

The Circle



June Worship at St. John's

As *The Circle for May* was prepared, we had hoped to be able to worship together in our sanctuary by the end of the month. This was not to be so we continue with worship on our YouTube channel. Please like and subscribe to the channel so you'll be able to find it easily in the future. The simplest way to find our current YouTube channel is to go to our website at <http://stjohnluthphoenixville.org/> and click on the YouTube icon at the top left side of the page. Please share this link with your friends and family via email and social media. Materials for at-home worship are being sent to parishioners without computer access. If you know someone without computer access who has not received these materials, please let Sonya Sowards know.

We continue to follow the guidelines issued by the Governor of Pennsylvania. Council has created a "Re-opening Team" consisting of Sonya Sowards, Tom Snyder, Stephen Drewes and Tim Babinchak so that whenever we can next gather together, we will do it safely.

The Holy Trinity—June 7th Graduation Sunday

Worship will be posted on YouTube by 3 p.m. on June 6th. While the word "trinity" is not found anywhere in the Bible, just about every week we begin our worship with: *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.* More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith—that God loves us and is always with us. We will also acknowledge our graduates this Sunday as well as "virtually" present St. John's scholarships to four of our high-school seniors.

Second Sunday after Pentecost—June 14th

Worship will be posted on YouTube by 3 p.m. on June 13th. What's our mission? From Moses to Jesus to Paul we are invited to share God's compassion with our needy world. Our St. John's mission statement is "living, growing and sharing God's love through Christ with the world." What is your part of that mission? How does that shape your life? These are significant questions that determine everything we do. Dare to ask them and dare to live out your answers.

Third Sunday after Pentecost—June 21st

Worship will be posted on YouTube by 3 p.m. on June 20th. Now we move from defining our mission to living it out and when we do so we will discover both joy and struggles, sometimes even opposition. Those challenges are the times when we as believers grow the most in depth of faith, commitment and love. Be not afraid—God is with us always!

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost—June 28th

Worship will be posted on YouTube by 3 p.m. on June 27th. What does it look like to live as faithful followers of Jesus? That is a foundational question followed by another: Do we, do you, do I look like a faithful follower of Jesus? Amazingly it is when we give ourselves away to others that we actually find ourselves.

Inside this issue:

June Worship	1
Pastor's Article / Entering the Building / Cans / Retirement Party	2
From the Director of Music / COVID-19 Mitigation	3
From the Director of Children, Youth & Families / PACS	4
PACS List of Needs	5
2020 Graduates	6
From the Presiding Bishop	7
Council Minutes	8-9
Calendars	10-11
Virtual St. John's	11
June Schedule / Financials / Poetry / Thank You	12
Staffing / Pastoral Acts / Giving Options	cover

From the Pastor:

The Trade Entering the Body

There have been blessings in this time of quarantine: walks, “happy hours” with my husband, quiet without the underlying buzz of traffic on Route 422, and abundance of birds building nests and singing in our back yard, and the chance to do more reading. Here’s a quote from *The Abundance* by Annie Dillard in a chapter entitled “A Writer in the World” which caught my attention:

"The body of literature, with its limits and edges, exists outside some people and inside others. Only after the writer lets literature shape her can she perhaps shape literature. In working-class France, when an apprentice got hurt, or when he got tired, the experienced workers said, "It is the trade entering his body." The art must enter the body too. A painter cannot use paint like glue or screws to fasten down the world. The tubes of paint are like fingers; they work only if, inside the painter, the neural pathways are wide and clear to the brain. Cell by cell, molecule by molecule, atom by atom, part of the brain changes physical shape to fit the paint."

I shared this with some of the artists in my life, but also want to share it with you, the beloved people of St. John’s, for more and more I believe that a congregation is a communal work of art. Think about it—musicians, teachers, parents, children, saints, painters, repairers, poets, artists, gardeners, human beings—all made of humus (dirt)—of earth and spirit, together are shaped by God into the body of Christ at 355 St. John’s Circle, but also in our homes, our neighborhoods, our town, our county, our state, country, world. Through worship and learning and laughter, through tears and sorrow and grief, through forgiveness and love and abundance, through prayer and God’s Word and sacraments, “the trade” enters our body and part of our brains change physical shape by such surprising grace.

It’s stunningly beautiful. Just this past weekend, it was a bride and groom who dreamed of a wedding surrounded by an abundance of family and friends, bravely marrying one another on a spring Saturday in the Jane Kunsch Memorial Garden before a small “socially distant” gathering. It was a team coming together to weed and mulch the garden, again maintaining social distance. It was our ninth graders meeting outside in the Circle as they prepare for Confirmation and neighborhood children practicing their bike riding, progressing from training wheels to two wheels as they peddle around and around in the parking lot. And at the same time, it was our congregation worshipping while at home listening to Bach being played by the Providence String Quartet, singing the hymns, hearing God’s word, being the Church. It’s all of this and by God’s grace alone, beautifully more.

Yours in awe,

Pastor Cynthia Krommes



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

If you **MUST** enter the building, please wipe down all surfaces with which you come in contact before leaving. Cleaning supplies are provided throughout the building. Thank you for keeping us all healthy!

Please continue to collect your aluminum cans to bring to Kley Hall when we get back together. They are used to support the youth mission trip.

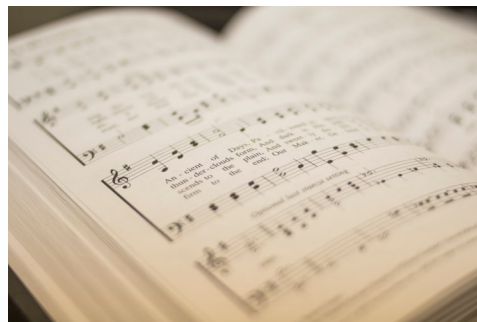
Don't Forget to RSVP!

The retirement of Pastor Cynthia Krommes has been postponed from June until August due to the COVID-19 quarantine. It is hoped that an interim pastor will be in place shortly after August 16th. The Retirement Party that was scheduled for May 17th at Rivercrest will now take place on August 16th, again at Rivercrest. Please RSVP to Sonya Sowards no later than Monday, July 27th if you are planning to attend. We need to know the number of children 0-3, 4-10 and the number of adults. Thank you!

From the Director of Music:

Missing Congregational Singing

One of the things I miss most while not being able to worship together is joining in song. Congregational hymn singing is integral to Lutheran worship and we at St. John's do it pretty well! Below is a newly written hymn from contemporary American hymn writer Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. She has suggested it be sung to the familiar tune LLANGLOFFAN to which we usually add the text "Lead On, O King Eternal." Take a moment and sing this or at least read the very poignant poetry.



Looking forward to the time we'll be back to worship together and join in song.

Tom Snyder, Director of Music

We Grieve in Isolation

We grieve in isolation, we weep from far away.
We wonder at the suffering we hear about this day.
An enemy comes near us like none we've ever known.
O God, we trust you love us, yet we feel so alone.
O Christ, this world is changing and we are changing, too.
We cry out with a longing that you will make us new.
We see the ways the nations have tried to live before
and offer our confession: it won't work anymore.
Can life rise from these ashes? Can hope rise from our fear?
O Spirit, work among us, that we may change things here.
May we be dead to sinning—to all that would destroy.
Bring in your new creation; give life and health and joy.
May we seek love and kindness that build community.
May we seek truth and justice that heal society.
We grieve in isolation; we cry, O Lord, to you.
O God of our salvation, we pray you'll make us new.

Text: Copyright © 2020 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the author.



St. John's wants to make sure everyone stays safe and healthy, especially amid COVID-19. Here are the immediate measures we have taken in response to the pandemic:

- All worship services are online; materials for at-home worship are being mailed to parishioners without computer access.
- Meetings and Christian education classes are conducted via teleconference and children's materials are available for downloading at home.
- Our sexton has followed the initial CDC guidelines for sanitation of the building; before we gather again, we will follow the updated CDC guidelines to re-sanitize.
- Staff and volunteers are working remotely as much as possible and staggering work hours in the building to limit in-person contact.
- High-touch surfaces such as light switches and door handles are wiped down at least twice a week.
- Staff, volunteers, and parishioners who must enter the building are asked to disinfect any surfaces with which they have come in contact before leaving; cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer are available throughout the building.
- Members of the Property Committee are checking the building regularly so that any problems do not go unnoticed in the absence of staff on the premises.
- Non-essential visitors are discouraged, and everyone is asked to wear a mask during in-person contact.

We are carefully reviewing the recommendations from the governor, the CDC and the ELCA to determine how and when we can safely return to in-person worship. A re-entry team has been formed to focus on this task. In all decisions, we will be guided by concern for the health of St. John's parishioners and our community. Please continue to pray for one another, for those working to find vaccines and treatments, and for all affected by COVID-19.

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

To me this time of the year is one of celebrations, it kicked off with Pentecost where we celebrate the birthday of the Church. I hope all of you sing Happy Birthday in your loudest and proudest voices. It was the day earth received another great gift from God, the Holy Spirit. This is followed by patriotic celebrations for Memorial Day, Flag Day, and July 4th, and graduation parties for college and high-school graduates.

As with many things right now our ability to celebrate together has become difficult. We were unable to gather together to celebrate the end of another wonderful year of Sunday school. However, I want to give a **BIG SHOUT OUT** to those who made it possible:

Pre-K and K—Elisa Khan & Sarah Blattner

1st and 2nd—Arlene Hudak & Heather Bourdeau

3rd and 4th—Mark Yanchek & Connor Hudak

5th and 6th—Amy Fox

7th and 8th—Manny Demutis, Heather Yonosh, Jimmy Moreland, & Danielle Blackledge

9th—Pastor Krommes & Rick Kramer

First Bible and Communion—Kate Demutis

Music—Tom Snyder, John Quinn, & Walt Deichmann

Our fantastic children and youth

AND all the parents who brought their children.



I know many of you might be wondering about Sunday school next fall. At this point, no decisions have been made as to what it will look like, but there will be Sunday school in some form.

A decision about VBS has been reached though. We will not be holding an in-person VBS this year. Instead, you are invited to sign up for VBS Your Way using Sparkhouse's Summer Splash curriculum. There will be five Bible stories for you to do all in one week or spread throughout the summer; perhaps saving them for a rainy day or when it is too hot to go outside. Each Bible story will be a self-contained kit that includes a simple lesson plan to help organize the day, links to an animated Bible story and related music, and activity pages. A craft and science experiment will also be included. We will

be providing items for these projects that are not commonly found at home. As with in-person VBS, this is intended for Pre-K to 6th grade. **If you would like to participate in VBS at home, please let me know by Friday, June 5th so we can prepare a kit for you.** Email me at wentworthj@stjohnphoenixville.org with the names of your children and their age/grade.

God Bless and I hope to see you soon,

Jen Wentworth

PACS DROP AND GO on June 5, 5-7 p.m.

Our community is in great need. PACS has more than tripled the registration for those needing food assistance. Can you help?

On June 5th, from 5-7 p.m., FIRST FRIDAY PACS DROP AND GO will happen in the Circle drive at St. John's. A car will be parked, waiting for you to load your food and hygiene donation. Please be sure your items are securely bagged. NO refrigerated items, please! A list of the most needed items is on the next page.

Can't manage to deliver your donation? Please call Sonya Sowards at (610) 933-3947 ext. 2 to make an appointment for pickup!

Waves and hugs-from-afar will be welcome!



With thanks,

The Social Ministry Committee



257 Church Street, Phoenixville, PA 19460
Phone: 610-933-1105
Email: info@pacsphx.org webpage: www.pacsphx.org

Our Mission: Phoenixville Area Community Services aspires to be the lead resource for food insecurity in the community.

Emergency Pantry Hot List

Urgent Needs

Canned Pasta	Pasta Sauce	Pancake Mix
Mac and Cheese	Juice and juice mixes	Snack foods (Crackers, nuts, fruit/granola bars, dried fruit, etc.)
Salt/Pepper	Condiments (ketchup, mayo, salad dressing, etc.)	Baking Mixes (w/ icing as needed)
Cheese	Syrup	Frozen Meat
Cooking Oil/ Butter/Margarine	Rice	
Jelly/jam	Soup (not condensed)	
Canned Meat		

Additional Needs

Microwavable Meals	Dried Beans
Cereal	Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate
Oatmeal	Sugar/Artificial sweetener
Canned Fruit	Water
Canned Vegetables (potatoes, carrots, olives, mushrooms, etc)	

The following non-food items are needed and CANNOT be purchased with SNAP (food stamps)

Deodorant	Baby Wipes
Toothpaste	Toilet paper
Shampoo and Conditioner	Paper Towels
Feminine Pads	Pet Food (Cats and dogs)
Cleaning Supplies (dish soap, laundry detergent, etc.)	

**All donations are truly appreciated!!
Please insure the food is not past its expiration date, unopened and
No Corn or Green Beans, as we have plenty!
☺ Thank you ☺**

Revised 4/1/20

Congratulations to our 2020 Graduates

When you graduate during a global pandemic you have to be flexible, adaptive, creative and courageous—all adjectives that describe our 2020 graduates! Here they are:

High School Graduates

Will Blackledge graduated from Owen J. Roberts High School and plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh to major in bioengineering and will be in the Pitt band.

Lexis Booz graduated from Phoenixville High School and she is in the exploring stage on what comes next.

Travis Brown graduated from Phoenixville High School and plans to attend James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia where he plans to attend their business school.

Sean Clark graduated from Phoenixville High School and plans to attend Montgomery County Community College.



Mikayla Ninness graduated from Owen J. Roberts High School and plans to attend West Chester University where she will major in nursing and be on the WCU Swim Team.

Tyler Pekofsky graduated from Phoenixville High School and plans to attend Pennsylvania State University to major in business management.

Olesya Sitkowski graduated from Phoenixville High School and plans to attend The College of William and Mary where she will major in sociology with a concentration in criminal justice. She will be on the track and field team, specializing in pole vaulting.



Kal Saeger graduated from Phoenixville High School and plans to attend the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Tyler J. Speaker graduated from Phoenixville Area High School.

College Graduates

Nolan Atkinson graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in economics.

P. J. Gadzicki graduated from Temple University, *summa cum laude*, with a degree in Sports Management. He plans to pursue a masters degree in Sports Management at the University of Florida.

Kyle McGoldrick graduated from Temple University Fox School of Business in December with a degree in Business Administration.

Rebecca Williams graduated from the University of Miami with a degree in Marketing and Spanish.

Graduate School

Allison Kramer graduated from Villanova with a masters in Counseling with a concentration in Clinical Mental Health.

Megan Atkinson Scheibe graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a masters in Social Work.



If any graduates were missed, please email Sonya Sowards at office@stjohnphoenixville.org to be included in the July/August Circle.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. — Corinthians 12:12

May 13, 2020



Dear Church:

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

During the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, I am encouraged by your resilience and creativity in our witness to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I am also inspired by your generosity. Through the ELCA COVID-19 Response Fund and our Daily Bread grants, we are providing critical support to struggling yet vital ministries across this church. Through Lutheran Disaster Response International we have intensified our accompaniment of global partners. *We are church together.*

This is a trying time for us all. At the same time, we know that a disproportionate burden of illness, death, discrimination and harassment falls on communities of color. This pandemic has exacerbated racism and racial inequities deeply entrenched in society and across the church. We see this in the growing anti-Asian racism and the disproportionate number of deaths in black, American Indian and Latinx communities. I have been learning from the leaders of the ELCA's ethnic associations how the data we see on the news is experienced in real life. I have listened to leaders of color share the impact of this pandemic on their communities, on their lives and on their ministries. These stories are difficult but important, so we are launching a special series on LivingLutheran.org to lift up these voices for us all to hear. We also seek to ensure that our COVID-19 response more effectively tends to the realities of racism and racial inequality. *We are church together.*

Recently, in cities across this country, we have seen horrifying anti-Semitic and white supremacist messages displayed during public protests against government orders that are intended to protect lives. No matter our politics or opinions about our elected leaders and their policies, all of us must come together on the basis of our church's commitments to condemn racism against indigenous people and people of color, white supremacy, sexism, and anti-Semitism whenever they occur. Whether our churches and communities are racially diverse or predominantly white, our work for racial and economic justice for all people is work for all of us. *We are church together.*

Just as God has joined us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in baptism, we are joined to each other. Paul helps us to understand this by speaking of the one body of Christ, with many members. While this is always true, perhaps we feel it more acutely in this time of physical distancing. In our longing to be church together, let us be even more intentional in sharing with each other, easing each other's burdens, consoling each other in our fear and grief, condemning what is contrary to the gospel and living out our baptismal covenant "to strive for justice and peace in all the earth."

In partnership,
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop, ELCA

To learn more, visit:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: "COVID-19 in Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups"

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/racial-ethnic-minorities.html>

ELCA social statement "Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture"

<http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/RaceSS.pdf>

"Explanation of the Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent"

[https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Slavery_Apology_Explanation.pdf?](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Slavery_Apology_Explanation.pdf?ga=2.192539306.1607846328.1589383529-706161550.1552512868)

[ga=2.192539306.1607846328.1589383529-706161550.1552512868](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Slavery_Apology_Explanation.pdf?ga=2.192539306.1607846328.1589383529-706161550.1552512868)

ELCA social policy resolution "Condemnation of White Supremacy and Racist Rhetoric"

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Condemnation_of_White_Supremacy_and_Racist_Rhetoric.pdf

ELCA social statement "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action"

<https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Current-Social-Writing-Projects/Women-and-Justice>

"Declaration of the ELCA to Jewish Community"

[https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Declaration_of_The_ELCA_To_The_Jewish_Community.pdf?ga=2.71932119.591108520.1588614831-706161550.1552512868)

[Declaration_of_The_ELCA_To_The_Jewish_Community.pdf? ga=2.71932119.591108520.1588614831-706161550.1552512868](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Declaration_of_The_ELCA_To_The_Jewish_Community.pdf?ga=2.71932119.591108520.1588614831-706161550.1552512868)

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2020**

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Mitch Reading. Pastor Krommes read a devotional poem by Margaret Walker.

Meeting minutes from the March 9, 2020 meeting were reviewed.

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

Staff Reports

- T. Snyder's Report - Tom's involvement in the video services has been a rewarding and growing experience. Tom is also trying to stay in touch with the choir members.
- J. Quinn's Report - No Report. John has done a fine job recording music for the video services.
- J. Wentworth's Report – With PA schools now closed through this academic year, St. John's Sunday School will likewise not resume. Jen will continue her on-line lessons and communications with the SS age families. A decision about holding VBS still TBD.
- Pastor's Report – Pleased with the numbers of views of the video services. Pastor has shared the service links through her own FB page and encourages others to also share. St. John's is in a position to assist any local, needy families. Please contact Pastor if you know someone in need.
- Sonya Sowards – The outside groups are no longer meeting at the church. Entering the building should be limited to critical needs only. We now have CDC guidelines on what to do to make our building safe from a direct COVID 19 exposure or how to prepare as we look to the future when we 're-open.' Mark Yanchek has been following all appropriate guidelines.

Finance Committee and Income & Expense Report – No Finance meeting.

- Pastor reported that March giving, while down, was better than expected.
- Don Titus reported that he had talked to Jack Ertell and Shirley Platzer and the finance report presented was accurate to date.

Motion by Dale Herbranson, Second by Don Titus to accept the Staff and Finance Committee and Income & Expense Reports; Motion passed.

Council reviewed the following Committee Reports:

- Stewardship Committee - virtual meeting: the Stewardship letter was mailed to all. Good response so far.
- Electronics Committee – No Meeting, but Dale Herbranson and Bill Schoellkopf have put in long hours supporting the video services.

- Christian Education and Youth and Family Committee – Zoom Meeting April 8, 2020
Our ASP trip has been officially cancelled. The finances are still being worked out. Pastor suggested that any money already given to ASP via Social Ministry be donated to ASP. Jen plans to order VBS materials. If we cancel VBS this year we will use those materials next year.
- Property Committee – Zoom Meeting April 6, 2020
Property supports the state and federal stay-at-home guidelines and will not put out any “asks” for the usual spring tasks. Mulching will be delayed until further notice. The building will be monitored on a weekly or as needed basis. “See Something – Say Something”
- Worship and Music Committee – Zoom Meeting March 31, 2020
Video services will continue as long as necessary. When a normal service can be held, we will treat it as an “Easter Celebration.”
- Welcome Team Committee – No Meeting but they have the list of the names of new people from the last three ‘Way Classes’ and will stay in touch with all new members to keep them connected to St. John’s.
- Social Ministry Committee from April 1, 2020 virtual meeting. Easter meals paid for and delivered to St. John’s shut ins. Easter meals also delivered to Phoenixville Meals on Wheels recipients.

Motion by Sandra Zimmermann , Second by Donna Searchfield to accept committee reports; Motion passed.

Old Business

- After a discussion with the executive committee, Pastor Krommes has agreed to delay her retirement until the middle of August, providing the world has returned to normal by that time.
 - Mitch and Pastor will contact the Synod to see what needs to be done to change her retirement date.
 - Sonya will send out a membership wide mailing with this announcement at an appropriate date TBD. Sonya says a full membership mailing takes 4 hours of her time and about \$200.00 in expenses.
 - **Motion by Don Titus, with a second by Dick Kunsch to accept this revised retirement plan and move Pastor Krommes’ retirement party from May 17, 2020 to August 16, 2020. Motion passed.**
 - We would plan to have the Interim Pastor start the middle of August to allow time for a learning curve prior to the new program year.

New Business

- Mitch Reading offered a well-deserved and heartfelt THANK YOU to the Staff for their extraordinary work during this crisis and to the Worship Leaders, Dale Herbranson and Bill Schoelkopf for their outstanding efforts to create our video services.
- St. John’s has purchased Zoom Pro for staff and committee use. Please contact Sonya for details on how to take advantage of this tool.

The meeting ended at 8:02 pm with the Lord’s Prayer.
The next meeting will be May 11, 2020 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi Riley

June 2020

(based on restrictions ending June 4th as scheduled (unlikely))

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 11am Alanon Family Group 6:00pm Re-entry Team 7pm Finance Committee 7pm Property 7pm Stephen Ministry	2 10:15am Staff 7:30pm Worship & Music	3 3pm Social Ministry 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7pm Christian Education	4 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 7pm Naranon	5 5pm PACS Drop and Go	6
7 9am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks	8 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Church Council	9	10 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study	11 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 7pm Naranon	12 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	13 5pm Evening Light
14 9am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks	15 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Stephen Ministry 7pm Welcoming Team	16 4:30pm PACS Board	17 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study	18 Circle deadline 10am Moms' Music & Crafts Club 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 7pm Naranon 8:15pm Naranon Support	19 St. Peter's lunch	20 5pm Evening Light
21 9am Electronics 9am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks	22 11am Alanon Family Group	23 10:30am WELCA 5:30pm Stewardship	24 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study	25 5:30pm Naranon Gathering 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 7pm Naranon	26 10am Mother-Baby Breastfeeding Connections	27 5pm Evening Light
28 9am Holy Communion 11:30am St. John's Crafty Folks	29 11am Alanon Family Group 6:30pm Kiwanis Board 7pm Finance Committee	30	1 3pm Social Ministry 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7pm Christian Education	2 10am Mom's Monthly Mingle 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 7pm Naranon	3	4 5pm Evening Light

June 2020—Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Donald Platzer's birthday Rich Latella and Richard Skoniczin's anniversary Susan Shirk's birthday	1 Dax Kunsch's birthday Dodi Strunk's birthday	2 Dirk Rimrott's birthday Elsa Lucas's birthday Jacob Ehrhart's birthday Paul Miller's birthday	3 Dan Free's birthday Ian Kramer's birthday Mark Wallace's birthday Tyler Speaker's birthday	4 Bill and Sue Starling's anniversary Margaret Yerger's birthday Mitch and Erica Reading's anniversary	5 Derek and Carla Carr's anniversary	6 Austin Starling's birthday
7 Jack Ritchie's birthday Lillian Barker's birthday Mikayla Niness's birthday	8 Abigail Speaker's birthday	9 Colten Bomberger's birthday	10 Jay and Erin Greco's anniversary	11 Annaliese Duerr's birthday Holly Younker's birthday	12 Blake Goodhart's birthday Lisa Luckenbach's birthday	13 Daniel Free Jr.'s birthday Ev Thomas's birthday Mike and Cathy Kahl's anniversary
14 Adam and Cheryl Speaker's anniversary Braeden Hawkins's birthday Carson Melton's birthday	15 Jessica Kramer's birthday	16 Deb Ahola's birthday Eileen Krueger's birthday Mario Walls and Courtney Morgan's anniversary Rebecca Stevens's birthday Sandra Momyer's birthday Val Kramer's birthday	17 Maryanne Mara's birthday	18 Donna Breitinger's birthday Kevin Gallagher's birthday	19 Cece Leong's birthday John and Karen Cattafesta's anniversary John Riley's birthday	20 Brooke Free's birthday James and Mary Miller's anniversary
21 Joan Carl's birthday June Henzie's birthday Kevin and Kelly Gallagher's anniversary	22 Dan and Brooke Free's anniversary Taylor McGoldrick's birthday	23 John Westerman's birthday	24 Don and Lynn Titus's anniversary Donna Papsun's birthday	25 Carol Renninger's anniversary Evan Aho's birthday Mark and Sarah Blattner's anniversary Tim Babinchak's birthday	26 David and Robin Frees's anniversary Mike and Dawn Platchek's anniversary	27 Dana Deichmann's birthday Elke Rimrott's birthday Walter and Kay Mann's anniversary
28 Marion Rice's birthday	29 Florence Bickhart's birthday John Unruh and Devon Mensch-Unruh's anniversary Rachael Aaronson's birthday Sue Lisiewski's birthday	30 Garrett Paul Grejdu's birthday	1 Nancy Wilkinson's birthday Rick Kramer's birthday	2 Dylan Oszeyczik's birthday Robb Frees's birthday	3 Cindy Riley's birthday Gianna Bliss's birthday	4 Amanda Westerman's birthday Kurt Seidel's birthday Travis Brown's birthday

Virtual St. John's

While we are physically separated from one another, though we are always connected to each other through Jesus Christ our Lord, we are using online communication to "be in community."

WORSHIP IS ONLINE

Go to our website and click on the YouTube icon to find our current YouTube channel. Worship for the weekend is available after 3 p.m. on Saturdays. Former services are also on the site. Please feel free to share our services with friends and family.

LEARNING IS ONLINE

Sunday school for children and mid-week lessons are available on our St. John's Family and Friends Facebook group through May 31st. Note: this Facebook group is "closed" so that we can monitor who is on it while feeling safe in posting pictures of our children. Just send a request through Facebook to join the group and (if we know you) it will be approved!

Vacation Bible School will also be available through take-home kits and online videos and music. See Jen Wenworth's article for more information.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND MEETINGS ARE ONLINE

Many adult Christian Education classes are meeting virtually. Check with your class leader.

Our Congregational Council and Committees are using Zoom to gather for meetings and to continue our ministry of living, growing and sharing in God's love.

The 12-Step Groups are meeting online. For information about specific times, please connect with Maryanne Mara at (484) 995-6455.

People of God Involved in God's Work

June Schedule

(subject to safety restrictions)



Acolytes

All TBD

Altar Guild

- 7 Janet Ertell & Jean Herbranson
- 14 Donna Anderson & Cathy Garrett
- 21 Sandra Zimmermann & John Westerman
- 28 Betty Hans & Elena Wallace

Assisting Ministers

- 7 Brittney Walters
- 14 Dale Herbranson
- 21 Teresa Olsen
- 28 Nancy Cressman

Bread Baking

All TBD

Communion Assistants/Lectors

- 7 Lynn & Don Titus
- 14 Teresa Olsen (L) & Walt Deichmann
- 21 Nancy Cressman (L) & LuAnne Bindschusz
- 28 Greg Krueger (L) & Dale Herbranson

Counters

- 7 Stephen & Jennifer Drewes, Donna Anderson, Peg Yanoviak
- 14 Heather Yonosh, Donna Searchfield, Jeanne Schanzenbach
- 21 Mary Heiser, Mike & Cathy Kahl
- 28 Jack Ertell, Lilly Khan, Imtiaz Khan Lawrence

Greeters

- 7 Joan Wilson, Dale Herbranson, Donna Searchfield
- 14 Mike & Cathy Kahl, Faye Donovan
- 21 Beverly Rote, Debbe Welsh, Lynn Titus
- 28 Kelly LeMarbe, Denise Longbine

Lock-Up

All TBD

Ushers

- 7 Barb Rambo, Erica Lucas, Debbe Welsh, Greg Krueger
- 14 Paul Miller, Deb Ahola, Barry Church, John Rawlins
- 21 John Westerman, Cathy Garrett, Bev Rote, Sandi Stotler
- 28 Glen Murphy, Donna Anderson, Travis Brown, Beth Williams

Summary Report as of April 30, 2020

	Monthly		Year-to-Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income:				
Envelope Giving	\$ 32,223	\$ 33,258	\$ 128,895	\$ 119,435
Other Income	3,987	4,143	15,947	26,114
Total Income	\$ 36,210	\$ 37,401	\$ 144,842	\$ 145,549
Expenses	\$ 37,235	\$ 30,447	\$ 148,942	\$ 133,323
Income (Deficit)	(1,025)	6,954	(4,100)	12,226

A Prayer

Our Father Lord of heaven and earth
 Holy is thy name
 Mercy grant all who on earth do dwell
 Give us this day thy holy manna
 Forgive us as we forgive
 Protect us from all sin
 Lead us from evil ways
 To thy kingdom
 For power, glory are thine
 Eternally Amen

Margaret Walker

Dear Friends:

In the midst of so much distress and worry and simultaneously so much kindness and hope, I write with great gratitude to you for your generous gift of \$500 received by St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter on March 30, 2020. Your presence with us and faithful support for our ministry to homeless families is a gift to us. Blessings and thanks for your care for the homeless families we are blessed to serve.

Sister Bernadette Dougherty SSJ
 and staff of St. Mary's

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the staff of Doctors Without Borders, I want to thank you for your generous gift of \$500 received on April 23, 2020. Your contribution helps ensure that our patients receive the care they so urgently need, no matter their circumstances. In the last few months alone, support from caring donors like you helped us respond to a range of emergencies in more than 70 countries. Our critical work to deliver emergency care to people caught in crises wouldn't be possible without your generous support. Thank you for being part of our important lifesaving mission.

Sincerely,
 Avril Benoit
 Executive Director, Doctors Without Borders USA

Dear Friends:

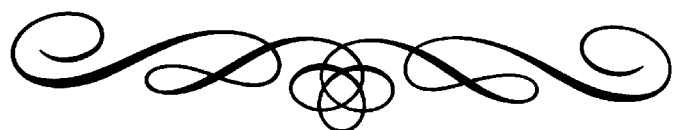
We recently received your gift of \$1,000 to Lutheran World Relief. On behalf of LWR, our partners and those we serve, please accept my thanks for your generous support and partnership. May God bless you!

Warm regards,
 Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard (ret.)
 President and CEO

Dear St. John's Lutheran Church:

Thank you for your gift of \$500 to Lutheran Disaster Response. Your Spirit-filled generosity is helping families and communities reeling from disasters here in the United States and around the world. You are creating new beginnings. Thank you for sharing the hope of new life and the fullness of Christ's joy.

In Christ,
 The Rev. Robin Brown
 Mission Funding Director, Congregations



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

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.

Office Assistants:

June Henzie

Beverly Ott Kay Mann

Joan Carl Pat Renninger

Dottie Doepping

The Circle Editor:

Sonya K. Sowards

Pastoral Acts

Funeral

Eva Kramer

May 11, 2020

Wedding

Santino Rosario Sicilia

Amber Rae Carey

May 16, 2020



Give with your whole heart.

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

Donating Stock to St. John's

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

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

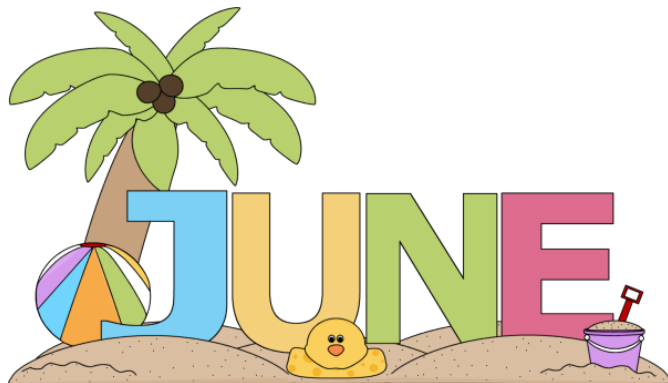
Stephen Ministry Leaders:

Linda Landis — (610) 933-9544

Lee Dalasio — (610) 454-9884



**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 of the ELCA
Participating in Stephen Ministry***

Worship Schedule

Saturdays

5 p.m. Evening Light with Holy Communion

Sundays

10:15 a.m. Holy Communion
(fall, winter and spring)

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion
(Memorial Day through Labor Day)

THE CIRCLE

