

# The Circle

December 2023



Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope that your Thanksgiving celebrations were joyful. I enjoyed the chance to be a part of the Phoenixville Area Clergy Association's interfaith Thanksgiving service, but I'm very excited that Advent is beginning! The season of Advent is about a lot of different things. It's a season of new beginnings in the Church year, and of course part of Advent is about preparing for our celebration of Christmas at the end of December. Advent isn't just about preparing for Christmas, though that is part of it. Advent is about celebrating God coming to be with us; God does that in what one of my teachers once described as "in history, in mystery, and in majesty." I'm going to unpack that a bit, but I'm going to do it a little bit out of order.

The first way we celebrate God coming to us is in history. Roughly 2027 years ago, God did a wonderful and miraculous thing. In that time, Jesus entered the world. The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. As we prepare for Christmas, and as we hear those stories each week in Advent of John the Baptist and of Mary, our Advent worship recalls that wait for Jesus' coming to us in history.

But we know that it's not just about that one event, two millennia ago. Jesus will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. Advent is about preparing for Christ's return just as much as it's about preparing to celebrate when he dwelt among us. The second readings in our worship services this Advent bring a particular focus on the second coming, and are about looking forward to that great and glorious day.

And, as a sidebar, the readings for these last three Sundays in Ordinary Time that we've just finished also look ahead to the Day of the Lord, to Jesus' predictions of what the coming of the kingdom of God will be like. There's a movement in some churches to extend Advent into those three weeks, to help emphasize the Advent themes of the day of Christ's return, and to give Advent more time to sit with them before the focus shifts to the coming in history. I first heard of the extended Advent idea when I was in seminary, and I've become more intrigued by that idea with each passing year; maybe in the future we'll explore a longer Advent season here at St. John's.

Regardless of whether we celebrate Advent for four weeks or seven, our celebrations of Christ coming to be with us are wrapped up in some of the greatest, most beautiful mysteries that God has shown to us: Christ's presence coming to us in the Sacraments. A splash of water, a bite of bread and sip of wine—those things don't seem like they could be ways that God could come to us.

But they are. We know that because God has promised it.

That splash of water, combined with God's Word, becomes not just water, but Holy Baptism, washing away sins, immersing the baptized person in Jesus' death and resurrection, bringing them out of death and into life with God. That bread and wine, combined with God's Word, becomes not just bread and wine, but Holy Communion: Jesus' body and blood, given for us for the forgiveness of sins. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God comes to meet us, not just as a baby born two millennia ago, not just as the conquering Lamb of Revelation, but God comes to meet us, in our everyday lives, at the font and on the altar. One of the things that I'm most excited about this Advent is the chance to celebrate those mysteries; in addition to our normal celebrations of Holy Communion, we're also going to be celebrating two different Holy Baptisms.

Of course, all of our preparation, all of our waiting and celebration, all culminates in Christmas, when we joyfully remember God's coming in history, when we celebrate the mystery of Christ's presence in our lives, and as we look ahead to that time when Christ will come in majesty. As we prepare at St. John's Lutheran Church for Christ's coming among us, in history, in mystery, and in majesty, may your Advent celebrations be filled with hope and touched by God's love, and may your Christmas celebrations reflect the joy of Christ's presence.

In Christ,

Pastor Russ

*table of contents on inside front cover of this newsletter*



**“DAZZLING” PHILADELPHIA HANDBELL ENSEMBLE  
TO PERFORM AT ST. JOHN’S**

St. John’s again invites listeners to experience music of the holiday season with the exceptional Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble, 4 p.m., Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The program, entitled “Jingle Bells,” will be directed by Ron Bellamy and features sacred and secular handbell arrangements for the holiday season. The concert will send you into the night with the warmth of delightful music.

PHE is a community ensemble comprised of auditioned, advanced-level handbell ringers from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. Musically, PHE’s repertoire spans original compositions, transcriptions of classical literature, and arrangements from a wide array of musical genres.

The Ensemble currently plays on six and one-half octaves of Schulmerich bells. In addition, PHE plays two octaves of Schulmerich Silver Melody Bells, five octaves of MelodyChime® chimes, and the lower sixth and seven octaves of Malmark Choirchime® chimes. A large number of percussion instruments round out the Ensemble’s artistic presentation.

An advanced range of ringing techniques allows the Ensemble to move beyond the traditional handbell sound and redefines the character of a single instrument, whether it’s through percussive stopped sounds or poignant echoes or a shimmering decrescendo. Unlike an orchestra or choir in which each musician is responsible for one line of the texture, a handbell ensemble acts as one instrument, with each musician responsible for particular notes as they appear in the music.

There is no admission charge; however, a freewill offering will be received.



**Christmas Card Exchange**

Save postage and bring your cards for St. John’s members to the Christmas Card Box in the Narthex, beginning in December. Postmistress June Henzie will sort and have them ready to be picked up each week.

**Food Drive  
Coordinator Needed**

Are you interested in helping those in need in the

Phoenixville community? Social Ministry is looking for someone or a team to coordinate food drives for PACS six times a year (February, April, June, October and December). PACS will come to church to pick up the food donations as part of their “A Simple Gesture” program. All you need to do is spearhead church communications, coordinate with Molly for involvement with Sunday School and coordinate pick up with PACS. Please let Sonya know if you are interested or have any questions.





### Angel Tree

The Social Ministry Committee and WELCA will be raising funds through the Angel Tree during Advent. This fund is used to provide scholarships for Maasae girls in Tanzania for a secondary school education. Each year we support five girls at a cost of \$1,100 for each girl. Without scholarship support, these teenage girls would likely be forced into marriages with no hope of continuing their education, nor of reaching their dreams of a career. Look for the tree table in the narthex during Advent with ornaments and gift items made by members of the congregation. Please select your items and place a generous donation in the box on the table. Many thanks to the Schumacher and Durlinger families for taking the lead on this year's fundraising.

### Advent Offering

The Social Ministry Committee has designated the 2023 Advent offering to Lutheran World Relief, designating that our funds be directed toward the recovery efforts in Maui following the devastating fires in August of this year. So many of the survivors lost everything and the need is great. Please be generous with your Advent offering.

### St. Peter's Advent Dinner Church—begins November 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.

St. Peter's Chester Springs invites you to join them for Advent Dinner Church on Wednesdays beginning November 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Week One is "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" about John the Baptist.

### SAVE THE DATE - Women's Retreat

**April 6, 2024. Watch for more details to follow.**

Many many thanks for all of the support with the WELCA efforts to collect funds to purchase a commercial refrigerator for our kitchen. Many hands, individuals, and committees from our St. John's family embraced the challenge to raise \$5,000. AND WE DID IT! You are awesome.

Items were collected for inclusion in gift bags for our shut-ins. Along with the congregation, the Klotzbach funeral home donated items. We appreciate the continuing support. Cookies were again purchased from Foresta's. Pastor Russ and Pastor K will deliver the bags when they visit in December.

Items for the children at Silver Springs Martin Luther School are again being collected, and will be delivered the first week of December. There will be a box in the narthex. Items requested include: playing cards, card games, Rubik's cubes, gel pens, puzzles, crayons, markers, colored pencils, coloring books, hair brushes, combs, nail polish, hot wheels, gloves (all sizes), socks (youth and adult sizes), books for children and teens, footballs, and basketballs.

The giving hearts of everyone are truly appreciated. You continue to exemplify the love of God whenever you support these WELCA projects.

WELCA is once again raising funds via Rada Cutlery, which sells kitchen knives and tools, cookbooks, various soups and dips. Joan Wilson is the WELCA member handling the fundraising effort. There is a Rada catalog with order forms in the narthex. Order forms and checks payable to "WELCA" should be given to Joan Wilson at church or put them in the WELCA mailbox in Kley Hall. Joan can be reached at (484) 437-4550. **Christmas orders must be submitted by December 1st.** Thank you for your support.





## Poinsettias

Beautiful red poinsettias will once again surround our altar for Christmas. You may sponsor one (or more) 6" pots with 4-7 blooms for \$10. Please sign the chart in the hallway or send the information to Sonya. Please indicate your name(s), dedications In Memory Of, In Honor Of, or To the Glory of God, and include payment no later than December 18th. Poinsettias may be taken home following the late service on Christmas Eve or the following week.

### Christmas Decorating (Part One)—December 17<sup>th</sup>

Part one of "Hanging the Greens" will be on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m., following the worship service. Because of the timing of Advent 4 and Christmas Eve, we will split the decorating into two parts. The plan is to put up the iron candleholders with globes and candles, hang garland on the balcony, put together the 'Silent Night' candles & candleholders, and put out the January-March prayer booklets in the pews. Power screwdrivers would be helpful.

### Christmas Decorating (Part Two)—December 24<sup>th</sup>

Part two of "Hanging the Greens" will take place after the morning worship service on December 24<sup>th</sup>. Plans are to take down the Advent wreath, put up a Christmas tree with lights, change the parments, take down Advent banners, put up Star banner, add new bows & ribbons to the iron candleholders, put up the plant steps & cover with material before arranging the poinsettias. Lots of volunteers would be very much appreciated!

### Undecorating on January 7<sup>th</sup>

What goes up must come down! Join us to "unhang" the greens after the morning worship on January 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. We will take down all Christmas decor, sweep up, and prepare the Sanctuary for the season of Epiphany.



### Christmas Eve at St. John's

- 4 p.m. Children's Service
- 6:30 p.m. Music
- 7 p.m. Candlelight Service w/choir
- 9:30 p.m. Music
- 10 p.m. Candlelight Service w/string quartet

### Live Generously

If you are a member of Thrivent, you are eligible to apply for two Action Team Grants each year to benefit your church. 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](http://www.thrivent.com).

### Give to St. John's Via App

Vanco, our eGiving provider, has launched an updated mobile app called Vanco Mobile (to replace GivePlus Mobile, which has been retired as of September 30<sup>th</sup>). You can download the Vanco Mobile app for free from the App Store or Google Play. From there, you can make a one-time donation or set up recurring giving right through the app. Just select your fund and amount, enter a payment method and complete the donation. If you have questions or need assistance, email Dale Herbranson at [dale.herbranson@outlook.com](mailto:dale.herbranson@outlook.com).

# Christmas Greetings





All are invited to join St. John's for

# FIRST FRIDAYS: HOLIDAY EDITION

in downtown Phoenixville!

**DEC 1ST**  
**5:30 PM**

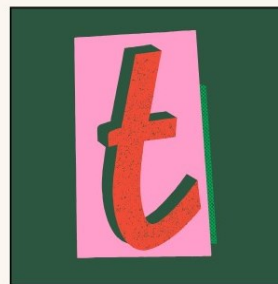
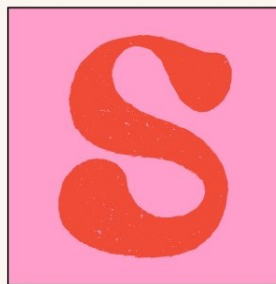
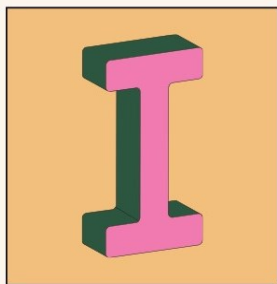
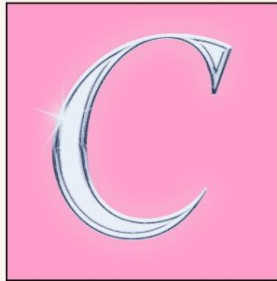
Meet in the Main &  
Bridge Lot

**AFTERWARDS, JOIN US AT**

**REC ROOM**  
BY CONSHOCKEN BREWING CO.



Middle and High School



**PARTY**



Tuesday, Dec 19th | 6:30 pm

**BRING YOUR FRIENDS!**



## The Nutcracker—December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1 & 5 p.m.

Give the warm gift of a family theatrical experience this holiday season with America's treasured Christmas classic, the 52<sup>nd</sup> edition of *The Nutcracker*, presented by The Schuylkill Valley Regional Dance Company!

Featuring over 60 dancers and professional guest artists, Clara and her heroic friend the Nutcracker await to take you on this magical adventure to the enchanted Land of Sweets meeting the Sugar Plum Fairy and dazzling dancers from around the world.

Time: Friday December 8<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. and Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup> @ 1 p.m. & 5 p.m.

Venue: Phoenixville Middle School Theatre at 1000 Purple Pride Parkway, Phoenixville

Price: \$22 for adults; \$17 for children under 12

For information and online ticket purchases visit SVRDC.org: <https://www.svrdc.org/>



## Christmas Pageant

### Christmas Pageant—December 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:15 a.m.

During the sermon time on December 17<sup>th</sup>, there will be a special presentation from the Sunday School classes of the Advent-Christmas story. This is a great time to celebrate and reflect as we approach the holidays, and we would love to see the pews filled for the occasion! If your child is in the program and you would like more information, please reach out to Molly at [mollyo@stjohnphoenixville.org](mailto:mollyo@stjohnphoenixville.org).

### Sunday School Spirit Day and PACS Collection December 10<sup>th</sup>

St. John's CYFM is hosting monthly spirit days for Sunday school. During these days, students are invited to wear a themed outfit to church.

December 10<sup>th</sup> is "wear a Christmas sweater day"! We will also be doing a special collection of non-perishable food and hygiene items for Phoenixville Area Community Services these days for the offering. Refer to PACS' hot list for guidance on what to bring.



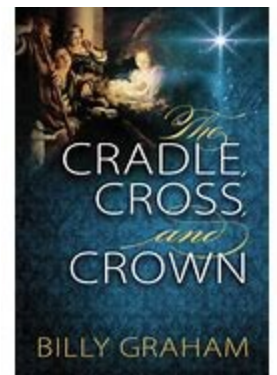
### Calling All Teachers

As our Sunday school attendance steadily continues to increase, we need more teacher support during the weekly faith formation hour. We are currently looking for volunteers to help teach 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Materials are provided and require little to no preparation. Can't commit to a weekly gig? We still welcome all volunteers who can only jump in on occasion. The only requirement is that you can obtain state clearances, which are free and easy to complete. Interested? Email Molly at [mollyo@stjohnphoenixville.org](mailto:mollyo@stjohnphoenixville.org).



### Advent Adult Bible Study

The current adult bible study will be put on hold until January in order to explore Advent scriptures. We will be using *Why the Nativity?* by David Jeremiah and *The Cradle, Cross, and Crown* by Billy Graham. All materials will be provided.



## People of God Involved in God's Work

### December Worship Staff

#### Acolyte

- 3 Henry Duerr
- 10 Grace Themens
- 17 Lucas Becker
- 24 10:15a TBD; 4p Adeline McCabe;  
7p Peyton DeWolf, Katelyn Blattner,  
Charlotte Reading & TBD;  
10p Emerson Carr, TBD, TBD &  
TBD
- 31 TBD

#### Altar Guild

- 3 Nancy Cressman & Betty Hans
- 10 Donna Anderson & Cathy Garrett
- 17 Jean Herbranson
- 24 Betty Hans & Jean Herbranson
- 31 Jean Herbranson

#### Assisting Minister

- 3 Nancy Cressman
- 10 Tom Snyder
- 17 Bill Starling
- 24 10:15a Heather Yonosh, 7p TBD,  
10p Ron Stevens
- 31 Ron Stevens

#### Communion Assistant/Lector

- 3 Lynn Titus
- 10 Bill Starling
- 17 Mimi Woods
- 24 10:15a Walt Deichmann 7p Mitch  
Reading 10p TBD
- 31 TBD

#### Counters

- 3 Heather Yonosh, Donna Anderson &  
Lilly Khan
- 10 Jeanne Schanzenbach
- 17 Mary Heiser, Mike & Cathy Kahl
- 24 Stephen & Jen Drewes
- 31 Kevin Gallagher & Don Bechtel

#### Evening Light Assistant

- 2 Rich Latella
- 9 Shirley Platzler
- 16 Sandy Momyer
- 23 TBD
- 30 TBD

#### Fellowship Time Host

- 10 Social Ministry Committee

#### Lock-Up

- 3 Elisa Khan
- 10 Jeanne Schanzenbach
- 17 Kelly Gallagher
- 24 7p Mitch Reading, 10p Dale Herbranson
- 31 Aimee Hillegas

#### Stream Team

- 3 Dale Herbranson, Paul Miller
- 10 Aimee Hillegas, Paul Miller
- 17 Josh Romano, Paul Miller
- 24 10:15a Dale Herbranson, Paul Miller;  
7p Dale Herbranson, TBD
- 31 Aimee Hillegas & Paul Miller

#### Ushers

- 3 Don Titus & Barry Church
- 10 Dick Kunsch & Sue Starling
- 17 Mike & Cathy Kahl
- 24 10:15a Diane Blattner & Donna Anderson;  
4p TBD; 7p Don & Lynn Titus; 10p TBD
- 31 Nancy Cressman & Cathy Garrett

### Guidelines for Submission of Articles for St. John's Communications

Submissions to the Parish Administrator for insertion in St. John's communications may include worship, faith formation, social justice, music and community events, and any items directly related to St. John's mission of "Living, growing & sharing in God's love through Jesus Christ." Submissions received by Monday at 11:00 a.m. will be included in the following Sunday's bulletin. Later submissions will appear in the following week's bulletin. All submissions are also included in all other applicable forms of communication (email, social media, website, slides, etc.) as soon as possible after receipt.

Submissions for *The Circle* newsletter are due on the 18<sup>th</sup> of every month (except July). Submissions received after this deadline may appear in other applicable St. John's communications and in the following month's newsletter.

When submitting articles, please include complete information such as date, time, location, and how to sign up for events (including links and QR codes to forms). Images are welcome but should be photos taken around St. John's or posters created by the submitter—not stock images or any images downloaded from the Internet which St. John's is not licensed to use.

If you have any questions about St. John's communications, contact our administrator, Sonya Sowards, at [office@stjohnphoenixville.org](mailto:office@stjohnphoenixville.org) or (610) 933-3947 ext. 2.





**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.

There are so many ways to use the gifts God has given you at St. John's! We always need:

- Communion bread bakers
- ushers
- communion assistants/lectors
- assisting ministers
- live stream staff ("Stream Team")
- Committee members
- Teachers
- choir members
- drivers to bring shut-ins to worship
- Stephen Ministers

Please let Sonya Sowards know how you would like to use your time and talent at St. John's, and she will put you in touch with the appropriate leader. Ministry group leader names and committees can also be found on the last page of this newsletter.



Would you like to be Stephen Leader? Stephen Ministries offers Bridge Leaders Training Courses (BLTC) to fully

equip laypeople to serve as Stephen Leaders. The BLTC provides Stephen Leaders with the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to successfully implement the Stephen Ministry System. BLTC is a live, interactive training experience that fully equips and inspires participants to serve as Stephen Leaders. The BLTC is now delivered over Zoom to cohorts of 20 people from across the United States, Canada and around the world. It consists of 10 sessions of 2 1/2 hours each, held twice weekly over five weeks or once weekly over ten weeks. Options include morning, afternoon, or evening cohorts. In order to grow our leadership team, we are hoping to train several additional people. Please prayerfully consider participating in a Bridge Leaders Training Course. For further information contact Linda Landis.

### 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.

### Save Your Cans

The St. John's youth are collecting aluminum beverage cans as a fundraiser to help with the costs of mission trips. Please bag your cans and drop them off in Kley Hall. Thank you!!



### Sponsor Flowers, Bulletins & Vigil Candle

Members and friends are invited to sponsor the **vigil candle** in memory of or in honor of loved ones. The cost is \$12 per month. You are also invited to offset the cost of the **weekly bulletins**. That cost is \$20 per week. Our florist supplies **flowers** (visible on our live-stream as well as in-person services) at \$25 per vase for a total of \$50 for two. Contact Sonya Sowards for available months and dates and to specify the occasion, or you can use the sign-up sheets on the hallway bulletin board. Thank you!

### Summary Financial Report as of October 31, 2023

	Monthly		Year-to-Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income:				
Envelope Giving	\$ 28,182	\$ 27,323	\$ 281,820	\$ 259,493
Other Income	5,675	4,515	56,750	52,701
	\$ 33,857	\$ 31,838	\$ 338,570	\$ 312,194
Expenses	\$ 35,427	\$ 39,837	\$ 354,268	\$ 312,878
Income (Deficit)	\$ (1,570)	\$ (7,999)	\$ (15,698)	\$ (684)



**St. John's Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
October 9, 2023**

Attendees:							
Dick Kunsch	P	Mitch Reading	P	Dale Herbranson	P	Stephen Drewes	P
Kelly Gallagher	P	Janet Gerner	A	Sue Starling	A	Sandra Zimmermann	P
Aimee Hillegas	P	Elisa Kahn	A	Jeanne Schanzenbach	P	Mike Kahl	P
Pastor Crouthamel	P						
Guests:							
Sonya Sowards	P	Tom Snyder	P	Molly Oladunjoye	P		

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Aimee; Mike led with an opening prayer.

Prior Meeting Minutes

**Motion by Mitch, Second by Dick to accept the minutes as presented, updated to show Jeanne Schanzenbach as present; motion passed.**

Staff Reports

**Motion by Dale, Second by Kelly to accept the Sept Staff Reports; motion passed.**

Committee Reports

Council reviewed the following Committee Reports:

- Finance Committee from 9/25/2023 and Finance Report through 9/30/23
  - Motion to accept the Finance Report – Dick and Dale, all in favor.
- Electronics Committee – from 9-17-23
- Faith Formation – from 9-12-23 and 10-3-23
- Property Committee – no report, but noted the water heater is in, and ongoing with HVAC may be an issue connecting in to Kley Hall.... Working on solution with Elliot Lewis the HVAC subcontractor.
- Worship and Music Committee from 10-3-23
- Social Ministry Committee from 10-4-23
- Fellowship Committee –
- Columbarium Committee –
- Executive Committee – met 9/25/23. Staff reviews being coordinated with help from Nancy Cressman and Rich Latella
- Stewardship Committee –
- Welcome Team Committee – no report, but the Kahls requesting times to go on banner for printing/purchasing. Christmas will be the same, Easter TBD.

**Motion by Stephen D, Second by Kelly to accept committee reports; motion passed.**

Old Business

- Lock up sign up
- Crock Pot event – Sun Oct 15<sup>th</sup>
- Trunk or Treat + Peter Conte concert Oct 29<sup>th</sup>
- Coffee hour host – set through Feb '24.
- Kitchen Renovation Funding – forming kitchen task force (Stephen Drewes in lead) to fall under stewardship.
- Stewardship Committee revamp -

- Church Collaboration Committee – met September 28th at St. Johns. Pr. Russ will both joined the meeting. Further emphasis on the area Lutheran churches cross inviting each other to our events... strength in numbers. Desire for more youth programming.

New Business

- Site Safety: Dale shared a list of 'best practices' for preparedness from Brotherhood Mutual. Shall we form a Site Safety plan? Tom Snyder will make request to Valley Forge Fire Company through Jim Taylor (to Evan Taylor the fire chief) for help in assembling building evacuation plans.
- 

Aimee adjourned the meeting at 7:40p; meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer. Next regularly scheduled meeting will be November 13, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitch Reading

Secretary substitute

## December 2023 Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Olivia Schumacher's birthday	27	28	29	30 Gabriella Geiger's birthday Gary Carl's birthday Mary Miller's birthday Nancy Renninger's birthday	1 Bill Ahola's birthday	2 Pat Clark's birthday
3 Lu Anne Bindschusz's birthday	4 Don Titus's birthday	5 Owen Birdsell's birthday	6	7 Jonathan Onder-Testa and Ashley Onder's anniversary	8	9 Dave Volpe's birthday Dylan New's birthday
10 Dick Wolstenholme's birthday Sheldon and Shari Bradley's anniversary	11 Carol Cully's birthday Ryan Cadigan's birthday	12 Pam Westerman's birthday	13 Christopher Onder's birthday Peg Yanoviak's birthday	14 Aaron Westerman's birthday Christopher Duerr's birthday Molly Wallace's birthday	15 Claire New's birthday	16
17 Nolan Leong's birthday Walt Deichmann's birthday	18	19 Jodi VanDerveer's birthday RuthAnn Schell's birthday Savanna Muller's birthday Tom Schaible's birthday	20 Suzanne Manney's birthday	21 Amber Khan's birthday Morgan Frees's birthday	22	23 Paula Weiss's birthday Tim Leong's birthday
24 Mike Platchek's birthday	25	26 Ava Liedike's birthday Mary Miller's birthday Shaun Lockett's birthday	27 Jim Niness's birthday Layla Lozada's birthday	28 Jen Drewes's birthday Madelynn Doepping's birthday Maura Lockett's birthday	29 Justin O'Neill's birthday Mark and Deborah Wallace's anniversary	30 Seth Clark's birthday Tom Snyder III's birthday
31 Jodi O'Neill's birthday	1	2 Bruce and Elena Wallace's anniversary Craig Emery's birthday Ella Drewes's birthday	3 Jayden Carey's birthday	4 Ashley Westerman's birthday Debbe Welsh's birthday	5 Alison Andrews's birthday Janet Ertell's birthday	6 Elisa Khan's birthday

# December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Holy Communion	<b>27</b> 10am Covered Bridge Garden Club 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Finance Committee	<b>28</b> 10:30am WELCA 7:30pm Fellowship Committee	<b>29</b> 6pm Girl Scouts #473 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal	<b>1</b> 5:30pm First Friday 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>2</b> 9am DAR 5pm Evening Light (w/communion)
<b>3</b> 9am Faith Formation-pageant rehearsal 10:15am Holy Communion 2:30pm Girl Scouts #41441 4pm Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble	<b>4</b> 10:15am Staff 11am Alanon Family Group 5:30pm Junior/Cadette Girl Scouts #42024 7pm Property 7pm Stephen Ministry	<b>5</b> 7pm Faith Formation Committee 7:30pm Worship & Music	<b>6</b> 4pm Social Ministry 6pm Girl Scouts #4308 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Kiwanis 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>9</b> 5pm Evening Light (w/communion)
<b>10</b> 9am Faith Formation-pageant rehearsal 9:45am Fellowship Time 10:15am Holy Communion Spirit Day-wear a Christmas sweater	<b>11</b> 10am MAEVE Moms Mingle 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Church Council	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 4pm Daisy Girl Scouts #4863 6pm Girl Scouts 6pm Girl Scouts #473 6:30pm Cadette Girl Scouts #41982 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal	<b>15</b> St. Peter's lunch 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>16</b> 5pm Evening Light (w/communion)
<b>17</b> 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Holy Communion-Christmas pageant 11:30am Christmas decorating part 1 2:30pm Girl Scouts #41441	<b>18</b> Circle deadline 11am Alanon Family Group 5pm Stewardship Committee 5:30pm Junior/Cadette Girl Scouts #42024 7pm Stephen Ministry	<b>19</b> 6:30pm middle/high school Christmas party	<b>20</b> 6pm Girl Scouts #4308 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Kiwanis 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal 8:15pm Naranon Support	<b>22</b> 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>23</b> 5pm Evening Light (w/communion)
<b>24</b> 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am Christmas decorating part 2 4pm Children's Service 6:30pm Music 7pm Candlelight Service w/choir 9:30pm Music 10pm Candlelight Service w/string quartet	<b>25</b> 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Finance Committee	<b>26</b> 10:30am WELCA 7:30pm Fellowship Committee	<b>27</b> 4pm Daisy Girl Scouts #4863 6pm Girl Scouts 6pm Girl Scouts #473 7pm Alanon	<b>28</b> 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Naranon	<b>29</b> 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>30</b> 5pm Evening Light (w/communion)
<b>31</b> 10:15am Holy Communion	<b>1</b> 10:15am Staff 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Property 7pm Stephen Ministry	<b>2</b> 7pm Faith Formation Committee 7:30pm Worship & Music	<b>3</b> 4pm Social Ministry 6pm Girl Scouts #4308 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Kiwanis 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>6</b> 5pm Evening Light (w/communion)

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
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E-mail: [office@stjohnphoenixville.org](mailto:office@stjohnphoenixville.org)

#### CHURCH STAFF

##### Lead Pastor

The Rev. K. Russell Crouthamel

##### Pastoral Associate:

The Rev. Thomas Kochenderfer, Jr.

##### Director of Music:

F. Thomas Snyder III

##### Organist & Pianist:

John A. Quinn III

##### Director of Children's, Youth & Family Ministries

Molly Oladunjoye

##### Parish Administrator:

Sonya K. Sowards

##### Sexton:

Mark Yancheck, Jr.

##### Nursery Coordinator:

Arlene Hudak

#### CHURCH COUNCIL

##### President:

Aimee Hillegas

##### Vice President:

Kelly Gallagher

##### Secretary:

Sue Starling

##### Treasurer:

Shirley Platzer

##### Assistant Treasurer:

Don Titus

##### Financial Recording Secretary:

Mary Heiser

##### Fund 3 Secretary:

Kevin Gallagher

##### Executive Committee:

Stephen Drewes

Mitch Reading

##### Other Members of Church Council:

Dale Herbranson

Sandra Zimmermann

Dick Kunsch

Janet Gerner

Mike Kahl

Elisa Khan

Jeanne Schanzenbach

##### Stephen Ministry Leader:

Linda Landis — (610) 933-9544

#### COMMITTEES

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Bill Starling, Chair

Sandra Zimmermann, Council Rep.

##### Electronics:

Bill Schoellkopf, Chair

Dale Herbranson, Council Rep.

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Erica Reading, Chair

Elisa Kahn, Council Rep.

##### Fellowship:

Sandra Zimmermann, Chair

Sue Starling, Council Rep.

##### Finance:

Jack Ertell, Chair

Stephen Drewes, Council Rep.

##### Property:

Bobbi Riley, Chair

Mike Kahl, Council Rep.

##### Social Ministry:

Janet Gerner, Chair & Council Rep.

##### Stewardship:

Dick Kunsch, Council Rep.

##### Worship and Music:

Jean Herbranson, Chair

Aimee Hillegas, Council Rep.

##### Office Assistants:

June Henzie

Joan Carl

Pat Renninger

##### The Circle Editor:

Sonya K. Sowards

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## Inside this issue:

From the Pastor	1
Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble / Christmas Card Exchange / Food Drive Coordinator Needed	2
Angel Tree / Advent Offering / Advent Dinners / WELCA	3
Poinsettias / Christmas Decorat- ing / Christmas Eve Services / Thrivent / Giving App	4
First Friday	5
Middle & High School Christmas Party	6
The Nutcracker / Christmas pageant / Spirit Day / Teachers Needed / Advent Bible Study	7
December Worship Staff / Com- munications	8
Time, Talent & Treasure Giving Opportunities / Financials	9
Council Minutes	10-11
Calendars	11-12
Staffing	cover

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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 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 weekend through Labor Day)

*Handicapped Accessible*

**THE CIRCLE**



**December 2023**