

# The Circle

## February Worship at St. John's

### Presentation of Our Lord

Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> – Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

Fellowship Time, 8:30 a.m.

Christian Education, 9 a.m.

Holy Communion, 10:15 a.m.

Forty days after the birth of Christ, Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. (As an aside it is often around 40 days, or six weeks, when babies are brought to be baptized at St. John's.) In the Temple, Jesus and his parents met Anna, a prophetess, and Simeon, a priest who declared that Jesus is a "light for the nations." For this reason, the Presentation is also known as Candlemas, a day when candles are blessed for the coming year.

### Fifth Weekend after Epiphany

Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> – Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>

Fellowship Time, 8:30 a.m.

Christian Education, 9 a.m.

Holy Communion, 10:15 a.m.

We cannot live without salt or light. In the gospel for this weekend, Christians are called to be like salt and light for others. How has a sibling in Christ been light to you? How can you bear light for another?

### Sixth Weekend after Epiphany

Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> – Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>

Fellowship Time, 8:30 a.m.

Christian Education, 9 a.m.

Holy Communion, 10:15 a.m.

Much of the New Testament is a commentary on the Old Testament in the light of Christ. The gospel for this weekend is an example of this, as Matthew quotes Jesus discussing several of the Ten Commandments. Come to worship to hear these words, to pray for strength to live God's ways, and to share in the meal of forgiveness.

### Transfiguration Weekend

Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>

Fellowship Time, 8:30 a.m.

WORSHIP AND ANNUAL MEETING, 9 a.m.

Christian Education for children, 9 a.m.

As we have done over the past few years on the last Sunday in February, we will conduct our annual meeting within worship, beginning at 9 a.m. in the sanctuary. We can think of it in the context of Jesus' mountain retreat with his disciples where he is shown to be divine. We will hear God's word and then focus upon how we are living out that word through the mission and ministry of St. John's. All



confirmed members of the congregation are urged to attend. Our children will be engaging in a learning experience during the time of the meeting.

### Ash Wednesday

February 26<sup>th</sup>

Mid-Day Ashes and Communion, 12:15 p.m.

Evening Ashes and Communion, 7:30 p.m.

The beginning of Lent gives us the occasion to admit that we will die and that we are sinners. On Ash Wednesday we are marked with ashes—a sign of our death and of our sorrow for sin—but the ashes trace a cross on our forehead, where the baptismal water first marked us with God's grace.

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## From the Pastor:

### Surprising Grace!

Our life together at St. John's is full of surprising grace that is constantly given to us through learning. On my first Sunday as Pastor when, after Sunday school, I went to our pre-school classroom to pick up my youngest son, Todd, I asked him how he liked it. He replied, "They sure work you hard in this Sunday school." With further conversation I learned he was not disappointed, but encouraged. He loves learning and to be part of a Sunday school that has high expectations delighted him. Every week there was something new to understand and that stretched his faith and imagination. I soon discovered that was true in all of

our Sunday school classes for children, youth and adults.

Most often on Sunday morning I serve as the Master Teacher for the ninth-grade confirmation class which has been a learning experience for those young men and women, their ever-faithful guides and especially for me. Last year one of our young men in his faith statement presented on Pentecost Sunday shared that he was proud to be a Lutheran because we embrace questions. He then went on to ask, "What was Martin Luther's 95 Theses, but 95 questions?" I had never thought of the 95 Theses in this way before and he was exactly right! I am still pondering the implications and how questions open us up to surprising grace.

On Wednesdays, in the morning at the Episcopal House and in the evening in our Fireside Room, I participate in Bible studies that focus upon the passages that we will hear the next Sunday. Over and over again I am surprised by the insights of those gathered around the table. We almost always begin with the question, "What caught your attention or what jumped out at you in the text?" Then a thorough exploration of scripture begins that connect us to God in our very real lives. Often insights from the Wednesday studies show up in the sermon the next Sunday.

Then there's Vacation Bible School. In my first week at St. John's, Bobbi Riley stopped by to tell me about VBS at St. John's. I shared that I'd been part of many VBSs and looked forward to participating in ours. Never did I imagine how much fun VBS is at St. John's! Not just that year, but every year since. (Sign up for this year's VBS, June 15-19, via [www.stjohnluthphoenixville.org](http://www.stjohnluthphoenixville.org)).

We are truly a learning community of faith! Let us thank God for our Christian education leaders, teachers, guides and students whose wisdom and understanding, questions and enthusiasm, open us up to be continually surprised by grace!

Pastor Cynthia Krommes

### Is God Calling You?

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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:office@stjohnphoenixville.org).



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

On January 19<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday school gathered to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We talked about King's dream for the world to be a kinder and better place. The students enjoyed a puppet show voiced by Teresa Olsen and Erica Reading. The show focused on accepting what makes each other different and to remember no matter what that Jesus loves us. Afterwards the students decorated the bulletin board in Kley Hall. They traced one of their arms and decorated it. These arms were put together and can be seen coming out of the poster stating, "Be the change you want to see in the world." The students suggested some great ideas on how to make the world a better place and change it. Their best answer was LOVE.



How perfect for the month of February to focus on changing the world through LOVE. Start with loving yourself by taking care of your mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health. It is far easier to spread LOVE when you are feeling good, than when you are filled with negative emotions.

LOVE your community: Smile and say hello as you pass people. Donate food or give to a charity. Join in fellowship with other members of St. John's at the Congregational Cookoff on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Support ASP mission trips fundraising efforts.

When you support ASP, you extend your LOVE to the world. The youth and adults who attend will be sharing LOVE with those in need in other states. This year the Sunday school students have focused on loving the world by putting together school kits and collecting offering to purchase a tree farm through ELCA good gifts. They currently have enough money for seven of the needed 15 trees.

Change the world with LOVE and remember "We LOVE because God first loved us."

God Bless,

*Jennifer Wentworth*

### Who's Hungry?

Join us to support our 2020 Appalachian Service Project (ASP) Mission Trips. To help raise funds for this trip, mission trip participants and their families are sponsoring a few fundraising events.

Look for the youth before and after services to purchase pints of hot chocolate mix for \$5 a jar and Wa-wa hoagie coupons which are also \$5.



**Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>:** When the fast of Lent begins, we go a little wild. In New Orleans, it's Mardi Gras. In Phoenixville, it's PANCAKES! Eating pancakes, running while flipping pancakes, tossing pancakes, making pancake self-portraits and creating pancake art—we do it all! **Our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner** will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> in Kley Hall. The cost is \$7 per adult, \$5 per child with children under 3 free or \$20 for a family. Invite friends and RSVP through our Yellow Communication Card or by emailing Jen Wentworth at [wentworthj@stjohnphoenixville.org](mailto:wentworthj@stjohnphoenixville.org).

**Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>** from 4-7 p.m.: **Spaghetti Dinner** in Kley Hall! The cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for kids 3-12, and free for kids under 3. A hearty meal will be served all-you-can eat buffet style or take-out. Gluten free pasta is available.

**Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>- Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast**



## From the Director of Music:

### Music for Holy Week & Easter

As we begin our preparation of music for Holy Week and Easter, consider singing with the Adult Choir to more fully experience what has been considered the most important and holy time of the Church—especially what is known as the “Triduum” (or Great Three Days) of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter morning. Two thousand years later we continue this ancient and holy practice and many of the elements of our Holy Week worship have been used by Christians since at least the year 400 AD.

Music for Holy Week will be rehearsed at the beginning of practice—8 p.m., Wednesdays, in the balcony choir room. Come, join in the preparation and joyful proclamation of Christ’s serving, breaking bread, suffering, dying, and resurrection.

Tom Snyder

# Triduum



### Communion Procedures

Last year, as a result of the Strategic Planning meetings, one focus was on strengthening worship by shortening the length of the Sunday morning service and providing communion in a different way. Thus, in May 2019, we began the continuous ‘walking’ communion method, whereby the congregation did not kneel at the rail first, but rather, remained standing and walked to the bread and wine, with the option to kneel at the rail after receiving the elements. Despite some tweaks along the way, the hoped-for time-saving outcome has not been realized. Worship & Music Committee members have listened and heard opinions from a number of people since we began the experiment, the chief comment being that people sensed a loss of piety and

missed the feeling of community with the “walking” communion. After giving the experiment eight months and after much discussion, W&M recommended to the Church Council that we return to the previous method of communion distribution—kneeling at the altar rail to receive the bread and wine. At the January meeting, the Council agreed with our recommendation, and thus we will return to kneeling at the rail beginning with the February 2<sup>nd</sup> worship service. This time frame allows for communicating the change to the largest number of people. We thank the people of St. John’s for being willing to participate in this experiment of communion distribution.



Please join us at 10:30 a.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month for interesting programs, fun and fellowship.

A big “thank you” to everyone who supported our Brownie Mix in a Jar fundraiser.

We sold out in just a few weeks. Look for an announcement in spring for the next round!

In February Toni Hadfield will present a program on service dogs. Our March presenter is Jack Ertell who will give another interesting program on Phoenixville. Pastor Kochenderfer will be our guest speaker for April.

We hope to see you on Tuesday February 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. in the Eisenhower Room.



## Annual Meeting and the Transfiguration February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

All confirmed members of St. John's are asked to attend the St. John's annual meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 9 a.m. in the sanctuary. The meeting will be held in the context of worship beginning with confession and forgiveness (something we always need to do), prayer and hearing God's Word, specifically Matthew 17:1-9, the Transfiguration of Our Lord. This glorious vision of Jesus shining as bright as the sun stays with us as we, like the disciples, are called to engage in challenging ministry in the world. Seeing the vision, hearing these words, reminds us that God is always with us.

Then we will engage in the "work of the people" as the meeting is called to order. In the meeting we will receive reports from our staff and ministry teams, vote for new Council members, approve a spending plan for 2020, vote on changes in our congregation's constitution and any other business that is brought forth. As Lutherans we value the priesthood of all believers which includes you, so please plan to be present.

When the meeting is adjourned, we will move into the celebration of Holy Communion—where Jesus gives us himself in the bread and wine, his body and blood—our food and drink for the journey of faith before us. Following the meal we will be sent out with peace to serve the Lord.

While the confirmed members (10<sup>th</sup> graders and older) are engaged in worship and the meeting, the children will participate in a learning activity and then join the rest of the congregation for communion.

In summary, our schedule is 8:30 a.m. Fellowship Time in Kley Hall, 9 a.m. worship and meeting in the church sanctuary for confirmed members, and a learning activity for children in Kley Hall followed by communion in the church for everyone. Please mark this on your calendar and plan to attend.



Mark your calendars for  
the First Annual  
Congregational Cookoff!



FEBRUARY 9, 2020

5:00pm in Kley Hall

Sign up to cook or just judge

by emailing

[wentworthj@stjohnphoenixville.org](mailto:wentworthj@stjohnphoenixville.org)

or marking the YCC

(Yellow Communication Card) in service

or signing up via

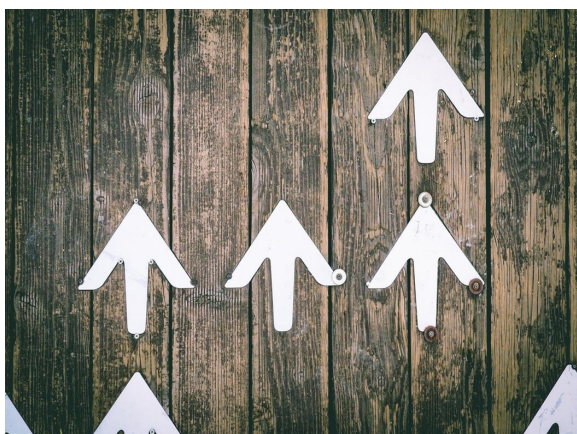


Bring an appetizer, main dish, side dish or a  
dessert – IN A CROCK POT – or join us to  
taste and vote for your favorite dish!



## New to St. John's? 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 begins on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> with dinner at Pastor Krommes' home from 5 to 8 p.m. 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](mailto:office@stjohnphoenixville.org) or fill out the Yellow Communication Card in the bulletin.





## St. John's Scholarship

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



## Recycle Aluminum Cans and Support Mission Trips!



The St. John's youth are collecting aluminum beverage cans as a fund raiser to help with the costs of the 2020 mission trips. 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!!

## 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, New York—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, Pennsylvania—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 New York; and
- \* October 16-18, 2020 at Olmsted Retreat—a stunning, hotel-style retreat Center in the Allegheny National Forest, two hours north of Pittsburgh.

Please go to the national website: [www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org) to sign up. For questions contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at [fjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.net) or (724) 325-3166.



Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Sunday after Christmas, the Gospel was the story of Joseph fleeing a death threat from a despot leader and taking refuge in Egypt. I much appreciated our pastor sharing that this is still the story in our world today. People fleeing, refugees, and yet the question, how do we receive them in our country and our homes?

It's been a year of great change for Linda and me personally. It's also been a year of great 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. In turn, we have now been called to continue to serve the hospital and the diocese in Tanzania as well as consulting with the ELCA. Our Tanzanian bishop requested the ELCA to allow us to continue on a part time basis to serve the church and the hospital as "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 Diocese and Hospital gave us a warm and generous day of celebration for our years of service in November.



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. Mark gets his exercise shoveling snow and Linda enjoys trying cross country skiing!

Mark continues to focus on several areas of ministry – supporting ALMC in planning for our School of Nursing construction and looking at long term expansion of the hospital complex. Farther afield, Mark continues consulting for the ELCA at the Reconciliation Center Clinic in Juba, South Sudan and with Lutheran Health Care Bangladesh at their hospital in Dumki, Bangladesh. He is still working with the Foundation for Cancer Care in Tanzania to establish cancer care in northern Tanzania and consulting with Alight for health care in their Rwandan refugee camps.



Linda is continuing with the Widow's Might Project in Arusha, planning for medical visitors to the hospitals, and to help at our Arusha church. In Minnesota she will taking a course in sexual assault advocacy.



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.



Laura and James have the same jobs (NYC Health + Hospitals, Columbia Business School), address (Rector Place), and spouses



(each other) as last year. James is expanding his coaching business beyond his students and undergoing a coaching certification. His mom is struggling with stage 4 cancer, so Laura and James went back to Taiwan for much of October. James has just returned to Taiwan again this week to be with her through more chemo.

Big news from Sarah and Stéphane in Cape Town is their engagement and upcoming wedding in 2020. They are ecstatic and so are their families. They continue in their same employment of public health for Sarah and naval engineer for Stéphane. Together they continue to enjoy the wonderful variety of outdoor hiking, climbing, camping and exploring, including a three week end of year road trip to the Eastern Cape.



Katherine is now in Minnesota and working for Alight (formerly American Refugee Committee), which is a Minnesota based NGO serving refugees and displaced people around the globe. Travel this year included trips to India and Jamaica.



Together, as a family, we share tough transitions and change, and we also enter the new year with hope and eagerness for the goodness of God's love and compassion.

Blessings,  
Mark, Linda, Laura and James, Sarah and Stéphane, and Katherine



### Summary Report as of December 31, 2019

	Monthly		Year-to-Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
<b>Income:</b>				
Envelope Giving	\$ 32,972	\$ 50,481	\$ 395,659	\$ 384,320
Other Income	2,117	3,931	25,410	30,093
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 35,089</b>	<b>\$ 54,412</b>	<b>\$ 421,069</b>	<b>\$ 414,413</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 35,089</b>	<b>\$ 41,981</b>	<b>\$ 421,069</b>	<b>\$ 400,772</b>
<b>Income (Deficit)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,431</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13,641</b>





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

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

Absent: S. Sowards, D. Titus

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm with the sharing of highs and lows and a prayer offered by Pastor Krommes.

Meeting minutes from the November 11, 2019 meeting were reviewed. **A motion was made by Dick Kunsch, seconded by Kelly Gallagher to approve the minutes. The motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.**

**Staff and Financial Reports**

- Pastor's Report from December 9, 2019
  - This Sunday is the Newcomer Brunch. Please attend and bring a dessert.
  - Think about who you are going to invite to Church Christmas Eve.
- T. Snyder's Report from December 2, 2019
- J. Wentworth's Report for November
- J. Quinn's Report from December 2, 2019
- Finance Report
  - November 2019 Income and Expense Statement Reviewed. Finance report with Budget Review will continue under New Business.

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

Council reviewed the following Committee Reports:

- Worship and Music minutes from December 3, 2019.
  - **A motion was made by Donna Searchfield, seconded by Dick Kunsch to hold the Annual Meeting February 23. The day will begin at 9 am with Worship in the sanctuary, the Annual Meeting, followed by offering and communion. The motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.**  
Note: The children will leave the sanctuary after the Children's sermon with Arlene, Jenn Wentworth and Mark Yanchak hosting the children. The children will rejoin worship after the meeting.
- Property Committee Minutes from December 2, 2019.
  - Emergency Event Preparedness was discussed. Pastor and Mitch will select 3 people to consider emergency events who will meet annually.
    - St. John's has been designated as the emergency shelter for the Phoenixville Middle School. Property will speak with Sonya to review the agreement detailing our emergency sheltering responsibilities.
  - Brian will e-mail those who came out for the last Work Day to recruit for the December 14 Work Day.
- Social Ministry Committee Minutes from December 4, 2019.
- Stewardship Committee Minutes from November 26, 2019.
  - We have eight brand new pledges.
- Christian Education Committee Minutes from December 4, 2019.
- Welcoming Team Minutes from November 18, 2019.
- Electronics Committee Minutes from November 17, 2019.
  - What is required to add audio recording of our sermons to our website?
- Youth and Family – No report.

- Consider merging with Christian Education Committee.

**A motion was made by Laura Caughlan and seconded by Bobbi Riley to accept the committee reports. The motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.**

#### Old Business

- St. John's Constitution – Congregation will vote and ratify at annual meeting
- Committee Minutes form – Sonya will place several copies in the Council Mailbox area with lots of space for notes from the Committees.

#### New Business

- New Council Members/Nominating Committee  
Council terms will end at the Annual Meeting for Laura Caughlan and Rick Kramer who will form the nominating committee for new council members. Congregational nominations will be received by yellow cards during January.
- Budget Review/Staff Salaries
  - For clarity, the Pastor's Party, Sunday May 17 at Rivercrest will be shown on the budget as a transfer in Fund 3.
  - Mitch will take all edits and notes collected at council meeting back to Finance Committee.
  - Council will review the final budget at the January Council Meeting.
- Lock up Sheet was circulated.

**A motion was made by Bobbi Riley, seconded by Laura Caughlan to adjourn. The motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.**

The meeting ended at 8:50 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Naylor

## February Schedule

### Acolytes

- 2 Lucas Becker
- 9 Zach Pekofsky
- 16 Lizzie Strunk
- 23 Nathaniel Becker

### Altar Guild

- 2 Janet Ertell
- 9 Donna Anderson & Jean Herbranson
- 16 Sandra Zimmermann & John Westerman
- 23 Betty Hans & Elena Wallace
- 26 Jean Herbranson

### Assisting Ministers

- 2 Sandra Zimmermann
- 9 Sandi Stotler
- 16 Brittney Walters
- 23 Teresa Olsen
- 26 12:15p—Nancy Cressman, 7:30p—Dale Herbranson

### Bread Baking

- 2 Rich Latella and Rich Skoniczin
- 9 Pastor Krommes
- 16 TBD
- 23 Gwen & Adam Supplee

### Communion Assistants/Lectors

- 2 Mitch Reading (L) & Greg Krueger
- 9 Mark Gerner (L) & Walt Deichmann
- 16 Nancy Cressman (L) & LuAnne Bindschusz
- 26 Rich Skoniczin & Rich Latella

### Counters

- 2 Stephen & Jennifer Drewes, Donna Anderson, Peg Yanoviak
- 9 Heather Yonosh, Donna Searchfield, Jeanne Schanzenbach
- 16 Mary Heiser, Mike & Cathy Kahl
- 23 Jack Ertell, Lilly Khan, Imtiaz Khan Lawrence

### Fellowship Time

- 2 Social Ministry
- 9 Adult Choir
- 16 Wednesday Night Bible Study
- 23 Council & Fellowship

### Greeters

- 2 Joan Wilson, Dale Herbranson, Donna Searchfield
- 9 Mike & Cathy Kahl, Faye Donovan
- 16 Beverly Rote, Debbe Welsh, Lynn Titus
- 23 Kelly LeMarbe, Denise Longbine

### Lock-Up

- 2 Stephen Drewes
- 9 Donna Searchfield
- 16 Brian Greenwald
- 23 Mitch Reading
- 26 Brian Greenwald

### Ushers

- 2 Erica Lucas, Barry Church, Rich Latella, Rich Skoniczin
- 9 Nancy Cressman, Donna Anderson, Bev Rote, Brian Becker
- 16 Sandi Stotler, Dale Herbranson, Dick & Judy Wolstenholme
- 23 Barb Rambo, Greg Krueger
- 26 7:30p—Donna Anderson



# February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> 8:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education--First Communion begins 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks 3pm Concordia Choral Arts concert Youth Sunday	<b>27</b> 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 7pm Welcoming Team	<b>28</b> 10:30am WELCA 5:30pm Daisy/Brownie Troop #42024 5:30pm Stewardship	<b>29</b> 10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	<b>30</b> 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 5pm Evening Light
<b>2</b> 8:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks	<b>3</b> 11am Alanon Family Group 6pm Brownies 7pm Stephen Ministry 7:30pm Property	<b>4</b> 12:30pm PACA 4:30pm PACS Fundraising Committee 7:30pm Worship & Music	<b>5</b> 10am Bible Study 3pm Social Ministry 6pm Girl Scouts #4308 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7pm Christian Education 8pm Adult Choir	<b>6</b> 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	<b>7</b> 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	<b>8</b> 5pm Evening Light
<b>9</b> 8:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks 2pm PCO Rehearsal 5pm Congregational Cook-off	<b>10</b> 11am Alanon Family Group 5:45pm Girl Scouts #41766 6:30pm Girl Scouts #4330 7pm Church Council	<b>11</b> 10:15am Staff 5:30pm Daisy/Brownie Troop #42024 7pm Parent Grief Support Group	<b>12</b> 10am Bible Study 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	<b>13</b> 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 5pm Evening Light
<b>16</b> 8:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education 9am Electronics 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks	<b>17</b> 11am Alanon Family Group 6pm Brownies 7pm Stephen Ministry 7pm Welcoming Team	<b>18</b> Circle deadline	<b>19</b> 10am Bible Study 6pm Girl Scouts #4308 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	<b>20</b> 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	<b>21</b> St. Peter's lunch 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	<b>22</b> 5pm Evening Light
<b>23</b> 8:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Annual Meeting w/Holy Communion 9am Christian Education for children 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks 2pm PCO Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 10:30am Covered Bridge Garden Club 11am Alanon Family Group 5:45pm Girl Scouts #41766 6:30pm Girl Scouts #4330 6:30pm Kiwanis Board	<b>25</b> 10:30am WELCA 5:30pm Daisy/Brownie Troop #42024 5:30pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5:30pm Stewardship 7pm Finance Committee	<b>26</b> 10am Bible Study 12:15pm Ash Wednesday service 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7:30pm Ash Wednesday service 8pm Adult Choir (after service)	<b>27</b> 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9am First Communion Bread Baking 5pm Evening Light
<b>1</b> 8:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks 5pm The WAY dinner	<b>2</b> 11am Alanon Family Group 6pm Brownies 7pm Stephen Ministry 7:30pm Property	<b>3</b> 12:30pm PACA 4:30pm PACS Fundraising Committee Philadelphia Mission Trip 7:30pm Worship & Music	<b>4</b> 10am Bible Study 3pm Social Ministry 6pm Girl Scouts #4308 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7pm Christian Education 8pm Adult Choir	<b>5</b> 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	<b>6</b> 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections 5pm spaghetti dinner set-up	<b>7</b> 4pm Spaghetti Dinner 5pm Evening Light

# February 2020 – Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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
2 Chris Thompson's birthday Jane Hadfield's birthday Lhotse Durlfingher's birthday	3 David Wilkinson's birthday	4	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 Kevin Beck's birthday Norah DiGioia's birthday	11 Beverly Rote's birthday Bill Schoellkopf's birthday Kim Birdsell's birthday Mark Wilkinson's birthday	12 Cole Church's birthday Mae Cratty's birthday	13 Sean Kahl's birthday	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 Carsen G. Veneziani's birthday Jocelyn Mowrer's birthday Sophia I. Veneziani's birthday Tammy Klotzbach-Levan's birthday	29
1 Andrea Hart's birthday James Moreland's birthday Karen Carr's birthday Sam and Beth Fryer's anniversary	2 Diane Blattner's birthday Kevin Yonosh's birthday	3 Kenneth and Joan Tulish's anniversary Kinley Walters's birthday Liz Cady's birthday	4 John Stong's birthday	5 Joanna Oszeyczik's birthday Livi Cady Heinbaugh's birthday	6 Beth Fryer's birthday Lucas Becker's birthday Nathaniel Becker's birthday	7 Jeanette Dewey's birthday



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

**www.stjohnsphenixville.org**  
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#### **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 Yancheck, 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  
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**Columbarium:**  
Bill Starling, Chair  
Sandra Zimmermann, Council Rep.

**Electronics:**  
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**Fellowship:**  
Sandra Zimmermann, Chair  
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**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 Doepping

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



#### **Updated Contact Information**

Martin Emery  
116 Fairfax Court  
Phoenixville, PA 19460-2847

#### **Pastoral Acts**

**Baptisms**  
Maggie Ann McGregor  
Kaleb Rhett McGregor  
January 18, 2020

#### **A Horse and Rider**

Round the ring they go  
Lesson ends, a child dismounts  
Children gather round the horse  
Beside beneath a sea of children  
Lovely caress him he nary a step  
Takes to each in turn he bends down  
Gently nuzzles each one yet nary  
A hoof moves  
He and the children become  
As one united as only they can  
Know for the horse sees not  
And they cannot walk  
Theirs is a love we cannot know  
Margaret Walker

#### **Donating Stock to St. John's**

One of the many ways to financially support St. John's is through the donation of stock. Donating appreciated stock will benefit the church and provide a potential tax benefit to the donor. For stock that has been held for more than a year and has appreciated in value, one can take a charitable deduction based on the stock's fair market value on the day of donation. Additionally, making such a donation will avoid capital gains taxes on the increased value of the stock.

If interested in donating stock to St. John's, contact our Church Treasurer, Shirley Platzer, at (484) 938-7763.

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

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



**2020**

**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

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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**

