

Sam Houston is a complicated figure in American History. Born in Virginia on March 2, 1793 he was commissioned an officer in the Tennessee Militia during the War of 1812 and led a charge against the Creek Indians who had allied themselves with the British. Houston received wounds in the shoulder and the thigh.

Resigning his commission after the War Houston went to Nashville, studied law and was admitted to the bar. Twice he was elected to a seat in the Tennessee House of Representatives, then won the Tennessee Governorship in 1827.

He married Eliza Allen. The marriage did not last long. Eliza was much younger than Houston. And, in those days of propriety when husband-and-wife didn't see all of their spouse's flesh until their wedding night -WELL- Eliza was unable to abide the scars from her husband's horrible war wounds.

Heartbroken and angry Houston resigned his office and moved to the Arkansas territory to live with the Cherokee Indians. There Houston interceded - negotiating treaties between the Cherokee and President Andrew Jackson's Administration. If you know anything about History, you know Andrew Jackson did not bend kindly toward Indians or anyone else. Our 7th president fought more than 100 personal duels.

While in the Arkansas Territory, Sam Houston married a Cherokee woman Tiana Rodgers. Houston's reputation continued to grow as folks left Arkansas and other places to settle in Texas. When the Texas Revolution needed a military commander in 1836, Houston's leadership of the Texas Army played a crucial part in the capture of the Mexican leader General Santa Anna. Thus the Texans won their independence and elected Sam Houston President in 1836.

Twice Texan President Houston had sought to bring about the United States Annexation of Texas. Finally, during the Presidency of James K. Polk, the United States annexed and made it a state in 1846.

Sam Houston lived long enough to see Texas secede from the Union in FEBRUARY 1861. He died on July 26, 1863 just three weeks after the decisive battle of Gettysburg. To his death Sam Houston regarded secession as a mistake and lamented the decision made by his fellow Texans.

Later in life Sam Houston married again. His third wife Margaret Lea had a settling influence on him; including leading him to become a committed Christian. Sam Houston decided to submit to being baptized by immersion. His baptism was so momentous there is an historical marker at the site.

After his baptism someone said, "Well, General, all your sins have been washed away." Houston replied, "if that be so, God help the fish down below."

While we know sins do not literally pass into the baptismal water, Sam Houston understood something profound: he knew he was a great sinner and all his sins - many and significant were forgiven through the Blood of Christ.

My prayer is that you too will feel the great weight of sin removed from you as you are marked with the Ashen Cross on Ash Wednesday evening February 10th.

May everyone in the Parish experience a fruitful Lent.

WORSHIP WITH US!



Christ's light shines in our darkness. God's love conquers hate. Spirit-given faith is stronger than fear. We come seeking you, Lord, please guide our paths. "And what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8). May it be so. Amen.

- Feb. 6 – 7** Transfiguration of Our Lord – Farewell to Alleluia / Holy Communion at all service
Souper Bowl of Caring Weekend
 - Feb. 10** Ash Wednesday, Lenten Evening Worship Service 7:30 PM
 - Feb. 13 – 14** First Weekend of Lent / Holden Evening Prayer Service on Saturday
 - Feb. 20 – 21** Second Weekend of Lent / Holy Communion at all services
 - Feb. 27 – 28** Third Weekend of Lent/Food Bank Weekend
-

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING So Simple ~ So Good



More than 20 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with just a simple prayer at a Youth Group meeting: "Lord, as we enjoy

the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat."

Since that day, more than \$81 million dollars has been raised across the country for local charities. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around the Super Bowl into one of the nation's largest celebration of giving and sharing. Through this mission, young people learn what it is like to make a difference in their community as they collect money to help others in need.

As in the past, members from our Confirmation Classes will be holding soup pots as you leave Church on Super Bowl weekend, February 6th & 7th, 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.



Please make sure the Church Office has your current email! The easiest way is to send us an email at stjohnschurch@rcn.com.

That way we can send you updates and reminders about church events - no spam, we promise! :-)

PAJAMA PARTY SUNDAY!!

On Sunday, February 14th, St. John's Sunday School is hosting a Pajama Party as part of Bring-a-Friend Sunday. Please bring as many friends to Sunday school (and church) as you would like! Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. We will watch a movie in the Fellowship Hall and serve a special treat for everyone, while you relax in your favorite pajamas. Come and enjoy Sunday School with your friends in comfort! Share your love for one another and spread friendship in his Holy Name.



FOOD BANK WEEKEND: February 27th & 28th

The Nazareth Area Food Bank needs to replenish its supply of **spaghetti sauce and pasta**, 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 St. John's.



TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY FAREWELL TO ALLELUIA

February 6th & 7th marks the final weekend before the Lenten season begins, when we celebrate Christ's transfiguration on the mountain-top, and bid farewell to "alleluia" until Resurrection Day. Music



by the Festival Choir and instrumentalists will be part of both Sunday services. It is hoped that the majesty and glory of that day's worship will be remembered as a source of strength and comfort as we embark on the Lenten journey.

ASH WEDNESDAY



From ancient times, ashes have been used as a symbol of mourning, penitence, grief and humiliation. Christians have a tradition of using ashes made from the palm branches used on the previous Palm Sunday to make the

sign of the cross on a believer's forehead as part of the Ash Wednesday ceremony. The ashes symbolize the Christian's intent to repent of sins, to accept purification from the Lord, and to make a public witness of one's faith in Christ as Lord and Savior.

On Ash Wednesday, **Join us on Wednesday, February 10th at 7:30 p.m. in the nave for a service of Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes.**



Lent commemorates Jesus' fast and temptation in the wilderness, which, according to the Gospel, lasted 40 days. Just as Jesus confronted his

temptations during these 40 days, Lent helps Christians focus on our most basic need as sinners: forgiveness.

The only way our Lord's forgiving power can become effective in our lives is by our taking the initiative to confront our sins, confess them and repent of them. In short, Lent is a season of penitence, and a time for spiritual renewal and growth in dedication and service.

A simple service of prayer, song, scripture and a message will take place in our nave on each Wednesday of Lent. We hope that you will make worship every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. a part of your Lenten discipline.

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

Singers and instrumentalists will lead us in the beautiful setting of Holden Evening Prayer by present-day church musician Marty Haugen on Saturday, February 13th at our 5:30 p.m. worship service. A contemporary sung liturgy, scripture, prayer, and Holy Communion will all be part of our worship that evening. Join your St. John's congregation for a service of quiet contemplation and spiritual renewal as we begin the Lenten Season.



Bulletin Sponsors Needed



St. John's prints 450 worship bulletins for each weekend (three worship services), plus additional copies for special worship services and events.

Bulletin sponsors are needed to help offset the cost of printing the bulletins. **Please consider sponsoring the weekly bulletins in honor of or in memory of a loved one.** The weekly bulletin sponsorship costs \$50, but can be split with two dedications for \$25 each. **Please sign up in the Bulletin notebook at the back of the Nave or call the Church Office at 610-759-3090.**



Grace Notes

February is “heart month.” Hallmark Stores stock their card supplies with valentines decorated with hearts ranging from the ornate to the simple; gift shops line their shelves with heart-shaped candles and other decorative ornaments; and chocolate hearts are sure to be in abundant supply at any local candy store.

The American Heart Association also declares February as “National Heart Month.” Throughout the month this organization seeks to provide a better understanding of how the heart works, outlining potential risks for heart disease and promoting ways to keep your heart healthy. Managing your diet, exercising, watching your blood pressure, and getting adequate rest and sleep are the directives they encourage in order to maintain good heart health.

In the Church, February is also the time that we focus on our hearts—our spiritual hearts, that is. The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10, and each year in our worship we hear Psalm 51, containing the familiar words “*Create in me a clean heart, O God.*” Written by David, the shepherd king, the Psalm is a plea to God for forgiveness and repentance for all of David’s wrong-doings. David had lusted after his neighbor’s wife, committed adultery with her, and had her husband murdered. Recognizing his sinfulness and acknowledging a broken and contrite heart, David confesses to God. On the other hand, if David had made excuses and rationalized his sinfulness, his heart would have shown a self-righteous and justifying attitude, with no need for God’s mercy. It is the completeness of David’s confession that qualifies him for the Lord’s compassion and forgiveness, purifies his heart, and restores his relationship with God.

In the later verses of Psalm 51 David speaks about what he is able to do when his heart is pure before the Lord. He will be able to be an example and testimony to unbelievers; his heart will be free to rejoice and sing before the Lord; and he will enjoy a renewed closeness with God. We, too, can have a heart healthy relationship with God if we admit to our failures, seek forgiveness, and set our priorities in the right places.

At our Ash Wednesday worship service our Chancel

Choir will sing a beautiful anthem based on Psalm 51 by composer Sandra Atkinson. It opens with a somber plea for God to search our hearts and cleanse it from all sin. As the mood changes and the melody becomes more lyrical, the words convey the desire for God to hold our hearts and lift our spirits so that we may teach others the loving ways of Christ. When our own hearts are in a right relationship with God, we are then able to extend our hearts and love to others in need. No longer do we exist in our own private world, looking inward to our own hearts and desires, but we take on a broader view, reaching out to our community and the world around us.

So this Lenten season, focus on the heart. It’s not so much about what we are giving up for Lent, but what we are doing to keep our hearts spiritually healthy. The steps to spiritual heart health are simple—acknowledge our sinfulness, ask God for pardon, accept God’s love and grace, and share that love with others in your daily life. In doing so, you will be able to sing with heartfelt praise and joy on that Resurrection Day! Thanks be to God!

Grace and peace,
Janice Butz, Minister of Music

*Create in me a
clean
heart,
O God,
and put a new &
right
spirit
within
me.*



Psalm 51:10, NRSV

Singing Opportunities for the Lenten Season



Both the Women's Ensemble and Men's Chorale are being revived for the Lenten Season! These singing opportunities are open to all of the men and women of St. John's who enjoy singing, whether you are a regular choir member or just want to make a short-term commitment. The **WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE** will sing for the Lenten service on February 17 and will rehearse on Thursday evening, February 11, at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday morning, February 14, at 9:15 a.m. The **Men's Chorale** will sing for our Wednesday Lenten service on March 2 and will rehearse at 9:15 on Sundays, February 21 and 28, as well as Thursday evening, February 25, at 6:30 p.m. Multiple rehearsals are scheduled with the hope that singers will be able to make at least one of the rehearsals.



A Banquet of Song

COMING SUNDAY, MARCH 6

Once again, both children and adult singers from our Nazareth area churches will come together to present a benefit concert for the Nazareth Area Food Bank. The concert takes place in our nave on Sunday afternoon, March 6, at 4:00 p.m. Mark your calendars now, and plan to attend this wonderful afternoon of inspiring music and song!



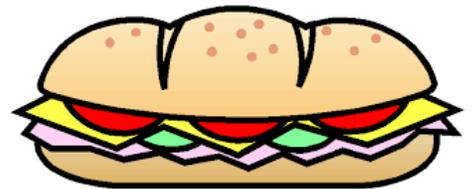
Support our Chalice Choir in these upcoming Fundraisers!



CLOTHING DRIVE

Clothing Drive. Start cleaning out your closets this Lenten season and bring your give-aways to the church Fellowship Hall anytime **throughout the month of April, up until Friday, April 29.** If possible, we prefer that you wait until after Easter to drop off your items. In addition to clothing, shoes and purses, you may also donate household items made of fabric, stuffed animals, bikes, baby accessories, and hard toys that fit into a box 24"x 24" x 21". Oversized toys, strollers, high chairs, car seats, cribs, play centers, bouncers, walkers and swings are not accepted.

Hoagie Coupons. Coupons for hoagies from Ressler's Market on Main Street will continue to be sold for \$4.00 each on Sunday mornings in the Shepherd's Room.



ATTENTION musicians, actors, dancers, magicians and all other types of entertainers

SAINT JOHN'S TALENT SHOW SATURDAY, MARCH 12

Spaghetti Dinner at 6:30 p.m., immediately followed by an evening of entertainment featuring our own talented Saint John's members.



THE ENTERTAINMENT! Talent scouts are looking for entertainers to participate in Saint John's Talent Show, Saturday, March 12, at 6:30 p.m. If you can sing, dance, play an instrument, act, juggle, do magic tricks, or do any type of entertainment, think about sharing your talents and gifts at our own Saint John's talent night. All ages are welcome to participate as a solo, duo, or ensemble.

Although not an audition, screenings will be done for all acts prior to the talent show and all participants should schedule an appointment so that their act may be previewed. Screenings will be held on Saturday afternoon, February 13, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. and Tuesday evening, February 16, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in performing, please return the tear-off below to the church office or to Rev. Janice Butz prior to February 13, and in addition, please sign up for a screening appointment on the schedule that will be posted on the youth bulletin board just outside the choir room. If you are not able to make either of these screening times, please contact Rev. Janice Butz and another time will be arranged.

TALENT SHOW SIGN-UP

Name of person(s)

Contact phone #

E-mail address

Type of entertainment

Please return to the church office or to Rev. Janice Butz prior to Saturday, February 13. Also, please remember to schedule a screening time by adding your name to the sign-up list on the youth bulletin board, just outside the choir room.



A Message from the Director of Youth & Family Ministries

This month brings us the kick off of St. John's Capital Campaign. The theme of this campaign is Fearlessly Collaborating with God. There will be many events for various groups this month, and I hope all church members will take advantage of them.

February also brings us into Lent, which is a period of reflection, fasting, and prayer. It lasts 40 days counted from from Ash Wednesday to Easter, excluding Sundays.

The capital campaign kicking off during Lent will provide a good reminder for us all to reflect on the ways in which we can give back to our church during our Lenten meditations. The various events this month are planned out to allow for fellowship, conversation, and collaboration for the future of St. John's, while building a closer community. To find out more about the upcoming capital campaign events, please visit page 9 of this edition of The Messenger!

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mid-week Lenten Services: Every Wednesday from Ash Wednesday, February 10th, to March 23rd at 7:30 pm in the church nave.

Palm Cross Making: All generations and ages should meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm on March 18th to make Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday. Please bring a pair of scissors.

Sunday School Donkey Walk: Meet in the Fellowship Hall by 9:15 am on Sunday, March 20th to walk to the Nazareth Circle following the Donkey.

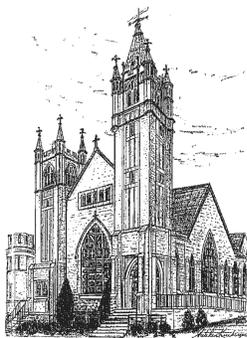
Palm Cross Delivery: Luther League and families will be delivering palm crosses to our shut in parishioners on Sunday, March 20th immediately following the 10:45 am service. Lunch will be provided.

Confirmation Retreat: April 8th – 10th at Tuscarora Inn and Conference Center.

Do you shop at Giant? Do you want to help out the youth who will be attending the ELCA Youth Gathering next summer? Then come to our table in the Shepherd's Room following worship! You can purchase Giant gift cards at face value in increments of \$25, \$50, or \$100, and 5% will be donated by Giant! Thank you in advance for your support of our youth and the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering!



FEARLESSLY COLLABORATING WITH GOD



In the entire New Testament, the word AMBASSADOR appears only twice. Both times it is St. Paul who uses the term AMBASSADOR. Paul uses it in 2 Corinthians 5:20 and again in Ephesians 6:20. Another word that St. Paul uses only twice is the word FEARLESSLY. And strangely enough Paul uses FEARLESSLY BACK TO BACK in Ephesians 6:19-20 BACK TO BACK so it must be important. In fact the Apostle writes, "I will FEARLESSLY make known the mystery of the Gospel for which I am an AMBASSADOR in chains. Pray that I may declare it FEARLESSLY as I should." (Ephesians 6:19-20) St. John's three-year Capital Campaign will KICKOFF on Transfiguration Weekend February 6 & 7, 2016. And the Capital Campaign will draw on Ephesians 6:19-20 for its theme "FEARLESSLY COLLABORATING WITH GOD." As St. John's Lutheran Church looks ahead to 2020 we will FEARLESSLY endeavor to COLLABORATE with the mission GOD is setting before us.

In your life have you ever taken the initiative to FEARLESSLY approach someone who has deeply hurt you and offer them forgiveness? – You find that genuine reconciliation takes place between the two of you. Then, in your prayers that as you share with Jesus your joy over the incident, the Holy Spirit speaks to your heart saying the joy you feel is because you have COLLABORATED with God's purpose for all the people on earth.

From the early days of my MINISTRY I have made it my practice to reach out to those individuals who have strayed far from the fold of the GOOD SHEPHERD whom I serve. I have visited in the homes and hospital rooms of many notorious sinners. After listening to their confession I have offered them absolution and the Holy Communion which assures sinners of God's love and forgiveness. Somehow, in those circumstances the MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL came alive to me but even more vividly alive to the sinner. In those moments I truly felt like an AMBASSADOR for Christ.

The two Scripture verses from Ephesians which we have chosen to focus on during our CAPITAL CAMPAIGN are rich in imagery and beauty.

The SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMITTEE of the CAPITAL CAMPAIGN is asking for parishioners to think about and pray about the words contained in Ephesians 6:19-20. And then write a reflection to share in The Messenger, The Bulletin or in some other printed form that will inspire other members of St. John's to understand what is THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL. How one can be an AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST. Or how one comes to simply live day by day FEARLESSLY AND IN COLLABORATION WITH GOD.

Please send in your reflections to the Church Office by mail, e-mail or stop by the church office and drop it off.

As we **KICK OFF** the **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN** on *Transfiguration Sunday February 6th & 7th*, we are offering the book, **Generosity**, a 4 week devotional, by Gordon MacDonald. This book will help us to reflect on God's generosity as individuals and as a church. Both Bible Study groups will be focusing on this book for the month of February. If you are interested in obtaining a copy, please contact the Church Office at 610-759-3090.

2016 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FEBRUARY KICK OFF EVENTS

Sunday 2/7/16:

Intergenerational Church Families:

Transfiguration Sunday, "STAR" event, children will design and decorate a larger star to light our journey through Lent.

Friday 2/12/16 – 9:30 AM

Senior Brunch Gathering:

Meet at Cherry Hill Hotel

Saturday 2/20/16 – 7:00 PM

Empty Nesters:

Wine and Cheese Tasting at Greg and Gail Price's home, 348 Winter Spring, Bushkill Township

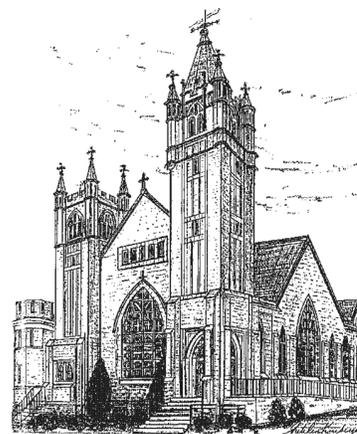
Sunday 2/21/16 – 12:30

Young Adults:

Bowling at Holy Family Club

Cost: \$3 per game, shoes and balls available.

Bar and kitchen will be open.



Saturday 2/27/16 – 6:30 PM

Saturday Evening Congregants:

Gathering after Saturday evening service for hors d'oeuvres & greet fellow parishioners

Sunday 2/28/16 – 9:15 AM

ALL Welcome:

Congregational Breakfast during Sunday School Hour

Please call the Church Office at 610-759-3090 to reserve your spot.

The **Spiritual Life Committee** of the **Capital Campaign** is asking for parishioners to think about and pray about the words contained in *Ephesians 6:19-20*. Would you like to share your story using your faith, prayer and scripture as a means to help you through a trying time in your life or a time of great joy? We would like to hear your personal experience in a brief written paragraph that you would be willing to share with others in our congregation. It will be printed in the Messenger and included in a booklet that will inspire other members of St. John's to understand THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL, and how one can be an AM-BASSADOR FOR CHRIST. If you choose, it can be anonymous and your name will not appear in either place. Please send in your reflections to the Church Office by mail, e-mail or drop it off in person.

Thank you,
Barbara Sandbrook
Karen Landis

SEXTON CORNER



HELLO TO ALL! By the time you read this, believe it or not, we'll be less than 55 days to Spring!

We are now planning on projects to be started for Spring and Summer. Several projects are a part of the Capital Campaign, others are carry over from last year. We will also do some Spring Cleaning.

One of our goals is to have members of the church participate in some of the activities. If you have a skill set or experience with electrical, plastering, painting, plumbing, woodworking, concrete or welding, please see Tony. We can use help to achieve our goals.

Our youth are a vital resource within our church and we would like to see them participate in these activities. There are some tasks that we as elders can use some assistance with. We are always grateful for any help our youth provide.

We'd like to "THANK" the members of the Church (you know who you are) for helping last year to bring closure on a number of open tasks.

Thanks for your time,

The Sextons

sextons@rcn.com

FEARLESSLY COLLABORATING WITH GOD

2016 Capital Campaign Commitment Weekend March 5th and 6th, 2016

In order to fulfill the vision for St. John's, God continues to call us to grow our mission, serve our members and reach out into our community. It is in response to this call, along with the needs of the church, and with faith in our future, that we will **FEARLESSLY COLLABORATE WITH GOD**, and begin this appeal.

We envision a church that is welcoming and family friendly, vibrant and active, engaging and relevant, Biblical and Christ centered, multi generational and multi ethnic, serving people and impacting our community - a church where people gather and are sent out to passionately pursue the calling of Christ. So as a family of St. John's, we must take on this project without fear, but together with faith and with the guidance of our Lord. Through prayer and working together, we will "**collaborate**" to carry out our vision.

We encourage you to pray and discern your household's most generous response. Consider the many gifts your faith has given to you and let your giving reflect your many blessings. Please remember, your Capital Campaign pledge is in addition to your regular weekly giving to our operating budget.

"I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador."

Ephesians 6:19-20



Come and explore God's Creation this summer at Bear Creek Camp!

The theme is: No Greater Love

The deadline for early registration is
February 28th, 2016

The **Women of the ELCA** are helping to collect items that make up **Personal Care Refugee Boxes** being supplied by Lutheran Congregational Services. Personal Care items are listed below. Please place all donations in the box on the table in Fellowship Hall. Items are being collected during Lent and all donations are appreciated.



Women
of the
**EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

- 4 toothbrushes
- 1 toothpaste
- 1 shampoo
- 4 deodorant
- 1 comb/brush
- 3 bars soap
- 2 razors
- 1 shaving cream
- 1 pack of sanitary napkins

OPEN YOUR HEART AND HOME

to a Lutheran exchange student from Germany for the coming 2016-2017 school year

Volunteer host families (with or without children) as well as single people are needed to provide food, a bed and a loving home for the coming school year, one or two semesters, starting in August. EMF students have medical insurance, spending money for their personal expenses and expect to share their host family's daily life including household responsibilities. They speak English, are well-screened and eager to experience life in America. Their stay here is sponsored and supervised by EMF (Educational Merit Foundation), a non-profit, educational exchange program. It is not too late to apply. For more information on EMF students, please call Marie-Claude Dijoud at 1-800-467-8363 or visit our web site at www.emfusa.org.

G.R.A.C.E.

Adult Bible Study Class

The Grace Adult Bible Study Class meets at 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM on Sunday mornings, from the first Sunday in September to the last Sunday in June. The Grace class is a unique group that not only studies God's Word, but also explores the events and attitudes occurring at the time, and the people who documented it. The class explores how Scripture can be applied to modern times, through study, discussion and prayer. The class also selects books by distinguished authors to read, review and discuss. An upcoming book we plan to read and discuss is "Agents of Babylon" by David Jeremiah which offers an in-depth exploration of the characters and prophecies contained in the book of Daniel.



YOUR CAR...YOUR MARRIAGE BOTH RUN SMOOTHER WITH A TUNE UP!

Now is the time to register for this opportunity to rekindle the romance and realize the full potential of your marriage with all the joy and beauty God intended.

The 2016 Pennsylvania Spring Weekends are:

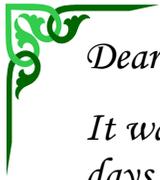
- **April 8-10, 2016** in Lancaster, PA, at the Heritage Hotel Lancaster.
- **April 22-24, 2016** in State College, PA, at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel.

The registration fee is \$100 per couple and includes two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you and all supplies. To sign up or for more information, go to www.GodLovesMarriage.org.

Registrations are limited, so act today to ensure that you can attend the weekend of your choice.

For brochures, please contact: Pennsylvania Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber at 724-325-3166 or email fjschamber@comcast.net.





Dear Members,

It was a delight to receive the flowers from St. John's. It reminded me of many Sun days I spent in church. Thank you.

I think of those days many times. Thank you.

Thank every one, bless the church and all the thoughtful members.

Marcella (Molly) Smith



Dear Pastor Schaeffer and St. John's Congregation,

I have received a positive acceptance into the candidacy process on Monday, December 21st, 2015. I will be given a "life coach", if you will, that was on the call committee to help guide me through the next four years of seminary. I have applied to Gettysburg Theological Seminary and am awaiting an official acceptance from them. As some of you may know, I recently got married to Tricia Johnson or Tricia Butz now, on Saturday, December 19th, 2015. We are living in Middletown, Pennsylvania near Harrisburg. Tricia has a job teaching German at Central Dauphin High School, which is the 11th largest school in the state. I plan to commute from Middletown to Gettysburg since it is only an hour drive.

I still have one more semester at Kutztown University for my Master in Business Administration and will be attending Gettysburg in August. I ask for your prayers and blessings as I continue this journey. I would also like to thank all of you who have shown interest and support for my decision to go into the ministry. I will make sure to continue to keep you up to date on my progress, and I hope all the best in the upcoming capital campaign and transition of Pastors.

*God Bless,
Chad Butz*





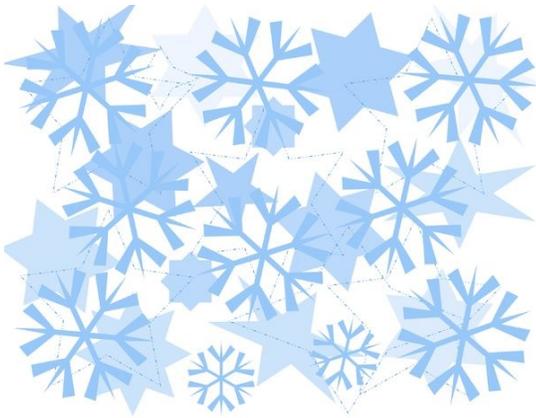
We gladly received the following new member into the family and fellowship of St. John's congregation in the month of October 2015:

HILDEGARD KURT

October 15th

Hildegard Kurt has recently joined St. John's Church. She lives in the Highlands in Palmer Township. Hildegard has three children, nine grandchildren and one great grandchild.

She served several terms on the WELCA board where she has met several members of St. John's. Currently she is serving as President of the Nazareth Women's Club. Hildegard has been in the Nazareth Area for eight years and we welcome her to St. John's Church!



If we accept the teaching of Jesus at all, then the only test of the reality of a man's religion is his attitude to his fellow men. The only possible proof that a man loves God is the demonstrated fact that he loves his fellow men.

- William Barclay



Our heartfelt Christian sympathy goes out to the families and friends of the following members and friends of St. John's who passed into eternal life in the month of December 2015 & January 2016:

GLORIA ORWIG

December 31st

JAMES HOFFERT

JANUARY 13, 2016

JOSEPH SMITH

JANUARY 20, 2016



Received in the month
of
December 2015

GLORIA ORWIG

Alan & Debra Goodhard

LILLIAN COMFORT

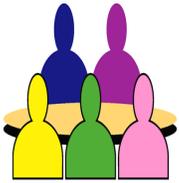
Jeffrey Spohn

KATHY HERFURTH & FRANK SOURS

Roy Spaccrelli

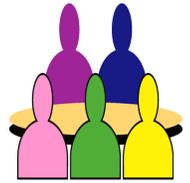
MARYETTA SLUTTER

Gloria & Charles Spohn, Marie & Garry Dorney, Linda Michael, Andrew III & Eryn Panko, Jeffrey Spohn, Erick & Debra Smith



SAINT JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

January 20, 2016



PRESENT: Chris Andrews, Stephen Bajan II, Joe Billy, Alan Butz, Rev. Janice Butz, Craig Dally, Ralph Deyo, Scott Little, Jocelyn Starner, Jaime Taylor, Wayne Vierzbicki, Sharon Werner, Jackie Wolf

ABSENT: Cathie Dara, Billy Garrison, Steven Millheim, Rev. David Schaeffer

GUESTS: Susan Kelly – Past Church Council President

DEVOTIONS: Craig Dally read about Volunteers. Scripture – II Corinthians 9:7

MINUTES: The Minutes of the Dec. 16, 2015 meeting were not reviewed.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

PASTOR SCHAEFFER'S REPORT: No Report

REV. JANICE BUTZ REPORT:

MAD Camp at Moravian Hall Square went well.
Festival Choir preparing for upcoming *Banquet of Song*, and Easter Sunday.
Continue to prepare for Lenten season.

Jaime Taylor - DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY

MINISTRIES REPORT: Complete as written:
The MAD Camp kids did a fantastic job with their performance at Moravian Hall Square.
Youth Services will be Jan. 30-31st.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Stephen Bajan II reported:
Donald Himler suggested to move \$6,600 in Improvement Fund from residual to utilities.
The Metz bill for installing the 2 gas fired burners will come out of the Capital Campaign.

COLUMBARIUM: No Report

DAY CARE: Susan Kelly reported:
Susan Kelly will stay on Day Care committee through June.
Need to update Security System software. Jackie Wolf made motion to approve \$500 for security system,

Craig Dally 2nd. Council approved.

ENDOWMENT: Stephen Bajan II reported:
Stephen Bajan II reported that accounts dropped slightly.

EVANGELISM: Sharon Werner reported:
Welcome Bags were completed for new members.
Palm Sunday fellowship hour was discussed.

HELPING HANDS: Jackie Wolf reported:
April 2 – Pork & Sauerkraut dinner. Hospitality Committee will help.
Tony Petrillo and Keith Shook will do wallpaper job in Apt. 38. Also, sheetrock in 4x8 bathroom needs to be replaced.
Tony has materials for the parsonage in storage. Work to be done in the Spring.

LOVE-A-LOT: Wayne V. reported.
Wayne V. is looking into a termite problem.

LUTHER LEAGUE: Jaime Taylor reported:
Getting ready for Youth Services on Jan. 30-31st.
Planning some fun events for March & April.

PERSONNEL: Susan Kelly reported:
Linda Kasmakites has been hired as the Church Secretary and is working out well.

PROPERTY: Alan Butz reported:
All invoices should go to the church office.
Joe Billy is now on the Property Committee.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: Jackie Wolf reported: No Report.

STEWARDSHIP: Ralph Deyo reported: Complete as written
Feb.6-7 = Capital Campaign kickoff
April 9-10 = Volunteer Recognition Weekend
May = Stewardship is doing the coffee hour.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Susan Kelly reported:
Jaime Taylor will report on Bear Creek Camp.
Received a Sponsorship from a St. John's member.
March 20 – Palm Sunday Donkey Walk.

(Continued from page 14)

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Jocelyn Starner reported:

All Communion robes have been cleaned.
Small white buckets with blue lids for wet cloths during Christmas Eve service are missing.
Continue to prepare for upcoming Lenten Season.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Campaign update:
Phone script – Susan Kelly handed out member lists to Church Council.
Logo – Chris Andrews is working on it.
Pledges – Discussion was held.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council luncheon for outgoing members will be at Miguel's.
Council approved \$500 to Day Care to update Security Software system.
Discussion of lighting & extinguishing of altar candles.

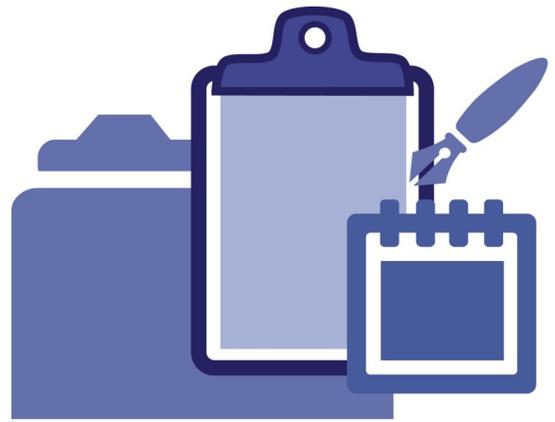
Building Use Requests:

Feb. 15 – Creative Learning Center of LV Inc. – Fellowship Hall
March 19 – WELCA Breakfast Program – Fellowship Hall
May 21 – Baby Shower – Nicki Antonacci – Fellowship Hall
Motion by: Joe Bill to approve all Building Use Requests
2nd – Scott Little
Council Approved.

Council President Jackie Wolf declared the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.
The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting: Feb. 23 – 6:30 p.m.

Next Devotions: Ralph Deyo



Church Council

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

The deadline for all submissions for the **March 2016** issue of **THE MESSENGER** is: **Wednesday, February 10th.** 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.





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

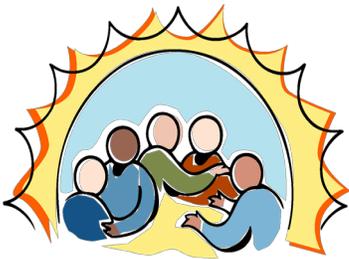


VICTOR MESSINGER
February 13th
201 Young Rd.
Nazareth, PA 18064

LINDA FEHNEL
February 18th
Gracedale - Tower 4 D2
2 Gracedale Ave.
Nazareth, PA 18064

GERALDINE WALTER
February 24th
Walden III - Rm. 152
325 N. Broadway
Wind Gap, PA 18091

2016 Fellowship Social Calendar



February 7 ~ Helping Hands & Love-A-Lot Nursery School
(Transfiguration Sunday)

March 20 ~ Evangelism (Palm Sunday Donkey Walk)

April 9 & 10 ~ Bishop Zeiser / Stewardship (Volunteer Recognition Weekend)

May 15 ~ Christina Education (Pentecost/Confirmation)

Groups Serving Christ Through St. John's Church

Fellowship this month will be on **Sunday February 7th**, following each morning worship service. This month's hosts are the members of the Helping Hands Committee and St. John's Love-A-Lot Nursery School.

Love-A-Lot Nursery School:

Love-A-Lot Nursery School is a pre-school Christian program promoting learning, discovery, and play for 3 and 4 year olds. Using games, activities, and special events, children are introduced to the academic environment in a fun and interactive way. For over 15 years the Nursery School has operated weekly in the morning from September to May. For more information, please contact the school at 484-293-0720 or email at LoveALotNurserySchool@yahoo.com

HELPING HANDS COMMITTEE:

Inspired by the team who journeyed to Biloxi, Mississippi in January of 2006 to aid in the cleanup efforts following the destruction of Hurricane Katrina, the Helping Hands Committee was formed in the spring of 2006. The committee has supported numerous relief efforts every year since. Their latest mission trip was to Brookport, Illinois during the summer of 2015 to help rebuild following a devastating tornado. The need is still there long after the storm has passed. With our help and the help of many others we will get those in need back into their homes. Come along with us as we share the gifts god has blessed us with.

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

Come join us for Fellowship! Take a few minutes to chat with members of these groups during the Fellowship Socials to find out more about their activities and plans. You may find you may want to become a part of their efforts!

Stewardship in God's Future - "A Community of Stewards"

The Book of Acts, written by Luke as a sequel to his Gospel, is an accurate historical record of the early Church, which documents the spread of the gospel and the growth of the Church. It provides an eyewitness from the beginning in Jerusalem with a small group of disciples who shared a powerful message, "the flame of the church" in the story of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. This was all according to Jesus' plan: "The gospel was to go from Jerusalem, to Judea, to Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 1:8.



Through their work of spreading the gospel, the disciples were also building a following of believers. Those early followers then began the work of gathering together a "Community of Believers". By spreading this good news, new churches grew out of these communities to grow together with one another in the Christian life.

These first century believers were strong of heart and committed to the spreading of the gospel message. The Holy Spirit gave them the motivation, energy, and ability to transport the gospel to the whole world. Some of them suffered greatly and faced death for their determination to tell the story of their crucified and risen Lord.

This was and still is the world that God created for us. Spirit-led boldness, disregard for personal wants and well-being in times of opposition motivated them to be "Fearless" witnesses in search of every opportunity to present the good news about Christ.

They were the first stewards, the caretakers of the Word and the world and all that is in it. The world that God created for wholeness and life is filled with brokenness and death. Like the first Christians, we too must work together in response to God's call and His acts of saving grace. Today, like our forefathers were called, we also are called to become a "Community of Stewards". In response to God's call, our shared beliefs and experiences, weave us together like the finest of tapestry.

In our "Community of Stewards", God's grace is remembered, celebrated, and proclaimed. We acknowledge the One we serve and the tasks which God has laid before us. In our "Community of Stewards" we are held accountable for our mission in covenant with God and with one another. In our "Community of Stewards" we live the alternative to other communities of peoples and their self-serving goals of destruction and hate. In our "Community of Stewards" we may call our mission, 'paying it forward' or 'giving back' or 'caring for the less fortunate and needy', as we seek to live as God's stewards in the world. But it is so much more than that. In our "Community of Stewards" we strive to live as God has commanded, as 21st Century versions of those first men and women of God. The tasks may have changed, but the mission is still the same.

Go in Peace, Love and Serve the Lord! Thanks be to God!

Portions of this article are taken from, "Life Application Study Bible", NIV 2005

NEWS FROM THE DAYCARE FEBRUARY 2016

In January the classrooms started off the year by learning about winter activities, snowmen, animals in winter and winter weather. Some of our classrooms also spent some time learning about Martin Luther King, and all the classrooms have been enjoying some indoor gross motor activities when the weather is too cold.

February has lots of fun topics! The classrooms start the month off with groundhog day. Some of them will learn about shadows, some about the groundhog and others about the signs of spring. February is also dental health month so many of the classes will learn about the importance of taking care of their teeth and we are hoping to have a hygienist come visit to help us. Several of the classrooms will be learning about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln in honor of their birthdays this month. School age will spend some time learning about Martin Luther King Jr. and all of the classrooms will be celebrating Valentine's Day with fun art projects and parties.

With winter in full swing we are working on proper hand washing skills and other healthy habits. Our program provides care for children 6 weeks through school age from 6:30 a.m to 6:00 p.m. Our pre-school curriculum is taught daily within our day. If you have any interest in learning more about our center please call 610-759-4999 or email lisat@rcn.com.



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.





Love-A-Lot Nursery School



As usual, December was a whirlwind of activity within our classrooms as both classes enjoyed a visit from Miss Catherine (Nazareth Library's Children's Librarian) who read Christmas books filled with fun Christmas adventures, snow, and even that familiar snowman named, Frosty. We introduced a manger scene as part of the children's "free play" and this helped them play-act & understand the true meaning of Christmas. Focusing on sharing, and treating each other with respect became the natural heart of our socializing skills during the blessed season.

'Tis the season for lots of fun and no one was disappointed as the 4s thoroughly enjoyed "Pajama Day" as we centered a school day around the holiday favorite, The Polar Express. Both classes created art projects and gifts for their families that will be treasured for years to come. To close out our month, we hosted Christmas Concerts/Parties for each class on their last days of school before Christmas break. Family and friends were invited to attend these festivities which featured lots of finger plays and Christmas songs. Everyone had a great time!

Winter and snowmen and snowflakes, oh, MY! From outside to inside, our stories, songs, and art projects in January focused on all aspects of the chilly season! To take a break from the winter wonderland in the classroom, we celebrated a day at the beach with the 4yo class! We threw on some grass skirts & flip-flops, did the limbo, built sand castles, and danced around palm trees for a day. It was a welcome distraction from that nasty January chill! The following week we had a day of camping, set up with a tent and a "campfire" around which we sang fun songs. Miss Catherine visited both classes with stories of snow adventures which added to the fun of the month. We had so much fun inside, we wanted to help our feathered friends outside, so both classes made bird feeders; the children shared lots of funny stories about watching the birds eat their "art projects."

The 3s learned their shapes by playing games at circle time and creating great art projects that centered on the shape of the day. We held lots of review games to go over numbers 1-5 which we introduced in the fall and kept practicing scissor cutting. Rounding out the curriculum for the month, we talked about two more colors...white and blue.

The 4s are doing great with their letters and we continued our letter days in January with M, N, O, & P! As we get farther into the alphabet, writing their own names is the focus and the prewriting lessons of the previous months have honed their fine motor skills needed to write correctly. Before writing their names, they learned how to spell their names and identify all the letters in a fun "puzzle" that they were able to bring home once they mastered it at school.

Classes run Monday/Wednesday/Friday for the 4yo class, and Tuesday/Thursday for the 3yo class; both classes run 9-11:30am with an optional lunch bunch for the 4yo class that runs 11:30-1pm. If you are interested in registering your child in Love-A-Lot Nursery School next September, there are openings in both the 3yo & 4yo classes. Please call (484-293-0720) or email (LoveALotNurserySchool@yahoo.com) the school.





Each month in your offering envelopes, you will find a “Special Projects” envelope. These particular gifts are designated each month to benefit those in need or to support a need within our church.

FEBRUARY SPECIAL OFFERING:

HELPING HANDS

Helping Hands is a group of volunteers from our church and the community who want to help people whose houses were severely damaged by hurricanes, floods, tornados, etc. Each year we look into where we will be needed the most. There are places that are far away and other places that are in driving distance. At times we also work along with Habitat for Humanity in building new homes and rehabilitating those that are damaged. If there are any needs at the church we help with painting, repairing, cleaning, etc. If you are interested in hearing more about Helping Hands, you are welcome to come to one of our meetings, or contact Gail Price (610-704-8736) or Keith Shook (610-759-0594) for more information.

CEMETARY NEWS



Christmas has passed and with that in mind, the Cemetery Board is asking all plot owners to please remove all wreaths and decorations as Easter is fast approaching. Thank you for your cooperation.

The Cemetery Board

Happy Valentine's Day

From the Staff at St. John's:



Pastor Schaeffer
Pastor Butz
Jaime Patrice
Linda Bonnie
Gary, Joe & Tony



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.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

During the week, the Church Office will follow the Nazareth Area School District for delays and closings in case of inclement weather. If the NASD closes for the day, the Church Office will be closed and all afternoon/evening activities for children and youth will be cancelled. Evening committee meetings will be at the discretion of the chairperson. If the NASD has a 2-hour delay, the Church Office will open at 10:00 a.m. and the afternoon/evening activities will be held as scheduled unless you are otherwise notified. In general, weekend worship services will NOT be cancelled due to weather, but please use your best judgment when deciding whether or not to join us — your safety is our utmost concern.





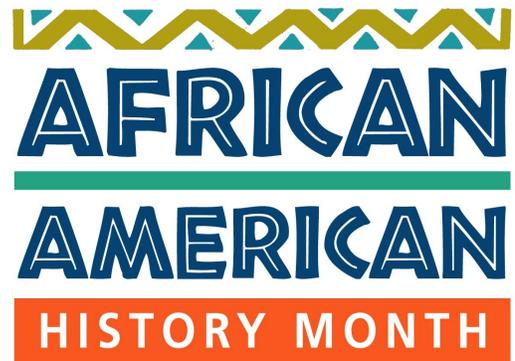
*Let us have faith that right makes might,
and in that faith let us to the end dare to
do our duty as we understand it.*

— Abraham Lincoln



GROUNDHOG DAY ~ On February 2nd, the groundhog Punxsutawney Phil comes out of his burrow on Gobbler's Knob, in front of thousands of faithful followers from all over the world, to predict the weather for the rest of the winter. According to legend, if Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow, there will

be six more weeks of winter weather. If he does not see his shadow, there will be an early spring. The celebration of Groundhog Day began with the Germans, Pennsylvania's earliest settlers. They brought with them the legend of Candlemas Day, which states "For as the sun shines on Candlemas day, so far will the snow swirl in May." The settlers found that groundhogs were plentiful and were the most intelligent and sensible animal to carry on the legend of Candlemas Day. So the story goes, Punxsutawney Phil was named after King Phillip. Prior to being called Phil, he was called Br'er Groundhog. Punxsutawney held its first Groundhog Day in the 1800's. The first official trek to Gobbler's Knob made on February 2nd, 1887.



National African American History Month in February celebrates the contributions that African Americans have made to American history in their struggles for freedom and equality, and deepens our understanding of our Nation's history.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Civil Rights In America". The names of America's greatest advocates of social justice — Frederick Douglass, W. E. B. Du Bois, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Fanny Lou Hamer — are associated with the struggle for civil rights. The Association for the Study of African American Life and History has selected this theme to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and we invite all Americans and the global community to join us in exploring the history of equal rights for all.



SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Synod Assembly 2016 June 17-18

It's time to think about identifying your congregation's voting members for Synod Assembly 2016.

The assembly will take place at Allentown's PPL Center, at 7th and Hamilton Streets, from June 17 - 18.

(Folks from the planning groups who have visited the Center, come away excited about the venue.)

We will gather again under the theme: UNLEASHED FOR REFORMATION 2017.

The three host mission districts are already working on special hospitality ideas. The Worship Ministry Team is laying the groundwork for assembly worship; and an expanded God's Playground is envisioned by an enlarged planning group. Think about your congregation's ministry contribution to the Playground.

By the way, if you think you would like to take part in the planning process, contact the Synod Office at 610.266-5101.



Ziegels Union Church Mission Response Team

Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me." (Isaiah 6:8, NLT)

The Ziegels Union Church Mission Response Team was formed in 1999 in response to flooding in Del Rio, Texas. Since that first trip they have traveled to David, Kentucky (2001, 2002, 2003) and Camden, New York (2004, 2005, 2007, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015) to work with St. Vincent Mission and Cluster 13 Ministries. They also have served as a Disaster Relief Team to those who survived natural disasters such as Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy.

The Team has traveled to Port Charlotte, Florida, and to Biloxi, Mississippi where they served thirteen different times with Habitat for Humanity to help brothers and sisters in Christ rebuild their homes and lives. They also spent a great deal of time on Long Beach Island, New Jersey helping with storm cleanup and rebuilding. Presently they are planning a seventh trip to Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

In addition to the mission trips, the Team serves locally to help Ziegels' members and friends with storm cleanup, roof and home repair, as well as repairs and maintenance to the Church.

Lutheran Confessions for the 21st Century

The Rev. Dr. Karl Krueger will lead a workshop on Saturday, March 19 from 9:00 a.m. until noon at the Lutheran Center. The cost of this workshop is only \$10, and it is open to any lay person in our synod. For more information and to register please contact the Rev. Mary Gade at 610-266-5101.



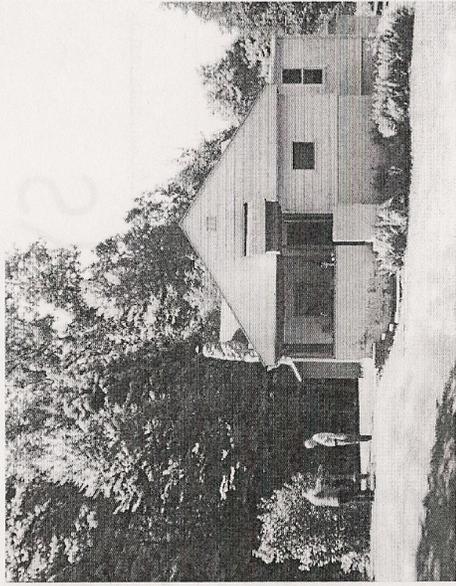
Dr. Krueger describes the workshop:

"The 16th and 21st centuries have one thing in common; both experienced a

communication revolution. In the 16th century it was brought about by the invention of moveable type; in the 21st by advances in the Internet, Google, and the advent of Facebook.

"Lutheran Reformers used the printing press in the 16th century to spread their message of reform in German-speaking territories and beyond. Today, we can open our web browser, type in the name of a church or church related organization, and within seconds read about their mission. So what's OUR mission? How do we talk about our faith? What makes us unique?"

"Lutheran Confessions for the 21st Century" is a workshop that explores our mission by examining our Lutheran heritage, its key documents, and the insights of our predecessors for our work today. It's practical and a great way to prepare for the upcoming 500th Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017."



A Cabin in the Woods

"Being unplugged." Does that sound like music to your ears? How about "cabin"? Want to jump into your comfy shirt? And then there is "the woods"? Does it make your inner Daniel Boone or Calamity Jane blink awake from drowsiness?

Some years ago the congregation of Zion (Spies) Evangelical Lutheran Church was blessed with both opportunity and means to purchase a parcel of forest land near the church, including a cabin.

Over the past two years, these woods and the cabin have become the Cabin in the Woods Retreat and Worship Center. It has space for about 12 people to stay overnight. We installed gas for cooking and to fuel a generator; and a crackling fire can be laid in an open fireplace, a stove, or outdoors for a BBQ or campfire. The woods, wide-open spaces, and an outdoor worship area invite exploration, games, and joyous contemplation of God's creation.

The cabin can be reached by a gravel driveway as well as by a walking path featuring stations of ecological and historical interest that can also be used for a walk of the Stations of the Cross.

The Cabin is close to the city of Reading and yet feels "away." We would love to share this blessing of an unplugged place with you! A free donation is welcome, but not expected. The Cabin in the Woods Retreat and Worship Center is open to groups and also clergy, desiring to unwind. Please note, though, that both the cabin and the outhouse (because of steps) are not yet handicapped accessible.

Interested? Please contact Zion (Spies) ELC, 310 Spies Church Road, Reading, PA 19606, 610-779-1181, zionspies@comcast.net.

Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101.
nepinfo1988@gmail.com; www.godslove.org

SERVING GOD IN FEBRUARY 2016

Please note the date you have been scheduled to serve. **Kindly find a replacement if you are unable to serve on your scheduled date, and notify the Church Office.** Contact the coordinator (in parenthesis) if you are unable to find someone to serve in your place. Sign-up books for Ushers, Nursery Attendants, Altar Flowers, Bulletin Sponsors, and CD Ministry Sponsors are found in the rear of the nave.

Date & Time of Service	GREETERS	ACOLYTES	LECTORS	USHERS
Feb. 6 - 7	5:30 p.m.	Donna Walters	Jayde Rizzotto	Charles Bonisese
	8:00 a.m.	Beverly & Wayne Fatebene Ashley & Jayde Rizzotto	Jordan Reuber	Karen Coleman
	10:45 a.m.	The Koch Family	Isaiah Eddings	Harry Smith
Feb. 13 - 14	5:30 p.m.	Barbara Smith	Adam Fatebene	Cindy Evanchio
	8:00 a.m.	Irene Tripp Kyle & Sue Roth	Maya Jamann	Suzan Andrews
	10:45 a.m.	Andrea Bickett Jim, Lynn & Rachel Shaffer	Patrick Garvey	Ray Wolfe, Jr.
Feb. 20 - 21	5:30 p.m.	Jennie Williams	Olivia Labar	Lenna Harris
	8:00 a.m.	Karen Miller Richard & Joanne Ressler	Elena Calantoni	Edith Brodt
	10:45 a.m.	Dan & Terry Lynch Steve & Denise Jedrejczyk	Joe Grusso	Ralph Brodt, III
Feb. 27 - 28	5:30 p.m.	Lee & Caroline Buss	Maya Evanchio	Steve Millheim
	8:00 a.m.	Richard & Shirley Kuhn Edith Brodt & Judy Vierzbicki	Madelyn Rex	Sharon Werner
	10:45 a.m.	Rita Hancaviz Maryellen Werkeheiser	Megan Hunter	Karlene Kipp



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 stjohnschurch@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 610-759-3090
jtaylor@stjohnsnaz.org
Assist. Organist/Choir Director:
Patrice A. Kidd 610-867-1330
Parish Administrative Assistant:
Linda Kasmakites stjohnschurch@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 - Susan Kelly
Evangelism - Sharon Werner
Helping Hands - Ralph Deyo
Love-A-Lot Nursery School - Wayne Vierzbicki
Personnel - Jackie Wolf
Property - Alan Butz, Joe Billy and
Wayne Vierzbicki
Social Ministry - Cathie Dara, Jackie Wolf
Stewardship - Ralph Deyo & Scott Little
Sunday School - Jaime Taylor
Worship & Music - Chris Andrews & 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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
	1 6:30 PM Property 7:00 PM Rebekah Circle	2 <i>Ground Hog Day</i> 9:00 AM Ladies Aid 4:00 PM JAM Sessions	3 9:30 AM Ruth Circle 12:00 PM Bible Study 5:00 PM Chalice Choir 6:15 PM Confirmation I & II 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM NA 7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band 7:30 PM Stewardship	4 6:00 PM Girl Scout #8220 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	5 4:00 PM Girl Scout #81078	6 <i>Transfiguration of Our Lord (white)</i> <i>Farewell to Alleluia</i> <i>Souper Bowl Sunday</i> <i>Capital Campaign Kickoff</i> 10:00 AM Festival Rehearsal 1:00 PM Curry Birthday Party 5:30 PM Worship w/Holy Comm.	
7 <i>Transfiguration of Our Lord (white)</i> <i>Farewell to Alleluia</i> <i>Souper Bowl Sunday</i> <i>Capital Campaign Kickoff</i> 8:00 AM Worship w/Holy Comm. Helping Hands/Love-A-Lot Fellowship Hour 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM New Member Class 10:45 AM Worship w/Holy Comm. Helping Hands/Love-A-Lot Fellowship Hour	8 6:30 PM WELCA Unit Bd. 6:30 PM History 7:00 PM Day Care Board	9 9:00 AM Ladies Aid 4:00 PM JAM Sessions 6:00 PM Women's Club 6:30 PM Sunday School	10 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Messinger Deadline 12:00 PM Bible Study 5:00 PM Chalice Choir 6:15 PM Confirmation I & II 6:15 PM Sr. High Youth Grp. 7:00 PM NA 7:30 PM <i>Ash Wed. Service</i>	11 6:00 PM Girl Scout #8220 6:15 PM Evangelism 6:30 PM Wom's Ensemble 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	12 9:30 AM Senior Brunch Gath. Cherry Hill Hotel	13 <i>First Sunday of Lent (purple)</i> 10:00 AM Festival Choir Rehearsal 1:00 PM Talent Show Previews 5:30 PM Holden Eve. Prayer Svc.	
14 <i>First Sunday of Lent (purple)</i> <i>Valentine's Day</i> 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School PJ Party 9:15 AM Women's Ensemble Reh. 9:15 AM Baptism Class 10:45 AM Worship/Reception of New Members: Genrich	15 <i>President's Day</i> Love-A-Lot Closed 7:00 PM Finance 8:00 PM Endowment	16 9:00 AM Ladies Aid 4:00 PM JAM Sessions 6:00 PM Talent Show Prev. 7:00 PM Helping Hands	17 12:00 PM Bible Study 5:00 PM Chalice Choir 6:15 PM Confirmation I & II 6:15 PM Sr. High Youth Grp. 7:00 PM NA 7:30 PM Mid-Wk Lenten Svc 8:30 PM Worship & Music	18 6:00 PM Girl Scout #8220 6:30 PM Festival Choir 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	19 No Scheduled Events Council Reports Due	20 <i>Second Sunday of Lent (purple)</i> 10:00 AM Philethia Choir 5:30 PM Worship w/Holy Comm.	
21 <i>Second Sunday of Lent (purple)</i> 8:00 AM Worship w/Holy Comm. 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Men's Chorale Reh. 10:45 AM Worsip w/Holy Comm. 12:30 PM Young Adults Bowling Holy Family Club	22 No Scheduled Events	23 9:30 AM Ladies Aid 4:00 PM JAM Sessions 6:30 PM Church Council	24 12:00 PM Bible Study 5:00 PM Chalice Choir 6:15 PM Confirmation I & II 6:15 PM Sr. High Youth Grp. 7:00 PM NA 7:30 PM Mid-Wk Lenten Svc	25 6:00 PM Girl Scout #8220 6:30 PM Men's Chorale 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	26 4:00 PM Girl Scout #81078	27 <i>Third Sunday of Lent (purple)</i> <i>Food Bank Weekend</i> 5:30 PM Worship w/Holy Comm. 6:30 PM Saturday Eve. Congregants Gathering	
28 <i>Third Sunday of Lent (purple)</i> <i>Food Bank Weekend</i> 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Congregational B'fast 9:15 AM Men's Chorale Reh. 10:45 AM Worship	29 <i>Leap Year Day!</i> No Scheduled Events						2016