

August 19, 2017

Dear People of St. John's Nazareth,

Carol and I hope you are enjoying these summer days of August.

Yesterday I received a note from Bishop Zeiser and I felt compelled to share a portion of it with you.

Dear David,

St. John's has done a wonderful job of conveying to you their love and respect as they have prepared for the conclusion of your ministry with them. It was a delight to be present at the banquet given in your honor and to be able to witness the outpouring of affection and gratitude toward you.

The Bishop knows well the hearts of the huge flock he oversees here in Northeastern Pennsylvania. He is a keen judge and has rightly described you.

I have always found The Bishop to be a man you can work with; even as in my last sermon on August 6, I described all of you as Epaphras, St. Paul's colleague, because over 33 years I found you to be Christian people a minister can work with. Christian people who have embraced the vision Christ has cast.

Thankfully I have been able to give a portion of my theological books to students preparing for parish ministry at the Seminary. All of us need to be earnestly praying for the Holy Spirit to identify gifted individuals willing to train to lead in the parishes. "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few."

Carol and I spend long days sorting, shredding papers, packing boxes, running carloads of stuff to the Recycling Center on Illicks Mill Road and pondering all that has transpired during these last 40 years. After Labor Day are we really going to be back in South Carolina as we were before coming to St. John's?

Thank you again for the very generous congregational gift you gave to us at the Retirement Dinner and all the gifts that have come since. While we are still healthy we want to plan that trip you are making possible. Though what happened in Barcelona on Thursday would give anyone pause, Our Lord reminds us over and over again, "Do not be afraid."

All your gifts, notes and the food you have prepared and dropped off at the parsonage are deeply appreciated. Once we move and get a chance to breathe, we know all that has transpired will begin to sink in and become a treasured memory.

We love you and hold you in the highest esteem for your unwavering partnership in the Gospel.

With much affection,
The Reverend David & Carol Schaeffer

*Thank
you*

A Note from the Associate Pastor

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

As I look at our life together here at St. Johns and at what is going on in our nation and our world in these past days, I am drawn back to words from the apostle Paul. Early in my adult life and ministry, these words from St. Paul's letter to the Romans became an important foundation for my life.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ... Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I read them today, and I have become even more convinced than ever that they are true.

That probably shouldn't be surprising, since I am now about the same age as Paul was when he wrote these words. Paul was a seasoned and veteran Christian. This letter was not written immediately after his conversion on the road to Damascus. This letter was written almost thirty years after that conversion experience. In Romans, we find a mature Paul. He was put in prison; he was beaten and flogged; he suffered shipwreck; he was in constant danger.

Paul raises the question to you and me right now, "*Who will separate us from the love of Christ?*" Count them up and you will see that Paul lists 17 different possibilities. But -- and this is critical to understand -- none of those things defeated Paul because none of them separated Paul from the love of his Savior. In fact they caused him to cling to it even more tightly.

NO. NO. NO!!! The answer echoes through the centuries; the answer echoes through all of God's people. NO. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

And not only do we survive and get through our trials and tribulations. Paul asserts "*we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*" Think about that, more than conquerors. More than champions, more than victors, more than prizewinners. In all our difficult situations in life, we are more than conquerors. When the power of the Spirit of Christ given to us in our Baptisms is unleashed like waters released through the floodgates of the highest dam in the world, there is power in our lives to be victorious, strong, successful, even in the face of whatever life throws at us.

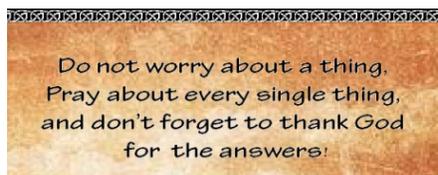
Over the next months, we will face some confusing and challenging times here at St. Johns. Perhaps, these words don't ring quite right to you right now. In fact, these are words I speak most often at funerals in the midst of sorrow and loss when they are perhaps the most difficult to hear and make sense of.

But each time I share these words, I do so with more confidence each time. Over the course of my life, I have faced many challenges, none quite as difficult as Paul, however, I can say to you for certain that I know God has been with me to see me through all of them.

So I say to you again: Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

May God's peace be with you all.

Pastor Stinner



WORSHIP WITH US!



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

- Sept. 2-3** 13th Sunday after Pentecost / Holy Communion at All Services / Labor Day Weekend
LAST Summer Sunday Schedule
- Sept. 9-10** 14th Sunday after Pentecost
RALLY DAY!!! Fall Schedule Resumes with Sunday Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School Rally Day Program for ALL AGES at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- Sept. 16-17** 15th Sunday after Pentecost / Holy Communion at All Services
- Sept. 23-24** 16th Sunday after Pentecost / Food Bank Weekend / Installation of Sunday School Teachers
Presentation of 3rd Grade Bibles & 7th Grade Hymnals
- Sept. 30 - Oct. 1** 17th Sunday after Pentecost / Holy Communion at All Services

ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES:



The Fall Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held on September 15-17 at Spruce Lake Retreat Center in the Poconos - only a few openings remain. The October 6-8 session will be held at Black Swan Inn in Lee, Massachusetts - several openings remain. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you and all supplies are included in the \$100 per couple registration fee. Sign up at www.GodLovesMarriage.org or to have a brochure and registration form mailed to you, contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber at 724-325-3166 or fjschamber@comcast.net.

FOOD BANK WEEKEND:

September 23rd & 24th



The Nazareth Area Food Bank needs to replenish its supply of **soup, pasta, cereal, canned veggies, cake mixes** 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.

WEDNESDAY NOON-TIME BIBLE STUDY

resumes on September 6th at 12:00 p.m. in the Parlor. Bring your lunch and your Bible. All are welcome!



First Day of Autumn
September 22nd

PARKING NOTICE:



Please keep in mind that we have many parishioners who have difficulty walking the distance from the back parking lots to enter our building without steps. Those who use walkers, canes, wheel chairs, and all who need mobility assistance, would be grateful for this consideration: **If you are so able, please use the rear parking lots and leave the parking spaces on Prospect St. available for those who need assistance and easier access to the church.** We also ask that you not use the few Reserved Handicap Spaces that we do have unless you are truly in need of them. Thank you for your attentiveness and assistance to those of us who need a little extra love and care from their faith community in this matter.



Grace Notes

This past July I had the opportunity to attend the national conference of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians that was held in Minneapolis. It was an inspiring four days of worship, concerts, workshops, and many conversations with fellow musicians and pastors. But to me, the most stimulating event was an excursion to Collegeville, Minnesota, about an hour's drive northwest of Minneapolis. There we had the wonderful occasion to visit St. John's Abbey and to interact with the monks who reside in this Benedictine community.

The purpose of our visit was for Lutherans and Catholics to gather together in worship, dinner, and conversation during this 500th anniversary year of the Reformation. We arrived mid-afternoon and our time was to begin with an informal talk in the Abbey Church. But alas, it seemed that two buses either lost their way or were somehow delayed. What were we to do while waiting for twenty minutes? Of course, we Lutherans came up with a solution—sing hymns! The assembly, including the monks, burst into song with *Amazing Grace*, *Beautiful Savior*, and followed with *How Great Thou Art*. It became evident that both Lutherans and the Abbey monks were big-time hymn singers and relish the historical, ecumenical hymn heritage that continues to grow between the two traditions.

Once all of us were gathered, the monks gave us a brief history of the Abbey, as well as background on the construction of the Abbey Church. Built between 1958 and 1961 and conceived by noted designer Marcel Breuer, the architecture is modernistic in style and its structure imposing and magnificent. From the outside, you immediately notice the wall made entirely of stained glass, overlaid with a concrete latticework in a hexagonal structure, almost looking like a honeycomb. With its blooming colors, it was designed to reflect the colors of the liturgical seasons. Entering the building, worshippers are greeted with a greater than life-size sculpture of John the Baptist, hovering over an enormous baptismal font. Once inside the sanctuary, the ceiling unfolds like a great fan above two areas of seating for the congregation—a soaring loft whose back presses against the bright stained glass wall, and an expansive lower level that surrounds the altar in a semi-circle, inviting all 1,500 worshippers to draw closer.

It was pointed out to us that the most intriguing aspect of the design is the shape of the building itself. From an aerial view, one can see that the sides extend outward creating the outline of a bell, with the entryway that houses the baptismal font looking like the clapper. One of the monks commented that the clapper is the part of a bell that produces beautiful tones, so similarly the baptismal font, the place where one is initiated into the Christian faith, is also a place where beauty and splendor are created. He extended the analogy by stating that the Church itself then becomes an enormous place of sound, energy, talent, glory, and magnificence as the people of God join together in singing and worship, in teaching and learning, in mission and outreach. What a wonderful and inspiring analogy that monk shared with us!

As we begin a new season of ministry at St. John's, I hope that you will think about the ways you can live out your baptism through the many volunteer possibilities at St. John's—join a choir, participate in a Sunday School class, help at the Nazareth Food Bank, connect with the Women of the ELCA, share in the work projects of the Helping Hands group, and, at the very least—join us for worship. By doing so, you will help in creating a goodness, joy, and beauty that will ring out to the community and to the world! See you in church!

Grace and peace,
Janice Butz, Minister of Music

Music Opportunities for Adults

The **FESTIVAL CHOIR** consists of the combined Chancel and Philethia Choirs plus others from the congregation who wish to sing for the holy festivals of the Christian year. These celebrations include Reformation Sunday, Advent Service of Lessons & Carols, Easter Sunday, Church Music Sunday, as well as other special occasions throughout the year. Announcements for rehearsals of the Festival Choir will be noted in *The Messenger* and the Sunday bulletins. **A half-day retreat for the Festival Choir will take place in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, September 23rd from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon to prepare a large-scale work, Legacy of Faith, in celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.** (Contact Rev. Janice Butz, director, for more information.)



Join the Choir...
You'll Be Glad
You Did!



The **CHANCEL CHOIR**, for adults of all ages, meets on Thursday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. and regularly sings for the 10:45 a.m. worship service from September through June. **Rehearsals begin Thursday, September 7th with a covered dish picnic.** (Contact Rev. Janice Butz, director, for more information.)

The **PHILETHIA CHOIR** is the adult choir that sings primarily for the 8:00 a.m. worship service on the first Sunday of each month, September through June. They normally rehearse on the first Saturday morning of the month at 10:00 a.m. **Rehearsals begin Saturday, September 9th.** (Contact Patrice Kidd, director, for more information.)

The **MEN'S CHORALE** is for all men of St. John's, whatever your musical ability. It is a short-term commitment to the music ministry of our church and provides an opportunity for camaraderie and musical learning. They perform a few times during the year, with rehearsal and performance dates announced in the church newsletter and bulletins. (Contact Rev. Janice Butz, director, for more information.)



The **WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE** is a short-term commitment for the women of our congregation. Like the Men's Chorale, rehearsal times and performances will be announced in advance through the church newsletter and bulletins. Women who enjoy singing, whatever your musical experience, are encouraged to join. **Their first opportunity for the new season will be in October, for the Women of the ELCA's Thankoffering Service on October 8th.** (Contact Rev. Janice Butz, director, for more information.) **See below for details...**

St. John's **HANDBELL MINISTRY** will be newly organized with several short-term opportunities throughout the year. Both experienced and first-time ringers are welcome to participate. Anyone interested in being part of a bell group should contact either Rev. Janice Butz or Patrice Kidd.



Attention Women of St. John's!!



An open invitation is extended to ALL women of our congregation to sing in the **SAINT JOHN'S WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE** for the Women of the ELCA's Thankoffering Service on Sunday, October 8th. Women who enjoy singing, whatever your musical experience, are encouraged to join for this one-time commitment. Rehearsals will be between our two services on Sunday mornings, September 24th and October 1st at 9:15 a.m., with a final rehearsal on Thursday evening, October 5th at 6:30 p.m. Multiple rehearsals are scheduled with the hope that singers are able to attend at least one or two of the practices. **Come Join Us!!**

Music Opportunities for Children & Youth



All children from pre-kindergarten age through 6th grade are encouraged to join us on Tuesday afternoons from 4:00 to 5:15 p.m. for a special **J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) Session**. The afternoon includes time for singing, arts & craft projects, and snacks. The children are divided into two age-level choirs: **CREATION CHOIR** for children in Pre-K through 1st grade and **CELEBRATION CHOIR** for children in 2nd through 6th grade.

Choir is a great opportunity for children to become involved in the worship life of the church as well as to learn basic music and singing skills. The playing of Orff instruments is an additional aspect of being in choir for the older children. More information about the details of how JAM Sessions work and ways adults can assist in our children's music ministry will be distributed on Rally Day. (Contact Rev. Janice Butz, director, for more information.)

Rehearsals begin Tuesday, September 12th.

CHALICE CHOIR is a wonderful opportunity for middle school through high school youth to offer their musical gifts to God. Learning a wide range of anthems and songs, this group brings a refreshing spirit and sound to our worship. Each year there is usually at least one opportunity to take our music on the road as we visit other churches, retirement homes, or nursing-care facilities. Extended tours over the past few years have taken the choir to Washington D. C. (2007), Boston (2010), Chicago (2013) and Pittsburgh (2016). The Chalice Choir meets on Wednesday afternoons at 5:00 p.m., prior to the Confirmation Class for junior highs. (Contact Rev. Janice Butz, director, for more information.) **Rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 13th.**



G.R.A.C.E. ~ Adult Bible Study Class



The Grace Adult Bible Study Class meets at 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM on Sunday mornings, beginning on RALLY DAY, September 10. The Grace class is a unique group that not only studies God's Word, but also explores the events and attitudes occurring at the time, and the people who documented His Word. The class explores how Scripture can be applied to modern times, through study, discussion, and prayer. The class also selects books by distinguished authors to read, review, and discuss. Feel free to join us; our room is located in the downstairs (using stairway located next to kitchen); first door on left. This room used to be the Jr/Sr High school department. We hope to see you join the group.

The **SEARCH Sunday School class** is a Bible study structured and fully dependent on the Word of God. It is a Spirit led and fed group. We have many questions about life and the answers are all in God's Word. We search for them in hopes of having a better and more clear understanding of what God wants for and from us. We welcome anyone who would like to join in our spiritual quest for wisdom and understanding. We meet upstairs in the Counting room every Sunday, beginning September 10, 2017. Any questions, please see Lois Davis or Gerald Lewis.

Sunday School Teachers Wanted

The Sunday School is in need of teachers. St. John's Sunday school (Nursery through Grade 6) follows the Spark lectionary material, and has teacher/student weekly lessons. The Sunday school is looking for volunteers to become part-time Sunday school teachers to share responsibility for teaching the word of God to our children. Please see Lois Davis or Jaime Taylor if you are interested. Thank You!



A Message from the Director of Youth & Family Ministries

St. John's is a place that has been immeasurably blessed with faithful leaders and volunteers. In the wake of our beloved Pastor Schaeffer retiring, I cannot help but reflect on past influencers in our congregation.

One particular person who comes to mind, is Claribel Marcks. Claribel served in the Nursery of St. John's for around 68 years! 68 years! That is an entire lifetime of serving her church in that way. Claribel took care of my sisters and me in the Nursery, and I am sure she assisted many of your families as well. She was a faithful servant, and I am so thankful for the gifts she shared with our congregation.

In light of Pastor's retirement, we are all going to need to listen intently for our own calls to leadership in this congregation. Our St. John's congregation is strong, but in order to remain so, we will all need to come together and step up into places of leadership and volunteering.

If you feel called in any way to serve, I encourage you to speak to someone. There are plenty of opportunities for volunteering! In the Sunday School department, we are looking for teachers to serve on a part-time basis in rotation with other teachers. The Nursery department is looking for volunteers to help out during the 10:45 am Worship Service, as our Nursery Attendant, Kristin Andrews, will be leaving for college. If we get enough helpers, this could even be a part-time commitment in which helpers rotate weeks, which would make it easier on everyone. Please speak to me or Lois Davis if you are interested in helping out in any of these areas.

If you do not feel called at this time, don't worry! We will be here for you if and when you do. In the meantime, I invite everyone to keep our congregation and our ministries in prayer through this time of transition.

Thank you!

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

LOOKING AHEAD:

September 10: Rally Day! We will be holding a Luther League meeting for all youth in grades 7 – 12 in the Youth Room at 12:00 noon (following the late church worship service). We will be planning future events at this meeting, so I hope to see you there! Lunch will be provided.



Back to School

Be aware of the school buses on the road carrying children to school! Please obey all traffic laws concerning school buses!



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



KATHRYN MOYER
September 6th
Whitehall Manor Rm. A25
1177 6th St.
Whitehall, PA 18052

MALROSE BOSICH
September 27th
445 Gail Dr.
Nazareth, PA 18064

2017 Fellowship Social Calendar



- September 10 ~ Music & Worship / Columbarium (Rally Day)
- October 8 ~ WELCA (Thankoffering)
- October 29 ~ Social Ministry (Reformation Sunday)
- November 11 & 12 ~ Stewardship / Finance (Stewardship Weekend)
- December 10 ~ Adult Sunday School Classes (Lessons & Carols)

Fellowship this month will be on Rally Day, Sunday, September 10th, following each worship service in the Shepherd's Room. Members of the Worship & Music Committee and Columbarium Committee will host the fellowship hours.

Worship & Music Committee:

The Music & Worship Committee is responsible for coordination ushers, greeters, lectors and acolytes for two Sunday morning services and one Saturday evening service each week. They do the same for the seasonal festival services and occasional services such as the Alternative Worship. They also arrange for seasonal decorations such as the Lenten and Easter crosses, the Harvest Home displays and dedicated floral arrangements such as the Easter lilies, Memorial Day geraniums, and the poinsettias at Christmas. This Group handles the maintenance of the musical instruments and choral needs. There are six Choirs at St. John's: Creation, Celebration, Chalice, Chancel, Philethia, Festival Choir and the Instrumental Ensemble. The Men's Chorale and Women's Chorale gather for special events. In addition to the above services, we can also thank this group for the work they do on the outdoor worship services, M.A.D. Camp, the Concert for the Poor and Homecoming in October.

Columbarium Committee:

The Committee oversees the administration and maintenance of the Columbarium. The columbarium is a designated place to keep the cremated remains of deceased loved ones. The Columbarium at St. John's provides a serene, peaceful place in a reverent atmosphere for those cremains. Family members are free to visit anytime. If you would like to purchase a niche please contact the Church office.

Please join us for Fellowship! Take a few minutes to chat with the representatives of these groups during the Fellowship Socials to find out more about their activities and plans.

PASTORAL ACTS



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 months of July & August 2017:

HARRY "BUD" G. SMITH

July 25th

BETTY J. SOUSA BRACKEN

July 25th

CHARLES F. BEERS

August 1st

VIRGINIA "GINNY" I. KOCH

August 8th

EDWARD C. CHRISTMAN

August 10th



We gladly received the following new members into the family and fellowship of St. John's congregation in the months of July & August 2017:

DONNA MILLER-MOFFO

July 8th

ART HEMMING

July 15th

STEVEN & CORTNEYANN ROHN

July 23rd

KOREY STIMMEL

August 26th



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 months of July & August 2017:

ROMAN ANTHONY TRUMBAUER

Son of Anthony & Chandel (Pacchioli) Trumbauer

Born: August 17, 2015

Baptized: July 16, 2017

AUBREY MARIE ROHN

Daughter of Steven & Cortneyann (Nigro) Rohn

Born: October 22, 2016

Baptized: July 23, 2017

CALEB MATTHEW SPRINGER

Son of Zachary Springer & Madison Bodine

Born: January 6, 2015

Baptized: July 30, 2017

EMBERLEE ANNE RISSMILLER

Daughter of Robert Markle & Gabrielle Rissmiller

Born: November 13, 2015

Baptized: August 3, 2017

LAYCIE BETH ZIMMERMAN

Daughter of Michael Zimmerman & Gabrielle Rissmiller

Born: March 28, 2017

Baptized: August 3, 2017

KOREY JAMES STIMMEL

Baptized: August 26, 2017



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

**KELLY ANN LIBERTO &
KRISTOPHER GERHARD MEYER**

August 6th

Please welcome two new members to St. John's. Danette Kish and William Michael Kish, children of our own William and Carol Kish. Danette is from Pen Argyl and William from Stroudsburg. Both were baptized and confirmed at St. John's by former Pastor Alfred Long and have decided to rejoin our membership.



Received in the months of June, July & August 2017:

LARRY KOCH

Adele Roth

VIRGINIA KOCH

Eugene Kromer; Larry Gaither; Vivian & Gerald Demko

HARRY "BUD" G. SMITH

Patrick & Maureen Bozzuto; Larry Houck; Nolan A. Perin; Patricia & Thomas Nemeth, Jr.; Leonard & Joyce Wallace; Kerry & Debra Weeast; John & Susan Dally, Jr.; Doris Koehler; Adele Roth; Marlene Strobach; Robert & Wendy Tinney; David & July Archibald; Tuesday Night Ladies Golf League; William & Lois Bartle; Michael & Karin Curcio; Frank & Linda Smith; Edward & Etna Bonatz; John & Marilyn Eisenhard; Jeff & Mary Joan Roth; Richard & Regina Grucela; Jill & Dan Mock; Susan & Joseph Neill; Charles & Mary Diacont; Diane Perin

JOYCE SMITH

Dale R. & Ellen K. Bartholomew;

BETTY J. SOUSA BRACKEN

Geraldine Strye; Carl Strye

BETTY STARNER

Delano & Mary Jane Schaffer

O God of heaven and earth, who's bigger than nations and factions, be with us as we live through times of terror, despair and danger. Be the strength of people who've been touched personally by disaster. Come with healing to those who are injured. Be the eternal rest of those who've died. Be the energy, compassion and fortitude of those who must pick through the wreckage. Grant our leaders courage and a double portion of your wisdom. The day of universal brotherhood seems farther off than ever, O God, but help us not despair of trying to accomplish it. Strengthen our faith. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. John's;

Currently we the Church Council and the Personnel Committee are looking to move into the future following Pastor Schaeffer's retirement. We share in your concern as we begin the transition moving forward to secure a new Senior Pastor for St. John's.

Our Synod is steadfastly working to secure an Interim/Transitional Pastor for us. To date, one has not yet been assigned St. John's. We want you to know that your pastoral needs will continue to be met until an individual is named. In the interval, Pastor Stinner, our Associate Pastor, will be with us to make sure that your pastoral needs are met. Please communicate your need to Pastor Stinner or the church office.

It is an extremely important time for our congregation and it is very significant that you remain active participants in worship and become more involved in the life of our congregation. Many of us view St. John's as our extended family. It is our hope that we will come together and rely upon each other for love and support in this time of transition and change. *There is no better way to honor Pastor Schaeffer's legacy than to continue to support St. John's and all its ministries.*

If you have any specific concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us or the church office.

In Christ's love,

Jackie Wolf
Church Council President

Andy Herbster
Co-Chair Personnel Committee

**RALLY DAY
SEPTEMBER 10, 2017**

Come join us at **SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY 2017... September 10 @ 9:15 AM** in Fellowship Hall!



Rally Day 2017 will be held on Sunday, September 10 beginning at 9:15 AM. All ages are welcome to attend. Sunday school has ages 2-3 (Nursery), ages 4-5 (Pre-K/K), grades 1-12, and two adult classes (Grace and Search). Come and experience God's all encompassing love through Christian lectionary teachings.

**Remember....Fellowship Hall @ 9:15 AM on September 10, 2017
Check Your Mail Closer to Rally Day for Rally Day Postcard**

First Holy Communion Classes

As Lutherans, we believe the faith God gave to us in Holy Baptism is nourished by the hearing of God's Word and the receiving of the bread and the wine of Holy Communion. Classes for those preparing to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time will be held on Wednesdays, September 13, 20 and 27, 2017 from 6:15 – 7:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Instruction is usually for those entering the 7th grade and enrolling in the Level 1 Confirmation Class. Parents are required to accompany their children to these three classes. **PLEASE NOTE:** Letters were mailed to all seventh graders inviting them to become part of the upcoming First Holy Communion Classes and 7th Grade Confirmation Class. If your son or daughter is entering 7th grade this fall and did not receive a letter, please contact the Church Office. Any other questions may be directed to Pastor Stinner.



Confirmation Classes



St. John's Confirmation Classes will begin on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at 6:15 p.m. Both the seventh and eighth grade confirmands **and their parents** will gather in the Fellowship Hall for orientation. Opportunity will be given to meet with the Catechist of the seventh graders; Jaime Taylor, Director of Youth & Family Ministries; and Pastor Stinner, who teaches the eighth graders. Guidelines and expectations for the Confirmation Classes will be shared. Questions will be answered. Copies of Luther's Small Catechism and other confirmation resources will be distributed.



The Cemetery Board will hold another work party on **Saturday, October 7, 2017 from 8 AM until Noon** at St. John's Cemetery on South Street. We hope to finish the work we started on our spring workday. Please bring rakes, shovels and bars. Some limbs have to be removed also. In case of rain, we will meet the following Saturday, October 14. Thank you for the progress that was made at the last work day and we hope to see you again.



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.

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL OFFERING: ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS

This month our special offering envelopes will benefit the Engineers Without Borders – Lehigh Valley Professionals Chapter. Engineers Without Borders supports community-driven development programs worldwide by collaborating with local partners to design and implement sustainable engineering projects, while creating transformative experiences and responsible leaders. Currently the EWB-LVP chapter, in partnership with the school and its world-wide alumni association, are helping rebuild a school in Sierra Leone, Africa that was once considered one of the best schools in the area. Damaged during a decade-long civil war, they are in the process of restoring potable water services, sanitary facilities, electrical service, and general building conditions. For more information, please contact St. John's member and EWB-LVP member Sean Dooley at 610-657-7420 or d4dooley@hotmail.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, 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.

SEXTON CORNER SUMMER ISN'T IT BEAUTIFU?!



There are projects we are still planning to start this summer. 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.

We are still waiting on some funding from the Finance Committee to upgrade our telephone system. (Capital Campaign).

The upgrade of our sound system for the Fellowship Hall has been **completed!** (Capital Campaign).

The 2nd and 3rd phase of repair work on the nave organ is **completed!** The remainder of the work is scheduled for 2018. (Capital Campaign).

Re-pointing of the chimney has been **completed!** The next phase of repointing the church bricks will begin August 7th (weather permitting). (Capital Campaign).

Restoration of the arch type stained glass windows (south wall alley/shepherd room) is **active.** (Capital Campaign).

Building of the choir bell enclosure is **active** and should be completed by August 18th. Construction of the choir robe enclosure is scheduled to begin September 2017.

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.

Enjoy your Summer!

The Sextons

sextons@stjohnsnaz.org



Love-A-Lot Nursery School



Love-A-Lot took a break for summer vacation and is now a blur of activities for another terrific school year! September is full of preparation for the children who attended our 3yo class last year and are returning as our 4yo class and to welcome all of our new students. Returning or new to the school, all the children walk into our classroom with mixed emotions and we are prepared with hugs and encouragement to meet those needs, and we are also there to ease the transition for the teary-eyed parents & caregivers who drop them off. It truly is a milestone for both the children and their parents. Many of the children are spending time away from their caregivers for the very first time as they walk through our doors. We sincerely feel it is a privilege that our school is chosen as this first experience for so many.

Throughout our school year, the children learn so much more than letters and colors; They will grow in ways beyond any form of “academic” measure. The key is for them to learn to love and trust school, to enjoy coming into the classroom and feeling safe and secure. These first experiences with school set the pace for their school years to come. The parents’ role cannot be emphasized enough. Without their love and support, the children wouldn’t be open to learning all of the wonderful experiences that await them far beyond the two years they spend with us.

Our classes run 9-11:30 with an optional lunch bunch for the 4-year-old class that runs from 11:30-1pm. Please call (484-293-0720) or email (LoveALotNurserySchool@yahoo.com) the school for more information.



NEWS FROM THE DAYCARE ~ SEPTEMBER 2017



We had such a wonderful summer here at the daycare! We have been able to spend lots of time outside with picnics, water play and visits from the ice cream truck. The school age class and Pre-k had a field trip to the Lehigh Valley Zoo where they had lunch and learned all about the animals there. The school age class also had a great time at the Nazareth Park where they did a creek study and found lots of great creatures. We are grateful to The Bear Mountain Butterfly Sanctuary for donating Monarch eggs for our annual butterfly release. The classrooms all enjoyed caring for the caterpillars and learning all about the Monarch Butterfly.

Now our preschool classrooms will be focusing more on the school year curriculum, and school age will be back to bus schedules and homework time. We are welcoming lots of new students and will spend some time to get them adjusted. We are looking forward to a wonderful year!

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 older toddler room and our preschool room. If you have any interest in learning more about our center, please call 610-759-4999 or email lisat@rcn.com.

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

The deadline for all submissions for the **October 2017** issue of **THE MESSENGER** is: **Monday, September 11th.** You may leave printed material in the Church Office mailbox or you may email your article or announcement as a Word attachment to office@stjohnsnaz.org. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Pastor and Carol would like to share their new address in South Carolina with everyone:

Pastor David & Carol Schaeffer
4970 Wyman Blvd.
Summerville, SC 29485

RETIREMENT THANK YOU

Carol and I wish to thank you for the outstanding Retirement Celebration you hosted for us at Woodstone Country Club on Friday, June 23. It could not have been any more moving. The meals served were delicious. The Woodstone Staff could not have been any more attentive in seeing to guests' needs. It was special to us that our sons Ben & David, their wives and three grandchildren could be with us at the same banquet table as well as our siblings, friends and relatives at tables close by. Obviously a lot of careful planning by meticulous people went into putting it all together. May that beautiful night long linger in the memory of everyone who was in attendance. "WHAT A TIME!"

That Friday was followed up by Saturday evening worship and a magnificent concert given by the Nazareth Community Band as well as the sharing of Holy Communion.

Sunday the nave was full of parishioners overflowing to the Shepherd's Room. What heart-felt hymn singing the congregation brought forth. And after stirring worship a delicious breakfast was shared in Fellowship Hall, a foretaste of Heaven when we shall all get to taste the feast of the Lamb!

Thank you to everyone for the very generous gift which will enable Carol and me to plan a trip to a destination we have always desired to visit. We will give that decision a great deal of thought. Your kindness is overwhelming.

Please know I truly meant it when I said in the sermon this past Sunday that St. Paul's words are my words to the people of St. John's. "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now." (Philippians 1:3&4)

Pastor & Carol Schaeffer

Dear Jackie,

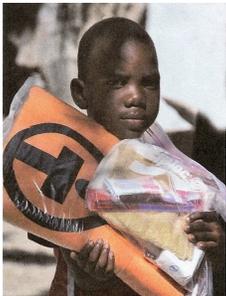
I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to the leaders and members of St. John's, Nazareth for including my wife, Linda, and me in the banquet festivities honoring the ministry of Pastor Schaeffer on the occasion of his retirement. We had a wonderful time interacting with so many people and enjoying the delicious dinner. It was a impressive event.

Please convey to the members of St. John's my gratitude for the warm hospitality extended to Linda and me. Thank you to one and all.

Sincerely yours, Bishop Sam Zeiser

BLANKETS+ PROGRAM SEPTEMBER 9 & 10th — 16 & 17th

Please help those in need. Each year tragic events cause horrific hardships and devastation for people worldwide.



For 24 consecutive years, St. John's has participated in the Church World Service Appeal. CWS is a global humanitarian agency consisting of 35 Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican denominations. Since 1946, CWS has provided relief, development, and refugee assistance. They reach out to 80 countries, including the U.S.

A single donation of \$10.00 can purchase a blanket that will provide warmth, protection, and comfort to children and adults of all ages. A sample blanket is on display in the Shepherd's Room. **Our donations can also provide tools and shelter kits.** Donations can be made in the envelopes that will appear in the bulletins on September 9, 10, 16 & 17 or you may drop off or mail your check to St. John's. Checks should be made payable to St. John's and please note in the memo "CWS Blankets +." **THANK YOU!! The Social Ministry Committee**

**28th Annual St. John's Lutheran Church
Koehler/Roth Memorial Golf Tournament
Woodstone Country Club ~ July 24, 2017**

The 28th Annual St. John's Lutheran Koehler/Roth Golf Tournament was held on Monday, July 24, 2017, at Woodstone Country Club, Danielsville, PA. There were 140 golfers (men and women) participating.

Many thanks to the following committee members: Bob Butz, Chairman; Yvonne Butz, Secretary/Treasurer; Adele Roth, Joann Nordstrom, Chris Pristash, Keith Steaton, Neil Shook, Keith Wasem, Diane Wasem and Rev. David Schaeffer, Weatherman.

Prizes were awarded as follows:

First Flight

1st	Steve Hess, Mike Hess, Brett Karlowitch, Skip Beltz	62
2nd	Bob Butz, Alan Butz, Matt Butz, Joe Hoynoski	65
3rd	Jim Roth, Dave Siegfried, Carl Montesano, Lou Skrapits	66
4th	Ben Meck, Bob Dempsey, Kevin Ruppert, Dean Kehl	67

Second Flight

1st	Eric Himler, Scott Himler, Steve Ruggerio, John Simons	72*
2nd	Carl Unangst, Tyson Unangst, Chad Friend, Steve Bajan Jr.	72*
3rd	Fran Lamb, DiAnn Yenolevich, Lou Cogle, Glenn Treichler	72*
4th	John Genova, David Fritz, Tom Walsh, Thomas Padilla	72*

(*Notates Winner by USGA Match of Card)

Closest to the Pin

Hole #5	Men	Lou Skrapits	14'10"
	Women	Donna Hontz	48'8"
Hole #13	Men	Michael Mallon	6'11"
	Women	Marian Gaumer	46'2"

Long Drive

Hole #11	Men	Bob Butz
	Women	Diana Wasem

**Women of the ELCA
SEPTEMBER BREAKFAST**

Please join us for our Annual Breakfast on Saturday, September 9th in the Fellowship Hall. Our speaker is Katherine Von Bora Luther. Sign-in is at 8:30 a.m. with the Breakfast beginning at 9:00 a.m. EVERYONE is welcome to join us! Please RSVP by completing the form below and returning it to the Church Office or in the offering plate by Sunday, Sept. 3rd.

WELCA BREAKFAST MEETING

Sat. Sept. 9th ~ 9:00 a.m.

Name: _____ # People _____

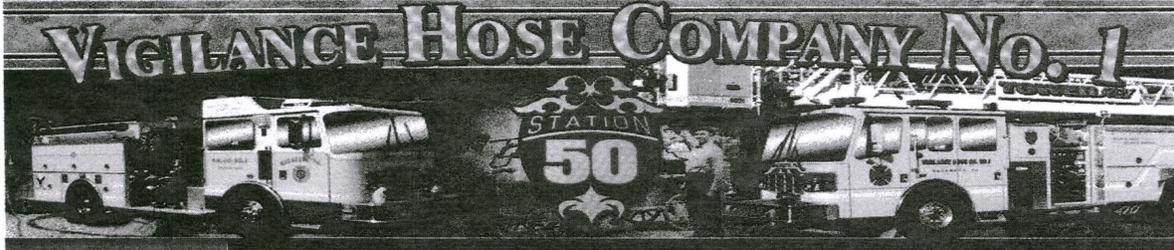
Please RSVP by Sunday, Sept. 3rd



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.



2017 Vigilance Hose Company #1 Memorial Golf Tournament at Southmoore Golf Course



Saturday October 7
12:30 Registration
1:00 Shotgun Start
\$85.00 per player

Includes golf, cart, prizes and dinner after golf

Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Closest to Pin, Pot of Gold, Longest Drive.

----- (CUT ON DOTTED LINE) -----

Team Registration Form:

Player 1: _____

Player 2: _____

Player 3: _____

Player 4: _____

Team Contact Phone Number: _____

Please return this registration form with Check or Money Order payable to Vigilance Hose Co. #1 @ PO Box 191, Nazareth, Pa 18064 no later than September 16th, 2017. All registration is first come first serve, we are limited to the number of players, so get your registration in early!

Please call with any questions 484-357-9929

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

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

ABSENT: Craig Dally

GUESTS: Andy Herbster, Donald Himler, Nancy Little, Rev. Barry Mitchell, Bruce Shafer, Tom Starner

DEVOTIONS: Greg Leh read Phillipians 2:1-5 followed by a very heartwarming prayer for Pastor Schaeffer & Carol.

EXIT INTERVIEW: Rev. Barry Mitchell led the Exit Interview for Pastor Schaeffer. Comments of thankfulness, honesty & humbleness were exchanged with Pastor Schaeffer ending the interview with "Be Humble, Be Kind."

MINUTES: The Minutes of the May 31, 2017 meeting were reviewed and stand as written. Motion by Sharon Werner to accept the Minutes. 2nd – Christine Garrison. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Thank you letter was received from Cathie Dara & family.
2. Nazareth Area Food Bank – Thank you for donations.
3. Susan Kelly wants a resource list of items from Pastor Schaeffer.

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

1. Stephen Bajan, II put together an interesting and informative WILLS SEMINAR for our Congregation. Attorney Hogan was very informative. The seminar was well attended.
2. June 23 – Retirement dinner at Woodstone was moving for Pastor Schaeffer & Carol. There was a lot of Christian love in that ballroom. Thank you to the Committee for putting the event together.
3. June 24 – Nazareth Community Band played a stirring concert before worship. Beautiful arrangement of "A Mighty Fortress is Our God."
4. June 25 – Breakfast Celebration with Monika, Schleifer, Rebeka Burr, and Amanda Windisch. "WHAT A TIME!"
5. Conducted 7 Baptisms.

PASTOR STINNER REPORT: Complete as written, including:

1. "I can also Baptize babies!"
2. July 10-14 – Will be doing continuing education at the Summer Institute for Church Leaders at the new United Lutheran Seminary – Gettysburg Campus

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

1. Piano was used for 2 weeks while organ was being re-leathered.
2. June 12-16 - Vacation Bible School – Over 80 children present each day! Quite a busy and active time.
3. June 24 – Nazareth Community Band – Participated in our worship service.
4. Aug. 7-11 - M.A.D. Camp preparations have begun.
5. 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 reported: Complete as written including:

1. June 11 – Youth Gathering Team held a Bake Sale & Photo Sale.
2. June 12 – 16 – Vacation Bible School. 85 children registered. Thank you to Karlene Kipp & Kathy Keeler for making our scenery that will be used at Pastor Sue Ruggles' church for their VBS in late July.
3. June 21 – Youth worked on the banners for some of Pastor Schaeffer's quotes that will be hung in the Fellowship Hall for Pastor Schaeffer's Retirement Breakfast.
4. June 25 – Jaime shared a copy of the Coloring Books she helped design and presented to Pastor Schaeffer's grandchildren.
5. June 27 – July 1, 2018 – Youth Gathering in Houston, TX – Had meeting for parents and youth. Will be working on fundraising.



(cont'd. on page 18)

(cont'd. from page 17)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Stephen Bajan II reported:

1. Pastor Schaeffer reported that we are solvent through June, 2017.
2. Tony Petrillo gave a talk at the Finance meeting about the apartment rentals.
3. Tony reported at the Finance meeting that Helping Hands spent at least 130-140 hours to get the apartment ready for rental.
4. Credit checks came back positive for both apartments to be rented.
5. Bonnie Mertz will research who paid the security deposit on 38 Prospect – 2nd Floor.
6. The lease for the duplicator is up.

COLUMBARIUM: Pastor Schaeffer reported: No Activity

1. July 14 – Harry Smith funeral at 4:00

DAY CARE: Jackie Wolf reported:

1. New salary scale – current staff will receive a \$.25 raise effective June 19, 2017.

ENDOWMENT: Stephen Bajan II reported:

1. Every check has to have 2 signatures. Les Little will be added as a signee.

EVANGELISM: Sharon Werner reported: No Meeting

HELPING HANDS: Gail Price reported:

1. July 23 – July 29, 2017 - NJ – St. Bernard project. Will be working on 3 new homes.

LOVE-A-LOT: Wayne V. reported:

1. 4 year old class – starting to fill up.
2. Sending out emails to all newly registered parents reminding them to complete the registration process.

LUTHER LEAGUE:

1. Youth helped with banner quotes from Pastor Schaeffer.
2. Youth helped with Vacation Bible School.

PERSONNEL: Jackie Wolf reported:

1. Andy Herbster will now be the head of the Personnel Committee.
2. Jackie Wolf & Gail Price will keep open communication and have monthly meetings with Personnel.

PROPERTY: Wayne V. reported: Complete as written including:

1. Pointing of church masonry. Chimney done, church brick in June.
2. Femenella – leaking window on Broad St. – They will come to investigate – Not been very responsive.
3. Cumberland Glass – Shepherd's window – to start first week in June – Not very responsive.
4. Sound system – Bidders to finalize scope of each system. Work to be done July 5-7.
5. Towers inspected – paint peeling, need caulking, minor repairs & paint. Ongoing job.
6. Timber framing supporting bell is cracked and rotting.
7. Youth room windows – Summer of 2017.
8. Lower bell tower – Needs cleaning.
9. Solar panels – Sustainable Energy presentation – No further action taken.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: Cathie Dara reported:

1. Vegetable Stand – Cathie will check on this.
2. Chemo Bags – A display table will be put out in July.

STEWARDSHIP: Christine Garrison reported:

1. Dramatic Reading – Planning for July 15-16.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Jaime Taylor reported: No Report

1. Had Sunday School closing.

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Chris Andrews reported: No Meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Capital Campaign – Stephen Bajan II reported – Envelopes coming in – Pledges to be collected.
2. Fellowship Hall Rental – Cathie Dara reported that the Committee will be updating the wording for the guidelines. Will meet with Linda K. in the office.
3. Evangelism Home Visits – Pastor Stinner, Lenna Harris, Sharon Werner & Laurie Center are the volunteers.
4. July 10-14 - Summer Lunch Program – Susan Kelly will manage. Need help to pack lunches. Jaime suggested that the Youth will help.
5. Aug. 13 – Outdoor Worship Service – Need meeting for planning – Aug. 9 we will meet. Use Nathan's Catering
6. Shoo-Fly pies by Frank Kern will be ordered.
7. Sharon Werner made a motion to have our Aug. Council meeting on Aug. 9 – 2nd by Chris Andrews. –
8. Motion passed.
9. Copier – Wayne V. said it is time to replace the copier – has reached 2 million copies.

(cont'd. from page 18)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Exit Interview with Pastor Schaeffer- Completed.
2. Call Committee
3. Nominating Committee

Building Use Requests:

1. July 6, 2017 - Candy Bowers (Keller) – Partners for a New Beginning – Ongoing use of Fellowship Hall for monthly meetings. Motion to accept – Stephen B. 2nd Alan Butz
2. July 11, 2017 – Carol Seaton – Vision of Eagles – Fellowship Hall.
3. Oct. 7, 2017 – Joyce Wallace – WELCA Northern Lehigh Cluster Event – Fellowship & Kitchen.
4. Motion by Stephen B. to accept above Building Use Requests. 2nd – Gail Price. Motion passed.
5. Aug. 23, 2017 - Melissa LaBar – Nazareth Girl Scouts – Change to a different day of the week.
6. Sept. 16, 2017 – Patricia Kammeyer – Nazareth Girl Scouts – Hold

7. Oct. 25, 2017 – Melissa LaBar – Nazareth Girl Scouts – Change to a different day of the week.
8. Feb. 7, 2018 - Melissa LaBar – Nazareth Girl Scouts – Change to a different day of the week.
9. May 16, 2018 - Melissa LaBar – Nazareth Girl Scouts – Change to a different day of the week.

Council President Jackie Wolf declared the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.
The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting = Aug. 9, 2017 @ 7:30 p.m.

Next Devotions = Chris Andrews

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Wallace
Recording Secretary

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
August 9, 2017**

PRESENT: Chris Andrews, Joe Billy, Alan Butz, Rev. Janice Butz, Craig Dally, Cathie Dara, Christine Garrison, Greg Leh, Rev. Franklin Stinner, Jaime Taylor, Joyce Wallace, Sharon Werner, Jackie Wolf.

ABSENT: Stephen Bajan II, Gail Price, Wayne Vierzbicki

GUESTS: Pastor Peggy Wuertele – Assoc. of the Bishop

1. Brought news from the NE Penn Synod. St. John's has the support from Bishop Zeiserand will be here to help during our transition.
2. Synod will assign an interim Pastor during this transition time for 18 months – 2 years.
3. St. John's will be an attractive call for a Pastor.
4. St. John's will create a study book for the Call process.
5. REMEMBER – Pastor Schaeffer retired – Jesus didn't!

DEVOTIONS: Chris Andrews read: Travel Light.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the June 28, 2017 meeting were reviewed and stand as written. Motion by Craig Dally to accept the Minutes. 2nd – Christine Garrison. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

PASTOR STINNER REPORT: Complete as written, including:

1. Will be full-time during transition until interim Pastor arrives.
2. Will be diligent and faithful during transition.
3. Planning for the Fall continues. I plan to conduct New Member/Baptism Classes as scheduled on a monthly basis.
4. Starting in September – I will be teaching First Communion classes & 2nd Year Confirmation classes.
5. Also have been working to get the Eucharistic Ministry Team activated again in the next coming days.

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

1. Aug. 6, 2017 – All choirs sang for Pastor Schaeffer's farewell service. Although a bittersweet occasion, it was wonderful to see all of the choir members share their talents to make it a special and memorable worship service.
2. Aug. 7-11 - M.A.D. Camp - Having an excellent time.
3. March, 2018 – Arts Festival at St. John's. "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Theme. Events are being scheduled.

(cont'd. on page 20)

(cont'd. from page 19)

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES REPORT:

- Jaime Taylor reported:** Complete as written including:
1. July 16 – Car Wash – 2018 Youth Gathering Team held a car wash fundraiser at Tractor Supply. Thank you to everyone for their support!
 2. July 18 – Luther League took their annual trip to Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom. Had a wonderful time!
 3. Aug. 1 – Luther League spent the day at Dutch Springs Aqua Park. We all enjoyed a full day there!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: No Meeting

COLUMBARIUM: No Meeting

1. Joe Billy reported on Location, Location, Location!

DAY CARE: No Meeting

ENDOWMENT: No Meeting

EVANGELISM: Sharon Werner reported: No Meeting

HELPING HANDS: Jackie Wolf reported:

1. Kitchen foyer paint project will wait until Fall.
2. July 23 – July 29, 2017 – Keansburg, NJ. Put finishing touches on a single home.

LOVE-A-LOT: Jackie Wolf reported:

1. 4 year old class – still needs to be filled.

PERSONNEL: Jackie Wolf reported:

1. There will be 2 more meetings regarding the pastoral transition.

PROPERTY: Joe Billy reported:

1. Bell tower refurbishing – looking at bids.
2. Apts. Are all rented.

SOCIAL MINISTRY: Jackie Wolf reported:

1. Appalachian underwear collection.
2. Blanket Sunday – mid Sept.
3. Chemo Bags – On-going project.

STEWARDSHIP: Christine Garrison reported:

1. Dramatic Reading – Was July 15-16.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Jaime Taylor reported:

1. Some new teachers will be coming on board.
2. Lois Davis is in charge of Rally Day.
3. Kristin Andrews will not be in the Nursery anymore as she will be going off to college.

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Chris Andrews reported: No Meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Capital Campaign – Ongoing
2. Fellowship Hall Rental – Cathie Dara reported that the Committee will be updating the wording for the guidelines. Will make general modifications.
3. Evangelism Home Visits – Pastor Stinner, Lenna Harris, Sharon Werner & Laurie Center are the volunteers.
4. Aug. 13 – Outdoor Worship Service – Council to help.
5. Partners for a New Beginning – Good response for group meetings. Motion by Cathie Dara to have meetings 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. 2nd – Alan Butz. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Church Council Nominating Committee - Dean Brodt, Judy Shafer, Joyce Wallace
- 2.

Building Use Requests:

1. Aug. 24, 2017 - Melissa LaBar – Nazareth Girl Scouts – Fellowship Hall
2. Sept. 15, 2017 – Patricia Kammeyer – Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
3. Motion to accept Building Use Requests: Alan Butz, 2nd Craig Dally. Motion passed.

Council President Jackie Wolf declared the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting = Sept. 27, 2017 @ 7:30 p.m.

Next Devotions = Cathie Dara

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Wallace

Recording Secretary



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.

SERVING GOD IN SEPTEMBER 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
Sept 2	5:30 p.m.	Bill & Krista Hontz Maryellen Werkheiser (610-759-5191)	Elena Calantoni Jaime Taylor/Church Office (610-759-3090)	Cindy Evancho Christina Brodt (610-653-0358)	Christina Brodt (610-653-0358)
Sept 3	9:00 a.m.	Steve & Janis Bajan	Ashley Breault	Christina Brodt	Christina & Ralph Brodt, III
Sept 9	5:30 p.m.	Joe Butz, Joyce Payonk	Maya Evancho	Charles Bonisese	
Sept 10	8:00 a.m.	Lester & Adrienne Grier Bruce & Joyce Knecht	Emma Ricci	Mat Benol	
Sept 10	10:45 a.m.	Maryellen Werkheiser Christopher Jennings	Cody Breidenbach	Craig Dally	Ann & Craig Dally Joy & Joe Grimm
Sept 16	5:30 p.m.	Jennie Williams	Olivia LaBar	Lenna Harris	
Sept 17	8:00 a.m.	Milan & Sandra Bily David & Susan Bitner	Anthony Albanese	Karen Coleman	
Sept 17	10:45 a.m.	Richard & Judy Hunt Steve & Denise Jedrejczyk	Caroline Hunter	Karlene Kipp	Karlene Kipp, Kathy Keeler Judy & Brian Flick
Sept 23	5:30 p.m.	Lee & Caroline Buss	Payton Reuber	Cindy Evancho	
Sept 24	8:00 a.m.	Kyle & Sue Roth	Maya Jamann	Edith Brodt	
Sept. 24	10:45 a.m.	Steve & Janis Bajan Dan & Terry Lynch	Isaiah Eddings	Christianna Hunter	Jocelyn & Tom Starnier Annie Bickert, Amie Tracy
Sept. 30	5:30 p.m.	Mary Ann Kaspern	Jayde Rizzotto	Charles Bonisese	
Oct. 1	8:00 a.m.	TBD	Madelyn Rex	Suzan Andrews	
Oct. 1	10:45 a.m.	TBD	Annie DiRenzo	Ralph Brodt, III	Christina & Ralph Brodt, III Lizzie & Peter Zimmer

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

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 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
Jolene LaBarre, Director 484-293-0720
LoveALotNurserySchool@yahoo.com

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SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Highlights from Synod Assembly 2017

Synod Council Election

The Assembly recognized and expressed gratitude for the years of service from Donald Smith, Vice President, and David Hinrichs, Treasurer, both of whom have volunteered countless hours for the work of the synod.

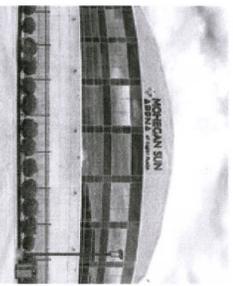


Barbara J. Huffman de Belon, a current member of Synod Council, was elected vice president; and

Donald R. Dillman was elected treasurer. In addition, Louise McCloughan, from the West Berks Mission District, was newly elected to a three-year term.

Save the Date! June 8-9, 2018

Assembly 2018 will be held at the Mohegan Sun Arena in the Wilkes-Barre.



Repentance, Reconciliation, and Common Witness



The Assembly began with a Rite of Repentance, Reconciliation, and Common Witness led by Bishop Zeiser and by Bishop Joseph Bambara of the Scranton Diocese. This was a regional expression and affirmation of an ecumenical commemoration of the Reformation held jointly by the Lutheran World Federation and the Roman Catholic Church on October 31, 2016 in Lund, Sweden.

The Lund event highlighted the solid ecumenical developments between Catholics and Lutherans; and the joint gifts received through dialogue, particularly in anticipation of the 500th Reformation anniversary in 2017. It featured a cathedral service following the Common Prayer liturgical guide, based on the Lutheran-Catholic dialogue report "From Conflict to Communion." Bishops Zeiser and Bambara were delighted to celebrate the commemoration at Assembly 2017.

(Photography by Mark Searfoss)

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Kathryn Kleinhans

The keynote speaker was The Rev. Dr. Kathryn Kleinhans, Professor of Religion at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa.



Her topic was "The Catechism and Vocation for Daily Life." She emphasized that Luther's Small Catechism was written for lay people, not for clergy. Luther wanted to unleash the power of the gospel for ordinary persons. The Small Catechism is designed to be a "Guide to Christian Living," and Luther wanted each individual to wrestle with how each teaching affects "me."

For Luther "vocation" is not limited to religious callings, but is the calling each person receives to live one's daily life. This takes place at home, in community, at church, and at the workplace.

Dr. Kleinhans further suggested that Lutherans be "political, but not partisan", that is, that Lutherans work for the good of the "polis," (Greek for city). For Luther, government is one of God's good gifts, and citizenship is one of our "callings."

Special Offerings

Two special offerings were received during the Assembly. One for World Hunger collected over \$5,700; and one for the newly formed United Lutheran Seminary collected over \$3,700.

Young Adults in Global Ministry (YAGM)

At the Assembly Banquet on Friday evening two young adults were recognized for their service in the YAGM program. The ELCA invites young adults ages 21-29 into a transformative, year-long journey in international service. Through this experience, they are shaped by the witness of our global neighbors; and they share in the journeys of companion churches and organizations in one of nine countries around the world.



Luke Swanson, who served in Argentina for the 2016-17 year, talked to the Assembly via Skype. He described both the joys and the challenges of ministry in an environment and culture very different from our own.

Annie Herman, who will serve in Israel/Palestine for the 2017-18 year, attended the Banquet and was introduced to the Assembly.



Festival Worship



Gathering music for the sessions was provided by Bobby Siegfried, a singer/songwriter who is well known in the synod, and who has performed at many venues in northeastern PA. At times, Bobby was joined by friends from Emmansville and First Presbyterian, Allentown.

Singing at the Eucharist was led by Mark Mummet, Director of Worship at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Houston. A number of volunteers assisted with leading worship, reading lessons, and distributing communion.



In his sermon at the Festival Eucharist, Bishop Zeiser talked about the history of the Reformation and about how it resulted in both "a bruised church and a bruised world." He went on to say that "In the bruised Jesus, God offers repentance,

reconciliation, and common witness for the sake of a bruised church and a bruised world. This is our hope, as God's children in Christ Jesus, wondering when this bruised church will be reformed finally, and how much reconciliation it's going to take to mend this bruised world."

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THE MESSENGER

Volume CLXX

"To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known"

Issue No. 395

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September 2017

Have a Safe & Happy Labor Day!

From the Staff at St. John's:



**Pastor Stinner
Pastor Butz
Jaime Patrice
Linda Bonnie
Gary, Tony, Dean & Ray**

The Church Office will be **CLOSED** on Monday, September 4th in observance of the Labor Day.

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Answer: "Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings." Psalm 17:8, NIV

PSALM 17:8, NIV

"

"



Start each school day by remembering God's loving care for you.
Directions: Starting at the K by the stem and going clockwise, circle each word. Then place the words in the blanks to complete Psalm 17:8.

APPLE OF HIS EYE



SEPTEMBER 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <i>No Scheduled Events</i>	2 5:30 PM Worship w/HC Sexton on Duty: Dean
3 Last Day of Summer Worship Schedule 9:00 AM Worship w/HC Sexton on Duty: Dean	4 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 	5 9:00 AM Ladies Aid 7:00 PM Personnel	6 9:00 AM Ruth Circle (<i>Parlor</i>) 12:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Summer SHYG 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM NA (<i>Rm. 5 downstairs</i>) 7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band	7 7:00 PM Partners for a New Beginning (<i>Shepherd's Rm.</i>) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Covered Dish Picnic	8 5:30 PM Philethia Choir Picnic	9 9:00 AM WELCA Breakfast Mtg. 10:00 AM Philethia Choir 5:30 PM Worship w/HC Sexton on Duty: Tony
10 RALLY DAY 8:00 AM Worship Fellowship (Columbarium, W & M) 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Fellowship (Columbarium, W & M) 1:00 PM Love-A-Lot Open House Sexton on Duty: Tony	11 MESSENGER DEADLINE Love-A-Lot First Day of School 6:30 PM Social Ministry 6:30 PM Property 7:00 PM Day Care Bd. 7:00 PM Rebekah Circle (<i>Parlor</i>) 7:00 PM Stewardship	12 4:00 PM JAM Sessions 6:30 PM Sunday School Bd. 6:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 Naz. Women's Club 6:30 Worship & Music	13 12:00 PM Bible Study 5:00 PM Chalice Choir 6:00 PM Partners for a New Beginning Board Mtg. (<i>Parlor</i>) 6:15 PM SHYG 6:15 PM First HC Class 7:00 PM NA (<i>Rm. 5 downstairs</i>) 7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band	14 6:15 PM Evangelism 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	15 4:00 PM Girl Scout #81078 (<i>F.H.</i>) 5:00 PM Girl Scout Dinner F/R (<i>F.H.</i>)	16 10:00 AM AGO Members Recital (<i>Nave & Fellowship Hall</i>) 5:30 PM Worship w/HC Sexton on Duty: Ray
17 8:00 AM Worship w/HC 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM NM/BAP Class 10:45 AM Worship w/HC Sexton on Duty: Ray	18 7:00 PM Finance 8:00 PM Endowment	19 9:00 AM Ladies Aid 4:00 PM JAM Sessions 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Helping Hands	20 12:00 PM Bible Study 5:00 PM Chalice Choir 6:15 PM SHYG 6:15 PM First HC Class 7:00 PM NA (<i>Rm. 5 downstairs</i>) 7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band	21 7:00 PM Partners for a New Beginning (<i>Shepherd's Rm.</i>) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	22 COUNCIL REPORT DEADLINE 4:00 PM Girl Scout #81078 (<i>F.H.</i>)	23 FOOD BANK WEEKEND 9:30 AM Festival Choir Retreat (<i>Fellowship Hall</i>) 5:30 PM Worship w/HC Sexton on Duty: Dean
24 FOOD BANK WEEKEND 8:00 AM Worship Sun. School Teacher Installation Bible & Hymnal Distribution 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Festival Choir 10:45 AM Worship Sun. School Teacher Installation Bible & Hymnal Distribution Sexton on Duty: Dean	25 <i>No Scheduled Events</i>	26 9:00 AM Ladies Aid 4:00 PM JAM Sessions 6:30 PM Bible Study	27 12:00 PM Bible Study 5:00 PM Chalice Choir 6:15 PM SHYG 6:15 PM First HC Class 7:00 PM NA (<i>Rm. 5 downstairs</i>) 7:30 PM Naz. Comm. Band 7:30 PM Church Council	28 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	29 <i>No Scheduled Events</i>	30 10:00 AM Philethia Choir 5:30 PM Worship w/HC Sexton on Duty: Tony