

The Circle

April 2025



Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope your Lent has been off to a good start. I'm excited for the remainder of the Lenten season, as we get to worship together with friends and neighbors from both other churches in PACA and in the Muhlenberg Parish. I'm also excited to hear how folks have been doing with the daily Bible readings that we started in January. If I'm being completely honest, I'm a little behind as of this writing, but I'm hoping to get back on track soon.

As we prepare for our Easter celebrations, we'll once again be celebrating Holy Week at St. John's with worship services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, as well as Easter Sunday. Those extra opportunities for worship will also bring extra opportunities for worship leadership!

Our Holy Week observance begins on Sunday, April 13th, with Palm Sunday. We'll hear the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem as we process into the church, and during worship, we'll hear, and participate in, the story of Jesus' Passion from beginning to end. Whether you're planning to be here for worship at Evening Light on Saturday or for Sunday morning worship, if you're interested in helping to read part of the Passion Gospel, please let me know!

We'll continue our Holy Week on Thursday, April 17th. Maundy Thursday remembers Jesus' command to his disciples (the word "maundy" is related to words like "mandate" and "command") to love one another, and his washing of their feet. It's also a celebration of Jesus' institution of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Our Maundy Thursday service will include Confession and Forgiveness (with the opportunity for individual absolution), footwashing, and Holy Communion. At the end of the service, as we prepare to move to Good Friday, we'll strip the altar, leaving it bare to represent Jesus going alone to his crucifixion.

Our Good Friday service, on April 18th, will be a service of light and darkness, of Scripture and prayer, and of meditation on the Cross. It's a powerful and moving worship service, and I hope you'll join us for it.

And our Holy Week worship concludes with the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday, April 19th. The Easter Vigil is one of my favorite worship services all year. It's like Christmas Eve for Easter; the Easter celebration is so big and so important that we get to celebrate it early, as soon as we can. I'm hopeful that this year, we'll be able to have members and clergy from other congregations in PACA joining us as well. I hope you'll be able to join us too!

As I said above, if you're able to help with any of those services, but especially with Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil, we'd be glad for your help! Please let me know, and I hope your Holy Week observances are blessed ones!

In Christ,

Pastor Russ

HOLY WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Palm Sunday

April 12th at 5p & April 13th at 10:15 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

April 17th at 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday

April 18th at 7:30 p.m.

Easter Vigil

April 19th at 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday

April 20th at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Breakfast is served between services.



Feed Your Heart, Soul and Body on Easter Morning

The annual Easter Morning Breakfast is back again this year! Breakfast will take place at 9 a.m., between the 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. services on Easter morning, April 20th. The Fellowship Committee is currently recruiting volunteers to help set up, cook, and clean up. We are also asking for volunteers to make breakfast casseroles. We need eight casseroles—half pans will be available in the kitchen for you to use. We can also provide recipes! The Committee does need a count of those volunteering and/or planning to attend, so please let Sonya know (office@stjohnphoenixville.org) if you can assist with the breakfast, or if your family will be there (please provide number of kids and number of adults). Guests are always welcome as well!

Dahms Scholarship—applications due by April 6th

It's time to apply for the Dahms scholarship! St. John's offers scholarships each year to high school seniors seeking post-secondary education. Applications are now open! To be eligible for the scholarship, you must: be a member of St. John's or attend St. John's regularly and be accepted into an institution of higher learning (university, junior college, trade school, etc.). Applicants can only be awarded the St. John's scholarship once. If you fit this description, we encourage you to apply no later than April 6th. Applications can be found in Kley Hall near the leader mailboxes, in the narthex, or by emailing Sonya Sowards at office@stjohnphoenixville.org. The Scholarship Committee will review all completed applications received and announce the recipients on June 1st, Graduation Sunday.



Easter Lilies

Beautiful Easter lilies will grace our altar and chancel on Easter. Plants with four to five blooms are available to sponsor for \$13 each. Lilies may be taken home after the late service on April 20th or on April 27th. Please sign the list posted in the hallway and indicate your preferred dedication. Checks should be made payable to St. John's, with "Easter lilies" on the memo line. Please order before April 14th. Thank you!



Appalachia Service Project

Our ASP mission trip is the week of July 24th through July 30th. There are a few spots open so if you or your child (9th grade in 2025 and above) are interested, please reach out to our ASP Leader Jodi O'Neill (oneillsinvf@comcast.net). Spots are filling quickly so don't delay! If you can't go on the mission trip, please continue to support our team with your prayers and financial contributions. To find out more about Appalachia Service Project, please visit www.asphome.org.

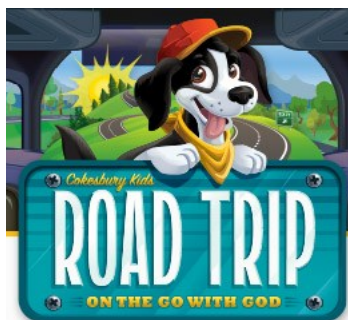
Women of the ELCA

WELCA hosted an awesome retreat on March 22nd. There were 27 participants from both St. John's and the community.

Participants left feeling refreshed, and with a definite spring in their steps.

Our own Pastor Tom Kochenderfer will present an interesting program at the March 25th meeting titled "People on the Move".

Jack Ertell will present a new program at our April 22nd meeting about the Canal System in and around Phoenixville and Mont Clare. Plan to join us that morning from 10:30 a.m. until noon.



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 the link to sign up: Volunteer sign-up: <https://forms.gle/98VuTVyYLNk5UYHD9>

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

Susquehanna University Choir

4 p.m., Sunday, April 6th

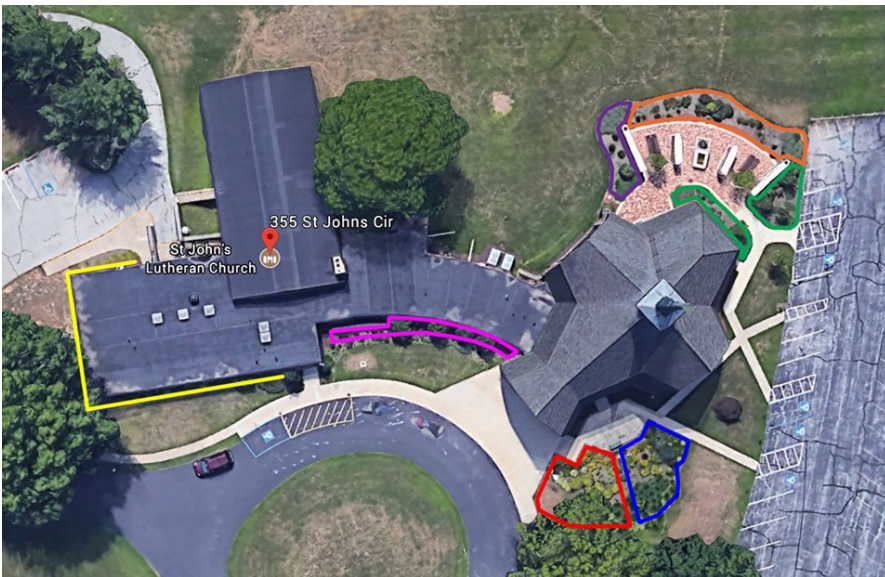
Susquehanna University Choir and Chamber Singers return to St. John's on Sunday, April 6th, at 4:00 p.m.. The 58-member ensemble conducted by Dr. Amy Voorhees will present a varied program representing a diversity of composers and cultures.

During spring break, the choir embarked on a concert tour, performing works by well-known classical and modern composers. Pieces include "Waldesnacht" by Johannes Brahms, "Ecco Mormirar L'onde" by Claudio Monteverdi, "Segalariak" by Josu Elberdin and Ken Steven's "Hela Rotan."

This past February the choir participated in the Four Choirs Concert at Saint Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg. The SU Choir was joined by choirs from Bucknell University, Messiah University and Lebanon Valley College. The choir was invited to perform at the Pennsylvania Music Educators' Association conference in April.



The Susquehanna University Choir is an auditioned ensemble open to any student on campus. The flagship of the choral program, the ensemble has been a cherished commodity of the University for over 100 years. The mission of the ensemble brings a combination of musical excellence with the broader goal of sharing diverse choral music across a wide range of audiences. Known for their high level and engaging performances, the University Choir strives to balance excellence in choral singing with an ability to acknowledge our humanity through the choral art; therefore, engaging with an ever-evolving world. The University Choir has appeared at numerous PMEA, NafMe, and most recently at the 2022 Eastern Region American Choral Directors Association Conference in Boston, Massachusetts.



Garden Stewards Needed

After many years of wonderful and dedicated service, Lynn Titus will be transitioning out of her role as our "Head Gardener." The perimeter of our building has lovely garden beds which need ongoing TLC. As a subset of the Property Committee, Lynn's gardener responsibilities have included overseeing spring cleanup, plant replacement as needed, laying mulch, growing season weeding and watering, and readying the garden beds in the fall for winter hibernation. Lynn and her team of helpers have done an amazing job keeping these very visible and first impression worthy areas stunning and attractive.

Looking ahead toward covering all that Lynn did, the Property Committee believes it might be best to break this work down into smaller components. We have divided the garden beds into seven sections per the map below. We would hope to find seven individuals or family units to take the lead responsibility for each of these sections. We will help ease the new volunteers into their work throughout this year. Spring cleanup 2025 will be done by the Property Committee, and we have put out an "ask" to the congregation to help with a mulch day on March 30th. After that we need our new helpers to remove weeds, report plant issues or damage, and keep the section tidy on a regular basis but at their convenience throughout the summer. Special watering will be addressed as necessary.

This work does not take any special green thumb capability—just some time and the desire to help keep our campus looking its best. Please contact Bobbi Riley at mrs.r.pville@gmail.com if you are willing to help with this important ministry.



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>



Book Club Fun



Members of the Sunday Morning Book Club (and a spouse) traveled to the Morgan Library & Museum, NYC on March 19th. Pictured are Jack & Janet Ertell, Janet Reading, Sue Starling and Jean Herbranson.

The museum's main exhibit was about Belle da Costa Greene (1879-1950), who served as JP Morgan's personal librarian for eight years until his death and then another 35 years for his son Jack as librarian and museum director.

The Book Club meets in Pastor's office on Sunday mornings at 9. New members are always welcome!

April 2025—birthdays and anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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
6 Lexi Booz's birthday	7 Lucas Pekofsky's birthday	8	9 Carly Spurlock's birthday Gabriel Mowrer's birthday Meredith LaBoon's birthday Ryan Spurlock's birthday	10 Jack Drewes's birthday	11 Samuel Fryer's birthday	12 Aaron Romano's birthday Bob and Diane Blattner's anniversary
13 Sean Weiss's birthday	14 Allen Kramer's birthday Evan Becker's birthday	15 Bill and Donna Breitingers anniversary	16 Wyatt Melton's birthday	17 Colin Riley's birthday Lisa Frees's birthday Mike Kahl's birthday	18 Mia Bomberger's birthday	19 Jean Herbranson's birthday Leah Kramer's birthday Page Durlinger's birthday
20 Andrew Blackledge's birthday Carolyn Rutherford's birthday Hope DeMutis's birthday	21	22 Cathy Garrett's birthday Jason Stewart's birthday Mark Blattner's birthday	23 Donna Dries's birthday Nora Abraham's birthday Rachel Dewey's birthday	24 Amber Carey's birthday Marc Herbranson's birthday	25 Justin and Faith Rawlins's anniversary Keith and Cheryl Kenyon's anniversary	26 Beth Williams's birthday Carter Niness's birthday Randall Carr's birthday Richard and Michelle Bader's anniversary Samantha Schumacher's birthday
27 Brian Becker's birthday	28 Morgan Klotzbach's birthday	29 Jason and Tracy Stewart's anniversary Ramona Moreland's birthday	30 Jason Birdsell's birthday Joe Themens's birthday Stephen Drewes's birthday	1 Erin Schaible's birthday	2 Linda Landis's birthday Mario Walls's birthday	3

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 7pm PACA Lent Series 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	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
6 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Holy Communion 2:30pm Girl Scouts 40441 and 4041 4pm Susquehanna University Choir 7pm St. John's Choir & Friends Rehearsal	7 10:15am Staff 11am Alanon Family Group 6pm Cadette Troop #42024 7pm Property 7pm Stephen Ministry	8 6:30pm Parent Grief Support Group 6:30pm Welcoming Team	9 6:30pm Muhlenberg Parish dinner & Lent series 7pm Alanon 7pm PACA Lent Series 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	10 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal	11	12 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous 9:30pm Easter egg hunt
13 9am Faith Formation 9:45am Fellowship Time 10:15am Holy Communion 2pm PCO Rehearsal 3pm Girl Scouts 7pm St. John's Choir & Friends Rehearsal	14 10am MAEVE Moms Mingle 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Church Council	15 6:30pm Parent Grief Support Group	16 6pm Girl Scouts #473 7pm Alanon	17 6:30pm Kiwanis 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Maundy Thursday 8:15pm Naranon Support 8:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (following Maundy Thursday service)	18 Circle deadline St. Peter's lunch 7:30pm Good Friday	19 1pm stripping of the palms 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30pm Easter Vigil
20 8am Holy Communion 9am Easter breakfast 10:15am Holy Communion	21 10:30am Covered Bridge Garden Club 11am Alanon Family Group 5pm Stewardship Committee 6pm Cadette Troop #42024 7pm Green Team 7pm Stephen Ministry	22 10am Mom's Mingle 10:30am WELCA 6:30pm Parent Grief Support Group 7pm Fellowship Committee	23 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	24 6pm Brownie Troop #4094 6pm Girl Scouts #4432 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal	25 Confirmation Spring Retreat	26 Confirmation Spring Retreat 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous
27 Confirmation Spring Retreat 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Holy Communion 2:30pm Girl Scouts 40441 and 4041 3pm Girl Scouts 7pm PCO & St. John's Choir & Friends Rehearsal	28 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Finance Committee	29 6:30pm Parent Grief Support Group	30 6pm Girl Scouts #473 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	1 6:30pm Kiwanis 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal	2	3 roof fundraising event 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous



Bible In A Year Reading Plan

April

	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalm	Proverbs
<input type="checkbox"/> 01	Deuteronomy 18:1- 20:20	Luke 9:28-50	Psalm 73:1-28	Proverbs 12:10
<input type="checkbox"/> 02	Deuteronomy 21:1-22:30	Luke 9:51-10:12	Psalm 74:1-23	Proverbs 12:11
<input type="checkbox"/> 03	Deuteronomy 23:1-25:19	Luke 10:13-37	Psalm 75:1-10	Proverbs 12:12-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 04	Deuteronomy 26:1-27:26	Luke 10:38-11:13	Psalm 76:1-12	Proverbs 12:15-17
<input type="checkbox"/> 05	Deuteronomy 28:1-68	Luke 11:14-36	Psalm 77:1-20	Proverbs 12:18
<input type="checkbox"/> 06	Deuteronomy 29:1-30:20	Luke 11:37-12:7	Psalm 78:1-31	Proverbs 12:19-20
<input type="checkbox"/> 07	Deuteronomy 31:1-32:27	Luke 12:8-34	Psalm 78:32-55	Proverbs 12:21-23
<input type="checkbox"/> 08	Deuteronomy 32:28-52	Luke 12:35-59	Psalm 78:56-64	Proverbs 12:24
<input type="checkbox"/> 09	Deuteronomy 33:1-29	Luke 13:1-21	Psalm 78:65-72	Proverbs 12:25
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Deuteronomy 34:1- Joshua 2:24	Luke 13:22-14:6	Psalm 79:1-13	Proverbs 12:26
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Joshua 3:1-4:24	Luke 14:7-35	Psalm 80:1-19	Proverbs 12:27-28
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Joshua 5:1-7:15	Luke 15:1-32	Psalm 81:1-16	Proverbs 13:1
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	Joshua 7:16-9:2	Luke 16:1-18	Psalm 82:1-8	Proverbs 13:2-3
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Joshua 9:3-10:43	Luke 16:19-17:10	Psalm 83:1-18	Proverbs 13:4
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	Joshua 11:1-12:24	Luke 17:11-37	Psalm 84:1-12	Proverbs 13:5-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Joshua 13:1-14:15	Luke 18:1-17	Psalm 85:1-13	Proverbs 13:7-8
<input type="checkbox"/> 17	Joshua 15:1-63	Luke 18:18-43	Psalm 86:1-17	Proverbs 13:9-10
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Joshua 16:1-18:28	Luke 19:1-27	Psalm 87:1-7	Proverbs 13:11
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Joshua 19:1-20:9	Luke 19:28-48	Psalm 88:1-18	Proverbs 13:12-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	Joshua 21:1-22:20	Luke 20:1-26	Psalm 89:1-13	Proverbs 13:15-16
<input type="checkbox"/> 21	Joshua 22:21-23:16	Luke 20:27-47	Psalm 89:14-37	Proverbs 13:17-19
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Joshua 24:1-33	Luke 21:1-28	Psalm 89:38-52	Proverbs 13:20-23
<input type="checkbox"/> 23	Judges 1:1-2:9	Luke 21:29-22:13	Psalm 90:1-91:16	Proverbs 13:24-25
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Judges 2:10-3:31	Luke 22:14-34	Psalm 92:1-93:5	Proverbs 14:1-2
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Judges 4:1-5:31	Luke 22:35-53	Psalm 94:1-23	Proverbs 14:3-4
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Judges 6:1-40	Luke 22:54-23:12	Psalm 95:1-96:13	Proverbs 14:5-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Judges 7:1-8:17	Luke 23:13-43	Psalm 97:1-98:9	Proverbs 14:7-8
<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Judges 8:18-9:21	Luke 23:44-24:12	Psalm 99:1-9	Proverbs 14:9-10
<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Judges 9:22-10:18	Luke 24:13-53	Psalm 100:1-5	Proverbs 14:11-12
<input type="checkbox"/> 30	Judges 11:1-12:15	John 1:1-28	Psalm 101:1-8	Proverbs 14:13-14

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2025**

Attendees:							
Kyle Oszeyczik	P	Mitch Reading	P	Dale Herbranson	P	Stephen Drewes	P
Kelly Gallagher	P	Janet Gerner	P	Sue Starling	P	Marc Staudenmaier	P
Aimee Hillegas	P	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 Aimee. Kate led with an opening devotion.

Prior Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mitch, second by Kate to accept the minutes; motion carried.

Staff Reports

Motion by Jeanne, second by Kyle to accept Staff reports; motion carried.

- Pastor added that he has volunteered to be a part of the Synod Constitution Committee, which is responsible for reviewing church constitution changes. St. John's will likely need a constitution update after the Synod assembly.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee meeting minutes of 01/27/25.

- Motion by committee to accept list of counters provided in minutes. **Motion carried.**
- Motion by committee to fund the budget deficit of \$33,532 by transferring funds as follows:
 - Shortfall of Flowers and Bulletins – Transfer of \$1570 from the Flower Fund (in Fund III)
 - Shortfall of VBS – Transfer of \$1774.13 from Community Outreach Fund (in Fund III)
 - Balance of Deficit – Transfer of \$30,192.34 from Undesignated Bequests (Fund V)

Motion carried.

- Jack Ertell will be retiring as Finance Chair.

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

Council reviewed the following Committee Reports:

- Electronics Committee did not meet.
- Faith Formation from 01/07/25 – (same as last meeting) accepted as written.
- Property Committee from 02/03/25 - accepted as written.
 - Alternative insurance coverage – renewal policy is good until 2/1/26; motion made by Pastor that we form a task force to investigate alternatives upon that renewal; Mike seconded. **Motion did not carry.**
 - This Council recommends that the new incoming Council form a task force specific to this purpose after the Annual Meeting.
 - Motion from committee that, upon congregational approval of funding, the property committee solicit competitive bids for each of the funded capital projects and individually submit recommended contract awards to Council for approval. **Motion carried.**
- Worship and Music Committee from 02/04/25 – accepted as written.
- Social Ministry Committee – did not meet.
- Fellowship Committee from 01/28/25 – accepted as written.
- Columbarium Committee – did not meet.
- Executive Committee – did not meet.

- Stewardship Committee – from 01/20/25 – accepted as written.
- Welcome Team Committee from 01/14/24 - accepted as written.
- Green Team from 01/20/25 – accepted as written.

Motion by Mitch, second by Kate to accept committee reports; motion carried.

Old Business

- Lock-Up signup
- Muhlenberg Parish
 - St. John’s will participate in shared Lenten services with both PACS and Muhlenberg, and will provide a light dinner (soup/salad) before our April 2nd service:

	Muhlenberg Parish	PACA
March 12	St. Peter’s	First Presbyterian
March 19	Zion	Grimes AME
March 26	Centennial	GraceCrossing
April 2	St. John’s	St. John’s
April 9	St. Peter’s	First UMC

- The Muhlenberg Parish is rotating hosting Red Cross Blood Drives (as facilities allow). St. John’s will be hosting a Blood Drive on October 13th.
- Finance Fund Task Force – Task Force continues to progress with ideas on to combine funds, use earnings more effectively, etc. The team continues to gather historical data to ensure recommendations are clear, transparent, and logical to all. Idea is to review any recommendations with Finance prior to presentation to Council; likely presentation to Council in April.
- Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry position – position has been posted on multiple websites by Sonya. Continue to await candidates.
- Remaining Open Council seat – Discussion regarding a Youth Council Member as a possibility. All agreed this could be a viable option if a candidate can be found.

New Business

- Annual Meeting Prep
- Synod Assembly Delegates (meeting May 30/31) – Sonya will send an email to recruit volunteers.
- Reconciling in Christ Congregation – discussion regarding the benefits/costs/value ensued. Agreed that Council members should review the website – reconcilingworks.org, and topic is tabled for next month.
- Stewardship Committee Plan for 2025 – committee minutes included plans for 2025.

Pastor made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57; Kate seconded; motion carried.

Next regular meeting is March 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

Council Meeting Following Annual Meeting

02/23/2025

In Attendance:

Becky Stevens	Pastor Russ Crouthamel	Rachel Zimmermann
Marc Staudenmaier	Dale Herbranson	Kate Hicks
Aimee Hillegas	John Dorward	
Sue Starling	Jeanne Schanzenbach	

Absent:

Kyle Oszeyczik	Mike Kahl	Janet Gerner
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Meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm by Aimee.

Election of Officers:

John Dorward agreed to serve as President.

Marc Staudenmaier agreed to serve as Vice President.

Sue Starling agreed to serve another term as Secretary.

Jeanne made a motion to accept the slate of officers as presented; Dale seconded; motion carried.

Executive Committee: John, Marc, Sue and two at-large members; Dale Herbranson and Jeanne Schanzenbach agreed to serve as at-large members.

Dale made a motion to reaffirm the following along with committee liaisons, seconded by Marc, motion carried.

Mary Heiser – Financial Recording Secretary.

Shirley Platzer – Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have full authority to act and/or sign for investment accounts at Vanguard and other banking/investment institutions.

Don Titus – Assistant Treasurer.

Kevin Gallagher – Fund 3 Secretary. The Fund 3 Secretary shall have authority to view all investment accounts at Vanguard and other banking/investment institutions

Confirmation of Committee Liaisons:

Property: Mike Kahl and Kyle Oszeyczik

Stewardship: Marc Staudenmaier

Finance: Jeanne Schanzenbach

Fellowship: Rachel Zimmermann

Worship and Music: Becky Stevens

Faith Formation: Kate Hicks

Welcoming Team: Kate Hicks

Social Ministry: Janet Gerner

Columbarium: Dale Herbranson

Electronics: Dale Herbranson

Green Team: Aimee Hillegas

Mutual Ministry: Kyle Oszeyczik

Next Council Meeting is March 10 at 7 pm.

Installation of Council Members will be next Sunday, March 2nd during regular service.

Motion to adjourn made by Sue at 12:49 pm, seconded by Jeanne, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Starling

Council Secretary

Join Us for a Night of Giving



EXPERIENCE A SPECIAL EVENING WHERE
HISTORY & COMMUNITY SPIRIT COME TOGETHER.

Enjoy An Evening Featuring:

HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS ELEGANT DINING SILENT AUCTION

EVENT DETAILS

Thursday, April 10, 2025 | 5:30-8:30 PM

Historic Three Throned Manor

1497 Valley Forge Road, Phoenixville, PA 19460

Tickets: \$125 per person

To RSVP, please contact Debbie McGinn
debbie.mcginn@pacsphx.org 610-214-3055
Or purchase your tickets
<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/2025SpringSoiree>



Help us continue our mission to be the lead resource for food insecurity in the community.

Spring comes dancing
Where grass pokes above barren
Earth at spring's touch green
Lilies bloom spring can't be far
From summer's sun as sun colors all the earth
Come dance to spring's
Song green lilies dance
A golden song come be happy
Spring is here

Margaret Walker

They tell me this is not a happy
Time my tail I should not wag
It's hard for me but I try I am
Told Christ was crucified upon
A cross heavy sorry lay upon
The land joy wept beneath
A cross I bow my head between
My paws as children kneel to say
Their prayers for sorrow
That I cannot understand but
Try my best to let the children
Know I also grieve that one
Whose kindness many knew who
Had such love for all but who
Am I to understand the way of
Men

Puzzled Sidney
as told to Margaret Walker

People of God Involved in God's Work

April Worship Staff

Acolyte

- 6 Chloe Kunsch
13 Madelyn Hicks, TBD, TBD & TBD
17 TBD
18 TBD
19 TBD; TBD; TBD; TBD
20 8:00a TBD; 10:15s CeCe Leong, Chloe Kunsch, TBD & TBD
27 TBD

Altar Guild

- 6 Nancy Cressman & Janet Ertell
13 Donna Anderson & Cathy Garrett
17 Jean Herbranson & TBD
20 Andrea Hart & Jean Herbranson
27 Betty Hans & Jean Herbranson

Assisting Minister

- 6 Ron Stevens
13 Tom Snyder
17 Walt Deichmann
18 Deb Ahola
20 8:00a Ron Stevens; 10:15a Deb Ahola
27 Mimi Woods

Bread Bakers

- Easter Vigil—Kate Hicks
Easter 8:00—Rich Latella
Easter 10:15—Adam & Gwen Supplee

Communion Assistant/Lector

- 6 Walt Deichmann & Annaliese Duerr
13 Bill Starling; Readers: Chloe Kunsch, Sue Starling, Deb Ahola
17 Nancy Cressman
18 Deb Ahola; Readers: Deb Ahola, Mimi Woods, Sandy Momyer, Gwen Supplee, Marc Staudenmeier, Faye Donovan
20 8:00a Becky Stevens 10:15a Mimi Woods & 1 more needed
27 Mitch Reading

Counters

- 6 Jack & Janet Ertell; Donna Anderson
13 Heather Yonosh & Jeanne Schanzenbach
20 Mary Heiser; Mike & Cathy Kahl
27 Stephen & Jen Drewes

Evening Light Assistant

- 5 Sandy Momyer
12 Rich Latella; Readers: Sandy Momyer
26 Shirley Platzer

Lock-up

- 6 Marc Staudenmaier
13 Sue Starling
17 TBD
18 TBD
20 8:00a Aimee Hillegas; 10:15a Kate Hicks
27 Kyle Oszeyczik

Stream Team

- 6 Josh Romano & Paul Miller
13 Dale Herbranson & Paul Miller
17 Aimee Hillegas & Paul Miller
18 Dale Herbranson & Paul Miller
20 Dale Herbranson & Paul Miller
27 Aimee Hillegas & Dale Herbranson

Ushers

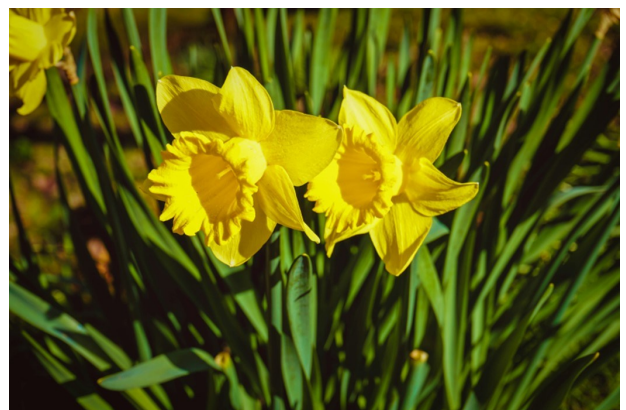
- 6 Diane Blattner & Katelyn Blattner
13 Sue Starling & Barry Church
17 Dick Kunsch
18 Nancy Cressman
19 TBD
20 8:00a Dick Kunsch & TBD; 10:15a Mike & Cathy Kahl
27 Donna Anderson & Jen Drewes

Death no more shall man fear
All alleluias to our risen
Christ angels sing Christ
Is arisen no more shall
Death rule all alleluias
Rise death no more shall
Man fear all alleluias rise
To our risen Christ

Margaret Walker

Spring is here when
The green lilies bloom
Spring's green has peeked
Through march's cold snow
Come walk where spring
Dances with the daffodils
Birds raise their songs
In joy of spring come
Walk where the green
Lilies grow

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.

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 February 28, 2025

	Monthly		Year-to-Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income:				
Envelope Giving	\$ 29,202	\$ 21,700	\$ 58,403	\$ 48,981
Other Income	3,833	2,678	7,667	5,428
	\$ 33,035	\$ 24,378	\$ 66,070	\$ 54,410
Expenses	\$ 40,174	\$ 37,067	\$ 80,348	\$ 76,769
Income (Deficit)	\$ (7,139)	\$ (12,690)	\$ (14,278)	\$ (22,359)

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
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

Parish Administrator:

Sonya K. Sowards

Sexton:

Mark Yanchek, Jr.

Nursery Coordinator:

Arlene Hudak

CHURCH COUNCIL

President:

John Dorward

Vice President:

Marc Staudenmaier

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:

Mike Kahl

Janet Gerner

Kyle Oszeyczik

Aimee Hillegas

Kate Hicks

Rachel Zimmermann

Becky Stevens

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:

Marc Staudenmaier, Chair

Faith Formation:

Erica Reading, Chair
Kate Hicks, Council Reps.

Fellowship:

Sandra Zimmermann, Chair
Rachel Zimmermann, Council Rep.

Finance:

Jack Ertell, Chair
Jeanne Schanzenbach
Council Rep.

Green Team

Aimee Hillegas, Council Rep.

Mutual Ministry:

Kyle Oszeyczik, Council Rep.

Property:

Bobbi Riley, Chair
Mike Kahl, Council Rep.
Kyle Oszeyczik, Council Rep.

Social Ministry:

Janet Gerner, Chair & Council Rep.

Stewardship:

Marc Staudenmaier, Council Rep.

Welcoming Team:

Kate Hicks, Chair & Council Rep.

Worship and Music:

Jean Herbranson, Chair
Becky Stevens, Council Rep.

Office Assistants:

June Henzie
Joan Carl
Pat Renninger

The Circle Editor:

Sonya K. Sowards

Inside this issue:

Pastor's note	1
Holy Week / Easter breakfast / Dahms Scholarship	2
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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
355 St. John's Circle
Phoenixville, PA 19460-2582



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
(610) 933-3947
www.stjohnluthphoenixville.org



E-mail: office@stjohnphoenixville.org
office hours 9-3 M,T,Th & 9-12 W,F (*barring exceptions*)
please call for appointments with staff members
A Caring, Sharing, Growing Congregation of the ELCA

Worship Schedule

Saturdays

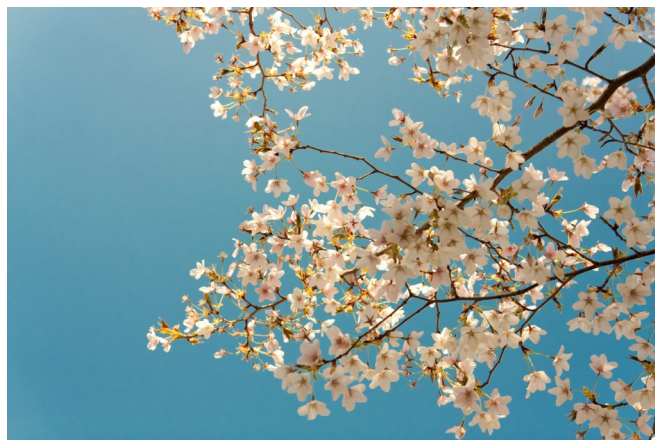
5 p.m. Evening Light with Holy Communion

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



April 2025