

The Circle

March 2025



Dear Friends in Christ,

One of the marks of discipleship that we're continuing to look at and talk about is weekly worship. Worship is an important part of the Christian life: it's where we gather, not only to praise God, but to join together as a community of faith, and be strengthened for the lives of love and service that we're called to live. The Lutheran confessions describe the Church as "the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is purely preached and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel." The Church is community, gathered around Word and Sacrament, and part of living that life of faith is being part of that community, gathered to encounter God in worship, regularly.

It can be hard to make the time to gather for worship; with a million other things going on in everyone's life and in the world, it can be overwhelming trying to fit everything in. But I know that, speaking for myself, having the opportunity to be a part of a community of believers, and being able to be in worship and encounter God through worship, helps to ground me and strengthen me for the rest of the busy, overscheduled week. Even when I'm on vacation or taking time away from St. John's for continuing education, I do my best to find a church that I can worship with.

We're focusing on weekly worship attendance during March because, during March, we're going to have additional opportunities to gather in worship. In addition to the Saturday evening and Sunday morning services, St. John's is going to be a part of two Wednesday evening Lenten worship series, one with PACA and one with the Muhlenberg Parish. Each of those groups is hosting a series of worship services, and we're going to be a part of both of them. Our night to host overlaps for both of them, so that St. John's will be hosting PACA and the Muhlenberg Parish at the same time. The schedules are listed below:

	Muhlenberg Parish	PACA
March 12 th	St. Peter's, Chester Springs	First Presbyterian of Phoenixville
March 19 th	Zion, Spring City	Grimes AME
March 26 th	Centennial, Kimberton	GraceCrossing
April 2 nd	St. John's	St. John's
April 9 th	St. Peter's, Chester Springs	First UMC of Phoenixville

Remember
you are
dust

The Muhlenberg Parish services start at 6:30 and include a light meal or soup supper, and the PACA services start at 7:30. I hope you'll take the opportunity to gather for worship not only on Saturday or Sunday, but also to gather with our friends and siblings in Christ from other Lutheran and other Christian churches this Lent.

In Christ,

Pastor Russ

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, the traditional beginning of Lent, is March 5th and ashes-to-go will be distributed in the church circle driveway from 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

Ashes will also be distributed during the Holy Communion worship service at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.



Bible In A Year Reading Plan

March

	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalm	Proverbs
<input type="checkbox"/> 01	Leviticus 24:1-25:46	Mark 10:13-31	Psalm 44:9-26	Proverbs 10:20-21
<input type="checkbox"/> 02	Leviticus 25:47-27:13	Mark 10:32-52	Psalm 45:1-17	Proverbs 10:22
<input type="checkbox"/> 03	Leviticus 27:14-Numbers 1:54	Mark 11:1-26	Psalm 46:1-11	Proverbs 10:23
<input type="checkbox"/> 04	Numbers 2:1-3:51	Mark 11:27-12:17	Psalm 47:1-9	Proverbs 10:24-25
<input type="checkbox"/> 05	Numbers 4:1-5:31	Mark 12:18-37	Psalm 48:1-14	Proverbs 10:26
<input type="checkbox"/> 06	Numbers 6:1-7:89	Mark 12:38-13:13	Psalm 49:1-20	Proverbs 10:27-28
<input type="checkbox"/> 07	Numbers 8:1-9:23	Mark 13:14-37	Psalm 50:1-23	Proverbs 10:29-30
<input type="checkbox"/> 08	Numbers 10:1-11:23	Mark 14:1-21	Psalm 51:1-19	Proverbs 10:31-32
<input type="checkbox"/> 09	Numbers 11:24-13:33	Mark 14:22-52	Psalm 52:1-9	Proverbs 11:1-3
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Numbers 14:1-15:16	Mark 14:53-72	Psalm 53:1-6	Proverbs 11:4
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Numbers 15:17-16:40	Mark 15:1-47	Psalm 54:1-7	Proverbs 11:5-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Numbers 16:41-18:32	Mark 16:1-20	Psalm 55:1-23	Proverbs 11:7
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	Numbers 19:1-20:29	Luke 1:1-25	Psalm 56:1-13	Proverbs 11:8
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Numbers 21:1-22:20	Luke 1:26-56	Psalm 57:1-11	Proverbs 11:9-11
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	Numbers 22:21-23:30	Luke 1:57-80	Psalm 58:1-11	Proverbs 11:12-13
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Numbers 24:1-25:18	Luke 2:1-35	Psalm 59:1-17	Proverbs 11:14
<input type="checkbox"/> 17	Numbers 26:1-51	Luke 2:36-52	Psalm 60:1-12	Proverbs 11:15
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Numbers 26:52-28:15	Luke 3:1-22	Psalm 61:1-8	Proverbs 11:16-17
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Numbers 28:16-29:40	Luke 3:23-38	Psalm 62:1-12	Proverbs 11:18-19
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	Numbers 30:1-31:54	Luke 4:1-30	Psalm 63:1-11	Proverbs 11:20-21
<input type="checkbox"/> 21	Numbers 32:1-33:39	Luke 4:31-5:11	Psalm 64:1-10	Proverbs 11:22
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Numbers 33:40-35:34	Luke 5:12-28	Psalm 65:1-13	Proverbs 11:23
<input type="checkbox"/> 23	Numbers 36:1-Deut 1:46	Luke 5:29-6:11	Psalm 66:1-20	Proverbs 11:24-26
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Deuteronomy 2:1-3:29	Luke 6:12-38	Psalm 67:1-7	Proverbs 11:27
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Deuteronomy 4:1-49	Luke 6:39-7:10	Psalm 68:1-18	Proverbs 11:28
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Deuteronomy 5:1-6:25	Luke 7:11-35	Psalm 68:19-35	Proverbs 11:29-31
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Deuteronomy 7:1-8:20	Luke 7:36-8:3	Psalm 69:1-18	Proverbs 12:1
<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Deuteronomy 9:1-10:22	Luke 8:4-21	Psalm 69:19-36	Proverbs 12:2-3
<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Deuteronomy 11:1-12:32	Luke 8:22-39	Psalm 70:1-5	Proverbs 12:4
<input type="checkbox"/> 30	Deuteronomy 13:1-15:23	Luke 8:40-9:6	Psalm 71:1-24	Proverbs 12:5-7
<input type="checkbox"/> 31	Deuteronomy 16:1-17:20	Luke 9:7-27	Psalm 72:1-20	Proverbs 12:8-9

<https://bibleinavearonline.com>

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Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner & Games March 4th, 5-7:30 p.m.

The Fellowship Committee will be resurrecting the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and Games this year! The dinner will feature pancakes (including gluten-free pancakes), breakfast meats, eggs, fruit and other goodies. Pancake games for the kids will also be featured. Proceeds from this year's dinner will go toward expenses for the Appalachian Service Project trip. Please RSVP to Sonya at office@stjohnphoenixville.org or (610) 933.3947, ext. 2, indicating the number of adults and children attending. We are asking for a free-will donation, with a recommendation of \$7 per person, or \$25 for a family of four or more.



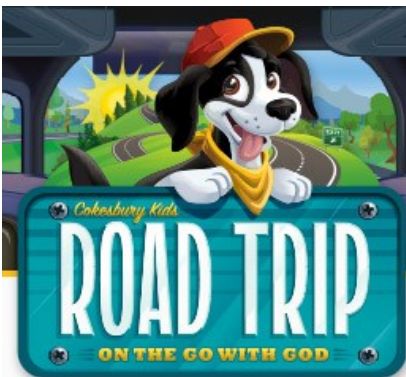
Meeting God in the Ordinary WELCA Retreat March 22, 2025

When we look at Scripture, we see it is often in the midst of everyday life that one encounters God—on a trek up a mountain, pulling water from a well, on a boat waiting for fish to bite, on the road to Emmaus. Our own faith stories are full of “aha moments” that occur amidst the ordinary routines of life.

We often expect to experience God in life's big memorable events—a graduation, wedding, anniversary, the birth of a baby, a milestone birthday. But most of our lives are filled with ordinary moments and routines: drinking morning coffee, reading a book, having lunch with a friend, washing the dishes, exercising at the Y, volunteering at church or in the community. It is there in the ordinary that we meet God. It's just a matter of “seeing” . . .

In this year's WELCA retreat, “Meeting God in the Ordinary,” we will look at our lives—the commonplace, the joyful, the heartbreaking events—and discover the presence of God, hidden in plain sight. The retreat will take place on Saturday, March 22nd. It begins with coffee and fellowship at 9 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. The cost is \$20. We welcome back Rev. Kris Peterson as our retreat leader. Call or email Sonya Sowards in the church office to register (office@stjohnphoenixville.org or (610) 933-3947 ext. 2). If you have any questions, please contact Linda Landis.

Please bring an ordinary object from a time when you experienced the presence of God—photograph, cell phone, hymnal, recipe, a letter/card, mug, a souvenir from a special place, a flower, a gift from a friend, an heirloom, etc.



Vacation Bible School June 16th-20th

Planning your child(ren)'s summer activities? Don't forget to include Vacation Bible School! You can register now by clicking below. Registration closes on June 2nd. Registration sign-up: <https://forms.gle/1RCfbkiwyCfXsWqB6>

We are currently looking for adult and teenage group guides, station leaders and other volunteers. 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. Please click here to sign up: Volunteer sign-up: <https://forms.gle/98VuTVyYLNk5UYHD9>

Simple Gifts in Concert 4:00 p.m., Sunday, March 16th

Two women plus ten instruments equals one good time when Simple Gifts takes the stage at St. John's on March 16th, starting at 4:00 p.m. This award-winning band performs on an impressive array of instruments, including two violins, mandolin, hammered dulcimer, recorders, and guitar plus some more unusual instruments like the bowed psaltery, baritone fiddle, banjolin, guitjo, and doumbek.

Simple Gifts presents a wide variety of ethnic folk music, including everything from lively Irish jigs and down-home American reels to hard-driving Klezmer *freilachs*, haunting Gypsy melodies, and exotic Balkan dance tunes. Throughout their performances, they put their own distinctive stamp on traditional tunes, blending styles from diverse cultures with their American roots.

According to the Celtic Classic Festival in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, "few musicians can match the warmly personal stage presence Simple Gifts possesses." It is obvious that these women love the music they play, and they know how to share their talents, their enthusiasm, and their sense of humor with the audience.



Linda Littleton and Karen Hirshon have performed as Simple Gifts since 1995. The group was founded by Littleton in 1989 and has performed throughout the mid-Atlantic region, including appearances at the Smithsonian, Brooklyn Museum of Art, National Governors' Convention, Longwood Gardens, National Theater, Whitaker Center, Hershey Theatre, Philadelphia Folk Festival, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Ontario Center for Performing Arts, and dozens of colleges and universities throughout the region. Simple Gifts has opened for Natalie MacMaster, Tom Paxton, John McCutcheon, Robin and Linda Williams, Jay Ungler and Molly Mason, and Boys of the Lough. Visit their website www.simplegiftsmusic.com to listen to performances.

"These women share a chemistry that infuses their music with energy, integrity, and joy. Theirs is a special gift." – David W. Johnson, Boston Globe

"Listening to [Simple Gifts] is like sampling an international buffet ... The number of instruments they pick up in a typical concert makes the group anything but simple. ... [This is] acoustic music of the highest order." –Will Lebzelter, Centre Daily Times

"Simple Gifts wowed our audience with a cultural and educational program that was fun, informative, and energetic." –Teresia Bush, Smithsonian Institution



WELCA News

In February WELCA enjoyed a very educational program about the book of Revelation presented by our own Pastor Russ.

Preparations for the retreat on March 22nd continue.

We are also looking forward to having Pastor K present the program *People on the Move* at our March meeting. Mark your calendars now for Tuesday, March 25th at 10:30. a.m.

Please plan to attend!

**Women of the ELCA
Special Event Celebrating Katie Luther
From WELCA's Upper Montgomery Conference., SEPA Synod**

Katie Luther celebrated her 526th birthday on January 29, 2025, and we have a special presentation for you by the Rev. Dr. Martha Kriebel!*

All women of St. John's are invited to join the Women of the ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod at St. Mark's Lutheran Church Pennsburg on Saturday March 29, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. as we learn about Katie's life and what makes her a practical & bold woman of faith. You will learn about her life with Martin Luther, and the ins and outs of her managing a bustling household that was always ready to welcome guests. The event is free and registration is at the door.

**Pastor Kriebel often supplies at St. John's Evening Light services.*



**Caring for Creation
Tackling Food Waste: A Path to a Greener Future
What We Can Do at St. John's**

Food waste is a pressing issue that affects our environment, economy, and society. When food ends up in landfills, it decomposes anaerobically (without oxygen), producing methane—a greenhouse gas that is 27 times more potent than carbon dioxide. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), food waste is the single most common material sent to landfills, comprising 24.1% of municipal solid waste. In fact, food waste is responsible for about 58% of methane emissions from landfills. Reducing food waste can help mitigate these emissions and contribute to a healthier planet.



The Benefits of Composting

Composting is a sustainable alternative to sending food waste to landfills. By composting, we can recycle organic materials into nutrient-rich soil amendments that benefit gardens, farms, and landscapes. Composting helps reduce the need for chemical fertilizers, conserves water, and improves soil health. It also reduces greenhouse gas emissions by diverting organic waste from landfills.

Take Action Today

Reducing food waste and promoting composting are crucial steps toward a more sustainable future. By making small changes in our daily lives, such as composting food scraps and supporting organizations that tackle food waste, we can make a significant impact on the environment.

Starting a composting project at home is a fantastic way to reduce food waste and create nutrient-rich compost for your garden. For detailed guidance, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a helpful guide to composting at home (<https://www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home>). If backyard composting isn't for you, there are some companies that have residential curbside pickup of food waste for composting (<https://backtoearthcompost.com/>). Alternatively, there are in-home composters that you can investigate to see if small machine like this would be a right fit for you.

Starting small and being consistent with your composting efforts can make a significant impact on reducing food waste. Happy composting!

Registration for this summer at Bear Creek Camp is open!
Go to bearcreekcamp.org to sign up.



St. John's Easter Egg Hunt

355 St. John's Circle Phoenixville, PA 19460

Saturday, April 12, 2025

9:30am

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

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

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

<https://forms.gle/ZYeMrT5GYfifjx7eA>



People of God Involved in God's Work

March Worship Staff

Acolyte

- 2 Chloe Kunsch
- 5 TBD
- 9 TBD
- 16 Madelyn Hicks, Chloe Kunsch, Gracie Themens & TBD
- 23 CeCe Leong
- 30 Peyton DeWolf

Altar Guild

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

Assisting Minister

- 2 Bill Starling
- 5 Deb Ahola
- 9 Tom Snyder
- 16 Walt Deichmann
- 23 Deb Ahola
- 30 Ron Stevens

Bread Baker

- 2 Adam & Gwen Supplee

Communion Assistant/Lector

- 2 Annaliese Duerr & Nancy Cressman
- 5 TBD
- 9 Mimi Woods
- 16 Mitch Reading
- 23 Lynn Titus
- 30 Nancy Cressman

Counters

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

Evening Light Assistant

- 1 Sandy Momyer
- 8 Toni Hadfield
- 15 Sandy Momyer
- 22 Shirley Platzer
- 39 Toni Hadfield

Fellowship Time

- 9 Welcoming Team & Property Committee

Lock-Up

- 2 Marc Staudenmaier
- 5 Dale Herbranson
- 9 Jeanne Schanzenbach
- 16 Kate Hicks
- 23 Kyle Oszeyczik
- 30 Aimee Hillegas

Stream Team

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

Ushers

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



Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Delegates to Synod Assembly Needed

The 2025 SEPA Synod Assembly will take place on Friday, May 30th and Saturday, May 31st at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansdale. Pr. Russ and Deacon Tom Snyder will attend along with lay delegates from St. John's. If you would like to be one of our delegates, please let Sonya know as soon as possible by calling (610) 933-3947, ext. 2, or emailing office@stjohnphoenixville.org. We get a sizable discount when we register early so don't delay! Thank you in advance for your service.

Guidelines for Submission of Articles for St. John's Communications

Submissions to the Parish Administrator for insertion in St. John's communications may include worship, faith formation, social justice, music and community events, and any items directly related to St. John's mission of "Living, growing & sharing in God's love through Jesus Christ." Submissions received by Monday at 11:00 a.m. will be included in the following Sunday's bulletin. Later submissions will appear in the following week's bulletin. All submissions are also included in all other applicable forms of communication (email, social media, website, slides, etc.) as soon as possible after receipt.

Submissions for *The Circle* newsletter are due on the 18th of every month (except July). Submissions received after this deadline may appear in other applicable St. John's communications and in the following month's newsletter.

When submitting articles, please include complete information such as date, time, location, and how to sign up for events (including links and QR codes to forms). Images are welcome but should be photos taken around St. John's or posters created by the submitter—not stock images or any images downloaded from the Internet which St. John's is not licensed to use.

If you have any questions about St. John's communications, please contact our administrator, Sonya Sowards, at office@stjohnphoenixville.org or (610) 933-3947 ext. 2.

Kid-Friendly Worship Resources

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

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

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


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

Communion Records and Prayer Requests

RECORD OF COMMUNION AND/OR PRAYER REQUEST

I've taken communion (date & time):
 5P
 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.

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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.

Summary Financial Report as of January 31, 2025

	Monthly	
	Budget	Actual
Income:		
Envelope Giving	\$ 29,202	\$ 27,281
Other Income	3,833	2,751
	\$ 33,035	\$ 30,032
Expenses	\$ 40,162	\$ 39,701
Income (Deficit)	\$ (7,127)	\$ (9,669)

Two-Liter Soda Containers Needed

Please save straight-sided two-liter soda bottles and place in the marked box in the glass entryway. Altar Guild will cut them to size and add tape to cover the cut edge so they can be used as take-home containers for altar flowers. Thank you!

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2025**

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Kelly. Kyle led with an opening devotion.

Prior Meeting Minutes

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

Staff Reports

Motion by Kate, second by Kyle to accept staff reports; motion passed.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee has not met in January.

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

Council reviewed the following Committee Reports:

- Electronics Committee did not meet.
- Faith Formation from 01/07/25 – accepted as written.
- Property Committee from 01/06/25 - accepted as written.
 - Motion submitted for Council Review: That the following urgent repairs, identified by the Property Condition Assessment, be undertaken in 2025 at an estimated combined cost of \$160,000.00:
 - Replacement of the EPDM roofing over the ground level hallway and rooms and Kley Hall, with gutter replacement as necessary (\$107k),
 - Replacement of the Kley Hall access bridge (\$27k),
 - Repair of the sanctuary roof purlin ends and repair of the external caulk by the sanctuary stained glass windows (\$10k),
 - Repair sidewalks and install one handicap accessible curb ramp(\$15k).
 - Motion carried. It will now be presented at the Annual Meeting for congregational approval on February 23rd.
- Worship and Music Committee from 01/05/25 – accepted as written.
- Social Ministry Committee – did not meet.
- Fellowship Committee – did not meet.
- Columbarium Committee – did not meet.
 - An owner of a niche moved away and donated their niche to the church. They asked the church hold it and donate it to someone in need, at the Pastor's discretion.
- Executive Committee – did not meet.
- Stewardship Committee – did not meet.
- Welcome Team Committee from 12/10/24 accepted as written.
- Green Team - did not meet.

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

Old Business

- Lock-Up signup
- Muhlenberg Parish – The four congregations will be joining together to do Wednesday mid-week Lenten services throughout Lent. The Pastors of the four churches will meet and work out details.
- Vacant Council seat(s) – Two nominees are still needed.
- Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry position – position has been posted on multiple websites by Sonya. No resumes have been received yet.
- Finance Fund Task Force – first meeting held on 12/16; reviewed the purpose of the various funds. Next meeting is 1/21. The Task Force's goal is to make recommendations on how to handle the designated funds.
- Audit Task Force – We have the process document, and Heather Yonosh and Shaun Lockett have agreed to serve. We still need one more - Jeanne will reach out to two other named candidates.

New Business

- Approval of new members Ted and Sue Weicheld – transferring from another Lutheran church where they are adult confirmed members.
 - Dale made a motion to approve membership for the Weichelds; Jeanne seconded. Motion carried.
- 2025 Budget – overall budget process was discussed; draft budget was reviewed and discussed. Final budget review will be completed in January.
 - Mitch made a motion that Council adopt the most recent draft budget with an adjustment to Regular Envelope Giving to \$325,000 for FY2025. Mike seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Nursery Key – A new alarm and panic bar have been installed on the external nursery door. The alarm can be turned off with either the new 'N' (nursery) key, or a Master (M) or 'A' key.
 - Kyle made a motion to hang the new 'N' key next to the doorframe, out of children's reach. Dale seconded. Motion carried.

Mitch made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27; Janet seconded; motion carried.

Next regular meeting is February 10th, 2025. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 23rd, immediately after 10:15 service. A short Council reorganization meeting will follow.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Starling

Church Council Secretary

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Holy Communion, followed by Annual meeting 2pm National Charity League 2pm PCO Rehearsal 3pm Girl Scouts	24 10:30am Covered Bridge Garden Club 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Finance Committee	25 10am Mom's Mingle 10:30am WELCA 7pm Fellowship Committee	26 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	27 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal	28	1 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous
2 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Holy Communion	3 10:15am Staff 11am Alanon Family Group 5pm Stewardship Committee 6pm Cadette Troop #42024 7pm Property 7pm Stephen Ministry	4 5pm Shrove Tuesday pancakes 6pm Cadette Girl Scouts 6:30pm Faith Formation Committee 7:30pm Worship & Music	5 11am Ashes to Go 4pm Social Ministry 6pm Girl Scouts #473 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Ash Wednesday 8:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (following Ash Wednesday service)	6 6pm Brownie Troop #4094 6pm Girl Scouts #4432 6:30pm Kiwanis 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal	7	8 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous
9 9am Faith Formation-First Communion 9:45am Fellowship Time 10:15am Holy Communion 2pm PCO Rehearsal 2:30pm Girl Scouts 40441 and 4041 3pm Girl Scouts	10 10am MAEVE Moms Mingle 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Church Council	11 6:30pm Welcoming Team	12 6:30pm Muhlenberg Parish dinner & Lent series 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm PACA Lent Series	13 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal	14	15 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous
16 9am Faith Formation-First Communion 9:45am Fellowship Time with Bishop 10:15am Holy Communion 4pm Simple Gifts Concert	17 11am Alanon Family Group 5pm Stewardship Committee 6pm Cadette Troop #42024 7pm Green Team 7pm Stephen Ministry	18 Circle deadline 6:30pm Parent Grief Support Group	19 6pm Girl Scouts #473 6:30pm Muhlenberg Parish dinner & Lent series 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm PACA Lent Series	20 6pm Brownie Troop #4094 6pm Girl Scouts #4432 6:30pm Kiwanis 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal 8:15pm Naranon Support	21 St. Peter's lunch	22 8am WELCA Retreat 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous
23 9am Faith Formation-First Communion 10:15am Holy Communion 11:15am Worship & Music 2pm PCO Rehearsal 2:30pm Girl Scouts 40441 and 4041 3pm Girl Scouts 7pm St. John's Choir & Friends Rehearsal	24 10:30am Covered Bridge Garden Club 11am Alanon Family Group	25 10am Mom's Mingle 10:30am WELCA 6:30pm Parent Grief Support Group 7pm Fellowship Committee	26 6:30pm Muhlenberg Parish dinner & Lent series 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm PACA Lent Series	27 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal	28	29 10am Bread Baking Workshop 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous
30 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Holy Communion-First Communion 7pm St. John's Choir & Friends Rehearsal	31 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Finance Committee	1 6pm Cadette Girl Scouts 6:30pm Faith Formation Committee 6:30pm Parent Grief Support Group	2 4pm Social Ministry 6pm Girl Scouts #473 6:30pm Muhlenberg Parish dinner & Lent series 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm PACA Lent Series	3 6pm Brownie Troop #4094 6pm Girl Scouts #4432 6:30pm Kiwanis 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal	4	5 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous

March 2025—birthdays and anniversaries

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

Residents at St. Mary's Transitional Housing need childcare for early weekday mornings and some weekends. This will allow parents to attend school and work overtime. There would be some early mornings during the week and weekend hours. If interested, please contact Kate at kate@stmarysfs.org.

St. John's Lutheran Church
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Phoenixville, PA 19460
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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

Parish Administrator:

Sonya K. Sowards

Sexton:

Mark Yanchek, Jr.

Nursery Coordinator:

Arlene Hudak

CHURCH COUNCIL

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Aimee Hillegas

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Kelly Gallagher

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Sue Starling

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Don Titus

Financial Recording Secretary:

Mary Heiser

Fund 3 Secretary:

Kevin Gallagher

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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

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Bill Starling, Chair
Dale Herbranson, Council Rep.

Electronics:

Bill Schoellkopf, Chair
Dale Herbranson, Council Rep.

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Mitch Reading, Chair

Faith Formation:

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

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

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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:

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Worship and Music:

Jean Herbranson, Chair

Office Assistants:

June Henzie

Joan Carl

Pat Renninger

The Circle Editor:

Sonya K. Sowards

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Updated Contact Information

Cindy Gadzicki
544 Oak Landing Drive
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588-2700

March's lull 'tween winter's chill
Springs leap into summer comes March with
Frosty days and icy toes winter's grip
Holds cold close as sun warms the
Air with a nip on one's nose

Margaret Walker

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and Unsplash

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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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

Worship Schedule

Saturdays

5 p.m. Evening Light with Holy Communion

Sundays

10:15 a.m. Holy Communion
(fall, winter and spring)

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion
(Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day)
Handicapped Accessible

THE CIRCLE



March 2025