

Saint Matthew beautifully affirms Luke's telling of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem during the days of Herod the King.

Matthew says the Messiah's birth is supported by the Prophet Micah who stated 700 years before it happened, "But you, O Bethlehem... who are little to be among the clans of Judah from you shall come forth for me ONE who is to be the ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days." (Micah 5:2)

Matthew's purpose in quoting Micah is to affirm that Jesus was of Davidic lineage. David's ancestral home, Bethlehem, was also the site of his anointing as King. (I Samuel 16) How fitting then that Jesus, as Son of David and Messiah should be born in Bethlehem and receive the homage due Him as everlasting King.

Matthew's reference to "STAR IN THE EAST" marking the Messiah's birth calls to mind the story of Balaam, the ancient SEER who is bribed by the King of Moab to put a curse on the Israelites as they are passing through the land of Moab. Balaam, enlightened by God's Holy Spirit refuses to curse them and instead blesses the Israelites. And so it is recorded in Numbers 24; "The utterance of Balaam... who hears what God says and knows what the MOST HIGH knows... a STAR SHALL ADVANCE FROM JACOB... Israel shall do valiantly and Jacob shall overcome his foes." (Numbers 24:16 - 18)

And it came to pass, as ancient astronomers' record, sometime between 8 and 4 B.C. a GREAT NEW STAR - a supernova appears manifesting Jesus presence to those who study the stars, the MAGI whose life's work was stargazing. The MAGI follow that STAR into the Bethlehem house where Jesus lies peacefully in the cradle.

Ironically, those who had the advantage of knowing Micah's prophecy and of Balaam's backing down to bless rather than curse - well - those folks did not believe. Ah - but through the lesser witness of nature the MAGI SAW THE STAR AND BELIEVED.

Epiphany tradition tells us that one of the WISEMAN - GASPARD, was a KING who made the long journey from India across Persia and Arabia to reach Bethlehem.

Melchior was a Persian King and Balthasar was an Arabian King. Yes, that's the tradition.

But the Holy Spirit inspires St. Matthew to record that when the WISE MEN found the baby Jesus in Bethlehem, they fell down and worshipped Him and presented gifts to Him. The MAGI saw and believed. Their gifts and their posture of adoration before Jesus affirms their faith.

Through the centuries the WISEMANS' gifts have been interpreted as attestations of Jesus' kingliness and divinity. Gold and frankincense were gifts usually reserved for God.

Myrrh was regarded as a portent of Jesus' passion, as it was used to anoint the dead. Even in the mist of that moment of splendiferous submission to the slumbering Savior by the Magi, the evangelist Luke interjects a somber note.

He records Simeon looking straight into Mary's eyes when Jesus was only 40 days old and saying "And a sword shall pierce your own soul too." (Luke 2:35) Simeon pointed ahead to the means by which Jesus would save humankind; through His suffering and death.

In light of such a sacrifice, with what gifts shall we likewise come into the presence of the Lord and Savior of us all?

A Happy New Year and blessed Epiphany to all,

The Reverend David B. Schaeffer

WORSHIP WITH US!

As Christmas gives way to Epiphany and 2015 to 2016, we place our lives in your hands once more, dear Lord. May we always live "soaking wet" in the waters of baptism. May worship refresh us for living out our faith all week. Open our hearts to your teaching and our spirits to your healing touch. Help us follow and trust you always. Amen.

- Jan. 2-3** 2nd Sunday of Christmas / Holy Communion at all services
- Jan. 9-10** Baptism of Our Lord / Installation of Church Council at all services
- Jan. 16-17** 2nd Sunday after Epiphany / Holy Communion at all services
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins
- Jan. 23-24** 3rd Sunday after Epiphany/ Congregational Meeting following last service
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends
- Jan. 30 -31** 4th Sunday after Epiphany/ Food Bank

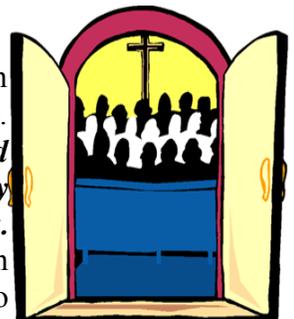


2016 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chris Andrews	Craig Dally	Jocelyn Starner
Stephen Bajan, Jr.	Cathie Dara	Wayne Vierzbicki
Joe Billy	Ralph Deyo	Sharon Werner
Alan Butz	Scott Little	Jackie Wolf

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 24, 2016 in the Fellowship Hall, immediately following the 10:45 a.m. service. ***ALL members of St. John's are invited to attend. After the luncheon, child care will be provided during the meeting. Youth in the Confirmation Classes and their parents are strongly encouraged to attend, as well as those who have been recently confirmed. As a member of St. John's, your input and support for the many concerns of the Church are encouraged.*** A lunch will be served by the Von Bora Society. Plan to attend for the fellowship meal and the business to be conducted. (The meeting will begin at approximately 1:00 p.m.) Please RSVP using the form below by Monday, January 18th and place in the offering plate or return to the Church Office.



**Congregational
MEETING**

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL LUNCHEON MEETING

**Sunday, January 24, 2016/ Fellowship Hall
Following the 10:45 a.m. Service**

Yes, I/we will be attending St. John's Annual Congregational Luncheon and Meeting.

Name(s): _____

_____ # Adults _____ #Children Child Care needed for meeting: _____ Yes _____ No

I plan to attend only the meeting _____

Please R.S.V.P. no later than January 18, 2016.

CELEBRATING EPIPHANY

Along with Christmas, Easter and Pentecost, Epiphany is one of the oldest Christian holy days. The festival was first celebrated in the Eastern Church (Orthodox) and was adopted in the Western church by the fourth century. Epiphany, from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means an appearance or manifestation. Christians celebrate this festival each year on January 6, the 12th day after Christmas.



Epiphany marks the coming of the Magi, or Wise Men, to worship the baby Jesus. Because the Magi were Gentiles, Epiphany symbolizes the first recognition of Christ by non-Jews. The central significance of Epiphany is that Christ came as the Light of the World, not just for the Jews but for Gentiles as well. Thus, all of us who are Gentile Christians are in the lineage of the Magi, the first Gentiles who came to Christ.

Ages ago three pilgrims set out on a long and uncertain journey in search of the promised Messiah. They followed the light of a star to find the Light of the World. Their quest was gloriously rewarded, thanks to that guiding star. Whatever has led you to St. John's Church, we believe that God rejoices in having you in this place, and we pray that your search for God and his will may be rewarded beyond your expectations.

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Jesus rose from the water at his baptism ready to begin his memorable ministry of grace and salvation. Water is a wonderful sign for baptism. It is a gift of God from creation. It cleanses us from that which



has soiled us. It refreshes us when we are hot and tired. Without it we could not live. Whatever use we make of water, it can become for us a reminder of God's gift of love and grace in accepting us into **the household of faith.**



Members are reminded to return a pledge card for 2015. In addition to assisting the Finance Committee in managing the expenses of the church, a

pledge represents your individual commitment to St. John's and its ministries. Pledge cards were mailed to each member in November, and are also available in the front of your offering envelopes packet.

FOOD BANK WEEKEND: January 30th & 31st

The Nazareth Area Food Bank needs to replenish its supply of **side dishes (rice, pasta mix, potatoes)**, but we also welcome any other items you would like to donate. The Food Bank also uses the **large-sized brown paper bags** so if you need to make room in your pantry, drop them off as well. **THANK YOU!!** The Nazareth Area Food Bank truly appreciates the continued generosity and faithful support of the many members of Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Nazareth.



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING Feb. 6 & 7, 2016

As in the past, members from our Confirmation Classes will be holding soup pots as you leave Church on Super Bowl weekend, February 6 & 7, and you can be a part of this mission that shares God's love with those of our area in need by giving generously. Every dollar placed in the Soup Pots will go to the Nazareth Area Food Bank and Safe Harbor in Easton. More information will be available in the February 2016 newsletter.



REMINDER: *ALL Annual Reports are due in the Church Office no later than Monday, January 18th!*

PASTORAL ACTS



We gladly received the following new members into the family and fellowship of St. John's congregation in the month of December 2015:

Rita Bergstrom
December 13, 2105

Rita lives in Nazareth but grew up in Phillipsburg, NJ. She lived in Glendale Arizona and worked as a Librarian in the School district. She also was a Librarian in Schools for the Military serving in Europe. Please help welcome Rita to St. John's.

Matthew Tanzos
December 20, 2015

Matt is a music teacher and Band Director at White hall High School. He is married to Kim (Shook) and they recently welcomes a baby boy, Daxton to their family. Please welcome Matt here a St. John's.



We extend our heartfelt Christian sympathy to the families and friends of the following members and friends of Saint John's who passed into eternal life in the month of November & December 2015:

STERLING C. BALTZ
November 24th

THOMAS J. FEHR
December 2nd

MARY E. SLUTTER
December 7th



We rejoice that those listed below have been liberated from sin and death by being joined in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ through the sacrament of Holy Baptism in the month of November 2014:

ANDREW RYAN SPARROW, JR.
Son of Andrew & Brittany (Everitt) Sparrow
Born: February 25, 2015
Baptized: December 20, 2016

HELAYNIE MAE CURRY
Daughter of Thomas & Lindsay (Caleca) Curry
Born: February 5, 2015
Baptized: December 20, 2016



We celebrate with those listed below who entered into the holy estate of matrimony according to God's ordinance in December 2015:

**TARIN FLYTE &
RAYMOND WOLFE, SR.**
December 12th

**TRISHA JOHNSON &
CHAD BUTZ**
December 19th



Grace Notes

On one occasion when my parents came to visit us in Chicago during the early 1980's, Bill and I took them to see an exhibit of the works of Louis Comfort Tiffany at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry. Entitled *The Treasures of Tiffany*, it was indeed a spectacular and expansive display of some of Tiffany's most beautiful stained glass windows, lamps, vases, and other decorative artistic creations.

Abandoning a career in his father's jewelry business, Tiffany decided to become a painter. Only later did he venture into making leaded windows because of his strong fascination for glass and his belief that windows could reach people who had no interest in paintings. And after Edison's introduction of the electric light bulb in 1880, Tiffany was quick to see the potentials of illuminating his glass designs with this new lighting medium. No longer would the beauty of stained glass be dependent upon natural lighting, but electricity had the capacity to cause the colors to shine brightly. In fact, the exhibit we viewed in its setting within the museum walls would have been a dull and boring display of Tiffany's designs had it not been for the special lighting effects that were behind his magnificent works of colored glass. It was the light that made the glass vivid, brilliant, and dazzling to the eye.

In a similar way, our choir members and instrumentalists also have the unique gift to illuminate and bring beauty to our world. As they learn anthems each week, they are interpreting and bringing to life the printed music on the page. Looking at a piece of music, one sees a series of lines and spaces, notes and rests, tempo and dynamic markings, and a variety of other musical notation. But through hours of practice and diligent rehearsals, the music evolves and takes on a life of its own. Musicians and singers energize and enliven what they see on the page, and thus have the ability to elicit joy and excitement, passion and deep emotion. In doing so, musicians and choristers uplift spirits, change lives for the better, and bring joy into ordinary days.

January is the season of Epiphany and the season of light. Christ comes to us as the light of the world, shining that all might see the truth and the way of God. From his baptism through his ministry, Jesus brings the light of God into a world that had been darkened by sin. Through His Son Jesus Christ, God calls each of us to be reflectors of this light as well. We are to be like the miraculous power of Edison's lights that brought color to Tiffany's stained glass, or like the musicians who lift the notes off the page to create energy and inspiration through a mighty chorus of sound.



God equips and empowers each one of us for a life of discipleship, in order that we may tell others the good news of God's salvation through Christ Jesus. Each in our own special way has the ability to bring beauty, peace, tranquility, love, charity, and goodness into this world that so often seems to be filled with violence and pain, fear and darkness. As you think about Epiphany during the month of January, think about the light of Christ being revealed. Ponder what it means for the people of God, and for you, to be a light to the world, to be a beacon of hope, and to live each day as children of that light. Epiphany blessings to all!

Grace and peace,
Janice Butz, Minister of Music

The Music, Art, & Drama Camp
production of



*e Rock Slinger... and His
Greatest Hit*

The Story of David and Goliath
returns on
SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2016

In case you missed the musical *The Rock Slinger... and His Great Hit* presented by our M.A.D. Camp children last November, or would simply like to enjoy the production a second time, there will be two opportunities to share in repeat performances. An unstaged version of the musical (with costumes and music, but without dialogue) will be presented during our 10:45 a.m. worship service on January 17. That afternoon at 2:30 p.m. the full production will be shared with the residents and guests of Moravian Hall Square. Join us at either or both performances to be delighted by the songs, the story, and the enthusiasm of our St. John's children!



**FESTIVAL CHOIR
RETREAT**

Saturday, January 16th
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon

JOIN THE FESTIVAL CHOIR! If you enjoy singing and would like a special musical experience, think about joining the Festival Choir, which sings for the special festival services of the church year. This winter and Spring we will sing for Transfiguration Sunday on February 7th, the 17th annual ecumenical benefit concert now known as the "Banquet of Song" on March 6, Easter Sunday on March 27, and Music Sunday on May 22. A rehearsal to begin preparing music for these special events will be held on Saturday, January 16, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. (*In case of inclement weather, a snow date is scheduled for January 23.*) If you are interested in singing, contact Rev. Janice Butz at the Church Office 610-759-3090 or by e-mail at jbutz@rcn.com.



BEAR CREEK CAMP

On Wednesday January 13, 2016 we will host the Bear Creek's Associate Director Pete Smith at 6:15 p.m., during the Confirmation Class/SHYG hour, for campers of ALL AGES. Children who have completed grade 1 – 12 can attend summer camp. This meeting is open to anyone who is interested! He will lead the kids in some songs and a sampling of activities that can be more fully explored by spending a week this summer at Bear Creek Camp! More information can be found on the Bear Creek Camp website, www.bearcreekcamp.org, or see Michele Seaton, your Bear Creek Ambassador for details. The deadline for registration is March 1, 2016.



This is our first time, to have a

corner in the monthly messenger.

We have and continue to do more than our daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly routines.

We, the Sexton's have been involved with special projects for St. John and have completed some 84 activities that are not part of our normal routines. Things are looking up and getting better all around us hang in there with us so we can make a difference thanks for this opportunity.

The Sextons



A Message from the Director of Youth & Family Ministries

HAPPY JANUARY!

I hope you all had a wonderful and memorable holiday season!

We are jumping right back into our schedule. We are kicking off 2016 with a



favorite Luther League event: the annual Lock In! The Lock In will take place from Friday, January 8th – Saturday, January 9st. All youth in

grades 7-12 are encouraged to attend. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 pm.

The Lock In is the one time of the year where it is okay to spend the night in the church! We play games, eat food, watch movies, have devotions, fellowship with one another, and much more. We will have breakfast in the morning, then clean up to head home. Pick up on Saturday morning, January 9th, will be at 9:00 am.

Bring your sleeping bags, pillows, and anything else you will need for an overnight event. Friends are more than welcome to attend, so be sure to bring them along!

The cost to attend the Lock In is \$5 + a non-perishable food item for the Nazareth Area Food Bank + a snack or drink to share. Make sure you also bring a couple of movies along, as we vote for which two movies we will watch later in the night and it is better to have a bunch to choose from.

I hope you will be able to attend this great annual event for youth at St. John's!
Parents: We always need helpers for this event and would love if you could stay either for a few hours or overnight!

We will end January with our Youth Service Weekend! From January 30th – 31st, the youth of St. John's will be doing their annual "take over" of the Worship Services. The youth do everything from read the lessons, write a skit for the Sermon, sing songs, usher, greet, and more! We hope that you will come and support them during this weekend and see the great group of youth we have here!

Blessings,
Jaime L. Taylor
Director of Youth & Family Ministries

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Lock In: The always highly anticipated event of the year, the annual Lock In, will be held from **January 8 – 9th, beginning at 6:30 pm.** Cost is \$5, a snack to share, and a non-perishable food item for the Food Bank. Friends are welcome and encouraged to attend! Pick up on Saturday, January 9th will be at 9:00 am.

Annual Congregational Meeting: Don't forget about the Annual Congregational Meeting that will be held on Sunday, January 24th. Youth and families are especially encouraged to attend. It will begin at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be served. You will get to hear about all of the exciting things that have happened at St. John's throughout 2015

Bear Creek Camp: On January 13th, a representative from Bear Creek Camp will be coming to St. John's to do an interactive presentation for us! These are always so much fun and very informative! The event will begin at 6:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall during Confirmation Class. All Confirmation students will be attending this event during class, and we encourage their parents to attend as well. Children who have completed grade 1 - 12 can attend summer camp. This meeting is open to anyone who attend as well.

Youth Service Weekend: Youth Service Weekend will take place from January 30 – 31st

2015 Fellowship Social Calendar



January 10~ Church Council
February 7 ~ Helping Hands & Love-A-Lot Nursery School
March 20~ Palm Sunday (Evangelism Committee)
April 16 &17 ~ Volunteer Recognition Weekend (Stewardship)

Our Fellowship Social this month will be on Epiphany Sunday, January 4th after each morning worship service. This month's hosts are the members of our Church Council.

CHURCH COUNCIL:

This group of twelve members is elected by the congregation to meet the challenges of maintaining a thriving and dynamic church. The Council oversees the life and activities of the congregation. They meet once each month to make the many decisions governing the day to day operations of our church. The Christian Education, Columbarium, Day Care, Evangelism, Finance, Helping Hands, Love-A-Lot, Personnel, Property, Social Ministry, Stewardship, Worship & Music, and Youth Ministry committees each have Council representatives who report to Council. Please consider joining this group of our peers by participating in the annual nomination and election of council members in the fall of each year. Join with us in leading St. John's into the future.

Please join us for Fellowship! Take a few minutes to chat with the representatives of this group during the Fellowship Socials to find out more about their activities and plans. You may find that you may want to become a part of their efforts.



Let's Get Those Cards Out and Wish a Blessed and Happy This Birthday to Our Shut-In Friends Celebrating Month!



ELEANOR SMITH

January 8th

Gracedale - Tower 6 Rm. A 2
2 Gracedale Avenue
Nazareth, PA 18064

VIRGINIA KOCH

January 18th

Saucon Valley Manor - Rm. 41
1050 Main St.
Hellertown, PA 18055

ELAINE RISSMILLER

January 24th

1 S. Home Ave.
A Wing - Rm. 131
Topton, PA 19562

ROBERT BRODT

January 14th

Gracedale - Tower 8
Rm. C 3
2 Gracedale Avenue
Nazareth, PA 18064

VERNA HUTH

January 30th

c/o Mrs. Lois Davis
176 1st St.
Nazareth, PA 18064



Please note that in last month the addresses for Carole and Connie were reversed.

CAROLE KUNKLE

December 20th

729 Bushkill Center Road
Nazareth, PA 18064

CONNIE LICHTENWALNER

DECEMBER 26TH

5526 GRACE AVE.
BETHLEHEM, PA 18017

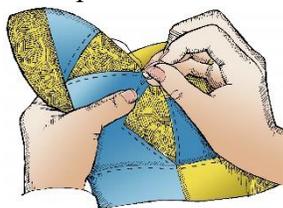


Thank you! *The Social Ministry Committee* wishes to extend their heartfelt gratitude and many thanks for the participation of our congregation in the blankets + program. Because of your generosity, a total of \$1821 was donated to church world service. The many people of all ages worldwide, who are victims of a natural disaster or simply find themselves in need of relief or refugee assistance, cannot thank you personally. Please know in your hearts that your gift of love and comfort has made a difference in someone's life. Thank you again.

Annual Christmas Ingathering

“Thank you” once again for your heart warming response to our Social Ministry Committee’s annual Ingathering project for 2015 in co-operation with our Northern Lehigh Valley Mission District! The knitted hats, scarves, and mittens, gloves, lap robes, and handmade quilts we were able to provide for men, women, and children were amazing! This year your generous gifts provided for people at the Allentown Rescue Mission, Gracedale Nursing Home, Hamburg Center, Sayre Child Center, KidsPeace, and The Synergy Project, a street outreach program of Valley Youth House. The Synergy Project is designed to help youth 21yrs. of age and under who are runaways, homeless, nomadic, and street youth currently in Allentown and Bucks County. The project provides survival supplies for these youth and can help direct them to a safe place.

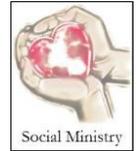
We sincerely thank you for helping to create a joyous Christmas for these people in need of our ministry! And we



wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

SUPPORT THE TROOPS –

Thanks to all for contributing! We spent 17 boxes to a rack and Afghanistan which should arrive before Christmas. What a generous congregation! Thank you from the *Social Ministry Committee*.



Nazareth History Publications Nazareth Memories is a collection of 22 stories about Nazareth, written by local residents. Copies are still available at the Nazareth memorial library. They are great gift for family members returning home for the holidays. Some of the local authors are Dr. John Hoch, Bruce Applegate, Mary Mertz, and Jean Miltenberger. Soon to be available, in January, will be the 275 pieces of night Nazareth history has compiled by Susan Dreydoppel. Watch for further information about their availability if you have any questions please contact Alice Yeakel at 610-759-2672

ATTENTION PLOT OWNERS AT GREENWOOD AND SAINT JOHN’S CEMETERIES

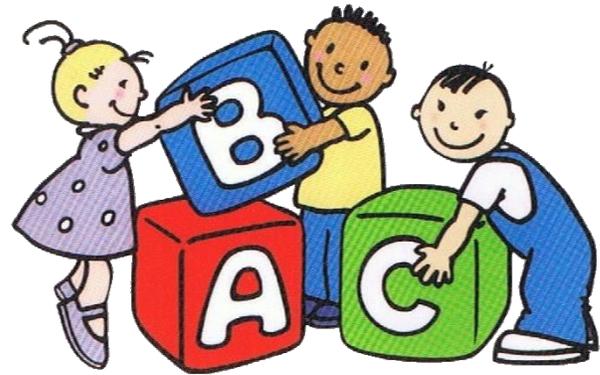


At this time of the year we'd like to remember our loved ones who have passed on by placing a wreath or bows on their graves. The cemetery board would like to remind all plot owners that grave blankets are not permitted due to the fact that the field mice and voles burrow under them and ruin the grass. It would also be greatly appreciated if all Christmas items be removed in due time. At the October meeting, the board voted for a \$50 increase for the cost of plots as of January 1, 2016. Thank you, the Cemetery Board.



**COMING IN MARCH—SAINT
JOHN'S TALENT SHOW**
*A dinner and evening of entertainment to raise
funds
for our Chalice Choir trip to Pittsburgh this
coming June*

This coming March our Chalice Youth Choir will host a Family Night Talent Show, an evening that will include a spaghetti dinner followed by entertainment featuring our own St. John's members. The date has already been set for March 12, and everyone, from children to seniors, is encouraged to show off their talents to the congregation, whether it be singing, dancing, acting, playing a musical instrument, or any other type of entertainment you would like to share. Go alone, find a partner, or join a group of people in creating a talented act. Watch for more information in the February *Messenger* and in upcoming Sunday bulletins to find out how you can participate, or contact Rev. Janice Butz at the church office or by e-mail at jbutz@rcn.com



St. John's Day Care News

We are very excited to begin another year at the daycare center. Looking back at the past year we enjoyed our annual programs such as the egg hatching and butterfly release and we are also very proud to have raised money for the Center for Animal Health and Welfare and to help Nepal after the earthquake. Last month we had our annual Christmas program which was wonderful thanks to the hard work of our staff. We had over 300 people in attendance and everyone enjoyed the program and the activities. The children also had so much fun at their Christmas parties and visiting with Santa. Thank you to all the members of the congregation who donated gifts from the wish tree. The classrooms enjoyed their new things very much.

In January we focus on teaching about the season of winter. The classrooms will learn about animals hibernating, winter sports, and how water freezes and melts. We are looking forward to another year of learning and fun.

Our program provides care for children 6 weeks through school age from 6:30 a.m to 6:00 p.m. Our preschool curriculum is taught daily within our day. We currently have availability in our infant room. If you have any interest in learning more about our center please call 610-759-4999 or email lisat@rcn.com.

SAINT JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, NAZARETH

MISSION STATEMENT: *Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is a family of Believers of Christ, who worship together to be nourished by the proclamation of God's Word and by the gracious gifts of Baptism and Holy Communion. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, through education and fellowship, we respond in obedience to God's Word, without reserve, in service to the needs of all God's creation. Saint John's is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

CONTACT US...

200 S. Broad Street, Nazareth, PA 18064-2801
Church Office 610-759-3090
Fax 610-759-3719
E-Mail stjohschurch@rcn.com
Website www.stjohnsnaz.org

THE CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor: Rev. David B. Schaeffer
dschaeffer@rcn.com 610-759-1571
Minister of Music: Rev. Janice I. Butz
jbutz@rcn.com 610-882-9388
Director of Youth & Family Ministries:
Jaime L. Taylor 610-509-8288
jtaylor@stjohnsnaz.org
Assist. Organist/Choir Director:
Patrice A. Kidd 610-867-1330
Parish Administrative Assistant:
Linda Kasmakites lkasmakites@rcn.com
Parish Financial Secretary:
Bonnie Mertz financialsec@rcn.com
Sextons: Gary Baltz, Joe Marakovits, Tony Petrillo
sextons@rcn.com

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Building Trust Fund - Jeff Daniels (Special appt.)
Day Care - TBD
Evangelism - Sharon Werner
Helping Hands - Ralph Deyo
Love-A-Lot Nursery School - TBD
Personnel - Susan Kelly
Property - Alan Butz and
Wayne Vierzbicki
Social Ministry - Cathie Dara, Jackie Wolf
Stewardship - Ralph Deyo & Scott Little
Sunday School - TBD
Worship & Music - Joe Billy and Jocelyn Starner
YEO Endowment - Donald Himler (Special appt.)
Youth Representative - Billy Garrison

VOLUNTEER CHURCH STAFF

Altar Flowers
Steven Millheim 610-365-2343
Altar Guild
Jocelyn Starner 610-759-3205
Bulletin Sponsors
Church Office 610-759-3090
Church Council President
Jackie Wolf 610-759-8609
Greeters Schedule
Maryellen Werkheiser 610-759-5191
Helping Hands
Gail Price 610-704-8736
Keith Shook 610-759-0594
Katherine Von Bora Society
Susan Kelly 610-746-2231
Lectors Schedule
Christina Brodt 610-419-4126
Love-A-Lot Nursery School
Jolene LaBarre, Director 484-293-0720
LoveALotNurserySchool@yahoo.com
Luther League (Youth Group - grades 7 & up)
Jaime Taylor 610-509-8288
Media Ministry
Lois Davis 610-504-1635
lo.huthie@yahoo.com
Nursery Attendant
Kristin Andrews
Prayer Chain
Betty Laubach 610-759-0225
St. John's Day Care
Lisa Todd, Director 610-759-4999
lisat@rcn.com
Sunday School Committee
Lois Davis, Superintendent 610-504-1635
lo.huthie@yahoo.com
Ushers Schedule
Christina Brodt 610-419-4126
Women of the ELCA (WELCA)
Lenna Harris ladylenrae@aol.com

**JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
Nov. 18, 2015**

PRESENT: Joe Billy, Alan Butz, Rev. Janice Butz, Cathie Dara, Ralph Deyo, Billy Garrison, Susan Kelly, Scott Little, Craig Rifendifer, Rev. David Schaeffer, Jocelyn Starner, Jaime Taylor, Wayne Vierzbicki, Sharon Werner, Jackie Wolf

ABSENT: Scott Little, Steven Millheim

DEVOTIONS: Craig R. read a prayer from Martin Luther.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the Oct. 28, 2015 meeting were reviewed and stand as written.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter from Lutheran Congregational Services – St. John's continues to contribute \$2,500 per quarter..

PASTOR SCHAEFFER'S REPORT:

1. Nancy Little, the Personnel Committee and I spent a large amount of time together reviewing each member of the Church Staff individually.
2. Alternative Worship Service was a terrific success on Nov. 7. The Fellowship Hall was packed for the Stewardship Dinner and the kids performance of "The Rock Slinger".

REV. JANICE BUTZ REPORT:

1. All Saints Sunday – Nov. 1 was very uplifting and the 10:45 service was especially inspiring with all the musicians.
2. "The Rock Slinger...and His Greatest Hit" was well attended at the Stewardship Dinner on Nov. 7. All the kids did a great job.
3. I continue with planning of the Christmas Eve music.

Jaime Taylor - DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY

MINISTRIES REPORT: Complete as Written:

1. I attended a preliminary court hearing on Nov. 10th about the incident with a young man using my church credit card.

2. Faith-A-Palooza – LYF Event was on Nov. 13-15th. 40-50 kids from NE Penn Synod attended.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Pastor Schaeffer reported:

1. Benevolence has been paid for Nov. & Dec. 2015. We were above budget in Oct.
2. Good to see 5 Sundays in Nov.
3. Capital Campaign Account was opened.

COLUMBARIUM: No Report

DAY CARE: Susan Kelly reported:

1. Day Care is preparing for Christmas Program on Dec. 4 at 6:30.
2. A clock was dedicated in memory of Alice Morris.

ENDOWMENT: Pastor Schaeffer reported:

1. Endowment portfolio is up.

EVANGELISM: Sharon Werner reported:

1. 2016 Fellowship Social Calendar was approved by Craig R. and 2nd by Jackie Wolf.

HELPING HANDS: Jackie Wolf reported:

1. Feb. 7 – Capital Campaign Kickoff.
2. Feb. 7 – Faschnachts & Fruit for Fellowship time.
3. April 2 – Pork & Sauerkraut dinner.
4. Tony provided procedure for setting up coffee time.
5. Looking into another Mission Trip.

LOVE-A-LOT: No Report.

LUTHER LEAGUE: Billy Garrison reported:

1. Attended the LYF Faith-A-Palooza event.
2. Went to Omaha, Neb. for LYF. About 80 participants and got to hear Bishop Eaton speak.
3. Rock Climbing event coming up.

PERSONNEL: Susan Kelly reported:

1. Jennie Dishong had to be let go.

PROPERTY: Alan Butz reported:

1. Love-A-Lot door looks just beautiful.
2. Spotlights sensors are out. Tony working on it.
3. Barry Hoch is in the process of repairing and refinishing the four sets of Red Doors. This will be done weather permitting.
4. Gas conversion has started. Wayne V. had contact with Brian S. to run gas lines. Need cement pad per UGI.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: Jackie Wolf reported: No Meeting

1. Dec. 1 - Ingathering items to be sorted
2. Dec. 2 – Ingathering items taken to Cherryville Lutheran Church.

STEWARDSHIP: Ralph Deyo reported: Complete As Written:

1. Everyone did a nice job with the Stewardship Dinner on Nov. 7.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Susan Kelly & Jaime Taylor reported:

1. Christmas program rehearsals have begun. – Parts are being assigned.

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Jocelyn Starner reported: Complete as written:

1. Need Christmas signups for ushers.
2. Need help cleaning between Christmas services.
3. Wreaths will be on the railings as the doors have just been painted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Thank you to Council for helping with the Fellowship Hour.
2. Council members will make Capital Campaign kickoff phone calls.
3. Capital Campaign - Theme – Fearlessly Collaborating With God
4. Nov. 17 – Capital Campaign – 23 people attended with Successful Teams being identified.
5. Dec. 2 – 6:30 – Capital Campaign meeting with Pastor David Misenheimer.
6. Jan. 5 – 6:30 - Capital Campaign meeting with Pastor David Misenheimer.

7. Alan Butz reported for a budget for the Capital Campaign of being \$797,000:
 - Nave Air Conditioning - \$2,000
 - Phone System – \$4,000
 - Parking Lot - \$30,000
 - Carpeting - \$22,000
 - Painting – Nave & Shepherds Room - \$40,000
 - Pointing of chimney and restoration of stone walls – \$19,000
 - Sidewalks - \$6,000
 - Replace Aluminum windows - \$10,000
 - Restoration of Stain windows - \$400,000
 - Restoration of Slate Roof, Asphalt Roof & Flat Roof - \$74,000
 - Boiler Conversion - \$40,000
 - Organ - \$150,000
 - Wiring - _____
 - Media – Sound in Fellowship Hall – Revamp sound in Nave.
 - Youth Room – Running Water.
8. What can we raise? \$850,000 – Council voted – All approved.
9. Motion to Dedicate to St. John's – 75%. Dedicate to Mission Outreach - \$25%. All approved – Motion passed.
10. Church Council Elections – Nov. 21 and Nov. 22 – Need people to collect ballots and help tally.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussed Christmas Eve services.
2. Craig R. discussed call process.

Building Use Requests:

1. Dec. 4 - Lisa Todd/Day Care: Christmas Program – 5:30 – 8:30.
2. Dec. 19 – Jaime Taylor - Youth Christmas with the Elves.
3. Craig R. approved.

Council President Susan Kelly declared the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting: Dec. 16 – 7:30 p.m.

Next Devotions: Susan Kelly

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Wallace
 Recording Secretary

HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH?



If you or a friend of yours have been worshipping at St. John's and decide to make it your church home, classes for New Members are scheduled

once a month, usually on the first Sunday of the month in the Church Parlor.

The class is about one hour long and presents an overview of the Lutheran faith as well as a brief history. After deciding to join, a time is scheduled during one of the worship services to welcome the new member. Questions? Please feel free to contact the Church Office at 610-759-3090.

HOW DO I SCHEDULE A BAPTISM?

Baptism classes are held once a month in the Church Parlor for those wishing to be baptized or for bringing children to the font. Typically the class is scheduled the second Sunday of the month. During the class, the meaning and importance of Baptism are presented and if there are any questions concerning the ceremony or sponsorship, they can be addressed at that time.

You may call the Church Office to make arrangements for the date / time of the baptism, which

can be scheduled either during or after the Saturday or Sunday worship services.

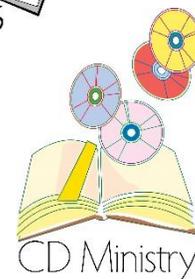
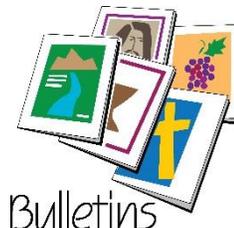
Questions? Please feel free to contact the Church Office at 610-759-3090.



PRAYER CHAIN ~ We pray that you will think of us when you have need for prayer. This includes you, your family members, or friends. Please

call Betty Laubach at 610-759-0225 or the Church Office at 610-759-3090. If you would like to join the Prayer Chain and be a part of this powerful ministry, please let Betty or the Church Office know.

PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP WITH THESE IMPORTANT MINISTRIES:



NewsLetter
DEADLINE

The deadline for all submissions for the **February 2014** issue of **THE MESSENGER** is:

Friday, January 8h. You may leave printed material in the Church Office mailbox or you may email your article or announcement as a Word attachment to stjohnschurch@rcn.com. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

The sign-up books are located in the rear of the nave each weekend and at Fellowship Socials, or please call the Church Office at 610-759-3090. Thank you!

The Messenger

Volume CLVII

"To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known"

Issue No. 377

January

IN THIS ISSUE...

A Note from the Pastor
Worship with Us!
Congregational Meeting & Luncheon
Pastoral Acts
Grace Notes
Youth News
Inclement Weather Policy
Youth News
Church Council Minutes



A BLESSINGS JAR

Need a new tradition to begin the New Year? One way to reflect on your blessings as the days and months pass is to fill a Blessing Jar. Simply find a container (ideally with a lid) and place it in a prominent place in your home. Next to it, set slips of paper and writing utensils.

Encourage every family member to jot down one thing they're grateful for every day. If you have a large family, you may need one jar for each person. You can also use different-colored paper slips for each family member.

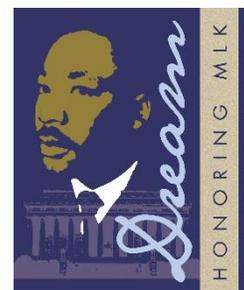


Every week, sit down together and review the many ways that God is present in your lives.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., RENEWER OF SOCIETY, MARTYR, DIED 1968

Martin Luther King Jr. is remembered as an American prophet of justice among races and nations, a Christian whose faith undergirded

his advocacy of vigorous yet non-violent action for racial equality. A pastor of churches in Montgomery, Alabama, and Atlanta, Georgia, his witness was taken to the streets in such other places as Birmingham, Alabama, where he was arrested and jailed while protesting against segregation. He preached nonviolence and demanded that love be returned for hate. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, he was killed by an assassin on April 4, 1968.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<h1>JANUARY 2016</h1>						New Year's Day 1 <i>The Name of Jesus</i> Church Office, Day Care, & Love-A-Lot CLOSED	Epiphany Sunday 2 10:00 AM Philethia Choir 5:30 PM Worship with Holy Communion
2nd Sunday of Christmas 3 (White) 8:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM New Memb. Class 10:45 AM Worship with Holy Communion	Epiphany of Our Lord 4 6:30 PM Property 7:00 PM Rebekah Circle	5 9:00 AM Ladies Aid 6:30 PM Capital Campaign 6:30 PM Social Ministry	6 9:30 AM Ruth Circle 12:00 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Stewardship 7:00 PM NA 7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band	7 6:00 PM Girl Scout #8220 6:00 PM Chancel Choir Covered dish @ Janice's	8 MESSENGER DEADLINE 4:00 PM Girl Scout # 81078 6:30 PM Luther League Lock-In Begins	Church Council Installation 9 9:00 AM Lock-In Ends 5:30 PM Worship with Holy Communion	
Baptism of Our Lord 10 (White) Church Council Installation 8:00 AM Worship Fellowship Social 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Baptism Class 10:45 AM Worship Fellowship Social	11 6:30 PM History 7:00 PM Day Care Board	12 9:00 AM Ladies Aid 4:00 PM JAM Sessions 6:30 PM Sunday School 7:00 PM Nazareth Woman's Club	13 12:00 PM Bible Study 5:00 PM Chalice Choir 6:15 PM Bear Creek 6:15 PM Confirmation 1, 2 6:15 PM Sr. High Youth Grp. 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM NA 7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band	14 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop #8220 6:15 PM Evangelism 6:30 PM Festival Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	15 4:00 PM MAD Camp Reh.	16 9:30 -12:00 Festival Choir Retreat 5:30 PM Worship w/Holy Communion	
2nd Sunday after Epiphany 17 (Green) 8:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship w/Holy Communion and MAD Camp 2:30 PM MAD Camp at Moravian Hall Sq.	Confession of St. Peter 18 Week Prayer for Christian Unity Begins Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Obsv.) Love-A-Lot CLOSED 7:00 PM Finance 8:00PM Endowment ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE!!!	19 9:00 AM Ladies Aid 4:00 PM JAM Sessions 6:30 PM Worship & Music 7:00 PM Helping Hands	20 12:00 PM Bible Study 5:00 PM Chalice Choir 6:15 PM Confirmation 1 & 2 6:15 PM Sr. High Youth Grp. 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM NA 7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band	21 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop #8220 6:30 PM Festival Choir 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	22 12:00 PM DEADLINE Church Council Report 4:00 PM Girl Scout # 81078	Food Bank Wknd 23 9:30 AM Festival Choir Retreat (snowdate) 5:30 PM Worship with Holy Communion	
3rd Sunday after Epiphany 24 (Green) / Food Bank Weekend 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 12:00 PM Annual Cong. Luncheon & Mtg.	Conversion of St. Paul 25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Ends 6:30 Capital Campaign	26 9:00 AM Ladies Aid 4:00 PM JAM Sessions	27 12:00 PM Bible Study 5:00 PM Chalice Choir 6:15 PM Confirmation 1 & 2 6:15 PM Sr. High Youth Grp. 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM NA 7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band 7:30 PM Church Council	28 6:30 PM Festival Choir 7:30PM Chancel Choir	29	Youth Weekend 30 5:30 PM Worship w/Holy Communion <hr/> Youth Weekend 31 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship	