

On the Friday after Easter I was in South Bend, Indiana. Invited by his congregation, I spoke at the Retirement Dinner of my friend and Seminary classmate Steve Schwier from Christ the King Lutheran Church. At the Seminary, Steve and I played tennis. WE PLAYED TENNIS EVERY DAY. I AM TRUTHFUL – EVERYDAY. At that time, racquets were made of wood and all tennis balls were colored white.

Truth be told, I turned Steve an Indiana farm boy onto golf. Until he met me he had never played golf before. Needless to say he has become more than a golf enthusiast now retired, he may play the game 4 or 5 times a week and is the best amateur putter I have ever seen.

Having played Little League Baseball as a boy and Senior Division, I have always been enamored with baseball. At the time Steve and I were in the Seminary, being a Southern Indiana boy, he of course rooted for the Cincinnati Reds and got me interested in them. How could you not be infatuated by the BIG RED MACHINE? Pete Rose at second base, Dave Concepcion at short-stop, Tony Perez at First Base and Johnny Bench behind the plate? Remember the great World Series Battles of the 1970's between the REDS and the OAKLAND A'S?

Not having the luxury to devote the hours, I can't tell you the last time I watched a baseball game on television from start to finish. And, the last professional baseball park I attended was Coca Cola Park in Allentown. Yet, I check the Teams' standing in the newspaper. As of Sunday, May 7, I see the Cincinnati Reds are a mere one game behind the World Champion Cubs.

It is very unusual for a major league pitcher to hit a home run. In fact, Michael Lorenzen of the Cincinnati Reds had never done it. That all ended on August 19, 2016, when Lorenzen hit a home run. What made this even more poignant is that Lorenzen hit his homer in his first game after attending his Father's funeral.

Lorenzen and his Father had had a very difficult relationship. His Father had left the family and descended into drugs, alcohol abuse and crime.

Michael almost went in the same direction as his Father. He too lived a lifestyle that was damaging.

It changed when one night, on a pier in Huntington Beach, California, a man walked up to Michael (WAS THE MAN AN ANGEL? OR THE HOLY SPIRIT HIMSELF?) The "MAN" began witnessing to Michael about how Jesus Christ rescued the whole human race by sacrificing HIS sinless life for all those sinners the devil had been counting on rounding up.

SOMETHING CLICKED and Michael Lorenzen gave his life to Jesus Christ. Lorenzen changed his life's direction avoiding the dark alleys, pursuing now the avenues along which a Christian would be expected to walk. Lorenzen even came to a place where he was able to forgive his Father and thankfully the Lord in His mercy arranged the Lorenzen's reconciliation before the Father died.

And while Michael is not sure what business his Father may have done with the Heavenly Father prior to his death, Michael is convinced God could bring something good out of it. That is why he was so thrilled to hit the home run for his Father and His Heavenly Father. Michael told a local reporter, "I believe in the validity of the Scriptures, and I believe it proves itself over and over again. It's proved itself in my life and I don't struggle with that."

Won't you please plan on being a part of St. John's celebration of Pentecost Saturday, June 3, or Sunday, June 4. This is the last of the Great Festivals of the Church year. Who knows – for you on Pentecost in a pew here it may prove even more profitable than Michael Lorenzen's pier encounter. For you shall hear St. Peter unequivocally proclaim: "WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED." (ACTS 2:21)

A Blessed Summer to all,

*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.*

- June 3 - 4** Vigil of Pentecost / Day of Pentecost / Holy Communion on Sunday at 8 AM / Confirmation on Sunday at 10:45 AM
- June 10 - 11** The Holy Trinity
- June 17 - 18** Second Week after Pentecost / Holy Communion at all services / Summer Worship Schedule begins / Father's Day
- June 24 - 25** Third Weekend after Pentecost / Food Bank Weekend



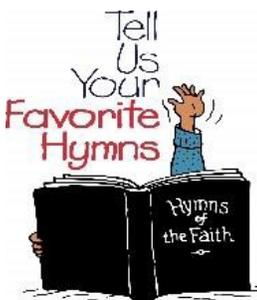
**PENTECOST SUNDAY** ~ On **Sunday, June 4, 2017** we will celebrate the Festival of Pentecost – the day on which the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' disciples in Jerusalem in the form of tongues of fire. The Holy Spirit empowered the disciples to preach the gospel with such conviction that 3,000 people 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.



## 2017 Fellowship Social Calendar

- June 4 ~ Christian Education (Pentecost/Confirmation Sunday)
- July 16 ~ Social Ministry (Summer Fellowship)
- August 13 ~ Outdoor Worship / Breakfast

**SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE** ~ Our Summer Worship Schedule begins on Sunday, June 18th and continues thru Labor Day weekend. During the summer there will be one worship service on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. with no Sunday School. Holy Communion will continue to be celebrated on the 1st & 3rd Sundays. The Saturday evening Worship with Holy Communion service remains unchanged at 5:30 p.m.



### SUMMER "TIME TO SING"

Once again, the congregation will be given the opportunity to sing their favorite hymns during our summer worship services that will begin on Sunday, June 18. If you wish to make a hymn suggestion for our summer "Time to Sing," please fill out a favorite hymn card that can be found at the rear of the nave. All hymn choices must be included in our current Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal and the hymn # must be indicated on the card. Completed cards should then be placed in the "Favorite Hymn Organ." Hymn suggestions can be deposited at any time, and as frequently as you wish. Each Sunday a card will be randomly selected and then sung during our worship service. We look forward to your participation!

# Groups Serving Christ Through St. John's Church

Fellowship this month will be on **Sunday, June 4**, following the church services. This month's host is Christian Education Committee.

## **The Christian Education Committee**

The Christian Education Committee's mission is to serve the Sunday School Departments and assist in the education which provides a deeper understanding of our Christian faith and to make personal faith relevant in today's world. The Sunday School covers all ages from Nursery (age 2) through High School as well as Adult classes (SEARCH, GRACE, and Adult Bible). In addition to this very important part of St. John's, the committee also sponsors a number of special programs such as Youth Sunday, Rally Day, the annual Christmas Program, the Palm Sunday Procession with the donkey, 3rd Grade Bible and 7th Grade Hymnal Distributions in church, and financial assistance to the Bear Creek Campers. Contact: Lois Davis at 610-504-1635 or [lo.huthie@yahoo.com](mailto:lo.huthie@yahoo.com).



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



If you or a friend of yours have been worshipping at St. John's and decide to make it your church home, classes for New Members are scheduled once a month, usually on the first Sunday of the month in the Church Parlor.

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

## **HOW DO I SCHEDULE A BAPTISM?**



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

You may call the Church Office to make arrangements for the date / time of the baptism, which can be scheduled either during or after the Saturday or Sunday worship services. Questions? Please feel free to contact the Church Office at 610-759-3090.

# PASTORAL ACTS



We celebrate with those listed below who entered into the holy estate of matrimony according to God's ordinance in May 2017:

**TORI MARIE SLACK &  
JOSEPH FAZAL IBRAHIM**

May 20th



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 May 2017:

**MELANIE ELIZABETH ZAMORA**

Daughter of Damian & Mary (Mertz) Zamora

Born: February 5, 2013

Baptized: May 7, 2017

**ANTHONY ALAN ZAMORA**

Son of Damian & Mary (Mertz) Zamora

Born: April 18, 2016

Baptized: May 7, 2017

**ANGELO MATHEW D'ANDREA**

Son of Christopher & Jenna (Shook) D'Andrea

Born: June 23, 2011

Baptized: May 13, 2017

**DOMINIC WILLIAM D'ANDREA**

Son of Christopher & Jenna (Shook) D'Andrea

Born: July 17, 2015

Baptized: May 13, 2017

**ELISE KATHERINE SCHOENEGER**

Daughter of Ryan & Stefanie (Kulicki) Schoeneberger

Born: September 15, 2016

Baptized: May 14, 2017

**ADDISON CATHERINE COOK**

Daughter of Eric & Megan (Babb) Cook

Born: January 14, 2017

Baptized: May 21, 2017



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 & May 2017:

**MIKLOS MOLNAR**

April 28th

**VIRGINIA E. BUSS**

May 1st

**BARBARA A. TUCKER**

May 15th



Received in the month  
of May 2017

**MIKLOS MOLNAR**

Claudia Pacchioli; Nancy & Leo Varner; Carol & LaRue Hallman; Jennie Orwig; East Coast Touring Company; Carole Drust; Bertram & Dolores Shafer; Richard & Norlaine Williams; Norma & David Faust

**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.



# Grace Notes

This June marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination as a Deacon in the United Methodist Church. It took place during our annual conference session in Northern Illinois, equivalent to the synod assembly in the ELCA. In the presence of well over a thousand people, the Bishop, District Superintendents, and sponsors laid hands on each of us who were being ordained as clergy. It was an awesome event that was enriched by being with others who had fulfilled the requirements and passed examination for ordination. Rather than being individually lifted up, we were all part of a community who had endured the rigorous ordination process. We were all gathered in one place and were surrounded and supported by the faithful members of our Northern Illinois Annual Conference community.

Similarly, at the first Pentecost event, the apostles were all gathered together in one place. The Biblical account in the Book of Acts informs us that the apostles of Jesus were all present, clustered together, and gathered in community. They were not in different places, but they were all in the same spot. When the Holy Spirit came with a sound like the rush of a violent wind, it came to one group that was situated in one house. If Peter had been in Capernaum, John in Nazareth, James on the Sea of Galilee, Andrew in Cana and the others scattered across the countryside, the powerful wind of the Holy Spirit would certainly have felt differently to the apostles. Pentecost was a communal experience, and it was only because they were together that all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages. Community was a critical and important part of that first Pentecost event.

Gathering together is a challenge for us today because we have become so individualistic in our lives. But religious communities have a long history of drawing people together, and something valuable is lost when people choose to practice their faith in isolation. It is only when we are all together in one place that we can catch the wind of the Holy Spirit, and begin to use the gifts that God gives to each of us. Many Christians, especially those who have been influenced by the individualism of American culture, live as if the church were useful but not essential. Many seem to believe that as long as they have a personal relationship with God, everything else is secondary. But Pentecost is a vivid illustration of the truth that is found throughout Scripture: the community of God's people is central to God's work in the world. Thus, Pentecost invites us to consider our own participation in the fellowship, worship, and mission of the church. It is a time to renew our commitment to live as an essential member of the body of Christ, using our gifts to build the church and to share the love and justice of Christ with the world.

Within the church, there are numerous opportunities to further develop a sense of community. We can join a choir, participate in Bible study or a Sunday School class, connect with other women through the Women of the ELCA, or partner with Helping Hands to do good work for people and places in need. Should you ask anyone currently involved with these groups, I am certain they would affirm that they are tremendously enriched by the fellowship and the camaraderie of these small clusters of people. And what they can accomplish, or insights that they gain, are multiplied through the sharing of their gifts and talents with one another. Yes, being in community with others is one of the basic characteristics of being a Christian, and it's essential to our faith.

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



## A Message from the Director of Youth & Family Ministries

There are many summer activities available for youth completing grades 6 – 12 this summer. Yes, that's right! Students who just finished their 6<sup>th</sup> grade year are invited to get a jumpstart on Luther League events this year, so come join us this summer!

Summer SHYG (Senior High Youth Group) begins on June 14<sup>th</sup> and is open to all youth who have completed 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades. We meet every Wednesday evening from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm in the Youth Room.

Vacation Bible School takes place from Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am – 12:00 noon here at St. John's. The theme this year is Maker Fun Factory: Created by God – Built for a Purpose! There is a registration form in this addition of *The Messenger* for any children wanting to attend. Any youth who would like to help, please contact me. We would love to have your help!

The Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) Assembly is from June 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> at Muhlenberg College. All high school students are eligible to attend.

On Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 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 20<sup>th</sup>. 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 1<sup>st</sup>, we will be heading to Dutch Springs to use their Aqua Park, high ropes course, and climbing wall. We will meet in the Dutch Springs parking lot at 9:30 am. Cost is \$20/youth. Rain date will be on Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> here at St. John's. For registration or information, please see Rev. Janice Butz.

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

### LOOKING AHEAD:

**June 12 – 16:** Vacation Bible School. A registration form can be found in this edition of *The Messenger*. Any middle/high school youth wanting to help should contact Jaime Taylor.

**June 23:** Pastor Schaeffer's Retirement Dinner.

**June 25:** Pastor Schaeffer's Retirement Breakfast.

**July 18:** 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 7<sup>th</sup> grade are also welcome! Cost is \$25/youth. Drivers will be needed. Rain date: July 20<sup>th</sup>.

**August 1:** 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 7<sup>th</sup> grade are also welcome! Rain date: August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**August 7 – 11:** M.A.D. Camp. For registration or information, please contact Rev. Janice Butz.

**August 6:** 9:00 am. Pastor Schaeffer's last Worship Service.

**August 13:** Outdoor Worship Service at the Nazareth Borough Park.



# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other medical conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency, contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_

Who besides me can pick up my child: \_\_\_\_\_

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): \_\_\_\_\_



**Congratulations to the members of our congregation who are graduating!** No doubt they look forward to the next phase of their lives with excitement, anticipation, and perhaps a little apprehension. St. John's wishes God's blessings on our graduates as they pursue their dreams and goals.

We hope these words, adapted from Phillips Brooks, will serve our graduates well as they embark on their journeys: *"Do not pray for an easy life; pray to be a stronger person. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers, but for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you will be the miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself and the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God."*

**RACHEL M FLICK** will be graduating from Nazareth High School on May 31. She will be attending Northampton Community College this fall to pursue a degree in Radiography.

**ERIN ALIDA KELLY** graduated from Cabrini University with her majors in accounting and finance and with a minor in international business. In the summer and fall of 2017, she plans to return to the university to pursue her master's degree in accounting.

Throughout Erin's time at Cabrini, she was recognized for academic excellence various times. She made the Dean's List, President's List, was involved in the Sigma Beta Delta (Business Honors Society) and the Omicron Delta Kappa (Leadership Honor Society) – member and president, 2016-2017. Erin has also received the 2017 "Who's Who Among Students in American University and Colleges" award.

In addition to her academic achievement recognition and her involvement in the honors programs, Erin also was a member of the IMA Accounting Association, the Financial Management Association Honor Society, received the PICPA Outstanding Senior Award and the John Remley Memorial Scholarship Award. Erin was also the captain of Cabrini's first rowing team.

In October Erin will begin her employment at Grant Thornton LLP in Philadelphia.

**LINDSAY MCGOVERN** is graduating from The Ohio State University on May 7th with a Master's in Public Health with specialization on environmental health sciences and global public health.

Lindsay was awarded the Outreach and Engagement Award for her work in Ghana, Africa.

Lindsay is working as an epidemiologist at the Ohio State Department of Public Health.

#### **A NOTE FROM THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Our campaign is closing in on the half way point with a goal of reaching \$850,000 by 2018 year end. To date the campaign has raised \$705,621 which includes both pledged and unpledged donations. Pastor Schaeffer, as well as the Leadership Team, would like to see our goal attained before he retires. To that end, an anonymous donor has graciously agreed to match all donations in the amount of \$2.00 for every \$1.00 donated up to \$50,000. In other words, if we are able to raise an additional \$50,000, the anonymous donor will contribute \$100,000 so we achieve our goal. Please prayerfully consider a donation to make this campaign a resounding success to the glory of God and his ever faithful steward, Pastor Schaeffer.

Yours in Christ,

*TC Starnier*

Tom Starnier

Leadership Team Representative

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

**ANNA STINNER**  
*June 5th*  
 Manor Care  
 420 Pulaski Dr.  
 Pottsville, PA 17901



*NewsLetter*  
**DEADLINE** The deadline for all submissions for the July/August 2017 issue of **THE MESSENGER** is:

**Friday, June 9th.** 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](mailto:stjohnschurch@rcn.com). Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

**FOOD BANK WEEKEND:  
 June 24th & 25th**



The Nazareth Area Food Bank needs to replenish its supply of ***essential food items including mac & cheese, pancake mix, peanut butter & jelly,*** but we also welcome ***paper goods such as toilet paper, paper towels, paper plates, napkins*** 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.

**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS** ~ Beginning Monday, June 19th through the first week of September, the Church Office hours will be: Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. On Fridays, the Church Office hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



**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.

Sponsors for Altar Flowers, the Bulletin and the CD ministry are needed.

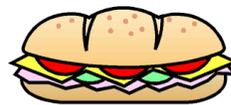


When on vacation,  
 be with us in spirit.

The rest of the summer,  
 be with us in person.



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.



**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.

## When was the last time you reviewed and updated your Estate Plan?

St. John's invites you to attend a free Estate Planning Seminar **Tuesday June 6th, 7:00 pm** in the Shepherd's Room. Refreshments will be provided.

Did you know that more than 60% of American Adults don't have wills? And of those that do have wills, many have never been updated even though personal situations and tax laws may have changed significantly since the will was written. Furthermore, it is important to realize Estate Planning is comprised of much more than just establishing a will.

Some components of an Estate Plan include:

- Establishing and updating a Will
- Establishing and updating a Living Will / Healthcare Directive
- Naming a Power of Attorney and Durable Power of Attorney
- Reviewing Life Insurance and Long Term Care options
- Establishing a Trust (when suitable)

The seminar will be hosted by Stephen Bajan II, Financial Advisor with Edward Jones Investments and Theresa Hogan, Esq. of Hogan Law in Easton. Theresa has been practicing law for over 28 years and specializes in Elder Law and Estate Planning.

There will be a Q&A portion of the seminar as well as the opportunity to ask questions privately afterwards.

If you plan to attend please **RSVP by June 2nd** to Kara Famularo, office administrator for Stephen Bajan, by calling **610-250-7808** or emailing her at **kara.famularo@edwardjones.com**.



All of us have been blessed that Almighty God raised up an AUGUSTINIAN Monk, Martin Luther, to lead the call for REFORM of Western Christendom five hundred years ago. To celebrate this historic event a brand new movie about Luther and the Reformation has been produced. Join us in the nave on **Wednesday, June 7, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.** for the showing of the new Luther movie. Confirmation students are strongly encouraged to attend.

## Sunday School Summer Months Closing Program



On **Sunday, June 11, 2017**, St. John's Lutheran Church Sunday School will hold its annual closing program for the summer months from **9:15 AM to approximately 10:00 AM**. Our Sunday School Closing Program will be held outside on the parsonage lawn (weather permitting). Bring either a beach towel or blanket to sit on; if we experience inclement weather, the Sunday School Closing Program will be held in Fellowship Hall; however, please still bring a beach towel or blanket. Please come and join us celebrate the Lord. Have a safe and blessed summer! See you back in September!!



## **Youth Gathering Bake Sale and Photo Sale Fundraiser!**

Please join us on **Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>** for a Bake Sale Fundraiser! All proceeds from the Bake Sale will go towards the 2018 National Youth Gathering fund.

In addition, 11"x17" poster prints of the St. John's Bell tower at night are available for just \$10 each. 100% of the profits benefit the 2018 National Youth Gathering fund. This is an extremely limited run of prints, so grab yours soon! Member Ray Wolfe took the photo, and offered these prints to us at cost to help our fundraising efforts.

The Bake Sale and Photo Sale Fundraiser will be held in the Shepherd's Room after the 8:00 am Worship Service, as well as before and after the 10:45 am Worship Service. Stop in and see us, and grab a baked good and/or a St. John's keepsake photo all while supporting the Youth of St. John's!



All Ladies of St. John's ~ You are invited to join us for the **ANNUAL WELCA "END OF THE YEAR" PICNIC**

**Date: Sunday, June 11th**

**Time: 1 PM - 3 PM**

**Place: Fellowship Hall - St. John's**

**RSVP** by returning the slip below either in the offering plate or place in the WELCA mailbox . Come join us for Fellowship, Friendship, and Fabulous Food.

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### **WELCA ANNUAL PICNIC**

Sunday, June 11th ~ 1 p.m.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# People \_\_\_\_\_

Please RSVP by Sunday, June 4th

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ABOUT THE PROCESS TO CALL OUR NEXT SENIOR PASTOR

**Wednesday, June 14 ~ 7:00 PM**

The Reverend Lori Kochanski, associate of the bishop of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, will be leading a meeting with the Congregation of St. John's on Wednesday, June 14 at 7 PM in the Nave. She works with congregations in the Northern Lehigh Mission District; and she will relate to the Interim Ministry Committee. She is also presently serving St. John, Allentown, as their transitional pastor. Pastor Lori will address what will be happening in the months following Pastor Schaeffer's retirement and answer questions about the process to call our next senior pastor. This meeting is open to all members. Attendance is strongly encouraged.

### CELEBRATION WEEKEND FOR PASTOR SCHAEFFER



**FRIDAY, JUNE 23.** A Celebratory Dinner is being held at Woodstone Country Club in Danielsville, PA beginning at 6:00 PM to honor Pastor and Carol's years of service to St. John's. Reservations are required. Space is still available. Please contact the Church Office for more information or to make a reservation.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 24.** The Nazareth Community Band, under the direction of Ralph Brodt III, will provide special music for our Saturday evening worship service. An extended prelude begins at 5:00 p.m. and will feature music for band and organ, including an arrangement of Martin Luther's stirring hymn "A Mighty Fortress." Plan to attend this festive service of music and praise!

**SUNDAY, JUNE 25.** The 9:00 a.m. worship service will feature guest soloist Rebeka Burr, a relative of Pastor Schaeffer's. Rebeka holds a music degree from Ithaca College and currently lives in New York City. Worship will be followed by a Celebratory Catered Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. Reservations are required. Limited space is still available. Please contact the Church Office for more information or to make a reservation.



# M.A.D. CAMP

(A summer program of Music, Art, & Drama for children)

**AUGUST 7-11,**

**Monday through Friday, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

**St. John's Lutheran Church**

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, acting, designing scenery, creating costumes, and working on props for the musical "*Judge Julie Truly, and the Case of the Holey Roof.*" Set in a courtroom, the musical is based on the Biblical story of four friends who carry their paralyzed companion on a stretcher and lower him through the roof of a home to be healed by Jesus. Appearing before Judge Julie are the four friends who testify and the homeowner who serves as the plaintiff in the case. Children in 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to participate in M.A.D. Camp. Our end product will be a special musical gift that will be presented at the fall stewardship dinner on Saturday evening, November 4. Watch for a registration form in the summer issue of *The Messenger*, or pick one up at the church office.



## OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE

**Sunday, August 13 ~ 9 a.m. ~ Nazareth Borough Park**

### 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.

### 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 11 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

## 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 **July 10 - 14**, 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.

**SEXTON CORNER**  
**HELLO TO ALL!**  
**SPRING ~ IT'S FINALLY HERE!**



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.

Replacement of the steel plates along the church sidewalks including #38 Prospect Street and the Pastor's house has been completed!

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 scheduled for this spring 2017. Janice will confirm the dates with Tony.

Upgrading of the office and two Day Care electrical panels has been completed! (Capital Campaign).

Re-pointing of the church bricks and chimney has been completed! (Capital Campaign).

We will be moving ahead with the restoration of the arch type stained glass windows (south wall alley/shepherd room). Work will begin the **first week in June** (weather permitting). (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.

*The Sextons*

sextons@stjohnsnaz.org

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**NEWS FROM THE DAYCARE ~ JUNE 2017**

May was a wonderful month with lots of outside activities. Many of the classrooms planted flowers to learn about plants and how they grow, and all the students created some beautiful Mother's Day gifts and were very excited to present them. We also had a wonderful time with our annual chick hatching project. We had 11 of the 12 eggs hatch and the classrooms did a great job taking care of them.

The first week of May was teacher appreciation and a special thank you goes to the board for the delicious luncheon they provided along with some other goodies. It was wonderful to see the board, the parents, and the children show their appreciation for our teachers.

This month the students will look forward to the end of school and we welcome some of our summer students back. We are looking forward to our pre-k graduation and the families are very excited to see their children on the stage in caps and gowns.

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).





# Love-A-Lot Nursery School



The beginning of May was a flurry of art projects in celebration of Mother's Day! Cards and flowers, along with heartfelt crafts, were given to the Moms. The 3yo class held a very special Mother's Day Celebration for their moms on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Refreshments and cookies followed songs as the room was decorated with personalized portraits of each mom – a great time was had by all!

Although there were many reasons to celebrate, it wasn't all parties (although the children thought it was!), we snuck in some learning too! Aside from practicing their poems and songs for graduation, the 4yo class reviewed every letter, blending, positioning, patterning, rhyming, alliteration, shapes, colors, and numbers; while the 3yo class reviewed 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.

The last day of class was followed by a Graduation Ceremony in the evening for the 4yo class. The children worked very hard...rehearsing both songs and poems for the big event. It was a "full house" in Fellowship Hall with lots of laughs and, of course, tears, as families and friends saw how their children have grown. Special thanks to everyone who assisted in preparing the stage/room, and of course, thanks to our piano-playing Reverend Janice Butz for helping to make the night a success by giving much of her time during rehearsals and for the big night!

To celebrate the end of the year and ring in the summer months, picnics were held at the Nazareth Boro Park for each class. Great times, great memories, great friends...

***Congratulations & Big Hugs to the Graduating Class of 2016:  
Adriana, Brennan, Connor, Edge, Elise, Ella, Elliot, Grayson, Hayleigh, Jaiden,  
Kinley, Leah, Leo, Lukas, Macie, Peyton, and Tristan!***

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](mailto:LoveALotNurserySchool@yahoo.com)) the school. (Both voicemail and email are checked on a regular basis throughout the summer months.)



## EXPLORE A LIFE-CHANGING CAREER

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### **FRIENDS OF THE NAZARETH LIBRARY BOOK SALE JUNE 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>**

The preview for members is June 1<sup>st</sup> between 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. New members are welcome to pay at the door. A bag sale will be held on Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please donate your unwanted books, DVD's, CD's and audio books to the library during library business hours beginning April 25<sup>th</sup>. No VHS tapes or cassettes please.

### **39th Annual Arts & Crafts Festival**

**Saturday, June 3rd ~ 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Hosted on the lawn of the 1740/1743 Whitefield House at 214 East Center Street, in beautiful downtown Nazareth, it is one of the Lehigh Valley's largest outdoor arts and crafts festivals.

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Apr. 26, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Chris Andrews, Stephen Bajan II, Joe Billy, Alan Butz, Rev. Janice Butz, Cathie Dara, Christine Garrison, Scott Little, Gail Price, Rev. Franklin Stinner, Jaime Taylor, Wayne Vierzbicki, Joyce Wallace, Sharon Werner, Jackie Wolf.

**ABSENT:** Craig Dally, Rev. David Schaeffer

**DEVOTIONS:** Joe Billy led with a prayer.

**MINUTES:** The Minutes of the March 28, 2017 meeting were reviewed with minor corrections. Motion by Alan Butz to accept the Minutes. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Stephen Bajan II. Motion passed.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Committee/Group Information Sheet to be filled out with calendar dates will be given out to each committee.

**PASTOR SCHAEFFER'S REPORT:** No Report

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

1. Will write an article for the newsletter after the meeting with Pastor Lori Kochanski.
2. Comments were made regarding a great children's sermon on Easter Sunday.

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

1. Holy Week – Went very well. *Hallelujah Chorus* was a wonderful and exhilarating ritual.
2. May 21 – Church Music Sunday – Rehearsals have begun.
3. 2018 Arts Festival at St. John's. "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Theme

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

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

1. Confirmation Retreat – Went very well. Huge "Thank You" to all who helped out this year!
2. Palm Crosses – Was great! – "Thank You" to the congregation for their help and support!
3. June 27 – July 1, 2018 – Youth Gathering in Houston, TX – Had meeting for parents and youth. Will be working on fundraising.
4. Christine Garrison added that the youth did a great job with the Wednesday Lenten services. Very good commitment!

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE:** Stephen Bajan II reported:

1. Jeff Daniels from the Property Committee came to speak with us regarding how Finance & Property can work together.
2. 38 E. Prospect – Moving out soon. Repairs are in process. Apts. are profitable.

**COLUMBARIUM:** No Report.

**DAY CARE:** Jackie Wolf reported: No Report

1. Doris Koehler will be honored at a future date.

**ENDOWMENT:** Stephen Bajan II reported:

1. Portfolio is doing as expected.
2. Sean Duffy was introduced and gave a review of the investment market.
3. Youth Confirmation Retreat was paid from the Youth Account.
4. June 6 – Stephen Bajan II will be holding an Estate Planning meeting.

**EVANGELISM:** Sharon Werner reported:

1. Palm Sunday refreshments went well.
2. May 4 – Making of the Confirmation Bags.

**HELPING HANDS:** Gail Price reported:

1. Church Foyer – Painting on hold for now.
2. Apt. – Second floor - repairs ongoing.
3. May 6 – Bear Creek Clean-Up Day - Jackie Wolf reported that we need volunteers.
4. July 23 – July 29, 2017 - NJ – St. Bernard project.

**LOVE-A-LOT:** Wayne V. reported:

1. Enrollment is starting to increase.
2. Crayola Factory was a big success. The kids had a great time!
3. Continue to get ready for a graduation ceremony.

**LUTHER LEAGUE:** Jaime Taylor reported:

- Confirmation Retreat went well.
1. April 7 – Palm Cross making event was great. "Thank You" to the congregation for their help and support!
  2. April 9 – Palm Crosses were delivered to the shut-ins.
  3. April 9 – Easter Sunday – Several youth hid around 300 Easter eggs for an egg hunt during Sunday School.

**PERSONNEL:** Jackie Wolf reported:

1. Andy Herbster is now head of the Personnel Committee

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

1. Metal covers have been installed.
2. 38 Prospect – Tenant moving out - Repairs ongoing.

**SOCIAL MINISTRY:** Cathie Dara – No Meeting

**STEWARDSHIP:** Christine Garrison reported:

1. April 29 – 30 – Volunteer Recognition Weekend & Fellowship Hour.
2. Nov. - Stewardship Weekend – Qualities of Christian Steward Brochure discussed.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Jaime Taylor reported:

1. Bear Creek Camp – 11 students are registered.
2. June 4 – Confirmation – Sunday School hosts Fellowship Hour.
3. June 11 – Sunday School Closing.

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

1. Janice Butz – Handbells have arrived
2. Jaime Taylor – Nursery - Kristin Andrews needs adult helpers to be in compliance with standards.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. Capital Campaign – Stephen Bajan II reported - Ongoing.
2. Fellowship Hall Rental – Cathie Dara reported that the Committee continues to update guidelines.
3. Pastor Schaeffer Retirement Plans - Jackie Wolf reported and gave dates for upcoming events.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. May 18 – Mission District Assembly – Alan Butz delegate.
2. June 2 – 3 – NE Penn Synod Assembly – Joyce Wallace & Jackie Wolf delegates.
3. June 20 – Council Picnic at Susan Kelly's. 6:00 p.m.
4. July 10 – 14 - Summer Lunch Program – Jackie Wolf to contact Susan Kelly.
5. Aug. \_\_\_\_\_ - Outdoor Worship Service – Nathan Catering
6. Aug. 13 – Return Committee/Group Information Sheet with dates

**Building Use Requests:**

1. May 7 – Jaime Taylor – Packing Birthday Kits for Food Bank – Fellowship Hall - Approved
2. May 21 – Megan Babp Cook – Baptism Reception – Fellowship Hall - Approved
3. June 6 – Stephen Bajan II – Estate Planning program – Shepherd's Room – Approved

4. June 16 – Lisa Todd – St. John's Day Care Graduation – Declined due to VBS conflict.
5. Motion by Chris Andrews to accept Building Use Requests. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Cathie Dara. Motion passed.

Council President Jackie Wolf declared the meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

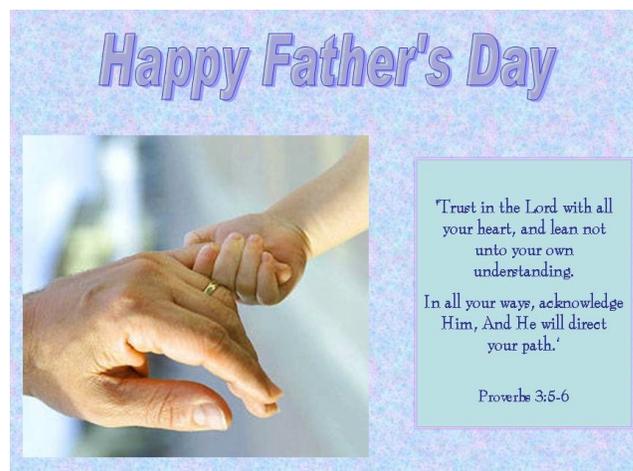
**Next Meeting** = May 31 @ 7:30 p.m.

**Next Devotions** = Sharon Werner

Respectfully submitted,

*Joyce Wallace*

Recording Secretary



## SERVING GOD IN JUNE 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 Wertkreiser (610-759-5191)	Jaime Taylor/Church Office (610-759-3090)	Christina Brodt (610-653-0358)	Christina Brodt (610-653-0358)
Jun 3	5:30 p.m.	Bill & Krista Hontz	Maya Erancho	Charles Bonisese	
Jun 4	8:00 a.m.	Youth	Caroline Hunter	Karen Coleman	
	10:45 a.m.	Youth	Alexa Fegley	Sharon Werner	Joy & Joe Grim Ralph Deyo, Ginger Ritchie
Jun 10	5:30 p.m.	Mary Hillebrenner	Olivia LaBar	Cindy Erancho	
Jun 11	8:00 a.m.	Milan & Sandra Billy Lester & Charlene Smith	Madelyn Rex	Suzan Andrews	
	10:45 a.m.	Helm Family Stan & Pat Keleman	Isaiah Eddings	Karlene Kipp	Karlene Kipp, Kathy Keeler Gerry & Suzanne Lewis
Jun 17	5:30 p.m.	Mary Ann Kaspern	Kaelan Ellis	Lenna Harris	
Jun 18	9:00 a.m.	Wayne & Bonnie Fogel Richard & Joanne Ressler	Kevin Kelly	Craig Dally	Craig & Ann Dally
Jun 24	5:30 p.m.	Lee & Caroline Buss	Payton Reuber	TBD	
Jun 25	9:00 a.m.	Dean & Barbara Sandbrook Frank & Lourdes Whiteman	Quintin Woods	Sarah Howell	Brodt Family

# 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

**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

## Well Drilling in Honduras

A well drilling trip to Honduras was life changing to the team from Trinity, Wernersville, as it also was to the wonderful people of Tegujajal, Honduras. Although the village was small, over 200 children came to the school where the team installed the well.

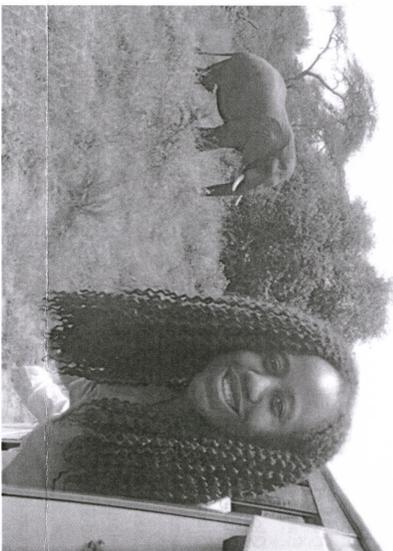
Before this well was drilled, the entire village's source of drinking water came from a polluted stream. Because of the very steep banks, water had to be pumped up out of the stream.



The team saw Jesus at work many times that week. The group they worked with from Honduras did not have technology to find the best place to drill, so they used a simple but powerful form of prayer to decide on a drilling location, and Jesus provided.

The team formed many relationships with the children and teachers, and they left the village the on final day with many tears, hugs, and memories to last a life time. Trinity is truly thankful for the generous \$6,000 grant from the synod Witness and Service Ministry Team, funded from your Mission Support giving.

## Alyra Parker - Muraho from Rwanda



"Over these past two months my faith has been tested more than ever," writes Alyra Parker (Hope, Reading) in her blog Muraho from Rwanda. Alyra (a former LYF Vice President) is a junior at Gettysburg College. She is in Kigali, Rwanda for a spring semester to study the Post Genocide Restoration and Peacebuilding program.

One of many experiences that has had an impact on Alyra was a visit to a burial site that is dedicated to children killed in the genocide. "There were pictures of children with captions that included their favorite color, their favorite things to do." In addition, there was information about how each child was killed.

"With peace building and reconciliation, I've noticed the capacity for forgiveness from Rwandans. After the genocide, President Kagame (a Tutsi) decided he did not want to pursue revenge on the Hutu's for the genocide, but rather wanted to reconcile and work together to redeem and rebuild Rwanda.

"This concept has been hard to grasp coming from the US. We focus so much on reparations, that a concept like the one President Kagame has pursued would never be worked out in the US. Learning about this has helped me to reflect on the capacity of forgiveness in my own life and in the lives of others."

Follow Alyra's blog to learn more about her experiences: <https://murahofromwanda.wordpress.com>.

## Always Being Made New Campaign for the ELCA

We've all heard it said, "You will never know unless you try." So, back in 2013, the Churchwide Assembly overwhelmingly decided to "try" launching a five-year comprehensive campaign with four key priorities:

1. Congregations - new and renewing, and people living with disabilities
2. Hunger and poverty - ELCA World Hunger and the ELCA Malaria Campaign
3. Global Church - long-term missionaries, Young Adults in Global Mission, Global Ministries, and International Women Leaders
4. Leadership - Fund for Leaders, along with Youth and Young Adults

The Campaign has run for 36 months now, and the leaders are very pleased with the progress made to date. As of Jan. 31, 2017 \$113 million dollars in cash and commitments has been received (57.3 percent of the goal).



The ELCA is very grateful for the offerings that have come forward as a result of "trying" this new thing. Just imagine what more can be done as we continue to grow in supporting the people, communities, and projects that are a priority for us. To donate, visit [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) and click on the "Campaign for the ELCA" button.

## Center for Spiritual Awakening at Christ, Allentown



In February, 2015, on the drive back to Allentown from a two-day conference about people who identify as "spiritual but not religious," Pastors Tom Lichner and Woody Mamon birthed the vision of a place that would offer safe space, resources, and programming for folks to search their spiritual identity, regardless of their connection to any particular faith community.

This was the beginning of what is now called the Center for Spiritual Awakening, which has found a home in Christ Lutheran's newly renovated, at-one-time parsonage, next to the church building.

- Vision - To awaken and reawaken the awareness of people to the spirit of God in and around them everyday.
- Mission - To provide supportive programs, resources, and safe space for people to search their spiritual identity and relationship with God in order to live to their truest and fullest potential.

The Center recognizes that some people are closely aligned with a traditional faith group; but others are not and seek to satisfy their spiritual hunger through new and different ways of exploration. The Center realizes that spirituality is a way of life and not just a set of creeds and doctrines to adhere to.

To this end the Center offers one-on-one and group spiritual guidance, guided prayer retreats, discussion groups, contemplative worship, and various kinds of programs at the Center and other Lehigh Valley locations. The Center's diverse array of offerings and resources can be viewed on its webpage at the Christ Lutheran Church website: [www.christ-atown.org](http://www.christ-atown.org).

The Center's Director is the Rev. Dr. Tom Lichner. Tom was a clinical member of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors for ten years he has been certified by two institutions, and has been practicing as a Spiritual Director since 1989.

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 CLXVIII

“To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known”

Issue No. 393

## IN THIS ISSUE...

A Note from the Pastor .....	1
Worship with Us!.....	2
Pastoral Acts.....	4
Grace Notes.....	5
Youth News. ....	6
Graduate News.....	8
Capital Campaign News .....	8
Sexton Corner / Day Care News .....	14
Love-A-Lot News.....	15
Council Minutes.....	17-18
June Worship Assistants.....	19
NEPA Synod News .....	21

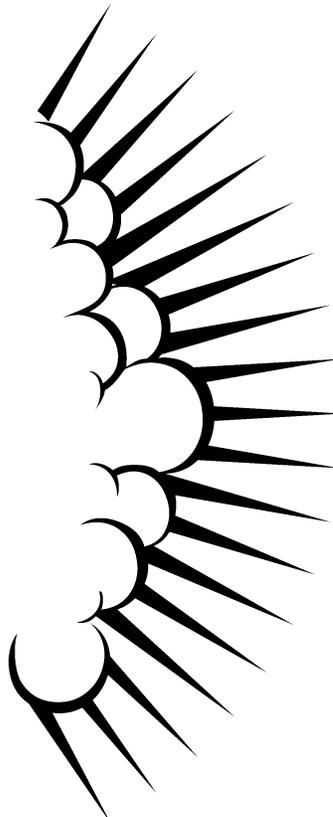


# 2017

## Happy Father's Day

Answer: "He will call out to me, You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Savior." Psalm 89:26, NIV

"H \_ w \_ ll \_ c \_ ll \_ \_ \_ t \_ t \_ m \_ ,  
 'y \_ \_ \_ r \_ \_ m \_ \_ F \_ th \_ r , \_ m \_  
 G \_ d , th \_ R \_ ck \_ m \_ \_ S \_ v \_ \_ r ."  
 Ps \_ lm 89:26, N \_ V



Directions: Complete Psalm 89:26 by placing the correct vowels in the blanks.  
 Father's Day is the perfect time to remember God, our heavenly Father. What does the psalmist say about him?

*Our heavenly Father*



# JUNE 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1  2:00 – 7:00 PM Blood Drive (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	2  No Scheduled Events	3  10:00 AM Philethia Choir 12:00 PM Philethia Picnic 5:30 PM Worship w/HC  Sexton on Duty: Ray
4 <b>Pentecost / Confirmation</b>  8:00 AM Worship w/HC 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship w/Confirmation (No Holy Communion) (Fellowship – Christian Ed.) Sexton on Duty: Ray	5  6:00 PM Girl Scout #8220 6:30 PM Property 6:30 PM Stewardship	6  9:00 AM Ladies Aid 6:00 PM Girl Scout #81078 Briging Ceremony (F. H.) 7:00 PM Estate Planning (Shepherd's Rm.)	7  12:00 PM Bible Study 5:00 PM Chalice Choir 6:15 PM Confirmation 1 6:30 PM The Luther Movie (Nave) 7:00 PM NA (Rm. 5 downstairs)	8  6:30 PM Festival Choir	9 <b>MESSENGER DEADLINE</b>  No Scheduled Events	10  5:30 PM Worship w/HC  Sexton on Duty: Dean
11 <b>Holy Trinity Sunday</b>  8:00 AM Worship Bake Sale 9:15 AM NM/BAP Class 9:15 AM Sunday School Closing Program Bake Sale 10:45 AM Worship Bake Sale 1:00 PM WELCA Picnic (F.H.) Sexton on Duty: Dean	12 <b>Vacation Bible School</b> (9:00 AM – Noon)  6:00 PM Girl Scout #8220	13 <b>Vacation Bible School</b> (9:00 AM – Noon)  9:00 AM Ladies Aid 7:00 PM Naz. Women's Club 7:00 PM Helping Hands	14 <b>Vacation Bible School</b> (9:00 AM – Noon)  6:00 PM Summer SHYG 7:00 PM NEPA Synod Mtg. (Nave) 7:00 PM NA (Rm. 5 downstairs) 7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band (F.H.)	15 <b>Vacation Bible School</b> (9:00 AM – Noon)	16 <b>Vacation Bible School</b> (9:00 AM – Noon)  Lutheran Fellowship Assembly	17  Lutheran Fellowship Assembly 5:30 PM Worship w/HC  Sexton on Duty: Tony
18 <b>Summer Worship Begins</b> <b>Father's Day</b>  9:00 AM Worship w/HC Sexton on Duty: Tony	19 <b>Summer Office Hours Begin</b>  7:00 PM Finance 8:00 PM Endowment	20  9:00 AM Ladies Aid 6:00 PM Council/Committee Picnic	21  6:00 PM Summer SHYG 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM NA (Rm. 5 downstairs) 7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band	22  No Scheduled Events	23 <b>COUNCIL REPORT DEADLINE</b>  11:00 AM Day Care Graduation 6:00 PM Retirement Celebration (Woodstone)	24 <b>FOOD BANK WEEKEND</b>  5:30 PM Worship w/HC & Nazareth Community Band Sexton on Duty: Ray
25 <b>FOOD BANK WEEKEND</b>  9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Retirement Celebration Catered Breakfast  Sexton on Duty: Tony	26  No Scheduled Events	27  9:00 AM Ladies Aid	28  6:00 PM Summer SHYG 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM NA (Rm. 5 downstairs) 7:30 PM Church Council 7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band	29  No Scheduled Events	30  No Scheduled Events	