

The Circle

May 2025



Dear Friends in Christ,

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

I truly love Holy Week, and I love being a part of all of the special worship services that are a part of it, from the processions of Palm Sunday to the darkness and contemplation of Good Friday to the joy of Easter morning. Even with everything that's been going on in the world, I hope that Holy Week was a space where you were able to connect with God, and to be strengthened by God's presence and by the promises of that week. But it took a lot of people working together to make our Holy Week services a reality, and those folks' work is due a word of thanks.

Thank you to the altar guild for making sure that paraments were set out and changed, that Communion vessels were cleaned and prepared, and that everything around the altar was set up in the various ways that it needed to be for each of the services.

Thank you to the choir, to the special musicians, and to John and Tom, for providing music to adorn and enhance our worship.

Thank you to all of the people who volunteered to read Scripture, to serve as Assisting Ministers, Communion Assistants, or acolytes, and to help lead worship across all of these services. Thank you especially to people who volunteered (or allowed themselves to be volunteered) at the last minute.

Thank you to Dale and the Electronics Committee and Stream Team for sharing our worship online with those who aren't able to be physically present, and for setting up mics and speakers in all kinds of different places to help worship go smoothly.

Thank you to Sonya for crafting the bulletins for all of the services, and for being patient with last-minute changes and technical hiccups.

Thank you to Bobbi and the Property Committee for maintaining the space, and for securing a fire pit for the Easter Vigil.

Thank you to the Fellowship Committee, and to everyone involved in the Easter breakfast as we gather to celebrate together.

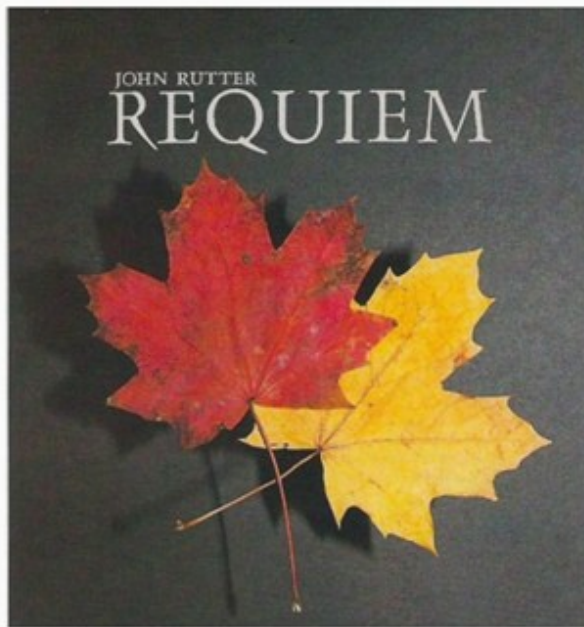
And thank you to everyone who attended one or some or all of the Holy Week services, and gathered together with all of St. John's, and with all of the Church, to proclaim Jesus' death and resurrection. It was a wonderful Holy Week, and I'm looking forward to all the ways that we'll follow Jesus together as we go forward.

In Christ,

Pastor Russ

CHRIST
IS RISEN

St. John's Choir & Friends 32nd Annual Concert
MUSIC BY JOHN RUTTER



TESSIKA MCCLENDON, SOPRANO SOLOIST
SINGERS FROM 25 AREA CHURCHES
PROVIDENCE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
F. THOMAS SNYDER, III – DIRECTOR

Sunday, May 4, 2025, 7:00 PM
St. John's Lutheran Church, 355 St. John's Circle,
Phoenixville, PA
Freewill offering: Suggested donation \$10



St. John's Choir & Friends

On Sunday, May 4th, at 7:00 p.m. 70 singers from 25 area churches, accompanied by The Providence Chamber Orchestra, will join together in the thirty-second annual St. John's Choir & Friends concert. This year's program features the music of John Rutter highlighted by his *Requiem*. The orchestra also performs his *Suite for Strings* based on four English folksongs providing an infectious tour of British cultural history.

Plan now to attend this amazing hour long performance and come early as we anticipate a full-house.

Help is Needed on May 4th

Help is needed for the May 4th, St. John's Choir & Friends Concert. Our outreach to the community means we'll be feeding supper to about 100 performers at 5:30 p.m. The Fellowship Committee will be coordinating the supper. Assistance needed for the supper includes setting up, serving, cleaning up, and providing **DESSERTS** which can be dropped off in the kitchen Saturday evening or Sunday morning.

USHERS and GREETERS are needed for the concert, arriving about 6:30 p.m., as we expect a full house and may have to bring in additional seating. Ushers

will also help guide people to vacant seats. Please contact Sonya Sowards at (610) 933-3947 ext. 2 or office@stjohnphoenixville.org if you are able to help with the supper, bring a dessert, or serve as an usher or greeter. Thank you!

Women of the ELCA

In April WELCA enjoyed a very informative program presented by Jack Ertell. We will not meet in May, but will schedule a meeting early in June to help with VBS preparations. Watch for details.

We were privileged to help with the Susquehanna University Choir Alumni Reception and choir supper. It was such a great opportunity to enjoy the company of the choir and families.

To raise funds for the Appalachian Service Project we are having an inventory reduction event. There are many t-shirts left from sponsored projects. While supplies last, we are accepting donations in exchange for shirts. These shirts are super soft and perfect for day or night. Check out the cart before and after worship.





Appalachia Service Project

Our ASP mission trip is scheduled for July 13-18, 2025. Do you have a heart and passion for service? 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) or (610) 716-6644. If you can't go on the mission trip, please continue to support our team with your prayers and financial contributions through direct donation or ASP Fundraisers. ASP (Appalachia Service Project) is a Christian, non-profit home repair organization that utilizes volunteers to perform free home repair and replacement for families living in substandard housing or families affected by a disaster in the Appalachian region. To find out more about Appalachia Service Project, please visit www.asphome.org.

Raise the Roof!

Our roof is in critical need of repair, and we must raise over \$100,000 in the next two months to make it happen. Without these repairs, our building is at serious risk. ***We need your help now***—every donation counts, and time is running out. Multiple giving options are available, so please act today!



Become a member of the 320 Club! Aptly named for the square footage of each of tiles. The Property Committee is offering an opportunity to purchase one of the new tiles and cement your legacy at St. Johns. See the letter from our Church Council on the next page.

St. John's Parent Night Out - Parents, need a break? Drop the kids off for a fun-filled Movie Night on **May 3rd from 6-8:30 p.m.**—just \$12 per person or \$20 for a family of 4! Enjoy a stress-free evening while your little ones enjoy a great film, plus pizza, drinks, and snacks available at the door. Every dollar raised helps fix our roof—don't wait, grab your spot now by via the QR code in your bulletin or the link in the weekly email. No kids but want to donate to offset our roof repairs anyway? Click the "donate now" button on our website and choose "Kley Hall & classroom roof repairs," or just write "roof repairs" in the memo line of your check. Thank you!



Fellowship Lunch at Liberty Union - Join us for a delicious lunch at Liberty Union on **Sunday, May 18th**, right after church! Enjoy great food and fellowship while supporting our community—15% of all proceeds will be donated back to the church. Bring your family and friends for a meal that gives back! Register via the QR code in your bulletin or go to: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqKb5V6mANsS46kFbJafQXBUB3MN_8zNaHH3uFs_Gqxc8FYw/viewform. As always, you can also Sonya at (610) 933-3947 ext. 2 to register.

Volunteers – Our task force needs help staffing these events and helping raise money. If you are interested in volunteering either for Parent's Night Out or for any other of our needs, please email marc.staudenmaier@gmail.com.

Thank you for doing whatever you can to help us raise the roof!

Dear Friends: At our 2025 Annual Meeting, the congregation generously approved the Property Committee's request to proceed with necessary repairs to the roof, replace the concrete bridge into Kley Hall from the back parking lot, repave the sidewalks, install a handicapped access ramp at the Kley Hall entrance and other small projects.



The Square Foot Facts

Since the leaking roof over Kley Hall, administration and the classrooms is the most pressing issue, we would like to start those repairs as soon as possible. This is an overdue replacement of the flat and pitched roofs. We have stretched its lifespan well beyond its normal life, and leaks are routinely being found. We have a contractor lined up and a contract signed and ready to go. We just need your help in raising the \$102,400 that is required to keep us warm and dry.

Join "The 320 Club"

The area that is being repaired will use approximately 320 sheets of 4' x 8' rigid insulation as a base before laying the rubber membrane of the new roof surface. We are looking for you to join the "320 Club" by purchasing one of these sheets for \$320 to help us reach our goal of \$102,400. Of course, we gratefully welcome anyone who wishes to purchase more than one! But we also gratefully welcome anyone who would just like to join "The Square Foot Club" by donating \$10 per square foot for as many sections as you like.

How to give

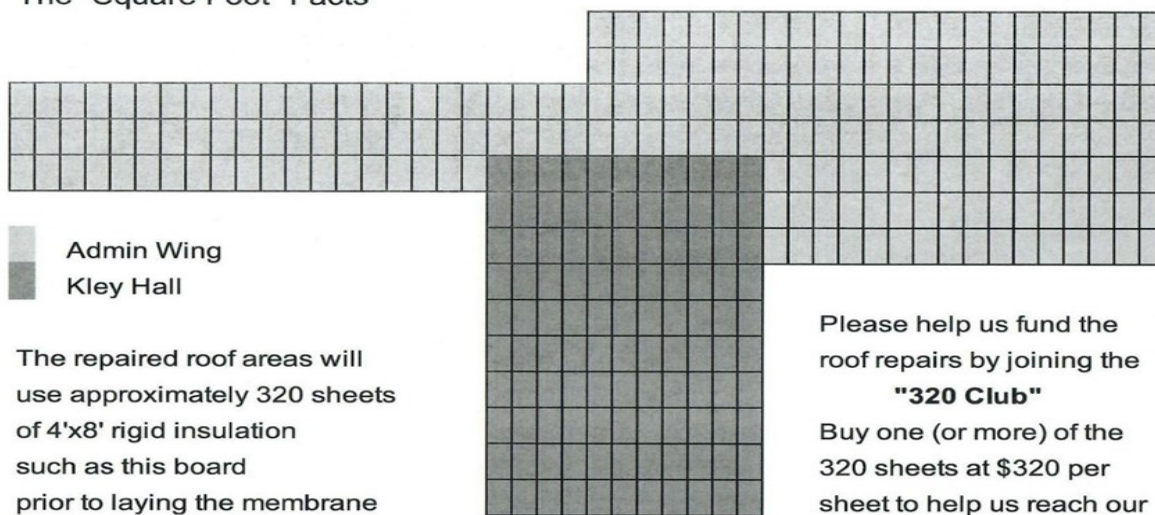
Our congregation has always risen to the need when called. We can do this, too!. Send in a check with "Roof" marked on the memo line, give online at stjohnluthphoenixville.org by clicking the "donate now" button on our website and selecting "Kley Hall and classroom roof repairs," or scan the QR code in your bulletins.

Thank you for your consideration and generosity!

St. John's Church Council

The St. John's Membrane Roof
The "Square Foot" Facts

Join the "320 Club"



Please help us fund the roof repairs by joining the
"320 Club"

Buy one (or more) of the 320 sheets at \$320 per sheet to help us reach our goal of \$102,400.00

Or "Square Foot Club" members welcomed at \$10 per sq ft

Caring for Creation

From Trash to Treasures: The Versatility of Recycled Materials

In our pursuit of a sustainable future, recycling plays a crucial role. By giving new life to used materials like plastics, glass, and metals, we reduce waste, conserve resources, and promote a circular economy. But have you ever wondered what products can actually be made from these recycled materials?

Recycled Plastics: Plastic waste is transformed into an array of innovative products:

- **Clothing and Accessories:** Some manufacturers use recycled plastic bottles to create outdoor clothing, stylish shoes and bags from recycled PET plastic yarn.^{1,2}
- **Building Materials:** Companies produce composite decking from recycled plastics, offering durable and eco-friendly construction solutions.¹
- **Everyday Products:** Toys can be made from 100% recycled milk jugs, and Preserve creates toothbrushes and razors from recycled plastic caps.^{1,2,3}
- **Technology:** Some companies incorporate recycled plastics into its computer components, reducing the environmental impact of tech manufacturing.¹

Recycled Glass: Glass recycling is a closed-loop process, meaning it can be endlessly recycled without losing quality:

- **New Glass Products:** New bottles and jars can be produced from recycled glass, maintaining high standards of quality and sustainability.¹
- **Construction Materials:** Recycled glass is used to create stunning countertops and tiles.¹
- **Art and Design:** Many independent artists and brands repurpose recycled glass into jewelry, sculptures, and decorative items.

Recycled Metals: Metals are incredibly versatile and can be recycled indefinitely:

- **Consumer Goods:** Recycled cast iron can be made into enameled cookware.¹
- **Packaging:** Aluminum cans from brands are often made from recycled materials, completing the loop in as little as 60 days.¹
- **Infrastructure:** Manufacturers produce construction-grade steel from recycled scrap metal.¹

Why It Matters

Choosing recycled products not only reduces environmental impact but also encourages innovation and supports green industries as well helps promote startup companies as small businesses. By participating in recycling initiatives and opting for products made from recycled materials, we all contribute to a cleaner, greener planet. Together, let's turn our trash into treasures and continue the momentum toward sustainability! For more information or to get involved, contact the Green Team.

¹www.manufacturingdigital.com

²www.shiniusa.com

³www.greentoys.com



Holy Week Thank You

- ◇ Thank you to Dana & Walt Deichmann for making dozens of palm crosses available to the congregation on Palm Sunday.
- ◇ Thank you to Bobbi Riley for bringing the large wooden cross out of storage for use at the Good Friday service.
- ◇ Thank you to members of the Adult Choir for helping with the set-up for Good Friday.
- ◇ Thank you to the Altar Guild for cleaning everything on the chancel and other areas prior to rehangng banners & paraments and setting up for Easter.

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

Council Member Name	Pres/Exc/ or Absent	Committee Assigned	Term 1/2	Term Ends
John Dorward (President)	Present	Executive	1	2/2028
Marc Staudenmaier (VP)	Present	Stewardship, Executive	1	2/2026
Sue Starling (Secretary)	Present	Executive	2	2/2027
Janet Gerner	Present	Social Ministry	2	2/2026
Dale Herbranson	Present	Electronics, Columbarium, Exec At-Large Member	2	2/2026
Kate Hicks	Present	Faith Formation, Welcoming	1	2/2027
Aimee Hillegas	Present	Green Team	2	2/2027
Mike Kahl	Present	Property	2	2/2028
Kyle Oszeyczik	Present	Property	1	2/2027
Jeanne Schanzenbach	Present	Finance, Exec At-Large Member	1	2/2026
Becky Stevens	Present	Worship and Music	1	2/2028
Rachel Zimmermann	Present	Fellowship	1	2/2028
Pastor Russ	Present	n/a		
Guests:				
Sonya Sowards	Present	n/a		
Tom Snyder	Present	n/a		

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

Prior Meeting Minutes

Council Meeting After Annual Meeting Minutes:

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

02/10/25 Council Minutes:

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

Staff Reports

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

Committee Reports

Finance Committee meeting minutes of 02/24/25.

1. Finance Task Force:

- Task Force of Mitch Reading, Kevin Gallagher, Sue Starling, Janet Gerner and Jeanne Schanzenbach met several times to review the current funds.
- Reviewed dedicated funds to see if they could be simplified, should continue to be carried forward in perpetuity, etc.
- The only fund that is legally required to remain in perpetuity is the Circle of Life Endowment fund, of which only the earnings on the principal can be spent (unless a special congregational vote allows otherwise.)
- Jeanne walked through the proposed changes moving from 14 separate funds to 4 (plus endowment). This would greatly simplify the accounting process and eliminate the need for a Fund 3 Secretary.
- Agreed that the task force will meet with the Columbarium committee separately to iron out how that fund should be handled.
- Task Force will meet with Columbarium Committee over the next month and come to resolution on how that fund will be handled going forward. Then, working with the

- Synod Assembly Delegates (5/30-31) – Andrea Hart and Faye Donovan have volunteered. Sonya will communicate and register them. **Dale made a motion that they represent St. John's, Jeanne seconded, motion carried.**

New Business – All items addressed as part of Finance Committee.

- Inclusion of major project expenditures in congregation agenda
- Discussion of how to approach major building expense
- The need to keep congregation updated on progress – work and financials

Sue made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27; John seconded; motion carried.

Next regular meeting is April 14, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Starling

Church Council Secretary

Vacation Bible School Registration Open Volunteers Needed!

Vacation Bible School 2025 will be held June 16th-20th from 9 a.m.-noon. Our theme this year is *Road Trip*! Join us for a thrilling road trip adventure where kids (Travelers) explore exciting destinations with the Navigator and their pup, Scout! Through engaging Bible stories, interactive games, and fun challenges, they'll discover that God is always with them. You won't want to miss it! ***Don't delay—registration closes on June 2nd!*** Registration sign-up: <https://forms.gle/1RCfbkiwyCfXsWqB6>



We are also in need of adult volunteers to serve as group guides. If you are unavailable during the week of June 16th for VBS week, there are still opportunities to serve. Please consider joining us on **Saturday, May 17th for our Build Day** and **Saturday, June 14th for our Set-Up Day**, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Register here to volunteer: <https://forms.gle/98VuTVyYLNk5UYHD9>

Please email Val (valerielynnkramer@gmail.com) with any questions. Thank you!



Meeting re Reorganization of St. John's Finances April 27th, 9:45-10:00 a.m.

On April 27th there will be a brief meeting in Kley Hall from 9:45-10:00 a.m.(ish) to review structural changes to church finances and the Roof Renovation Special Appeal Project.

Our Council has approved a funds re-organization plan of our existing resources based on the review and recommendations of a Finance Task Force and support from the Finance Committee. Please join us on April 27th for more information and a Q&A session before the service.



Bible In A Year Reading Plan

May

	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalms	Proverbs
<input type="checkbox"/> 01	Judges 13:1-14:20	John 1:29-51	Psalms 102:1-28	Proverbs 14:15-16
<input type="checkbox"/> 02	Judges 15:1-16:31	John 2:1-25	Psalms 103:1-22	Proverbs 14:17-19
<input type="checkbox"/> 03	Judges 17:1-18:31	John 3:1-21	Psalms 104:1-24	Proverbs 14:20-21
<input type="checkbox"/> 04	Judges 19:1-20:48	John 3:22-4:3	Psalms 104:24-35	Proverbs 14:22-24
<input type="checkbox"/> 05	Judges 21:1-Ruth 1:22	John 4:4-42	Psalms 105:1-15	Proverbs 14:25
<input type="checkbox"/> 06	Ruth 2:1-4:22	John 4:43-54	Psalms 105:16-36	Proverbs 14:26-27
<input type="checkbox"/> 07	1 Samuel 1:1-2:21	John 5:1-23	Psalms 105:37-45	Proverbs 14:28-29
<input type="checkbox"/> 08	1 Samuel 2:22-4:22	John 5:24-47	Psalms 106:1-12	Proverbs 14:30-31
<input type="checkbox"/> 09	1 Samuel 5:1-7:17	John 6:1-21	Psalms 106:13-31	Proverbs 14:32-33
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	1 Samuel 8:1-9:27	John 6:22-42	Psalms 106:32-48	Proverbs 14:34-35
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	1 Samuel 10:1-11:15	John 6:43-71	Psalms 107:1-43	Proverbs 15:1-3
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	1 Samuel 12:1-13:23	John 7:1-30	Psalms 108:1-13	Proverbs 15:4
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	1 Samuel 14:1-52	John 7:31-53	Psalms 109:1-31	Proverbs 15:5-7
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	1 Samuel 15:1-16:23	John 8:1-20	Psalms 110:1-7	Proverbs 15:8-10
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	1 Samuel 17:1-18:4	John 8:21-30	Psalms 111:1-10	Proverbs 15:11
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	1 Samuel 18:5-19:24	John 8:31-59	Psalms 112:1-10	Proverbs 15:12-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 17	1 Samuel 20:1-21:15	John 9:1-41	Psalms 113:1-114:8	Proverbs 15:15-17
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	1 Samuel 22:1-23:29	John 10:1-21	Psalms 115:1-18	Proverbs 15:18-19
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	1 Samuel 24:1-25:44	John 10:22-42	Psalms 116:1-19	Proverbs 15:20-21
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	1 Samuel 26:1-28:25	John 11:1-54	Psalms 117:1-2	Proverbs 15:22-23
<input type="checkbox"/> 21	1 Samuel 29:1-31:13	John 11:55-12:19	Psalms 118:1-18	Proverbs 15:24-26
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	2 Samuel 1:1-2:11	John 12:20-50	Psalms 118:19-29	Proverbs 15:27-28
<input type="checkbox"/> 23	2 Samuel 2:12-3:39	John 13:1-30	Psalms 119:1-16	Proverbs 15:29-30
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	2 Samuel 4:1-6:23	John 13:31-14:14	Psalms 119:17-32	Proverbs 15:31-32
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	2 Samuel 7:1-8:18	John 14:15-31	Psalms 119:33-48	Proverbs 15:33
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	2 Samuel 9:1-11:27	John 15:1-27	Psalms 119:49-64	Proverbs 16:1-3
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	2 Samuel 12:1-31	John 16:1-33	Psalms 119:65-80	Proverbs 16:4-5
<input type="checkbox"/> 28	2 Samuel 13:1-39	John 17:1-26	Psalms 119:81-96	Proverbs 16:6-7
<input type="checkbox"/> 29	2 Samuel 14:1-15:22	John 18:1-24	Psalms 119:97-112	Proverbs 16:8-9
<input type="checkbox"/> 30	2 Samuel 15:23-16:23	John 18:25-19:22	Psalms 119:113-128	Proverbs 16:10-11
<input type="checkbox"/> 31	2 Samuel 17:1-29	John 19:23-42	Psalms 119:129-152	Proverbs 16:12-13

<https://bibleinayearonline.com>

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May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 6pm Parents Night Out Roof Fundraiser 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous
4 8:30am ASP car wash 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Holy Communion 2:30pm Girl Scouts 40441 and 4041 3pm St. John's Choir & Friends Rehearsal 5:30pm St. John's Choir & Friends dinner 7pm St. John's Choir & Friends Concert	5 10:15am Staff 11am Alanon Family Group 6pm Cadette Troop #42024 7pm Property 7pm Stephen Ministry	6 6pm Cadette Girl Scouts 6:30pm Faith Formation Committee 6:30pm Parent Grief Support Group 7:30pm Worship & Music	7 4pm Social Ministry 6pm National Charity League 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	8 6pm Brownie Troop #4094 6pm Girl Scouts #4432 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal	9	10 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous
11 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Holy Communion 3pm Girl Scouts	12 10am MAEVE Moms Mingle 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Church Council	13 6:30pm Welcoming Team	14 Dogwood Festival 6pm Girl Scouts #473 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	15 Dogwood Festival 6:30pm Kiwanis 6:45pm Children's Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Handbells Rehearsal 8:15pm Naranon Support	16 Dogwood Festival St. Peter's lunch	17 Dogwood Festival 9am VBS Build Day 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous
18 Circle deadline 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Holy Communion 11:30am Fellowship Lunch @ Liberty Union 2:30pm Girl Scouts 40441 and 4041	19 11am Alanon Family Group 5pm Stewardship Committee 6pm Cadette Troop #42024 7pm Green Team 7pm Stephen Ministry	20	21 7pm Alanon	22 6pm Brownie Troop #4094 6pm Girl Scouts #4432 7pm Naranon	23	24 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous
25 9am Holy Communion 3pm Girl Scouts	26 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Finance Committee	27 10am Mom's Mingle 7pm Fellowship Committee	28 6pm Girl Scouts #473 7pm Alanon	29 7pm Naranon	30	31 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous

May 2025—birthdays and anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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
4 Allan Moreland's birthday	5 Donna Thompson's birthday Madelyn Hicks's birthday	6 Allen and Beth Kramer's anniversary Dylan McCabe's birthday Jeanne Schanzenbach's birthday	7 Anna Gerner's birthday Charles and Paula Weiss's anniversary Christine Huselton's birthday Joan Benne's birthday Rosa Gerner's birthday	8 Jeff Schanzenbach's birthday	9	10 Matthew and Jessica Cratty's anniversary
11 Emily Birdsell's birthday Max Strunk's birthday Sandra Zimmermann's birthday Tommy Andrews's birthday	12	13 Laura Geiger's birthday Ted and Sue Weicheld's anniversary	14 John O'Connell and Andrea Hart's anniversary	15 Adeline McCabe's birthday Claudine Ninness's birthday Mary Faddis's birthday Nancy Cressman's birthday Nancy Perchalski's birthday Stephanie Bearoff's birthday	16 Mark Blattner's birthday Rebecca Williams's birthday Santino Sicilia and Amber Carey's anniversary	17
18 Nicole Dalasio's birthday	19 April Liedike's birthday Melissa Thompson's birthday Ron Williams's birthday Rosie LaRocca's birthday	20	21 Britta Pekofsky's birthday	22 Liz Spurlock's birthday	23 Devon Mensch-Unruh's birthday Nabil Abraham and Erin McKenna's anniversary Randall and Karen Carr's anniversary Teddy Wimple's birthday Walt and Dana Deichmann's anniversary	24 Fred and RuthAnn Schell's anniversary Marc and Amber Herbranson's anniversary
25	26 Emerson Carr's birthday Gavin Moreland's birthday Mark Woelflin's birthday Marti Steiner's birthday Nick Mara's birthday	27	28	29 Eli Smith-Kiser's birthday	30 Justin and Jodi O'Neill's anniversary Stephen and Kimberly DiGioia's anniversary	31 Donald Platzer's birthday Rich Latella and Richard Skoniczin's anniversary

People of God Involved in God's Work

May Worship Staff

Acolyte

- 4 Peyton DeWolf
- 11 Cece Leong
- 18 Gracie Themens
- 25 Madelyn Hicks

Altar Guild

- 4 Janet Ertell & Jean Herbranson
- 11 Donna Anderson & Cathy Garrett
- 18 Andrea Hart, Donna Anderson & Nancy Cressman
- 25 Betty Hans & Donna Anderson

Assisting Minister

- 4 Ron Stevens
- 11 Tom Snyder
- 18 Walt Deichmann
- 25 Deb Ahola

Bread Bakers—n/a

Communion Assistant/Lector

- 4 Lynn Titus
- 11 Bill Starling
- 18 Mitch Reading
- 25 Mimi Woods

Counters

- 4 Jack & Janet Ertell, Donna Anderson
- 11 Heather Yonosh & Jeanne Schanzenbach
- 18 Mary Heiser, Mike & Cathy Kahl
- 25 Stephen & Jen Drewes

Evening Light Assistant

- 3 Sandy Momyer
- 10 Rich Latella
- 17 Rich Latella
- 24 Shirley Platzer
- 31 TBD

Lock-up

- 4 Dale Herbranson
- 11 Jeanne Schanzenbach
- 18 Kate Hicks
- 25 Kate Hicks

Stream Team

- 4 Josh Romano & Paul Miller
- 11 Dale Herbranson & Paul Miller
- 18 Josh Romano & Paul Miller
- 25 Aimee Hillegas & Paul Miller

Ushers

- 4 Don Titus & Giovanna Brown
- 11 Sue Starling & Cathy Garrett
- 18 Mike & Cathy Kahl
- 25 Nancy Cressman & Donna Anderson

Generosity in Giving Testimonial

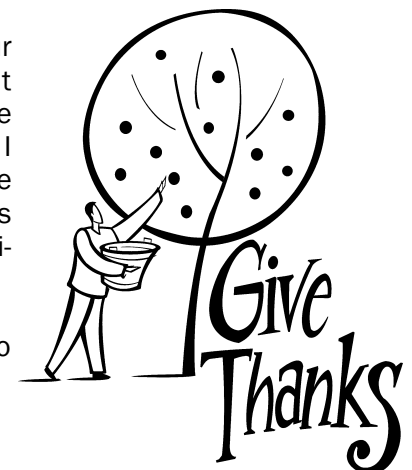
My journey at St. John's Lutheran Church in Phoenixville began with my baptism in July 1952 which took place in the old Church Street location with the beautiful stained glass windows. My mother, Ruth, dedicated herself to teaching the nursery children and playing piano, and I often joined her there as a toddler. I was later confirmed and received my first Bible while attending Sunday school each week. Vacation Bible School was a special treat where we listened to Bible lessons, prayed, played, and enjoyed snack time! Pastor Lamparter had us memorize and sing "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" for the congregation at the Sunday service after VBS ended. I sang in both the Cherub Choir and Junior Choir and especially enjoyed the Christmas hymns.

After high school and college, my church attendance waned but Ruth and Tom never missed a Sunday. I would attend with them when I could and remained a member of the church. They spent their last years (in their 90s) living with me in my Chesterbrook townhome. I brought them to church at times when they wanted to go. They passed away in 2009 and 2011.

Later, I began to attend church again alone—a peaceful and reflective time for me. I feel the presence of my parents and know they'd be happy I am there. I'm filled with gratitude for all those years of church fellowship. I have felt the power of giving and the impact it has through observing our dedicated church members and reading about our missions and outreach in the church bulletin. I am grateful for what the church has meant to me and say prayers thanking God for all the blessings in my life. I have started lifting my envelope giving and have remembered St. John's in my will.

My hope is that our young ones at St. John's experience the same journey as I have and keep the church in their hearts and minds, with gratitude and support.

Sally Tomasco



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

If you'd like to share a testimonial of how St. John's
has impacted your life,
please contact Janet Reading.

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):
☐ 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.

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 March 31, 2025

	Monthly		Year-to-Date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income:				
Envelope Giving	\$ 29,202	\$ 51,516	\$ 87,605	\$ 100,498
Other Income	3,833	3,938	11,500	9,366
	\$ 33,035	\$ 55,454	\$ 99,105	\$ 109,864
Expenses	\$ 40,174	\$ 40,905	\$ 120,521	\$ 117,674
Income (Deficit)	\$ (7,139)	\$ 14,549	\$ (21,416)	\$ (7,810)

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 Yancheck, 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

Change in Contact Information

Mary Rosenberger
104 Myrtle Avenue
Havertown, PA 19083-5706

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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



May 2025