

The Circle

May 2024



Dear Friends in Christ,

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

I hope that, in whatever way you celebrate it, your Easter season has been going well and joyfully. Part of the reason that we celebrate Easter for seven weeks, instead of just one Sunday, is that there's just too much to fit in one day's worth of celebration. One of those ongoing themes in the Easter season is a celebration of baptism, because baptism is so closely connected to Jesus' death and resurrection, bringing us out of death to our sins and into life with Jesus. As Saint Paul says, "all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:3-4). While we haven't had the opportunity to celebrate any baptisms at St. John's yet this Easter, there are several other events in our life as a congregation which we've either celebrated recently or will be doing soon, which are closely connected to baptism.



The first of those was our celebration of First Holy Communion, back in March. Communion is deeply connected to baptism. As the presentation of the Communion students said, "In the sacrament of holy baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. In the sacrament of holy communion, God unites us in Jesus Christ and nourishes us for that mission." Celebrating with the seven members of the Holy Communion instruction class was wonderful, and being able to have those students help to distribute Holy Communion to the rest of the congregation was a great experience and a great way to celebrate that milestone in their lives of faith.

We'll also soon be celebrating with other members of the congregation as they reaffirm their baptismal promises. On May 19th, we'll be celebrating with five members of the congregation who will have completed their confirmation class. At the center of Confirmation are the baptismal promises: when those students were baptized, their parents and sponsors made those promises for them. When they're confirmed, the confirmands will make those promises for themselves. When we celebrate the welcome of new members to the congregation, those new members are also welcomed by affirmation of baptism. It's a powerful moment, and I'm always excited to be a part of it.

And, of course, we all live out those baptismal promises in countless ways in our lives as we serve other people and share our faith in word and deed. Some of the ways that we do that together as St. John's Lutheran Church include sharing meals with the lunches at St. Peter's and with St. Mary's Shelter; sharing our faith with the students at Vacation Bible School; and serving others on the Appalachia Service Project trip. Those are just a handful of the ways that we as St. John's Lutheran Church live out our baptisms, and I'm excited to be a part of those things as we celebrate the gift of baptism together!

In Christ,

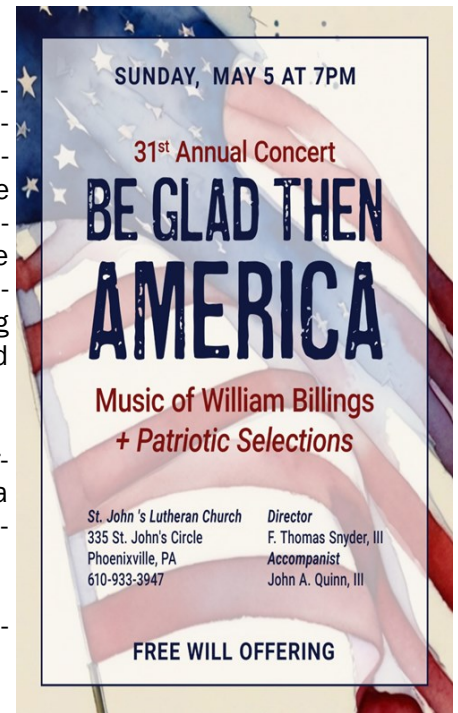
Pastor Russ

Be Glad Then America

On Sunday, May 5th, at 7:00 p.m., 45 singers from 23 area churches join together in the 31st annual St. John's Choir & Friends concert. This year's program entitled "Be Glad Then America" features music by William Billings, America's first native composer, foremost composer of the early American primitive style, and whose works have become an integral part of the American folk tradition. A tanner by trade, he was self-taught in music. Among his friends were many prominent figures of the American Revolution, including Samuel Adams and Paul Revere. Completing the program are patriotic selections including a George M. Cohan Patriotic Fantasy, God Bless America, A Tribute to the Armed Services, and America the Beautiful.

Director of Music Tom Snyder conducts and accompaniment is provided by Organist John Quinn playing the piano. Complementing the choral music will be a horn quartet performing Billings' music and a glorious setting of American Favorite *It is Well*.

Plan now to attend this fun-filled and inspiring concert. Come early as we anticipate a full-house.



Lutheran Night at the Phillies May 31st, 6:40 p.m.

Join us at Citizens Bank Park for Lutheran Night at the Phillies! This fundraiser benefits the Southeastern Pennsylvania Youth Programs. We will be organizing a carpool caravan, so stay tuned for more details! Tickets are \$45/person and can be paid via cash or check. Please click this link to sign up before May 22nd:

<https://forms.gle/nmrqpy6vgn4gmGtm7>



Appalachia Service Project Car Wash Fundraiser Sunday, May 5th 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the parking lot

Does your vehicle need a little extra care before heading into the summer months? On Sunday, May 5th, bring your car to church anytime between 8:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. for our annual ASP Car Wash Fundraiser. You can rest assured knowing we will treat your ride with the utmost care while you attend Sunday worship or run a couple of errands, or if you'd like to hang around for a few minutes, our team will get you in and out! All proceeds from donations benefit our trip to Appalachia July 21-27 to make homes safer, warmer, and drier. If you'd like to help, have any questions, or want to learn more about ASP, please email Molly at youthfamily@stjohnphoenixville.org.

Youth Activity Night

May 19th at 3:30 p.m.

Stryke Force Laser Tag, West Chester

All youth grades 6-12 are welcome to celebrate summer kick-off + the newly confirmed 2024 cohort with an activity night at Stryke Force Laser Tag in West Chester on May 19th! We will meet at the church at 3:30 p.m. and return at 5:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$30. To register, please go to <https://forms.gle/UqcQbgL6BbcMwy31A>

Graduation Sunday

June 2nd

If you or someone you know is graduating from high school, college, or trade school this year, please help us celebrate them by submitting their name and a sentence about their plans after graduation. We will be including this list of names in the bulletin on Sunday, June 2nd, as well as naming our annual St. John's Dahms Scholarship recipient! Please send any submissions to Sonya (office@stjohnphoenixville.org) by Monday, May 27th.



Family Movie Night

June 8th, 5:45 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Kley Hall

Join us on Saturday, June 8th at 6:00 p.m. for a family-friendly movie night. Watch *The Prince of Egypt* with us on the big screen and enjoy a pizza feast! If you plan on attending, please sign up via the Google Form so we know how many pies to order. Don't forget to Bring Your Own Blanket! PJ attire welcomed. Simply click on this link to sign up. <https://forms.gle/dT47SYBwEetGkRPo9>



Phoenixville Pride

June 8th, 12-5

All are welcome to join the Social Ministry Committee at Phoenixville Pride on Bridge Street on Saturday, June 8th! St. John's will be hosting a vendor table handing out free water bottles to the community. Want to help? We need volunteers to help monitor the table, hand out bottles, and to donate cases of water. Click here to see how you can contribute! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E44ACA623A1F5C52->

Communion Wine Update

A new communion wine has been chosen by the Altar Guild to replace our former wine from a now-closed winery and distributor. Manischewitz Concord Grape wine has a grape-y taste that should appeal to many people. Thank you for your patience as we screened several other options.



The 2024 WELCA Retreat proved to be a huge success for the 23 registrants. Pastor Kris Peterson guided participants through a day full of sessions on prayer including: Morning Prayer, Prayer Is . . . , God—Where Are You?, Help, Thanks, Wow, Praying in Color, Labyrinth, and Nature Walk. It was wonderful to spend time away from the "craziness" of our everyday and spend quality time with God. All are looking forward to the next retreat. Thanks to everyone who helped with planning, organizing, setting up, and cleaning up.

WELCA met on April 23rd and enjoyed an interesting and instructive program about King David presented by Pastor Russ. The date of our next meeting is to be determined as we expect to help with preparations for VBS. Stay tuned. Many hands are needed to get things ready for our children.

Reminder: Please wear red on Pentecost

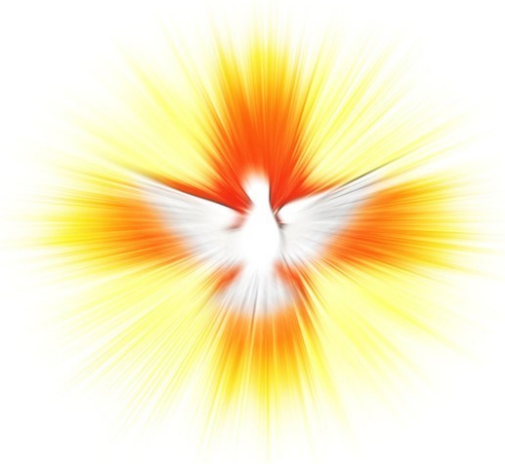
The Festival of Pentecost is celebrated as the birth of the Church. We wear red in celebration of the day that the gift of the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples of Jesus after his Ascension into Heaven. Please wear red on May 18th and 19th.

Foreign Language Speakers Wanted

On Sunday, May 19th, as part of the Pentecost service, we are planning to have foreign language speakers read a short passage from the lesson. Volunteers are asked to contact Sonya and state which language you can speak. The verses will be sent to you ahead of time so you can practice. Foreign language students are encouraged to volunteer.

Pentecost Geraniums

St. John's celebrates Pentecost and Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) by parishioners wearing red clothing, by displaying red paraments, and by placing red geraniums around the altar. The congregation is encouraged to sponsor one or more plants by signing up on the chart in the hallway or by contacting Sonya in the church office. Dedications are welcome in honor of -, in memory of -, or to the Glory of God. Geraniums are \$ 9.00 per plant. Please order before May 13th. Make checks payable to St. John's and write "Pentecost Geraniums" on the memo line. Plants may be taken home following the service on May 19th. Red geraniums are deer resistant and will add color to your landscape all summer!



Vacation Bible School Registration Open; Volunteers Needed

Vacation Bible School 2024 will be held June 17-21 from 9 a.m.-noon. Our theme this year is *Camp Firelight: A Summer Camp Adventure with God!* Join first-time counselor Sam and his lightning bug friend Lumen as they learn to face their fears while trusting in God. Slots fill up quickly, so please don't hesitate to sign your child up. Go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeLEUXiPpjR5Ua-nLksX708u4Gjo_L-JAw85KQ3UUReFPU7Lg/viewform or reach out to Molly via mollyo@stjohnphoenixville.org to register.

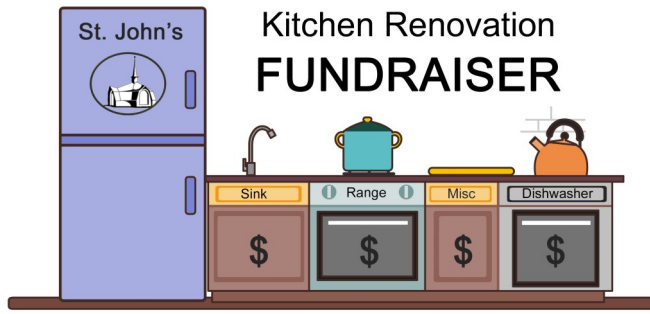
We are currently looking for adult and teenage group guides and station leaders. VBS is a huge undertaking, and we could use all the help we can get! For every gift in the Kingdom of God, there is a way to serve with VBS. If you can't serve the week of VBS, there are still opportunities to serve. One big way you can help is by joining us for our **VBS Build Day May 18th** and/or our **VBS Set-Up Day June 15th**, both from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Please email Molly if you can help.

Kids in Church

A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."



Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?", Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."



Kitchen Renovation **FUNDRAISER**

Feeding Fellowship Ministry via a Modernized Kitchen Update

There was an incredible turnout at the April 14th Fellowship Time where our members got the chance to see posters detailing the proposed kitchen changes and discuss the wonderful possibilities a modernized kitchen offers.

Up next will be the congregational meeting on May 4th and 5th to vote on moving forward conceptually and financially with this project.

Please contact any member of the Kitchen Task Force prior to the congregational meeting if you have questions or concerns or just want to voice your support! We like feedback.

Thanks.

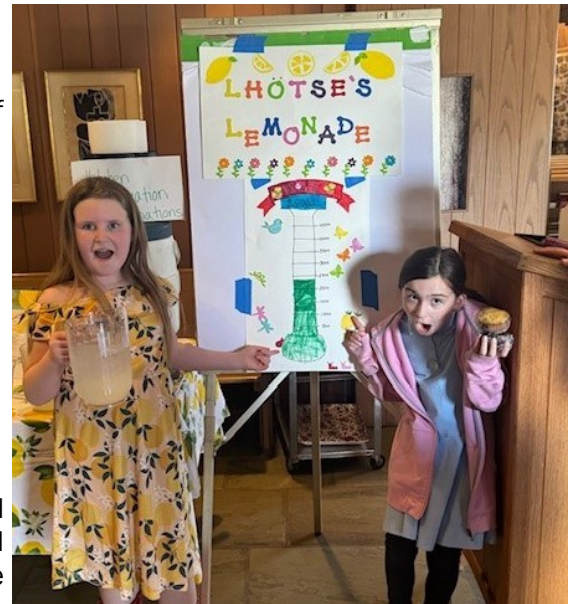
Stephen Drewes, Bobbi Riley, Susan Schumacher, Jim Taylor, Sandra Zimmermann, Mike Kahl, and Lynn Titus

Lhötse's Lemonade and Maddie's Muffins Supporting the Kitchen Renovation

The Lemonade and Muffin Stand had a fantastic first weekend of fundraising supporting the hopefully soon kitchen renovation.

Lemonade and muffins will be offered for sale after each Sunday after worship service throughout the spring. Be sure to stop by for some sweet treats.

Thank you Lhötse and Maddie for your wonderful stewardship!



Aluminum Can Collection Update

Effective immediately, aluminum animal food cans are no longer accepted mixed in with aluminum beverage cans by the metal recycle facility we use. The companies to whom they sell their materials have coded the aluminum content of animal food cans differently than that of beverage cans so they cannot be mixed.

Therefore, St. John's will now only be collecting aluminum beverage cans. All varieties of aluminum beverage cans, such as soda, sparkling water, and adult beverages, are acceptable. Since they are stored for some period as we collect enough weight for a worthwhile drop off, please rinse the cans and be sure they are empty before dropping them off at the church.

Thank you for your continued support of this financially productive ministry. Proceeds from the recycled cans result in hundreds of dollars yearly for our youth activities. Keep those beverage cans coming!



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.

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.

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.

Prayer Chain

Many folks have expressed interest in being more involved in our prayer ministry. In addition to weekly bulletin and email announcements, we also have two active prayer chains. First, a phone chain and second, an email chain. If you wish to be added to either of these, please let Sonya know.



People of God Involved in God's Work

May Worship Staff

Acolyte

- 5 Henry Duerr
- 12 TBD
- 19 Grace Themens

Altar Guild

- 5 Nancy Cressman & Janet Ertell
- 12 Donna Anderson & Cathy Garrett
- 19 Jean Herbranson
- 26 Betty Hans & Jean Herbranson

Assisting Minister

- 5 Deb Ahola
- 12 Tom Snyder
- 19 Ron Stevens
- 26 Nancy Cressman

Communion Assistant/Lector

- 5 Bill Starling
- 12 Lynn Titus
- 19 Walt Deichmann
- 26 Mimi Woods

Counters

- 5 Jack & Janet Ertell; Donna Anderson
- 12 Jeff & Jeanne Schanzenbach
- 19 Mary Heiser; Mike & Cathy Kahl
- 26 Stephen & Jen Drewes

Evening Light Assistant

- 5 Buzz Hadfield
- 12 Sandy Momyer
- 19 TBD
- 26 Shirley Platzer

Fellowship Time Host

- 12 Thrivent

Lock-Up

- 5 Dale Herbranson
- 12 Jeanne Schanzenbach
- 19 Aimee Hillegas
- 26 Kate Hicks

Stream Team

- 5 Josh Romano & Paul Miller
- 12 Dale Herbranson & Paul Miller
- 19 Aimee Hillegas & Dale Herbranson
- 26 Dale Herbranson & Paul Miller

Ushers

- 5 Sue Starling & Cathy Garrett
- 12 Dick Kunsch & Don Titus
- 19 Mike & Cathy Kahl
- 26 Donna Anderson & Barry Church

To walk with God we must
Talk with Him for
Silence yields not
Communion with God
In silence evil appears
Whispers in one's ear
Leading us astray
On seemingly tranquil
Paths God walks in
Valleys quiet
Listen you will hear
His quiet voice come walk
With me in gardens
Of peace

Margaret Walker



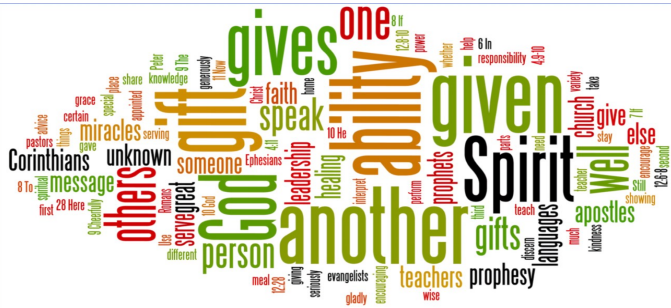
May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Holy Communion 2:30pm Girl Scouts #41441 7pm PCO & St. John's Choir & Friends Rehearsal	29 11am Alanon Family Group 1pm WELCA 5:30pm Junior/Cadette Girl Scouts #42024	30 6:30pm Parents Grief Group	1 4pm Social Ministry 6pm Girl Scouts #4308 6pm Girl Scouts #473 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	2 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Kiwanis 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal	3 Synod Assembly 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	4 Synod Assembly 9am St. James Vestry Retreat 5pm Evening Light (w/communion)
5 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Holy Communion 2:30pm Girl Scouts #41441 3pm St. John's Choir & Friends Rehearsal 5:30pm St. John's Choir & Friends dinner ASP car wash 7pm St. John's Choir & Friends Concert	6 10:15am Staff 11am Alanon Family Group 5:30pm Junior/Cadette Girl Scouts #42024 7pm Property 7pm Stephen Ministry	7 6pm National Charity League 6:30pm Faith Formation Committee 6:30pm Parents Grief Group 7:30pm Worship & Music	8 4pm Daisy Girl Scouts #4863 6pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Cadette Girl Scouts #41982 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	9 6pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal	10 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	11 5pm Evening Light (w/communion)
12 9am Faith Formation 9:45am Fellowship Time 10:15am Holy Communion	13 10am MAEVE Moms Mingle 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Church Council	14	15 6pm Girl Scouts #4308 6pm Girl Scouts #473 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	16 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Kiwanis 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal 8:15pm Naranon Support	17 St. Peter's lunch 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	18 Circle deadline 8:30am VBS build day 5pm Evening Light (w/communion)
19 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Holy Communion-confirmation 2:30pm Girl Scouts #41441 3:30pm Youth Activity Night Pentecost Sunday	20 11am Alanon Family Group 5pm Stewardship Committee 5:30pm Junior/Cadette Girl Scouts #42024 7pm Stephen Ministry	21	22 4pm Daisy Girl Scouts #4863 6pm Girl Scouts 7pm Alanon	23 6pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Naranon	24 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	25 5pm Evening Light (w/communion)
26 9am Holy Communion	27 11am Alanon Family Group	28 10am Mom's Mingle 7pm Fellowship Committee	29 7pm Alanon	30 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Naranon	31 Lutheran Night at the Phillies 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	1 5pm Evening Light (w/communion)

May 2024—birthdays and anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Morgan Klotzbach's birthday	29 Jason and Tracy Stewart's anniversary Ramona Moreland's birthday	30 Jason Birdsell's birthday Joe Themens's birthday Stephen Drewes's birthday	1 Erin Schaible's birthday	2 Linda Landis's birthday Mario Walls's birthday	3	4 Allan Moreland's birthday
5 Donna Thompson's birthday Madelyn Hicks's birthday	6 Allen and Beth Kramer's anniversary Jeanne Schanzenbach's birthday	7 Anna Gerner's birthday Charles and Paula Weiss's anniversary Joan Benne's birthday Rosa Gerner's birthday	8 Jeff Schanzenbach's birthday	9	10 Matthew and Jessica Cratty's anniversary	11 Emily Birdsell's birthday Max Strunk's birthday Sandra Zimmermann's birthday Tommy Andrews's birthday
12	13 Laura Geiger's birthday	14 John O'Connell and Andrea Hart's anniversary	15 Claudine Niness's birthday Mary Faddis's birthday Nancy Cressman's birthday Nancy Perchalski's birthday Stephanie Bearoff's birthday	16 Mark Blattner's birthday Rebecca Williams's birthday Santino Sicilia and Amber Carey's anniversary	17	18 Nicole Dalasio's birthday
19 April Liedike's birthday Melissa Thompson's birthday Ron Williams's birthday Rosie LaRocca's birthday	20	21 Britta Pekofsky's birthday	22 Liz Spurlock's birthday	23 Devon Mensch-Unruh's birthday Nabil Abraham and Erin McKenna's anniversary Randall and Karen Carr's anniversary Teddy Wimple's birthday Walt and Dana Deichmann's anniversary	24 Fred and RuthAnn Schell's anniversary Marc and Amber Herbranson's anniversary	25
26 Emerson Carr's birthday Gavin Moreland's birthday Mark Woelflin's birthday Marti Steiner's birthday Nick Mara's birthday	27	28	29 Eli Smith-Kiser's birthday	30 Justin and Jodi O'Neill's anniversary Stephen and Kimberly DiGioia's anniversary	31 Donald Platzer's birthday Rich Latella and Richard Skoniczin's anniversary	1 Dax Kunsch's birthday Dodi Strunk's birthday





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.

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.



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 30th). 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.

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!

Scan this QR code to give to the many ministries of St. John's from your phone!



Summary Financial Report as of March 31, 2024

	Monthly		Year-to-Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income:				
Envelope Giving	\$ 27,995	\$ 51,635	\$ 83,984	\$ 100,395
Other Income	3,791	4,007	11,375	10,547
	\$ 31,786	\$ 55,642	\$ 95,359	\$ 110,942
Expenses	\$ 39,745	\$ 38,858	\$ 119,236	\$ 124,084
Income (Deficit)	\$ (7,959)	\$ 16,784	\$ (23,877)	\$ (13,142)

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

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2024**

Attendees:							
Kyle Oszeyczik	P	Mitch Reading	P	Dale Herbranson	P	Stephen Drewes	Part Virtual
Kelly Gallagher	P	Janet Gerner	P	Sue Starling	A	Kate Hicks	P
Aimee Hillegas	P	Elisa Kahn	A	Jeanne Schanzenbach	P	Mike Kahl	A
Pastor Crouthamel	P						
Guests:							
Sonya Sowards	P	Tom Snyder	P	Molly Oladunjoye	P		

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Aimee; Kelly led with an opening prayer.

Prior Meeting Minutes – dated February 12, 2024

Motion by Kelly , Second by Dale to accept the minutes as amended below ; motion passed. Kyle and Kate abstaining. Amended to show that Dale instead of Dick motion to approve the previous (January) minutes and the finance meeting minutes.

Congregational Meeting Minutes – February 25, 2024

Motion by Mitch to approve as presented, seconded by Kate, all in favor.

Council meeting after Congregational Meeting – February 25, 2024

Motion by Kelly to approve as presented, seconded by Jeanne, all in favor.

Staff Reports

- Molly walked us through her report orally and sent her report during the meeting

Motion by Kyle to approve the staff reports, Dale seconded... all in favor.

Committee Reports

Council reviewed the following Committee Reports:

- Finance Committee from February 26, 2024
 - Discussed finding a more efficient way to help/relieve Mary, Shirl and Don on accounting and counting procedures. 'Members360' could be the basis of this... would start by changing the counting system. Best way to approach would be joint meeting with all involved, including Dale. Should look within the church to others with an accounting background possibly?
 - Motion to approve finance report by Kate/Dale, all in favor
- Electronics Committee from Feb 18, 2024
- Faith Formation from March 5, 2024
- Property Committee from March 4, 2024
- Worship and Music Committee from March 5, 2024
- Social Ministry Committee from March 6, 2024
- Fellowship Committee from February 27, 2024
- Columbarium Committee – no report
- Executive Committee – did meet in Feb before the last Council meeting, no formal report
- Stewardship Committee – no report
- Welcome Team Committee – no report

- Kitchen Task Force -- (Stephen) received approval from County Health Dept, moving forward with 'ask' campaign. Will be calling a special congregational meeting to discuss funding. Dale can add the campaign to Vanco online giving.

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

Old Business

- Lock up sign up circulated
- Coffee hour –
 - o April – hosted by kitchen task force
 - o May – hosted by Thrivent
- Synod Reps for Assembly – Voting members of the Synod Assembly must be voting members of a congregation (attendance, communion + financial contribution)

New Business

- Elisa Kahn – resigned from Council. Need to fill spot as well as Worship and Music Committee liaison. Tom and Russ will stand in as liaison for temporary status, Aimee will jump in starting in July. Reaching out to some potential candidates.
- Council retreat – Sat AM dates to be circulated for poll... April/May
- Sanctuary temperatures – 70 degrees F is the goal, Sonya will be reminding the ushers as Narthex doors need to be closed.
- Discussion on Dedicated Funds – Council discussion ensued, including going to Community Outreach Fund for any kitchen deficit...no strong consensus.

Aimee adjourned the meeting at 8:25; meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer. Next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday April 8 at 7p.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitch Reading
Church Council Secretary stand-in

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION
June 16th, 2024

DIVERSITY
JUSTICE
EQUALITY
FREEDOM
EMANCIPATION

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

\$2,500

\$1,500

\$1,000

\$500

\$250

PATRON SUPPORTERS:
Your generous gift of
\$5 - \$100 is greatly appreciated.

Make checks payable to
Diversity In Action
Please enter "Juneteenth" on the memo line.
Mail to: PO Box 337, Phoenixville, PA 19460

A Collaborative Community Event:
PHOENIXVILLE JUNETEENTH PLANNING COMMITTEE
Diversity In Action, Black Light Projects, Orion Communities
The Colonial Theatre, Trellis for Tomorrow
Phoenixville Community Health Foundation,

SCAN TO DONATE

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 Yanchek, 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

Kate Hicks

Kyle Oszeyczik

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 Oszeyczik, 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

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Note	1
St. John's Choir & Friends Concert / Lutheran Night at the Phillies / ASP Car Wash	2
Youth Activity Night / Graduation Sunday / Family Movie Night / Phoenixville Pride / Communion Wine / WELCA	3
Pentecost / VBS / Humor	4
Kitchen Reno Update / Lemon- ade & Muffins / Aluminum Cans	5
Church Communications / Do- nating Stock / Kid-Friendly Worship / Communion Records & Prayer Requests / Prayer Chain	6
May Worship Assistants / Poetry	7
Calendars	8-9
Stewardship Opportunities / Financials	10
Council Minutes	11-12
Juneteenth	12
Staff & Committees	cover

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



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



May 2024