

# The Circle

December 2025



Dear Friends in Christ,

This edition of *The Circle* will come out just before Thanksgiving, which is itself just before the end of the church year. The final Sunday of the church year (Christ the King Sunday) has just past, and this Sunday we'll be celebrating the first Sunday of Advent as we begin a new year in the church. Advent is about preparing for Christmas, but that's not the only thing that Advent is about. The season of Advent speaks to the reality of God's kingdom, and to how God has brought, and is bringing, and will bring, that kingdom to us.

The lectionary readings all throughout Advent describe God's kingdom, from Isaiah's vision of swords being re-forged into plows because there will be no more war and no more need for weapons, to Jesus reminding John the Baptist's disciples that he has fulfilled the prophecies about the healing and restoration that the Messiah will bring, to the apocalyptic predictions about the coming of God's kingdom. And all of these prophecies and predictions, all the hope for God's kingdom, all the longing for a new and different world where injustice and abuse and oppression will be no more: all of these things build up to, and culminate in that new beginning of God's kingdom coming to us.

But God's kingdom doesn't just come to us, and to our world, as a baby born in a manger. Every Sunday when we proclaim the Creed, we announce that Jesus "will come again to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end." And we hear about that in Advent as well, as we hear Jesus' predictions about the end times, and as we look to Jesus coming in power and majesty at the end of all things. Advent is just as much about Jesus' Second Coming as it is about his arrival into our world two thousand years ago.

During the season of Advent, we celebrate how Jesus came into the world in the past, and we look forward to his return in glory in the future. But we still live in the present, and Jesus is with us, and the Kingdom of God is part of our world, in the present, as well. We get to live in that kingdom, and we get to live by the values and rules of that kingdom in our everyday, day-to-day lives, as that kingdom breaks into the world. God's kingdom comes to us in a lot of different ways, and often when we're least expecting it, we get glimpses of that kingdom. As you mark the new beginnings of this Advent season, as you prepare to celebrate Jesus' coming into the world and as you look forward to his return, may you also be strengthened by God's presence in your life, here and now, in the Word of God and in the Sacraments, and in the community of the church, so that you, and all of us, can share that hope that God brings, with one another, and with the world.

In Christ, Pastor Russ



## Poinsettias

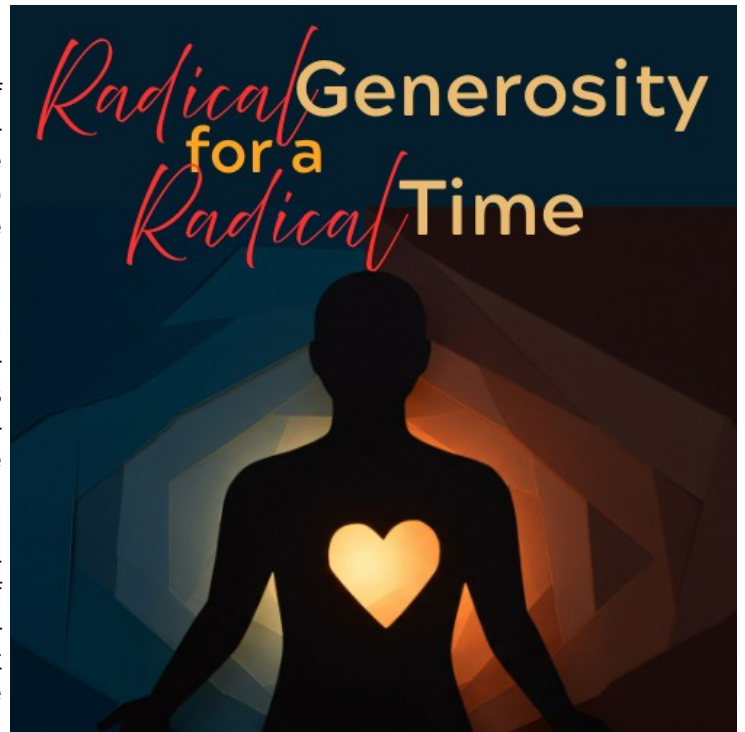
Beautiful red poinsettias will grace the chancel for Christmas Eve and the season of Christmas. Plants will be in 6" pots and are available to sponsor for \$11 each. Please sign up on the sheet in the hallway and indicate how many plants you would like, your name, and the dedication desired—In Memory Of, In Honor Of, or to the Glory of God. Payment may be placed in the offering plate, with checks made out to St. John's and "Poinsettias" written on the memo line. Plants may be taken home after the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve service or the two weekends after. **The deadline to order is December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Dear Beloved in Christ,

As we move into the final months of the year, many of our congregations are entering their annual stewardship appeals—those intentional moments when we pause to reflect on God’s generosity and our call to respond. This season always leads me back to the witness of the early church in the book of Acts.

We hear that “all who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.” It is a breathtaking vision of a community so shaped by the Spirit that generosity became their way of life.

Now, I know that if I suggested that any of our congregations adopt this exact model, I might get run out of town! But, I’m struck by the spirit behind it—the profound trust, the mutual care, and the belief that God’s abundance, when shared, would always be enough.



What if we embraced even a portion of that radical generosity today?

When you give to your congregation, you are contributing to a shared bucket—an offering of hope that fuels mission far beyond what any of us could do alone. The size of the ministry we can build together is directly connected to the generosity we are willing to practice.

And I truly believe we are living in a time that needs the church more than ever. In a world stretched thin by division, anxiety, and uncertainty, congregations remain the unseen fabric holding our communities together. Did you know that roughly 60% of all community food pantries in this country are run by faith communities? When neighbors are hungry, lonely, grieving, or searching for meaning, the church quietly, faithfully shows up.

As you consider your life in Christ this season, I invite you to revisit your own giving. Has your contribution remained the same for years? Are you one of the many that put your giving online during the pandemic and haven’t thought about it since? Perhaps this is the moment to consider an increase in 2026 or to align your giving with the way God has blessed you. In my own household, we increase our tithe each time I receive a raise—because generosity is a spiritual practice, not a financial transaction.

Imagine what our synod could do if every congregation operated from an abundance mindset—sharing boldly, and giving freely, trusting that the Holy Spirit provides “as any had need.” Imagine the witness of a church not shrinking in fear but expanding in hope.

Maybe these troubling times are calling us to build a wider, stronger network of believers ready to transform the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ. I believe we can be that church. I believe you are part of that possibility.

In gratitude for your partnership in the Gospel,

+ The Rev. Bryan Penman  
Bishop, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod

### Christmas Cards

Joan and Gary Carl are continuing June Henzie’s annual Christmas card exchange ministry. Bring your cards for St. John’s friends and put them in the “mailbox” on the table in the narthex, then pick up the cards addressed to you, which Joan and Gary will have sorted and arranged on the table in alphabetical order. (Hint: a donation to St. John’s in the amount of the postage you saved is much appreciated.) Thank you, Joan and Gary!

## “FROSTY TOES AND SPARKLY BOWS”

PHILADELPHIA HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

TO PERFORM AT ST. JOHN’S

St. John’s invites listeners to experience music of the holiday season performed by the exceptional Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble, 4 p.m., Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. The program entitled “Frosty Toes and Sparkly Bows” will be directed by Ron Bellamy and features sacred and secular handbell arrangements for the holiday season. The concert will send you into the night with the warmth of delightful music.

PHE is a community ensemble comprised of auditioned, advanced-level handbell ringers from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. Musically, PHE’s repertoire spans original compositions, transcriptions of classical literature, and arrangements from a wide array of musical genres.

The Ensemble currently plays on six and one-half octaves of Schulmerich bells. In addition, PHE plays two octaves of Schulmerich Silver Melody Bells, five octaves of MelodyChime® chimes, and the lower sixth and seven octaves of Malmark Choirchime® chimes. A large number of percussion instruments round out the Ensemble’s artistic presentation.

An advanced range of ringing techniques allows the Ensemble to move beyond the traditional handbell sound and redefines the character of a single instrument, whether it’s through percussive stopped sounds or poignant echoes or a shimmering decrescendo. Unlike an orchestra or choir in which each musician is responsible for one line of the texture, a handbell ensemble acts as one instrument, with each musician responsible for particular notes as they appear in the music.

There is no admission charge however a freewill offering will be received.

Philadelphia  
HANDBELL ENSEMBLE  
presents  
**Frosty Toes &  
Sparkly Bows**

Sunday,  
December 7 at 4pm

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
St. Johns Circle,  
**Phoenixville, PA**

### Decorating and Un-Decorating for Christmas

“Hanging of the Greens” involves so much more than just the greens—we’ll be decorating the sanctuary after the worship service on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. It involves a Christmas tree & lights, garlands & bows, candles & holders, banners & paraments, and the iron candle holders & glass globes, among other things. YOUR help is wanted and needed to help transform the sanctuary!

What is put up must come down, so following the service on Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, the “Un-Decorating” will take place. Many hands make light work, so plan to stay a little longer and help ready the sanctuary for Epiphany.

WELCA met after worship on November 23<sup>rd</sup> to sort and organize the items collected so far for Silver Springs Martin Luther School. Our St. John's family continues to be extremely generous and we are overwhelmed.

When we meet at 10:30 a.m. on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will finish sorting and organizing the donated items and fill bags for our shut-ins and staff.

Also, at that meeting, Pastor Russ will present a program about the Carols and Hymns of Christmas.

All women of St. John's are encouraged and welcome to join us!



### Adult Faith Formation

Sunday morning groups for adults include **Happy Hour**, meeting in the Eisenhower Room—friendly chats while children are in Sunday school; **Faith Life**, meeting in Room 1 by the stage—discussions about faith and recent media articles; **Bible Study**, meeting in the Fireside Room—guided study of “The Marvel and Miracle of Advent”; and **Sunday Morning Book Club**, meeting in Pastor Russ's office—discussing "Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Bradbury. Join any of the four groups on Sundays at 9 a.m.

### Advent Offering

Social Ministry has chosen Phoenixville Area Community Services (PACS) as the recipient of our special Advent Offering. PACS is focused on feeding people in our community. The need for food is skyrocketing and PACS, like all food banks across the country, are overwhelmed by the effects of the government shutdown. Here are a few key facts:



- Each month, PACS helps feed over 1,500 families.
- PACS reaches others who need food including seniors, veterans and children by providing food to agencies such as churches, community kitchens and school programs.
- Most food is donated by individuals or recovered from local grocery stores including fresh produce, prepared and frozen food, bread and bakery items as well as canned and dry foods. PACS also uses money donated to purchase food.
- PACS distributed food valued at just under \$15 million last year.



Your donation can help PACS feed those in need in our community, especially during the holidays! Please donate using the offering envelopes found in your pew, scan the code, or click here: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZYH/campaign/C-ZJTG>. Thank you!!



### Electronic Giving “Lunch and Learn” December 7<sup>th</sup> after worship

Members from the Stewardship and Finance Committees will be hosting a “lunch and learn” event on December 7<sup>th</sup> to encourage everyone to consider giving online—an easy, secure and consistent way to support our ministries. As our congregation continues to grow and adapt, and as more and more members give electronically, we will discontinue passing the offering plate during worship beginning January 4<sup>th</sup>; however, for those who prefer to give in person, the offering plate will continue to be available in the rear of the sanctuary before each service. We deeply appreciate your

continued generosity and understanding as we make this thoughtful transition together and hope you will take advantage of the December 7<sup>th</sup> event to bring your questions and suggestions. To sign up, scan the QR code, click here: [December 7th Lunch & Learn Registration – Fill out form](#)) or just call Sonya at (610) 933-3947, ext. 2



## December Worship Staff

### Acolyte

7 TBD  
14 TBD  
21 CeCe Leong  
24 TBD  
28 TBD

### Advent Wreath

11/30 The Grejdu family  
7 The Cady family  
14 The McGregor family  
21 The Martin family

### Altar Guild

7 Nancy Cressman & Janet Ertell  
14 Cathy Garrett & Jean Herbranson  
21 Andrea Hart & Jean Herbranson  
24 TBD  
28 Betty Hans & Jean Herbranson

### Assisting Minister

7 Mimi Woods  
14 Tom Snyder  
21 Ron Stevens  
24 7-Deb Ahola; 10-Ron Stevens  
28 Bill Starling

### Bread Bakers

6/7 Rich Latella/Kate Hicks  
13/14 Rich Latella  
21 Kate Hicks  
24 Jeanne Schanzenbach  
27/28 Aimee Hillegas

### Communion Assistant/Lector

7 Walt Deichmann  
14 Bill Starling  
21 Mitch Reading  
24 7-TBD; 10-TBD  
28 Nancy Cressman

### Counters

7 Jack & Janet Ertell  
14 Heather Yonosh & Jeanne Schanzenbach  
21 Mary Heiser; Mike & Cathy Kahl  
24 Mike & Cathy Kahl; Jack & Janet Ertell  
28 Stephen & Jen Drewes

### Evening Light Assistant

6 Rich Latella  
13 TBD  
20 Sandy Momyer  
27 Shirley Platzer

### Fellowship Time

14 Sunday Morning Book Club

### Lock-up

7 John Dorward  
14 Kyle Oszeyczik  
21 Rachel Zimmermann  
24 4-Kate Hicks; 7-TBD; 10-Dale Herbranson  
28 Kate Hicks

### Stream Team

7 Josh Romano & Paul Miller  
14 Aimee Hillegas & Paul Miller  
21 Dale Herbranson & Paul Miller  
24 Dale Herbranson & Josh Romano  
28 Aimee Hillegas & Paul Miller

### Ushers

7 Cathy Garrett & Donna Anderson  
14 Sue Starling & Nancy Cressman  
21 Dick Kunsch & Jen Drewes  
24 4-TBD; 7-TBD; 10-Dick Kunsch  
28 Barry Church & Donna Anderson

### **Shoe Collection is Back!**

The Green Team is pleased to announce that we have partnered with Soles4Souls to collect any type of gently used shoes. The collection container remains in the glass door entrance and is available to accept the donation of your shoes. Thanks for helping the planet by keeping some shoes from going to the landfill.

### **Council Nominations**

We need to replace **2-3 council members** in February. If you would like to nominate someone (including yourself) for council, please speak to a council member.

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?" One child answered, "Mary." The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?" A little boy said, "Verge." Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?" The boy said "Well, you know they are always talking about Verge & Mary."

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

Sincerely,  
Sara Wein, MSS, MLSP, LSW  
Executive Director

Dear Friends at St. John's:  
Your gift is changing lives! Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$1,000. Your contribution makes it possible for us to continue to provide free childcare and support for low-income single parents who are pursuing their full-time education. Thank you again!

Sincerely,  
Wendy J. McKeon  
Executive Director, Mom's House of Phoenixville

Dear St. John's Lutheran Church:  
Thank you for your gifts of \$2,000 to ELCA World Hunger and \$1,500 to Lutheran Disaster Response. As a church, we are empowered to love and serve our neighbors as Christ first loved us. Your generosity to ELCA World Hunger is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries, including the United States. It provides access to clean water, healthcare, agriculture, livestock and education, and it advances peace and justice for all people. Your generosity to Lutheran Disaster Response helps families and communities reeling from disasters in the immediate aftermath and far into the future and enables people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods. You make God's love real.

With gratitude,  
The Rev. Daniel Rift  
Director, Congregational Generosity, ELCA

Dear St. John's Lutheran Church:  
I write to you to express great pleasure with watching your YouTube church service. Your congregation has put it all together just beautifully: the music, the sermon, the sharing of your outreach to the community. I attend Bethel Lutheran Church located in Rowland, PA. My friend Marlene Holter shared your YouTube channel with me. May God continue to bless your church and followers. I look forward to attending many more of your YouTube services! Thank you again for your outreach of our Lord God's word.  
In Christ's love,  
Gudi Kalinowsky ("Karole")



# December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> 8:30am Children's Choir 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Holy Communion-combined with Muhlenberg Parish 11:45am Family Advent Workshop	<b>1</b> 10:15am Staff 11am Alanon Family Group 5pm Stewardship Committee 6pm Cadette Troop 42024 7pm Property 7pm Stephen Ministry	<b>2</b> 10:30am WELCA 4pm Girl Scouts 6pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Faith Formation Committee 7:30pm Worship & Music	<b>3</b> 4pm Social Ministry 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9am DAR Holiday Meeting 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous
<b>7</b> 8:30am Children's Choir 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Holy Communion 11:15am Electronic Giving Lunch & Learn 2pm Girl Scouts #41441 4pm Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble Concert	<b>8</b> 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Church Council	<b>9</b> 8pm Welcoming Team	<b>10</b> 5:15pm Daisy Girl Scouts 6pm Girl Scouts #4432 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous
<b>14</b> 8:30am Children's Choir 9am Faith Formation 9:45am Fellowship Time 10:15am Holy Communion 3pm Girl Scouts 4041 3pm Girl Scouts 41766	<b>15</b> 11am Alanon Family Group 6pm Cadette Troop 42024 7pm Green Team 7pm Stephen Ministry	<b>16</b> 6pm Girl Scouts	<b>17</b> 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> Circle deadline 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells 8:15pm Naranon Support	<b>19</b> St. Peter's lunch	<b>20</b> 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous
<b>21</b> 8:30am Children's Choir 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Holy Communion 11:15am Christmas decorating 2pm Girl Scouts #41441	<b>22</b> 11am Alanon Family Group	<b>23</b> 10:30am WELCA 7pm Fellowship Committee	<b>24</b> 4pm Children's Service 6:30pm Music 7pm Alanon 7pm Candlelight Service w/choir 9:30pm Music 10pm Candlelight Service	<b>25</b> 7pm Naranon	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous
<b>28</b> 10:15am Holy Communion 3pm Girl Scouts 4041 3pm Girl Scouts 41766	<b>29</b> 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Finance Committee	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 7pm Alanon	<b>1</b> 7pm Naranon	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous

# December 2025 Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

## Communion Records and Prayer Requests

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 in a calendar 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.

## Appalachia Service Project this summer

Do you have a heart and passion for service? It's time to start planning for our 2026 ASP mission trip! Each year, volunteers from St. John's spend a week in service, faith, and fellowship helping families in need throughout Central Appalachia. The trip is open to all adults and youth who have completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Whether you're a first-timer or a seasoned volunteer, we'd love to have you join the team! Contact Jodi O'Neill for details or to express your interest. ([oneillsinvf@comcast.net](mailto:oneillsinvf@comcast.net) or (610) 716-6644).



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

<b>Council Member Name</b>	<b>Pres/Exc/ or Absent</b>	<b>Committee Assigned</b>	<b>Term 1/2</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
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		
<b>Guests:</b>				
Sonya Sowards	Present	n/a		
Tom Snyder	Present	n/a		

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 pm by John.

Council devotional was led by Rachel.

Prior Meeting Minutes

09/08/25 Council Minutes:

Correction to 09/08/25 minutes: Mike Kahl was absent.

**Motion by Becky, second by Dale to accept the minutes; motion carried with two abstentions.**

Staff Reports

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

Committee Reports

Finance Committee meeting minutes from 09/29/25:

- Note that Jack Ertell has retired from the Head of the Finance Committee, Kevin Gallagher has now taken over.

**Motion by Marc, second by Aimee to accept Finance Committee report; motion carried.**

Council reviewed the following Committee Reports:

- Electronics Committee of 10/07/25 – accepted as written.
- Faith Formation of 10/07/25 – accepted as written.
- Property Committee of 10/06/25 – accepted as written.
  - Motion by Property Committee to engage with Forcine Concrete of Malvern, PA to replace the concrete bridge at the exit on the northeast side of Kley Hall at a cost of \$14,740 plus ancillary costs (e.g. permits, inspections, tests, etc.) **Motion carried.**
  - Motion by Property Committee to accept the proposal from Quality Fabricating to make and install two code-compliant, 20-foot long, 42-inch-high pipe picket railings, powder coated gloss black, along the sides of the concrete bridge at the

exit on the northeast side of Kley Hall at a cost of \$10,388 plus ancillary costs (e.g. permits, inspections, tests, etc.) **Motion carried.**

- o A motion to accept the proposal from Darrah Woodworking (Jonathan Stong) to replace/repair sidewalk sections at the circle, the rear entrance, and by the Columbarium; replace a section of curb at the glass door entrance and install an ADA wheelchair accessible ramp sidewalk for a total of \$10,124.16 plus ancillary costs (e.g. permits, inspections, tests, etc.) **Motion carried.**

- Worship and Music Committee of 10/07/25 – accepted as written.
- Social Ministry Committee of 10/01/25 – accepted as written.
- Fellowship Committee of 09/23/25 – accepted as written.
- Columbarium Committee – did not meet.
- Executive Committee – did not meet.
- Stewardship Committee of 09/15/25 – accepted as written.
- Welcome Team Committee of 09/09/25 – accepted as written.
- Green Team of – no minutes provided.

**Motion by Marc, second by Becky to accept committee reports; motion carried.**

#### Old Business

- Lock-Up signup – covered.
- Audit Committee Update – nearing completion, Committee will submit report.
- Muhlenberg Parish update - next major activity is the 5th Sunday joint service on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Other MP pastors will participate in the service. Offerings: if in a church envelope, it will go to that church; if loose \$, it will go toward the MP fund.
- Endowment Fund Committee – committee is staffed; working to find date for first meeting.
- Council nominations for February – continue to give thought to potential nominations.

#### New Business

- Roof repair update – have raised the full amount for the roof at this point.
- Stewardship Pledge Campaign – Stewardship Committee is asking that Council assist in making outbound calls to those households that have not yet turned in an Estimate of Giving form. Marc will reach out to each Council member, and a script will be provided. Of 288 households, 54 have submitted cards. Of those 288 households, there are 60 voting members; Pastor explained the importance of having an accurate voting member count.
- Action plan for goals to be accomplished in next 3 months – Marc Staudenmaier
  - o Church insurance – committee staffed.
  - o DCYFM position – Pastor, Rachel, Tom and Kate to meet with FF committee to potentially revise the job description.
  - o Reconciling in Christ – Pastor Eisenberg met with Council members to discuss his church's journey in RIC. Next step would be for Council to vote to move forward, then formation of a core committee.
    - Motion made by Dale that we move forward with forming a Core Committee; seconded by Rachel; **motion carried with one abstention.**
  - o Peer Ministry – critical because we have such limited offerings for older teens and tend to lose them after confirmation. Kyle will lead the effort to get a committee of adults together to lead this effort.
  - o 2-Adult Rule for Sunday School – Faith Formation is working on this; we are covering gaps in most areas but still have some.
  - o Adjusting Lockup/Counting – Finance Committee has decided to retain current process.
  - o Funding property repairs – Finance has the \$160k for 2025 projects covered.
  - o Getting a financial advisor/accountant – Finance Committee has discussed and will handle if needed.

- Pledge campaign completion - TBD
- Letters re: Columbarium donations – need to send an acknowledgement letter for in-kind donations without a \$ amount specified. John will add a personal note and sign.
- Proposed job description changes for Sonya and Tom:
  - Parish Administrator
    - Communications: “Yellow Communion Card” has been renamed to “Record of Communion and Prayer Request”
    - Member Services: “Provides home-bound members with weekly sermons and announcements” was a response to COVID-19 lockdowns and should be deleted

Director of Music

- Add “The Director of Music shall assist the Vacation Bible School planning team with selecting music for VBS, and work with the VBS team to provide leadership for the music station at Vacation Bible School”
- Add “The Director of Music shall obtain, report, and file all musical copyright permissions”
- Change the lifting requirement from 50lb to 65lb

**Becky made the motion that we approve the proposed job description changes; Marc seconded; motion carried.**

John adjourned the meeting by decree at 8:45.

Next regular meeting is November 10, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Starling

Church Council Secretary

We have come a long way  
Since Christ walked beside  
Us guiding teach peace  
What have we leared  
Tolerance to live in peace  
To accept those that  
Differ that walk  
Christ's path of peace  
Beside us  
Many peace guide our ways  
Margaret Walker

As the sea flows  
o'r the land  
So God's grace flows  
Grace to bestow  
Upon an earth  
God's wonderous  
love  
Given man that  
He shall ever  
Know God is love  
Margaret Walker



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# Bible In A Year Reading Plan

## December

	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalms	Proverbs
<input type="checkbox"/> 01	Daniel 8:1-27	1 John 2:1-17	Psalms 120:1-7	Proverbs 28:25-26
<input type="checkbox"/> 02	Daniel 9:1-11:1	1 John 2:18-3:6	Psalms 121:1-8	Proverbs 28:27-28
<input type="checkbox"/> 03	Daniel 11:2-35	1 John 3:7-24	Psalms 122:1-9	Proverbs 29:1
<input type="checkbox"/> 04	Daniel 11:36-12:13	1 John 4:1-21	Psalms 123:1-4	Proverbs 29:2-4
<input type="checkbox"/> 05	Hosea 1:1-3:5	1 John 5:1-21	Psalms 124:1-8	Proverbs 29:5-8
<input type="checkbox"/> 06	Hosea 4:1-5:15	2 John 1:1-13	Psalms 125:1-5	Proverbs 29:9-11
<input type="checkbox"/> 07	Hosea 6:1-9:17	3 John 1:1-15	Psalms 126:1-6	Proverbs 29:12-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 08	Hosea 10:1-14:9	Jude 1:1-25	Psalms 127:1-5	Proverbs 29:15-17
<input type="checkbox"/> 09	Joel 1:1-3:21	Revelation 1:1-20	Psalms 128:1-6	Proverbs 29:18
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Amos 1:1-3:15	Revelation 2:1-17	Psalms 129:1-8	Proverbs 29:19-20
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Amos 4:1-6:14	Revelation 2:18-3:6	Psalms 130:1-8	Proverbs 29:21-22
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Amos 7:1-9:15	Revelation 3:7-22	Psalms 131:1-3	Proverbs 29:23
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	Obadiah 1:1-21	Revelation 4:1-11	Psalms 132:1-18	Proverbs 29:24-25
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Jonah 1:1-4:11	Revelation 5:1-14	Psalms 133:1-3	Proverbs 29:26-27
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	Micah 1:1-4:13	Revelation 6:1-17	Psalms 134:1-3	Proverbs 30:1-4
<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Micah 5:1-7:20	Revelation 7:1-17	Psalms 135:1-21	Proverbs 30:5-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 17	Nahum 1:1-3:19	Revelation 8:1-13	Psalms 136:1-26	Proverbs 30:7-9
<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Habakkuk 1:1-3:19	Revelation 9:1-21	Psalms 137:1-9	Proverbs 30:10
<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Zephaniah 1:1-3:20	Revelation 10:1-11	Psalms 138:1-8	Proverbs 30:11-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	Haggai 1:1-2:23	Revelation 11:1-19	Psalms 139:1-24	Proverbs 30:15-16
<input type="checkbox"/> 21	Zechariah 1:1-21	Revelation 12:1-17	Psalms 140:1-13	Proverbs 30:17
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Zechariah 2:1-3:10	Revelation 13:1-13:18	Psalms 141:1-10	Proverbs 30:18-20
<input type="checkbox"/> 23	Zechariah 4:1-5:11	Revelation 14:1-20	Psalms 142:1-7	Proverbs 30:21-23
<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Zechariah 6:1-7:14	Revelation 15:1-8	Psalms 143:1-12	Proverbs 30:24-28
<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Zechariah 8:1-23	Revelation 16:1-21	Psalms 144:1-15	Proverbs 30:29-31
<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Zechariah 9:1-17	Revelation 17:1-18	Psalms 145:1-21	Proverbs 30:32
<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Zechariah 10:1-11:17	Revelation 18:1-24	Psalms 146:1-10	Proverbs 30:33
<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Zechariah 12:1-13:9	Revelation 19:1-21	Psalms 147:1-20	Proverbs 31:1-7
<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Zechariah 14:1-21	Revelation 20:1-15	Psalms 148:1-14	Proverbs 31:8-9
<input type="checkbox"/> 30	Malachi 1:1-2:17	Revelation 21:1-27	Psalms 149:1-9	Proverbs 31:10-24
<input type="checkbox"/> 31	Malachi 3:1-4:6	Revelation 22:1-21	Psalms 150:1-6	Proverbs 31:25-31

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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

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John Dorward

##### Vice President:

Marc Staudenmaier

##### Secretary:

Sue Starling

##### Treasurer:

Shirley Platzer

##### Assistant Treasurer:

Don Titus

##### Financial Recording Secretary:

Mary Heiser

##### 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

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Dale Herbranson, Council Rep.

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Becky Stevens, Council Rep.

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Joan Carl  
Pat Renninger

##### The Circle Editor:

Sonya K. Sowards

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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**



**December 2025**