WAY will begin in March. For more information or to sign up, please connect with Cathy Kahl or send an email to office@stjohnphoenixville.org.



Sharing God's Love

During December we did two special projects to invite people to worship with us on Christmas Eve. The Youth and Family Team organized our participation in the Phoenixville Holiday Parade. Santa led the parade, decked out on a holiday fire truck. We brought up the rear (or almost the rear) with the Holy Family, including sheep, a donkey, wise men and a whole gaggle of angels. Along the way 500 invitations to Christmas Eve worship were handed out along with candy canes. The enthusiasm of our children in sharing the good news of Christ's birth with our town was amazing!

The special project was sending almost 400 Christmas Eve invitations to new people in the 19460 zip code. The cards were designed by our Sunday school children (yes, they've been busy) and then our Welcoming Team organized envelope addressing and mailed the cards out.

While we hope the Holy Spirit will use the parade and the invitations to share God's love, we ask you to engage personal invitations to St. John's. We've learned that often those are the "invites" that are most effective.



Confirmation Retreat

Please pray for our Confirmation students while they are on retreat at Bear Creek Lutheran Camp in the Poconos January 3rd through 5th. The theme of the winter retreat is worship. We will learn about worship, experience worship and plan for worship on Youth Sunday which will be on January 26th.

Dear Friends at St. John's:

Please accept our most heartfelt appreciation for your gift of \$1,000 to Operation Bootstrap Africa (OBA). Your donation creates opportunities that can change lives for generations to come. Since 1965 donations to OBA has funded a wide range of projects in Tanzania, Kenya, and Madagascar.

Thousands of people have gained access to education and healthcare thanks to OBA donors like you! Your generous gift brings hope to those who have few opportunities in their lives. We look forward to your continued support of OBA and our partners in Africa!

In service to the people of Africa,
Jason Bergman
Executive Director

LIVE GENEROUSLY

The mission and ministry of St. John's was greatly enhanced through Thrivent Action Teams Grants in 2019. Thrivent members who are also members of St. John's applied for and received 20 grants for a total of \$5,000. Grants were used by our Ninth Grade Confirmation students to feed the hungry and homeless at Feast Incarnate at University Lutheran Church in West Philadelphia; to raise funds for two mission trips: Rosebud Native American Reservation in South Dakota and the Appalachia Service Project in West Virginia; to buy supplies for the Angel Tree workshop which sends five girls to school in Tanzania; to help our Sunday school children create 100 school kits for Lutheran World Relief; to support the Ninth Grade Confirmation Mission project in building a platform and putting together a shed for a neighbor; to bring the Holy Family to town and hand out 500 invitations to Christmas Eve worship during the Phoenixville Holiday Parade; to provide scholarships to Afternoon Adventures and snack for Vacation Bible School; to support our St. John's team at the daily St. Peter's lunch for those who are food insecure in Phoenixville, to invite women from the surrounding communities and congregations for an all-day spiritual retreat, to providing ongoing support to Silver Springs/Martin Luther School and the ministry of our missionaries, Dr. Mark and Linda Jacobson.

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

Dear Rev. Dr. Krommes:

On behalf of the congregation and Council, I want to thank you for your generous gift of \$1,300 to be used toward the Rev. Kenneth S. Ensminger Scholarship Fund. Thank you again for your thoughtful and kind monetary donation to our ministries here at Jerusalem Lutheran Church.

Sincerely,
Deborah Bartlett
Congregation Council Secretary



Mark your calendars for the First Annual Congregational Cookoff!



FEBRUARY 9, 2020
5:00pm in Kley Hall

Sign up by emailing wentworthj@stjohnphoenixville.org or marking the YCC (Yellow Communication Card) in service.

Bring an appetizer, main dish, side dish or a dessert – IN A CROCK POT – or join us to taste and vote for your favorite dish!



Dear St. John's Lutheran Church:

I wish to thank you for the generous gift you made to the Kenneth S. Ensminger Scholarship Fund. In the past as many of you know, Pastor Ken presented those students that qualified for this scholarship directly to them at one of the Sunday services at Jerusalem Lutheran Church. This was a great honor for Pastor Ken to do, and one he looked forward to each year.

I also wish to thank you for the love and devotion that you have shown to Pastor Ken and our family throughout his serving St. John's Lutheran Church, and well into his retirement years. We have been truly blessed by all your continued friendship and our hearts will overflow with gratitude to you. We will continue to remember you and your families in our thoughts and prayers.

With the sincerest gratitude,
Amy E. Ensminger and family

MARK AND LINDA JACOBSON

AFRICAN MUSINGS

November 2019

Dear Friends,

Greetings.

It's been a year of great change for Linda and me. It's been a year of change for the ministries we have served for over three decades.

We're trying to figure out what to call this new phase in our lives of service and ministry. The biggest change is really a change in our status. Mark has stepped down as the director of Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre and together we have now been called to continue to serve the hospital and the diocese in Tanzania. Our Tanzanian bishop requested the ELCA to allow us to continue on a part time basis to serve the church and the hospital as a "respected elders." We probably appreciate the first part of that descriptive phrase more than the second. The ELCA has agreed to keep us on at a part time salary for part time service of both the ELCA and our Diocese in Tanzania.

The blessing for us is that this means that Linda and I are still relating with you, our congregations! We are grateful for the opportunity to continue to be a part of your family. We are considering ways and schedules to visit many of you in the coming year.

So, we wonder a bit as to how to describe our "status" now. We certainly have not retired, but we are part time in the US and part time in Africa. Mark is involved with a number of other ministries now outside of ALMC and Linda continues both in Tanzania and in seeking new ministries in Minnesota. Maybe it is called a realignment? or perhaps it is a new term we heard, "refirement."

We bought our first home a year ago in Falcon Heights, Minnesota. We're situated in a comfortable neighborhood near to a lovely park named Como Park where we can walk in the summer and ski in the winter. Linda has adapted to the cold and snow by becoming an avid cross country skier.

In Arusha, Mark is focused on several areas on behalf of Dr. Kisanga, his very dear friend and able successor. Construction of a campus for the ALMC School of Nursing is a major effort as we need to move from our rental facility to our own, permanent site. This entails fund raising, construction, and long term planning on a shared site with a secondary school belonging to the diocese. Future expansion of the hospital is now needed and Mark is assisting in developing a long range plan and possible funding for this effort.

The ELCA has begun a very important ministry in Juba, South Sudan. South Sudan is the newest nation on the globe and suffers horrendously as a result of its history of decades of civil

war, limited infrastructure development, and continued ethnic power struggles for political control of the government. Our church has built a holistic ministry there with worship space, educational spaces, and a clinic primarily for women and children. Mark is an advisor for the clinic and has led several teams to come and do fistula surgery for some of the sixty thousand woman estimated to be needing such surgery in South Sudan today. Now there is a plan to expand the clinic by adding a Maternity Unit to provide safe, midwife attended deliveries for the thousands of women coming to our clinic for help.

Many of you have heard from Mark about the growing epidemic of cancer in Africa. While the idea of their being a cancer epidemic in Africa, is rather jarring, the reality is that the combination of a population which is aging is meeting a lack of preventive or early diagnostic services for cancer to produce this new and explosive epidemic. Mark is helping to respond to this through a helping in planning and implementing a holistic cancer care center in the Kilimanjaro Christin Medical Center on the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

Over the past several years, Mark has begun to explore and study the important role of compassion in health care. Seemingly an obvious concept, it still has become increasingly rare for health care providers in Tanzania and in the US to find the time or opportunity to express their compassion during patient encounters. There is a science behind the concept and others are exploring this as well. So, it a new passion for us, the passion for compassion.

Linda is continuing with the Widow's Mite Project in Arusha. In the Cities, she's looking is joining a new ministry as a volunteer support person for people suffering sexual assaults.

Together we are trying to figure out how we will have roots in two different worlds. We are exploring where we might worship now and where we find our new community. Fortunately, the Twin Cities is home to many of our family and our friends who share an interest in Africa.

Please know we remain involved with you, together in global ministry.

Blessings,
Mark and Linda



ALMC's New Dialysis Unit!



Thanks to all who contributed to fulfilling Christmas wishes for Silver Springs Martin Luther School. Once again your response was overwhelming. When we delivered the items on December 6th, a Silver Springs staff member told us how much our contribution is appreciated and how happy this makes the children and families supported.

With your assistance we delivered the following:

- 54 sketch pads, coloring books, activity books
- 192 highlighters, gel pens, ballpoint pens, markers
- 22 books and puzzles
- 12 packs of colored pencils
- 45 boxes of crayons
- 22 erasers
- 23 pencils
- 16 note pads, journals
- 3 calendars
- 17 Hot Wheels
- 154 hair brushes, scrunches, hair elastics, bows, hair bands
- 20 lip balms
- 3 scissors
- 3 pairs of socks
- 4 pairs of gloves
- 54 miscellaneous toys
- 12 packs of assorted batteries

During our last meeting we assembled cookies and goodie bags for homebound members. Once again St. John's members stepped up to provide an abundance of cookies, as well as items to fill goodie bags. Thank you all!

We have a great program lineup for the coming months. In January we have a program featuring humor. In February Toni Hadfield will visit to talk about service dogs. Jack Ertell will give one of his interesting programs on Phoenixville in March and Pastor Kochenderfer will be our guest speaker for April.

Bring a joke or two and join us when we begin 2020 on Tuesday, January 28, at 10:30 a.m. in the Eisenhower Room.

2020 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends Announced

Your marriage relationship is something that provides the greatest potential for happiness. Is yours living up to this potential? Please make 2020 the year you resolve to attend a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend to learn how to maximize the joy and intimacy that God intends for your marriage!

The following Northeast US Weekends have been scheduled:

- * April 24-26, 2020 at Country Inn & Suites, Ithaca, NY. A hotel with lots of country charm in the beautiful Finger Lakes region of New York.
- * May 1-3, 2020 at Heritage Hotel in Lancaster, PA. A recently-renovated hotel, home of the unique, treehouse-inspired restaurant, "Loxley's."
- * October 2-4, 2020 at Comfort Inn Latham-Albany North—just 10 miles north of Interstate 90 near Albany, the vibrant capital of NY.
- * October 16-18, 2020 at Olmsted Retreat. A stunning, hotel-style retreat Center in the Allegheny National Forest, 2 hours north of Pittsburgh.

Please go to the national website: www.GodLovesMarriage.org to see the very reasonable group rate for each Weekend. You may make your payment for the cost for your lodging and 5 meals for each of you plus the registration fee with your credit card, or you may mark the option to send a check. Scholarships are available for those in need who request them at the website. Registrations are limited by the size of the conference rooms, so to be sure to get the Weekend of your choice, sign up at your earliest convenience at www.GodLovesMarriage.org. For questions please contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at fjschamber@comcast.net or (724) 325-3166.

People of God Involved in God's Work

January Schedule

Acolytes

- 5 Luke Olsen
- 12 Ava Desmaris
- 19 Trevor O'Neill
- 26 Nicholas Hollander

Altar Guild

- 5 Nancy Cressman & Janet Ertell
- 12 Barbara Eng & Jean Herbranson
- 19 Jean Herbranson & John Westerman
- 26 Betty Hans & Elena Wallace

Assisting Ministers

- 5 Nancy Cressman
- 12 Ron Stevens
- 19 Dale Herbranson
- 26 Confirmation Student

Bread Baking

- 5 Rich Latella & Rich Skoniczin
- 12 Adam & Gwen Supplee
- 19 TBD
- 26 Lynn Titus

Communion Assistants/Lectors

- 5 Nancy Cressman (L) & Aimee Hillegas
- 12 Bill & Sue Starling
- 19 Don & Lynn Titus
- 26 Rich Skoniczin & Rich Latella

Counters

- 5 Stephen & Jennifer Drewes, Donna Anderson, Peg Yanoviak
- 12 Heather Yonosh, Donna Searchfield, Jeanne Schanzenbach
- 19 Mary Heiser, Mike & Cathy Kahl
- 26 Jack Ertell, Lilly Khan & Imtiaz Khan Lawrence

Fellowship Time

- 5 Worship & Music
- 12 Church Council
- 19 Bell Choir
- 26 Fellowship Committee

Greeters

- 5 Joan Wilson, Dale Herbranson, Donna Searchfield
- 12 Mike & Cathy Kahl, Faye Donovan
- 19 Beverly Rote, Debbe Welsh, Lynn Titus
- 26 Kelly LeMarbe, Denise Longbine

Lock-Up

- 5 Stephen Drewes
- 12 Donna Searchfield
- 19 Brian Greenwald
- 26 Rick Kramer

Ushers

- 5 Brian Becker, Deb Welsh, Bev Rote, Sandi Stotler
- 12 Paul Miller, Glen Murphy, Don Titus, Zach Brown
- 19 Deb Ahola, Cathy Garrett, John Rawlins, Greg Krueger
- 26 Barb Rambo, Beth Williams, John Westerman, Luanne Bindschusz

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.

The crippled mare calls
 Dreams of days long ago
 When she ran in pastures sweet
 From within the barn
 A gentle call from a
 Crippled mare
 For she sees not the pasture green
 Margaret Walker

Summary Report as of November 30, 2019

	Monthly		Year-to-Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income:				
Envelope Giving	\$ 32,972	\$ 30,833	\$ 362,687	\$ 333,839
Other Income	2,117	1,564	23,293	26,162
Total Income	\$ 35,089	\$ 32,397	\$ 385,980	\$ 360,001
Expenses	\$ 35,089	\$ 34,348	\$ 385,980	\$ 358,792
Income (Deficit)	0	(1,951)	0	1,209



Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

On January 10th and 11th Trinity Lansdale will present a workshop entitled **EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY, a Stewardship Extravaganza**. Keynoters include Clif Christopher, author of *It's Not Your Father's Offering Plate, Whose Offering Plate Is It? The Church Money Manual* and Aimee Laramore speaking about *Pathways to Generosity: Year-round Giving and Gratitude*.

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.

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2019**

Attendees: C. Krommes, S. Sowards, M. Reading, L. Caughlan, B. Riley, D. Kunsch, D. Titus, D. Searchfield, K. Gallagher, S. Drewes, B. Greenwald, P. Naylor

Absent: S. Zimmermann, R. Kramer

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

St. John's received a thank you note for the contribution to the non-profit village.

Meeting minutes from the October 21, 2019 meeting were reviewed. **Motion was made by Bobbi Riley, seconded by Dick Kunsch to approve October 21, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion approved with no objections or abstentions.**

Pastor and Staff Reports

- Pastor's Report from November 11, 2019
 - Pastor reminded Council to always confirm meeting space and scheduling with Sonya.
 - Pastor asked Committees to have meeting minutes to Sonya within a few days of the meeting and highlight anything Sonya needs to know so she may iron out any conflicts.
 - Pastor attended the 100 Women of Phoenixville meeting and reported it was a wonderful event.
 - We are in need of male prayer partners.
 - Pastor did a podcast on our ministry in Phoenixville.
- Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry Report for October 2019
- J. Quinn's Report from November 5, 2019
- T. Snyder's Report from November 4, 2019

Motion was made by Dick Kunsch, seconded by Laura Caughlan to accept the Pastor and Staff Reports. Motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.

Finance

- Finance Committee Report from October 28, 2019
- Don Titus reviewed the Financial Report for October.
- Donna Searchfield suggested we track Thrivent funds. Donna will request a report from Thrivent.
- Stephen Drewes advised Vanguard will match 50% of member's contributions to St. Johns.

Motion was made by Don Titus, seconded by Donna Searchfield to accept the Finance Report. Motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.

Committee Reports

- Electronics Report from October 20, 2019
- Welcoming Team Report from October 21, 2019
 - St. Johns decals have arrived
- Stewardship Committee Report from October 22, 2019
- Christian Education Report from November 6, 2019
- Property Committee Report from November 4, 2019
 - Library has been cleaned out and can now be used as meeting space.
 - We hope to have foyer flooring finished for Christmas
- Worship and Music Committee Report from November 5, 2019
 - A decision needs to be made at December meeting about the date and flow of the Annual Meeting. Staff will discuss suggested formats at staff meeting.
- Youth and Family – No written report

- Will participate in 12/6 Christmas Parade. It's been communicated on Facebook, a flier was sent home with each Sunday School student, and there is a sign-up sheet. Candy canes should be ordered ASAP for the cards. Jen is working on a Thrivent grant.
- Columbarium – No Report
- Fellowship – No report
- Social Ministry – No report
- Executive Committee – No written report. Staff reviews being conducted this week.

Motion was made by Bobbi Riley, seconded by Donna Searchfield to accept the Committee Reports. Motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.

Old Business

- St. Johns Constitution – Sonya and Pastor will follow-up tomorrow to confirm changes made by ELCA have been made in our Constitution. Pastor will confirm how far in advance of the Annual Meeting the constitution must be distributed.
- Committee Night

Bobbi Riley made a motion seconded by Stephen Drewes to withdrawal the proposal for committee night. To facilitate communication to office and other committees, Sonya will develop and distribute a common communication template. The Council Committee Representative or their designate will complete the Communication form before leaving the building following the committee meeting and place it in Sonya's mailbox. Motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.

- Pastor's Party – Save the Date mailing is complete and arrangements are on track.

New Business

- Communication of coffee hour responsibility is printed in the bulletin.
- Staff Reviews are taking place week of November 11
- New Council Members – Mitch will circulate the list of those who will complete their Council term at the Annual Meeting. We will need 2 to 4 new council nominations for next year.

Motion was made by Bobbi Riley, seconded by Mitch Reading to adjourn. Motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Naylor



Song of the Copper Tree

I am a humble tree
 Not majestic like an oak
 Nor graceful as a willow tree
 Yet upon my branches
 I bear a greater love
 Carrying names of loved ones
 Copper blowing in the wind
 In love written
 They flutter seem to say
 Each of us was loved
 Tree of an everlasting love
 No other tree knows
 Copper blowing in the wind

Margaret Walker

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10:15am Holy Communion w/lessons & carols 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks 4pm Young adults gathering	30 11am Alanon Family Group 6:30pm Kiwanis Board 7pm Finance Committee	31	1 7pm Alanon	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 Confirmation Retreat	4 Confirmation Retreat 5pm Evening Light
5 Confirmation Retreat 8:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks 11:30am Un-Hanging of Greens	6 11am Alanon Family Group 6pm Brownies 7pm Property 7pm Stephen Ministry	7 10:15am Staff 12:30pm PACA 4:30pm PACS Fundraising Committee 7:30pm Worship & Music	8 10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	9 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	10 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections Extravagant Generosity--a Stewardship Extravaganza	11 Extravagant Generosity--a Stewardship Extravaganza 5pm Evening Light
12 8:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks 2pm PCO Rehearsal	13 11am Alanon Family Group 5:45pm Girl Scouts #41766 6:30pm Girl Scouts #4330 7pm Church Council	14 5:30pm Daisy/Brownie Troop #42024 7pm Parent Grief Support Group	15 10am Bible Study 6pm Girl Scouts #4308 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	16 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	17 St. Peter's lunch	18 Circle deadline 5pm Evening Light
19 8:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education (MLK lesson for preK-6th) 9am Electronics 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks Annual Reports due to Parish Administrator	20 11am Alanon Family Group 6pm Brownies 7pm Stephen Ministry 7pm Welcoming Team	21	22 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Concordia Choral Arts rehearsal 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	23 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	24 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	25 5pm Evening Light
26 Youth Sunday 8:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education—First Communion begins 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks 2pm PCO Rehearsal 3pm Concordia Choral Arts concert	27 10:30am Covered Bridge Garden Club 11am Alanon Family Group 5:45pm Girl Scouts #41766 6:30pm Girl Scouts #4330 6:30pm Kiwanis Board 7pm Finance Committee	28 10:30am WELCA 5:30pm Daisy/Brownie Troop #42024 5:30pm Stewardship	29 10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	30 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	31	1 5pm Evening Light

January 2020 Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Justin O'Neill's birthday Mark and Deborah Wallace's anniversary	30 Seth Clark's birthday William and Susan Shirk's anniversary	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	3 Ev and Melody Thomas's anniversary Jayden Carey's birthday	4 Ashley Westerman's birthday Debbe Welsh's birthday
5 Alison Thomas's birthday Janet Ertell's birthday	6 Elisa Khan's birthday	7 Jake New's birthday	8 Angela Bearoff's birthday Quinn Oszeyczik's birthday	9	10 David and Susan Schumacher's anniversary	11 Cynthia Krommes's birthday
12 Leah Carey's birthday Robert Gorman's birthday	13	14 Brynn Klotzbach's birthday Jack Kramer's birthday Katie Kramer's birthday	15	16	17 Rachel Bearoff's birthday	18 Annalynne Grace Thompson's birthday
19 Margaret Lane's birthday	20 Julius Sherrick's birthday Katie Miller's birthday Rose Gatlos's birthday	21 Peyton Barker's birthday	22	23	24 Kathleen Keim's birthday	25 Byron Seyler's birthday Ed Naylor's birthday Susan Schumacher's birthday
26 Anna Schaible's birthday Ellie Schaible's birthday Hannah Kramer's birthday Kimberly Dastalfo's birthday Mary Scavello's birthday	27 William Stotler's birthday	28 Daisy Custer's birthday Lily Stewart's birthday Thomas Zollers's birthday	29	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

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 & 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

Pastoral Acts

Weddings
Thomas Johnson
Sanming Chang
November 30, 2019

Ashley M. Onder
Jonathan R. Testa
December 7, 2019

Funeral
Karen Fellinni
December 9, 2019



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

