

The Circle

September 2020



From the Pastor:

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. I am Pastor Wayne Shelor (with a long "e"). I respond to just about anything, but Pastor Wayne is preferred. I am excited that I have the opportunity to walk with you in this time of transition.

Transitions always come with a bit of discomfort, like when you are crossing the street in Manhattan trying to avoid the oncoming wall of humanity, the pot holes filled with water and trash, and the blaring impatient taxies. Yet we find a way to get everyone across. Transitions are also a time ripe with possibilities. They provide us with an opportunity to hear additional voices, reflect on who we are, clarify what is most important to us, evaluate how we are functioning, and choose how we wish to proceed from here into whatever God has in store for us.

I like to garden, so I often liken my work as an Interim Pastor to gardening. I understand my basic responsibility is to help St. John's have the best garden soil possible. This process will involve assessment of the nutrients already present, some weeding of things which are not where we believe they should

be, some pruning to make existing plants even stronger, maybe some fertilizer, and a regular watering schedule. All to make sure this garden is as well prepared as it can be when your next "Settled Pastor" (this is the term we use for one who serves without an end date in mind) arrives to begin her/his journey with you.

I am often asked how long this will take. Please understand this is not a mechanical process in which we flip the right switches, or check all the boxes and everything proceeds in a straight line. This is an "organic process," one of starts and stops, development and growth which has factors which are beyond our influence or control, just like waiting for a plant to bloom, or for a twenty-something child to "get it." I really do not mean to be trite, but it will take as long as it takes. It is much more important for St. John's to do this well than to do it quickly.

In this process we will encounter many twists, turns, and wonder-filled moments before I depart to begin this process with another community of faith, and your new Settled Pastor arrives. In the meantime, please keep me, the Transition Team, the Congregational Council, and this ministry in your regular prayers. And let's see if we can see and understand what God has in mind for this amazing place called St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Pastor Wayne

To the humble sparrow that
Soars above a mighty eagle
A sparrow soars where the eagle dares not
Love is a sparrow
Listen for the song
Of the sparrow

Margaret Walker



Save the Date!

October 25th from 4-6 p.m.

Plans are in the works to adapt Trunk or Treat to the world of COVID-19. Stay tuned for further details about being a decorated car or bringing trick or treaters.

From the Director of Music:

Music at St. John's

"Music is a vital expression of Lutheran worship. The church's song takes many forms and is expressed in many ways." Boy, if that isn't the truth right now. Music in many forms and different ways. Who would have thought we would be relegated to silencing our voices and reading poetry to ourselves in worship? In doing so maybe we are gaining a new appreciation for and understanding of the words. Singing right now, as we gather to hear the Word and eat at the Table, is not possible if we are to remain safe.

There is however exciting news on the music scene at St. John's. With social distancing, gloves, and masks Adult Handbells will begin rehearsals at 7:15 p.m., Thursday, September 10th in either the Eisenhower Room or Kley Hall.



This fall we are starting "Children's Bells" for kids third grade and above. Here is a link the kids can watch and see if this is something they would like to participate in:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5YOW8fUyAPQ>

Children do not need to be able to read music to participate, just be able to count and follow some simple directions. We'll have social distancing, each person with his own music, wearing gloves and masks. Rehearsal day and time will be determined by the responses received.

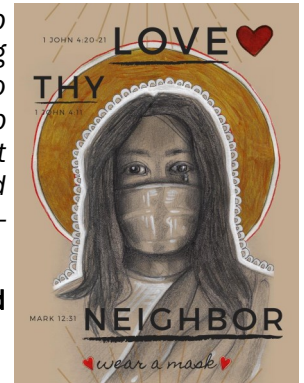
Please email me your child's age and available days and times. I'm looking forward to hearing from you soon to join in the fun making music together!

Tom Snyder

Worship Times: Evening Light continues at 5:00 p.m. every Saturday. On Sunday, September 13th, we will return to our normal Sunday morning schedule of Worship at 10:15 a.m. Precautions have been taken to provide a safe environment and we ask everyone to wear a face mask and observe safe 6' distancing from others.

We continue to follow the guidelines issued by the Governor of Pennsylvania. Worship will be available on our YouTube channel for those who do not feel comfortable returning to in-person worship. 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 like and subscribe to the channel so you'll be able to find it easily in the future. Feel free to 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 on request.

Please wear a mask when interacting with others in the building during the week and wipe any surfaces you touch. Thank you for keeping us all healthy!



New Opportunities for Service

As we gather to worship on Sunday mornings additional people are being sought to serve as Assisting Ministers ("AM"). The AM has specific responsibilities, always on behalf of the assembly (congregation) or to encourage the assembly **to do something**. In other words the AM helps others do their job well. They lead the Creed, Prayers of Intercession and other prayers, help serve Communion, and dismiss the assembly to serve—"Go in peace. **Do something!**" The AM may also help the acolyte robe, hold a book, set the Table for Communion, and other worship responsibilities. They typically serve every six weeks or so depending on the number of AMs, always coordinated with your schedule.

Interested? Want more information? Please contact Tom Snyder, the new Assisting Minister coordinator, at ftsiii@gmail.com.

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

Dear parents,

I know that all of us remain in a heightened state of anxiety with the start of the school year. Considering the survey responses and our classroom's capacity for students six feet apart, St. John's Children's Sunday School will be at home this fall. We will reevaluate this decision in November for the winter session.

There are two options for at home Sunday School beginning on Sunday, September 13th.



1. Virtual: At 9 a.m. each Sunday, we will meet via Zoom. The children will have opening together and then split in to two groups. Group 1 will be Pre-K through 2nd lead by Miss Elisa and Miss Arlene. Group 2 will be 3rd through 6th will be led by Miss Jen.

2. Email: A version of the day's lesson will be sent via email for the family to do together on Sunday or later in the week.

You can choose to commit to one version or do both versions to better accommodate your family's needs at this time. Regardless of the option you choose, we will be providing copies of the activity pages and craft supplies. Pick up for supplies will be Saturday, September 12th from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. There will be a scavenger hunt to pick up special Sunday School goodies and an opportunity to leave a chalk message.

On the following page is the new registration form for 2020, every family who wishes to participate in Sunday School needs to re-register with this form. The new form was in development prior to the pandemic. Please return the completed registration form by September 5th by mail, dropping it off during worship, or scanning it into an email. We need to know how many kits to assemble. Please know that you can register later in the Sunday School year if you are not comfortable doing so at this time.

God Bless,

Jen Wentworth

P.S. Please continue to collect your aluminum cans to bring to Kley Hall when we get back together. They are used to support our youth mission trips.

School Supplies Needed!

We are continuing to collect school supplies until Wednesday, September 16th for the Lutheran World Relief school kit programs. The "school kits" are distributed around the globe to school-aged children (<https://lwr.org/instructions>).

The St. John's Children's Sunday School plans to assemble 100 bags this year. As of August 18th, we need still need:

- 224 70-sheet notebooks (wide or college rule)
- 54 30-cm rulers (inches on one side and centimeters on the other)
- 74 pencil sharpeners
- 66 scissors (blunt or safety tips)
- 124 #2 pencils with erasers (unsharpened)
- 52 16- or 24-count box of crayons
- 168 ball-point pens (black or blue, no gel pens)



Please consider donating to this special cause. New items only are needed with no patriotic or religious symbols on them. You can buy a lot of just a few items or make a monetary donation that will allow us to purchase anything necessary to complete our kits. Donations can be left in the designated bin in the narthex.

St. John's Lutheran Church Sunday Morning Christian Education Registration Form

Classes are held September– May

(please complete one form per family—return to Sonya Sowards)

Last Name: _____ Best phone number for family: _____

Address: _____

Best email for family: _____

Best way to contact your family during the week: email (default) text to _____

U.S. mail telephone call to _____

Adults:

Name	Relationship to Child	Cell phone	Email	During the Christian Ed hour I would like to:
				<input type="checkbox"/> Help with children's program <input type="checkbox"/> Join the following adult group
				<input type="checkbox"/> Help with children's program <input type="checkbox"/> Join the following adult group _____
				<input type="checkbox"/> Help with children's program <input type="checkbox"/> Join the following adult group _____

Children:

Name	Birth date	Grade & School	Medical concerns/allergies

Emergency Contact for Sunday Morning When in Person:

Name: _____

Cell Number or location within the Church: _____

For At-Home Sunday School My Children Will Participate (Please Check One):

_____ Via Zoom

_____ Emailed Lesson

_____ Both

Well Child Policy:

For the health and safety of the volunteers and students please abide by the following guidelines.

1. Children over the age of 2 must wear a mask.
2. Children must be symptom free from the following without medication for 24 hours before coming to class:

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| • Fever of 100 or higher | • Sore throat |
| • Vomiting or diarrhea | • Open sores |
| • Nasal drainage that is green or yellow | • Cold |
| • Rash | • Excessive coughing |
| • Pink eye or other eye infection | • Lice |

Do you give permission for St. John’s to take and use photographs of you and your children for our website, Facebook page and/or other publications? Yes No Yes, with stipulations: _____

I (we) do for myself (ourselves) and on behalf of my (our) child(ren) do hereby release, forever discharge, and agree to forever hold harmless St. John’s Lutheran Church, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, the ELCA, the employees, and the agents thereof, from any and all liability, claims and demands for personal injury, sickness and death, as well as property damage and expenses, of any nature whatsoever which may be incurred by me (us) or my (our) child(ren) resulting from said child(ren)’s participation in Sunday School. Further I (we) (and on behalf of our child(ren) under 18 years of age) hereby assume all risk of said personal injury, sickness, death, damage, and expenses as a result of participation as above set forth. I (we) am (are) the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of this (these) participant(s), and hereby grant my (our) permission for him/her/them to participate fully in Sunday school. I (we) also release the participant’s name(s) as part of an information database for our church, synod and ELCA-related entities, and that photos/videos produced by the church or synod become property of the synod and can be used for ELCA-related purposes and publicity.

Signature of parent/legal guardian and date

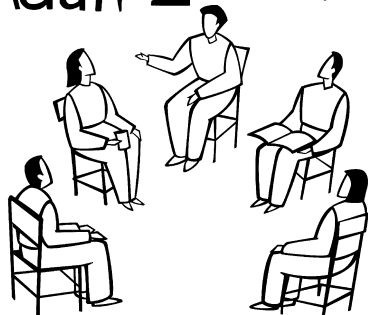
Signature of parent/legal guardian and date

Who's Ready for ASP?

It is that time of year again where we are gathering volunteers for the Appalachian Service Project in the summer. We are planning as if ASP will be running for summer 2021. All high schoolers and adults are welcome to participate in this life-changing time of service in the Appalachian Mountains. Please email Jen Wentworth (wentworthj@stjohnphoenixville.org) if you are interested.



Adult Education



St. John's Adult Sunday School

The adult Christian education classes being held this fall are as follows:

The Sunday Morning Book Club—will be meeting in a mixture of on-line and in-person gatherings. Dates and times are yet to be decided. The first title is *Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward. It will be available on September 13th and afterwards from the library bag of books program. Please contact Jean Herbranson (deherb@juno.com) or Jen Wentworth if you are interested in joining the group.

Bible Study—Linda Landis and Sandra Zimmermann serve as facilitator of this group.

Happy Hour—This is a class that focuses on parenting issues and faith, with the class led each week by various members of the group. Discussions may touch on concerns raised at home, at school, or events in our society. The group is coordinated by Teresa Olsen.

Faith Life Class—This class discusses topics of the day from a Christian perspective. Participants in the class share leadership and always welcome new insights into what it means to live as a faithful Christian in our very real world. The class is coordinated by Jack Ertell.

The Wednesday evening Bible study will be taking a short break and returning in two weeks on September 2nd, at 7p.m. via Zoom

We will be exploring aspects of Christian life through various books and invite you to join us. Our first book will be *Making Sense of Scripture* by David Lose.

It is available on Amazon at:

https://smile.amazon.com/dp/0806699531/ref=cm_sw_r_sms_api_i_ltSoFbYG42K0C

Please contact Kelly LeMarbe at keepfaith315@yahoo.com if you would like to join us.



Columbarium Garden

On September 1st, the price of a niche in our columbarium will increase by \$500. The increase will put our prices in line with other columbaria in our area and is the first since the columbarium was constructed. **Current prices will be extended through September 30th for members of St. John's.** If you are considering purchasing a niche(s) for yourself or a loved one, it must be purchased by September 30th to avoid the price increase. The price to members for a niche "pre-need" will remain at \$2,500 through September 30th and increase to \$3,000 on October 1st. For more information on purchasing a niche or to obtain a niche order form please contact the Parish Administrator, Sonya So-wards, at (610) 933-3947, ext. 2, or contact Bill Starling (610) 454-0963 or Mark Gerner (610) 554-2531.

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2020**

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

The Zoom Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mitch Reading.

Meeting minutes from the May 11, 2020 meeting were reviewed.

Motion by Pam Naylor , Second by Stephen Drewes to accept the minutes; Motion passed.

Staff Reports

- T. Snyder's Report
 - Extra comments on reopening worship. Mark Wallace, a member and an architect, will help map out seating. We will use all forms of communications available to inform members of what will be happening next.
- J. Quinn's Report - No report.
- J. Wentworth's Report
 - Sunday School is completed. Jen will monitor state guidelines for "school" for this fall and configure our Sunday School Program accordingly.
 - Final prep work being done on an "At Home VBS".
- Pastor's Report
 - Book recommendation: "Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism" by Drew Hart.
 - Pastor McMullan has agreed to be back-up pastor for a Labor Day wedding if our interim pastor is not in place.

Motion by Dale Herbranson, Second by Sandra Zimmermann to accept the staff reports; Motion passed.

Finance Committee and Income & Expense Report from June 1, 2020

- Financials accepted as presented.
- Decision on keeping or returning Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) Funds TBD.

Motion by Don Titus, Second by Donna Searchfield to accept the Finance Committee and Income & Expense Reports; Motion passed.

Council reviewed the following Committee Reports:

- Stewardship Committee – did not meet
- Electronics Committee did not meet but Dale Herbranson informed council that our "network switch" no longer works after our three day power outage (June 3-6, storm related). This is a second failure of this brand of switch. A new switch will be in place in 2-3 days and they may try a new brand.
- Christian Education and Youth and Family Committee from June 4, 2020 – accepted as presented.
- Property Committee from May 12, 2020 and June 1, 2020 – accepted as presented.
- Worship and Music Committee from June 4, 2020 – accepted as presented.
- Welcome Team Committee – no meeting but they did put up the new "summer sign".
- Social Ministry Committee from June 3, 2020 – accepted as presented.
- Fellowship Committee – did not meet
- Columbarium Committee – did not meet

- Executive Committee – did not meet

Motion by Sandra Zimmermann, Second by Kelly Gallagher to accept committee reports; Motion passed.

Old Business

- Pastor Ron Wesemann will join us at our July 13, 2020 meeting. We will do an in-person meeting at the church for those who can attend and also offer a Zoom or Conference Call option. Meeting place TBD.
- Mitch Reading looking ahead to the pastor transition team and asked for two council members to consider being on that team.
- Reopening:
 - We need to follow the guidelines of our insurance company (who are following CDC guidelines). This is a must to address possible insurance and litigation issues. Their guidelines have been relayed to the W&M Committee.
 - What will be the guidelines on total allowable capacity in the sanctuary? TBD.
 - In-person worship will begin the weekend of July 4/5th 2020.
 - Restated the need to use all available forms of communication to broadcast information to our members.

New Business

- On May 19, 2020, the Christian Ed and Youth and Family Committee made an e-mail motion:
 - **To accept the recommendations of the Scholarship Review Team and award four, \$2,000 scholarships as designated by the review team. Motion passed.**
 - On May 19, 2020, Mitch Reading called for a council e-mail vote to approve the motion from the Christian Ed and Youth and Family Committee. Motion passed. Also see Dir of Children, Youth and Family Ministry report.
- On June 2, 2020, the Property Committee made an e-mail motion:
 - Property selects Aarons Asbestos & Demolition Services, LLC; 1005 Pontiac Rd, Suite 373, Drexel Hill, PA 19026, to remove the asbestos containing floor tiles in St. John's ground floor Hallway (and all touching hallways), Stairwell, Creation Room/Nursery and Kley Hall at a cost of \$13,316.00. \$8000.00 will be allocated from the Property Budget and the balance taken from a fund TBD by Finance. The work to commence ASAP. Motion passed.
 - On June 3, 2020, Mitch Reading called for a council e-mail vote to approve the motion from the Property Committee. Motion passed. \$5,316 will be taken from the Capital Improvement Fund.
 - June 3, 2020, Aarons was notified to proceed and Phase One of their work will begin June 19, 2020. Phase One will be the hall area from the Narthex Doors to just before the Office door. Phase Two, which is the rest of the work will begin after the completion of Phase One.
- Discussion on live-streaming our worship service when we reopen verses recorded for You-Tube viewing:
 - Live-streaming is new technology for us with a learning curve and estimated expense of \$5,000 - \$6,000.
 - Pastor Krommes would like to see us continue to have an on-line service option:
 - Our on-line services have reconnected members to our worship who could not otherwise attend.
 - We believe we have reached other non-members.
 - Memorial Wreath Funds would be good to use for any new costs incurred.
 - There is a wealth of information through the Synod for on-line services.
 - Council charged the Electronics Committee to review options and make recommendations back to council.

Motion by Mitch Reading, Second by Bobbi Riley to adjourn; Motion passed

The meeting ended at 8:20 pm with Mitch leading the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be July 13, 2020 at 7:00 pm at St. John's in a location TBD.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi Riley

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

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

Zoom meeting. Pastor Krommes offered an opening prayer.

Guest: Rev. Ron Wesemann, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, Chester County Dean, joined us at 7:00 pm for a Pastor Succession Planning / Exit Interview session. See attached for session summary.

The business meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm by Mitch Reading.

Meeting minutes from the June 8, 2020 meeting were reviewed.

Motion by Dick Kunsch, Second by Dale Herbranson to accept the minutes; Motion passed.

Staff Reports

- T. Snyder's Report – accepted as written.
- J. Quinn's Report - accepted as written.
- J. Wentworth's Report – accepted as written.
Discussion: St. John's was awarded an ELCA Disability Grant and suggestions were made to even plus our proposed plans and add to that grant. Jen did a fine job with this process.
- Pastor's Report – accepted as written.
Discussion:
 - Pastor is trying to stay as connected as possibly to our shut-in members, but the current state of the world makes that challenging.
 - Pastor Tom Kochenderfer has offered to continue his role as visitation Pastor should that work for St. John's.
 - Pastor Krommes gave council a copy of the Covenant for Retiring Pastors and Expectations for Retired Pastors. These documents will need to be signed by the Pastor, the Council President and a Dean or Bishop. Pastor Krommes' retirement begins September 1, 2020. Her last work day will be August 16, 2020 and she will then be on vacation until the end of August. She has begun the process of cleaning out her office and transitioning work responsibilities. Due to the pandemic restrictions and difficulties evaluating new churches, Pastor and John will stay on the St. John's role for the time being.
 - **Motion by Pastor Krommes to confirm Evan DesMaris, Jason O'Neill, Luke Olsen and Nathan Stewart on August 9, 2020 at the 10:00 am service and Andrew Blackledge on August 15, 2020 at the 5:00 pm Evening light service. Motion passed.**
 - **Motion by Pastor Krommes to thank Rick Kramer for serving as a confirmation guide for four years and to present him with his own Martin Luther Bobble Head Doll. Motion passed.**

Motion by Dale Herbranson, Second by Dick Kunsch to accept the staff reports; Motion passed.

Finance Committee and Income & Expense Report from the June 29, 2020 meeting.

- The June month end balance includes the federal PPP funds. It was suggested to remove the PPP funds from the Fund 1 report. Otherwise, income vs expenses are near even YTD.
- Finance has adjusted investment options reducing international exposure.
- Jack Ertell will be sending out a letter to all committees to begin the 2020-2021 budget process.

Motion by Dick Kunsch, Second by Donna Searchfield to accept the Finance Committee and Income & Expense Report; Motion passed.

Council reviewed the following Committee Reports:

- Stewardship Committee - No Report
- Electronics Committee - No Report
- Christian Education and Youth and Family Committee - No Report
- Property Committee from July 6, 2020 – accepted as written.
- Worship and Music Committee from July 7, 2020 – accepted as written.
Discussion: In-person attendance the first week was 35, the second week was 45 but there was a baptism with a group of family member guests. In-person worship will constantly be evaluated and modified to comply with current CDC guidelines and PA State mandates. See Old Business discussion for Live Streaming our service.
- Welcome Team Committee - No Report
- Social Ministry Committee - No Report
- Fellowship Committee - No Report but there are plans for a kitchen clean-up in September
- Columbarium Committee - No Report but some recent Niche sales.
- Executive Committee - No Report

Motion by Brian Greenwald, Second by Pam Naylor to accept committee reports; Motion passed.

Old Business

- Live Stream Equipment Purchase: The Electronics Committee presented a concept and equipment proposal, authored by Dale Herbranson, to Live Stream the St. John's worship service. (Full Proposal attached to this month's minutes). We are currently "taping" our worship service on Thursdays and posting to YouTube. The taping process involves 2 hours filming and 10 -14 hours prep and editing. For coronavirus reasons, the team doing this work has been kept to a minimum with the prep and editing done by Dale. A Live Stream of the worship should reduce the overall man hours and involve more people. The proposal includes removing the three rear pews on the outside, pulpit side section to create a sound booth area. (Some Property Committee members have some concern about removing these pews – more discussion at a later date).
 - **Motion by Dick Kunsch, second by Pam Naylor to allow the Electronics Committee to move forward and purchase the necessary equipment, not to exceed \$14,000.00, to set up Live Streaming capabilities.**
Discussion:
 - Would we plan to continue Live Streaming post coronavirus restrictions? *Yes, this would be considered new ministry and outreach.*
 - Who will be involved? *A team of trained volunteers will be needed to run the equipment for set up and during worship.*
 - How will we address "privacy issues" – showing members faces, especially children; or the use of personal names during the service? *We could make the live stream "invitation only"; the version posted to YouTube could be edited to remove privacy content; the YouTube version could be minimized to only include core items, readings, sermon, prayers; we could consult with other sources to see what is done.*
 - For the above reasons; the motion was tabled. All council members are asked to research live streaming and council will reconsider this motion in the near future.
- The Interim Process: The Interim Task Group has received a resume for a possible candidate. Mitch will circulate it to council members for their review.

- Retirement Party for Pastor Krommes: Rivercrest could not say if they would be able to reopen, so the planning committee has moved the August 16th celebration to the St. John's campus. A large tent will be set up. Individual boxed meals will be provided. Seating will be arranged to maintain social distancing. The planning committee will send out a letter with all the new details. It is very important to get all RSVPs in as soon as possible to complete the seating and food requirements. We have been blessed to have Pastor Krommes with us for so many wonderful years and this celebration party will help us all show our appreciation of her loving time and ministry with us.
 - **Motion by Donna Searchfield, second by Stephen Drewes, to move the Retirement Party to the St. John's campus and to allow the Planning Committee to contract with Robert Ryan Caterers and other vendors as necessary to arrange this event. Motion passed.**
- Flooring Update: the Property Committee took advantage of the reduced activities at church to remove approximately 5,000 sf of asbestos containing floor tile in June. The work went extremely smoothly and professionally. The Flooring Task Committee has made new floor product recommendations and the Property Committee is in the process of receiving flooring samples and writing final specifications to bid this work.
- Re-opening: per the Worship and Music Committee report, St. John's held their first post Covid in-person services the weekend of July 4/5th. All committees and staff people involved will continue to monitor best practices to accomplish this new worship format.
 - **E-Mail Motion from the Worship and Music Committee June 15, 2020: Have two in-person worship services at 8:00 am and 10:00 am on August 9 and 16, 2020. Council vote approved this motion. (E-mail record attached)**

New Business

- **Per an outreach request from the SEPA Synod Bishop, and with the support of Pastor Krommes, Stephen Drewes made a motion, second by Donna Searchfield, to donate \$1,000.00 to help with the medical expenses of the Rev. Dr. Stephen Munga, Bishop of the North Eastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzanian. Motion passed.**

Motion by Dick Kunsch, Second by Bobbi Riley to adjourn; Motion passed.

The meeting ended at 9:00 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi Riley
Council Secretary

Join the Stream Team!

Are you interested in becoming part of a team to livestream St. John's worship services? We are in the process of obtaining equipment to begin livestreaming our worship service. A "Streaming Team" will be needed to set up the livestream and manage the production booth. We would need a few volunteers to ensure coverage every week. Training will be provided! Please contact Dale Herbranson at dale.herbranson@outlook.com as soon as possible if you are interested.





Dear St. John's congregation:

Thank you so much for awarding me one of the St. John's scholarships this year. When I received the letter telling me I was selected, I couldn't help but be reminded of my Sunday School and Confirmation classes and the practice of sharing our weekly "highs and lows." Being part of the class of 2020 during a pandemic obviously had its share of "lows," but there have been several "highs," with being a scholarship recipient as one of them. Another "high" is that I will be able to attend the college of William and Mary in person starting in August.

Thank you again,
Olesya Sitkowski

Dear Pastor Cynthia and Friends at St. John's:

Thank you for walking alongside Namnyaki Samson on her educational journey. Namnyaki is entering Form 6 in the next academic year. As you know by now, the challenges of a girl getting an education in Maasailand are much different than in the USA. This makes your support even more meaningful. Your personal, spiritual, and financial support is crucial to her as she works to achieve her academic dreams.

Most sincerely,
Jason Bergman
Executive Director
Operation Bootstrap Africa

Dear Pastor Cynthia:

Thank you for your part in God's work to "make a way" where there seems to be no way (see Isaiah 43:16-19)! Daily in each of the 13 countries where we partner, people die from what you and I might consider very treatable issues. But your support of GHM is helping to change that. Together we are helping our partners spread hope and healing where there often seems to be no way. Thank you for your generous gift of \$3,300 and partnership in ministry. Many people in Tanzania give thanks to God today for your partnership.

Together in hope,
Pastor Doug Cox
Global Health Ministries Executive Director

Dear Pastor Krommes and members of St. John's:

Thanks to your very generous donation, we can continue our ministry to the food insecure in Philadelphia during the pandemic. Your check of \$500 could not have come at a more opportune time. We are facing the increased cost of plastic containers, bottled drinks and pre-packaged sides and desserts for to-go meals. We are drawing strength knowing people support us despite personal financial hardship and uncertainty. It is truly a blessing to have your support. May God continue to bless and keep you safe and healthy.

Gratefully,
Nell McCaslin
President, Feast Incarnate

Dear Friends:

Thank you so much for the delicious dinners you provide. God bless you for your kindness.

Gratefully,
Sr. Bernadette Dougherty SSJ, Director
Staff and Guests of St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter

JACOBSON NEWSLETTER

June 2020

COVID UPDATE

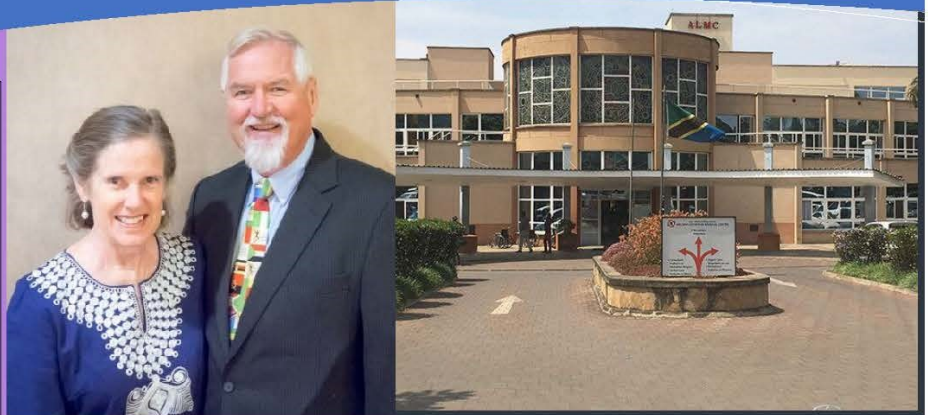
Tanzania hasn't issued a summary of their Covid 19 cases for almost two months. Two weeks ago, the President announced that God has cured Covid in Tanzania and we are free to return to normal. The borders have been opened and schools are open again.

Yet in the background, the hospitals are caring daily for Covid patients and neighbors know who is sick at home and who has died at home. But without statistics, no one is able to get a handle on what is really happening with the pandemic in Tanzania.

Covid seems not to have had as horrific an impact on morbidity and mortality as anticipated. Perhaps because of the young average age of the population with 50% of the population being age 15 or below.

Whatever understanding is eventually learned about Covid in Tanzania, it is already abundantly clear that the greater impact of Covid has been upon the economy. The tourist industry has collapsed and brought about great unemployment. The lost revenues in many industries are bound to lead to struggles with famine, less access to health care, and difficulty for students to remain in schools.

USAID has predicted that the after effects of Covid may do away with decades of development across the African continent. Our challenge is no longer an epidemic but rather a doubling down for development.



Sent to Repent, Repay, and Reconcile

Well before the murder of George Floyd in my own back yard, I had been asked to share the meditation at the ELCA Chicago offices Wednesday morning chapel service where the Gospel was the Great Commission. Seven days after his death and in the midst of an ongoing eruption of outrage and rage over never ending injustice, the service was going to happen. Wouldn't it be better to have a person of color speak rather than a person of white male privilege? No such reprieve and so I stumbled forward.

Still sensing that even now, or especially now, we who strive to follow Jesus are a sent people. "Go" is the command and so we are sent. I am feeling the struggle of being sent:

- To repent and acknowledge my complicity and privilege
- To seek to restore through reparations
- To reconcile or re-create

Reconciliation, or re-creation are a metamorphosis to a new reality – a new creation. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here." 2 Cor 5:17 Yet reconciliation is costly and hard and creative.

Amongst the Maasai people, who have been my teachers now for many years in Tanzania, we learn of both the cost of reconciliation and the power to create a new reality.

One of the most serious offenses among the community is to kill, to murder. And murder can lead quickly to outrage, vengeance, and further violence. When this occurs, the perpetrator, admitting his guilt retreats to the home of his mother, where he literally, lays down under her bed of protection. The murderer has thus confessed and admitted his sin and as he is in community, the community seeks a way to reconciliation.

NEW SCHOOL OF NURSING CAMPUS OPENS

School Closures for Covid provided an opportunity for the SON to complete preparations for the move into our new campus at Ekenywa. We celebrated and welcomed the students into our new and renovated facility on June 1st. This long time dream has become a reality thanks to so many of you who have been absolutely incredibly generous and supportive.



The elders gather to seek reconciliation. First a negotiation on reparations. How many cattle, the most precious of Maasai possessions, indeed their very lifeblood, how many cattle will be paid in reparation. The cost of reconciliation is great and many cattle are required. When agreed upon, a ceremony of reconciliation is called by the healer-priest, the *loiboni*.

Both families gather together in a great circle. Into the center, two nursing mothers come, one from each family. They exchange their infants and nurse the other's child. The cost of reconciliation is great.

Then two of the senior elders, the male leaders come to the center of the circle where each, with a slight slice from their elongated knife, draw blood from the wrist of the other and intermingle it with their own. The cost of reconciliation is great.

Then a blessing is pronounced by the *loiboni*, spoken and with the sprinkling of milk in a baptismal like ritual, which calls upon God to bless this reconciliation. It is holy work.

As the ritual ends, the *loiboni* announces the miracle of reconciliation, the hope of a new creation. For now, the two warring families are transformed into a new, larger, single family. It is a symbolic and literal creation of a new family. Even to the extent that intermarriage between them is now forbidden. "The old has gone, the new is here."

The cost of reconciliation is great. Not to reconcile leads unto death. The hope of reconciliation is even greater. In Christ, "The old will go, the new will come."

Therefore my friends, let us Go! We are sent. Remembering always Christ's promise to us, "I am with you always, even until the end of the age."

Blessings all,

Mark and Linda



People of God Involved in God's Work

September Sunday Staffing

Altar Guild

- 6 Nancy Cressman & Janet Ertell
- 13 Donna Anderson & Jean Herbranson
- 20 Barbara Eng & Jean Herbranson
- 27 Betty Hans & Jean Herbranson

Assisting Ministers

- 6 Nancy Cressman
- 13 Teresa Olsen
- 20 Ron Stevens
- 27 Brittney Walters

Communion Assistants/Lectors

- 6 Teresa & Luke Olsen
- 13 Erica Lucas
- 20 Lynn Titus
- 27 Nancy Cressman

Counters

- 6 Stephen & Jennifer Drewes, Donna Anderson, Peg Yanoviak
- 13 Heather Yonosh, Donna Searchfield, Jeanne Schanzenbach
- 20 Mary Heiser, Mike & Cathy Kahl
- 27 Jack Ertell, Lilly Khan & Imtiaz Khan Lawrence

Ushers

- 6 Dale Herbranson & Donna Anderson
- 13 Cathy Garrett & Donna Anderson
- 20 Mark Wallace & Barry Church
- 27 Tom Snyder & Luanne Bindschusz

Summary Financial Report as of July 31, 2020

	Monthly		Year-to-Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income:				
Envelope Giving	\$ 32,223	\$ 20,048	\$ 225,566	\$ 196,444
Other Income	3,987	2,087	27,907	34,277
Total Income	\$ 36,210	\$ 22,135	\$ 253,473	\$ 230,721
Expenses	\$ 37,235	\$ 29,879	\$ 260,647	\$ 232,651
Income (Deficit)	\$ (1,025)	\$ (7,744)	\$ (7,174)	\$ (1,931)

Note: This report does not include the funds from the Paycheck Protection Loan received in Ma

Come before the Lord
 With singing and dancing
 Come one come all for from
 None do I withhold my love
 Listen I call all people
 Of the earth, dwell in peace
 Raise voices sing dance in
 Joyful adoration
 Let all the earth come before me in
 Thanksgiving

Margaret Walker

Protect Yourself from COVID-19



Wear a mask whenever you leave home



Continue to keep your physical distance



Wash hands often, for 20 seconds each time



Frequently wipe down high-touch surfaces



Remember: All activities out of the home carry some risk



Avoid hanging out in large groups

Peace begins with children
 'Til children understand peace
 Peace cannot create itself
 Peace builds as a child brings
 Forth peace
 'Til children are taught peace
 There is none
 As the sun must rise to shed
 Light so peace arises from
 Children's love

Margaret Walker

I am lonely
 I am silent
 No songs in praise
 My heartfelt prayers
 All is quiet
 Voice of a child
 Voice of elders
 All is silent
 Thoughts of St. John's

Margaret Walker





League of Women Voters of Chester County
 PO Box 62, Exton, PA 19341 610-644-5960
www.lwvccpa.org

VOTING INFORMATION FOR PA VOTERS

Go to www.votespa.com

(This site has translate button top right corner)

- REGISTER TO VOTE AND/OR MAKE ANY CHANGES
 - CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION
 - FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE
 - MAIL-IN BALLOT APPLICATION
 - TRACK STATUS OF MAIL-IN BALLOT
 - ACCESS MORE VOTING INFORMATION



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 PO Box 62, Exton, PA 19341 610-644-5960
www.lwvccpa.org

Personalized Voting Information

www.vote411.org

Chester County Voter Services

www.chesco.org/election

610-344-6410

Find My PA Legislator

www.legis.state.pa.us

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE. MAKE IT COUNT !

Live Generously

The mission and ministry of St. John's was greatly enhanced through Thrivent Action Teams Grants in 2019. Thrivent members who are also members of St. John's applied for and received 20 grants for a total of \$5,000! If you are a member of Thrivent, you are eligible to apply for two Action Team Grants each year. Please contact your Thrivent representative if you would like to apply for an Action Team Grant in the coming year. You can learn more about Thrivent at www.thrivent.com.



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.

Amazon Smile

Did you know that Amazon will donate to St. John's on your behalf? Simply log-in to Amazon using <https://smile.amazon.com> and choose St. John's from the list of charities you support (make sure you choose St. Johns (no apostrophe) Lutheran Church in Phoenixville). Amazon will send 0.5% of your purchase to St. John's every time you shop eligible items!

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9am Holy Communion	31 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Finance Committee	1 10:15am Staff 7:30pm Worship & Music	2 3pm Social Ministry 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study 7pm Christian Education	3 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 7pm Naranon	4	5 5pm Evening Light
6 9am Holy Communion	7 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Property 7pm Stephen Ministry	8	9 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study	10 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Handbells	11	12 5pm Evening Light
13 Rally Day 9am Christian Education- 10:15am Holy Communion	14 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Church Council	15	16 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study	17 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 7pm Naranon 8:15pm Naranon Support	18 Circle deadline St. Peter's lunch	19 5pm Evening Light
20 9am Christian Education 9am Electronics 10:15am Holy Communion	21 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Stephen Ministry 7pm Welcoming Team	22 5:30pm Stewardship	23 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study	24 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 7pm Naranon	25	26 5pm Evening Light
27 9am Christian Education-Sunday school backpack stuffing 10:15am Holy Communion	28 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Finance Committee	29	30 7pm Alanon 7pm Bible Study	1 5:30pm Women's AA/Alanon 7pm Naranon	2	3 5pm Evening Light

September 2020 Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Cindy Schubert's birthday	31 Aditya Verma and Elizabeth Granacher's anniversary Hayley Riley's birthday Kent Brown's birthday Laura Caughlan's birthday Matthew and Courtney Quaglia's anniversary Tim and Beth Leong's anniversary	1 John and Pam Westerman's anniversary	2 Jack Ertell's birthday	3 Justin Caple's birthday	4 Barry Church's birthday Donald and Harriet Carr's anniversary Elizabeth Sitkowski's birthday Leslie Kern's birthday	5 Cole O'Neill's birthday Jay Ritchie and Heather Bourdeau's anniversary
6 Barbara Place's birthday Margaux VanDerveer's birthday Ryan Hadfield's birthday Travis Andrews and Alison Thomas's anniversary	7 Chuck and April Liedike's anniversary	8 Lori Jones's birthday	9 Robb and Joan Cadigan's anniversary Ryan DesMarais's birthday	10 Bobbi Riley's birthday Claire Gallagher's birthday Lindsey Snyder's birthday	11 Danielle Blackledge's birthday Janet Sifford's birthday Katelyn Blattner's birthday Kyle and Joanna Oszyeczik's anniversary Mark Rutherford's birthday Tyler Pekofsky's birthday	12 Kevin Rambo's birthday Robb and Lisa Frees's anniversary Robert and Dodi Strunk's anniversary Violet Liedike's birthday
13 Addi Smith's birthday	14 Andrew Carr's birthday Scott and Laura Geiger's anniversary	15 Byron and Marlene Seyler's anniversary Eric Heinbaugh and Liz Cady's anniversary	16 Amy Fox's birthday Avary Carr's birthday Wyatt Barker's birthday	17 Michelle Friday's birthday Peyton DeWolf's birthday	18 Chuck and Danielle Blackledge's anniversary Marybeth Salamone's birthday Michelle Bader's birthday	19 Reese Thompson's birthday
20 Chris and Melissa Perrotto's anniversary	21 Barbara Rambo's birthday Evelyn Liedike's birthday John Mangialardi and Lisa Wimble's anniversary	22 Janet Gerner's birthday Myron Cratty's birthday	23 Giovanna Brown's birthday Sarah Blattner's birthday	24 Henry Duerr's birthday Robb Cadigan's birthday	25 Courtney Quaglia's birthday P.J. Gadzicki's birthday Sandi Stotler's birthday	26 Charles and Heather Thompson's anniversary Chloe Fox's birthday Donald Bechtel's birthday Jennifer Brown's birthday Mitch Reading's birthday
27 Brett Emery's birthday Sophia Seidel's birthday	28 Heather Yonosh's birthday Nicholas VanDerveer's birthday Peter and Diane Sitkowski's anniversary	29 Allyssa Andrews's birthday Courtney Morgan's birthday Julie Andrews's birthday Kent and Jennifer Brown's anniversary Megan Tribuno's birthday	30 Brian and Amy Becker's anniversary	1	2 Isaac Henderson's birthday Jim Taylor's birthday	3

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

Interim Lead Pastor:
 The Rev. Wayne R. Shelor
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

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 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:
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 Bobbi Riley, Council Rep.

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 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



Changes in Contact Information

Kimberly Rutherford
 120 Valley View Circle
 Phoenixville, PA 19460

Joan Wilson
 245 S. Cedar Street, Apt. L248
 Spring City, PA 19475

Pastoral Acts

Wedding
 Eric David Kramer
 Mindy Ina Goldberg
 June 20, 2020

Funerals
 James Albert Miller
 July 10, 2020

Ulrich Rimrott
 August 3, 2020

Heide Diefenderfer
 August 3, 2020

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



2020

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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

