

## *A Note from our Interim Pastor....*

The arrival of Advent means that we are beginning of a new Church year. This year it also signals the beginning of a new phase in the life of this community known as St. John's in Nazareth. I'm sure that for many of you this is an uncertain time as you wonder what the future holds and what kind of changes may be on the horizon as you continue to wrestle with the emotions of moving forward without your beloved pastor of many years. It is natural for us to wonder how events in the coming months will unfold and it's okay to be apprehensive as we move forward into the future. Hopefully as time passes the apprehension will lessen and we'll move forward together as we discern and trust in God's plan for this community.

It seems appropriate that this new phase in the life of this community roughly coincides with the beginning of Advent. Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation. We prepare for and anticipate celebrating the birth of Christ throughout the season leading up to Christmas day. At the same time Advent is a time of preparation for and anticipation of the day Christ returns. It is good for us to embrace all of the excitement that goes along with what we commonly refer to as the "Christmas Season" because the day Jesus was born started a new phase in God's plan for the salvation of all people.

As we celebrate we are called to continue to look forward toward the day of Christ's return, working together building on everything that has already been accomplished in this community understanding that although it's inevitable that St. John's won't remain exactly the same there is still a place for the traditions we hold dear in the midst of any changes.

As we enter this exciting and busy season may we always keep our focus on Christ and doing his work in our world. This advent I encourage you to enjoy time with family and friends. Take time to remember those who may have needs that we can meet. Rejoice in the fact that God sent his son for our salvation. And prepare for his arrival.

May you feel God's presence in your life throughout Advent and may each one of you have a blessed and joyous Christmas.

Peace,  
*Dan*



# 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 November 2017:

**CADE DAVID CHULADA**

Son of Ryan & Nicole (Reinert) Chulada  
Born: June 11, 2017  
Baptized: November 12, 2017

**SOPHIA GRACE DETWEILER**

Daughter of Franklin Detweiler & Stacy Ashmead  
Born: June 16, 2017  
Baptized: November 19, 2017



We gladly received the following new members into the family and fellowship of St. John's congregation in the month of November 2017:

**FRANKLIN DETWEILER & STACY ASHMEAD**

Sunday, November 19, 2017

**BEVERLY GOSSETT**

Sunday, November 19, 2017

Jeffery and Meagan Stoneback and their son Grant joined St. John's on Oct. 22. Jeff is from Hellertown and Megan is from Nazareth. They reside in Bushkill Township where Grant attends 3rd grade in the Bushkill School. Jeff works for D&B and Megan is a "stay at home mom" after teaching in the Nazareth School District for some time. As they attended different churches over the years, they decided to join St. John's together. Please welcome this young Family into our membership.



We extend our heartfelt Christian sympathy to the families and friends of the following members and friends of Saint John's who passed into eternal life in the month of November 2017:

**Dr. John J. Hoch**

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

**Ruth L. Himler**

Monday, November 7, 2016



Received in the months of October & November 2017:

**DR. JOHN HOCH**

Donald & Ruth Boyhont

**CATHERINE KERCHNER**

Larry & Debra Clayton





We appreciate this chance, during this busy season, to abide in your presence, heavenly Father. May our offerings of praise and worship — as well as of money and time — be pleasing to you. If people here today are putting on a happy face for the season but feeling sad inside, help them sense your comforting Spirit. As the year comes to an end, Eternal God, help us let go of the past and follow you into the future. In Jesus Name, Amen.

- Dec. 2 - 3** First Sunday of Advent / Holy Communion at all services / Holden Evening Prayer on Saturday
- Dec. 9 - 10** Second Sunday of Advent / Festival of Advent Lessons & Carols on Sunday morning
- Dec. 16 - 17** Third Sunday of Advent / Holy Communion at all services  
Sunday School Christmas Program on Sunday at 9:15 a.m.
- Dec. 23 - 24** Fourth Sunday of Advent / Sunday one service at 10:00 a.m. / Food Bank Weekend
- Dec. 30 - 31** First Sunday after Christmas / Sunday one service at 10:00 a.m.
- 

## 2017/2018 Fellowship Social Calendar



December 10 ~ Adult Sunday School Classes  
January 7 ~ Church Council  
February 11 ~ Helping Hands/Love-A-Lot

Fellowship this month will be on Sunday December 10th, following the church services. This month's hosts are the members of the Adult Sunday School.

### **Adult Sunday School Class:**

Our Adult Sunday School Classes meet every Sunday during the Sunday School Hour. The Adult Bible Class meets upstairs in the counting room and the G.R.A.C.E. Adult Bible Class meets down stairs in Room 8. This is an excellent opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of our beliefs. Come and share your thoughts in learning more about our Christian Faith.

*Come join us for Fellowship!*

*Take a few minutes to chat with representatives of these Two groups during their Fellowship Hours to Find out more about their activities and plans.*

*You may find that you want to become a part of their efforts.*



# Christmas Eve Services

## Sunday, December 24, 2017



Candles flicker throughout the nave. The story of our Savior's birth has just been proclaimed from the Gospel. The music begins, and we join together in song:

*"Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar; heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!"*

It is a moment filled with awe and joy as we gather to celebrate the birth of our Savior, who came to bring us the light of God's eternal love. Our worship that night through the beauty of the decorated nave, the music, the sermon, and the candlelight reflects the most precious gift of God's only Son, who has come into the world for our salvation.

*All three evening services include Christmas carols, candlelight, and the nave decorated in all its grandeur. Come to the worship service that is right for you and your family.*

The *Family Christmas Eve Service* at 5:00 p.m. is designed for families with children. The service includes a prelude by an Instrumental Ensemble, the reading of the Christmas story, anthems by the Creation, Celebration, and Chalice Choirs, and the children's Christmas message.



The *Christmas Eve Service of Holy Communion* at 7:00 p.m. offers the sacrament by intinction for those wishing to receive it. In addition to harp, violin, and brass, the Philethia Choir provides the choral music. The service is preceded by 15 minutes of special music.

The *Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service* at 11:00 p.m. keeps vigil as we await the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord. The Chancel Choir, harp, violin, and brass provide the inspirational music 30 minutes before the service and during the service as well.



## New Year's Eve Worship

### With Holy Communion

Sunday, December 31, 2017 ~ 5:30 p.m.

## New Year's EVE Worship

As you celebrate the New Year and ponder what lies ahead, come worship at St. John's, New Year's Eve in the nave. Come to receive Christ's body and blood so that you may start the New Year new in Christ with assurance of forgiveness and strengthened faith.



# Grace Notes

With its colorful red leaves, the poinsettia plant over the years has become a standard part of our Christmas decorating traditions. Native to Central America, and especially common in southern Mexico, the plant was initially brought to the United States by Joel Roberts Poinsett, who was the first U.S. Ambassador to Mexico in 1825. Thus, the plant soon became known as the “poinsettia.”

In Mexico there’s an old folk tale of how the poinsettia became associated with Christmas. According to legend, a poor Mexican girl named Pepita had no present to give baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve service. Rather than be empty-handed, Pepita picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and gathered them into a small bouquet. Although she was embarrassed by her meager gift for Jesus, Pepita arrived at the church, knelt down, and placed the bouquet in front of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and Pepita truly thought that she had witnessed a miracle. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the “Flowers of the Holy Night.”

Each Christmas season, our nave is adorned with an array of poinsettia plants, artfully arranged to produce a splash of color. If you look at the poinsettia up close, you can see a formation of very small golden flowers radiating from the center. Certainly the configuration of these tiny flowers, along with the shape of the red leaves, can be thought to symbolize the Star of Bethlehem. And it’s often been said that the red colored leaves of the plant are representative of the blood of Christ.

But the poinsettia plant also creates something else besides embellishment, beauty and mere symbolism. From the perspective of the person who donated the plant in memory of a loved one whom they have lost, or perhaps in honor of someone they admire, the poinsettia becomes a sign of remembrance. To the homebound person who receives a poinsettia sometime after Christmas Day, then the plant is a friend from the church. It is a reminder that you belong and are not forgotten. It is a gift.

Christmas is a season of giving and receiving. It’s the time when God brings us new life, joy, grace and love through the gift of His son Jesus Christ. It is about singers and instrumentalists who create beauty through their music and offer joy and inspiration to those who listen. It is about giving of ourselves to others, taking time to visit, sending a card, contributing to a charity, volunteering for a worthy cause, or helping those less fortunate.

As you sit in church this Christmas season, take time to admire the display of poinsettias that surround the nave and consider what they mean for you. Maybe you will be reminded of the radiant star of Bethlehem or the blood that was shed on the cross. Think of those who are being remembered or honored through the poinsettia donations, and pray for the shut-ins who will be the joyous recipient of a poinsettia. Ponder the story of little Pepita, who offered her simple gift at the manger and experienced a miracle. Perhaps you, too, will be touched by the miracle of Christmas!

Grace and peace,  
*Rev. Janice I. Butz*  
Minister of Music





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

With the Christmas holiday time fast approaching, it can be easy to get swept up in the consumerism and marketing that surrounds us daily during this time. However, this is a wonderful time to remember to help others who are in need, as well. With this thought in mind, Luther League has scheduled some great service projects to remember and help those in our congregation, as well as others throughout the nation.

On Sunday, December 3rd, Luther League will be delivering Christmas gifts to the shut ins. Early in November, the Luther League made wreath ornaments for this purpose. On December 3rd, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 12:00 noon (following the late worship service), eat lunch, and then head out to visit our parishioners who cannot make it to church each week.

On Wednesday, December 6th, the Luther League and parents will be Packing Boxes for the Military at 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Under the direction of Dean and Barbara Sandbrook, youth will take the donations given by our congregational members and pack them into many boxes, which will then be shipped to service men and women around the world.

Looking forward, remember that we celebrate Epiphany and The Three Kings' arrival on Sunday, January 7th during Sunday School at 9:15 am in the Fellowship Hall. I hope you will join us for this presentation!

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

### LOOKING AHEAD:

**Lock In:** 6:00 pm Friday, January 12th - 9:00 am Saturday, January 13th.

**Youth Service Weekend:** February 3rd - 4th (all three Worship Services).



**SHYG!!** All Youth entering or leaving grades 9 - 12: Don't forget every Wednesday night at 6:15 p.m. up in the Youth Room we have **SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP**. This is a fun time to come and hang out and have meaningful discussions together. See you on Wednesday!



**Do you shop at Giant? Do you want to help out the youth who will be attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2018? Then come to our table in the Shepherd's Room following worship!** You can purchase Giant gift cards at face value in increments of \$25, \$50, or \$100, and 5% will be donated by Giant! Thank you in advance for your support of our youth!





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



**CAROLE KUNKLE**  
December 20th  
729 Bushkill Center Rd.  
Nazareth, PA 18064

**CONNIE LICHTENWALNER**  
December 26th  
5526 Grace Ave.  
Bethlehem, PA 18017



## *Poinsettia Dedications*

If you would like to sponsor a Poinsettia in the nave for the Christmas worship services, please complete the form below and place it in the offering plate or return to the Church Office. \$10.00 per plant. Money must accompany the sponsor form and must be in the Church Office no later than Sunday, December 17, 2017. No sponsor forms after this date, please. Make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church and please put "Poinsettia" in the memo line.



**PLEASE NOTE: ALL poinsettias will be given to our shut-in members.**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Dedications at \$10.00 each	Total Amount Enclosed	Please indicate specific fund designation below:
_____	_____	_____ Seasonal Decorations
		_____ Hunger Appeal
		_____ Media Ministry

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

Check In Honor	One In Memory	DEDICATED TO <i>(Please PRINT the dedication as you want it to appear in the bulletin)</i>	DEDICATED BY (FROM)

## ***Faith Through the Arts returns in 2018!***

Once again the Shepherd's Room will be transformed into an art gallery, and musical events will abound as St. John's celebrates its 7<sup>th</sup> arts festival this coming Lenten season. If you know of an artist, encourage them to submit artwork. The deadline for submission is Friday, January 12, and registration forms are located in the church office or in the brochure rack in the Shepherd's Room. Individual sponsors will also be needed to provide financial assistance, so please prayerfully consider making a contribution toward this educational and enriching ministry of our congregation.

### **Faith Through the Arts Sponsorship**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I/We wish to be a sponsor for *Faith Through the Arts* and will contribute:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00    \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00    \_\_\_\_\_ other

in loving memory of \_\_\_\_\_

or

in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church  
and return to the church office by February 19.*



Please join us on **Sunday, December 17, 2017 at 9:15 AM** in the Nave for our annual Sunday School Christmas Program entitled *The Fumbly Bumbly Angels* by Sandy Cope and Sandy Dillbeck. All are welcome to experience the Christmas message and participate in the program. Have a Blessed Holiday Season.

### **Follow the Star to St. John's Sunday School For a Special Epiphany Program January 7, 2018**

You are all cordially invited on Sunday, January 7, 2018, to celebrate in a *special* Sunday School program for Epiphany Sunday in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour (9:15 AM to 10:15 AM). The Three Kings will visit Mary, Joseph & Baby Jesus in the Fellowship Hall as well as enjoy a Sunday School story, craft, and light refreshment.

Please plan to attend with your children to ring in the New Year by Following the Star to St. John's...

*St. John's Lutheran Sunday School Department*



*Just as the longest night of the year approaches, we light all four candles on our Advent wreath. Indeed, Christ's light shines in our darkness, and the darkness cannot banish it (see John 1:5). Welcome to worship.*



**Please note, there will be no Sunday School on Sunday, December 24th & 31st.**

## FOOD BANK WEEKEND: December 23 - 24

The Nazareth Area Food Bank needs to replenish its supply of one dish meals, cereal, tuna, chicken & canned veggies, 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.

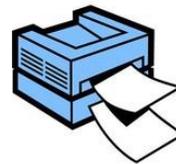


## PARKING FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Arrangements have been made for parking during Christmas Eve services at David Danner Accounting, and Brian's Professional Cleaning Services, parking lots at Walnut and Broad Streets. If you do not mind the one block walk to the church, please consider using those facilities so that those parishioners who are unable to walk a distance will be able to park nearer to the church.



**SPONSORS NEEDED!!** Would you like to sponsor the Altar Flowers, the Bulletins, or the CD Ministry in honor of or in memory of a loved one or special occasion? Please sign-up in the appropriate notebook(s) located in the rear of the nave. The notebooks are also available during Fellowship Socials. If you are unable to come to the church for any reason, please call the Church Office at 610-759-3090 for assistance with sponsoring.



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for 1 or 2 volunteers to help Wayne with printing the Bulletins and the Messenger. Please call the Church Office at 610-759-3090 with any questions or to submit your name and phone number if you are interested and someone will get in touch with you to set up a time to be trained.



The Flower Committee is looking for volunteers to deliver flowers to shut-ins once per month. It is a nice way to meet some of our older members who are either at home, in assisted living, in nursing homes or hospitals. If interested please contact Janice Smith at home 610-881-4069. Thank you!



**REDNER'S TAPES** ~ The Social Ministry Committee is still collecting Redner's receipts for Lutheran Congregational Services. Please remember you need a "Save-a-Tape" card and your receipts must indicate the "Save-a-Tape" program at the bottom where the total is shown. Receipts may be placed in the Social Ministry mailbox outside the Church Office.

### MITTEN TREE



Social Ministry is again placing the Mitten Tree on our Fellowship Hall stage for your kind donations of knitted items. These gifts will be distributed by our Mission District's Ingathering annual event to the various participating facilities for Christmas gifts to those in need. If you knit or crochet and would like to make items for the "Mitten Tree" yarn is available in a bin in the Fellowship Hall. Help yourself. We Thank You in advance for your generous response to this annual Ingathering event. Blessings to all!

## Women of the ELCA DECEMBER BIBLE STUDY

The Rebekah Circle will meet Monday, December 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor. The Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, December 6th at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor.

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

## 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, and held 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.



**Newsletter DEADLINE** The deadline for all submissions for the **January 2018** issue of **THE MESSENGER** is: **Monday Dec. 11th.** 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 coop-



*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*  
**From the Staff at St. John's:**  
 Pastor Clayborne  
 Pastor Stinner  
 Pastor Butz  
 Jaime  
 Deacon Patrice  
 Bonnie & Linda  
 Gary, Tony, Dean & Ray

**OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

The Church Office will CLOSE at 12 Noon on Friday, December 22nd and Friday, December 29th. The Church Office will be CLOSED on Monday, December 25th and Monday, January 1st.

**Nazareth Community Christmas Tree Lighting:**  
 On Thursday, December 7, 2017, the Fire Company will help welcome the Christmas Season with the Tree Lighting Ceremony and the arrival of Santa Claus in the Circle at 7:00 pm. It's a great night to get you in the Holiday Spirit so we encourage you and your children to attend.

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**ELECTION RESULTS** ~ The results of elections for Church Council members are as follows: Jackie Wolf was re-elected to a second three-year term. Rita Bergstrom, Christina Brodt, Greg Leh and Michele Seaton were each elected to a first three-year term, which will begin in January 2018. We thank all who participated in the election, and particularly all the nominees for their willingness to serve God and St. John's. Thank you to Alan Butz, Joe Billy and Sharon Werner for their years of dedicated service.

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## *Correspondence...*



### **SHARE THE BOUNTY Project 2017**

A heartfelt "Thank You" from the Social Ministry Committee for your generous garden vegetable offerings given in support of our "Share the Bounty" from our gardens project held once again during this year's growing season! We recognized a total "freewill offering" of \$186.50 in support of this project. The offering is being donated to the Nazareth Area Food Bank this fall to support their efforts in supplying food to the NAFB clients during their regular monthly distributions. Thank you to all for your kind donations and generous support of this ongoing commitment to our community.

Thank you to the members of St. John's Social Ministry Committee for the wonderful donation of many different items including diapers, baby items, socks, underwear, etc. to Appalachian Outreach. These basic articles of everyday living are so necessary to the work we do to relieve the burden of poverty and disaster for the less fortunate in our state. We so appreciate your Social Ministry Committee's thoughtfulness in sending these items. With your support and prayers, we will continue to work to help those suffering from poverty and natural disasters. Together we can make a difference for those who need us most.

Sincerely,

Rose Hart, Executive Director Appalachian Outreach, Inc.

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### **INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

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



How far is it to Christmas Day?

The journey's just as long

as taking time to listen

to a joyful angel song.

It's just as far as one can go

in doing a loving deed

that helps someone feel better

or that meets their special need.

For Christmas is a journey

that the heart makes every year.

It starts right with your family

and those you hold so dear.

It travels on to strangers

'round the world to everyone

with the message that God loves us

and that's why he's sent his Son!



—Peggy Ferrell



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

**DECEMBER SPECIAL OFFERING:**  
**FUEL**

Heating Fuel (oil) is an expense that is difficult to budget for, since the weather is a primary factor in how much is used each year. If it's a cold winter, more oil is used than during a mild winter. Contributions will be used to help offset the costs of fuel during the heating season.

**PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE...**

- ◆ When a member of your family is admitted to the hospital, so visits can be made.
- ◆ When you move so we can update your address and/or phone number.
- ◆ When a member of your family leaves home for college, military service, or to establish a new residence.
- ◆ When either your home or cell phone number or email is changed.
- ◆ When a member of your family marries, so their name and/or address can be changed on our records.
- ◆ When a new baby arrives in your family.



**PLEASE alert the Church Office of any changes to your mailing address, email, or telephone number.** You may use the pew cards, put a note in the office mailbox, send us an email, or call the office at 610-759-3090. The post office charges us when they give us your corrected address, but you can tell us for **FREE!** Thank you for your assistance.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The cut-off date for all donations and contributions for the year 2017 is **Thursday, December 28th at 4:00 p.m.**

Anything received after 4:00 p.m. will be credited to 2018.

A Congregational Meeting was held on November 4th & 5th after a temple talk presented by Jeff Daniels, Chair of the Property Committee. The Congregation voted "Yes" to approve money from the Improvement Funds to be used to update the Parsonage. Thank you all who participated in this important vote.



**WANTED: YOUR USED PRINTER INK CARTRIDGES!!**

St. John's is collecting used printer ink cartridges. Staples will give St. John's \$2.00 in Staples Rewards for each cartridge turned in, for up to 20 per month. We can recycle ANY ink cartridge — no matter which brand. This includes HP, Brother, Epson, Canon, Dell, Kodak, or Lexmark ink or toner cartridges. There is a collection box outside the Church Office, under the mailboxes. Thank you!!

**CAN TABS WANTED** ~ St. John's is collecting can tabs for the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House – a project of the Nazareth Woman's Club. Many families in the Lehigh Valley have found comfort and support at the PRMH. Please put your can tabs in the green buckets found in the rear of the nave and outside the Church Office. Thank you for your support of this worthwhile project.



PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS



# SAINT JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES



**OCTOBER 25, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Chris Andrews, Stephen Bajan II, Alan Butz, Rev. Janice Butz, Craig Dally, Cathie Dara, Christine Garrison, Rev. Frank Stinner, Jaime Taylor, Wayne Vierzbicki, Joyce Wallace, Sharon Werner, Jackie Wolf.

**ABSENT:** Joe Billy, Greg Leh, Gail Price

**DEVOTIONS:** Alan Butz led with a prayer.

**MINUTES:** The Minutes of the Sept. 27, 2017 meeting were reviewed and stand as written. Motion by Alan Butz to accept the Minutes. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sharon Werner. Motion passed.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Letter from Bishop Zeiser – NE Penn Synod, thanking St. John's for all we do.

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

1. Continuing visitations to hospitals and homes and visiting shut-ins. Thank you to the Eucharistic Ministry Team for their wonderful ministry.
2. Will attend the annual Martin Luther Colloquy at United Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg Campus from
3. Oct. 31-Nov. 2.
4. Really enjoy teaching the 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Confirmation Class.

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

1. Emery Brothers has been contacted regarding the cleaning & restoration of the organ pipework.
2. Oct. 28 & 29 – *Legacy of Faith* – Festival Choir will perform at Reformation Services.
3. Nov. 4 - M.A.D. Camp- rehearsals continue for Fall Stewardship Dinner
4. March, 2018 – Arts Festival at St. John's. "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Theme. Events are being scheduled.

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

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

1. Acolyte Training was held. 10 students wanted to be trained.
2. Oct. 15 – Luther League trip to Mazezilla Corn Maze. Weather was perfect, everyone had a great time!
3. Nov. 1 – Youth Gathering group met. 20 youth are planning to attend.
4. Letters to Pastor Schaeffer were sent from the Luther League.
5. 2018 – Confirmation Retreat will be at Tuscarora Inn.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE:** Stephen Bajan II, reported:

1. Jeff Daniels will present a Temple Talk and give an update on the parsonage.
2. Helping Hands and sextons have helped to keep the costs down on the restoration of the parsonage.
3. Back parking lot needs to be sealed.
4. Cash flow fund was discussed.

**COLUMBARIUM:** No Report

1. Janice Smith has planted 5 mums on the West side of Columbarium.
2. Pastor Stinner reported 2 niches were sold.

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

1. Asst. will be going back to college.
2. Day Care is now reaching out for STAR 4 program.

**ENDOWMENT:** Stephen Bajan reported:

1. Nov. 4 & 5 - Temple Talk regarding parsonage renovation.
2. Investment value continues to rise.

**EVANGELISM:** Sharon Werner reported: No Report – No Meeting

1. Effective Jan. 2018 – Evangelism & Social Ministry Committees will merge.
2. Motion by: Stephen Bajan, II 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Craig Dally
3. Pastor Stinner commented on the Bulletin Board – Need photos of new members.

**HELPING HANDS:** Jackie Wolf reported:

1. Parsonage – Committee has been helping with the restoration.
2. Parsonage – Contractors have been remodeling.
3. Pastor Clayborne & wife Nancy will arrive on Nov. 8 – Will need help unpacking.

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

1. Oct. 24-25 – Annual hayride/pumpkin picking at Juniperdale Farms.

**PERSONNEL:** Jackie Wolf reported: No Report

1. Nov. 18-19, 2017 - Rev. Daniel Clayborne will be here.
2. Evaluations have all been done.

**PROPERTY:** Wayne V. reported:

1. Parsonage – Starting in Nov. – Replacement of knob & tube wiring. All wiring is outdated.
2. Parsonage – Bathroom restoration has received a bid.
3. Parsonage – Pastor Stinner noted that all volunteer hours are appreciated

**SOCIAL MINISTRY:** Cathie Dara reported: No Report

1. Blanket Sunday took in \$1,208.
2. Appalachian Underwear collection was a great response.
3. Dec. 6 – 7 – Ingathering at Shepherd Hills.
4. Redner's Save-A-Tape – Current balance is \$3,700 which would equate to a \$37 check.
5. Stephen Bajan, II talked about Amazon Smile.

**STEWARDSHIP:** Christine Garrison reported:

1. Oct. 21 – 22 – Harvest Home Weekend – Diana Holva did a great job.
2. Nov. 4 – Stewardship Dinner.
3. Nov. 11-12 – Stewardship Weekend – Fellowship Hour is with Finance.
4. Nov. 25-26 – Blessing of the Commitment Cards

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Jamie Taylor reported:

1. Martin Luther movie – Payment will come out of Endowment Education.
2. Carol Schaeffer's Gift – Dogwood twig will be planted. Commemorative Garden Stone will be placed with the plant.
3. Dec. 17 – Christmas Program
4. 2018 – Bibles will be given out on Rally Day in Sept. and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Hymnals will be given out on their 1<sup>st</sup> Communion.

**WORSHIP & MUSIC:** Janice Butz reported:

1. Nov. 26 – Golden Age Sunday
2. Dec. 24 – 10:00 a.m. service
3. 5:00 p.m. service
4. 7:00 p.m. service
5. 11:00 p.m. service
6. Dec. 31 - 10:00 a.m. service
7. 5:30 p.m. service

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. Capital Campaign – Stephen Bajan II reported: Visible work still to be done.
2. Cathie Dara reported on: Building & Property User's Guide and Forms. Discussion was held.
3. Jackie Wolf reported that the guide was reviewed and changes were made.
4. Cathie will work with Linda in the office to prepare a clean draft in Nov. 2017.

5. Nov. 8 – Pastor Dan Clayborne & Nancy will be moving into the parsonage.
6. Nov. 18-19 – Church Council elections.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Nov. 4-5 – Temple Talk & Congregation meeting regarding Parsonage restoration.
2. Nov. 18-19 – Altar Flowers – Given by Church Council – will be placed in the Parsonage.
3. Motion by: Craig Dally, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chris Andrews – Motion approved.
4. Nov. 29 – Church Council meeting @ 7:30
5. Dec. 13 – Church Council meeting @7:30
6. Jan. 28, 2018 – Congregational meeting
7. 2018 Fellowship Social Calendar – Approved by Evangelism
8. St. John's Bylaws – Review/Revise committee to be formed. Pastor Stinner suggested to look at the new model of the ELCA constitution.
9. Approval of Minutes to be done before next scheduled Council meeting – No change.

**Building Use Requests:**

1. Oct. 28 - Janice Butz - Festival Choir – Fellowship Hall
2. Nov. 4 - Diana Holva – Stewardship Dinner – Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
3. Nov. 19 – Bill & Janice Vetter – Baptism Celebration
4. Nov. 19 or Dec. 3 – Pamela Westphal – Vocal Recital - Nave
5. Motion to accept Building Use Requests: Wayne V., 2<sup>nd</sup> Chris Andrews. Motion passed.
6. Jan. 24 or 26, 2018 – Karen Davis – Lifeline Screening – Motion to Decline – Chris Andrews, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alan Butz.
7. All approved to decline request.

Council President Jackie Wolf declared the meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Next Meeting** - Nov. 29, 2017 @ 7:30 p.m.

**Next Devotions** - Stephen Bajan, II

Respectfully submitted,

*Joyce Wallace*

Recording Secretary

*These minutes will be approved at the next Church Council meeting on November 29th.*

# ANNUAL CHRISTMAS INGATHERING

The Annual Christmas Ingathering of the Northern Lehigh Valley Mission District will be held at [Shepherd of the Hills, Whitehall on Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. \(Noon\).](#)

Our Church's Social Ministry Committee is once again planning to be an active part of this ministry, and we are turning to you for your kind and generous help to provide the gifts needed for this Christian Ministry.

The Institutions to receive gifts for Christmas 2017 are as follows: [Gracedale Nursing Home, Sayre Child Center, KidsPeace and Allentown Rescue Mission.](#)

Each year the participating churches are asked for a special donation of \$20.00 each for a special cause in addition to those already mentioned. [This year these special monies will be given to "Truth for Women", a care facility for sexually exploited women.](#)

Mittens, hats and scarves are requested again for our "Knitted Items Tree" for men, women, and children of all ages. Boxes, wrapping paper, ribbon, and bows are always helpful as well.

Your monetary gifts will also be used to purchase the three gifts our church will give to specific children who are residents at KidsPeace, and 50 packs of M&Ms and 50 Chapsticks to be placed in the 200 Gift Bags provided for the children at KidsPeace.

ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE are the "wish lists" for the people living at the institutions. Donation boxes will be available beginning in November in the Fellowship Hall and the back of the Nave.



✂️  
Chr

We sincerely thank you for your generosity in helping to create a joyous Christmas for these people in need of our ministry.

The Social Ministry Committee of St. John's, Nazareth



# INGATHERING WISH LIST:

## GRACEDALE

### Male

After shave lotion  
Small combs  
Talcum powder

### Female

Body Powder  
Hair brushes  
Perfume/colognes  
Scarves  
Socks

### Both

Ankle socks	non skid slipper socks
Body spray	pens/pencils
Body wash	playing cards
Chapstick	postage stamps
Colored pencils	tissue packets
Crayons	velvet coloring posters
Deodorant	writing paper
Lg. print search a word	Markers - washable
Moisturizing lotion	

## SAYRE CHILD CENTER - Children's Items Only (NO Stuffed Animals, Please)

Batteries (AA,C,D)	Infant cereal (rice or oatmeal)
Bibs	Puzzles 25 & 50 pcs.
Board Books & Washable Books	Kitchen dish towels
Bubbles	Plain drawing paper
Colored pencils	Playdoh
Computer software (ages 4 - 10)	Playground balls
Construction paper	Sidewalk Chalk
Crayons	Single fruit or veggie
Diapers & wipes	Infant food (stage 2)
Finger paint	Sticker
Glue sticks	Tissues
Washcloths for Classroom use	Toddler size forks & spoons
	Waterproof markers

## ALLENTOWN RECUE MISSION

### (NO Glass Containers or Liquid Soap)

### Men's:

Sweatshirts	T-shirts (colored or white)
Underwear / Socks	Winter Hats / Gloves
Bleach	Single size fruit & granola snacks, etc.
Belts	Casual Wear
Jelly / Cereal	Gloves
Bar soap	
Jeans or Khakis, new or gently used, (32-42 waist/30-34 length)	
Travel size Deodorant & Shaving Cream	

## KIDSPACE

### (NO WIRE-BOUND BOOKS)

### Art Supplies

Crayons  
Clay  
Coloring Books  
Sketch Pads  
Paints  
Brushes, etc.

### Clothing

Pajamas  
Socks  
Underwear  
Scarves  
Hats  
Mittens  
Sweatshirts & Pants (all Sizes)

### Personal Care Items

Shower Gels  
Shampoo  
Deodorant  
Flavored Lip Balm  
Scented Lotions

### Gift Cards

All Kinds including:  
Book Stores  
iTunes  
Movie Theatres  
Target  
K-Mart / Walmart

## TRUTH FOR WOMEN

BBQ sauce	Brown sugar
Cereal	Coffee
Crackers	Dishwasher detergent
Flour	Ketchup
Grape jelly	Mustard
Mayonnaise	Pretzels
Pasta	Sugar
Spaghetti sauce	Tuna fish
Toilet paper	
Gift cards: Walmart & Giant	

Remember those  
who are less  
fortunate





## FALL IS HERE! - -TIME TO RAKE THE LEAVES!

Several projects have been started and some have been scheduled to take place in 2018. Some of these are a part of the Capital Campaign and some are new.

- The upgrade of our sound system for the fellowship hall has been **Completed**. The system is working great! (Capital Campaign).
- The next two phases of repair work on the nave organ have been scheduled. A deposit was given in order to put us on the schedule for **June 2018**. This work will take approximately one month to complete. (Capital Campaign).
- Painting of the Nave will also be scheduled for **June 2018**. (Capital Campaign).
- Restoration of arch type stained glass windows (south wall alley/shepherd room) is **Active**. (Capital Campaign).
- The Choir robe enclosure will be scheduled for **January 2018**. The closet will be located in fellowship hall. We can move forward once estimates are received.

We have successfully finished giving the parsonage a face lift. I want to THANK all members of Helping Hands and the Sextons, who were involved in completing this project in a timely manner to welcome Pastor Clayborne and his family. We were able to save thousands of dollars by NOT using outside contractors.

We wish all of you a Blessed Christmas Season.  
The Sextons, sextons@stjohnsnaz.org

## **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 and Iraq, please leave that information in the Church Office so that boxes can be sent. **Packages will be mailed the beginning of December** 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.



**PACKING BOXES FOR THE MILITARY:** On **December 6th**, all youth should meet in the Fellowship Hall at **4:00 p.m.** to pack boxes to be sent to the military.

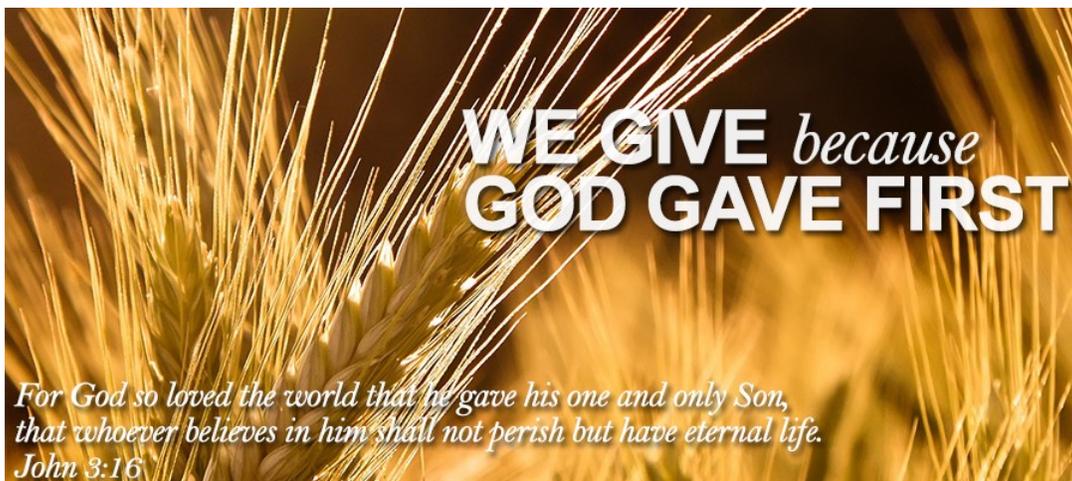
## Greetings from the Stewardship Ministry Team!

As this year comes to a close, we ask you to reflect on all the glorious works that have been done through and by the St. John's Lutheran Congregation members. Each day, week and month has presented to us opportunities to share the many gifts, talents, and possessions we have been blessed to be given. We have seen more than our normal share of changes and adjustments to be made this year, only to give us greater resolve to lift our hearts and minds to the Lord for the guidance, to do as He would have us do.

Together we have studied and prayed on the "Fearless Generosity" Stewardship Program and the themes of *Fearless Living, Fearless Service, Fearless Sowing and Fearless Giving*. By faith we have been given the resources necessary to follow His call to serve others. By faith he has guided our Helping Hands Ministry, our support of the Nazareth Area Food Bank, the CWS projects, the Nazareth Summer Lunch program, the Support Our Troops collections, the Clothing for Appalachia, Engineers Without Borders, and the list goes on and on.

We may call these efforts by other names, but they are all examples of Christian Stewardship to our church, our community, and the world in need. The Stewardship Ministry Team is thankful for the support you have given. But our work is not done. Each new day we arise to the challenges set before us, and face them with the resolve to follow where the Lord is leading us. As we are instructed to do at the end of each church service:

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





# Love-A-Lot Nursery School



With October filled with field trips and special events, November was a nice change of pace as we took the time to give thanks and help the children recognize the many blessings we have in our lives. As with nature, our Love-A-Lot tree (located in the hallway outside of our classroom) changes with the seasons and in November it was decorated with thankful leaves and acorns. When asking the children what they hold most dear in their hearts, the answers certainly ranged from funny to poignant, ensuring these keepsakes a special place each Thanksgiving for years to come.

Aside from our monthly visit from Miss Catherine (Nazareth Library's Children's Librarian) and our monthly Show & Tells, our art projects, stories, and play in November centered on the Thanksgiving holiday. This part of our curriculum enabled the children to understand and give thanks for their blessings. In addition to all of the Thanksgiving activities, a professional photographer came in to capture individual and class pictures of both classes.

There is a lot to look forward to in December! Christmas, of course, is the overriding theme in everything we do from the Santa and reindeer crafts and books, to the true meaning of the holiday as we discuss the birth of Jesus. The 3yo class will continue learning colors, working on fine motor skills, cutting with scissors, and learning three new numbers. The 4yo class will review numbers, shapes, and rhyming. We will introduce the concept of patterns and the children will continue to learn a letter a week, practice with scissors, and work on prewriting skills.

We are now enrolling for the 2018-2019 school year! Classes run from 9-11:30am. The 4yo class meets Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and the 3yo class meets Tuesday and Thursdays. We are in school from from September through May. Early enrollment is encouraged since the classes fill quickly (particularly the 4yo class). If you are interested in registering your child in Love-A-Lot Nursery School next September, there are openings in both the 3 & 4yo classes. Simply call (484-293-0720), email [LoveALotNurserySchool@yahoo.com](mailto:LoveALotNurserySchool@yahoo.com) or contact us through our Facebook page (Love-A-Lot Nursery School).

## N.A.F.B. ANGEL TREE

**ANGEL TREE** ~ The Nazareth Area Food Bank Angel Tree is located in the Shepherd's Room once again to help the Food Bank bring Christmas joy to the children it serves. The forms for gift requests are under the tree.



- Each child's wish list will be on the sheets in the folder under the tree. It contains the Family Code #, age, gender, some clothing sizes, and gift wishes from the child. We encourage gift givers to stay as close as possible to the wish requests. They can remove an angel from the tree to use as a gift tag and write the family code # on it and attach to the package.
- The suggested number of gifts is **3** with the total amount spent for the gifts not to exceed \$50.00.
- In order to ensure that each family member gets the same amount of gifts, **please place your purchases into 2 packages for each child.** Gift wrapping is helpful.
- Please put the Family Code # on each package! This is critical to get the correct gifts to each family.
- Please sign the sheet by the tree with the Family Code #, your name, and phone number to help us coordinate pick-up.
- Please return your gift packages and place them under the tree **no later than Sunday, December 10th.**
- If you have any questions, please contact Karen Frey at 610-217-4519.

Thank you for your assistance in helping the Nazareth Area Food Bank share the Christmas spirit with children it serves. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

# St. John's Day Care News

## NEWS FROM THE DAYCARE DECEMBER 2017

November was a month to focus on families, sharing and being thankful. The classrooms learned how families celebrate Thanksgiving in different ways and the history behind Thanksgiving. Each classroom had their own celebrations by bringing in things to share for lunchtime. The pre-k classroom was very proud to collect and deliver food to the Nazareth Food Bank again this year. We also started to prepare for our Christmas program. Please join us on December 8th at 6:30 for a fun evening of music and holiday activities.

As the holidays approach, please look for the wish tree in the Shepherds room. Each classroom will place an ornament on the tree with a wish. If you choose to pick an ornament and fulfill one of these wishes, please place the wrapped gift under the tree with the ornament attached by Thursday, December 21st. On Friday, December 22nd the classrooms will have a visit from Santa and they will open their gifts for the classroom.

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. We currently have openings in our preschool classroom. If you have any interest in learning more about our center please call **610-759-4999** or email [lisat@rcn.com](mailto:lisat@rcn.com).



Overflowing With Thanks

### *Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!*

*To our Church Council... To all Committee members... To the volunteers who assist in running off, collating, and folding our weekly bulletins and the monthly newsletter... To the ones who assist in the Church Office... To the ones who decorate the church with seasonal flowers, trees, wreaths, and aisle greens... To the ones who write up our pastoral acts in longhand... To the ones who take such good care of our beautiful building inside and out... To the ones who prepare communion for worship... To the ones who cook our tasty meals... To the ones who assist before, during, and after worship... To those who cheerfully answer the call whenever needed... And from the youngest singing voice to the oldest musician! (Please forgive us if we left anyone out.)*

*We would like to say how much we appreciate all that you do. We do what we do for the love of Christ and our Church. In this, we all are one. God Bless You All!*

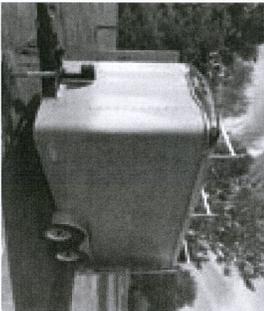
*With Much Gratitude,  
The Church Staff*



# SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

## Disaster Relief Trailer



There is a disaster relief trailer full of tools and supplies that anyone can borrow. It is located at Ziegels, Beinigsville.

The contact person for scheduling its use is Lori Brawn; and she can be reached at [Lori1962@verizon.net](mailto:Lori1962@verizon.net) or at 610-285-6157.

Thank you to the folks at Friedens, Oley for taking care of it in the past, and to Ziegels for taking it on now.

Download information on the trailer and its contents at <http://nepasynod.org/documents/2017-10-disaster-trail-info.pdf>.



## Friday Evening "Sunday" School



Like many congregations, St. Luke Union Church in Shoemakersville had experienced a decline in Sunday school attendance. There are many factors involved, sports being the most dominant. As pastor Walt Breiner told one parishioner: "Sadly, the church doesn't own Sunday morning anymore." With that in mind and with a prayerful approach, St. Luke began J.A.M. (Jesus And Me), an alternative "Sunday" school on Friday evenings, offered in addition to the usual Sunday morning classes. J.A.M. is offered every Friday evening from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM using VBS site rotation as the model. The evening opens with singing a song, hearing a story from the Bible, a children's message, and a closing prayer. Then comes a "Dance Party" where the children learn songs with dances or games. Next is crafts, followed by a snack. From there the children see an animated Bible movie and always have ice cream during that time.

To date there are 26 children enrolled in the program, six of whom are special needs children. Parents are invited to stay. Those who do remain seem to enjoy the evening and most participate fully in all activities as well as meals. However, some parents use the time for grocery shopping or for an "adult" dinner. A mother of two special needs children returned after two hours with tears in her eyes telling how much she and her husband cherish this time of respite.

Most important, the children and their families hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and know that Jesus loves them.

## Talking About Racism

### TWO BOOK STUDIES

**Waking Up White** (Debby Irving)

The synod staff recently studied Debby Irving's book, *Waking Up White*. This book is Irving's personal story of awakening to her own racism, how racism has been built into our societal structures, and how she has benefited from her insights.

Her book is a helpful resource for white people to understand the insidiousness of racism and their complicity in it. Discussion questions follow each chapter. This resource is appropriate for senior high youth as well as adults.

**America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, And The Bridge To A New America** (Jim Wallis)

The book jacket states: "In America's Original Sin, Wallis offers a prophetic and deeply personal call to action in overcoming the racism so ingrained in American society."

"He speaks candidly to Christians--particularly white Christians--urging them to cross a new bridge toward racial justice and healing. Whenever divided cultures and gridlocked power structures fail to end systemic sin, faith communities can help lead the way to grassroots change."

"Probing yet positive, biblically rooted yet highly practical, this book shows people of faith how they can work together to overcome the embedded racism in America, galvanizing a movement to cross the bridge to a multiracial church and a new America."

## Martin Luther's Bier, Brats, and Bible Klub



What can a congregation do to get its men more involved in the life of the church? And how, at the same time, can it inspire joint cooperation with a neighboring congregation? These questions were asked last year within our synod. One answer came in the form of a new Men's Ministry Group - one that would involve fellowship, service and devotion.

Schwarzwald, Jacksonwald and Reifton (both in Exeter Township Berks County) formed the "Martin Luther's Bier, Brats and Bible Klub." This summer, the men of St. Mark's, Birdsboro also joined the group. Known as the BB&B, the group meets monthly at area restaurants or homes of members for fellowship, a meal, devotion, and project planning. Each meeting opens with prayer followed by a spirituality moment. Then, of course, there is the food, with bratwursts a usual staple of the meal!

But the group isn't just about fellowship and devotion. It also focuses on service to the church and the community. Recent projects include support for local law enforcement, meals for senior citizens, food drives for seminarians and for the homeless, moving a local Vet into a new home, meals for the homeless, labor for the Humane Society, yard work at the Lutheran Center, financial support for the Wittenberg English Ministries, and assisting with various church-related projects. The BB&B funds its projects through church fundraisers and through the use of Thrivent Action Teams.

Membership in the BB&B is free and open to all men. It is an ecumenical group claiming not only Lutheran members but also men from Roman Catholic and Episcopal parishes. Other congregations are encouraged to form their own BB&B's or to participate with the existing group.

For more information, please contact Pastor Jim Farnsworth, St. Mark's, Birdsboro at [PastorJimSMC@gmail.com](mailto:PastorJimSMC@gmail.com) or at 610-582-8167. You can also check out activities on Facebook at Martin Luther's Bier, Brats and Bible Klub - Berks County.

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2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. [nepinfo1988@gmail.com](mailto:nepinfo1988@gmail.com).  
View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org/publications/synod-news>.

## SERVING GOD IN DECEMBER 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.**  
 Contact the coordinator if you are unable to find someone to serve in your place. Sign-up books for Ushers, Altar Flowers, Bulletin Sponsors and CD Ministry Sponsors are found in the rear of the Nave.

<b>Date &amp; Time of Service</b>	<b>GREETERS</b>	<b>ACOLYTES</b>	<b>LECTORS</b>	<b>USHERS</b>
Dec. 2-3	5:30 p.m.	Sarah Amberger	Dylan Trimmer	Cindy Evancho
	8:00 a.m.	Youth	Madelyn Rex	Karen Coleman
	10:45 a.m.	Youth	Aaron Leopold	Sarah Howell
Dec. 9-10	5:30 p.m.	Langford Family	Tyler Rohn	Charles Bonisese
	8:00 a.m.	Bruce & Joyce Knecht Andrews Family	Tim Garrison	Lessons & Carols
	10:45 a.m.	Blake & Jocelyn Suttie Denise & Crystal Koch	Isaiah Eddings	Lessons & Carols
Dec. 16-17	5:30 p.m.	Laurie Center	Daniel Young	Charles Bonisese
	8:00 a.m.	Jean Master, Janice Drosnock Milan & Sandra Billy	Ashley Breault	Suzan Andrews
	10:45 a.m.	Langford Family Joan Johnson	Garrett Koch	Craig Dally
Dec. 23	5:30 p.m.	Lee & Caroline Buss	Kaelan Ellis	Lenna Harris
	10:00 a.m.	Maryellen Werkheiser	Cole Ruhf	TBD
Christmas Eve	5:00 p.m.	Jim & Heather Koch	Dylan Trimmer Quinn Woods	Church Council Members
	7:00 p.m.	Ed & Shirley Bajan	Elie Deaner	Church Council Members
	11:00 p.m.	Steve & Janis Bajan	TBD	Church Council Members
Dec. 30	5:30 p.m.	Stoneback Family	TBD	TBD
	10:00 a.m.	Andrews Family	TBD	TBD
New Year's Eve	5:30 p.m.	TBA	TBD	TBD

# 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

**Interim Pastor:** Rev. T. Daniel Clayborne  
prclayborne@stjohnsnaz.org (h) 610-759-1571  
(c) 774-239-6397

**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:**  
Deacon 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 484-544-1950

**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**  
Andrea Miller, 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

**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

# THE MESSENGER

Volume CLXIII

*"To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known"*

Issue No. 398

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## December 2017

**JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM**

In the Christmas story in Luke 2, an angel tells some shepherds to go see baby Jesus in Bethlehem.

**PUZZLE**

**START**

**BETHLEHEM**

*Directions: Follow the maze to arrive in Bethlehem.*

# DECEMBER 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1  <i>No Scheduled Events</i>	2 10:00 AM Philethia Choir 5:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer Worship w/HC Sexton on Duty: Tony
3 8:00 AM Worship w/HC 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Christmas Program Reh. (Main Parts) 10:45 AM Worship w/HC 12:00 PM Christmas Gift Delivery to Shut Ins Sexton on Duty: Tony	4 6:30 PM Property 7:00 PM Rebekah Cir. (Parlor) 7:00 PM Stewardship (F. H.)	5 9:00 AM Ladies Aid 1:00 PM Wagner Foundation (Parlor) 4:00 PM JAM Sessions 6:30 PM Pictures of Nazareth presented by Visions of Eagles (Fellowship Hall)	6 9:30 AM Ruth Cir. (Parlor) 12:00 PM Bible Study 4:00 PM Packing Military Boxes 5:00 PM Packing Ingathering Boxes 5:00 PM Chalice Choir 6:15 PM Confirmation 1 & 2 6:15 PM SHYG 6:30 PM Bible Studay (Parlor) 7:00 PM NA (Rm. 5 downstairs) 7:30 PM Naz. Community Band	7 6:30 PM Partners for a New Beginning (Parlor) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	8 <b>COUNCIL REPORT DEADLINE</b>  6:30 PM Day Care Christmas Program	9 10:00 AM Festival Choir 5:30 PM Worship w/HC  Sexton on Duty: Ray
10 8:00 AM Worship – Lessons & Carols Fellowship (Adult Sunday Sch.) 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Christmas Program Reh. (All Parts) 9:15 AM New Member/Baptism Class 10:45 AM Worship – Lessons & Carols Fellowship (Adult Sunday Sch.) Sexton on Duty: Ray	11 <b>MESSENGER DEADLINE</b>  7:00 PM Day Care Bd.	12 9:00 AM Ladies Aid 4:00 PM JAM Sessions 6:30 PM Naz. Women's Club 6:30 PM Sunday School Bd. (Parlor)	13 12:00 PM Bible Study 5:00 PM Chalice Choir 6:00 PM Partners Bd. (Parlor) 6:15 PM Confirmation 1 & 2 6:15 PM SHYG 6:30 PM Bible Study (Shepherd's Rm) 7:00 PM NA (Rm. 5 downstairs) 7:30 PM Naz. Community Band 7:30 pm Church Council	14 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	15 4:15 PM Girl Scout 81078 (Shepherd's Room)	16 5:30 PM Worship w/HC  Sexton on Duty: Dean
17 8:00 AM Worship w/HC 9:15 AM Christmas Program 10:45 AM Worship w/HC Sexton on Duty: Dean	18 7:00 PM Finance 8:00 PM Endowment	19 9:00 AM Ladies Aid 4:00 PM JAM Sessions	20 12:00 PM Bible Study 5:00 PM Chalice Choir 6:15 PM Confirmation 1 & 2 6:15 PM SHYG 7:00 PM NA (Rm. 5 downstairs) 7:30 PM Naz. Community Band	21 6:30 PM Partners for a New Beginning (Parlor) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	22 <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON LOVE-A-LOT CLOSED</b>  5:30 PM Philethia Annual Christmas Party	23 10:00 AM Philethia Choir 5:30 PM Worship w/HC Sexton on Duty: Tony
24 <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 10:00 AM Worship 5:00 PM Family Christmas Eve Svc. 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Svc. w/HC 11:00 PM Traditional Christmas Eve Svc. Sexton on Duty: Tony	25 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED LOVE-A-LOT CLOSED</b> <i>No Scheduled Events</i>	26 <b>LOVE-A-LOT CLOSED</b>  9:00 AM Ladies Aid	27 <b>LOVE-A-LOT CLOSED</b>  7:00 PM NA (Rm. 5 downstairs)	28 <b>LOVE-A-LOT CLOSED</b>	29 <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON LOVE-A-LOT CLOSED</b>	30 5:30 PM Worship w/HC Sexton on Duty: Ray
31 <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> 10:00 AM Worship 5:30 PM New Year's Eve Worship w/HC Sexton on Duty: Ray						