

June 2024



Dear Friends in Christ,

For a lot of people, June marks the end of the school year, or the end of a program year; it's a time of graduations and things drawing to completion. Those things are wonderful, and worth celebrating, but June is also a time of new beginnings and of new energy. There are a lot of things that are beginning at St. John's and in the wider church, and I'm looking forward to seeing them unfold and develop!

One of the most obvious new beginnings at St. John's is the beginning of construction on our kitchen renovation. I'm thrilled by the generosity of the people of St. John's in providing financial support for the project, and I'm looking forward to having the new kitchen be certified for commercial food service, which will greatly increase our ability to do feeding and fellowship ministries in our community. Thank you to everyone on the Kitchen Task Force for organizing and spearheading the kitchen renovation project.

Vacation Bible School will also be beginning in a few weeks! (This is less of a new beginning, but it's still beginning soon, and I'm very excited for it!) Our enrollment had dropped during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic, but it's been steadily climbing every year, and this year is no exception. I'm excited to be able to be a part of the VBS ministry at St. John's, as we work to share God's love with students from all over Phoenixville and beyond!

There have also been new beginnings in the wider church, as well. At Synod Assembly last month, those of us in attendance got to take part in electing the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod's next bishop, the Rev. Bryan Penman. Bishop-elect Penman currently serves as the pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Conshohocken, and as one of the Synod's Directors for Evangelical Mission. I'm excited for the beginning of Bishop-elect Penman's ministry as bishop.

I'm certain that there are other new beginnings in our life together, and in the life of the congregation. I'm excited to celebrate those new beginnings together with everyone here at St. John's Lutheran Church, and I'm looking forward to seeing where the Holy Spirit will lead us, as individuals and as the church!

In Christ, Pastor Russ

#### Graduation Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9 a.m.

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 2<sup>nd</sup>, as well as naming our annual St. John's Dahms Scholarship recipient! Please send any submissions to Sonya (office@stjohnphoenixville.org) by Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.





#### Family Movie Night June 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.–9:30 p.m. Kley Hall

Join us on Saturday, June <sup>8th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. for a familyfriendly 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. <u>https://forms.gle/</u> <u>dT47SYBwEetGkRPo9</u>

### Phoenixville Pride June 8<sup>th</sup>, 12-5 p.m.

All are welcome to join the Social Ministry Committee at Phoenixville Pride on Bridge Street on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>! 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! <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/</u> go/10C0E44ACA623A1F5C52-49200968-stjohns

**Sunday Morning Book Club** continues monthly in the summer, hosted by individuals. Our first meeting will be June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. to discuss "Someone Else's Shoes" by Jojo Moyes. Contact coordinator Jean Herbranson (<u>deherb@juno.com</u>) for details about this and other summer meetings.

THANK YOU to everyone who sponsored red geraniums for Pentecost weekend. The flowers certainly added so much beauty to the chancel area . . . and to your landscaping when you took them home!





### Car Wash–June 2<sup>nd</sup> 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

We hope to see you on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> for our rescheduled annual ASP Car Wash Fundraiser! Donations will be accepted. Proceeds benefit our July trip to Virginia with Appalachia Service Project, an organization that seeks to make homes warmer, safer, and drier via construction projects. Please pray for our group of 19 adults and high-schoolers as we wrap up our final preparations!

#### Women of the ELCA–June 4<sup>th</sup>

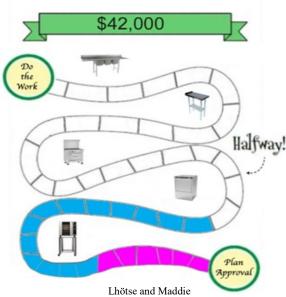
WELCA will meet at 10:30 am on Tuesday, June 4th to help put together items for VBS. All women of St. John's are invited to join us. This is the final meeting this spring. We will continue to collect toiletries, cards, tote bags, and Redner's tapes. All collected items should be left in the narthex.





# It's On! The Kitchen Renovation is on!

We are on a path that will take St. John's to a renovated, *Health Department-licensed* kitchen. We just need to raise the FUNDS to do it."



Lhötse and Maddie and their unbelievable lemonade and muffin stands got us off to a fantastic fundraising start, netting just over \$6,000!!!

The initial congregational response to the appeal letter was equally amazing with over \$13,000 donated in the first 10 days. As of May 19<sup>th</sup>, we have raised almost half of the necessary funds.

While the above is terrific, we need to keep the momentum going to be able to renovate this summer.

If you have not already done so, PLEASE consider donating to the Kitchen Renovation Fund.

Ways to donate:

- Check payable to St. John's—put *"kitchen"* in the memo line
- Give online at stjohnluthphoenixville.org
- Use the QR Code to the right





### 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 col-

lect 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!





### 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 <u>https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeLEUXiPpjR5Ua-nLksX708u4Gjo\_L-JAw85KQ3UUReFPU7Lg/viewform</u> or reach out to Molly via <u>mollyo@stjohnphoenixville.org</u> 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 Set-Up Day June 15**<sup>th</sup>, both from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Please email Molly if you can help.



# People of God Involved in God's Work June Worship Staff

### <u>Altar Guild</u>

- 2 Nancy Cressman & Janet Ertell
- 9 Donna Anderson & Cathy Garrett
- 16 Jean Herbranson
- 23 Betty Hans & Jean Herbranson
- 30 Jean Herbranson

# Assisting Minister

- 2 Deb Ahola
- 9 Tom Snyder
- 16 Nancy Cressman
- 23 TBD
- 30 Ron Stevens

# Communion Assistant/Lector

- 2 Mitch Reading
- 9 Bill Starling
- 16 Lynn Titus
- 23 Nancy Cressman
- 30 Mimi Woods

# Counters

- 2 Jack & Janet Ertell; Donna Anderson
- 9 Jeff & Jeanne Schanzenbach
- 16 Mary Heiser; Mike & Cathy Kahl
- 23 Stephen & Jen Drewes
- 30 Mary Heiser, Kevin Gallagher, Mike & Cathy Kahl

# Evening Light Assistant

- 1 TBD
- 8 TBD
- 15 Toni Hadfield
- 22 Buzz Hadfield
- 29 Shirley Platzer

# Lock-Up

- 2 Kyle Oszeyczik
- 9 Mitch Reading
- 16 Mike Kahl
- 23 Stephen Drewes
- 30 Aimee Hillegas

# Stream Team

- 2 Josh Romano, Paul Miller
- 9 Aimee Hillegas, Paul Miller
- 16 Josh Romano, Paul Miller
- 23 Dale Herbranson, Paul Miller
- 30 Aimee Hillegas, Paul Miller

### <u>Ushers</u>

- 2 Don Titus & Cathy Garrett
- 9 Sue Starling & Dick Kunsch
- 16 Cathy & Mike Kahl
- 23 Jen Drewes & Barry Church
- 30 Donna Anderson & Nancy Cressman

# SUMMER MUSIC

Vocal soloists and instrumentalists young and old(er) are invited to share their talents (either up front or from the balcony) as part of our summer worship. Warm up those vocal chords, tickle the ivories or dust off your instruments to praise the Lord! For more information or to schedule a date in June, July, or August contact Tom Snyder, Director of Music, <u>ftsiii@gmail.com</u>.

On Devon horse show see Riders and horses in their Finery parading 'round the Oval ring look closely Standing in the shadows Look again what do you see can You see what is in the Shadows children with ragged Clothes with ponies rough coated who are They these are the ones this show was For those who were too poor to be rich Who rode with no fancy tack who Enjoyed the joy of loving their Ponies this show was for them not Fancy not showy where they could Show their ponies in the best way They could where they could be Proud of themselves that they too Could be proud and hold their heads Up proudly maybe their ponies Were rough coated and the riders With grubby faces but they loved Their ponies being proud to Show what their ponies could do Once again the shadows come and we See them no more

Margaret Walker

# June 2024 birthdays and anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Emerson Cart'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
2 Dirk Rimrott's birthday Paul Miller's birthday	3 Dan Free's birthday Ian Kramer's birthday Mark Wallace's birthday Tyler Speaker's birthday	4 Bill and Sue Starling's anniversary Mitch and Erica Reading's anniversary	5 Derek and Carlla Carr's anniversary	6 Austin Starling's birthday	7 Mikayla Niness's birthday	8 Abigail Speaker's birthday
9 Colten Bomberger's birthday	10	11 Annaliese Duerr's birthday	12 Blake Goodhart's birthday	13 Daniel Free Jr.'s birthday Mike and Cathy Kahl's anniversary	14 Braeden Hawkins's birthday Carson Melton's birthday	15 Jessica Kramer's birthday
16 Deb Ahola's birthday Eileen Krueger's birthday Mario Walls and Courtney Morgan's anniversary Rebecca Stevens's birthday Sandy Momyer's birthday Val Kramer's birthday	17 Maryanne Mara's birthday	18 Donna Breitinger's birthday Kevin Gallagher's birthday	19 Cece Leong's birthday John Riley's birthday	20 Brooke Free's birthday Rick Kramer and Mindy Goldberg's anniversary	21 Joan Carl's birthday June Henzie's birthday Kevin and Kelly Gallagher's anniversary	22 Dan and Brooke Free's anniversary Taylor McGoldrick's birthday
23 John Westerman's birthday	24 Don and Lynn Titus's anniversary Donna Papsun's birthday	25 Carol Renninger's birthday Evan Aho's birthday Mark and Sarah Blattner's anniversary Tim Babinchak's birthday	26 A.J. Crouthamel's birthday David and Robin Frees's anniversary Mike and Dawn Platchek's anniversary	27 Dana Deichmann's birthday Elke Rimrott's birthday	28	29 Florence Bickhart's birthday John Unruh and Devon Mensch- Unruh's anniversary Rachael Aaronson's birthday Sue Lisiewski's birthday
30 Rhett Grejdus's birthday	1 Nancy Wilkinson's birthday Rick Kramer's birthday	2 Dylan Oszeyczik's birthday Robb Frees's birthday	3 Cindy Riley's birthday Gianna Bliss's birthday	4 Amanda Westerman's birthday Kurt Seidel's birthday Travis Brown's birthday	5 Dennis Duerr's birthday Heather Thompson's birthday	6 Aaron Sifford's birthday

# June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9am Holy Communion	27 11am Alanon Family Group	28 10am Mom's Mingle 7pm Fellowship Committee 8pm Lutheran 101 (Zoom)	29 7pm Alanon	30 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:45pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon	31 Lutheran Night at the Phillies 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	1 9am Council retreat 5pm Evening Light (w/communion)
2 Graduation Sunday 8:30am Rescheduled ASP Car Wash 9am Holy Communion	3 10:15am Staff 11am Alanon Family Group 5pm Stewardship Committee 7pm Property 7pm Stephen Ministry	4 10:30am WELCA 7pm Finance Committee 8pm Lutheran 101 (Zoom)	5 6pm Girl Scouts #4308 6pm Girl Scouts #473 7pm Alanon	6 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Kiwanis 7pm Naranon	7 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	8 12pm Phoenixville Pride 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 5:45pm Family Movie Night
9 9am Holy Communion	10 10am MAEVE Moms Mingle 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Church Council	11 6:30pm Faith Formation Committee 6:45pm Parent Grief Support Group	12 4pm Daisy Girl Scouts #4863 4pm Social Ministry 6pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Cadette Girl Scouts #41982 6:30pm Welcoming Team 7pm Alanon 7pm Summer Book Club	13 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm Naranon	14 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	15 8:30am VBS set up day 5pm Evening Light (w/communion)
16 9am Holy Communion 2pm Phoenixville Juneteenth	17 9am Vacation Bible School 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Stephen Ministry	18 Circle deadline 9am Vacation Bible School 6:45pm Parent Grief Support Group	19 9am Vacation Bible School 7pm Alanon	20 9am Vacation Bible School 6:30pm Kiwanis 7pm Naranon 8:15pm Naranon Support	21 St. Peter's lunch 9am Vacation Bible School 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	22 12pm Holschuh baby shower 5pm Evening Light (w/communion)
23 9am Holy Communion 10am Worship & Music	24 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Finance Committee	25 10am Mom's Mingle 7pm Fellowship Committee	26 7pm Alanon	27 7pm Naranon	28 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	29 5pm Evening Light (w/communion)
30 9am Holy Communion	1 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Property 7pm Stephen Ministry	2 6:30pm Faith Formation Committee	3 7pm Alanon	4 6:30pm Kiwanis 7pm Naranon	5 8pm Narcotics Anonymous	6 5pm Evening Light (w/communion)



# VBS Workday–Big Success

Thank you for supporting our Vacation Bible School program prep day to:  $\Rightarrow$  Church members Val Kramer, Jodi O'Neill, Justin O'Neill, Trevor O'Neill,

Tom Snyder, Mitch Reading, Elisa Khan, John Riley, Bobbi Riley, and Barb Rambo

 $\Rightarrow$  Girl Scout Troop 41441

 $\Rightarrow$  Young Men and Women In Charge (YMWIC) Phoenixville Chapter

So much was accomplished. The sets and props are looking good. Be sure to sign up to attend *"Camp Fire-*

*light"* June 17-21 to see how everything comes together.

#### St. John's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes April 8, 2024

Attendees:							
Kyle Oszeyczik	P	Mitch Reading	Р	Dale Herbranson	Α	Stephen Drewes	ρ
Kelly Gallagher	Р	Janet Gerner	Р	Sue Starling	Р	TBD	
Aimee Hillegas	Ρ	Kate Hicks	A	Jeanne	Р	Mike Kahl	P
				Schanzenbach			
Pastor Crouthamel	Р						
Guests:			-				
Sonya Sowards	Р	Tom Snyder	Р	Molly Oladunjoye	Р		

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

#### Prior Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mitch, Second by Janet to accept the minutes as presented; motion passed.

#### Staff Reports

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

#### Committee Reports

Council reviewed the following Committee Reports:

- Finance Committee met 03/25/24 accepted as written.
  - Motion to approve the Finance Report by Kyle; seconded by Janet; motion carried.
- Electronics Committee from 03/17/24 accepted as written.
- Faith Formation from 04/02/24- accepted as written.
- Property Committee from 4/1/24 accepted as written.
  - Motion from committee that the Eisenhower closet and the downstairs hallway to the Records Room be decluttered/cleaned out and maintained, as related to comments by the Fire Chief during an inspection. Motion carried.
- Worship and Music Committee from 04/02/24 accepted as written.
- Social Ministry Committee did not meet.
- Fellowship Committee from 03/26/24 accepted as written.
- Columbarium Committee did not meet.
- Executive Committee did not meet.
- Stewardship Committee no minutes submitted, but committee did meet to continue discussions.
- Welcome Team Committee did not meet.
- Green Team from 03/22/24 accepted as written.
- Kitchen Task Force from 04/03/24 accepted as written.
  - o Plan has been accepted by the county for certification.
  - Initial communications will begin soon; plan is to have congregational meeting May 4/5.
     Sonya will begin communications to meet the required notification timeframe.

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

#### Old Business

- Coffee Hour Host Sign-ups KTF hosting in April, Thrivent in May.
- Inter-church Muhlenberg Committee -- next meeting in May.

- New Council Member to replace Elisa no further names suggested.
- Council Retreat seems like June 1 is the best date thus far; 9-Noon.

New Business

No new business items.

Aimee adjourned the meeting at 7:48; meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer. Next regularly scheduled meeting will be May 13, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Starling Church Council Secretary

# St. John's Choir & Friends THANKS!!!!!!!!

The 31<sup>st</sup> annual St. John's Choir & Friends Concert, *Be Glad Then America*, was another successful outreach to the Phoenixville Community. Forty-five singers from 23 area churches joined together in glorious song. A large, appreciative audience attended the concert. My personal highlight was when the choir sang *A Tribute to the Armed Services* and members of the audience who had served stood up to be recognized—a very moving tribute!

This event would not have happened without the ministry, support, and assistance from many members of St. John's. Thanks to Sandra Zimmermann, Fellowship Team Chair, for organizing the supper, and Joan Wilson for hosting, setting up, serving, and cleaning up, and Barb Rambo and Bobbi Riley helping wherever needed. Thanks to Dale Herbranson for providing audio and visual assistance. Thanks to Peg Groening who graciously welcomed the audience members, to Pr. Russ for his support and singing with the choir, and to our accompanist John Quinn.

Tom Snyder

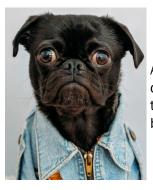
### Thank you Lhötse and Maddie!

Lhötse's Lemonade and Maddie's Muffins wrapped up their after-worship sales on May 19<sup>th</sup>, Pentecost Sunday. Their goal was to raise \$5,000 to support the kitchen renovation and thanks to their hard work and the amazing support of our members, they exceeded their goal and raised

# \$6,044.34

The Kitchen Task Force is truly grateful for the girls' effort and enthusiasm. We would also like to acknowledge their families who helped set up the stands, supplied the wonderful products that were sold, and were themselves, wonderful stewards to the church.





# Kids Say the Darnest Things

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

June harbinger of Summer winter yields to June's song of sunny skies Of flowers lifting faces To the sun for summer's Coming rejoice for Colors of every Hue will bloom winter's Gloom has ended Summer is coming Rejoice rejoice Lambs gambol in Pastures green children Cast off winter's chill Rejoicing in the Pleasures of play Rejoice rejoice Margaret Walker

God's mercy loves unknown Given all that on earth or Sky or sea shall dwell in Peace what'er their faiths Might be let all that dwell On land or sea, in sunlit skies Let all praise our heavenly Host those who kneel those Who praise eternal Lord of all Whose hand calms raging Mighty seas calms raging Mountains shall he not lift Man from lowly depths surely Surely God is in the depth Lord of all creation Margaret Walker

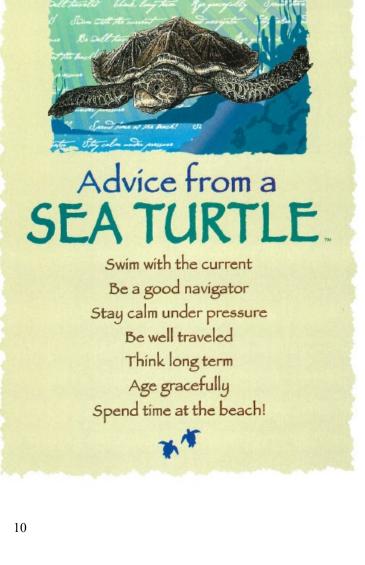
Copies of the St. John's members directory are available in the narthex. Please feel free to take one home or ask our Parish Administrator, Sonya Sowards, to send one to you. Please let Sonya know if any of your information needs to be updated. This directory can easily be updated and printed on demand. 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!

Scent of the hawthorne fills the Air foretells summer's warmth to come Winter sleeping yields to sun's warmth Lambs gambol in pastures green Children cast off winter chill Rejoicing in the pleasure of play Margaret Walker

Who am I that for my sake God created earth and sea Caused light to shine on Sinful man that all on earth God's glorious mercy shall see Who am I that dwells 'neath Skies of God's creation thus Christ came to God's mercy to Declare alleluia alleluia Margaret Walker

# Hearing and Seeing Helps

We have 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.



# 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 <u>complete</u> 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 <u>office@stjohnphoenixville.org</u> 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**

I/we took communion (date & time): □ 5n	
= 5p = 10:15a = 9:00a (summer)	
9:00a (summer)      other date & time	St. John's
	I'm a visitor
Name(s):	Env. #
Name(s):	Env. #
.,	
Name(s):	
.,	

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 contri-

bution 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 worshiping 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.

#### 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.





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.

# 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.

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



Did you know? Many employers offer the ability to have your donations deducted from your paycheck and then Expense forward those donations on to us. Some, such as Van-

### Thrivent Action Team Grants

Thrivent members are eligible to apply for two Action Team Grants each year to benefit their church. St. John's members Mike & Cathy Kahl routinely obtain grants for the church and have provided a helpful step-by-step guide:

- First, you must have a specific project in mind. You will also have to give an estimate of the number of people that might participate and when the project will be completed. The project should have something to do with bringing people into our organization or furthering our ministries.
- Once you have the above information, log in to your account at thrivent.com.
- Go to the bottom of the page to the Noah section. Click on Thrivent action teams.
- Choose "apply now" on the first page and then "apply now" again.
- On the next page, click "begin application." You have an option to get advertising materials and even T -shirts for your action team if you want them.
- The money arrives fairly quickly in the form of a Visa card. Use this card for purchases related to your project.
- When the project is finished, log in again and report that fact.

Special projects pop up from time to time at St. John's for which these cards could be used. If you'd like ideas for the use of your grant, contact our Administrator, Sonva Sowards, at office@stjohnphoenixville.org or (610) 933-3947, ext. 2, or speak to a staff member, Committee chair, or Councilmember.

### 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 livestream 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 April 30, 2024

		Monthly			Year-to-Date			
	-	Budget		Actual		Budget		Actual
come :								
Envelope Giving	\$	27,995	\$	24, 195	\$	111,978	\$	124,591
OtherIncome		3,791		3,494		15,167		14,041
	\$	31,786	\$	27,689	\$	127,145	\$	138,632
penæs	\$	39,745	\$	34, 283	\$	158,981	\$	158,367
come (Deficit)	\$	(7,959)	\$	(6,594)	\$	(31,836)	\$	(19,735

ncom Er

Incom

#### St. John's Lutheran Church 355 St. John's Circle Phoenixville, PA 19460 (610) 933-3947

www.stjohnluthphoenixville.org E-mail: <u>office@stjohnphoenixville.org</u>

#### **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

#### **Pastoral Acts**

Confirmation

Evan Becker Katelyn Blattner Ryan DesMarais Henry Duerr Brett Gallagher, May 19, 2024

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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

#### **S**undays

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



# **June 2024**