

Exactly one week ago today on Flag Day, June 14, I was in South Carolina. My oldest son, Ben, who had spent many delightful South Carolina vacations there with his brother David, Carol and I, Ben brought for the first time, his wife Casie and daughters Clara and Brielle to the Grand Strand.

On Flag Day we all travelled southward to Surfside Beach to a water park called WATER-WINGS-& WHEELS. It was all quite spectacular: slides to thrill little ones and yet where parents and grandparents could catch them in their loving arms as they came off the slides.

As over the hours I stood in the water waiting to catch and embrace my granddaughters, I was surprised at how many males were not doing likewise. IT WAS ALMOST ENTIRELY FEMALE CATCHING AND SHOUTING ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE LITTLE ONES!

In this year as we have been exploring Luke's Gospel most Sundays, we have come to learn that like the children at the Surfside Beach Water Park – the work of Jesus was at least partially bankrolled by a group of women who travelled with him and his disciples.

Among them is a woman, Mary called Magdalene "from whom 7 demons had gone out." (Luke 8:2) Later tradition holds that Mary Magdalene was the daughter of the Canaanite woman who approached Jesus begging Him, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But Jesus replied, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire" and her daughter was healed instantly. (Matthew 15: 21-28).

It is said that after Jesus' resurrection, Mary Magdalene made a journey to the Emperor in Rome to lodge a complaint against Pontius Pilate for Jesus' cruel crucifixion. Subsequently Mary preached the Gospel in the Roman province of Gaul.

It is significant that women are so prominently portrayed in Luke's Gospel. In first Century Judaism, women were viewed somewhat askance. They were not allowed into the inner parts of the Temple, their precincts were between the "COURT OF ISRAEL" and the "COURT OF THE GENTILES" and they were treated like property in that patriarchal society. Some rabbis doubted women's ability to even learn the TORAH. Yet who is that brings the good news of Jesus resurrection BUT THE WOMEN.

Jesus treated women as persons deserving of honor and respect. He accepts their services and calls women His sisters in the household of God.

The Gospel writers pay close attention to events and relationships that mark Jesus as decidedly different from the public and official conventional wisdom of HIS day. The point is clearly being made that Jesus treated women as persons deserving of honor and respect and that the women showed gratitude and respect for His loving attention to their plight.

For all the faithful women
who served in days of old,
To you shall thanks be given;
to all, their story told.

They served with strength and gladness
in tasks YOUR wisdom gave.
To YOU their lives bore witness,
proclaimed YOUR pow'r to save.

ELW 419

The Reverend David B. Schaeffer

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.

- Jul. 2 - 3** 7th Sunday after Pentecost / Holy Communion at All Services / Fourth of July Weekend
- Jul. 9 - 10** 8th Sunday after Pentecost / Jerusalem Singers on Sunday
- Jul. 16 - 17** 9th Sunday after Pentecost / Holy Communion at All Services
- Jul. 23 - 24** 10th Sunday after Pentecost
- Jul. 30 - 31** 11th Sunday after Pentecost / Food Bank Weekend

- Aug. 6 - 7** 12th Sunday after Pentecost / Holy Communion at All Services
- Aug. 13 - 14** 13th Sunday after Pentecost / **Outdoor Worship on Sunday at the Park!!**
- Aug. 20 - 21** 14th Sunday after Pentecost / Holy Communion at All Services
- Aug. 27 - 28** 15th Sunday after Pentecost / Food Bank Weekend

Summer has begun – a time when many are on vacation. There are good reasons to take a vacation every year: spending time with friends and loved ones, experiencing physical and mental refreshment, enjoying changes in scenery and routine, and preparing for another year of productivity.

Please enjoy your vacation! Try to be faithful to the Lord by attending church while you're away, if you have the opportunity. And remember that during vacations and weekend getaways, you're especially missed by your friends here at St. John's.



So what needs to be remembered? Stewardship, for one thing. The bills also come in the summer, the church staff members need their salaries, on-going programs need support, the homeless still need to be fed, missionaries are still in the field, etc. The church must depend on each member doing his or her part on a regular basis. That is our responsibility and our privilege. **When you're away, please bring or send your offering before you go. Or sign-up for secure online giving through our website, so your offerings are not interrupted.**

We must also carry on our stewardship of service: We still need volunteers for greeters, acolytes, lectors, and ushers for our worship services; lining up teachers for Sunday School; help with the Summer Lunch Program, etc. We need talented people to work on special events such as Vacation Bible School, the Outdoor Worship service, and M.A.D. Camp.

God's work goes on all summer long. Your presence and gifts are needed to enable the church to be strong and vigorous throughout the entire year. Have a wonderful summer! And **THANK YOU** for your year-round faithfulness.



The music has been rehearsed, the funds have been raised, the itinerary has been set, and our Chalice Choir members are getting excited for their trip to Pittsburgh at the end of June. There will be opportunities for sightseeing, including a ride up the incline, a sunset cruise on the three rivers, time at the Carnegie Science Center, a visit to Point State Park, and a stop at the Flight 93 Memorial at Shanksville along the way. Despite these wonderful moments to be a tourist, our daily experiences of sharing music with strangers will be the main purpose and highlight of our journey.

On our first day we settle in at the Gilmary Retreat Center, the place we will call home for 3 nights, and then head off to Steubenville, Ohio. There we will visit and tour the Urban Mission, a non-profit, faith community that provides food, shelter and other essential services to the low income population of the Ohio Valley. Founded in 1959, the agency began as a place of refuge between shifts for the local steel workers. Once the mills began to shut down, the Mission reached out to the entire community that was hurting from severe economic decline. Since that time facilities have grown and ministries have expanded, including a Saturday evening worship service for those served by the agency, called "Mission Rejoice," where our Chalice Choir will participate through their gift of music.

Sunday morning we rise early to travel to Allison Park where we sing for the worship service at Nativity Lutheran Church. The adult chaperones will especially look forward to seeing and hearing Rev. Scott Kuechenmeister Hall, a former Assistant Pastor at St. John's who now serves as pastor at Nativity. Enjoying breakfast after the service with members of the congregation will certainly be a highlight.

Lutheran Senior Life is an organization sponsored by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America that provides services to older adults through senior living communities and through health and wellness facilities throughout western Pennsylvania. Under the umbrella of Lutheran Senior Life, the Passavant Community in Zelienople is a retirement community that offers all levels of assistance, from independent living to skilled nursing care. The generous invitation to the Chalice Choir for lunch in their private dining room is a sign of their gracious hospitality and kindness. After our meal, the youth will present a musical program in their brand new chapel.

On Tuesday, the final day of the trip, the Chalice Choir will again perform for seniors served by Lutheran Senior Life. This time it will be at LIFE Beaver County in Aliquippa. Meaning "Living Independence for the Elderly," LIFE Programs are an innovative health plan that provides care and services that allow seniors to live safely in their homes, while at the same time transports them to the LIFE facility where they spend several hours a day having their medical, functional and social needs met. Following our concert there, we travel to Heinz Chapel on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh for a tour and the opportunity to sing in the chapel's magnificent and glorious space—a perfect ending to what we hope will be a meaningful and rewarding journey for the Chalice Choir members.

By the time you read this, our trip will have concluded, but the memories will still linger on in the minds of our youth choir. We thank the members of Saint John's, the Endowment Committee, the Quilters, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and everyone else who supported our fundraising efforts throughout this past year and helped to make this trip a reality. In early July we'll be sharing pictures and remembrances of our trip during our worship services to give you a glimpse of our travels and experiences. Hope to see you in church!

Grace and peace,
Janice Butz, Minister of Music

THE JERUSALEM SINGERS will be our guest choir at worship on Sunday, July 10, 9:00 a.m.

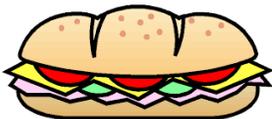
Once again, the Jerusalem Singers will sing for worship at St. John's! This choral ensemble was organized in 1996 as a non-profit, volunteer choral organization committed to the performance of both traditional and contemporary classical music with Christian texts. Founded and directed by Pete Deshler, music teacher and choral director at Easton Area High School, this a cappella vocal ensemble travels during the summer months to churches throughout the Lehigh Valley. St. John's is fortunate to be among the churches they visit, and we again look forward to their participation in our worship service on Sunday, July 10. In addition to offering their musical gifts, they are also dedicated to public service and seek to raise funds for a worthy cause. A special freewill offering will be taken that morning to benefit the Nazareth Area Food Bank on their behalf. Join us for worship to be inspired by the beauty of their music!



Support the Chalice Choir!

Here are additional ways that you can support the Chalice Choir in their upcoming trip to Pittsburgh:

Thrivent Choice. If you are a member of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, you may be aware of the program for you to recommend where Thrivent's charitable outreach funds are directed. Consider designating these funds to the Chalice Choir. All you need do is to inform Bonnie Mertz, our financial secretary, of your wishes. Contact her at 610-759-3090 or at financialsec@rcn.com.

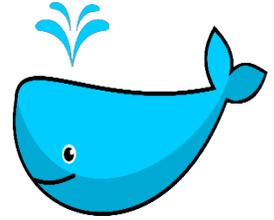


Hoagie Coupons. Coupons for hoagies from Ressler's Market on Main Street will continue to be sold for \$4.00 each on Sunday mornings in the Shepherd's Room. Proceeds will benefit the Chalice Choir's trip to Pittsburgh.

M.A.D. CAMP 2016

A summer program of Music, Art, &
Drama for children
featuring the musical

Oh, Jonah!



What is it? M.A.D. Camp is an outlet for children to enjoy music, games, arts and crafts, in a fun and relaxed setting. Our focus will be on singing, designing scenery, creating costumes, and working on props for a kids' musical "Oh, Jonah!" based on the Biblical story of Jonah and the whale. We will have a whale of a good time as the story of the prophet Jonah is brought to life with music, mime, and merry-making. Speaking parts, pantomimed roles, singing for the whole cast, and assisting with scenery and props are among the assignments. Children entering 1st through 8th grade are invited to participate. Our end product will be a special musical gift that will be presented at the fall stewardship dinner on Saturday evening, November 5, and repeated for the Sunday School children the next morning at 9:15 a.m. Additional practices will be scheduled later in the fall. We hope your child can join us for this one-week commitment.

When is it? August 8-12, Monday through Friday, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church. Please return the registration form to Janice Butz at the church office by **TUESDAY, AUGUST 2**.

Questions? Contact Janice Butz at the church office, 610-759-3090.

REGISTRATION FORM

M.A.D. CAMP—AUGUST 8-12, 2016

CHILD'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

GRADE NEXT FALL: _____ BIRTHDATE: _____ ALLERGIES: _____

PARENT'S NAME: _____

OPTIONAL FOR PARENTS: *Please check if you would be interested in assisting with any of the following:*

Transportation

Snacks for one day during the week

Costumes

Scenery and props



A Message from the Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Our summer programming is in full swing!

Vacation Bible School was held from June 13 – 17th. We had 60 children registered, 20 youth volunteers, and 9 adult helpers. The week went very well! The theme was Cave Quest: Following Jesus – The Light of the World. We learned that Jesus is with us at all times, even in dark or scary places, and if we follow Him, we can light up the world!

From June 17 – 19th, 6 youth leaders represented our congregation at the Northeastern PA Synod Assembly and at the Lutheran Youth Fellowship Assembly.

We also have several events coming up!

On Tuesday, July 19th, we will be heading to Dorney Park and Wildwater Kingdom! Please meet in the Fellowship Hall at 8:30 am. Drivers will be needed. Rain date will be on Thursday, July 21st. Cost is \$25/youth. Please bring a towel, sunscreen, a packed lunch or money to purchase lunch there, and a change of clothes.

On Tuesday, August 2nd, we will be heading to Dutch Springs to use their Aqua Park, high ropes course, and climbing wall. Cost is \$20/youth. Rain date will be on Thursday, August 4th. Please bring a towel, sunscreen, a packed lunch or money to purchase lunch there, sneakers for the high ropes course and rock climbing wall, and a change of clothes.

M.A.D. (Music, Art, and Drama) Camp will be held from August 8th – 12th here at St. John's.

For registration or information, please see Rev. Janice Butz.

The Outdoor Worship service and breakfast will be held at Nazareth Borough Park on Sunday, August 14th.

As a reminder, Summer SHYG runs all summer, every Wednesday night from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm in the Youth Room. All youth who just finished grades 6 – 12 are encouraged to attend!

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

LOOKING AHEAD:

July 19: Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom. Any youth in grades 7 – 12 wanting to attend, please meet in the Fellowship Hall at 8:30 am. Youth entering 7th grade are also welcome! Cost is \$25/youth. Drivers will be needed. Rain date: July 21.

August 2: Dutch Springs. Any youth in grades 7 – 12 wanting to attend, please meet in the Dutch Springs parking lot at 9:30 am. Cost is \$20/youth. Youth entering 7th grade are also welcome! Rain date: August 4.

August 8 – 12: M.A.D. Camp.

August 14: Outdoor Worship Service at the Nazareth Borough Park.

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.

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

RAYMOND CHRISTMAN, JR.
August 28th
MHS - #2020
175 W. North St.
Nazareth, PA 18064



ARLENE HESS
August 30th
Gracedale Tower 10 A 31
2 Gracedale Ave.
Nazareth, PA 18064

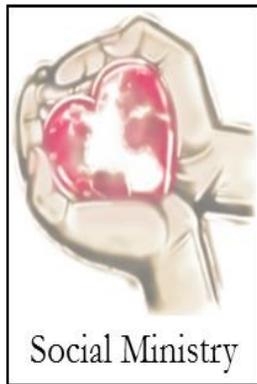
Correspondence...



Thanks, thanks and ever thanks to all who sent me a card in remembrance of my 90th birthday. You made my day a very special one. In Christian Love, June Hilbert

Support The Troops

Many thanks to all for your generosity and participation in helping make a success of our drive to support our military in Afghanistan. Sixteen boxes were sent the beginning of June and should have reached there by the time you read this. If anyone is interested in sending boxes at other times the address is: ANYSOLDIER.COM Just follow the directions on the screen. Again, many thanks to the youth group for helping with the packing, to WELCA for the cards which were enclosed and to all for helping our troops know of our appreciation for their service to our country. The Social Ministry Committee.



The **Social Ministry Committee** is collecting donations of yarn for a project benefiting The CHEMO BAG . These bags are filled with items that someone can use while physically sitting in an infusion chair. However, Chemo is not just about the infusion, it's also about the time afterwards, the time when a person feels their worst. Items they can take home that will bring them comfort in the days following an infusion are greatly appreciate. Our contribution is to knit caps and lap blankets. It takes 3 skeins of yarn to make the lap blankets. If anyone is interested in participating in this very important endeavor please leave your name and phone number with the church office and we'll get back to you with the details. The yarn donation bin is located in the Fellowship Hall.



LADIES AID is available to quilt your quilt tops. For more information, please contact Elda Mae 610-746-1397.

ATTENTION CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

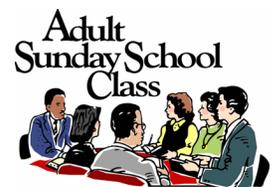
Please remember to continue Sunday school as well as other activities. In fact, our Sunday school Jr./Sr. High Department includes grades 7 – 12. There is plenty for you to do after you are confirmed. Sunday school needs assistance with the Sunday School Closing (June 12 this year), SHYG (Sr. High Youth Group) meets every Wednesday evening, we need new interns every year to assist with younger Sunday school grades, and we need YOU!

Sunday School Department

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.



USHERS ARE NEEDED! Please contact Christina Brodt to put your name on the volunteer list. Ushering is a great way for families to serve together. **Contact Christina Brodt**, Ushers Coordinator, at **610-653-0358** or **krabbymom@hotmail.com**.

Thank you for participating in this very important aspect of our worship services.

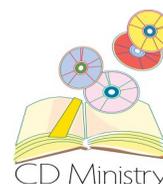
PRAYER CHAIN ~ We pray that you will think of us when you have need for prayer.



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.

SPONSORS FOR ALTAR FLOWERS, THE BULLETIN AND THE CD MINISTRY ARE NEEDED!



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

(through the first week of September)

Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Friday 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



FOOD BANK WEEKEND:

July 30th & 31st

August 27th & 28th



The Nazareth Area Food Bank needs to replenish its supply of

JULY: rice-a-roni, pasta, cereal, one dish meals; and AUG: cereal, peanut

butter, canned fruit, canned vegetables,

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.



There will be no coffee hour during the summer (except July 17). Coffee hour will resume after Rally Day once we are back to two services on Sunday.

Helping Hands 2016 Mission Trip

Ocean County, NJ! Please join us!



There are Hurricane Sandy projects that still need to be completed. The location is rather

close by so please consider helping us even for a day or two. We can always use an extra hand. Lodging is provided. We will have use of a kitchen, but we need to provide our own food and we need someone to volunteer to be our cook for the group of 10 - 13 people. We leave on Sunday, July 24th and return on Saturday, July 30th. Interested? Have questions? Contact Gail Price 610-704-8736 or Keith Shook 610-533-6446.

Newsletter

DEADLINE

The deadline for all submissions for the September 2016 issue of THE MESSENGER is:

Wednesday, August 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.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM



The Nazareth Ministerium is sponsoring a Summer Lunch Program for children and youth in the Nazareth Area School District. St. John's has signed up to participate **August 15, 16 and 19**. We need 4 - 6 volunteers for each day from approx. 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to prepare bag lunches in the kitchen at Nazareth Moravian Church (on the circle) and to bring them one block to the park at the corner of Church & Center Sts. where they will be handed out to the children. Please call Susan Kelly at 610-746-2231 to volunteer.

MILLER KEYSTONE BLOOD DRIVE



MILLER-KEYSTONE
BLOOD CENTER

The Health Ministry Team of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is sponsoring a Blood Drive on

Thursday, August 25, 2016 from 2:00- 7:00 p.m. The Miller-

Keystone Blood Mobile will be in the Fellowship Hall which is accessed from the Prospect Street entrance. The reserves in the blood bank are critically low during the summer, yet the blood needs of area hospitals often intensify during this time. Please call the Church Office at 610-759-3090 to schedule and appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome. Schedule your blood donation today and give the gift of life!

***Please join us for St. John's annual Outdoor
Worship Service, followed by a Catered Breakfast!***

**Sunday, August 14th at 9:00 a.m.
Nazareth Borough Park Pavilion**

Have a Special Need ~ Just Ask!

Special Needs Provided for:

Parking

Walkers

Easy Seating for Meal

Table Service

Please Bring Your Lawn Chair for the Church Service.

Please R.S.V.P. by Sunday, August 7th

Outdoor Worship Service/Catered Breakfast

*Please respond by Sunday, August 7th to the Church Office or by
placing this slip in the offering plate.*



I/We will attend St. John's Outdoor Worship & Breakfast:

Name: _____

_____ # Adults (age 11 and up; \$8.00 each)

_____ # Children (age 6-10; \$3.00 each)

_____ # Children (age 0-5; free)

***Prices listed above are suggested donations.
These donations can be made Sunday at breakfast.***

RALLY DAY

CHURCH SERVICE BACKPACK BLESSING FOR ALL SERVICES RALLY DAY WEEKEND

SEPTEMBER 11, 2016



Come join us at **SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY 2016... September 11 @ 9:15 AM in Fellowship Hall; Mock Turtle Marionette Theater will assist in welcoming everyone back to Sunday School!**

Rally Day will begin in Fellowship Hall; kicking off the Sunday School Year of 2016-17, and then dismissals to new classrooms will proceed. The Sunday School's Spark curriculum follows the lectionary throughout the church year.

Please join us on *Rally Day* and every Sunday morning thereafter @ 9:15 AM. Sunday School will be held in the classrooms every week following September 11. We need **YOU** to make all of this happen!

We have Sunday School for **ALL** Ages. We have two Adult Sunday School classes to choose from; all begin @ 9:15 AM. Come to *Rally Day* to find out more.

We can't wait to see you again!!

We are also having a Backpack Blessing for all teachers and school students at all church services (5:30 PM, 8:00 AM & 10:45 AM) on September 10 and September 11, respectively. This event is our third year. Bring your school backpack and find out how a backpack can be blessed!

Remember....Fellowship Hall @ 9:15 AM on September 11, 2016

Check Your Mail Closer to Rally Day for Rally Day Postcard



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.

JULY SPECIAL OFFERING:

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

A program of the Nazareth Ministerium, the Summer Lunch Program provides a bagged lunch for the children, youth, and seniors living in our community. Volunteers from churches and service organizations prepare the lunches weekdays for 10 weeks during the summer. All donations in the July Special Projects envelopes will go toward this worthy cause.

AUGUST SPECIAL OFFERING:

MEDIA MINISTRY

The Media Ministry takes care of all of the church's audio/visual needs for the worship services, special concerts, and other events. In addition, they provide a weekly recording of the 8:00 a.m. worship service on CD for our shut-ins. Offerings received in the August Special Projects envelopes will support this crucial ministry team.

FAMILY CONTACT INFORMATION ~ We are updating our files. Please make sure the Church Office has your current contact information! If your address, phone number or email address has changed, please contact the Church Office at 610-759-3090 or stjohnschurch@rcn.com.

PASTORAL ACTS



Received in the month
of
May 2016

EVELYN SHANKWEILER

Ann Reichard



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 May 2016:

CHARLES F. SCHULTZ

May 22nd

MARGARET A. KELLOW

May 25th

Graduation Announcement



Jilian Margaret Keller graduated from Penn State University, Smeal Business College on Sunday May 8th with a Bachelors degree in Spanish as well as a Bachelors and Masters degree in Accounting.

Jilian is presently preparing for her CPA exam and has accepted a position with the prestigious KPMG in Manhattan, NY as an International Tax Accountant. While in college, Jilian studied abroad in Spain two semesters, was on the Finance Team and served as Finance Captain for "Thon", a member of the Smeal Sapphire Club, one of 16 singers in the award winning A Cappella group "The Pennharmonics" and also a member of Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity which she received the William E. Westerdahl Scholarship. Jilian is presently employed by "Chrome" in State College



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 June 2016:

MADISON RILEY FENSTERMAKER

Daughter of Mark & Samantha (Andregic) Fenstermaker

Born: June 6, 2015

Baptized: Saturday, June 11, 2016

SETH WILLIAM HAUZE

Son of Jesse & Sarah (Bucchi) Hauze

Born: June 8, 2015

Baptized: Sunday, June 12, 2016



We celebrate with those listed below who entered into the holy estate of matrimony according to God's ordinance in June 2016:

**JAMIE LYNN DEWALT &
BRADLEY WAYNE MOULTON**

June 3rd



We gladly received the following new member into the family and fellowship of St. John's congregation in the month of June 2016:

SAMANTHA FENSTERMAKER

June 11th



The Church Office will be **CLOSED** on Monday, July 4th in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

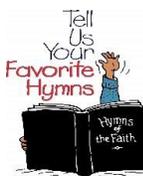
*Have a Safe & Happy
4th of July!*



From the Staff at St. John's:
Pastor Schaeffer
Pastor Butz
Jaime Patrice
Linda Bonnie
Gary, Tony, Dean & Ray



America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand ~
Author: H.S. Truman



“TIME TO SING” ~ If you wish to make a hymn suggestion for our summer “Time to Sing,” please fill out a favorite hymn card at the rear of the nave. All hymn choices must be included in our current Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal and the hymn # must also be indicated on the card. Place completed cards in the “Favorite Hymn Organ.” Each Sunday a card will be randomly selected and then sung during our worship service. We look forward to your participation!



SEXTON CORNER

HELLO TO ALL! Summer is **HERE!!!**

We are still planning the projects to begin this summer. Several of these are a part of the Capital Campaign, others are carry over from last year, and some are new.

We now have three members who are providing service to St. John's. Our goal 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 the help to achieve our goals.

Concrete work for #36 and #38 Prospect St. has been completed.

A contract was signed to begin restoration of the Shepherd's Room stained glass window on June 20th. The electrical upgrade for lighting has been completed for the window. Restoration of the red doors will begin the week of June 20th, weather permitting. And, we are in the process of obtaining bids for the paving of the parking lot with the hope of starting that project soon.

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

The Sextons, sextons@rcn.com



Love-A-Lot Nursery School



Although school is not in session for the summer, we are accepting registrations for September. The 3yo class meets Tuesday/Thursday and the 4yo class meets Monday/Wednesday/Friday. (Note: At the time of this writing, there are a limited number of spots for the 4yo class; there are openings left in our 3yo class.) Both classes run from 9-11:30 am with an optional lunch bunch for the 4yo class that runs 11:30-1pm. For more information, please call (484-293-0720) or email (LoveALotNurserySchool@yahoo.com) the school. (Both voicemail and email are checked on a regular basis throughout the summer months.)

NEWS FROM THE DAYCARE JULY/AUGUST 2016

The classrooms are enjoying another busy summer here at the daycare center. Everyone has been spending lots of time outside with picnics at the park and water play in the courtyard. The students are also enjoying visits from the ice cream truck and are looking forward to our annual butterfly rearing project. Even though it is summer the learning doesn't stop and many of the classrooms will be learning about sea creatures, insects, and independence day.

On Friday, August 12th the daycare will have our annual art show. This year the classrooms are having lots of fun with an around the world theme. Please join us any time between 6:00 and 8:00 pm to see the creativity of our students.

For those of you who help us collect Campbell's labels, the company is ending their labels for education program. Thank you to everyone who has helped us with our collection over the years. Each year we do try to help another organization. This year the students and their families are going to be collecting for the Lehigh Valley Zoo's Jingle for Giraffes. If you would like to help contribute we will have donation jars in each of our classrooms or contact the daycare.

We would like to thank helping hands with their assistance with painting our preschool and pre-k classrooms. It is very much appreciated!

Our program provides care for children 6 weeks through school age from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm. Our preschool 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

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!



Stewardship Program – “Fearless Generosity”

The Stewardship Ministry Team has chosen a new program for this year which is closely aligned with the theme of the Capital Campaign. We begin by sharing the basis of this program and the foundation on which our generosity is built.

In Ephesians 3:20-21, Paul writes a prayer of praise to God to encourage the Church at Ephesus to continue in their path of following Christ. **“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.”** Paul is referring to God’s generosity! A generosity that causes us to put our trust and our commitment in our God who promises to provide for our needs. A generosity that surpasses our comprehension. This prayer is also a wrap-up to Paul’s narrative of God’s abundant grace, majestic power, and overflowing love.

In Ephesians 6:19-20, Paul writes, **“Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that 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.”**

In these two readings from Ephesians, Paul has given us the two main components of our Stewardship theme and our Capital Campaign – **GENEROSITY** and **FEARLESSNESS**. He also gives credit accordingly to God who has set the examples of generosity for us to follow, and the encouragement to follow those examples without fear.

Marcia Shelter, Executive Director/CEO of the Ecumenical Stewardship Center writes, “The power of God within us is our resource to dispel our fears and accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, knowing that the reason for all that we do is to honor and glorify God.”

For the remainder of this year, we will explore the four sub-themes and additional scripture texts:

“Fearless Living”; Genesis 1 & 2
“Fearless Service”, Luke 4: 16-21
“Fearless Sowing”, Mark 4: 1-9
“Fearless Giving”, Luke 21: 1-4

Shelter also writes: “The measure of our Stewardship includes how we **live** (our relationship to creation), how we **serve** (our care of those in need), how we **sow** (our willingness to respond to God’s call), and how we **give** (how we manage the blessings God has given to us).”

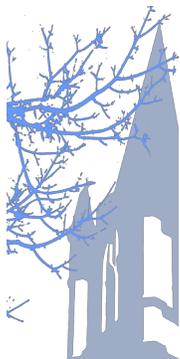
Using us as willing vessels, God through the Holy Spirit is at work within us. In your personal prayers and as you gather in fellowship with others, please remember to invite God’s guidance throughout this special emphasis. May Paul’s prayer for the Church at Ephesus be our prayer as we begin this exciting time of exploring how God is calling us to be fearless givers, and fearless stewards, as individuals and as a community of faith.

Blessings to you as you practice Fearless Generosity!

Portions of this article are taken from NIV Study Bible: 2005 and Ecumenical Stewardship Center program materials, 2014.

FEARLESSLY COLLABORATING WITH GOD

"I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador." Ephesians 6:19-20



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 AMBASSADOR 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 and Karen Landis

Spiritual Life

When I look back over my life, certain events have presented themselves to me that allow me to declare my faith in unexpected ways. Years ago, I never would have thought to say more than thank you when strangers or family members have done me a favor or showed me kindness. But now, I find myself saying "Peace be with you" in response. Most are startled but in that moment I feel the presence of God and a smile comes across their face. Age, size, race matters not, it's a connection with someone else and my gift to them.

The nail tech asked me about my religious life, my church, what do you say when you pray, what is a hymn, etc. She's Asian and has no knowledge about what it means to be a Christian. I answered her questions as best I could and left the shop saying "Peace Be With You", and she smiled and thanked me.

I have said "Peace Be With You" when comforting people who are ill or dealing with a death in their family. Yes, I will fearlessly make known the word of God and continue speaking up. My church and my faith are guiding principles in my life and I plan on spreading the joy.

"Peace Be With You!"

Anonymous



Spiritual Life

Ever since the capital campaign began, I told myself I would reflect on my life and a time when the word of God had most moved me. Over and over in my life, I have known that without God and His word, there was no hope. And yet I couldn't seem to sit down and put my thoughts on paper. On May 22, as I listened to the Mass in G by Franz Schubert, I knew what I wanted to say. The music started the ball rolling in my head. I had so many mixed feelings. I was instantly saddened thinking of all the time and efforts put into making this special music happen, and yet so few church members were attending to enjoy and reflect upon it. Suddenly, however, my sadness turned to joy. Joy, in my heart, thinking about that music and what it meant to me. That so many years have gone by, and yet we are still celebrating our Lord with the music created by a composer from so long ago. With voices and instruments, will and desire, and such talented guidance from our music directors, I was so very much moved and proud to have them be part of St John's. Without music, there would be something missing from our worship.

As the service progressed into the sermon, I knew that today, I would go home, with not only a scripture, but something too important not to mention.

Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Every word of this scripture is so very important to me. If we truly believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, no matter how we suffer, what we suffer, or how long we suffer, it will pass, and we will be refreshed with God's love mentioned at the very end of this scripture. That love is being poured into our hearts, every day, but so often we aren't even aware of it. Today, I was reminded of one of the most important ways the Holy Spirit moves into our hearts, and that is with music. I cannot count the number of times I have sat in my pew, listening to the meaningful music and words presented by our choir. Whether I am happy, sad, angry, or worried, the music and voices have a way of bringing me to tears and making things right.

I have read that the power of music and its connection to our brain are not yet fully understood, but research shows that songs and music can have an effect on memory, and our emotions. It's called the Mozart effect because of results of participants who listened to Mozart's Sonata for Two Pianos in D major. The study proves that those who listen to music have improved their reasoning skills and do better on tests. Today, music is used to help patients with Alzheimer's disease, and many have seen surprising results. Some regain the ability to speak after listening to songs from their past. Does it not make sense, then, that music would enhance our worship in so many ways? It helps us remember our past, and our loved ones. It calms our fears and brightens our spirits. It can soften our moods when we are angry, and more than anything, it reinforces the words of scripture. God meant for us to have music in our lives so that He could pour His love into our hearts!

So today, I am thankful for the dedication of the choir members, instrumentalists, our fine organ, and especially for the direction of our music leaders. Without them I am sure, there would be something missing from our worship service. What better way for the Holy Spirit to pour God's love into our hearts, help us through difficult times, and set us back on track at the beginning of each week.

Yours in Christ,
Jocelyn Starner

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
May 25, 2016

PRESENT: Stephen Bajan II, Joe Billy, Alan Butz, Rev. Janice Butz, Cathie Dara, Ralph Deyo, Billy Garrison, Rev. David Schaeffer, Jocelyn Starnier, Wayne Vierzbicki, Sharon Werner, Jackie Wolf

ABSENT: Chris Andrews, Craig Dally, Scott Little, Jaime Taylor

DEVOTIONS: Joe Billy led with a prayer

MINUTES: The Minutes of the April 27, 2016 meeting were reviewed and stand as written. Alan Butz made a motion to accept the minutes with Cathie Dara – 2nd. Council approved.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Thank you from Stewardship
Nathan Grube will make breakfast for Aug. 14 – Outdoor Worship Service
Meals on Wheels – Will no longer drop off containers at St. John's.

PASTOR SCHAEFFER'S REPORT:

Children's Music Sunday was terrific, great music!
Met with Janice Butz and High School Class officers and leaders to plan the 2016 Baccalaureate Service.
Nine people were confirmed on May 15 followed by a luncheon for families in the Fellowship Hall.
May 17-18 – Attended the National Conference on Preaching in Centreville, VA. Attended a workshop on ministering to Millennials and Generation Z. Attended a Bible Study on Philemon. Luther set the fundamentals.

REV. JANICE BUTZ REPORT:

Church Music Sunday was a wonderful part of our worship experience. All choirs did a great job.
Chalice Youth Choir held a bake sale as a fundraiser for Pittsburgh trip.
Pete Deshler brought the Easton High Chamber Singers on May 7 to beautifully enhance worship.
Rehearsed with Love-A-Lot children in preparation for their graduation on May 20.
Festival Choir sang *Mass in G* by Franz Schubert on

church Music Sunday. Soloists were Carol Bene and Kyle Gombosi.

June 4-5, 2016 – Roosevelt Credit will be here to worship with us.

June, 2016 – Plans are underway for the youth choir trip to Pittsburgh and Steubenville, OH.

Jaime Taylor - DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES REPORT: Complete as written:

June 13 –17 – Preparing for VBS at St. John's.

June 17 –19 – LYF Assembly at Muhlenberg College.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Stephen Bajan II, reported:

April rent for 36 E. Prospect Street has not been paid.
Don Himler drafted a letter that will inform new members of the financial structure of the church. A letter will be included in the Messenger along with the 2nd quarter finance statement.

Harry Unangst resigned from the Finance Committee.

COLUMBARIUM: Pastor Schaeffer reported.

Flags were put out by County Veterans.

DAY CARE: Pastor Schaeffer reported:

Security Doors were discussed

ENDOWMENT: Stephen Bajan II, reported:

Requests from organizations for financial support will be given out in the Fall.

Request from Jackie Wolf and Alan Butz to attend the Synod Assembly - Education account.

Request from Janice Butz for an honorarium for Roosevelt Credit – Youth account.

Request from Janice Butz for an honorarium for the five string instrumentalists – Outreach account.

Request from Jaime Taylor for six youth to attend LYF Assembly at Muhlenberg College – Youth Account.

EVANGELISM: Sharon Werner reported:

Confirmation & New Member bags were made up.

Coffee Fellowship after the 9:00 service was discussed.

Evangelism will take the month of June.

HELPING HANDS: Ralph Deyo reported:

June 7 & June 9 – Keith Shook will schedule two days for painting in downstairs nursery.
July 16 – Nazareth Days – Meatball Sandwiches and walking tacos will be discussed.
July 24 – 30 – Summer trip will be to NJ. Monmouth & Ocean counties. Houses are low income. Discussed tool storage in van.

LOVE-A-LOT: Wayne V. reported:

4 year old class is now full for 2016/2017 school year. Will advertise in The Key for 3 year olds.
Graduation was held in the Fellowship Hall. Sextons did an amazing job!

LUTHER LEAGUE: Billy Garrison reported:

June 1 – Packing boxes for the military.
June 13 – 17 – St. John's VBS
June 17-19 – LYF Assembly.

PERSONNEL: Pastor Schaeffer reported:

Thank you to Susan Kelly and Nancy Little for the Staff Luncheon.

PROPERTY: Alan Butz reported:

Femenella will do one window in the Shepherd's Room. Lights were installed to shine on Shepherd's window. Concrete work by Justin Buck Masonry and the pointing and plastering will follow by Grube Brothers. 3 quotes from contractors will be contacted for repaving the parking lot. This will come from Capital Campaign.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: Cathie Dara reported:

Informational St. John's cards will be kept in the office hallway for anything that goes out from St. John's.

STEWARDSHIP: Ralph Deyo reported:

2016 Stewardship Theme – "Fearless Generosity"
Aug. 9y – Council Picnic will be at Susan Kelly's house.
Aug. 14 – Outdoor Worship Service at Nazareth Borough Park

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Complete as written:

June 12 – Sunday School closing.
June 13-17, 2016 - VBS

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Jocelyn Starner reported:

Altar Guild – White paraments - Jocelyn will have them dry cleaned.
June 5 – Fellowship Hour after both services. Cinctures were discussed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Campaign update: Money has been deposited.
Discussion regarding windows on parking lot side.
2016 Fee Schedule – Outside Groups – Jaime will give a report.
May 19 – Mission District Assembly – 40 people attended at Emmanuelsville. 9 Pastors are in transition. Pastor Lori Kochanski gave a report. Billy Garrison reported on the Resolution about Human Trafficking and ELCA World Hunger.
Aug. 9 – Church Council Picnic at Susan Kelly's home. Need help with set up and breakdown.
Aug. 14 – Outdoor worship & catered breakfast.
Aug. 15 - Summer Lunch Program – St. John's contact is Susan Kelly.
Need Council Rep for Day Care Committee.
June 17-18 – Jackie Wolf and Alan Butz will attend the NE Penn Synod Convention at the PPL Center – Allentown.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sept. 10 – 11 - Blanket Sunday
Sept. 17 - 18 – Blanket Sunday
Choir Loft – Make sure choir members get served communion.
Sept 14 - Billy Garrison ship date. Pastor Schaeffer gave him a nice speech.

Building Use Requests:

June 26 – Lenna Harris - WELCA – Indoor Picnic
Aug. 13 – Lenna Harris – WELCA – Synod Planning Meeting
Oct. 8 – Lisa Todd – St. John's Day Care – Training
Sept. 11 – Love-A-Lot – Parent Meeting/Open House
Dec. 10 – Lenna Harris – WELCA – Mother/Daughter Tea
Motion by: Alan Butz, 2nd – Jocelyn Starner – Council approved.

Council President Jackie Wolf declared the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting: June 29 – 7:30 p.m.

Next Devotions: Scott Little

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Wallace

Recording Secretary

SERVING GOD IN JULY 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 of any changes.** Contact the coordinator (in parenthesis) if you are unable to find someone to serve in your place or if you'd like to volunteer to serve in one of these rewarding roles:

Date	Time of Service	GREETERS	ACOLYTES	LECTORS	USHERS
Jul 2	5:30 p.m.	Bill & Krista Hontz Maryellen Wertheiser (610-759-5191)	Maya Evancho Jaime Taylor/Church Office (610-759-3090)	Charles Bonisese Christina Brodt (610-653-0358)	Christina Brodt (610-653-0358)
Jul 3	9:00 a.m.	Youth	Jayde Rizzotto	Edith Brodt	4 Ushers Needed!
Jul 9	5:30 p.m.	Laurie Center	Nathaniel Rex	Cindy Evancho	
Jul 10	9:00 a.m.	Barry & Lois Morris, Judy Merola	Chiara Doolley	Diana Holva	4 Ushers Needed!
Jul 16	5:30 p.m.	Jennie Williams	Mackenzie McGovern	Harry Smith	
Jul 17	9:00 a.m.	Andrea Bickert, Amie Tracy Dara Family	Samantha Emmons	Eileen Angelino	4 Ushers Needed!
Jul 23	5:30 p.m.	Ludwig & Lujean Gocek	Adam Fatebene	Steven Millheim	
Jul 24	9:00 a.m.	Floyd & Betty Deardorff Joan Johnson	Cody Breidenbach	Sharon Werner	4 Ushers Needed!
Jul 30	5:30 p.m.	Radzelovage Family	Arielle Marcum	Charles Bonisese	
Jul 31	9:00 a.m.	Bonatz Family Mary Hillebrenner	Aaron Leopold	Karlene Kipp	4 Ushers Needed!

SERVING GOD IN AUGUST 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 of any changes.** Contact the coordinator (in parenthesis) if you are unable to find someone to serve in your place or if you'd like to volunteer to serve in one of these rewarding roles.

Date	Time of Service	GREETERS	ACOLYTES	LECTORS	USHERS
Aug 6	5:30 p.m.	Maryellen Werkheiser (610-759-5191)	Jaime Taylor/Church Office (610-759-3090)	Christina Brodt (610-653-0358)	Christina Brodt (610-653-0358)
Aug 7	9:00 a.m.	Laurie Center Youth	Daphney Adams Crystal Koch	Charles Bonisese Karen Coleman	4 Ushers Needed!
Aug 13	5:30 p.m.	Barry & Bonnie Boyer	Elizabeth Rakos	Cindy Evancho	
Aug 14	9:00 a.m.	Church Council Outdoor Service/Nazareth Borough Park	Bethany Daniels	Outdoor Service	Church Council Outdoor Service/Nazareth Borough Park
Aug 20	5:30 p.m.	Jennie Williams	Andrew Emmons	Steve Millheim	
Aug 21	9:00 a.m.	Dara Family Joan Johnson	Tim Garrison	Diana Holva	4 Ushers Needed!
Aug 27	5:30 p.m.	Ludwig & Lujean Gocek	Elena Calantoni	Charles Bonisese	
Aug 28	9:00 a.m.	Mary Hillebrenner Jean Master, Janice Drosnock	Jordan Reuber	Mat Benol	4 Ushers Needed!

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, Tony Petrillo, Dean Brodt &
Ray Wolfe, Jr. 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

SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA



Yes, we'll gather at the river!

On May 7, the Creation Care Task Force of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod sponsored a kayak and canoe trip down the Schuylkill River. 50 people from nine congregations around the Synod gathered along the river in Hamburg to connect with this historically significant body of water and live out our Baptismal calling to "care for the world God made."

Bishop Zeiser offered reflections on the river's importance to previous generations and encouraged the paddlers be open to how the trip would connect them to God. The Bishop then led a thanksgiving for Baptism at the water's edge just before the paddlers began their journey downriver to Leesport.

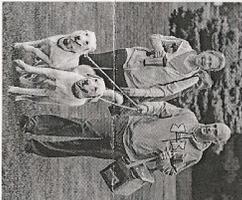
Those who remained behind on land sent the paddlers off with song and spent the rest of the morning reflecting on Genesis 1, playing games, and cleaning up trash along the river. It was an energizing day at the river, as we celebrated how God's gift of water sustains our life and vocation.



Bike for World Hunger

On Saturday, May 21, nearly one hundred participants of all ages – including spunky pups, Loki and Lucy – representing 19 NEPS congregations, were united for a single purpose as they biked, scootered, unicycled, jogged, and walked at the gorgeous Bob Rodale Cycling & Fitness Park in the Trexlertown area for the synod's 5th annual "Bike for World Hunger" event.

After receiving the official blessing from Bishop Zeiser, many wheels, feet, and hands headed for the macadam tracks inside the lush green fields, tall trees, and sprinkling of buttercups to start the trek of raising money to erase hunger for good.



Participants were especially motivated by the \$15,000 World Hunger challenge, a pledge from two generous individuals in our synod to match donations up to that amount collected by the time of Synod Assembly (June 17-18).

Many thanks to the World Hunger Task Force for organizing this event; to the Bishop for his tireless support; to those who raised monies through their dedicated efforts; to those whose hearts will be opened to give; and to all who will have a "wheelee" fun time joining us in the future.



Photos courtesy of Chip Bachman

IMAGINE YOURSELF... in the world!

YOUNG ADULTS IN GLOBAL MISSION

Luke Swanson

Young Adult in Global Mission

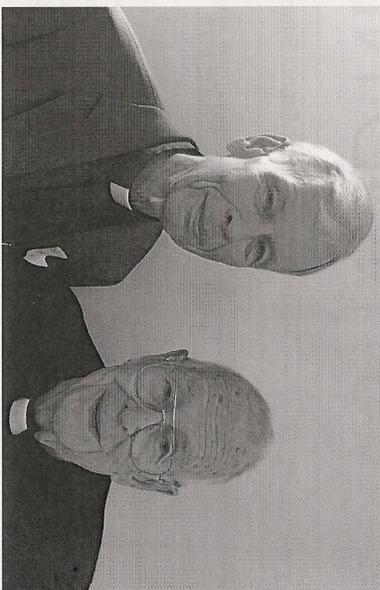
Luke Swanson, a member of St. Andrew's, Easton, son of Pastors Mark Swanson and Laura Csellak, has been called to serve as a Young Adult in Global Mission through the ELCA to serve in Argentina/Uruguay.

The program, for young adults between the ages of 21 and 29, allows for young Lutherans throughout the ELCA to be unleashed in the world, embracing and serving their neighbors through celebration of the Gospel, making God's story, our story.

Luke's experience will allow him to connect with our brothers and sisters in the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Argentina and Uruguay, a companion church of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

He is asked to raise \$4000 as a commitment to the global mission of the church. Congregations and individuals are welcome to join in this commitment. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact Luke at Lukeswanson9@gmail.com.

Anniversary Luncheon



The Rev. George P. Zacharda, Jr.

The Rev. Walton R. Horn

On Tuesday, May 24 the synod hosted a luncheon to celebrate major anniversaries of our rostered leaders. Two pastors celebrating the 50th anniversary of their ordination shared some remarks with the group. The Rev. Gilbert B. Furst, who retired in the Chicago area, submitted a video with his remarks.

Donate Online to Mission and Ministry

The synod has established an account with Varco Payment Solutions to provide the opportunity to donate online. You can donate to Mission Support, the Witness and Service Grant Program, the Student Education Fund (for rostered leader support), and Youth Event Scholarships.

You can also donate to Disaster Relief, both on the domestic and international level; and you can donate to World Hunger. You can even donate to a project that you designate.

The "Donate" button appears at the top of the synod website. You can also use the QR code shown here. Try it out!



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 2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101.
nepsinfo1988@gmail.com; www.godsllove.org

THE MESSENGER

Volume CLV VIII

“To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known”

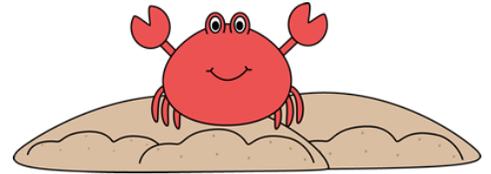
Issue No. 383

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July / August 2016

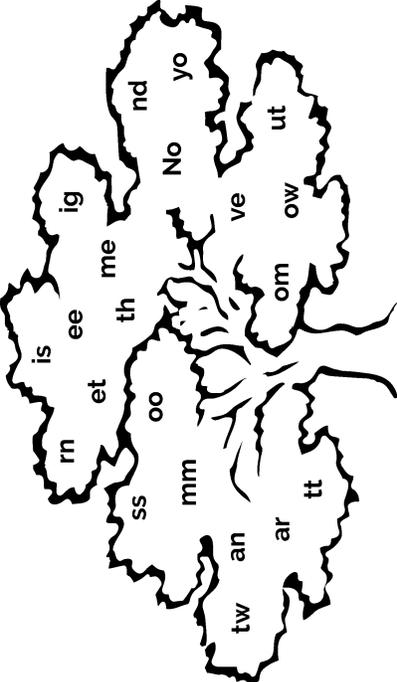




Signs of Summer

Jesus told his disciples that fig trees indicate when summer is approaching.

Directions: Complete the Bible verse below by placing the letter pairs from the tree into the correct blanks.



“ ___ w lea ___ th ___ le ___ on
fr ___ the f ___ tr ___: As s ___ n
as its ___ g ___ te ___ er ___ d
its lea ___ s co ___ o ___ u ___
kn ___ ___ at su ___ er is ne ___.”

Ma ___ hew 24:32, NIV

Answer: “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.”
Matthew 24:32, NIV

JULY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 <i>Seventh Week after Pentecost</i> 5:30 PM Worship w/HC
3 <i>Seventh Weekend after Pentecost</i> 9:00 AM Worship w/HC 10:15 AM NM / BAP Class	4 Independence Day Church Office Closed	5 9:00 AM Ladies Aid	6 6:00 PM Summer SHYG 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM NA 7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band	7	8	9 <i>Eighth Week after Pentecost</i> 5:30 PM Worship w/HC
10 <i>Eighth Week after Pentecost</i> 9:00 AM Worship with Jerusalem Singers	11 6:30 PM Social Ministry 6:30 PM Property	12 9:00 AM Ladies Aid 7:00 PM Helping Hands	13 6:00 PM Summer SHYG 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM NA 7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band	14	15	16 <i>Ninth Week after Pentecost</i> 5:30 PM Worship w/HC
17 <i>Ninth Week after Pentecost</i> 9:00 AM Worship w/HC	18	19 8:30 AM Luther League trip to Dorney Park 9:00 AM Ladies Aid	20 6:00 PM Summer SHYG 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM NA 7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band	21	22	23 <i>Tenth Week after Pentecost</i> 5:30 PM Worship w/HC
24 <i>Tenth Week after Pentecost</i> 9:00 AM Worship Helping Hands Trip	25 Helping Hands Trip	26 9:00 AM Ladies Aid Helping Hands Trip	27 6:00 PM Summer SHYG 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM NA 7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band Helping Hands Trip	28 Helping Hands Trip	29 Helping Hands Trip	30 <i>Eleventh Week after Pentecost</i> Food Bank Weekend 5:30 PM Worship w/HC Helping Hands Trip
31 <i>Eleventh Week after Pentecost</i> Food Bank Weekend 9:00 AM Worship						

AUGUST 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 6:30 PM Property	2 9:00 AM Ladies Aid 9:30 AM Luther League trip to Dutch Springs	3 6:00 PM Summer SHYG 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM NA 7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band	4	5 COUNCIL REPORT DEADLINE	6 <i>Twelfth Week after Pentecost</i> 5:30 PM Worship w/HC
7 <i>Twelfth Week after Pentecost</i> 9:00 AM Worship w/HC	8 6:30 PM WELCA Unit Bd 7:00 PM Day Care Board MAD CAMP (9:30 – 11:30)	9 9:00 AM Ladies Aid 6:00 PM Church Council Covered Dish (Kelly residence) MAD CAMP (9:30 – 11:30)	10 MESSENGER DEADLINE 6:00 PM Summer SHYG 7:00 PM NA 7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band MAD CAMP (9:30 – 11:30)	11 6:30 PM Church Council 6:30 PM Social Ministry MAD CAMP (9:30 – 11:30)	12 MAD CAMP (9:30 – 11:30)	13 <i>Thirteenth Week after Pentecost</i> 9:00 AM Synod Planning Event for WELCA 5:30 PM Worship w/HC
14 <i>Thirteenth Week after Pentecost</i> 9:00 AM Outdoor Worship Nazareth Borough Park	15 7:00 PM Finance 8:00 PM Endowment	16 9:00 AM Ladies Aid	17 6:00 PM Summer SHYG 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM NA 7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band	18	19	20 <i>Fourteenth Week after Pentecost</i> 5:30 PM Worship w/HC
21 <i>Fourteenth Week after Pentecost</i> 9:00 AM Worship w/HC 10:15 AM NM / BAP Class	22	23 9:00 AM Ladies Aid	24 6:00 PM Summer SHYG 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM NA 7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band	25 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM Miller Keystone Blood Drive	26	27 <i>Fifteenth Week after Pentecost</i> Food Bank Weekend 5:30 PM Worship w/HC
28 <i>Fifteenth Week after Pentecost</i> Food Bank Weekend 9:00 AM Worship	29 FIRST DAY OF CLASS FOR NASD	30 9:00 AM Ladies Aid	31 6:00 PM Summer SHYG 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM NA 7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band			