

The Circle



April Worship at St. John's

Palm/Passion Weekend

Saturday, April 4th—Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 5th

Fellowship, 8:30 a.m.

Christian Education, 9 a.m.

Holy Communion with

Procession of the Palms, 10:15 a.m.

On this weekend we encounter the paradox that defines our faith—Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. On Sunday morning we will begin our worship with the blessing of new stained glass windows above the door outside of Kley Hall in the memory of our dear sister in Christ, Diane Davidson. Then we move into Kley Hall for the blessing of the palms, followed by a procession into the sanctuary. We will listen to Jesus' passion according to Matthew which leads to his death on a cross. Amid it all we are invited into the paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. Thus begins the holy week that stands as the center of our lives and faith.

Maundy Thursday, April 9th

Dinner with Holy Communion in Kley Hall, 6:30 p.m.

This Thursday is called "maundy," which means "command," from the verse in John's gospel in which Jesus commands us to love one another as he loved us. Hands will be washed. The Gospel will be heard. A meal will be eaten. Prayers will be spoken and then we will move into the sanctuary and the altar will be stripped. You are invited to this last supper that Jesus has with his disciples and with us before the day of his crucifixion.

Good Friday, April 10th

Tenebrae, 12:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

At the heart of the Good Friday liturgy is the passion according to John, which proclaims Jesus as a triumphant king who reigns from the cross. The ancient title for this day—the triumph of the cross—reminds us that the Church gathers not to mourn this day but to celebrate Christ's life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the tree of life. In the ancient bidding prayer we offer petitions for all the world for whom Christ died.

Holy Saturday

Saturday, April 11th, Easter Vigil at 7 p.m.

This is the night! This is our Passover with Christ from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life. The resurrection of Christ is proclaimed in word and sign, and we gather around a pillar of fire, hear ancient stories of our faith—experiencing anew the creation, the cross of the Red Sea, the promises proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah, and rejoice in a deliverance from a fiery furnace, affirm the new life of baptism at the font, and share the food and drink of the promised land. Raised with Christ, we go forth into the world, aflame with the good news of the resurrection. Our vigil is very child friendly with lots of opportunity to participate and generally is about 90 minutes in length.

Easter Sunday, April 12th

NOTE: We are having TWO Easter Sunday Morning Worship Services!

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:15 a.m.

Easter Breakfast, 9 to 10 a.m.

"This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." God has indeed raised from the dead the one who was put to death "by hanging him on a tree." Alleluia! God allows Jesus to appear "to us who were chosen by God as witnesses" in holy baptism and invites us to eat and drink at the table of the risen Christ. Alleluia!

Second Weekend of Easter

Saturday, April 18th—Evening Light at 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 19th

Fellowship, 8:30 a.m.

Christian Education, 9 a.m.

Holy Communion, 10:15 a.m.

In this weekend's Gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Christ is RISEN – and we celebrate for 50 days!!!!

continued next page

From the Pastor:

God's Overpowering Acts

On the Third Sunday in Lent, March 11, 1928, Dietrich Bonhoeffer preached to a congregation of German Lutherans living in Barcelona, Spain. Only 22 years old, he was serving as the assistant pastor to a group of people experiencing social and political upheaval in city with desperate poverty. Here's a portion of his sermon:

"Good Friday and Easter—the days of God's overpowering acts in history, acts in which God's judgment and grace were revealed to all the world—are just around the corner. Judgment in those hours in which Jesus Christ, our Lord, hung on the cross; grace in that hour in which death was swallowed up in victory. It was not human beings who accomplished anything here—no, God alone did it. He came to human beings in infinite love. He judged what is human. And he granted grace beyond any merit."¹

So it was in during the first week we call "holy," as well as in 1928 and for us, too, 92 years later. And so, it was and is, throughout the ages in many different places. What I appreciate most in this young pastor's sermon is the holding together of cross of Christ on Good Friday and the promise of the resurrection of Easter Sunday. As I write I don't know if it will be safe and prudent to celebrate Holy Week and Easter within the sanctuary of St. John's. And if it is not, know that we will still gather via prayers and social media, still hear Jesus commend his spirit to his Father, still wonder at the empty tomb, still shout the Alleluias. Because as Bonhoeffer preached, "God alone did it. God came to human beings in infinite love. God judged what is human. God grant grace beyond any merit."

Pastor Cynthia Krommes

¹Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "Good Friday," *Meditations on the Cross*, Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996, 20.

April Worship (continued)

Third Weekend of Easter

Saturday, April 25th—Evening Light at 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 26th

Fellowship, 8:30 a.m.

Christian Education, 9 a.m.

Holy Communion—10:15 a.m.

We join two disciples as they are walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel. Yet the risen Christ walks with them and us and then opens their eyes and our eyes in the breaking of the bread. This story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship for each Lord's Day.

COVID-19 Cancellations

- Wednesday Bible Studies at the Episcopal House and at St. John's have been canceled.
- The Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast sponsored by the Phoenixville Social Concerns Committee on April 4th has been canceled.
- The Phoenixville Community Wednesday Lent Worship services have all been canceled.
- The Easter egg hunt & breakfast scheduled for April 4th has been canceled.
- The Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly scheduled for May 3 & 4 has been postponed.
- The St. John's Choir & Friends concert scheduled for May 3rd has been postponed until next year.



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Kindness is like snow—
it will make beautiful
anything it covers.

From the Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries:

Our world has become a bit strange over the last few weeks. Even though we can't physically get together with our church, school, work, and neighborhood communities and extended family members, remember you are not alone. This is the same situation facing millions of others around the globe. Please reach out to each other with emails, texts, video chats, and on social media. And don't forget about an old-fashioned phone call especially to those who may not have internet access.

Until we can be together again, on Saturdays I will email out a Sunday school lesson you can do as a family. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, I will post a special activity to the St. John's Family and Friends page. Recently, people identified close-up pictures of objects on the grounds of St. John's. I encourage you to play your own games with family and friends. I had a friend play a game of chess via messenger. I played an old car ride game of name place that starts with the last letter of the previous answer. For example, Mississippi, Iceland, Delaware River, Romania, etc. That game lasted 45 rounds before someone repeated a word. Trivia questions are also fun. Be creative is the name of the game right now.

The important thing right now is that we work together like the early believers in the Christian church did. Support your communities by checking in on one another. If you can support local businesses, who are vital to our community. Give to local food pantries, call to see how best to donate in a safe way. The Red Cross is in need of blood due to drives being canceled, if you can consider donating a pint. Remember the church is not just a physical building, but it also means the people.

Stay in touch with St. John's via the Facebook St. John's Family and Friends page. For those with Twitter: JenWentworth@MissJenDCYFM and on Instagram: missjendcyfm. Both are set as private so please request to follow either of those accounts.

God Bless and Happy Easter,

Jennifer Wentworth

Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry



Egg Hunt/Breakfast

Out of abundance of caution the ASP Fundraiser scheduled for April 4th has been canceled. There will be no egg hunt and breakfast this year. Any candy that was donated will be taken to PACS for them to distribute.

Confirmation—Save the Dates

April 26th—Appalachia Service Project Car Wash

May 1st-3rd—Confirmation spring retreat in Cape May

May 17th—Last day of confirmation classes for 7th and 8th grades

May 31st—PENTECOST/confirmation (rehearsal at 8:30 a.m.; Confirmation at 9 a.m.)

June 15th-19th—Vacation Bible School and Afternoon Adventures

Mission Trip Fundraising

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

St. John's Scholarship

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



From the Director of Music:

The Power of Music

During these frightening and uncertain times we need to remember the words of Martin Luther:

“Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. . . . But any who remain unaffected [by music] are clodhoppers indeed and are fit to hear only the words of dung-poets and the music of pigs.”

Well, I'm not so much thinking about dung-poets or the music of pigs but words and music lifted up by our great hymn writers (poets) and composers.

Go for a walk in the quiet of the morning and remember “This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres. This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.” www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXwf3G_105U

From our waking to the end of the day, our Lord is with us. We need to keep our eyes and minds open to remember that God is there. “Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy.”

www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8mti7VL3gg&list=RDb8mti7VL3gg&start_radio=1#t=14

Most of all “Do Not Be Afraid, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by your name; you are mine.” Through all these dark days remember God says, “Do not be afraid . . . you are mine.”

www.youtube.com/watch?v=8aNISuvsP5M&list=RDb8mti7VL3gg&index=4

Tom Snyder, Director of Music

VBS: Wilderness Escape

This year Vacation Bible School will have us journeying with Moses!

It begins on Monday, June 15th at 9 a.m. and concludes at 12 noon on Friday, June 19th. Forms are in the narthex, on the website, on top of the mailboxes in Kley Hall, or can be obtained by emailing office@stjohnphoenixville.org. Children aged 11 or older can sign up to be helpers. (They will need to fill out the form too.)

VBS Staff Helpers Needed!

If you have completed 5th grade we need your help at VBS! If you are an adult who has mornings free, we need your help! If you are in junior/senior high school or home from college, we need your help! Every year, we need about 60 staff volunteers to make our VBS the best it can be. Please consider giving your time to this important ministry for children as a VBS staff member. Please speak Jen Wentworth to apply. Applications are due ASAP for planning purposes.

Afternoon Adventures is back! Afternoon Adventures will take place June 15th-19th from 12 noon to 5:30 p.m. for children ages five and above. This day camp is designed to reach out to those children who, because of their childcare needs, have been unable to participate in VBS. We'll play, swim, learn a little, make crafts, and generally have a great time. If you are interested in this program for your child, complete that portion of the registration form and include the \$100 registration fee. Also, if your child is not a member of the Phoenixville YMCA, there will be an additional fee which pays for a week swim pass at the YMCA. You can use the VBS form to register for Afternoon Adventures.

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

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

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

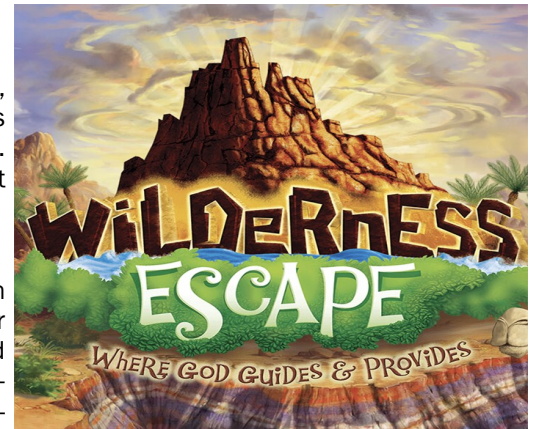
~**To donate your time:**

~Paper Mache Party- date and time to be determined

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

~**June 15th-19th**- adult helpers needed for games, snacks, and grade level groups

Please see Jen Wentworth or email her at wentworthj@stjohnphoenixville.org if you can help with any of these needs.




Lutheran Night at the Phillies

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


GO Phillies!

Lutheran Night at the Phillies



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

Event Details

Saturday May 30 7:15 PM	 Washington Nationals	300 Level Tickets Estimated Cost \$32.00 per Ticket
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Please plan to attend the annual WELCA Women's Retreat on Saturday, April 18th. All women from surrounding communities are welcome. Plan to come and bring your friends!



Confirmation Retreat

Cape May . . . here we come! On Friday, May 1st our confirmation students, along with their guides will meet at the church to head "down the shore" for the week-end for their spring retreat. (Please pray for nice, warm weather.) The

theme of the retreat is Baptism. They'll be camping out at the DeMutis' shore house and gathering at Cape May Lutheran Church for their learning events. The weekend will include some time for relaxing, prayer, and weather permitting, Holy Communion on the beach on Sunday morning. The confirmation students will return refreshed and relaxed on Sunday afternoon while the leaders and guides will be ready for long naps. Please keep them in your prayers.

Surrey Concert at St. John's!

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





Car Wash

Is your car dirty with pollen? Drop your car off with our youth, and while you worship, they will wash your car! At this point the Car Wash Fundraiser scheduled for Sunday, April 26th 8-noon is still on. Donations will be accepted for the car wash, which benefits our youth mission trip fund. The fundraiser will be crucial now that the egg hunt was canceled. If you would like to donate before the car wash, you can mail a check to the church office with ASP Trip in the memo line. The trip members appreciate your support!

Holy Week– Living in Hope

As Christian we live in hope. We do not yet know if public gatherings will be possible during Holy Week this year. If they are, our schedule follows. If not, there will be “virtual worship” online.

Maundy Thursday—April 9th—worship at 6:30 p.m.

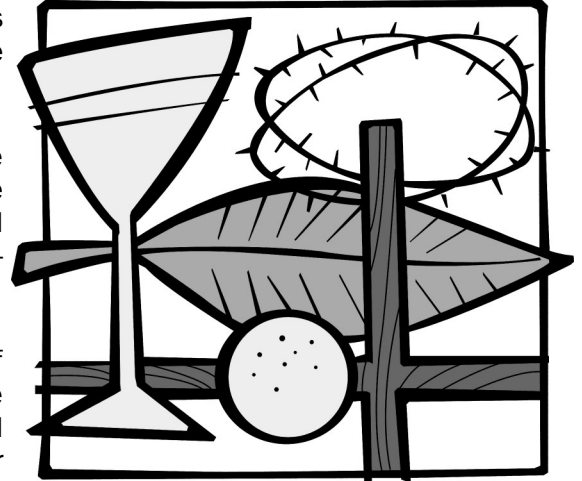
Just as Jesus and his disciples did we will gather for a meal on the night in which our Lord is betrayed. We begin in Kley Hall with the washing of hands, a shared meal including bread and wine. We will move to the church for the stripping of the altar and leave in silence

Good Friday—April 10th—worship at 12:15 and 7:30 p.m.

On this day we go to the cross with Jesus as we hear the passion of our Lord according to the Gospel of John. As each portion of the scripture is read, candles are extinguished and lights turned off until all is darkness. At the cross we lay our prayers—for ourselves, our world, all of creation, trusting the Wounded One with all our wounds.

Easter Vigil—April 11th—Worship at 7 p.m.

Easter Vigil is a special night. God brings us through fire and water, out of death and night, welcoming us into the light of life. This night we light a new Christ candle from a new fire. By the light of that flame we gather to remember who we are and where we have come from by telling and enacting the stories of creation, exodus, a prophet and a fiery furnace. We gather at the baptismal font to remember being washed with the waters of grace and life. We hear Christ welcoming Mary: calling her by name, bringing her out of weeping into the joyous light of Easter morning. Through the drama of Easter Vigil, we are invited to honest reflection and real renewal. The St. John's Easter Vigil is child friendly and about 90 minutes in length.



God's Work, Our Hands "2"

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

Rain or Shine



St. John's is planning a spring "God's Work, Our Hands" service day at the church to provide some loving care to our building and grounds. This will follow the format of our wonderful fall event as a church-wide, family-based ministry. Projects again will include small repairs, painting, yard/garden work and special cleaning. Tasks are available for all ages. Please plan to come for some of the day or spend the whole time with us in fellowship and service. Lunch and dessert will be served from 12-1 p.m. **Please sign up by using the YCC or by email to office@stjohnphoenixville.org.**



St. John's Easter Breakfast—Sunday, April 12th

It is wonderful to gather after or before Easter worship to share breakfast together! Our Fellowship Committee organizes us so that we can all enjoy this special time of celebrating our Lord's Resurrection. The breakfast begins at 9:00 a.m. and continues until approximately 10:00 a.m. Everyone is invited!!!!

Because "many hands make light work" help is requested. Here's what needs to be done:

- Set up on Saturday morning at about 10 a.m.
- Make a breakfast casserole—12 are needed, casserole pans are provided. You can pick up your pan in the narthex. Please include a list of ingredients to help those with allergies.
- Provide a fruit tray or fruit salad—2-3 are needed.
- Make or buy some sweet breads such as cinnamon buns or coffee cake. Provide juice—we need two ½ gallons each of

orange, apple, white grape and cranberry juice.

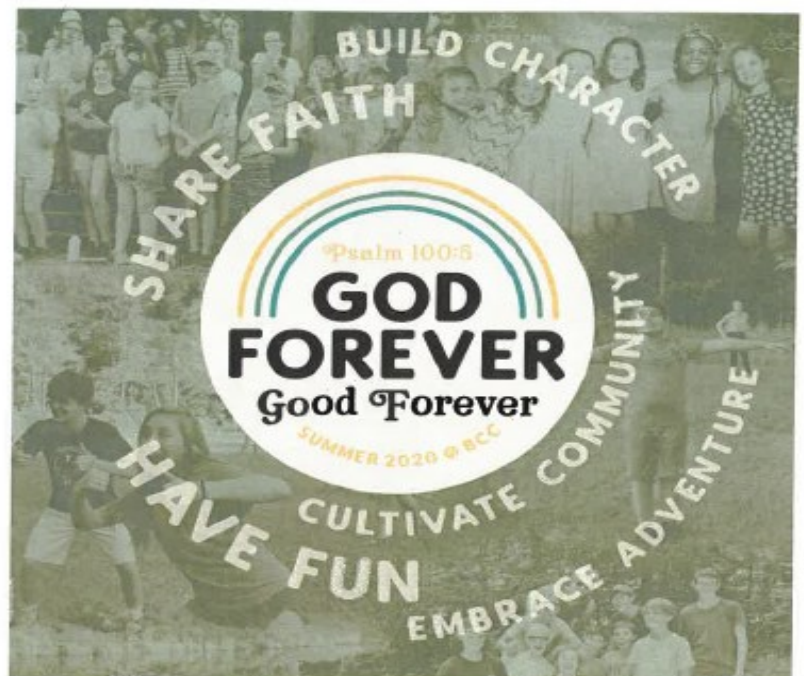
- Assist in the kitchen on Saturday between 3 and 7 p.m., early Sunday morning or during the breakfast.
- Clean-up after 10:30 a.m.—a gift those who attend the early services can provide.

Recycle Aluminum Cans and Support Mission Trips!

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

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

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



Summer 2020

- Session 1: JUNE 14-20*
 - Session 2: JUNE 21-27*
 - Session 3: JUNE 28-JULY 3
FAMILY CAMP & ARTISTS' RETREAT
 - Session 4: JULY 5-11
 - Session 5: JULY 12-18
 - Session 6: JULY 19-25
 - Session 7: JULY 26-AUGUST 1
 - Session 8: AUGUST 2-8
- * Try Camp available


BEAR CREEK CAMP

Bear Creek Camp and Conference Center in Bear Creek Township, PA - the outdoor ministry site of the Northeastern and Southeastern Pennsylvania Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - is located just off the PA Turnpike and Interstate 81 near Wilkes-Barre.

Situated on nearly 3,000 acres of forest, streams and fields, campers spend their days filled with activities designed to help them grow in their understanding of God, self, creation and community.

Register online at:
bearcreekcamp.org

People of God Involved in God's Work

April Schedule

Acolytes

- 5 Lucas Becker
- 12 Zach Pekofsky
- 19 Lizzie Strunk
- 26 Nathaniel Becker

Altar Guild

- 5 Nancy Cressman & Janet Ertell
- 9 TBD
- 12 Donna Anderson, Cathy Garrett, Jean Herbranson
- 19 Sandra Zimmermann & John Westerman
- 26 Betty Hans & Elena Wallace

Assisting Ministers

- 5 Tyler Pekofsky
- 9 Dale Herbranson
- 10 12:15 p.m.: TBD 7:30 p.m.: Brittney Walters
- 11 TBD
- 12 8:00 a.m.: Teresa Olsen 10:15 a.m. William Stotler
- 19 Sandi Stotler
- 26 Ron Stevens

Bread Baking

- 5 Pam Freehafer
- 9 Pam Freehafer
- 12 Adam & Gwen Supplee
- 19 Rich Latella & Rich Skoniczin
- 26 Lynn Titus

Communion Assistants/Lectors

- 5 Teresa Olsen (L), Greg Krueger
- 12 8:00 a.m.: Aimee Hillegas, Nancy Cressman
10:15 a.m.: Dale Herbranson (L), Erica & Pat Lucas
& Margaret Walker
- 19 Mitch Reading (L), Walt Deichmann
- 26 Don & Lynn Titus

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 Faith Life
- 12 Fellowship
- 19 Book Club
- 26 Adult Choir

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
- 9 Dale Herbranson
- 12 8:00 a.m. Kelly Gallagher 10:15 a.m.: Mitch Reading
- 19 Brian Greenwald
- 26 Donna Searchfield

Ushers

- 5 Donna Anderson, Bev Rote, Travis Brown, Brian Becker
- 9 TBD
- 10 TBD
- 12 8:00 a.m.: Dick & Judy Wolstenholme, John & Toni Hadfield
10:15 a.m.: Barb Rambo, Donna Anderson, TBD
- 19 Don Titus, Glen Murphy, Debbe Welsh, Margaret Walker
- 26 Barry Church, Zach Brown, Greg Krueger, Paul Miller

Summary Report as of February 29, 2020

	Monthly		Year-to-Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income:				
Envelope Giving	\$ 32,223	\$ 36,371	\$ 64,448	\$ 65,699
Other Income	3,987	2,332	7,973	18,140
Total Income	\$ 36,210	\$ 38,703	\$ 72,421	\$ 83,839
Expenses	\$ 37,235	\$ 33,177	\$ 74,471	\$ 70,569
Income (Deficit)	(1,025)	5,526	(2,050)	13,270

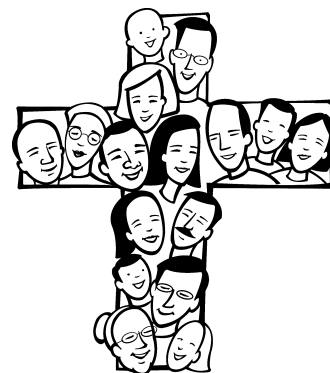
Congratulations to our eight youth who received their First Holy Communion on February 29th and March 1st.

Nolan Leong
 Nicholas Stotler
 Owen Birdsell
 Lucas Pekofsky
 Avary Faith Carr
 Benjamin Paul Blackledge
 Evan Daniel Becker
 Nicholas James Platchek

The Sunday school end-of-year celebration is scheduled for Sunday, May 17th. We will celebrate another wonderful year of Sunday school at St. John's. Parents are welcome to stay for the festivities centered on the theme: The Promise of the Holy Spirit.

ASP continues to sell Wawa hoagie certificates and hot chocolate before and after worship and to collect aluminum beverage cans in Kley Hall to help fund our upcoming mission trip. Thank you for buying Wawa certificates and bringing cans!

Is it true is it true
 Christ died for me for you
 for all
 For it is true that for our
 souls
 Christ died upon a cross
 of shame
 Our unworthy sins to bear
 It is true for it is true
 Christ son of our eternal
 God
 Died mankind to free
 For it is true in humbleness
 Christ bore our sins
 It is true it is true



Margaret Walker

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2020**

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

Absent: S. Zimmermann

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

Meeting minutes from the January 13, 2020 meeting were reviewed. **A motion was made by Dick Kunsch, seconded by Donna Searchfield to approve the minutes. The motion was approved with one abstention.**

Staff Reports

- J. Quinn's Report from February 4, 2020
- T. Snyder's Report from February 4, 2020
- J. Wentworth's Report for January, 2020
 - Jen has Arlene's job description drafted and will send it to Mitch
- Pastor's Report from February 10, 2020
 - Mitch will contact Pastor Ron Wesemann to reschedule his meeting with Council from April 13 to April 20, 2020
 - Mitch and Dick Kunsch will meet with Christian McMillan who handles interim/supply pastor before our next council meeting and prior to our April Council meeting with Ron Wesemann.

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

Finance Report

- Finance Committee did not meet. January Income & Expense Report attached.

A motion was made by Don Titus and seconded by Kelly Gallagher to approve the January Income and Expense Report. The motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.

Council reviewed the following Committee Reports:

- Stewardship Committee Minutes and Meeting Summary from January 28, 2020
 - Stephen Drewes asked those who agreed to Match New Pledgers to please submit a check. Please note it's for New Pledge Match in the memo section of the check.
- Property Committee Meeting Summary from February 3, 2020
 - Council would like to meet with Seiler & Drury Architect to review their final findings of our property assessment. Rick Kramer will send their evaluation report to council members prior to the council meeting Seiler & Drury will attend.
 - Please use the Work Order form, example provided to request property work to be done. Sonya will place blank copies of the form in the mail boxes.
- Christian Education and Youth and Family Meeting Summary from February 5, 2020
 - Bobbi Riley asked Council what price point would be best to purchase Lutheran Night at the Phillies tickets. \$30 price range was agreed.
- Welcome Team Meeting Summary from January 27, 2020
 - Welcome Team asked Council to put on the Welcome Brunch on 4/26/20. A list exists of food from previous Welcome Brunches.
- Electronics Meeting Summary from January 19, 2020
- Worship and Music Committee Minutes from February 4, 2020
- Social Ministry – Did not meet
- Fellowship – No report

- o Columbarium – No report
- o Executive – No report

A 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

- o Coffee Hour Annual Meeting – We will do our usual; Mitch Reading will send an e-mail reminder and council will respond with what they will bring.
- o New Council Members – Janet Gerner will accept and we have one open invitation. If the Congregation does not elect 2 new council members at the congregational meeting, we will ask the congregation to grant Council the authority to fill the open position.

New Business

- o Bobbi Riley asked Council about the scheduling of a spring work day as Saturday, April 25 may be too late to accomplish gardening and mulching.

A motion was made by Bobbi Riley, seconded by Rick Kramer to adjourn. The motion was approved with no objections or abstentions.

The meeting ended at 8:00 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Naylor

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2020**

Attendees: Pastor Krommes, Stephen Drewes, Bobbi Riley, Brian Greenwald, Janet Gerner, Dale Herbranson, Sandra Zimmermann, Pam Naylor, Donna Searchfield, Kelly Gallagher and Mitch Reading.

Absent: Dick Kunsch and Don Titus

Pastor opened the meeting at 10:25 am and explained that each Council member is tied to a committee for Council reporting purposes.

Council Officers were elected:

President - Mitch Reading

Vice President – Dale Herbranson

Secretary – Bobbi Riley

Treasurer - Shirley Platzer,

- Assistant Treasurer – Rose Gatlos
- Financial Recording Secretary - Mary Heiser
- Fund 3 Secretary - Kevin Gallagher

Sandra Zimmermann made a motion seconded by Donna Searchfield to appoint the above officers. Motion approved

Pastor Krommes advised Jennifer Wentworth will attend future Council Meetings.

Committees:

Fellowship – Pam Naylor

Social Ministry – Janet Gerner

Christian Education/Youth and Family – Kelly Gallagher and Sandra Zimmermann

Electronics – Dale Herbranson

Finance – Stephen Drewes and Don Titus

Stewardship - Dick Kunsch and Stephen Drewes

Worship and Music - Brian Greenwald

Welcoming - Donna Searchfield

Property – Bobbi Riley

Columbarium – Sandra Zimmermann

Executive Committee:

Mitch Reading

Bobbi Riley

Dale Herbranson

Dick Kunsch

Stephen Drewes

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Naylor

Minutes of Annual Congregational Meeting – 2020
St. John's Lutheran Church
February 23, 2020
9:00 a.m.

Living, Growing and Sharing in God's love through Jesus Christ.

Attendance: 79

The Gathering and Word preceded the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Mitch Reading, Council President. The congregation was asked to refer to the agenda in the bulletin or the Annual Report.

Minutes of the 2019 Annual Congregational meeting were reviewed. Tom Snyder made a motion, seconded by Dale Herbranson to adopt the 2019 Annual Congregational meeting minutes. Motion carried with none opposed.

Mitch Reading recognized and thanked our outgoing Council members Laura Caughlan and Rick Kramer.

The Nominating Committee put forth Janet Gerner and Dale Herbranson as candidates for Church Council. Mitch Reading asked the congregation for additional candidates and none were nominated. Bill Starling made a motion, seconded by Brian Becker to elect Janet Gerner and Dale Herbranson as new Council Members. Motion carried with none opposed.

Sue Starling made a motion, seconded by Laura Caughlan to elect Bobbi Riley and Don Titus for a second term on Church Council. Motion carried with none opposed.

Walt Deichmann made a motion seconded by Linda Landis to dismiss the nominating committee. Motion carried with none opposed.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Review of 2019 Financials - Jack Ertell reviewed 2019 financials resulting in a year end budget surplus to carry into 2020. Jack Ertell acknowledged folks who oversaw the operating budget and funds and thanked the financial team who served in 2019: Shirley Platzer, Treasurer, Rose Gatlos, Assistant Treasurer, Mary Heiser, Financial Recording Secretary as well as the Finance Committee Brian Becker, Don Bechtel, Kevin Gallagher, Jim Olson, Shirley Platzer, Mitch Reading, Don Stevens and Don Titus.

Proposed 2020 Budget - Jack Ertell presented the 2020 Annual Budget (page 34 of Annual Report), which is a deficit budget. The process of estimating expenses for creating the budget was explained. Each Committee Chairperson submitted a committee budget and the Executive Committee reviewed employee salary and benefits. The Financial Committee created a Master Budget which was reviewed and approved for presentation to the Congregation by Church Council. Congregational adoption is the final approval. On behalf of the Financial Committee

Jack Ertell made a motion that the 2020 Annual Budget be adopted by the Congregation. Motion was adopted with none opposed.

Jack Ertell thanked all committees for being fiscally responsible.

St. John's Constitution – Mitch Reading invited Brian Becker to summarize the proposed changes to St. John's constitution as Brian was Church Council President while this work was being done.

Brian Becker reviewed the process. A committee was appointed to make standard recommendations for revision to the constitution for Church Council consideration. Church Council reviewed the proposed constitution page by page and it was sent to Synod Constitutional Committee for review. There were several back and forth revisions with the Synod Constitutional Committee. Note: Articles preceded by an asterisk are required by Synod. Brian answered a question regarding article numbers not appearing in sequential order. This is due to multiple choices for selection and the chosen selection appears. In response to a question, Brian advised some of the changes involved financial audit rules and inclusive language. The adoption process was further explained that today is the first vote. If approved it will be sent to Synod Constitutional Committee for review. The final vote will take place next year to adopt the new constitution.

Pastor Krommes explained that it has been more than 20 years since we updated our Constitution. Two major changes to the Constitution involve the process of calling a Deacon and the process for termination of affiliation with the ELCA.

Members may contact Pastor Krommes to receive a track-changes version of the Constitution.

A typographical error in the last sentence of article C6.05.e was noted; "approved" should be "approval".

A motion was made by Jack Ertell, seconded by Stephen Drewes to adopt the first reading of this constitution as modified (above) and to forward it to Synod Constitutional Council. Motion carried with none opposed.

Jack Ertell made a motion seconded by Brian Becker to accept all Committee Report as written in the Annual Report. Motion carried with one opposed.

The Team that worked on the Budget and Council received a round of applause to recognize the work creating the budget.

Mitch Reading made a motion, seconded by Tom Snyder to adjourn. Motion carried.

Worship continued and included the blessing of our Congregation Council, Committee Chairpersons and Congregational Officers.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Naylor

April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30 11am Alanon Family Group	31	1 3pm Social Ministry 6pm Girl Scouts #4308 7pm Alanon 8pm Adult Choir	2 10am Mom's Monthly Mingle 5:30pm Juniors Troop #4514 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	3 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	4 1pm Stripping of the Palms 5pm Evening Light
5 8:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks 2pm PCO Rehearsal Palm Sunday	6 11am Alanon Family Group 5:45pm Girl Scouts #41788 6pm Brownies 7pm Property 7pm Stephen Ministry	7 10:15am Staff 4:30pm PACS Fundraising Committee 7pm Parent Grief Support Group 7:30pm Worship & Music	8 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7pm Christian Education 8pm Adult Choir	9 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 6:30pm Maundy Thursday (followed by Adult Choir Rehearsal) 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	10 12:15pm Good Friday 7:30pm Good Friday	11 7pm Easter Vigil
12 8am Holy Communion 9am Easter Breakfast 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks Easter Sunday	13 11am Alanon Family Group 6:30pm Girl Scouts #4330	14 5:30pm Daisy/Brownie Troop #42024 7pm Parent Grief Support Group	15 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 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	18 Circle deadline 9am WELCA Retreat 5pm Evening Light
19 8:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education 9am Electronics 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks	20 11am Alanon Family Group 5:45pm Girl Scouts #41788 6pm Brownies 7pm Church Council 7pm Stephen Ministry 7pm Welcoming Team	21 4:30pm PACS Board 7pm Parent Grief Support Group	22 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7pm Pickering Glen Homeowners Association 8pm Adult Choir	23 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	24	25 9am God's Work, Our Hands Workday 5pm Evening Light
26 8:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks car wash	27 10:30am Covered Bridge Garden Club 11am Alanon Family Group 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 7pm Parent Grief Support Group	29 12pm Surrey Concert (lunch first) 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 8pm Adult Choir	30 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 6pm Phantom Backpacks 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	1 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections Confirmation Retreat	2 Confirmation Retreat 5pm Evening Light

April 2020 Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 David Carr's birthday M. Jeanette Hopkins's birthday	30 Joshua Saeger's birthday Ron Stevens's birthday	31 Malika Khan's birthday	1 Janet Reading's birthday Jeremy Unruh's birthday	2 Bob Faddis's birthday Stephen Hollander's birthday	3 Jay Greco's birthday Judy Wolstenholme's birthday Robert Kunsch's birthday	4 James Reading's birthday John and Bobbi Riley's anniversary
5 Joan Wilson's birthday Lisa Sandher's birthday Todd Ehrhart's birthday	6 Arlene Greenwald's birthday Lexi Booz's birthday	7 Lucas Pekofsky's birthday	8	9 Gabriel Mowrer's birthday Meredith LaBoon's birthday	10 Jack Drewes's birthday	11 John Salamone's birthday Samuel Fryer's birthday
12 Aaron Romano's birthday Bob and Diane Blattner's anniversary Michella Ehrhart's birthday	13 April Mica's birthday Sean Weiss's birthday	14 Allen Kramer's birthday Evan Becker's birthday	15 William and Donna Breiteringer's anniversary William Shirk's birthday	16	17 Colin Riley's birthday Lisa Frees's birthday Mike Kahl's birthday	18 Mia Bomberger's birthday Teresa Olsen's birthday
19 Jean Herbranson's birthday Leah Kramer's birthday Page Durlinger's birthday	20 Andrew Blackledge's birthday Carolyn Rutherford's birthday Hope DeMutis's birthday	21	22 Cathy Garrett's birthday Chris Saeger's birthday Jason Stewart's birthday Mark Blattner's birthday Matthew Younker's birthday	23 Donna Dries's birthday George and Anna Wilkinson's anniversary Rachel Dewey's birthday	24 Amber Carey's birthday Marc Herbranson's birthday Sandy Bradbury's birthday	25 Keith and Cheryl Kenyon's anniversary
26 Beth Williams's birthday Carter Niness's birthday Randall Carr's birthday Richard and Michelle Bader's anniversary Samantha Schumacher's birthday	27 Brian Becker's birthday	28 Kay Mann's birthday Morgan Klotzbach's birthday	29 Jason and Tracy Stewart's anniversary Jason Mara's birthday Ramona Moreland's birthday	30 Jason Birdsell's birthday Joe Themens's birthday Stephen Drewes's birthday	1 Erin Schaible's birthday	2 Linda Landis's birthday Mario Walls's birthday

Tree O tree
 Why weepst thou?
 Thy branches to the river fall
 Why do you weep
 Dost not sun's warmth
 Beam a song of hope?
 Weep not for man's foolish ways
 Man shall seek the sun
 Of sons most high
 Highest heaven man shall attain
 In wonder shall Israel
 Adoration to proclaim
 Tree O tree weep no more
 Man's salvation hath been given
 In humbleness a cross set free mankind
 The sins of all mankind
 To bear rejoice O weeping tree
 For the son of man has set man
 Free evils hold no more shall
 Man in bondage hold

Margaret Walker

Dear Friends:

We are extremely grateful for your 2/28/20 donation of \$1,570 to PACS' emergency pantry. We are very appreciative that you chose PACS as one of the beneficiaries of your special collection, and for your commitment to help "the least of these" without our community. This gift helps us keep our doors open and our emergency pantry stocked so we can help the people in the community who scramble every day to keep themselves and their families fed while paying for other necessities. Thank you again for your support of our mission and sharing our commitment to making a real difference in our community, providing hope and building a brighter future for those in need.

With gratitude,

Mary McGown

Interim Executive Director

Phoenixville Area Community Services

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

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

CHURCH STAFF

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:

Dale Herbranson

Secretary:

Bobbi Riley

Treasurer:

Shirley Platzer

Assistant Treasurer:

Rose Gatlos

Financial Recording Secretary:

Mary Heiser

Fund 3 Secretary:

Kevin Gallagher

Executive Committee:

Dick Kunsch

Stephen Drewes

Bobbi Riley

Other Members of Church Council:

Sandra Zimmermann

Brian Greenwald

Donna Searchfield

Kelly Gallagher

Janet Gerner

Don Titus

Pam Naylor

Stephen Ministry Leaders:

Linda Landis — (610) 933-9544

Lee Dalasio — (610) 454-9884

COMMITTEES

Christian Education:

Mark Gerner & Teresa Olsen, Co-Chairs

Kelly Gallagher & Sandra Zimmermann

Council Reps.

Columbarium:

Bill Starling, Chair

Sandra Zimmermann, Council Rep.

Electronics:

William Schoellkopf, Chair

Dale Herbranson, Council Rep.

Executive:

Dale Herbranson, Chair

Fellowship:

Sandra Zimmermann, Chair

Pam Naylor, Council Rep.

Finance:

Jack Ertell, Chair

Don Titus & Stephen Drewes

Council Reps.

Property:

Rick Kramer, Chair

Bobbi Riley, Council Rep.

Social Ministry:

Debbe Welsh, Chair

Janet Gerner, Council Rep.

Stewardship:

Mike Kahl, Chair

Dick Kunsch, Council Rep.

Welcoming Team:

Cathy Kahl, Chair

Donna Searchfield, Council Rep.

Worship and Music:

Jean Herbranson, Chair

Brian Greenwald, Council Rep.

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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



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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

