

The Circle

April 2026



Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope your Lent has been going well, even with all the complicated (and sometimes painful) things going on in the world. In just a few weeks, it will be Easter, and we'll get to celebrate God's triumph over all the forces of evil and sin and hurt in the world. I'm looking forward to our Holy Week and Easter celebrations this year!

One of my favorite parts of the Holy Week celebration is the Easter Vigil. I've described it as "like Christmas Eve for Easter." Easter is such a big and important celebration that it can't be contained into just one day, as it stretches out for a whole week of Sundays, and Easter is such a big and important celebration that we start our celebrations as early as we can, right around sunset the night before. The Vigil begins with fire and the blessing of the new light from the Paschal candle, and continues as we celebrate God's saving actions in the world in Scripture and in song, before we share together in the feast of Holy Communion, as a foretaste of that great unending feast we'll all share together in God's Kingdom. It's exciting and powerful and a lot of fun, and I hope you'll join us for it! The service starts Saturday evening, April 4th, at 7:30 p.m.

As Holy Week leads into the Easter season, we're going to be using a slightly different set of Scripture readings than we typically would. The Consultation on Common Texts (which is the group of American and Canadian church bodies that oversees the Revised Common Lectionary) has been reexamining the ways that we read Scripture in worship, and especially the ways that Christians have been using Scripture to justify violence and prejudice against Jewish people. The CCT has proposed changes in order to address those concerns. There are two key areas in the proposal:

- ⇒ The first is a suggestion about the Passion Gospel for Good Friday. In a lot of places in the Gospel of John, St. John uses a Greek word that can be literally translated as "the Jews," when he's actually speaking of a certain group of first-century Judean religious and political leaders. The CCT's report says, "This use of the word "Jew" in John and Acts has contributed to a common misreading of the Gospel story—that Jesus died because of the behavior of non-Christian Jewish people, rather than because of the decisions by Roman officials or the sinfulness of all humanity. This misreading has in turn been used to support discrimination and violence against Jews. It still inspires anti-Jewish actions to this day. This is something for which Christians need to repent." In order to not continue the harm that has come from that misreading of Scripture, we're going to use a different translation of the Good Friday Gospel, drawn from the Common English Bible, which translates that word differently, depending on its use in the story, so as not to assign blame for the actions of a few powerful individuals onto an entire nation's worth of people.
- ⇒ The second is a shift in the readings during the Easter season. The First Lesson in Eastertide has usually been drawn from the book of Acts, but that means that the Old Testament isn't typically read at all, save for the Psalm, during the Easter season. As the CCT says in their report, "For Christians not to read from texts shared with Jews during any season of the year is inherently problematic. God has exercised mercy and has worked deliverance and salvation throughout the biblical story apart from the specific events and dynamics of the passion." They've proposed a series of readings from the Hebrew Scriptures to be used during the Easter season instead of the readings from Acts, which have been shifted to the Second Reading later in the year, during the time after Pentecost.

(continued next page)


Pastor's Note—continued from prior page

We're going to be using both the different Good Friday translation and the revised Easter season readings this year, and throughout the proposed change's three-year trial period. My hope is that those adjustments to the lectionary will still allow us to honor and celebrate God's work to save us through Jesus' death and resurrection, but will both give a different perspective on that work, and also will help us celebrate in ways which are less potentially hurtful to our Jewish friends and neighbors.

May God bless you, this coming Holy Week and Easter season, and always!


In Christ,

Pastor Russ



Lent Offering
please donate by April 5th

The Social Ministry Committee has chosen Alianzas de Phoenixville as the recipient of our special "Lent Offering." According to their Executive Director, Nina Guzman, "Alianzas serves the diverse neighbors in our community and surrounding area that have sought refuge among us due to forced migration. Our current focus is to provide emergency services to families torn apart by ICE such as legal resources, emergency funds, food and essentials and trauma counseling. We continue to provide programs and services such as ESL, leadership training and mediations." Our special Lenten offering will help those in our community who are going through a difficult time right now! Scan the code, click the link, mail a check or drop your gift in the offering plate. Thank you for your generosity! [Lenten Gift | St. John's Lutheran Church Phoenixville](#)





Easter Breakfast

April 5th @ 9 a.m.

The Fellowship and Welcoming Committee invites you to a celebratory Easter Breakfast! Celebrate the Resurrection with food and fellowship at 9 a.m. on Easter morning in Kley Hall. Please RSVP to Sonya Sowards with the number of adults/children attending. We also need casserole makers and donations of baked goods and fruit salad. Please let Sonya know if you are able to contribute any of these items as you RSVP. All are welcome!



Easter Lillies

order before March 30th

Beautiful white Easter lilies will grace our chancel for Easter Sunday. You may sponsor one or more plants for \$11.50 each and dedicate them to loved ones in Memory of, in Honor of, or to the Glory of God. Checks should be made payable to St. John's and marked "Easter Lily" on the memo line. An order sign-up form is posted in the hallway and the deadline to order is March 30th. Lilies may be picked up following the 10:15 a.m. Easter service. If planted in your home garden or landscaping areas, the lilies will usually come back up and bloom year after year!



Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

**WELCA Retreat
April 11, 2026**

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.*

Among the many thousands of hymns, “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” holds a tender place in the hearts of many believers. We live in a world of distractions, disappointments, discouragements, and anxiety about the future. It is so easy to become over-

whelmed, lose our focus and take our eyes off of Jesus who promises us hope and peace amidst life’s many challenges.

Turning our eyes upon Jesus is a way of life for us, as His followers. By fixing our gaze on Him, trusting in His guidance, seeking His Kingdom first and walking in love, we can navigate life’s journey with purpose and resilience.

This year’s retreat, “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus,” will take place on Saturday, April 11, 2026. It begins with coffee and fellowship at 9 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. The cost is \$20. We welcome back Rev. Kris Peterson as our retreat leader. To register please call Sonya Sowards at (610) 933-3947, ext. 2. Registration is not finalized until payment is received. If you have any questions please contact Linda Landis. This retreat is limited to 24 participants.

You are invited to bring an object that represents Jesus’ love for you.

Two Sides of the Pond: Celebrating America’s 250th

In concert at 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 19th at St. John’s, Providence Chamber Orchestra presents delightful music from England and America in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of America.



Selections from England are: *Capriol Suite* by Peter Warlock, *English Folksong Suite* by Ralph Vaughan Williams; and from the other side of the pond, music by American composers: *Variations on a Shaker Melody* by Aaron Copland, *Americana* (a suite of familiar tunes –*When Johnny Comes Marching Home*, *Shenandoah*, *Camptown Races*, *Deep River* and *Yankee Doodle*) arranged by Arthur Harris, and *Rhythmic Variations* (commissioned to celebrate America’s 200th anniversary) by Howard Hanson.

The Providence Chamber Orchestra, a resident ensemble at St. John’s, was founded in 1999 to meet the musical needs and aspirations of its members, a group of talented, amateur musicians from the greater Philadelphia area, all of whom share a common passion for playing music. The ensemble, conducted by St. John’s Director of Music Tom Snyder, has grown to 37 members for this toe-tapping performance!

Plan now to attend the afternoon’s concert of delightful music on April 19th. There is no charge for tickets, although donations will be accepted to help defray the cost of the concert.

Dahms Scholarship applications due by April 5th

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 5th. Applications can be found in the blue forms box in Kley Hall, 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 Graduation Sunday, June 7th.



St. Mary's
Franciscan Shelter
for Homeless Families

One of the important projects of the Social Ministry Committee is providing meal service to St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter for women and children in Phoenixville two weeks a year. The next meal service is scheduled for May 25th-29th.

Here is what is involved in organizing and leading this project:

- Set up a Signup Genius schedule for meal items, cooking times, and drivers;
- Submit articles for *The Circle* and weekly bulletins;
- Monitor signups to ensure all slots are filled; and
- Provide oversight for two cooking sessions at St. John's (Sunday after church and Wednesday morning have worked well).

We need a person to lead this effort beginning in January, 2027. The current leader of this project will provide guidance for the new leader during the May, 2026 meal service. Please contact Lynn Titus at (949) 573-2349 for more information or to volunteer for this important leadership position.

Lutheran 101 Class This Spring begins April 12th

Pastor Russ will be teaching a six-week Bible study called "Lutheran 101" on Sunday mornings from April 12th through May 17th during the Faith Formation hour. The class will look at Lutheran history and theology and talk about how Lutherans (and particularly St. John's Lutherans) live out our faiths in the 21st Century. Whether you're interested in becoming a member at St. John's, or whether you've been a member for a long time and are interested in learning more about what it means to be Lutheran, come join us!



Welcome New Members



New Members Reception April 26th after worship

Please join us in welcoming our new St. John's members on April 26th after service in Kley Hall. Cake and light refreshments will be served.

Vacation Bible School Registration is Open!

Vacation Bible School 2026 will be held June 22-26 from 9 a.m.-noon. Our theme this year is Rainforest Falls. Kids will have a blast plunging into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God! They'll explore what it means to be rooted in a relationship with God—their creator—a safe place in life's storms. You won't want to miss it!



Click the link or scan the code on the left **before June 8th** to sign up! https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdSxOFiywbmz0MoxqxaAgY_dM-AGxKxw8q2yU2VTxPNGhfHVQ/viewform



We are also in need of adult volunteers to serve as group guides. Even if you are unavailable during the week of June 22nd for VBS week, there are still opportunities to serve. Please consider joining us on **Saturday, May 30th for our Build Day** and **Saturday, June 20th for our Set-Up Day**, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Click the link or scan the code on the right to volunteer: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdSxOFiywbmz0MoxqxaAgY_dM-AGxKxw8q2yU2VTxPNGhfHVQ/viewform



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



July 12-18, 2026

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 8th 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 or (610) 716-6644.

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.

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, has begun a study of the Book of Revelation; and **Sunday Morning Book Club**, meeting in Pastor Russ's office, which will be reading & discussing "The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East" by Sandy Tolan. Join any of the four groups on Sundays at 9 a.m.



St. John's Choir & Friends 7 p.m., May 3rd

Entitled "Psalms, Hymns, and Spirituals" selections include music by John Rutter, René Clausen, Benjamin Britten, Undine Smith Moore, Eric Nelson, and William L. Dawson. Accompaniment will be provided by piano, organ, and percussion joined by KyrosBrass, the faculty brass quintet from West Chester University. It will be glorious!



2026 marks the thirty-third concert in the series. Last year's performance of John Rutter's *Requiem*, accompanied by the Providence Chamber Orchestra, singers from twenty-five area churches and included nearly 100 performers.

Caring for Creation

Earth Day: Simple Ways to Celebrate at Home

Each year on April 22nd, millions of people around the world pause to honor Earth Day—a moment to reflect on our relationship with the planet and recommit to caring for the natural world that sustains us. While community clean-ups, educational events, and environmental campaigns are wonderful ways to participate, some of the most meaningful actions begin right at home. This year, Earth Day invites us to recognize that everyday choices—what we buy, how we use energy, how we handle waste—can collectively create powerful change.

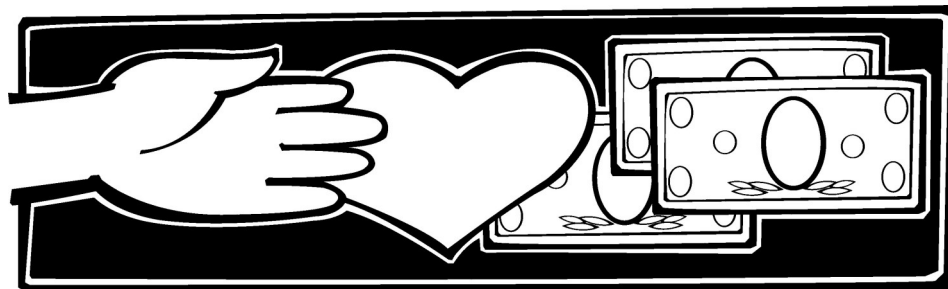
Easy At-Home Ways to Honor Earth Day

- **Reduce food waste:** Plan meals around what you already have, freeze leftovers, and try a small compost bin for scraps.
- **Refresh your recycling:** Check your local recycling guidelines, keep plastic bags out of curbside bins, and add clear labels to help everyone sort correctly.
- **Save energy:** Switch to LED bulbs, unplug unused electronics, and make the most of natural light.
- **Plant something green:** Add native plants to support pollinators, start a windowsill herb garden, or bring home a new houseplant.
- **Choose reusables:** Swap single-use items for durable options like reusable bottles, cloth napkins, and refillable cleaners.
- **Learn something new:** Watch a documentary, read an article, or explore the environmental impact of everyday products.

Enjoy the outdoors: Take a walk, listen to birds, or simply spend a few quiet minutes outside reconnecting with nature.

A Day of Action, A Year of Intention

Earth Day reminds us that Caring for Creation isn't a once-a-year event—it's a mindset we carry into our daily lives. Whether you're reducing waste, conserving energy, planting something new, or simply learning more about the world around you, every action contributes to a healthier, more sustainable future.



Stewardship

Youth Stewardship Committee Chair Opportunity

Are you a motivated young person looking to make a difference in our church community? The Stewardship Committee is seeking a **Youth Chair** to join our team! This role involves sharing ideas, helping represent the voice of youth in stewardship activities, and serving about **one hour per month** with occasional additional projects. It's a great way to **develop leadership skills, contribute to our church mission, and earn community service hours**. If you are interested or would like to learn more, please contact marc.staudenmaier@gmail.com. We would love to have a youth voice helping guide our stewardship efforts!

April Worship Staff

Acolyte

- 2 TBD
3 TBD
4 TBD
5 8a Claire Gallagher, Benton Drewes, Grace Supplee
10:15a CeCe Leong, Mark Blattner, Charlotte Reading
12 Norah DiGioia , Mark Blattner
19 Madelyn Hicks, Grace Supplee & Benton Drewes
26 TBD

Altar Guild

- 2 Jean Herbranson & Nancy Cressman
5 Nancy Cressman & Janet Ertell
12 Donna Anderson & Cathy Garrett
19 Andrea Hart, Jean Herbranson & Kathy Kelsh
26 Betty Hans & Jean Herbranson

Assisting Minister

- 2 TBD
4 TBD
5 8a Ron Stevens 10:15a Mimi Woods
12 Bill Starling
19 Walt Deichmann
26 Deb Ahola

Bread Bakers

- 4/5 Rich Latella
11/12 Jeanne Schanzenbach
19 Rich Latella
26 TBD

Communion Assistant/Lector

- 2 Chris & Annaliese Duerr
3 Rich Skoniczin, Rich Latella, Betty Hans, Brian
Greenwald, Sandy Momyer
4 Amanda Frangoulis, Nancy Cressman, Jim Kelsh
5 8a Bill Starling 10:15a Mitch Reading
12 Kristin McGregor
19 Lynn Titus
26 Nancy Cressman & Annaliese Duerr

Counters

- 5 Mike & Cathy Kahl, Jack & Janet Ertell
12 Heather Yonosh & Jeanne Schanzenbach
19 Mary Heiser; Mike & Cathy Kahl
26 Stephen & Jen Drewes

Easter Vigil

- 4/4 7:30p Amanda Frangoulis, Nancy Cressman,
Jim Kelsh

Evening Light Assistant

- 11 Rich Latella
18 Sandy Momyer
25 Shirley Platzer

Lock-up

- 2 John Dorward
3 John Dorward
4 Kate Hicks
5 8a Kate Hicks 10:15a John Dorward
12 Jeanne Schanzenbach
19 Kate Hicks
26 Marc Staudenmeier & Jim Kelsh

Stream Team

- 3 Dale Herbranson, Paul Miller
5 10:15a Josh Romano, Paul Miller
12 Dale Herbranson, Nils Aho
19 Nils Aho, Josh Romano
26 Aimee Hillegas, Paul Miller

Ushers

- 2 Donna Anderson
3 Dick Kunsch
5 8a Jen Drewes & Dick Kunch
10:15a Barry Church & Donna Anderson
12 Mike & Cathy Kahl
19 Don Titus & Cathy Garrett
26 Donna Anderson & Giovanna Brown

Holy Week and Easter at St. John's

Palm/Passion Sunday

March 28th & 29th

Saturday Evening Light, 5 p.m.

Sunday morning, 10:15 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

April 2nd, 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday

April 3rd, 7:30 p.m.

Easter Vigil

April 4th, 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday Worship

April 5th, 8 & 10:15 a.m.

Invite Your Friends to Holy Week!

We have invitations available for Holy Week services. Feel free to take one for yourself or a few to invite family and friends! They are located in the white basket in the narthex.

Did you know? Many employers offer the ability to have your donations deducted from your paycheck and then forward those donations on to us. Some, such as Vanguard, offer a generous match so that your donation has the potential of a nice increase. Contact your Human Resources Department to see if this is a possibility for you.

Thrivent Action Team Grants

Thrivent members are eligible to apply for two Action Team Grants each year to benefit their church. St. John's members Mike & Cathy Kahl routinely obtain grants for the church and have provided a helpful step-by-step guide:

First, you must have a specific project in mind. You will also have to give an estimate of the number of people that might participate and when the project will be completed. The project should have something to do with bringing people into our organization or furthering our ministries.

Once you have the above information, log in to your account at thrivent.com.

Go to the bottom of the page to the Noah section. Click on Thrivent action teams.

Choose "apply now" on the first page and then "apply now" again.

On the next page, click "begin application." You have an option to get advertising materials and even T-shirts for your action team if you want them.

The money arrives fairly quickly in the form of a Visa card. Use this card for purchases related to your project.

When the project is finished, log in again and report that fact.

Special projects pop up from time to time at St. John's for which these cards could be used. If you'd like ideas for the use of your grant, contact our Administrator, Sonya Sowards, at office@stjohnphoenixville.org or (610) 933-3947, ext. 2, or speak to a staff member, Committee chair, or Council member.

Give to St. John's Via App

Vanco, our eGiving provider, has launched an updated mobile app called Vanco Mobile. You can download the Vanco Mobile app for free from the App Store or Google Play. From there, you can make a one-time donation or set up recurring giving right through the app. Just select your fund and amount, enter a payment method and complete the donation. If you have questions or need assistance, email Dale Herbranson at dale.herbranson@outlook.com.



To the Fellowship Committee and my church family of friends,

What a delicious chocolate chip Bundt cake I enjoyed for my birthday. Thanks to Joan Wilson in particular for picking up and delivering the cake to me. It is so very special that we "golden oldies" of the congregation are celebrated in this way. What kindness and thoughtfulness are extended to us. Thanks so very much!

Mimi Woods

Dear St. John's, Evangelical Lutheran Church:

Thank you for your generosity in 2025. Your support is an expression of care and allyship that helps The Trevor Project continue showing up for LGBTQ+ young people with steadiness, compassion, and purpose.

As we look ahead, I remain grounded in our mission, and I hold genuine hope for what's possible. With your continued partnership, we are ready to move—embracing a more hopeful tomorrow for every LGBTQ+ young person who reaches out to us.

With immense gratitude,

Jaymes Black, CEO
The Trevor Project



Our April program will be presented by Jack Ertell will be about Valley Forge General Hospital. All women of St. John's are welcome to join us on April 28th at 10:30 a.m. in the Eisenhower Room.

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2026**

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.

Council devotional was led by Marc.

Prior Meeting Minutes

01/12/26 Council Minutes:

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

Staff Reports

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

Committee Reports

Finance Committee meeting minutes – did not meet between Council meetings.

No vote as meeting did not occur.

Council reviewed the following Committee Reports:

- Electronics Committee – no notes received.
- Faith Formation of 12/02/25 and 01/06/26 – accepted as written.
- Property Committee of 02/02/26 – accepted as written.
 - **Motion from Property Committee to accept Chester County Fuel's \$11,100 proposal to install a new air handler and heat pump in the Fireside Room. The heat pump can provide both heating and cooling as needed. Motion carried.**
- Worship and Music Committee of 02/03/26 – accepted as written.
- Social Ministry Committee of 02/04/26 – accepted as written.
- Fellowship and Welcoming Committee of 01/27/26 – accepted as written.
- Columbarium Committee – did not meet.
- Executive Committee – did not meet.

- Stewardship Committee of 01/26/26 and 02/02/26 – accepted as written.
- Green Team – no minutes received.
- Endowment Committee – did not meet.

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

Old Business

- Lock-Up signup – covered.
- Muhlenberg Parish update – We will have joint Lenten services with these other 3 churches and First Presbyterian of Phoenixville. St. Johns' date is March 4. Each congregation will host 'Dinner Church', where the meal is part of the worship service – everything in Kley Hall at St. John's.
- Council nominations for February – Brian Greenwald, Jim Kelsh and potentially another candidate.
- Annual Congregation Meeting Snow Date – Synod published an opinion that the standard notice period would not apply in the event of a weather cancellation; alternate date will be March 1 and will be published. **Motion made by Dale that if it becomes necessary to cancel the Annual Meeting on Feb. 22nd due to weather, it will then occur on March 1. Pastor Russ seconded; motion carried.**
- Peer Ministry Update – ongoing.
- DCYFM Position Update – have received applications, although not a match. Will continue to post.
- Constitution Update – Mike continues to work on updating:
 - Added a table of contents
 - Replaced the old fund names with new fund names
 - During discussion of the Columbarium fund reconfiguration, it came to light that the forgiveness of the Columbarium loan was not documented. Therefore, it was deemed necessary that we:
 - **Repeal Continuing Resolution 1.01; Dale made a motion to repeal CR 1.01; Jeanne seconded; motion carried.**
 - With the repeal of this CR, the fund reorganization (in the motion passed on April 14, 2025) then clarified where monies for future Columbarium transactions (sales and expenses) now belong.
 - Additional CRs were added as they have been created since the last Constitution update
 - There is also a policy approved in 2017 on allocation of undesignated bequests; this needs to be added as a CR; Finance will submit a recommendation for next Council meeting.
- Endowment Discussions – due to conflicts, next meeting will not be held until Feb. 11th.

New Business

- Security Policy – A member raised the questions:
 - Do we have a security policy/process? – we do not have a formal policy
 - Is it readily available to all?
 - Do we practice/drill?
 - Sonya and Pastor Russ will discuss with their professional communities to get ideas from other like groups; may form a task force to address
- Delegates to Assembly – we can send 2 voting members, and an additional youth or young adult. Dale volunteered. Date is May 29th/30th at Trinity Lansdale.
- **New Member Alyssa Fell; Kate made a motion to accept Alyssa's application for membership; Dale seconded; motion carried.**

John adjourned the meeting by decree at 8:15.

Next regular meeting is March 9th, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Starling

Church Council Secretary

Council Meeting Following Annual Meeting

02/22/2026

In Attendance:

John Dorward	Becky Stevens	Pastor Russ Crouthamel
Marc Staudenmaier	Kate Hicks	Kyle Oszeyczik
Aimee Hillegas	Jeanne Schanzenbach	Brian Greenwald

Absent:

Sue Starling	Mike Kahl	Jim Kelsh
Rachel Zimmerman		

Meeting was called to order at 11:54 am by John.

Election of Officers:

John Dorward agreed to serve another year as President.

Jeanne Schanzenbach agreed to serve as Vice President.

Sue Starling agreed to serve another term as Secretary.

Aimee made a motion to accept the slate of officers as presented; Marc seconded; motion carried.

Executive Committee: John, Jeanne, Sue and two at-large members; Mike Kahl and Becky Stevens agreed to serve as at-large members.

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

Kevin Gallagher – Chair of Finance Committee.

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.

Confirmation of Committee Liaisons:

Property: Kyle Oszeyczik

Stewardship: Marc Staudenmaier

Finance: Jeanne Schanzenbach

Fellowship and Welcoming: Kate Hicks

Worship and Music: Brian Greenwald

Faith Formation: Kate Hicks

Social Ministry: Aimee Hillegas

Columbarium: Becky Stevens

Electronics: TBD

Endowment: Jim Kelsh

Green Team: Aimee Hillegas

Mutual Ministry: Kyle Oszeyczik

Security task force will be discussed at the next council meeting as well as continue the discussion on the constitution revisions.

Next Council Meeting is March 9 at 7 pm.

Installation of Council Members will be on Sunday, March 22nd during regular service.

The meeting was adjourned by the president's decree at 12:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Hicks

Acting Council Secretary



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April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 8:30am Children's Choir 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Holy Communion 2pm PCO Rehearsal 7pm St. John's Choir & Friends	30 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Finance Committee	31 6:30pm Parents' Grief Group	1 4pm Social Ministry 6:30pm Circle of Life Committee 7pm Alanon	2 7pm Naranon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal after service 7:30pm Maundy Thursday	3 7:30pm Good Friday	4 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30pm Easter Vigil
5 8am Holy Communion 9am Easter Breakfast 10:15am Holy Communion	6 11am Alanon Family Group 5pm Stewardship Committee 6pm Cadette Troop 42024 7pm Property 7pm Stephen Ministry	7 6pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Parents' Grief Group	8 5:15pm Daisy Girl Scouts 6pm Girl Scouts #4432 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	9 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	10	11 8am WELCA Retreat 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous
12 8:30am Children's Choir 9am Faith Formation--Lutheran 101 begins 10:15am Holy Communion 2pm PCO Rehearsal 3pm Girl Scouts 4041 3pm Girl Scouts 41766 7pm St. John's Choir & Friends	13 10:15am Staff 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Church Council	14 6:30pm Faith Formation Committee 6:30pm Parents' Grief Group 7pm Worship & Music	15 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	16 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells 8:15pm Naranon Support	17 St. Peter's lunch	18 Circle deadline 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous
19 8:30am Children's Choir 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Holy Communion 2pm Girl Scouts #41441 2pm Girl Scouts World Thinking Day 4pm PCO Concert 7pm St. John's Choir & Friends	20 11am Alanon Family Group 6pm Cadette Troop 42024 7pm Green Team 7pm Stephen Ministry	21 4pm Girl Scouts 6pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Parents' Grief Group	22 5:15pm Daisy Girl Scouts 6pm Girl Scouts #4432 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	23 5:30pm Girl Scouts #4094 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	24	25 8:30am District Ten BPW Spring Meeting 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous
26 8:30am Children's Choir 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Holy Communion--followed by reception of new members 3pm Girl Scouts 4041 3pm Girl Scouts 41766 7pm PCO & St. John's Choir & Friends	27 10am Garden Club 11am Alanon Family Group 7pm Finance Committee	28 10:30am WELCA 6:30pm Parents' Grief Group 7pm Fellowship Committee	29 7pm Alanon 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	30 7pm Naranon 7:15pm Adult Handbells	1 Quinn-Heitz wedding rehearsal	2 Quinn-Heitz wedding 5pm Evening Light (w/communion) 7pm Alcoholics Anonymous

April 2026—Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 David Carr's birthday Jeanette Hopkins's birthday	30 Joshua Saeger's birthday Ron Stevens's birthday	31 Malika Khan's birthday	1 Janet Reading's birthday Jeremy Unruh's birthday	2 Bob Faddis's birthday Jane Hadfield's birthday Stephen Hollander's birthday	3 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 Breiter's 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



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

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John Dorward
Vice President:
Jeanne Schanzenbach
Secretary:
Sue Starling
Treasurer:
Shirley Platzer
Assistant Treasurer:
Don Titus
Financial Recording Secretary:
Mary Heiser
Executive Committee:
Mike Kahl
Becky Stevens
Other Members of Council:
Kyle Oszeyczik
Aimee Hillegas
Kate Hicks
Rachel Zimmermann
Marc Staudenmaier
Jim Kelsh
Brian Greenwald

Stephen Ministry Leader:
Linda Landis — (610) 933-9544

COMMITTEES

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Becky Stevens, Council Rep.

Electronics:
Bill Schoellkopf & Dale Herbranson
Co-Chairs

Endowment:
Jim Kelsch, Council Rep.

Executive:
Jeanne Schanzenbach, Chair

Faith Formation:
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Kate Hicks, Welcoming Chair
and Council Rep. for Welcoming & Fellowship

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Jeanne Schanzenbach
Council Rep.

Green Team
Aimee Hillegas, Council Rep.

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Bobbi Riley, Chair
Kyle Oszeyczik, Council Rep.

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Janet Gerner, Chair
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Marc Staudenmaier, Council Rep.

Worship and Music:
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Pat Renninger

The Circle Editor:
Sonya K. Sowards

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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 (with exceptions)
please call for appointments with staff members
A Caring, Sharing, Growing Congregation of the ELCA

Worship Schedule

Saturdays

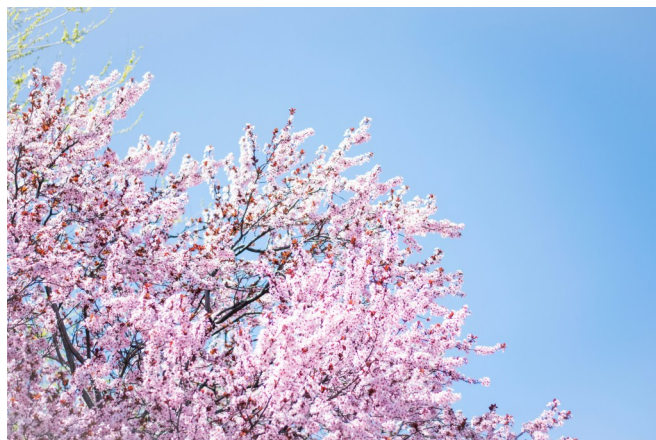
5 p.m. Evening Light with Holy Communion

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 2026