

# *A Note from the Associate Pastor*

## ***PASTOR STINNER'S REFLECTIONS ON THE EASTER SEASON***

If you were to choose an image for the Easter season, what would it be? An Easter lily? Certainly flowers splash color and fragrance on our celebration of the end of winter death, the promise of spring and summer to come. They mark the annual passage of seasons that calls to mind death and rebirth. A lily could be an Easter image, but there was no lily that first Easter.

Or would you choose a trumpet? We sing festive music at Easter worship in our church. The hymns mark our time of celebration. A trumpet might be nice, but there was no trumpet and no special music that first Easter.

A biblical image for Easter leads us in an entirely different direction. It is a cavity—an empty space, an open tomb. How about negative space for Easter? Negative space is the blank interval between things, the separation between the words, the gap begging to be filled with something. The negative space of Easter is “the place where his body lay”—a place now strangely and surprisingly empty.

The music of negative space is silence—or, better yet, a gasp! You sing this involuntary song when air rushes into a vacuum in your lungs. What now? Just when you thought it had gotten as bad as it possibly could get, you wonder. The gospels of Easter focus on this negative space. In Matthew the angel directs the women by saying, “Come, see the place where he lay”—the place where he is not.

Nature, they say, abhors a vacuum. Something is always waiting to fill it up. So it is with the Easter story, too. Something waits to fill this story—this vacuum. Do not even plan to have it filled anytime soon! The church gives us a whole season—fifty days—to do it. A full seventh of a year. An entire season to begin to fill the emptiness that Jesus' missing body creates. But even fifty days is not enough. How many Easters have you passed through? Are you finished yet? Ours is the hundredth generation of disciples who have tried to figure out the meaning of the vacuum and still we are not done with it.

Tombs are meant to be conclusions—the end of a human story. The Greek word for “tomb” is the same as the word for “remembrance.” What remains after we are done living is someone to re-member us. In Jesus, however, God removes the final end of the story and then does even more. The risen Jesus meets disciples and breathes resurrection breath into them. Christ invites them to follow on the road of discipleship, to begin by sharing in his baptismal death and rebirth. By placing his Spirit inside of us, Christ gives us new life. Breaking bread with us, Christ offers himself as food to feed a new way of living, a new kind of life in the world. But most of all, Christ blows wide open the endings of all our stories. The end is taken away to reveal a new life without limits, one marked by forgiveness and raised from the dead for new possibilities.

Our story continues, on and on, spiraling into God's future. On Easter Day the empty tomb stands wide open, confusing all our sense of endings. The vacuum stands as a contradiction to all that we believe to be real and true. What will get blown into this vacuum? What will fill it? The answer is God's best surprise. The answer is this: you and me. We are now a continuation of God's Easter story. The risen Lord goes before us, calling us to adventures yet to begin. But even more, the risen Lord goes *with* us, because he is in us as we are in him. God's story calls us on. The vacuum calls us to fill it!

*Pastor Stinner*



# 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.*

- May 6 - 7** Fourth Sunday of Easter / Holy Communion at all services / Anniversary Sunday
- May 13 - 14** Fifth Sunday of Easter / Mother's Day / Girl Scout Sunday
- May 20 - 21** Sixth Sunday of Easter/ Holy Communion at all services / Music Sunday
- May 27 - 28** Seventh Sunday of Easter / Ascension Sunday / Memorial Day Weekend / Food Bank Weekend

## 2017 Fellowship Social Calendar



- May 21 ~ Day Care / Property (Music Sunday)
- June 4 ~ Christian Education (Pentecost/Confirmation)
- June 25 ~ Ladies Aid / Bible Study (Summer Fellowship)
- July 16 ~ Social Ministry (Summer Fellowship)
- August 13 ~ Church Council (Outdoor Worship / Breakfast)

## CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY

*Join us for a celebratory service of music and praise!*

**Sunday, May 21, 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.**

Brass and Festival Choirs will participate at both services, with children's and youth choirs joining us for worship at 10:45 a.m. The service will also include the formal dedication of our newly purchased handbells and will feature a musical offering by a group of bell ringers. The bells will also be dedicated at the 5:30 Saturday service on May 20.



## PASTORAL ACTS



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 March & April 2017:

### **KAYLA QUINN KARLOWITCH**

Daughter of Ryan & Denise (O'Bea) Karlowitch  
Was baptized on Sunday, March 26, 2017

### **QUINN MARIE TAFF**

Daughter of Cory & Sara (Albrecht) Taff  
Was baptized on Sunday, April 9, 2017

### *Correspondence...*



The family of Dolly & Rod Knecht would like to thank all who sent cards, made phone calls and prayed for us during Dolly's 2 hospital stays. A special thank you to Pastors Schaeffer and Stinner for their many visits, communion, great conversation and uplifting prayers. God bless our wonderful congregation.

Thank you,  
Dolly Knecht  
Moravian Hall Square

Dear St. John's family;

Millard and I want to express our thanks first of all to Pastors Schaeffer and Stinner for their many visits to Lehigh Valley Hospital, Good Shepherd Rehab and Holy Family Manor. Each visit comforted Millard very much.

We also can't begin to tell how much we appreciated your prayers, cards, calls and visits during his long time away from home. He is at home now and continuing his recovery with the help of nurses, care givers and physical therapists. Please keep praying for us and please know that Millard would love to have visitors. Just give us a call at 610-759-2674 and we will be so glad to see you.

Again, God bless you all and please continue praying for us.

Millard and Barbara Rohrbaugh



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 April 2017:

### **TY R. ROSEBERRY**

April 13th



Received in the month  
of April 2017:

### **ANDREW SMITH**

Joyce Wallace

Our own St. John's member and rising star tenor soloist, Adam Bonanni, will be part of the Santa Fe Opera Company this coming summer. Before he leaves for New Mexico, Adam will sing at the **Saturday, 5:30 p.m. service on May 13**. We hope that many in our congregation will be able to join us for worship that evening.

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

### **MARGARET REAMAN**

May 1st

Pine Run Lakeview Assisted Living  
2425 Lower State Rd.  
Doylestown, PA 18901





# Grace Notes

**I**t was Sunday morning, and the children were eagerly anticipating their participation in worship on that beautiful Easter day. The children in our Creation and Celebration Choirs commemorated the triumphant news of Jesus' resurrection with the singing of their anthem *Glory to the Risen Lord*. With a recurring refrain of alleluias, this jubilant song called each of us to proclaim the news that Jesus is alive. And in the second verse, the children enthusiastically declared—"let the bells ring with joy, let them tell the story." This reference to bells in their Easter song is a reminder that bells have been used throughout the ages to convey a message, to tell time, to warn of emergencies, to proclaim celebrations, or, as the children sang, to simply "tell the story."

The earliest bells were probably gourds or nutshells which were struck on the side by a piece of wood. During the Bronze Age, bells were made from metal, and by the 1500's towers were constructed so that the bells, when rung, could be heard over long distances. Eventually these towers housed multiple bells, usually rung one after the other from the highest to the lowest, creating "peals." In England, a system of ringing the bells in a mathematical fashion was developed, and multiple ringers would alter the sequence of the bells, thus creating a "change." This became known as "change" ringing.

Handbells, as we know them today, began in 18<sup>th</sup> century England as practice instruments for people who rang bells in the towers. Church belfries were often damp and cold, and long practice sessions could be somewhat disturbing to the surrounding community. The solution to these inconveniences was to invent small hand-held bells that could be used as practice instruments in people's homes. The ringers would then be able to stay warm and no one would be annoyed by their practice sessions. Eventually the ringers discovered they were able to not only learn the bell peals, but that familiar tunes could also be played with the hand-held bells. Suddenly handbell choirs were created, and their popularity as an ensemble of musicians grew.

Throughout the ages, the ringing of bells has been a part of Christian worship, and the variety of what they are used for is quite diverse. The association of bells with religious worship is clearly found in the Psalms, and it is common knowledge that bells were often used to accompany liturgical singing from the earliest days of worship. At St. John's, we hear the large bell ringing in the tower on Sunday mornings, as well as at noon and 5:00 p.m. on weekdays. The beautiful carillon (an electronic set of tuned bells) daily rings beloved hymns throughout the neighborhood. As the acolyte extinguishes the candles at the end of each worship service, bells—or chimes—are played on the organ. And, coming in late spring, St. John's will expand its music ministry with a 3-octave set of Malmark handbells, which will be dedicated during our Church Music celebration on the weekend of May 20 and 21.

Bells are expressive musical instruments that have the capacity to create a vast array of sounds, ranging from majestic tones of praise to somber shades of mourning. Listening to the peal of bells draws us closer to God and enriches us with a sense of heavenly beauty, stirring our spirits and touching our hearts. May our newly purchased bells always bring glory to God and bless our worship for many years to come!

Grace and peace,  
*Janice Butz*, Minister of Music





# A Message from the Director of Youth & Family Ministries

On May 7<sup>th</sup>, the Luther League will be putting together Birthday Kits for the Nazareth Area Food Bank under the direction of Rita Bergstrom. As you may remember from reading the weekly bulletins and *The Messenger*, Rita worked to ensure donations and supplies were collected from the generous members of the congregation. All of the supplies for the kits have been purchased with the monetary donations received, and we will be assembling the kits on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> during the Sunday School hour.

These kits will be used by the Nazareth Area Food Bank to aid families who have a family member with a birthday that month to ensure they will be able to bake a cake for their loved one. This is something that so many of us take for granted. Once the kits are assembled, they will be delivered to the Nazareth Area Food Bank for distribution when needed. A large "Thank You!" is deserved to Rita for setting up this wonderful service event for our congregation that is sure to aid Nazareth families throughout the year!

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, the Luther League will be participating in another service project that will benefit others. They will be packing boxes for the military under the direction of Dean and Barbara Sandbrook. Congregational members contribute supplies, and the Sandbrooks organize the supplies, the youth fill the boxes, and then they get shipped out to military personnel. This is a wonderful event that is done twice a year. Another large "Thank You!" to Dean and Barbara Sandbrook for their faithfulness in setting this up each year.

The youth who participate in these events are learning to put others before themselves, as Jesus taught and showed us how to do. To love our neighbors, whether they live in the same town as us, or are deployed across the globe. Our youth are setting a good example

to be selfless and take some time out to help those around us. Thank you to everyone involved in helping with these ministries!

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Packing Birthday Kits:**  
Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup>, during the Sunday School hour in the Fellowship Hall.



**Packing Boxes for the Military:**  
Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



**Confirmation:**  
Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at the 10:45 am Worship Service.



**Vacation Bible School:**  
June 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Lutheran Youth Fellowship Assembly (LYF):**  
June 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>.





# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2017

Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am – 12 Noon

St. John's Lutheran Church, Nazareth

Ages 4 (by June 12) through 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Helpers 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up are encouraged!

**Maker Fun Factory: Created by God – Built for a Purpose!** At Maker Fun Factory, kids discover that God made them—and for a purpose! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God's love, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings.

**Donation:** Registration by June 4<sup>th</sup> is \$7 per child. Registration at the door is \$10 per child. Please register as soon as possible to help with planning. Cash or check may be made payable to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church with "Vacation Bible School" in the memo line. Please put completed registration forms and payment (together in an envelope) in the offering plate or in the Church Office mailbox.

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Last school grade completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Caregiver Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home church: \_\_\_\_\_

|  |
|--|
| <p>Allergies or other medical conditions: _____</p> <p>In case of emergency, contact: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____ Relationship to child: _____</p> <p>Who besides me can pick up my child: _____</p> |
|--|

Optional: If possible, please group my child with \_\_\_\_\_.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Yes, I am willing to volunteer!! \_\_\_\_\_ I am unable to volunteer \_\_\_\_\_

I am willing to donate supplies, please call me!! Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Best way to reach me – Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Crew (for church use only): \_\_\_\_\_

# Groups Serving Christ Through St. John's Church

Fellowship this month will be on **Sunday May 21st** following the church services. This month's hosts are St. John's Day Care and the Property Committee.

## **St. John's Day Care Center**

The Day Care Center provides a safe and loving environment for our community's children. While in their care, the Center's personnel strive to provide a positive and nurturing atmosphere where our children can grow and develop their learning and social skills. Happiness and laughter are essential ingredients of their philosophy. The Day Care operates every Monday through Friday from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm and provides care for children ages 6 weeks through School age (children attending first grade thru age 11). If you have an interest in learning more about their programs, please call them at 610-759-4999, or email Lisa Todd, Director, at [lisat@rcn.com](mailto:lisat@rcn.com).

## **The Property Committee**

The Property Committee is responsible for overseeing the maintenance and repair of the church, Fellowship Hall, Parsonage, and other properties. This service encompasses all phases of construction, electrical work, plumbing, heating, air conditioning, landscaping, and snow removal in the winter. The committee is looking for volunteers to help with care and maintenance of our church. If you have any questions about any of these areas or would like to help, speak to one of the representatives at the Fellowship gathering.

*Come join us for fellowship on **May 21st**. Take a few minutes to chat with representatives of these groups and find out more about their activities and plans. You may find you may want to become part of their efforts.*



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



If you would like to make St. John's your church home, classes for New Members are held once a 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. 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.

## Stewardship Program – “Fearless Generosity” Fearless Giving leads to Fearless Living

In a letter to the church at Ephesus, Paul wrote: *“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.” (Ephesians 3: 20-21).*

Paul was speaking about the timeless role of the church and sets forth the challenge to us to live our lives worthy of the calling we have received. We have been given the awesome privilege of being called Christ’s very own. However, with this comes a responsibility to live as humble, gentle, patient, understanding, peaceful, and giving, “Generous” people. (NIV 2005).

In order to build a sustaining culture of giving in our congregation, we must first recognize those things that hold us back from generous giving. Some people might say, or at least think, that it is not always easy to be a generous person. Everywhere we turn there is someone in need. We are bombarded through the media to give to countless numbers of programs and foundations. The daily mail brings dozens of solicitations a month for contributions to worthy causes. And the latest social media craze is the, Go Fund Me, where some people just set up an account to raise extra money for any number of things. Is there something holding us back from being generous? Sometimes fear of the unknown drives us away from living generous lives, since in the mind-set of scarcity, everything seems like a risk.

Beth Behrend, a student at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater writes, “Jesus tells us not to worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will take care of itself (Matthew 6: 34). This does not mean we should not save for emergencies, but rather that we should trust that God is in control of the future. If we understand and accept that it is in God’s hands, what lies ahead does not seem so frightening. The fear that prevents us from giving generously is diminished; and we can live as more generous children of God.” (Giving Magazine, ESC 2014).

Behrend also writes, “Many stewardship programs and publications support the premise, “When we are generous and can see the ways our gifts have positively changed people’s lives, our giving becomes the true motivation of being generous. **Giving** generously can begin the positive cycle of **Living** generously!”

Generosity does not mean sacrificing anything that really matters to God. We will gain everything we need from God, by giving to others. If we take care of God’s people and his Church, God takes care of us. May we continue to ask God to help and guide us to complete trust in Him. May he give us the eyes to see the needs of those around us, and fill our hearts with the compassion, empathy, love and generosity we need to embrace “**Fearless Generosity**”!

Portions of this article are taken from the Life Application Study Bible, NIV 2005; Giving Magazine, ESC 2014.



**NewsLetter**  
**DEADLine**

The deadline for all submissions for the **June 2017** issue of THE MESSENGER is:  
**Wednesday, May 10th.** You may leave printed material in the Church Office mailbox or you may email your article or announcement as a Word attachment to [office@stjohnsnaz.org](mailto:office@stjohnsnaz.org). Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.



**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.

## SEXTON CORNER



### HELLO TO ALL!

There are projects we are planning to start this spring that will carry over into the summer months. Several of these projects are from the Capital Campaign and others are new for this year.

Do you have experience with electrical, plastering, painting, plumbing, woodworking, concrete or welding? If so, please see Tony. We need your help to achieve our goals.

At the moment we are waiting on some funding from the Finance Committee to upgrade our telephone system. This is part of our Capital Campaign.

We are moving forward with replacing the remainder of steel plates around the church sidewalks including #38 Prospect Street and the Pastor's house. This is scheduled for the end of April

The upgrade of our sound system for the Fellowship Hall is getting closer (details will follow).

The remainder of the repair work on the nave organ is now scheduled for this spring 2017.

Upgrading of electrical panels in the Office and Day Care is targeted for April 2017 over the Easter holiday (capital campaign).

In order to begin work on re-pointing the church bricks and chimney, we need a window of 5 days with temperatures in the 50 degree range, therefore, this project will begin in the spring. This is part of our Capital Campaign.

We will be moving ahead with the restoration of **arch type stained glass windows** (south wall alley/shepherd room) for the spring of 2017. This is part of our Capital Campaign.

We've got some indoor and outdoor cleaning activities coming up and we'd like to enlist the help of our youth. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Tony.

Thanks for your time,  
*The Sextons*  
sextons@stjohnsnaz.org

### SAVE THE DATE HELPING HANDS MISSION TRIP Sunday, July 23 to Saturday, July 29



**HELPING  
HANDS  
MINISTRY**

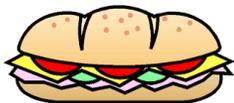
We will be going back to New Jersey. If you would like to join us even for a day or two it would certainly be appreciated.

Contact Gail Price at 610-704-8736 or Keith Shook at 610-533-6446. More details to follow.



Please make sure the Church Office has your current contact information! If your address, phone number or email address has changed, please notify the Church Office.

**USHERS ARE URGENTLY 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.



**Hoagie Coupons.** Coupons for hoagies from Ressler's Market on Main Street are still being sold for \$4.00 each on Sunday mornings in the Shepherd's Room. Proceeds will benefit the Chalice Youth Choir.



# Love-A-Lot Nursery School



The beginning of May is a flurry of art projects in celebration of Mother's Day! Cards and flowers, along with heartfelt crafts, are given to the Moms. The 3yo class will hold a very special Mother's Day Celebration for their moms on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Although there are many reasons to celebrate, it isn't all parties (although the children think it is!), we sneak in some learning too! Aside from practicing their poems and songs for graduation, the 4yo class will review every letter, blending, positioning, patterning, rhyming, alliteration, shapes, colors, and numbers; while the 3yo class continues to work on shapes, numbers, and colors.

Each month both classes have enjoyed a visit from Nazareth's Children's Librarian, Catherine Stewart; this was our last set of visits for the school year and the children created a wonderful card to accompany a gift to thank her for all the wonderful stories she shared with us during the school year.

Something else that is right around the corner is our graduation program; so the 4yo class practiced songs from the entire year to be ready to put on a great show for family and friends at the end of May!

The 3yo class meets Tuesday/Thursday and the 4yo class meets Monday/Wednesday/Friday. 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](mailto:LoveALotNurserySchool@yahoo.com) the school.

## NEWS FROM THE DAYCARE

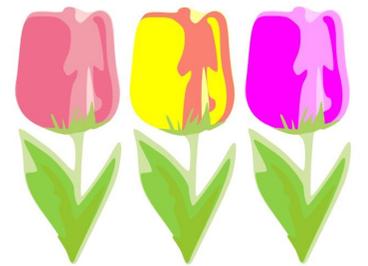
April was a busy month at the daycare center. The classrooms had so much fun with their egg hunts and special lunches and of course the visit from the Easter Bunny. April 22nd was Earth Day and the classrooms talked about what they can do to help the environment. Reusing or throwing away trash, saving water, and turning lights off are just some of the things the classrooms learned they can do to help the earth.

April showers bring May flowers and last month the classrooms talked about rain, water and mud! This month they will talk about how the water helps the plants grow and they will even do some planting of their own. Many of the plantings will be for their Mother's Day gifts that the children will be working on.

May 5th is Cinco de Mayo and some of the classrooms will use the holiday to learn about other cultures and maybe some words in Spanish. The first week of May is also Teacher Appreciation week and the center will be doing lots of things to show appreciation for our wonderful staff.

May 21st the daycare will host fellowship hour with property. Please join us for refreshments after the morning service.

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 about our center, please call 610-759-4999 or email [lisat@rcn.com](mailto:lisat@rcn.com).



# *Pastor Schaeffer's Retirement Celebration*

Please join us in celebration of Pastor and Carol's years of service to St. John's as they begin their new journey.

St. John's is planning a Celebratory Dinner at:  
**Woodstone Country Club, 3777 Dogwood Rd.  
Danielsville, PA 18038  
Friday, June 23, 2017 at 6:00 PM**

Cocktail hour\* begins at 6 PM on the Terrace followed by Dinner  
\$30 per person



---

Checks should be made payable to **St. John's Lutheran Church**.  
Please put **Woodstone** in the memo field.

Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print clearly)

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your dinner selection/s:

\_\_\_\_\_ Prime Rib    \_\_\_\_\_ Breast of Chicken

\_\_\_\_\_ Salmon    \_\_\_\_\_ Eggplant Napoleon (Vegetarian)

Please RSVP by May 15th to the Church Office ~ Seating is limited

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check here if transportation is needed.

\*Cash Bar

*In the event seating for this dinner reaches capacity, those on the waiting list will be given preference for seating at the breakfast on June 25th.*

# *Pastor Schaeffer's Retirement Breakfast Celebration*

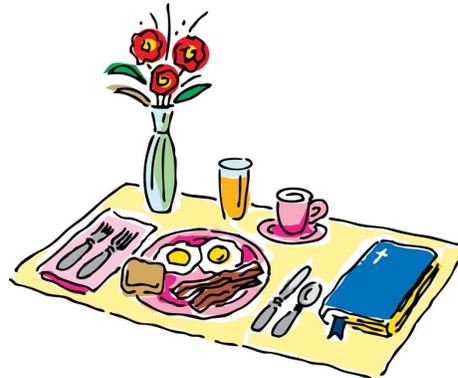
Please join us in celebrating Pastor and Carol's years of service to St. John's as they begin their new journey. Also present will be their sons, Ben and David and their families.

Join us for worship in the Nave, followed by a Celebratory Catered Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall.

**Sunday, June 25, 2017**

**Worship 9 AM**

**Breakfast 10 AM**



---

Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print clearly)

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Please RSVP by Monday, May 15th to the Church Office  
~ Seating is limited ~  
A freewill offering will be taken.



**PENTECOST SUNDAY** ~ On **Sunday, June 4, 2017** we will celebrate the Festival of Pentecost – the day on which the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus’ disciples in Jerusalem in the form of tongues of fire. The Holy Spirit empowered the disciples to preach the gospel with such conviction that 3,000 people were converted to Christ that very day. And after Pentecost, the Holy Spirit empowered the disciples to carry the good news of Christ’s death and resurrection to the ends of the earth. Because of the significance of Pentecost, we invite you to **WEAR SOMETHING RED** to worship on Pentecost to symbolize the love of the Holy Spirit and the tongues of fire that appeared over the heads of the apostles on the first Pentecost.



**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!** ~ Items for “Support Our Troops” are once again being gathered! The boxes we send are very much appreciated, according to the thank you notes we have received over the years. Puzzle books; playing cards; paperback books; current magazines such as *Car & Driver*, *Popular Mechanics*, *People*, and current *Reader’s Digest*; popping corn; packets of instant oatmeal, coffee, cocoa, tea and Kool Aid; candy (no chocolate); chewing gum; peanuts; energy bars; breakfast bars; Cracker Jack; beef jerky; black socks; lip balm; small plastic containers of baby powder, shampoo, hand and body lotion, and shower gel are all useful to include in the mailings. If anyone has the address of someone serving in the military in Afghanistan, Iraq or any place in the Middle East, please leave that information in the Church Office so that boxes can be sent. **Packages will be mailed the beginning of June** with the help of the Youth Group. Thanks to our caring congregation for participation in the past. We remember those who serve our country with our prayers and our boxes from home. — Social Ministry Committee.



### 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, June 1, 2017**

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!

### FOOD BANK WEEKEND: May 27th & 28th



The Nazareth Area Food Bank needs to replenish its supply of **cold cereal, pork & beans, mac & cheese, soups, jars of spaghetti sauce** 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.



**CALLING ALL GRADUATES!** Please notify the Church Office if you are graduating from high school or college this May/June so that we can inform the congregation of your accomplishments! Please include your name, school graduating from and date, any awards you will receive, and your future plans. We’d like to include the information in the June newsletter. **Submission deadline is May 10th.**



Sunday, May 28, 2017 ~ 1:30 p.m.



**BUSHKILL TOWNSHIP VETERANS REMEMBRANCE & FLAG RETIRMENT**  
a patriotic ceremony featuring music by Nazareth Community Band, speaker Heather Lloyd,  
reading of Veteran's names.

**Bushkill Twp. Recreation Fields opposite 1114 Bushkill Center Rd.**  
**Parking and Seating at the Flagpole**  
Rain Location: Bushkill Township Fire Co. Social Hall

**Keynote Speaker: Heather Lloyd, Tails of Valor, Paws of Honor**

We will welcome Heather Lloyd who will tell the tale of this non-profit based in Coopersburg, Pa. The bond created between humans and pets is indisputable! *Tails of Valor, Paws of Honor* rescues puppies that are then raised and trained for placement as service canines for Veterans with PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder), TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury), and physical disabilities. Each puppy is named for a fallen soldier. This special group's mission is to respect, honor, and serve our Veteran's needs while treating the whole person, not just the symptoms. **Army Veteran Harold Siegfried and his service dog Phelan will share their story as well!**

Other Participants:

- The Nazareth Community Band - Ralph Brodt, III, Director
- Pa. State Representative, Marcia Hahn, 138<sup>th</sup> District (Emcee)
- The Reverend David Schaeffer (Invocation)
- Northampton County Sheriff's Dept. Honor Guard
- Boy Scout Troop 44 (Flag Retirement Ceremony)
- Rifle Squad Detail of the U.S. Army Reserve 744<sup>th</sup> M.P. Battalion
- Randy Baxendale (Taps)

**Bushkill Township invites everyone** to remember and honor deceased and living Veterans with a dedication and flag placed at the township's Veteran's Memorial Flag Pole for the ceremony on **Sunday, May 28, 2017 at 1:30 pm**. Cost is \$5.00 per dedication.

**ORDER DEADLINE IS MONDAY, MAY 15**...please make check payable to Bushkill Township and mail to or drop off at Municipal Building, 1114 Bushkill Center Rd., Nazareth, Pa. 18064.

*The Veteran's name & branch of service will be read during the ceremony and will appear in the printed program.  
Donors may take their flag(s) after the ceremony.*

**Flag Dedication Order Form**



PRINT CLEARLY!

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

(check) in MEMORY of \_\_\_\_\_ or in HONOR of \_\_\_\_\_  
if killed in action, date/location \_\_\_\_\_

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Mar. 28, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Chris Andrews, Joe Billy, Alan Butz, Rev. Janice Butz, Craig Dally, Cathie Dara, Christine Garrison, Gail Price, Rev. David Schaeffer, Pastor Franklin Stinner, Jaime Taylor, Wayne Vierzbicki, Sharon Werner, Jackie Wolf.

**ABSENT:** Stephen Bajan II, Scott Little

**DEVOTIONS:** Wayne Vierzbicki led with a prayer.

**MINUTES:** The Minutes of the Feb. 22, 2017 meeting were reviewed and stand as written. Motion by Sharon Werner to accept the Minutes. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Cathie Dara. Motion passed.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Jocelyn & Tom Starner - Thank you for Council luncheon.
2. Nazareth Area Food Bank – Thank you for food donations and \$420.18 from Souper Bowl collection.
3. Nazareth Area Food Bank – Thank you for free will offering and \$2500 donation from Banquet of Song concert.
4. NE Penn Synod Convention Registration forms – Jackie Wolf asked for volunteers to attend Synod convention.

**PASTOR SCHAEFFER'S REPORT:** Complete as written, including:

1. Transfiguration Sunday was very good with a great video by Ray Wolfe.
2. Lenten Services got off to a good start.
3. April 9 – Palm Sunday – Donkey Walk.
4. April 12 – Holy Wednesday – Communion will be at the rail.

**PASTOR STINNER REPORT:** Complete as written, including:

1. March was a very busy month as my mother – Anna Stinner - has become a resident at Manor Care in Pottsville.
2. April – I will be assisting at St. John's.
3. Continue to attend committee meetings to make a smooth transition with our ministries at St. John's.

**REV. JANICE BUTZ REPORT:** Complete as written, including:

1. March 1 – Ash Wednesday – meaningful service.

2. March 5 – Attended the American Guild of Organists Bach celebration. Pleasant surprise to see Emerson Harding. He is looking great. – Sends his greetings to the St. John's congregation.
3. Choirs are getting ready for Easter.
4. "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" 2018 Arts Festival at St. John's. Committee has contacted performing artists.

**DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES REPORT:**

**Jaime Taylor reported:** Complete as written including:

1. Confirmation Retreat – working on paperwork.
2. April 7 – Need help with making Palm Crosses.
3. June 27 – July 1, 2018 – Youth Gathering in Houston, TX – Jaime will have a general information meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE:** Craig Dally & Pastor Schaeffer reported:

1. 38 E. Prospect – Moving out – Repairs will be needed.

**COLUMBARIUM:** Pastor Schaeffer reported: No activity.

**DAY CARE:** Jackie Wolf reported:

1. Enrollment is good.
2. Re-training and changes are taking place.

**ENDOWMENT:** Craig Dally reported:

1. Portfolio is doing well.
2. Sean Duffy will speak with us in April.

**EVANGELISM:** Sharon Werner reported:

1. Palm Sunday refreshments were discussed.

**HELPING HANDS:** Gail Price reported:

1. April 22 – Painting of the foyer.

**LOVE-A-LOT:** Wayne V. reported: No minutes:

1. Enrollment is looking up for next year.

**LUTHER LEAGUE:** Jaime Taylor reported:

1. April 7 – Need help making Palm crosses.

**PERSONNEL:** Pastor Schaeffer reported:

1. No matters of concern.
2. Nancy Little looking for help with the Personnel Committee.

*(Continued on page 16)*

**PROPERTY:** Joe Billy reported: Complete as written including:

1. Bell tower needs work. Wayne Longley came out to review job.
2. Bell closet – Janice Butz & Wayne V. discussed the storage of the choir robes.

**SOCIAL MINISTRY:** Jackie Wolf reported:

1. “Cooking Matters” project is a great program.
2. Cathie Dara discussed the upcoming survey for the congregation.
3. Janice Butz reported that \$4700 was collected for local food bank from Banquet of Song.
4. Jean Miltenberger offered a knitting class. Thank you to Jean for all her donations!

**STEWARDSHIP:** Christine Garrison reported:

1. April – Coffee Hour will be hosted by Stewardship.
2. Nov. - Stewardship Weekend – Janice Butz asked about the interactive event. Pastor Stinner will be doing a talk.
3. New Recruits – Stewardship discussed ways to get more people interested in the committee.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Jaime Taylor reported: No meeting

1. Everything going well.

**WORSHIP & MUSIC:** Chris Andrews reported: No Minutes

1. Janice Butz – Went over Holy Week schedule
2. Sound – Chris Andrews is working on the details.
3. Media – Lord’s Prayer is now figured out for Wed. Lenten Services.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. Capital Campaign – Ongoing.
2. Fellowship Hall Rental – Cathie Dara called the committee to meet after the Council meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Chris Andrews – Will set up calendar on council member’s phones.
2. April 9 – Palm Sunday – Donkey Walk – Need Council representation.

**Building Use Requests:**

1. April 9 – Cory & Sara Taff – Baptism Celebration
2. April 17 – Melissa LaBar – Nazareth Girl Scouts – Self Defense Course
3. July 15 – Cindy Gaston – Baby Shower
4. July 29 – Joyce Wallace – WELCA – Northern Lehigh Cluster Planning Event
5. Motion by Chris Andrews to accept Building Use Requests. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Joe Billy. Motion passed.

Council President Jackie Wolf declared the meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

**Next Meeting** = April 26 @ 7:30 p.m.

**Next Devotions** = Joe Billy

Respectfully submitted,  
*Joyce Wallace*  
Recording Secretary



## Bulletin Sponsors Needed



Bulletins

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.**

## G.R.A.C.E.

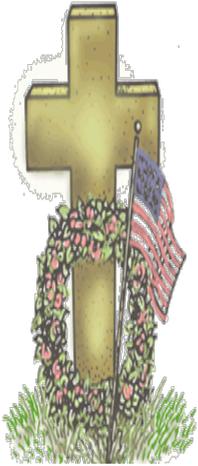
### Adult Bible Study Class

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.

### Adult Sunday School Class



# MEMORIAL DAY GERANIUM PLANTS



On Saturday, May 27th & Sunday, May 28th, in honor of Memorial Day weekend, red geraniums will decorate the nave to honor our men and women who are currently serving our country in the Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard), or veterans who have served in the past. If you wish to donate a plant in honor of or in memory of a service person, the cost is \$5.00 per plant. Your sponsor form and payment should be in the Church Office no later than Sunday, May 21st. Please make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church with "Geraniums" in the memo line. **PLEASE NOTE: after the service, all of the geraniums will be planted around the church and the parsonage as a tribute to our beloved service members.**

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to donate \_\_\_\_\_ plant(s) at \$5.00 each. Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please **PRINT** clearly. **ONE** dedication per sponsored plant.

| Check<br>In<br>Honor | One<br>In<br>Memory | DEDICATED TO AND<br>BRANCH OF SERVICE<br><i>(Please PRINT the dedication as you<br/>want it to appear in the bulletin)</i> | DEDICATED BY (FROM) |
|----------------------|---------------------|--|---------------------|
|                      |                     |  |                     |
|                      |                     |  |                     |
|                      |                     |  |                     |
|                      |                     |  |                     |

## SERVING GOD IN MAY 2017

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  |
|--------|-----------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|
|        |                 | Maryellen Wertheiser<br>(610-759-5191)         | Jaime Taylor/Church Office<br>(610-759-3090) | Christina Brodt<br>(610-653-0358) | Christina Brodt<br>(610-653-0358)                   |
| May 6  | 5:30 p.m.       | Bonnie & Barry Boyer                           | Mia Gregus                                   | Charles Bonisese                  |   |
| May 7  | 8:00 a.m.       | Youth  | Ashley Breault                               | Karen Coleman                     |   |
|        | 10:45 a.m.      | Youth  | Rachael Schaffer                             | Craig Dally                       | Ann & Craig Dally<br>Suzanne & Gerry Lewis          |
|        |                 |  |  |                                   |   |
| May 13 | 5:30 p.m.       | Mary Hillebrenner                              | Max Ehrlich                                  | Cindy Evancho                     |   |
| May 14 | 8:00 a.m.       | Dean Sandbrook<br>Bruce & Joyce Knecht         | Emma Ricci                                   | Suzan Andrews                     |   |
|        | 10:45 a.m.      | Bill & Kathy Schultz<br>Brian & Judy Flick     | Megan Hunter                                 | Sharon Werner                     | Roy Roth, Ginger Ritchie<br>Joy & Joe Grim          |
|        |                 |  |  |                                   |   |
| May 20 | 5:30 p.m.       | Jennie Williams                                | Elena Calantoni                              | Lenna Harris                      |   |
| May 21 | 8:00 a.m.       | Kyle & Sue Roth<br>Andrews Family              | Anthony Albanese                             | Mat Benol                         |   |
|        | 10:45 a.m.      | Dick & Judy Hunt<br>Jim & Heather Koch         | Garrett Koch                                 | Ralph Brodt, III                  | Judy & Brian Flick<br>Christina & Ralph Brodt, III  |
|        |                 |  |  |                                   |   |
| May 27 | 5:30 p.m.       | Barbara Smith                                  | Adam Farebene                                | Harry Smith                       |   |
| May 28 | 8:00 a.m.       | Barry & Lois Morris<br>Floyd & Betty Deardorff | Maya Jamann                                  | Edith Brodt                       |   |
|        | 10:45 a.m.      | Bruce & Judy Shafer<br>Denise & Crystal Koch   | Cody Breidenbach                             | Karlene Kipp                      | Karlene Kipp, Kathy Keeler<br>Jocelyn & Tom Starner |

# 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** office@stjohnsnaz.org  
**Website** www.stjohnsnaz.org

## THE CHURCH STAFF

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. David B. Schaeffer  
 dschaeffer@rcn.com 610-759-1571

**Associate Pastor:** Rev. Franklin S. Stinner  
 prstinner@stjohnsnaz.org 610-746-9695

**Minister of Music:** Rev. Janice I. Butz  
 jbutz@stjohnsnaz.org 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 office@stjohnsnaz.org

**Parish Financial Secretary:**  
 Bonnie Mertz finance@stjohnsnaz.org

**Sextons:** Gary Baltz, Tony Petrillo, Dean Brodt,  
 Ray Wolfe, Jr. sextons@stjohnsnaz.org

## COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

**Building Trust Fund** - Jeff Daniels (Special appt.)

**Day Care** - Jackie Wolf

**Evangelism** - Sharon Werner

**Helping Hands** - Jackie Wolf, Gail Price

**Love-A-Lot Nursery School** - Wayne Vierzbicki

**Personnel** - Jackie Wolf, Gail Price

**Property** - Joe Billy, Wayne Vierzbicki

**Social Ministry** - Cathie Dara, Jackie Wolf

**Stewardship** - Christine Garrison & Scott Little

**Sunday School** - Jaime Taylor

**Worship & Music** - Chris Andrews

**YEO Endowment** - Donald Himler (Special appt.)

**Youth Representative** - TBA

## 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 610-653-0358

**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 610-504-6622

**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 610-653-0358

**Women of the ELCA (WELCA)**  
 Joyce Wallace 610-330-9113

# SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

## Keynote Speaker

**Rev. Dr. Kathryn Kleinhans**



Dr. Kleinhans is Professor of Religion at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. She joined the Wartburg faculty in 1993 as the first woman teaching full-time in Religion.

Her teaching responsibilities are primarily in Christian theology and church history, with an emphasis on Martin Luther and the theology and history of the Reformation.

She writes and speaks frequently on the relevance of Luther and the Reformation today - especially in light of the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation in 2017.

Dr. Kleinhans is an ordained pastor of the ELCA. Before coming to Wartburg, she served as one of the pastors of the Lutheran Church of the Atonement in Atlanta, Georgia. She has served the ELCA at the national level in several capacities. Currently she is a member of the Women and Justice Task Force, and a member of the Entrance Rite Discernment Group for the ELCA's proposed Word and Service roster. Dr. Kleinhans will speak on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.



For Reformation 2017

## Synod Assembly 2017

June 2-3

**Kalahari Resort & Convention Center  
Pocono Mountain, PA**

Ever been to an Annual Synod Assembly?

It's the largest gathering of Lutheran congregations in northeastern Pennsylvania...

...and all members of every congregation in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod are invited.

Every congregation elects two voting members to take part in the official business of the assembly.

But there are plenty of seats for visitors. So, if you're not elected as a voting member of your congregation,

come to the assembly and be enriched by the supercharged spirit of life together in Christ. (You must register for meals with the synod office.)

Let your imagination be stirred by ministries on display in God's Playground.

Gain insight from our keynote speaker about Lutherans "unleashed" for ministry in challenging times.

Add your voice to the hymns, prayers, and acclamations lifted up during the Service of Holy Communion on June 2.

To learn more about the 2017 Synod Assembly and the schedule of assembly events, go to <http://nepasynod.org/synod-assembly-2017>.

## Lutheran Youth Fellowship Assembly

June 16-18

Muhlenberg College



"Love in Action" is the theme of this year's Lutheran Youth Fellowship Assembly which will be held at Muhlenberg College from June 16-18.

The theme for this year's assembly is taken from Romans 12:9-21. Pastor Nelson Quinones will serve as the chaplain.

Workshops, worship, group games, a dance, and more are all part of the weekend which also includes plenary sessions (meetings) for discussing issues that matter to youth.

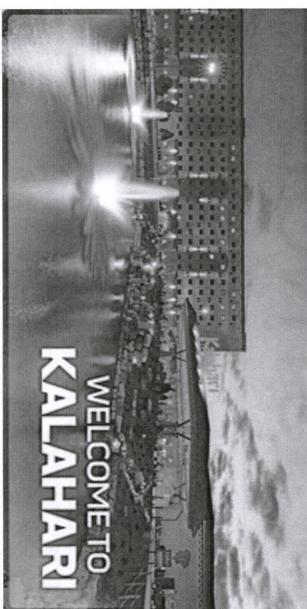
Registration and additional information about the assembly are on the synod website at <http://nepasynod.org/event/lutheran-youth-fellowship-2017>.

## Lutheran Day at the Capitol

May 16 - Trinity, Camp Hill

With the political divisions and hostilities of today, it is critical that our voice, as the people of God, be heard as a reminder that all are made in God's image. How can we be Church Together for the sake of the world, in Pennsylvania? For more information and to register, visit <http://www.lutheranadvocacypa.org> and scroll down to "Events."

## Kalahari Resort & Conventions



This year's venue for Synod Assembly offers a unique opportunity for your whole family to enjoy the experience, whether you are a delegate or a visitor to the Assembly.

Kalahari has America's largest indoor waterpark at 220,000 sq. ft. It features a retractable roof, stand-up surfing or body boarding on the FlowRider, the twists and turns of the Anaconda and Swahili Swirl waterslides, relaxing lazy river, and indoor/outdoor family hot tub. Ride the waves in the wave pool or experience tons of activities for the little ones and much, much more!

The Resort has set aside a block of rooms for the Assembly. Rates are for up to four guests per room. To make a reservation call 888-742-9099 and identify yourself as attending the Northeastern PA Synod Assembly. Luggage can be stored with the resort until 4:00 p.m. check-in time.

The cost of the room includes admission to the park for the four people staying in the room beginning at noon the day of your arrival and ending when the park closes the day you check out. Guests can be family members or friends not attending the assembly.

Check out [www.kalahariresorts.com](http://www.kalahariresorts.com) for more information.



Synod News is published monthly by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA  
2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101.  
[nepsinfo1988@gmail.com](mailto:nepsinfo1988@gmail.com); [www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org)

# THE MESSENGER

Volume CLXVII

“To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known”

Issue No. 392

## IN THIS ISSUE...

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| A Note from the Associate Pastor ..... | 1     |
| Worship with Us!.....                  | 2     |
| Pastoral Acts .....                    | 3     |
| Grace Notes.....                       | 4     |
| Youth News. ....                       | 5     |
| Stewardship .....                      | 8     |
| Sexton Corner.....                     | 9     |
| Love-A-Lot News.....                   | 10    |
| Day Care News.....                     | 10    |
| Council Minutes.....                   | 15-16 |
| May Worship Assistants .....           | 18    |
| NEPA Synod News .....                  | 20    |



# 2017

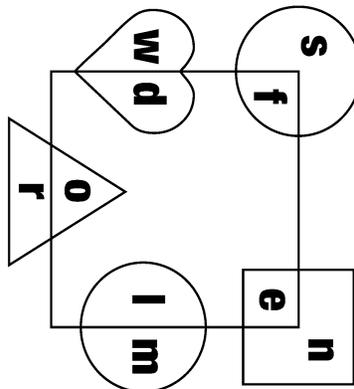


## GOD CARES FOR YOU!

Jesus tells his followers not to worry about their daily needs. What example does he give of God's care for his creation?

**Directions:**

To complete Luke 12:27 (NIV), match the shapes under each blank with the letter shapes shown to the right.



“Consider how the wild \_\_\_\_\_  
grow. They do not labor or spin.

Yet I tell you, not even \_\_\_\_\_  
in all his splendor was \_\_\_\_\_  
like one of these.” Luke 12:27, NIV

Answer: “Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.” Luke 12:27, NIV

# MAY 2017

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|
|   | 1<br>6:00 PM Girl Scout #8220<br>6:00 PM WELCA Unit Bd.<br>6:30 PM Property<br>6:30 PM Stewardship<br>7:00 PM Rebekah Circle | 2<br>9:00 AM Ladies Aid<br>4:00 PM JAM Sessions<br>6:30 PM Social Ministry<br>6:30 PM Bell Rehearsal<br>6:30 PM Worship & Music  | 3<br>9:30 AM Ruth Circle<br>12:00 PM Bible Study<br>5:00 PM Chalice Choir<br>6:15 PM Sr. High Youth Grp<br>6:15 PM Confirmation 1 & 2<br>6:30 PM Bible Study<br>7:00 PM NA<br>7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band                                    | 4<br>6:15 PM Evangelism<br>7:00 PM Chancel Choir   | 5<br>4:00 PM Girl Scout #81078   | 6<br>10:00 AM Philethia Choir<br>5:30 PM Worship w/HC<br><br>Sexton on Duty: Tony                           |
| 7 <i>Anniversary Sunday</i><br>8:00 AM Worship w/HC<br>9:15 AM Sunday School<br>Birthday Kit Assembly during Sun. Sch.<br>9:15 AM NM/BAP Class<br>10:45 AM Worship w/HC<br>Blessing of Birthday Kits<br>12:00 PM Anniversary Lunch<br><br>Sexton on Duty: Tony | 8<br>6:00 PM Girl Scout #8220<br>7:00 PM Day Care Bd.  | 9<br>9:00 AM Ladies Aid<br>4:00 PM JAM Sessions<br>6:00 PM Naz. Women's Club<br>(Dinner – F. H.)<br>6:30 PM Social Ministry<br>6:30 PM Sunday School<br>6:30 PM Bell Rehearsal<br>7:00 PM Arts Festival Mtg. | 10 <b>MESSENGER DEADLINE</b><br>12:00 PM Bible Study<br>5:00 PM Chalice Choir<br>6:15 PM Sr. High Youth Grp<br>6:15 PM Confirmation 1 & 2<br>6:30 PM Bible Study<br>7:00 PM NA<br>7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band                                | 11<br>6:30 PM Festival Choir<br>7:30 PM Chancel Choir  | 12<br>4:00 PM Girl Scout #81078  | 13<br>5:30 PM Worship w/HC<br><br>Sexton on Duty: Ray   |
| 14 <i>Mother's Day</i><br><i>Girl Scout Sunday</i><br><br>8:00 AM Worship<br>9:15 AM Sunday School<br>10:45 AM Worship<br><br>Sexton on Duty: Ray  | 15<br>6:00 PM Girl Scout #8220<br>7:00 PM Finance<br>8:00 PM Endowment   | 16<br>9:00 AM Ladies Aid<br>4:00 PM JAM Sessions<br>6:30 PM Bell Rehearsal<br>7:00 PM Helping Hands  | 17<br>9:00 AM Dress Rehearsal for LAL<br>Graduation<br>12:00 PM Bible Study<br>5:00 PM Chalice Choir<br>6:15 PM Sr. High Youth Grp<br>6:15 PM Confirmation 1 & 2<br>6:30 PM Bible Study<br>7:00 PM NA<br>7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band         | 18<br>7:00 PM Chancel Choir  | 19<br>6:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal<br>7:00 PM LOVE-A-LOT Graduation                                     | 20<br>9:00 AM Festival Choir<br>2:00 PM Wedding<br>5:30 PM Worship w/HC<br><br>Sexton on Duty: Dean         |
| 21 <i>Music Sunday</i><br>8:00 AM Worship w/HC<br>(Fellowship – Day Care/Property)<br>9:15 AM Sunday School<br>10:45 AM Worship w/HC<br>(Fellowship – Day Care/Property)<br><br>Sexton on Duty: Dean   | 22 <b>LOVE-A-LOT PICNIC DAYS</b><br>6:00 PM Girl Scout #8220   | 23 <b>LOVE-A-LOT PICNIC DAYS</b><br>9:00 AM Ladies Aid<br>4:00 PM JAM Sessions   | 24<br>12:00 PM Bible Study<br>5:00 PM Chalice Choir<br>6:15 PM Sr. High Youth Grp<br>6:15 PM Confirmation 1 & 2<br>6:30 PM Bible Study<br>7:00 PM NA<br>7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band  | 25<br>LOVE-A-LOT Teachers in for<br>Clean Up & Prep for 2017-2018<br><br>7:00 PM Chancel Choir | 26 <b>COUNCIL REPORT<br/>DEADLINE</b><br>LOVE-A-LOT Teachers in for<br>Clean Up & Prep for 2017-2018 | 27 <i>Ascension Weekend</i><br><b>FOOD BANK WEEKEND</b><br>5:30 PM Worship w/HC<br><br>Sexton on Duty: Tony |
| 28 <i>Ascension Sunday</i><br><b>FOOD BANK WEEKEND</b><br>8:00 AM Worship<br>9:15 AM Sunday School<br>10:45 AM Worship<br><br>Sexton on Duty: Tony   | 29 <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b><br><b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b><br>6:00 PM Girl Scout #8220  | 30<br>9:00 AM Ladies Aid<br>4:00 PM JAM Sessions   | 31<br>12:00 PM Bible Study<br>4:00 PM Pack Military Boxes<br>5:00 PM Chalice Choir<br>6:15 PM Sr. High Youth Grp<br>6:15 PM Confirmation 1 & 2<br>6:30 PM Bible Study<br>7:00 PM NA<br>7:30 PM Church Council<br>7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band |  |  |   |