

The Circle

December 2024



Dear Friends in Christ,

One of my favorite pieces of choral music is a short anthem called “E’en so, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come,” written by a composer by the name of Paul Manz. (There are dozens of great recordings of it on YouTube. I’d encourage you to listen to it; it’s only a couple of minutes long). It’s a beautiful piece of music, and both the text (drawn from the book of Revelation) and the story behind it are powerful.

Manz was a Lutheran church musician, organist, and composer for most of his life. In 1953, when their three-year-old son was gravely ill, he and his wife Ruth composed “E’en So, Lord Jesus...” while they were staying with him, praying for him and caring for him. In an interview a few years ago, they said,

- ◇ "I think we'd reached the point where we felt that time was certainly running out so we committed it to the Lord and said, 'Lord Jesus quickly come,'" Ruth says.
- ◇ "I made a sketch that night at the bedside and miraculously through prayer by a lot of people John survived," Paul says.

The music helps to convey the worry and grief and pain that the Manzes felt, but also their trust in God, knowing that Jesus would return and that everything—including their worry and grief—were in God’s hands.

That sense of hope in Jesus’ return, that no matter how scary or fearful the world might be, God will one day make it right, and that we can trust in God to keep those promises even in the face of fear and death and suffering, is written throughout Revelation, and really throughout the Scriptures. It’s one of the major themes of Advent: as we prepare to celebrate Jesus coming to us two millennia ago, we also get to look ahead to his coming in glory; that fearful hope is one of the things that I love most about Advent. Even in the face of all the fears and worries that we face—and they’re many—we can still pray, “Come quickly, Lord Jesus.”

Of course, the hope in Jesus’ return and the trust in God that we proclaim doesn’t mean that we can do whatever we want in the meantime. We’re still called to use the gifts that God has given us to love God and to love our neighbors, to protect vulnerable and marginalized people, and to care for creation. We’re called to share God’s love with the world, even in the face of the fear and uncertainty and pain that the world throws at everyone. But we also know that fear and sin and pain are fighting a losing battle, because we know that Jesus will return, that God will dwell with us, that every tear will be wiped away

Even so, Lord, quickly come.

In Christ,
Pastor Russ

Angel Tree

December 1st through January 6th

Our annual Angel Tree is in the narthex until January 6th. Please choose items from the tree or table and leave your donation in the container on the table. Your donations help support our girls at the MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School in Tanzania. Thank you!

Coventry Singers at St. John's

The Coventry Singers will present their Christmas concert "December in My Hometown" at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 8th at St. John's. The concert features Dietrich Buxtehude's Cantata *Das neugebor'ne Kindelein* BuxWV 13 (the newborn babe, the heavenly child) with strings and classical and traditional Christmas works by Johann Pachelbel, Dan Forrest, John Rutter, and Pinkzebra.

Conductor Cheryl Markofski is a graduate of Florida State University with a master of music degree who has done graduate work in voice performance at the University of Texas. She taught music at the Owen J. Roberts Middle School and is a noted soloist and voice coach. Accompanist Eleanor Lundy, a member of St. John's, began playing the piano by ear in early childhood. She has taught piano and served churches in New England and eastern Pennsylvania for many years as a choir director and organist. She is a graduate of Rosemont College.

The Coventry Singers is a community choral organization of auditioned singers who perform diverse and challenging choral music. Over its 50-year history, the group has performed major choral works, including those of Handel, Bach, Mozart, Haydn, Rutter, and Finzi. The Coventry Singers concert programs also include lighter works, both sacred and secular, with a frequent dose of humor. The number of performers ranges from 30 to 40 and includes people of all walks of life. Some have professional musical experience, some are or have been teachers of music, but many are people who just like to sing and welcome musical challenges.

The concert is free and all are welcome. A freewill offering will be accepted.



FEATURING MUSIC BY
Johann Pachelbel, Dietrich Buxtehude,
John Rutter, Dan Forrest and Pinkzebra



RADA CUTLERY FUNDRAISER

WELCA is once again raising funds via Rada Cutlery, which sells kitchen knives and tools, cookbooks, various soups and dips. Joan Wilson is the WELCA member handling the fundraising effort. Rada catalogs and order forms will be available in the narthex. Completed order forms and checks payable to "WELCA" can be given to Joan Wilson by putting them in the WELCA mailbox in Kley Hall. Joan can be reached at ramgram-my6@gmail.com or (484) 437-4550. **Christmas orders must be submitted by December 1st.**

Candlelight House Tour And Holiday Marketplace A Phoenixville Tradition!

*Saturday, December 7th
Self-guided walking tour 4-8pm*



St. John's is honored to be one of the tour locations this year. Our sanctuary, lit by Evening Light candles and decorated for Advent, will open to the public. Visitors will be invited to worship at Evening Light or arrive before or after and be treated to carols by the choir and organ and trumpet music. The Angel Tree will be on display with items for purchase and invitations to attend Christmas Eve services will be available.

<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/SeniorAdultActivityCenterofth/holidaytour.html>

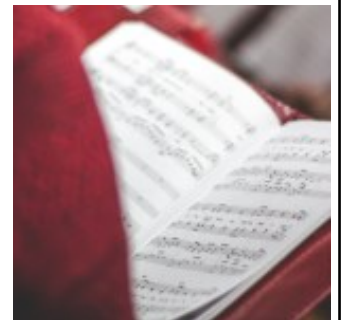
*Benefits the Phoenixville Area Senior Center
Tickets \$30 in advance online*

Faith Formation for Adults

There are four opportunities for learning and fellowship for adults at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Join one of them this December. **Bible Study**, led by Linda Landis, meets in the Fireside Room and will be learning about "An Unlikely Advent" and "Extraordinary People of the Christmas Story." **Faith Life**, coordinated by Jack Ertell, discusses a variety of current events & faith and meets in Meeting Room 1 (to the left of the Kley Hall stage). **Happy Hour** meets in the Eisenhower Room and is coordinated by Mitch Reading. Happy Hour folks are primarily a group of parents who support each other while their children are in Sunday school. **The Sunday Morning Book Club** meets in the Pastor's office and is coordinated by Jean Herbranson. The Book Club will be reading "Mr. Dickens and His Carol" by Samantha Silva in December.

Lessons & Carols

will take place on the first Sunday of Christmas, December 29th, at 10:15 a.m. Come sing with us and continue the twelve-day celebration of our Savior's birth!



Caring For Creation Go Green for Christmas

Use ingenuity and imagination to reduce the impact of the holiday season. Christmas doesn't have to be a burden on the planet. With a little effort and imagination, we can reduce the environmental impact of the holiday season.

Buy less

Some holiday gifts fill a practical need and need to be bought new. But many gifts are really gestures of thoughtfulness. You can give more while spending less.

Not all gifts have to be store-bought

You can give more while spending less by giving gifts that are personal and unique. While young children may favor the bright, shiny store-bought item, most adults appreciate anything that shows thoughtfulness. Consider gifting in someone's honor from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog which helps people in need around the world, supports the ministries of the ELCA in nearly 80 countries and are tax-deductible. A thoughtful note will accompany each gift.

Look for locally made gifts

Many gifts in today's marketplace come from halfway around the world, and the impact of transportation contributes significantly to greenhouse emissions and global warming. Local craft fairs and artisan shops are a good source for gifts that come without the added costs of transportation. And gifts made locally often have a story which goes with the gift, since the artisan and the origin of the gift are known.

Choose gifts made from recycled sources

Many individuals and small businesses have developed great products using recycled materials. Supporting these businesses helps reduce the waste stream while promoting the concept of making best use of available materials.

Give "battery-free" children's gifts

According to the EPA, about 40% of all household battery sales occur during the holiday season.

"Re-gifting" is okay

There's always discussion about the etiquette behind the trend to "re-gift," that is, to pass on a gift you received but do not need. What's to discuss? Re-gifting makes perfect sense. If you receive something you really don't need, look for ways you can reuse this gift by passing it on to someone who can use it. Of course, re-gifting needs to be done with care so as not to offend the original giver, but keeping a gift you don't need is wasteful.

Preserve the Ozone Layer

Consider giving a new battery powered string trimmer, leaf blower or lawnmower. One gas mower running for an hour emits the same amount of pollutants as eight new cars driving 55 mph for the same amount of time.



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Thank You From the Property Committee:

Another mowing season has come to a close, and so we wish to acknowledge the efforts and express our gratitude to the members of the mowing team, who have given of their time and energy, to keep our St. John's campus looking sharp. They are: Don Titus, Adam Supplee, Walt Deichmann, Olesya Sitkowski, Debbe Welsh, Paul Miller, and John Riley, who not only mows the largest area, but maintains the mowing equipment too. These members of the congregation do this work week-in, week-out from mid-March through late October with very little recognition. So, as you cross paths with them in the following weeks, please add to this formal word of appreciation from the Property Committee your own informal thanks for keeping our St. John's campus beautiful.



Containers Needed

Our supply of take-home flower containers is running low. Please save two-liter soda bottles (straight sided as pictured) and place in the marked box in glass entryway. Altar Guild will cut them to size and add tape to cover the cut edge.

SCHUYLKILL VALLEY REGIONAL DANCE COMPANY

presents the

Nutcracker

Sat. Dec. 14th, 2024
1pm & 5pm

Sun. Dec. 15th, 2024
1pm

Phoenixville
Middle School
1000 Purple Pride Pkwy,
Phoenixville, PA 19460
svrdc.com

Christmas Poinsettias

You are invited to sponsor one or more beautiful red poinsettias to help decorate the chancel area on Christmas Eve. Each plant will have 4-7 blooms, comes in a 6" pot, and costs \$10 each. You may sponsor them in honor of, in memory of, or to the Glory of God, with dedications listed in the bulletin. The deadline to order by signing up on the chart in the hallway is December 15th. Payment should be made at time of ordering, with checks made out to St. John's with "poinsettia" in the memo line. You are welcome to take your poinsettia home following the late Christmas Eve service, or after the next two weekend services.



WELCA had a very productive meeting in October. After a hymn devotion we decorated gift bags, organized collected toiletries and cards for distribution and planned possible programs for 2025. We will meet on December 3rd to fill gift bags and pack items contributed for Martin Luther School at Gemma Services.

Our church family continues to give generously and we appreciate your support.

SAVE THE DATE: The annual WELCA retreat is scheduled for March 22, 2025. More information to follow!



Summary Financial Report as of October 31, 2024

	Monthly		Year-to-Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income:				
Envelope Giving	\$ 27,995	\$ 22,782	\$ 279,945	\$ 269,784
Other Income	3,791	2,631	37,917	34,248
	\$ 31,786	\$ 25,413	\$ 317,862	\$ 304,032
Expenses	\$ 39,745	\$ 37,849	\$ 397,451	\$ 369,697
Income (Deficit)	\$ (7,959)	\$ (12,436)	\$ (79,589)	\$ (65,665)

Such a tiny cottage yet
 Within its heart beats a love
 That all share was not
 Christ born in a lowly stable
 Christ Lord of all creation
 In humbleness He came
 Not with a mighty army nor
 With great might He came
 A humble child that
 Grew to teach mankind
 God's peace for a child
 Shall lead them oxen
 Asses all creatures of
 Earth sky sea in peace
 Shall come together
 Before our Lord of all
 Margaret Walker

Christmas Eve Invitations

Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to Christmas Eve services at St. John's! Invitations are located in a labeled basket in the narthex. Please pass one on to someone who might like to attend one of our beautiful Christmas Eve services.



Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 27th, 7:30 p.m. @ 1st Presbyterian

The Phoenixville Area Clergy Association's annual Thanksgiving Eve service will be hosted by First Presbyterian Church of Phoenixville, 145 South Main Street, on Wednesday, November 27th at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend this nondenominational community worship service.



Advent

Nominations for Congregation Council

The governing body of our congregation, the Congregation Council, is looking to fill three to four seats for our next congregational year. The congregational year starts in February 2025, at the close of our annual meeting. Members of the Council are asked to attend a monthly meeting (in person or via Zoom) and serve on a committee as part of their duties to the congregation. Questions and nominations of fellow members, or yourself, can be made to Aimee Hillegas (ahillegas@comcast.net), to Pastor Russ or to Sonya in the church office.



People of God Involved in God's Work

December Worship Staff

Acolytes

- 1 Claire Gallagher
- 8 Grace Supplee
- 15 Madelyn Hicks
- 22 Lhötse Durlinger
- 24 4p Adeline McCabe; 7p Peyton DeWolf;
10p Emerson Carr
- 29 TBD

Advent Wreath Candle Lighters

- 1 Chuck & April Liedike, Ava, Violet, & Evelyn
- 9 Jon & Kate Hicks, Madelyn, Amelia, & Evie
- 15 Marc & Laura Staudenmaier, Elise & Colin
- 22 Beth Stevens, Elisa & Marie Snyder

Altar Guild

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

Assisting Minister

- 1 TBD
- 8 Tom Snyder
- 15 Ron Stevens
- 22 Walt Deichmann
- 24 7p Deb Ahola; 10p Ron Stevens
- 29 Deb Ahola

Communion Assistant/Lector

- 1 Lynn Titus
- 8 CA: Walt Deichmann; L: Annelise Duerr
- 15 TBD
- 22 Mimi Woods
- 24 7p Lynn Titus
- 29 Lynn Titus

Counters

- 1 Jack & Janet Ertell; Donna Anderson
- 8 Heather Yonosh & Jeanne Schanzenbach
- 15 Mary Heiser; Mike & Cathy Kahl
- 22 Stephen & Jen Drewes
- 24 TBD
- 29 Mary Heiser, Kevin Gallagher, Don Bechtel

Evening Light Assistant

- 11/30 Margaret Walker
- 7 Sandy Momyer
- 14 Buzz Hadfield
- 21 Sandy Momyer
- 28 Shirley Platzer

Fellowship Time

- 8 DAR

Lock-Up

- 1 Dale Herbranson
- 8 Jeanne Schanzenbach
- 15 Kyle Oszeyczik
- 22 Kate Hicks
- 24 4p Kate Hicks; 7p Aimee Hillegas;
10p TBD
- 29 Aimee Hillegas

Stream Team

- 1 Dale Herbranson; Paul Miller
- 8 Aimee Hillegas; Paul Miller
- 15 Josh Romano; Dale Herbranson
- 22 Dale Herbranson; Paul Miller
- 24 Dale Herbranson; TBD
- 29 Aimee Hillegas; Paul Miller

Ushers

- 1 Dick Kunsch & Don Titus
- 8 Sue Starling & Cathy Garrett
- 15 Cathy & Mike Kahl
- 22 Barry Church & Donna Anderson
- 24 7p Don Titus; 4&10 TBD
- 29 Barry Church & Donna Anderson

Hanging of the Greens

December 22nd after worship

On Sunday, December 22nd, help is needed after worship to "hang the greens" in preparation for Christmas Eve. Decorating includes putting up and lighting a tree, hanging garland, putting up iron candleholders with glass globes and tapers, changing paraments & banners, and assembling "Silent Night" candles/holders. There is something for everyone to do! January 5th after the worship service is the "undecorating" day.

Volunteer at PACS with Our Social Ministry Committee December 12th, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

PACS provides food and other essential items to those in need in our community. The holidays are an especially busy time for PACS and they need volunteers to help sort food. Please email Janet Gerner at Janet_gerner@comcast.net if you would like to help!

Our wonderful Director of Youth and Family Ministry is moving on with our blessings! Plan to attend the 10:15 a.m. service on December 1st for a farewell and godspeed to Molly Oladunjoye as she leaves us for a full-time position in another church.

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

St. John's
Lutheran Church

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.



**St. John's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2024**

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Aimee; Sue led with an opening devotion. Dale will lead the devotion next month.

Finance Review – Jack Ertell, Kevin Gallagher, Don Titus, Ron Stevens, and Cathy Kahl all attended. Jack walked through all of the funds, including the origination, current balances, and significant inputs/outputs.

All Council members are asked to give thought to possible ‘flexibility’ in use of the funds.

Prior Meeting Minutes

Motion by Jeanne, second by Stephen to accept the minutes; motion passed.

Staff Reports

Motion by Sue, second by Dale to accept Staff reports; motion passed.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee report from 10/07/24.

Motion by Dale to approve the Finance report; Mike seconded; motion carried.

Council reviewed the following Committee Reports:

- Electronics Committee from 9/15/24 – accepted as written.
 - Determined we can hold off on the Hearing Impaired system upgrade; team found additional receivers, so we now have a total of eight.
- Faith Formation from 10/02/24 – accepted as written.
- Property Committee from 10/07/24 - accepted as written.
 - New Property Assessment Report with a list of new projects to be addressed was sent out. Since 2020, we’ve spent \$320k on improvements; the future project list is \$150k for immediate needs, and then \$130k for potential later projects.
- Worship and Music Committee from 10/01/24 – accepted as written.
- Social Ministry Committee – from 9/4/24 and 10/2/24 – accepted as written.
- Fellowship Committee – from 9/24/24 accepted as written.
- Columbarium Committee – did not meet.
- Executive Committee – did not meet since last Council meeting.
- Stewardship Committee – from 9/23/24 – accepted as written.
- Welcome Team Committee from 09/12/24 – accepted as written.
- Green Team from 9/16/24 - accepted as written.

Motion by Jeanne, Second by Mike to accept committee reports; motion carried.

Old Business

- Muhlenberg Parish – nothing to report.
- Vacant Council seat – names were discussed.
- Kitchen Renovation
 - The kitchen is certified by Chester County!
 - Food Safety Manager training will take place Tuesday, 10/15. Four people are attending – Lynn Titus, Sue Starling, Betty Hans and Bobbi Riley. Sandra Zimmerman and Molly are also certified.
- Coffee Hour on 11/10 –hosting.

New Business

- Application for Seasonal Membership – Julie Watkins; is an ELCA member in TX for part of the year, and would like to be considered membership here during the summer months. **Sue made the motion to confirm Julie as a seasonal member; Stephen seconded the motion; motion carried.**
- Question was asked if we could look into the Annual Congregational Meeting being ‘televised’ or broadcast over Zoom. Dale committed that Electronics would look into it.

Jeanne made the motion to adjourn the meeting; Stephen seconded; motion carried.

Next regular meeting is November 11, 2024 (also Veterans Day).

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Starling

Church Council Secretary

December 2024 Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9am Faith Formation-pageant rehearsal 10:15am Holy Communion	2 11am Alanon Family Group 6pm Cadette Troop #42024 6pm Coventry Singers dress rehearsal 7pm Finance Committee 7pm Property 7pm Stephen Ministry	3 10:30am WELCA 6pm Cadette Girl Scouts 6:30pm Faith Formation Committee 7:30pm Worship & Music	4 4pm Social Ministry 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	5 6pm Brownie Troop #4094 6pm Girl Scouts #4432 6:30pm Kiwanis 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal	6	7 9am DAR 4pm Candlelight House Tour 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 6pm Movie Night 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous
8 9am Faith Formation-pageant rehearsal 9:45am Fellowship Time 10:15am Holy Communion 2:30pm Girl Scouts 40441 and 4041 3pm Girl Scouts 4pm Coventry Singers concert	9 10am MAEVE Moms Mingle 10:15am Staff 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Church Council	10 6:30pm Welcoming Team	11 6pm Girl Scouts #473 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	12 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal	13	14 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous
15 9am Faith Formation-pageant rehearsal 10:15am Holy Communion	16 11am Alanon Family Group 5pm Stewardship Committee 7pm Green Team 7pm Stephen Ministry	17	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) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous
22 9am Faith Formation-pageant dress rehearsal 10:15am Holy Communion w/pageant 3pm Girl Scouts	23 11am Alanon Family Group	24 10am Mom's Mingle 10:30am WELCA 4pm Children's Service 6:30pm Music 7pm Candlelight Service w/choir 7pm Fellowship Committee 9:30pm Music 10pm Candlelight Service	25 6pm Girl Scouts #473 7pm Alanon	26 7pm Naranon	27	28 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous
29 10:15am Holy Communion w/Lessons & Carols	30 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Finance Committee	31	1 4pm Social Ministry 7pm Alanon	2 6:30pm Kiwanis 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal	3	4 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous

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

Office Assistants:

June Henzie

Joan Carl

Pat Renninger

The Circle Editor:

Sonya K. Sowards

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and Unsplash

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Thank you

'Tis a simple word requires no cost
 Yet its riches brighten many a day
 Simply spoken can turn a
 Cloudy day into sunshine
 Not long for it has only eight
 Letters yet those letters can
 Brighten many a day even a
 Child can say them
 'Tis simply thank you

Margaret Walker

I purred with joy as a mother cradled
 Her newborn son warmth of my fur
 Warmed mother and child
 Born of God and man
 So sang angelic voices
 Purring him to sleep as a mother
 Cuddled him born of God and man
 For God so cared for us He gave
 His son that we true truth
 Should know

Margaret Walker

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



December 2024