

The Circle

March 2024



Dear Friends in Christ,

This past weekend, we had our annual congregational meeting. As part of that meeting, we approved our 2024 budget. That budget included a deficit balance of \$95,506.17. It wasn't an easy decision for anyone involved in the budget process to prepare or present that budget to the congregation, but it's an accurate reflection of where St. John's is financially. The budget estimates income based on our records of past giving and on the commitment forms submitted as part of our annual response campaign, and it estimates expenses based on past spending for what we need to accomplish our mission.

That's what it costs to do the things we do as St. John's Lutheran Church: to gather for worship, and to serve God and our neighbors and our community in all the ways we do. Everything in that budget supports the ministry of the congregation, in one way or another. Some of those things are obvious: the compensation for the work the paid staff do, or money budgeted for our music ministry, or for VBS or outreach ministries. But even the mundane things are directly connected to our ministries. Things like building maintenance, heating oil, and snow removal makes sure we have a safe, warm, inviting space to welcome the community into, and things like postage and office supplies help to make sure that we can remain connected with members of the congregation and of the community.

And that ministry has an impact, and one that's felt far beyond Sunday morning, and far beyond our group of members. Our outreach dollars help to support St. Mary's Shelter, PACS, Global Refuge (formerly known as Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services), and more. Closer to home, our ministries reach people in the community. Our concert series shares the gift of music with members of the community. More than half of the students attending Vacation Bible School weren't members of our congregation; they spent that week last summer learning about God's love for the world and for them. And our ministry is lived out through the building, too, as we provide meeting space for many different community groups. If you haven't already, I'd encourage you to take a look at the gratitude wall displayed outside of Kley Hall. People who came through St. John's, whether they were members or not, were asked to share what they're grateful for about St. John's. Many of the responses said things like "thank you for opening your building to us," or "I'm grateful for this place of serenity in the middle of the everyday chaos."

And that ministry is supported by your contributions. Your contributions help to compensate the staff at St. John's for the work they do to lead the congregation in ministry, your contributions help us to worship God in the ways that they do, and your contributions help us to serve God and to serve our neighbors in Phoenixville and beyond. This coming year's budget has presented us with a big challenge, but I know how generous St. John's can be, and I'm confident that, together, we're going to be able to meet that challenge.

In Christ,
Pastor Russ

Holy Week and Easter at St. John's

Palm/Passion Weekend

March 23rd and 24th
Saturday Evening Light, 5 p.m.
Sunday morning, 10:15 a.m.

Maundy Thursday—March 28th, 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday—March 29th, 7:30 p.m.

Easter Vigil—March 30th, 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday Worship

March 31st, 8 & 10:15 a.m.
Easter breakfast, 9 a.m.





Principally Harps

4 p.m., Sunday, April 7th

St. John's presents Principally Harps! Mindy Cutcher, Principal Harpist with the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra of Philadelphia and Janet Witman, Principal Harpist with the Kennett Symphony of Chester County will perform a varied program of concert harp-duo transcriptions. The duo-artists perform on concert grand harps; Mindy on a Lyon and Healy Style 30 and Janet on a French Camac Trianon.

Both musicians have over thirty years of professional harp experiences in the Mid-Atlantic region—as soloists, orchestral, ensemble players and teachers. Mindy has appeared with the Baltimore, Delaware and St. Louis Symphonies, performed in Japan and on NBC's The Tonight Show.

Janet has been soloist with Allentown, Kennett, Hilton Head and Savannah Symphonies; and the Copeland Quartet of Delaware. She was resident harpist for the DuPont Company for over 25 years, performing in the Green Room of the Hotel Dupont, Delaware. Both musicians studied under legendary harp teacher, Alice Chailifoux, and are graduates of the world's most prestigious conservatories, Oberlin and The Curtis Institute of Music.

"Principally Harps!" offers audiences a unique opportunity to see and hear concert grand harps on center stage, as opposed to "hidden" among the instruments in an orchestra. Mindy Cutcher and Janet Witman are masters of their instruments, showcasing their harps with exciting repertoire and demonstrating the uniqueness of pedal harps with the varied sound effects that can be produced from them. Their programs are accessible to young and old, experienced and casual concert goers. Their programs include stunning adaptations of great "hits" from opera, ballet and orchestral repertoire, "Le Cid," and "Swan Lake" to beloved favorites, "Clair de lune," "Blue Danube," and from original works of iconic harpist Carlos Salzedo to popular works of Joplin, Bacharach and Gershwin.

There is no charge for the concert although a free-will offering will be received.

Welcome New Councilmembers!

Three St. John's members have been elected to serve on our congregation council. Here's a short bio of each new member:

Kate Hicks and her husband Jon Hicks have been members at St. John's since 2015 and live in Spring City. They have three daughters: Madelyn is 8, Amelia is 4, and Evie is 2. Kate has volunteered during Sunday school, crockpot cook-offs, Easter egg hunts, and recently the installation reception for Pastor Russ. Currently, Kate is a Principal Scientist at Merck working on Vaccines. She has worked at Merck for over 10 years. When not working or running the girls around to their activities, Kate enjoys reading, exercising, and cooking.

Kyle Oszeyczik writes, "My family (Joanna, Dylan, and Quinn) and I have been attending St. John's for over 15 years. Both of our daughters were baptized here. I also had the privilege of serving as the boys' confirmation guide for the 2022 Confirmation Class. I am also a frequent attendee of Happy Hour. If elected, I look forward to serving the St. John's community on the council."

Jeanne Schanzenbach says "I have been a member of St. John's Lutheran Church for about 30 years, participating in Book Club and on a counting team. Together with my husband, Jeff Schanzenbach, we raised two children in the church and the Phoenixville community. I graduated many years ago from Drexel University with a degree in Mathematics and am a Retirement Plan Consultant working with small businesses to design, implement and administer retirement plans as a part of their employee benefits program. I have been active in the community, most recently finishing a four-year term as the President of PMYC. I look forward to serving as a member of our council." Jeanne joined Council a few months after last year's meeting to complete another member's term.

We sincerely thank our outgoing councilmembers, Sandra Zimmermann and Dick Kunsch, for their service and heartily welcome our new councilmembers!



Women of the ELCA Retreat:

**Renew, Restore, Refresh: Growing in Our Relationship
with God through Prayer
April 6th 2024, 9 a.m.**



As followers of Jesus, prayer is one of the most important ways we grow in our relationship with God. The more we talk and spend time with someone, the more we get to know them. As we spend time with God in prayer, the closer we become. In prayer we “show up” just as we are, knowing we are unconditionally loved by our gracious God. In this relationship of trust we can share whatever is on our hearts. . . our joys and thanksgivings, our hurts and disappointments, our sadness and frustrations . . .

“Renew, Restore, Refresh: Growing in Our Relationship with God through Prayer” is the theme of this year’s WELCA retreat. You are invited to bring an object which in your experience describes prayer. This could also be an object used in your own personal prayer life such as a candle, devotional reading, prayer shawl, beads, bowl, artwork, or cross.

The retreat will take place on Saturday, April 6th. It begins with registration and coffee at 9 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. We welcome back Rev. Kris Peterson as our retreat leader. The cost is \$15. Please contact Linda Landis with any questions.



Feed Your Heart, Soul and Body on Easter Morning

The annual Easter Morning Breakfast is back this year! Breakfast will take place at 9 a.m., between the 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. services on Easter morning, March 31st. The Fellowship Committee is currently recruiting volunteers to help set up, cook, and clean up. We would also like to have a count of those planning to attend. Please let Sonya know if you can assist with the breakfast, or if your family is planning to attend (please provide number of kids and number of adults). Guests are always welcome as well.

One more reason to raise a ‘Hallelujah’ on Easter morning!

Organ Encounter March 10th, 9 a.m.

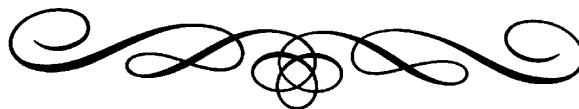
Adults and middle/high school youth are invited to join us during the Sunday school hour on Sunday, March 10th for another organ encounter! Help us celebrate the upcoming Doppelflöte concert and learn more about the workings of our pipe organ. All are welcome, feel free to invite a friend.



Dear Women of the ELCA:
Thank you for your recent donation of \$50.
Your gift will support women who have made a
commitment to themselves to take the steps
toward healthier lives.
Phoenixville Women’s Outreach

I want to thank Joan Wil-
son and the Fellowship
Committee for the deli-
cious little Bundt cake
they delivered to me on
my recent birthday. I ap-
preciate the work the com-
mittee does to make sure
our St. John’s seniors have
“sweet” birthdays!
Sally Tomasco

Love cannot be taught
Loves comes from the soul
A soul’s sun for Christ
Is life eternal
Everlasting even unto
Heaven itself eternally
Margaret Walker





St. John's Easter Egg Hunt

355 St. John's Circle Phoenixville, PA 19460

Saturday, March 30, 2024

9:30am

Ages 2-10 are welcome to find eggs with their age group!

****Prior registration is required for all children for the egg hunt****

Please register for the egg hunt and/or to volunteer to help via the link or QR code below or by emailing kmgandbc@hotmail.com

<https://forms.gle/5RVVg5xD6Hq6nR1av8>



Next Spirit Day March 17th

St. John's CYFM will be hosting spring spirit days for Sunday school. During these days, students are invited to wear a themed outfit to church. We will also be doing a special collection of non-perishable food and hygiene items for PACS these days for the offering. Scan the QR code to refer to PACS' hot list for guidance on what to bring. March 17th is Dress As Your Favorite Book Character Day.



This summer, St. John's is taking a team of high schoolers and adult volunteers to serve in Appalachia making homes safer, warmer, and drier with Appalachia Service Project. A beloved tradition, this service-learning trip is a remarkable experience we would love to share with those who are interested. Students grades 9 and above (plus any adults!) are eligible to serve. Please email molyo@stjohnphoenixville.org to let us know you'd like to join our team.



WEST CHESTER YOUTH COLLAB PRESENTS



Youth Service Day

Come and pack meal kits, and then join us for pizza and free ice skating afterwards!



March 9, 2024
3 PM to 5 PM

Advent Lutheran
1601 Green Lane
West Chester, PA

Nartex Artwork

St. John's has been blessed by receiving two lovely wood-cut prints which are now displayed in the narthex. St. John's member The Rev. Dr. Kim Eric Williams writes of his donation:

"Benedict and Francis are two of the major figures in Church history, Ben and Frank if we want to remember them.

Benedict is the founder of western monasticism. His emphasis on worship is notable and his followers had a strong influence on England.

Francis is well-known now for his love of nature and the environment. He is said to have spoken with the birds and with his love of St. Luke, introduced the idea of the creche to western Christianity. His emphasis on spirituality rather than money is seen in his followers who gave up all their possessions and are noted for their work in poverty areas—not so popular today!

I purchased these two prints in Wiscasset, Maine in 1969 and framed them in Manhattan as dining room art for my first parsonage in North Bergen, New Jersey. They followed me to another parish in New Jersey and to two places in Connecticut before moving to Pennsylvania. None of my children want to inherit them so they needed a new home."

Thank you Dr. Williams!



Easter Lilies

Beautiful Easter lilies will grace our altar and chancel on Easter. Plants with four to five blooms are available to sponsor for \$12.50 each. Lilies may be taken home after the late service on March 31st or on April 7th. Please sign the list posted in the hallway and indicate your preferred dedication. Checks should be made payable to St. John's, with "Easter lilies" on the memo line. Please order before March 25th. Thank you!

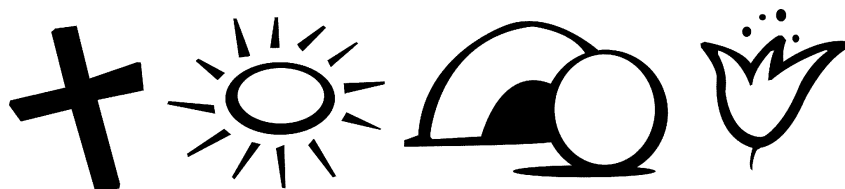
Readers for Holy Week Services

Extra readers (lectors) are needed for Holy Week worship services. Young, talented readers are most welcome. If you are willing to read part of the Passion story on Palm/Passion Sunday (March 24th) at 10:15 a.m., read one of seven passages on Good Friday (March 29th) at 7:30 p.m., or read at the Easter Vigil (March 30th) at 7:30 p.m. please contact Sonya Sowards and let her know for which of the services you will be available.



Communion Wine

The communion wine distributor that we've used for many years has apparently gone out of business, as has the winery where the wine was produced. The Altar Guild is in the process of finding a different communion wine that will be acceptable to most palates. This may take several weeks and we ask for your patience during this time.



Represent St. John's at Synod Assembly
register before March 4th

We are looking for delegates to represent St. John's at the upcoming Synod Assembly. One of the items on the agenda is the election of our new bishop. The Assembly will be held on May 3rd and 4th at Franconia

Mennonite Church (613 Harleysville Pike (Route 113), Telford, PA 18969). If you would like to attend, please let Sonya know ASAP at (610) 933-3947 ext. 2 or office@stjohnphoenixville.org.

Lent Offering

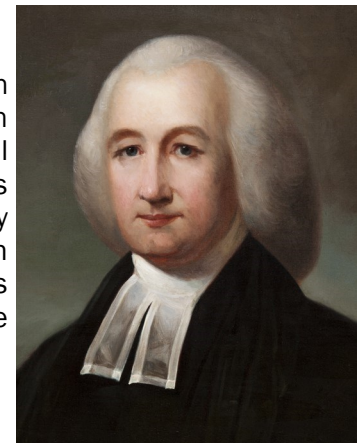
This year our Lent offering will be donated to the Phoenixville Women's Outreach organization. The Phoenixville Women's Outreach envisions a community where all women are empowered with confidence, resources, skills to achieve housing security, financial stability, and well-being. Phoenixville Women's Outreach empowers women to self-sufficiency, stability, and independence by providing a comprehensive transitional housing program, affordable housing, supportive services, advocacy, and education. Lent offering envelopes are on the table in the back of the church and in the narthex. You may also simply note "Lent offering" on your check or online donation. Thank you for your generosity!



This Lenten season help Phoenixville Area Community Services (PACS) fill their pantry by bringing a can, box or non-glass jar to donate each week. PACS helps over 68 families each week and your contribution makes a difference. Need ideas of what to bring? PACS' list of most needed items is available online at pacsphx.org/pacs-hot-list.

MUHLENBERG PARISH PRESENTS GOD SIGHTING IN MOVIES
Sunday afternoons through March 17th at 3:30 p.m.

Centennial Lutheran Church in Kimberton, St. Peter's in Chester Springs, Zion in Spring City and St. John's have come together to form the "Muhlenberg Parish" to join in ministry and fellowship events. Our sister parishes will participate in the Easter Vigil at St. John's this year and St. John's congregation is invited to join the other parishes for "God Sighting in Movies." This Sunday afternoon movie ministry is an opportunity to watch secular movies together and participate in a faith discussion about each movie. After the movie, we will share a soup & salad meal together. Each family is invited to bring soup or salad and the host parish will provide beverages. Here are the dates and movies.



March 3rd @ Zion—*My Own Love Song*

March 10th @ Centennial—*Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret*

March 17th @ Centennial—*A Man Called Otto*



Women of the ELCA Meeting
March 26, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

Jack Ertell will join us to present an informative program on the history of the Colonial Theater. All St. John's women are invited to mark your calendars now and plan to attend!

Belated Thanks

Thanks to the Fellowship Committee, especially Sandra Zimmermann, for my delicious birthday cake. It provided a sugar fix after a long day at church. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

Tom Snyder



Phoenixville Area Social Concerns Committee
 821 Gay Street
 Phoenixville, Pennsylvania 19460
 (610) 917-9890
 www.PhxSocialConcerns.org



Annual
 Community
 Prayer Breakfast
 "We Share His Dream"

**30th Community Prayer Breakfast
 IN MEMORY OF
 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 Saturday, April 6 at 8 am**

Join us in celebrating Dr. King’s Legacy and our local social justice award winners!

The Community Prayer Breakfast, in memory of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., started in 1994. The 30th Annual Community Prayer Breakfast will be held Saturday, April 6, 2024 at the Phoenixville Area Middle School beginning promptly at 8:00 am, doors open at 7:30.

Come one, come all! Tickets and sponsorships can be ordered below.

~ Honor our community social justice leaders through your sponsorship! ~

- ___ Freedom Sponsor \$ 750 includes 8 tickets (1 table) and full page inside cover ad (8x5)
 - ___ Justice Sponsor \$ 500 includes 6 tickets and back cover ad (8x5)
 - ___ Equality Sponsor \$ 350 includes 4 tickets plus full page ad (8x5)
 - ___ Diversity Sponsor \$ 250 includes 2 tickets plus half page ad
 - ___ Inclusion Sponsor \$ 100 full page ad (8x5)
 - ___ Civil Rights Sponsor \$ 75 half page ad (8x5)
 - ___ Peace Sponsor \$ 40 business card ad
 - ___ Patron \$ 20 name in program
 - ___ Table \$ 150 reserved table for 8
 - (qty) ___ Tickets \$ 15 each, please specify quantity (\$1 goes to the Don Coppedge Fund)
 - \$ ___ Donation to Don Coppedge Memorial Fund
 - \$ ___ Donation to the Community Prayer Breakfast
- Total: _____ (dollar amount)**

Business name (to appear in program) _____
 Contact name _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

*****Please submit by March 15, 2024***** and email your copy-ready ad to: Theresa@MissKittysCare.com
 Any questions, please email PHXSocialConcerns@gmail.com or KrisKeller99@gmail.com

Make checks payable and mail to: Phoenixville Social Concerns Committee
 c/o Phoenixville Community Health Foundation
 821 Gay Street
 Phoenixville, PA 19460



Tickets & sponsorships can also be ordered at <https://givebutter.com/g03pER> or this QR code

Our Mission: The Phoenixville Area Social Concerns Committee promotes social justice and community harmony throughout the Greater Phoenixville community in the spirit of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., through direct action and relevant events.

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2024**

Attendees:							
Dick Kunsch	A	Mitch Reading	P	Dale Herbranson	P	Stephen Drewes	P
Kelly Gallagher	P	Janet Gerner	P	Sue Starling	P	Sandra Zimmermann	P
Aimee Hillegas	P	Elisa Kahn	P	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; Pastor Russ led with an opening prayer.

Prior Meeting Minutes

Motion by Dale, Second by Stephen to accept the minutes as presented; motion passed.

Staff Reports

Motion by Sue, Second by Kelly to accept the November Staff Reports; motion passed.

- Molly is requesting add'l funds of \$465 to cover her additional expenses for the ELCA youth leadership conference. A suggestion was made that we increase the budget amount for continuing education line item to \$2000 for this year and ongoing for Molly's position; all agreed.

Committee Reports

Council reviewed the following Committee Reports:

- Finance Committee met 11/27/23, with continuing meetings focused on the budget.
- Electronics Committee from 12/17/23 – accepted as written.
- Faith Formation from 01/02/24 – accepted as written.
- Property Committee - no minutes provided; overall, property was 6% under budgeted expenses for the year. Still working on Kley Hall A/C.
- Worship and Music Committee from 01/02/24 - accepted as written.
- Social Ministry Committee from 01/03/24 – accepted as written.
- Fellowship Committee – did not meet.
- Columbarium Committee – did not meet.
- Executive Committee – did not meet.
- Stewardship Committee – no minutes provided.
- Welcome Team Committee - did not meet.
- Kitchen Task Force – no minutes provided.

Motion by Mitch, Second by Stephen to accept committee reports; motion passed.

Old Business

- Kitchen Renovation Project – no update.
- Church Collaboration Committee – next meeting is January 31.
- Staff Annual Reviews update – All reviews are complete. Pastor is suggesting that we move the timeline up to the end of the school year, as many positions coincide with that calendar.
- 2024 Budget
 - Finishing with about a \$5k deficit for 2023.
 - 2024 budget still stands with a \$97k deficit.

- Agreed we need ongoing additional communications regarding our expenses and income to raise awareness. Dale will work with Jack to graphically represent that information in the annual meeting.
- Mike made a motion that we present the 2024 budget as is to the congregation for approval in the annual meeting; Jeanne seconded; motion carried.
- Mitch made a motion that Council direct the Finance Committee to use funds from whatever fund they deem appropriate to cover the 2023 deficit; Sue seconded; motion carried.
- Eight people are registered for the Stewardship conference being held by the ELCA on January 20th.
- New Council Members – Kate Hicks has agreed to be a nominee; still need one more.

New Business

- 2024 objectives for St. John’s – thoughts:
 - Revitalize our stewardship committee and efforts to focus on both money and time/talents, and to make it more of a year-round discussion.
 - Revitalize the welcoming/fellowship efforts -
 - Agreed we may want to discuss a council retreat after new members are added, to have a more in-depth discussion.
- Pastor Russ Installation budget – agreed to leave it to the discretion of the coordinators.
- 2024 Annual Meeting agenda was reviewed and finalized – added a kitchen renovation update, and an HVAC update

Aimee adjourned the meeting at 8:16; meeting ended with the Lord’s Prayer. Next regularly scheduled meeting will be February 12, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Starling
Church Council Secretary

Dear Friends at St. John’s:

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$50. Your contribution makes it possible for us to continue to provide free childcare and support so that our young mothers can achieve their educational goals and make a better life for their family. Please accept our heartfelt gratitude

Wendy J. McKeon, Executive Director, Mom’s House

Come behold our Lord of Life
He gave us life eternal
Come come behold our
God of love His life He
Gave that we God’s love
Shall know come come
See mercy’s Lord
Of heaven and earth
Our eternal living
Lord come see come
See

Written with thanks
to Rev. Dr. Martha Kriebel
by Margaret Walker

Did you know?

- ⇒ Copies of the St. John’s members directory are available in the narthex. Please feel free to take one home or ask our Parish Administrator, Sonya Sowards, to email one to you. Please let Sonya know if any of your information needs to be updated. This directory can easily be updated and printed on demand. Haven’t seen one of your church friends for a while? Give them a call or send them a note or email to let them know you’re thinking of them!
- ⇒ There are a limited number of hearing-assist devices for use during Sunday worship services. Inquire at the A/V booth before the service. There is also an assortment of reading glasses of various strengths for use during worship services. They are kept at the usher’s stand. Ask an usher for assistance.

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 9am Faith Formation-First Communion 10:15am Holy Communion 11:15am Annual Meeting 2pm PCO Rehearsal 2:30pm Girl Scouts #41441 4pm DOPPELFLÖTE concert	26 10am Covered Bridge Garden Club 11am Alanon Family Group 5:30pm Junior/Cadette Girl Scouts #42024 7pm Finance Committee	27 10:30am WELCA 7:30pm Fellowship Committee	28 4pm Daisy Girl Scouts #4863 6pm Girl Scouts 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	29 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal	1 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	2 5pm Evening Light (w/communion)
3 9am Faith Formation; First Communion 10:15am Holy Communion	4 10:15am Staff 11am Alanon Family Group 5:30pm Junior/Cadette Girl Scouts #42024 7pm Property 7pm Stephen Ministry	5 6:30pm Faith Formation Committee 7:30pm Worship & Music	6 4pm Social Ministry 6pm Girl Scouts #4308 6pm Girl Scouts #473 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	7 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Kiwanis 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal	8 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	9 5pm Evening Light (w/communion)
10 9am Faith Formation-First Communion-organ demo for teens & adults 9:45am Fellowship Time 10:15am Holy Communion 2pm PCO Rehearsal 2:30pm Girl Scouts #41441	11 10am MAEVE Moms Mingle 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Church Council	12	13 4pm Daisy Girl Scouts #4863 6pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Cadette Girl Scouts #41982 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	14 6pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal	15 St. Peter's lunch 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	16 10am First Communion bread baking 5pm Evening Light (w/communion)
17 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Holy Communion-First Communion-spirit day	18 Circle deadline 11am Alanon Family Group 5pm Stewardship Committee 5:30pm Junior/Cadette Girl Scouts #42024 7pm Stephen Ministry	19 6:30pm Parents Grief Group	20 6pm Girl Scouts #4308 6pm Girl Scouts #473 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	21 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Kiwanis 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal 8:15pm Naranon Support	22 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	23 1pm stripping of the palms 5pm Evening Light (w/communion)
24 Palm Sunday 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Holy Communion 2pm PCO Rehearsal 2:30pm Girl Scouts #41441 7pm St. John's Choir & Friends Rehearsal	25 10am Covered Bridge Garden Club 11am Alanon Family Group	26 10:30am WELCA 6:30pm Parents Grief Group 7pm Finance Committee 7:30pm Fellowship Committee	27 4pm Daisy Girl Scouts #4863 6pm Girl Scouts 7pm Alanon	28 6pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Maundy Thursday (choir rehearsal follows service)	29 7:30pm Good Friday 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	30 9:30am Easter Egg Hunt 7:30pm Easter Vigil
31 Easter 8am Holy Communion 9am Easter breakfast 10:15am Holy Communion	1 10:15am Staff 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Property 7pm Stephen Ministry	2 6:30pm Faith Formation Committee 6:30pm Parents Grief Group 7:30pm Worship & Music	3 4pm Social Ministry 6pm Girl Scouts #4308 6pm Girl Scouts #473 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	4 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Kiwanis 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal	5 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	6 8am MLK Prayer Breakfast 8am WELCA Retreat 5pm Evening Light (w/communion)

March 2024 Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 Chuck and Carol Cully's anniversary David Lacy's birthday	26 Lily Lane-Aharonian's birthday Scott Deichmann's birthday	27 Tyler Thompson's birthday	28 Carsen G. Veneziani's birthday Jocelyn Mowrer's birthday Sophia I. Veneziani's birthday	29	1 Andrea Hart's birthday Jimmy Moreland's birthday Karen Carr's birthday Sam and Beth Fryer's anniversary	2 Diane Blattner's birthday Kevin Yonosh's birthday
3 Kinley Walters's birthday Liz Cady's birthday	4	5 Joanna Oszeyczik's birthday Livi Cady Heinbaugh's birthday	6 Beth Fryer's birthday Lucas Becker's birthday Nathaniel Becker's birthday	7 Jeanette Dewey's birthday Robbie Crouthamel's birthday	8 Nicci Granacher's birthday Nick Platchek's birthday	9 Kimberly Hoff's birthday Scott Geiger's birthday
10 Bob and Mary Faddis's anniversary Mimi Woods's birthday Tyler Frees's birthday	11 Barbara Sell's birthday Bobby Strunk's birthday Kyle McGoldrick's birthday	12	13 Bill Breitinger's birthday Paige DeMutis's birthday	14 Joan Cadigan's birthday Zachary Brown's birthday	15 Chloe Dewey's birthday Kim Themens's birthday	16 Brianna Greenwald's birthday
17	18 Carla Carr's birthday Devon Ninness's birthday Jack and Janet Ertell's anniversary	19	20 Benjamin Blackledge's birthday	21	22 April Fryer's birthday Jay Borzumati's birthday	23 Gabrielle VanDerveer's birthday Will Blackledge's birthday
24 Charlotte Daywall's birthday Melissa Perrotto's birthday Nathan Stewart's birthday	25	26	27 Cheryl Speaker's birthday Erin Riley's birthday	28 Corrina Geiger's birthday David Frees's birthday Emily Riley's birthday	29 David Carr's birthday M. Jeanette Hopkins's birthday	30 Joshua Saeger's birthday Ron Stevens's birthday
31 Malika Khan's birthday	1 Janet Reading's birthday Jeremy Unruh's birthday	2 Bob Faddis's birthday Jane Hadfield's birthday Stephen Hollander's birthday	3 Bob Kunsch's birthday Judy Wolstenholme's birthday	4 James Reading's birthday John and Bobbi Riley's anniversary	5 Joan Wilson's birthday	6 Arlene Greenwald's birthday Lexi Booz's birthday



Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, we've been praying for peace there in the Prayers of the People. After the events of October 7th, we've been also praying for peace in Israel and Gaza. Those conflicts are the ones that are most visible in the news, but they aren't the only places touched by warfare and conflict. As we go forward, we're going to be praying for countries and people harmed by warfare in many different places around the

world. There are currently more than thirty active conflicts worldwide. We'll be praying for different places each week. The full list of wars and conflicts is taken from [wisevoter.com](http://www.wisevoter.com).

The Fellowship Committee likes to recognize the birthdays of St. John's members who are 65 and older by delivering an individual Bundt cake from Nothing Bundt Cakes in Collegeville. To ensure you receive your cake or card, please be sure to update your contact information, including phone, address, and email, with Sonya. If you'd like to choose a specific flavor or notify us of any health restrictions you may have, please email Sandy Zimmermann at spzimm@icloud.com. Check out your options (including gluten free) at nothingbundtcakes.com, at the "Collegeville" location. Hope to see you on one of our upcoming deliveries!

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 18th 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, please contact our administrator, Sonya Sowards, at office@stjohnphoenixville.org or (610) 933-3947 ext. 2.

Kid-Friendly Worship Resources

We have children's worship bags available to use during services.

We also have children's bulletins/activity sheets available on the "triangle table."

The nursery is open on Sunday mornings during church for children who may need a break/extra care/etc.


Please ask an usher for help finding these resources! We welcome and celebrate all the ways children participate in our community.

Communion Records and Prayer Requests

RECORD OF COMMUNION AND/OR PRAYER REQUEST

I/we took communion (date & time):	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9P	
<input type="checkbox"/> 10:15a	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9:00a (summer)	
<input type="checkbox"/> other date & time	

I'm a visitor



Name(s): _____ Env. # _____

New or change in contact info? If so, print corrected information below:

Prayer request(s): _____

Please place this card in the offering plate or hand it in on the triangle kiosk in the narthex (lobby) when you leave. THANKS!

Our constitution defines members eligible to vote at regular meetings of the church as those who "shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record" in the calendar year. Your contribution is recorded when it includes your name and/or envelope number. To ensure that your communion is recorded, please fill out the "Record of Communion and/or Prayer Request" card at least once a year. Communion cards can be found in the pew racks at the end of each pew. The card may also be used for prayer requests, address changes, questions, or comments. If you are worshipping exclusively from home, please contact Sonya Sowards with prayer requests and worship dates.

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.

ACOLYTES NEEDED

Serving as an acolyte is a great way for young people to be a part of worship here at St. John's! All students who have completed their First Holy Communion are eligible to serve. Pastor Russ, Tom and Molly are always happy to train those who would like to learn. We need acolytes for 2024. Interested? You can sign up by emailing Molly at mollyo@stjohnphoenixville.org or by filling out our NEW sign-up form online.

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!!



People of God Involved in God's Work
March Worship Staff

Acolyte

- 3 Emerson Carr
- 10 Peyton DeWolf
- 17 TBD
- 24 Evan, Nathaniel & Lucas Becker & TBD
- 28 TBD
- 29 TBD
- 30 TBD x 4
- 31 8a—TBD; 10:15a TBD x 4

Altar Guild

- 3 Nancy Cressman & Janet Ertell
- 10 Donna Anderson & Cathy Garrett
- 17 Jean Herbranson
- 24 Betty Hans & Jean Herbranson
- 28 Jean Herbranson & TBD
- 30 Jean Herbranson & TBD
- 31 Jean Herbranson & TBD

Assisting Minister

- 3 Cole Cummins
- 10 Tom Snyder
- 17 Bill Starling
- 24 Annie Cummins
- 28 Rich Latella
- 29 TBD
- 30 TBD
- 31 8a—Ron Stevens; 10:15a—Nancy Cressman

Communion Assistant/Lector

- 3 Bill Starling
- 10 Walt Deichmann
- 17 Mimi Woods
- 24 Lynn Titus
- 28 Walt Deichmann
- 29 Lynn Titus
- 30 TBD
- 31 8a—Lynn Titus; 10:15a—Walt Deichmann

Counters

- 3 Jack & Janet Ertell
- 10 Jeff & Jeanne Schanzenbach
- 17 Mary Heiser; Mike & Cathy Kahl
- 24 Stephen & Jen Drewes
- 31 Mary Heiser, Kevin Gallagher, Mike & Cathy Kahl

March Worship Staff (continued)

Evening Light Assistant

- 2 Shirley Platzer
- 9 TBD
- 16 Sandy Momyer
- 23 TBD
- 30 7:30p TBD

Fellowship Time Host

- 10 TBD

Lock-Up

- 3 Dale Herbranson
- 10 Jeanne Schanzenbach
- 17 Kelly Gallagher
- 24 Stephen Drewes
- 28 Aimee Hillegas
- 29 Kelly Gallagher
- 30 TBD
- 31 Mitch Reading

Stream Team

- 3 Aimee Hillegas & Paul Miller
- 10 Dale Herbranson & Paul Miller
- 17 Josh Romano & Dale Herbranson
- 24 Aimee Hillegas & Paul Miller
- 28 Dale Herbranson & Paul Miller
- 29 Dale Herbranson & Paul Miller
- 31 Dale Herbranson & Paul Miller

Ushers

- 3 Donna Anderson & Sue Starling
- 10 Cathy Garrett & Nancy Cressman
- 17 Diane Blattner & Katelyn Blattner
- 24 Dick Kunsch & Barry Church
- 28 Donna Anderson
- 29 Kelly & Kevin Gallagher
- 30 TBD
- 31 8a—Don Titus & Dick Kunsch; 10:15a—Mike & Cathy Kahl



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. 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:
 Dale Herbranson
 Jeanne Schanzenbach
Other Members of Council:
 Janet Gerner
 Mike Kahl
 Elisa Khan
 Kate Hicks
 Kyle Oszyczik
 Mitch Reading
 Stephen Drewes

Stephen Ministry Leader:
 Linda Landis — (610) 933-9544

COMMITTEES

Columbarium:
 Bill Starling, Chair
 Dale Herbranson, Council Rep.

Electronics:
 Bill Schoellkopf, Chair
 Dale Herbranson, Council Rep.

Executive:
 Mitch Reading, Chair

Faith Formation:
 Erica Reading, Chair
 Kelly Gallagher & Kate Hicks
 Council Reps.

Fellowship:
 Sandra Zimmermann, Chair
 Sue Starling, Council Rep.

Finance:
 Jack Ertell, Chair
 Mitch Reading & Jeanne Schanzenbach
 Council Reps.

Mutual Ministry:
 Kyle Oszyczik, Council Rep.

Property:
 Bobbi Riley, Chair
 Mike Kahl, Council Rep.

Social Ministry:
 Janet Gerner, Chair & Council Rep.

Stewardship:
 Stephen Drewes, Council Rep.

Welcoming Team:
 Kate Hicks, Council Rep.

Worship and Music:
 Jean Herbranson, Chair
 Elisa Khan, Council Rep.

Office Assistants:
 June Henzie
 Joan Carl
 Pat Renninger

The Circle Editor:
 Sonya K. Sowards

New Members

Marlene Holter
 Pr. Ghislaine Cotnoir

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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
355 St. John's Circle
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ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

(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 weekend through Labor Day)

Handicapped Accessible

THE CIRCLE



March 2024