

The Circle

September 2024



Dear Friends in Christ,

Over the course of this upcoming school year, we're going to be focusing as a congregation on growing in several different practices of discipleship. There are a whole lot of discipleship books out there, and any number of lists of "marks of discipleship." The ones we're going to be using are: daily prayer; daily reading of Scripture; weekly worship attendance; growth in giving to the tithe and beyond; serving others in the name of Jesus; and sharing the Good News of Jesus with those outside the Church. We're going to be starting with daily prayer.

I have to confess, I'm not as diligent in daily prayer as I wish I was. With the juggling of schedules and responsibilities and deadlines and all the craziness in my life, prayer is often one of the first things that falls away. But prayer is an important part of our lives as disciples of Jesus. One of my favorite children's books is a book titled "There's No Wrong Way to Pray." It starts off, "When I pray, I talk to God." That's what prayer is: a conversation with God, and a way to connect with God and maintain your relationship with God, in the same way that conversations with other people help to maintain relationships and connections with them.

Some of the things that I've learned in my practice of prayer that have been the most helpful in cultivating that practice of daily prayer, and of using it to strengthen my connection with God, are:

Build time for prayer into your schedule. I know one pastor who has a lot of extra time driving one day of the week, who uses that time to pray for people. Some family devotionals recommend gathering just before the first member of the family goes to bed or leaves for the night. Everyone's schedule is as different as their lives are, so I don't think I can say "pick this time," and have it work for everyone, but find a time.

Read Scripture as part of your prayer. Whether it's part of a set Bible reading plan, or a devotional book, or just opening the Bible at random, taking time to read and hear God's Word is an important part of the conversation. Every week in our worship bulletin, we include a list of Scripture readings for each day in the coming week, which help to reflect on and prepare for Sunday's readings. Those daily readings are great for drawing deeper into prayer.

Take time to listen to God, too! In the First Reading from a few Sundays ago, King Solomon asks God for an "understanding mind," which can also be translated as a "listening heart." That idea of listening to God—as God's voice comes in stillness, in Scripture, in the guidance of the community in the Church—is a powerful part of that relationship of prayer.

Over the coming year, and especially over the coming month, I'm going to work to reconnect with that pattern of daily prayer, and to work to strengthen my relationship with God through prayer. I hope you'll join me!

In Christ,

Pastor Russ

Please note!

Our Sunday morning service will move to 10:15 a.m. on September 8th. Faith formation classes will also resume at 9:00 a.m. on the 8th. AND Confirmation/youth group will kick-off at 6:30 p.m. on the 8th. Please join us!



Movie Night – September 7th at 6:00 p.m.

Join us for a fun-filled family movie night on Saturday, September 7th at 6:00 p.m.! Bring the whole family and settle in for *Inside Out 2*, popcorn, and a cozy evening together. Pizza and refreshments will also be provided. It's the perfect way to relax, enjoy some quality time, and connect with other families in our church community. We can't wait to see you there!

Rally Day + Teacher/Guide Installation September 8th at 9:00 a.m.

Mark your calendars and save the date for our Sunday school kick-off event of the year: Rally Day! Celebrations will commence on Sunday, September 8th at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome to come and check out our Christian education programs. Stay for the service and help us share a blessing with our teachers and guides for the program year!



Youth Group/Confirmation Kickoff September 8th at 6:30 p.m.

We're excited to invite all 7th-8th graders and high school students to join us for a combined youth group and confirmation class starting Sunday, September 8th at 6:30 p.m.! This is a fantastic opportunity to grow in your faith, make new friends, and dive deeper into what it means to be a part of our church community. Whether you're new to confirmation or looking to strengthen your spiritual journey, come and be a part of this awesome experience. We can't wait to see you there!

Youth Lock-In—September 27-28 at 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Hey middle and high schoolers! You're invited to a church lock-in starting on Friday, September 27th at 6:30 p.m. and ending the next morning, September 28th at 9:00 a.m. Get ready for a night filled with fun, games, worship, and plenty of snacks. It's going to be an unforgettable experience where you can hang out with friends, make new ones, and dive deeper into your faith. Don't miss out—grab your sleeping bag and join us for an amazing night!

First Bible Sunday—September 29th at 10:15am (Classes on October 6th, 13th, 20th)

Join us for First Bible Sunday on September 29th as we celebrate a special milestone for our 3rd graders, who will receive their very own Bibles during the service! This marks the beginning of their journey into deeper Bible study, with classes offered on October 6th, 13th, and 20th during the Sunday school hour. If you'd like to sign your child up for these classes, please email Molly at molly@stjohnphoenixville.org. Don't miss this meaningful opportunity to support our young ones as they grow in their faith!



MUSIC MINISTRY AT ST. JOHN'S

“He Came Singing Love”

Colin Gibson

He came singing love and he lived singing love he died singing love. He arose in silence.
For the love to go on we must make it our song; you and I be the singers.

Words and Music © 1994 Hope Publishing Company, Reprinted under ONELICENSE A#-726931

St. John's recognizes the importance of music in its worship life. Come, be a singer and music maker in this joy-filled ministry and fellowship. **New members are welcomed in all groups.** Age groupings are guidelines.

Deacon Tom Snyder, Director of Music, ftsiii@gmail.com

ADULT CHOIR

- Teens through adults
- Rehearses Wednesday, 7:30 – 9:00 PM
- Provides Sunday worship leadership, except the second Sunday of each month, September through May
- Rehearsals begin September 4

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

- Provides leadership for 7:00 PM Christmas Eve worship and pre-service music beginning at 6:30 PM
- Rehearses Wednesday at the beginning of Adult Choir
- Rehearsals begin October 2

CHILDREN'S HANDBELLS

- Grades 3 and above
- Rehearses Thursday, 6:45 – 7:30 PM
- Beginning ensemble
- Rehearsals begin September 12

ADULT HANDBELLS

- Older teens through adults
- Rehearses Thursday, 7:30 - 8:30 PM
- Moderately advanced ensemble
- Rehearsals begin September 12

SECOND SUNDAY SERIES

- Second Sunday of each month a guest musician (singer or instrumentalist) is invited to provide offertory music during worship

ST. JOHN'S CHOIR & FRIENDS

- Community Choir which presents an annual concert
- In 2024, 45 singers from 23 area churches participated
- Rehearsals: Sunday 3/23, 30, 4/6, 13, 27 7 – 9:00 PM
- Performance date is Sunday, May 4, 7:00 PM



Use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang best

2024-2025 CONCERT SERIES

Felix Hell, Concert Organist

Internationally known performer

October 13, 2024, 4 PM



Jocelyn Crosby, Flute Duo & Piano

Concert with virtuosic technique and engaging storytelling

November 10, 2024, 4 PM



Providence Chamber Orchestra

Works by Bizet, Borodin, Fauré, Mozart, Schubert, Strauss Sr.

November 24, 2024, 4 PM



Coventry Singers

Concert of Seasonal Favorites

December 8, 2024, 4 PM



Thomas Keesecker, Composer

Inspirational hour of piano music, reflection, poetry, laughter, and hymn singing

February 16, 2025, 4 PM



Simple Gifts

www.simplegiftsduo.com

Two women + twelve instruments: a concert of ethnic folk music

March 16, 2025, 4 PM



Susquehanna University Choir

Acclaimed concert choir performing a variety of acapella music

April 6, 2025, 4 PM



St. John's Choir & Friends

Music of John Rutter featuring *Requiem*

Thirty-third annual concert with singers from the community accompanied by the Providence Chamber Orchestra

May 4, 2025, 7 PM



Lutheran 101 begins September 15th

Pastor Russ will be teaching a six-week Bible study called "Lutheran 101" on Sunday mornings from September 15th through October 20th during the Faith Formation hour. The class will look at Lutheran history and theology and talk about how Lutherans (and particularly St. John's Lutherans) live out our faith in the 21st century. Whether you're interested in becoming a member at St. John's, or whether you've been a member for a long time and are interested in learning more about what it means to be Lutheran, come join us!

Muhlenberg Parish Joint Service and Rise Against Hunger Event September 29th, 9:30 a.m.

Centennial, Zion, and St. Peter's Lutheran Churches are hosting a combined service as the Muhlenberg Parish at Centennial Lutheran Church, 1330 Hares Hill Road, Kimberton at 9:30 a.m. on September 29th. After the service, everyone will go to Zion of Spring City at 39 Bonnie Brae Road, Spring City and work together on the Rise Against Hunger mission project to package 10,000 meals for food insecure communities around the world.



While our 9 a.m. faith formation classes and 10:15 a.m. service will still take place at St. John's on this date, St. John's members who wish to attend the joint service will be welcome! You are also welcome to simply go over to Zion after church at St. John's to help with the packing. Use this code to sign up to help or donate.

Join the Choir!

rehearsals begin September 4th at 7:30 p.m.

Ready to give up your solo career? If you are over singing alone in the shower or the car you are invited to join the Adult Choir. Rehearsals begin at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 4th in our newly air-conditioned Kley Hall. Cold water is supplied. Choir sings during services on the first, third, fourth, and fifth Sundays. Sit with your family and come upstairs to sing. All are welcome to be part of this fun-loving ensemble. No judgment here! Remember "use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang best." For more information contact Director of Music Tom Snyder, ftsiii@gmail.com



Fellowship Time Hosts

As we begin our program year, we are looking for families, committees, and groups to host fellowship time on the second Sunday of each month at 9:45 a.m. If you are interested, please contact Sonya or use this QR code:.



Kitchen Project Update: What a difference!

Check out the before, during, and current kitchen pictures.

Most of the originally scheduled renovation tasks and changes are done. One unexpected issue—the cooking range we received was built for natural gas and we ordered a unit to work with propane. That requires the manufacturer to build a new unit. Hopefully we will get the correct one in the next few weeks.

Our renovation fundraiser has topped \$50k. It is a joyous blessing that so many members have generously supported this project. After all the contractor payments are finalized the KTF will be in a position to use any available extra funds to enhance the kitchen space and equipment. More on that to come.



before



during



current

Caring for Creation: What We Can Do at St. John's

Caring for God's creation is an ever-evolving topic in this world, especially with each new natural or human made disaster. As stewards of this world, we are called to care for the earth and examine our behaviors toward creation. While we need to take from the land for food and sustainability, we also need to be careful that we maintain good stewardship and do not exploit the wonderful things the earth provides.

We have in this last year formed a "Green Team" at St. John's with some initial objectives to provide education about current environmental issues including recycling and more responsible use of our limited natural resources and to promote initiatives within our congregation and local community toward providing a healthy, responsible and sustainable future.

We are off to a good start at St. John's. We sponsor aluminum can recycling, as well as paper recycling. We use programmable thermostats, the Property Committee has been working to change the light bulbs over to LED lights, and many of our committees continue to meet virtually on Zoom® which helps to cut down on carbon emissions.



However, we can still do more. One of the first things that the Green Team would like to tackle is cutting back on the amount of single use disposable products we use during Fellowship Time and other events. One way you can help is to BYOCM (Bring Your Own Coffee Mug) for Fellowship Time. If you're like me, you probably have a number of travel mugs for hot drinks that you could easily bring on Sundays. Rest assured there will be ceramic coffee mugs if you don't have a travel mug or forget to bring one! In addition, with the renovation of the kitchen and the installation of a new dishwasher, we are going to use non-disposable dishware and utensils. Each Fellowship Time host will get the joy of running the new dishwasher (and not having to wash things by hand!). We plan to implement this with the first Fellowship Time that is to be held on October 13th.

Hopefully, you will all join us in this effort to reduce the amount of single use disposable products that we send to the landfill.

Women of the ELCA

WELCA will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 24th. Toni and Buzz Hadfield will be joining us along with at least one therapy dog. It will definitely be a "love" session. Included on the agenda is a hymn devotion, catch up on personal summer happenings, and calendar planning for 2024-2025. Although we did not meet formally over the summer our collections and caring mailings continued. Thank you so much for your continued support of WELCA ongoing projects. We will continue to collect Redner's tapes, toiletries, cards, calendars, etc. Stay tuned for the 2024 Silver Springs "Wish List." Mark your calendars now and plan to join us on September 24th.

Sunday Morning Book Club

Book Club met monthly over the summer and now looks forward to weekly meetings beginning in September. Some of the books we plan to read are "Ordinary Grace" by William Kent Krueger, "Last Dress from Paris" by Jade Beer, "Homecoming" by Kate Morton, and "Open House" by Elizabeth Berg. Books are chosen by group consensus, and we meet in the Pastor's office on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. Join us for one book or several.



SAVE THE DATE for the Phoenixville Area Time Bank Annual Pasta Party! October 26, 2024

Enjoy authentic Italian cuisine and take a chance to win a gift basket while supporting the Phoenixville Area Time Bank by participating in annual Italian pasta party, to be held this year on October 26th!

PATB's take-out dinner features Nick Castellano's traditional Italian gravy (meatballs and sausage) and pasta. Spaghetti squash is offered as an alternative to pasta and our vegetarian sauce is offered as an alternative to the Italian gravy. Each dinner also includes parmesan cheese, breadsticks, salad, and dessert.

Orders can be placed online starting October 1st or, if you prefer, you may call in your order to (610) 608-9281.

We are again partnering with Good Samaritan Services in Phoenixville to include an option to purchase a meal that is donated to residents at the organization's homeless shelter for men. We encourage everyone who can to chip in and buy an extra meal for them!

Along with dinners, raffle tickets can be purchased for a number of enticing and themed gift baskets.

If you have any questions or need help with your order, please call Margo at (610) 608-9281, or email info@patimebank.org.

PATB graciously thanks St. John's Lutheran Church for its support again this year as our take-out location. MAMA MIA!!

HELP US PACK 150 BACKPACKS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF!

What we need:

- 600 70-sheet notebooks 8x10 1/4 (wide or college ruled)
- 150 30-cm rulers
- 150 pencil sharpeners
- 150 pairs of blunt scissors
- 750 unsharpened #2 pencils w/eraser
- 150 boxes of 16 to 24 crayons.
- 150 2 1/2 inch erasers

**All materials are needed by
October 6th (box in Narthex)**

**Sunday School classes will pack
backpacks together on October 13th**

**Questions? Talk to or call Charlotte or
Erica Reading**

717-385-3706



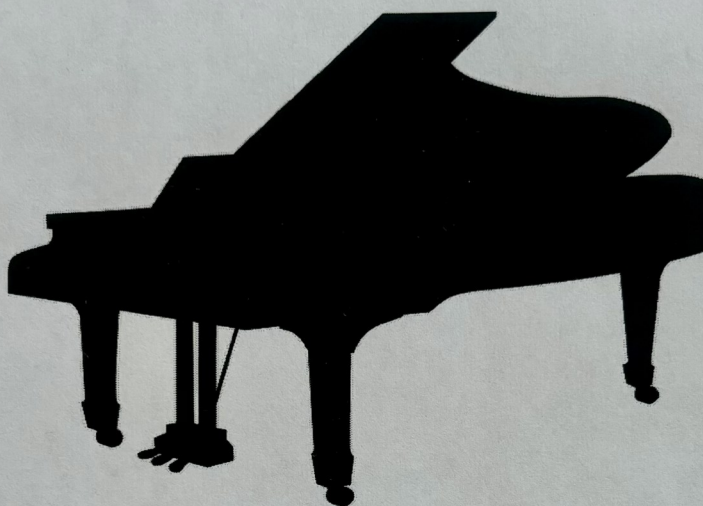
**No time to get
supplies?
Donate \$ here!**



Looking for a fun, educational, and rewarding activity for your child?

Why not try....

Piano Instruction



Instructor

Sondra L. Andrews
806 Rhinehart Lane
Phoenixville, PA 19460
610-316-3852

- Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Music Education and Piano Performance
- 40 years teaching experience
- All ages and levels, kindergarten through college
- ½ hour weekly in-person or virtual lessons offered

To reserve a lesson time for your child or to obtain additional information, please contact Sondra Andrews at 610-316-3852 or email at sondralise@gmail.com



Thanks to the Carl family for generously making Memorial Funds in memory of Clarence Carl and Douglas Carl, available to assist in safety improvements at St. John's including new emergency lights, exit lights, and smoke/CO2 detectors throughout the building.

Thanks to the generosity of a member a new safety rail has been installed in the balcony (same style and color as the altar step rails) and a podium replaces the wooden box in the balcony.

The Property Committee

Dear Friends at St. John's:

We are writing to express our sincerest gratitude for your recent donation to Phoenixville Free Clinic. Your generous contribution of \$1,000 has deeply touched us. Your unwavering dedication and support of our mission has an impact on the lives of the patients under our care. Together we can continue to build a brighter future for all those we serve.

Sincerely,

Shelley Meenan
Advancement Director

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your organization's recent gift of \$1,000 to Lutheran World Relief! When you love your neighbors with your generous gifts to LWR, you change lives in amazing ways. We'd love to show you examples of your gift in action. Please visit www.lwr.org and sign up to receive the latest updates. Thank you again and God bless you!

Warm regards,

Daniel V. Speckhard, President & CEO
Lutheran World Relief

Dear St. John's Church family:

Thank you so much for the Bundt cake on my birthday. And a big thank-you to Joan Wilson for arranging for me to get it. It was delicious!

Sincerely,

Pat Renninger

To the members of St. John's Lutheran Church:

Thank you for the generous gift of \$500 to NAMI Chester County PA. Your donation will directly support our mission to improve the lives of children, adolescents, adults and families affected by mental illness through recovery-focused support, education and advocacy. On behalf of NAMI, I thank you for your generous support.

Sincerely,

Sara Wein, MSS, MLSP, LSW
Executive Director

Dear Friends at St. John's Lutheran Church:

On behalf of The Trevor Project we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to you for the generous donation of \$1,000 to support the organization's general operation. Funds raised are essential to realizing our mission and serving LGBTQ young people 24/7/365. Your contribution is vital to all that we do at Trevor. Together we can build a brighter, safer future for all LGBTQ young people.

With much appreciation,

Philip Adolwa
Vice President of Development Operations

Dear St. John Lutheran Church:

Thank you for your gift of \$1,000 to ELCA World Hunger. Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries, including the United States. It provides access to clean water, healthcare, agriculture, livestock and education and it advances peace and justice. Through your gifts you join the whole Church in working towards a just world where we all are fed. Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

In Christ,

Amanda White
Director, Congregational Generosity



People of God Involved in God's Work

September Worship Staff

Altar Guild

- 1 Nancy Cressman & Janet Ertell
- 8 Donna Anderson & Cathy Garrett
- 15 Andrea Hart & Jean Herbranson
- 22 Jean Herbranson
- 29 Jean Herbranson & Betty Hans

Assisting Minister

- 1 Ron Stevens
- 8 Nancy Cressman
- 15 Deb Ahola
- 22 Bill Starling
- 29 Ron Stevens

Communion Assistant/Lector

- 1 Mimi Woods
- 8 Lynn Titus
- 15 Mitch Reading
- 22 Walt Deichmann
- 29 Deb Ahola

Counters

- 1 Jack & Janet Ertell; Donna Anderson
- 8 Heather Yonosh; Mike & Cathy Kahl
- 15 Mary Heiser; Walt & Dana Deichmann
- 22 Stephen & Jen Drewes
- 29 Mary Heiser, Kevin Gallagher, Mike & Cathy Kahl

Evening Light Assistant

- 8/31 Sandy Momyer
- 7 TBD
- 14 TBD
- 21 Rich Latella
- 28 TBD

Lock-Up

- 1 Jeanne Schazenbach
- 8 Kelly Gallagher
- 15 Mitch Reading
- 22 Dale Herbranson
- 29 Kate Hicks

Stream Team

- 1 Josh Romano & Paul Miller
- 8 Dale Herbranson & Aimee Hillegas
- 15 Aimee Hillegas & Dale Herbranson
- 22 Josh Romano & Paul Miller
- 29 Dale Herbranson & Paul Miller

Ushers

- 1 Mike & Cathy Kahl
- 8 Cathy Garrett & Don Titus
- 15 Dick Kunsch & Giovanna Brown
- 22 Sue Starling & Jen Drewes
- 29 Diane & Katelyn Blattner

Along paths of peace gently I
Lead I am Lord of peace the sheep
Of my pasture graze in peacefulness
I call them all by name as a
Shepherd I gather them in my arms
I carry the smallest lambs
In pastures of peace I tend them
Where the lion and wolf lay
Down purring like kittens
And sheep fear them not I am the
Lord of peace come shelter
'neath my peace

Margaret Walker

The lion roars and the mountains
Shake yet the mighty lion bows
Down before the gentle lamb
In pastures of peace lambs
Shall gambol before mighty
Lion for the lamb and the lion
Shall dwell in the pasture of
God's peace lamb and cub shall
Play together in God's Eden

Margaret Walker

A poor life this if full of
Care we laugh not at life's ways
Nor saw life's comedy dancing
In the moonlight a poor life
It would be if laughter knew
Not how to laugh for what
Is life if no one laughs
And sober is the day
A poor life this if full
Of care we cannot laugh
T'would be a place of
Dullness nor would the
Sun shine I am glad that
Laughter flows for all

Margaret Walker

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):


9P

10:15a

9:00a (summer)

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): _____

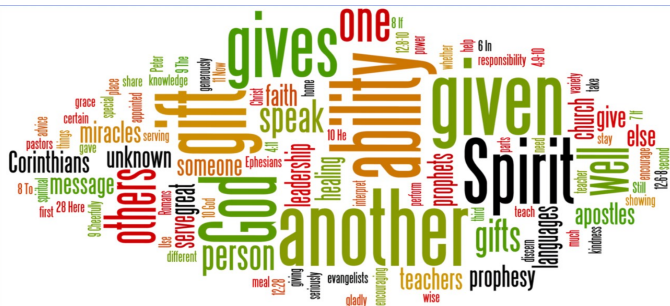
Please place this card in the offering plate or hand it in on the triangle kiosk in the narthex (lobby) when you leave. THANKS!

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.





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 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.

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



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, Sonya 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 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!

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.

September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9am Holy Communion	2 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Stephen Ministry	3 6:30pm Faith Formation Committee 7:30pm Worship & Music	4 4pm Social Ministry 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	5 6:30pm Kiwanis 7pm Naranon 7pm Property	6	7 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 6pm Movie Night
8 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Holy Communion w/teacher installation 6:30pm Youth Group/Confirmation	9 10am MAEVE Moms Mingle 10:15am Staff 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Church Council	10	11 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	12 6pm Brownie Troop #4094 6:30pm Welcoming Team 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal	13	14 2pm Bishop's installation 5pm Evening Light (w/communion)
15 9am Faith Formation--Lutheran 101 begins 10:15am Holy Communion 2pm PCO Rehearsal 6:30pm Youth Group/Confirmation	16 11am Alanon Family Group 5pm Stewardship Committee 7pm Green Team 7pm Stephen Ministry	17 6:45pm Parent Grief Support Group	18 Circle deadline 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	19 6:30pm Kiwanis 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal 8:15pm Naranon Support	20 St. Peter's lunch	21 5pm Evening Light (w/communion)
22 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Holy Communion 6:30pm Youth Group/Confirmation	23 11am Alanon Family Group	24 10am Mom's Mingle 10:30am WELCA 6:45pm Parent Grief Support Group 7pm Fellowship Committee	25 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	26 6pm Brownie Troop #4094 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal	27 Youth Lock-in	28 Youth Lock-in 5pm Evening Light (w/communion)
29 Rise Against Hunger-Muhlenberg Parish 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Holy Communion-First Bibles received 2pm PCO Rehearsal	30 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Finance Committee	1 6:30pm Faith Formation Committee 6:45pm Parent Grief Support Group 7:30pm Worship & Music	2 4pm Social Ministry 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	3 6:30pm Kiwanis 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal	4	5 5pm Evening Light (w/communion)

Last week in August 2024 birthdays and anniversaries (apologies for omitting in last newsletter)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 Anna Wilkinson's birthday	26 Mark and Carolyn Rutherford's anniversary	27 Amy Becker's birthday James and Janet Reading's anniversary Jeff and Jeanne Schanzenbach's anniversary Joe and Sherri Muller's anniversary	28 Chuck Blackledge's birthday Jessica Cratty's birthday William and Faye Donovan's anniversary	29 Anderson McMahon's birthday Ashleigh Melton's birthday Marc Staudenmaier's birthday Nicholas Hollander's birthday	30 Cindy Schubert's birthday	31 Aditya Verma and Elizabeth Granacher's anniversary Hayley Riley's birthday Kent Brown's birthday Laura Caughlan's birthday Matthew and Courtney Quaglia's anniversary Tim and Beth Leong's anniversary

Birthdays and Anniversaries September 2024

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

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2024**

Attendees:							
Kyle Oszeyczik	P	Mitch Reading	P	Dale Herbranson	A	Stephen Drewes	P
Kelly Gallagher	P	Janet Gerner	A	Sue Starling	P	TBD	
Aimee Hillegas	P	Kate Hicks	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 led with an opening prayer and devotional discussion.

Prior Meeting Minutes

Motion by Kelly, Second by Mitch to accept the May minutes as presented; motion carried with one abstention.

Staff Reports

Motion by Stephen, Second by Kyle to accept the May Staff Reports; motion carried.

Committee Reports

Council reviewed the following Committee Reports:

- Finance Committee met 06/04/24 – accepted as written.
 - **Motion to approve the Finance Report by Mitch; seconded by Mike; motion carried.**
- Electronics Committee from 05/19/24 – accepted as written.
- Faith Formation – did not meet.
- Property Committee from 06/03/24 – accepted as written.
 - Sanctuary AC is fully repaired and functional.
 - Kley Hall HVAC upgrade – Have contracted with Chadd's Ford Climate Control for four split refrigeration units. Installation delayed pending arrival of equipment.
 - Kitchen
 - Deposit (50%) sent to Singer for equipment/appliances.
 - Plumbing/gas to be disconnected on/around July 8th. Kitchen should not be scheduled for use in July or August.
- Worship and Music Committee – did not meet.
- Social Ministry Committee – did not meet.
- Fellowship Committee – did not meet.
- Columbarium Committee – did not meet.
- Executive Committee – did not meet.
- Stewardship Committee from 05/20/24 and 06/04/24 – accepted as written.
- Welcome Team Committee – did not meet.
- Green Team – did not meet.
- Kitchen Task Force – no new meeting notes.

Motion by Kelly, second by Stephen to accept committee reports; motion carried.

Old Business

- Inter-church Muhlenberg Committee – next meeting currently scheduled for June 18, not sure if any current St. Johns members can attend.
- New Council Member to replace Elisa – continue to search. Will need to replace 3 additional Council members at the end of this year as well.
- New Member Council Approval (via email vote): Pastor Russ sent the Congregational President a letter requesting that the following people be approved for membership at St. Johns per constitutional requirement:
 - Jake Durlinger
 - Marc and Laura Staudenmaier, with children Elise and Colin
 - Jim and Kathy Kelsh (membership transfer from Temple Lutheran, Havertown PA)
 - Nine council members responded with approvals for membership, affirming the request:
 - Kelly Gallagher
 - Sue Starling
 - Dale Herbranson
 - Mike Kahl
 - Mitch Reading
 - Jeanne Schanzenbach
 - Kate Hicks
 - Kyle Oszeyczik
 - Janet Gerner

New Business

- Growth in Discipleship Proposal –
 - Working with book *'Ask, Thank, Tell'* by Charles R. Lane.
 - Expanding our view of stewardship to move beyond 'asking for more financial generosity'.
 - Focus on six tenets or marks of discipleship – i.e. focus on daily prayer in September, more generous giving in October, etc. (somewhat matching themes to months).
 - More to follow.
- Finance ideas to close budget gaps
 - Finance would like to address how to bridge the gap between income and expense in the current budget
 - May best be done in a 'workshop' setting with Finance and Council
 - Explore designated funds – can anything be changed.
 - Can the growth on some of those original amounts be used in other ways?
 - Finance is willing to put together a packet for advance review for the workshop – with descriptions of funds, purposes, rules, etc.
 - Likely September timeframe.

Aimee adjourned the meeting at 7:50; meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer. No July Council meeting. Next regularly scheduled meeting will be August 12, 2024. Molly will lead the opening devotion.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Starling
Church Council Secretary

St. John's Lutheran Church
355 St. John's Circle
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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

Office Assistants:

June Henzie

Joan Carl

Pat Renninger

The Circle Editor:

Sonya K. Sowards

Updated Contact information

Eleanor Lundy

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Limerick, PA 19468-3468

Robert Kunsch

905 Walnut Street

Royersford, PA 19468-2423

Jeff & Jeanne Schanzenbach

1101 Harding Circle

Chester Springs, PA 19425-3812

Pastoral Acts

Funeral

Florence E. Bickhart

July 24, 2024

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office hours 9-3 M,T,Th & 9-12 W,F (*barring exceptions*)

please call for appointments with staff members

***A Caring, Sharing, Growing Congregation of the ELCA
Participating in Stephen Ministry***

Worship Schedule

Saturdays

5 p.m. Evening Light with Holy Communion

Sundays

10:15 a.m. Holy Communion

(fall, winter and spring)

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

(Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day)

Handicapped Accessible

THE CIRCLE



September 2024