

A Note from the Interim Pastor

As we prepare to turn the calendar from August to September and say goodbye to summer I think that this is an opportune time for everyone to take stock of where we find ourselves as individuals, families, a worshipping community, and our place as St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in the wider community. For me there has always been something special about fall. Perhaps it has something to do with the excitement of the start of another year of programming in the church and in the community. Seeing the happy expressions and the looks of anticipation, along with some apprehension, on the faces of the young people heading to school or to a new school for the first time can be an uplifting experience.

All of the things mentioned above are important, but in this article I want to focus on where we find ourselves as a faith community within our walls. It has been one year since Pastor Schaffer retired after serving close to thirty years as Senior Pastor and approximately nine months since I arrived at St. John's. Whenever such a change takes place the people who remain will experience a wide range of emotions; each one unique and each one valid. We'll find people at different places emotionally.

It's natural for people to have questions and concerns during any time of transition. It can be especially difficult when a strong long-term leader is no longer present to "steer the ship" and there can be times when it may feel that we are being asked to plot a course that is different from the one we are accustomed to following and comfortable with or that we may even be floundering, both of which can lead to feelings of uncertainty and trepidation. Of one thing we can be certain; as pastors come and go (and we always come and go) the Holy Spirit remains, watching over us and guiding us. It's up to us to listen for the Spirit's voice and follow the Spirit's lead in the Spirit's time. Rest assured there is a dedicated group of people who are committed to following the Spirit thereby leading this congregation into the future. Progress may not always be visible, but progress is being made.

We need everyone's prayerful input to help discern the direction in which God wants us to go. Although the idea of stepping away during the search process, perhaps with the thought of returning once a permanent pastor has been called, may seem appealing, by doing so you greatly limit your ability to help cast a vision for our future and the call committee's ability to identify the person who will be the right match for the church. If you have decided to be less involved during this time please consider coming back to your church home and help in the efforts to make St John's a more vibrant community of disciples for many years to come. As has been written "every ending is new beginning." Wouldn't it be nice to take an active part in something new?

Peace

Pastor Dan



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. 1-2 15th Sunday after Pentecost / Holy Communion at All Services / Labor Day Weekend
LAST Summer Sunday Schedule

Sept. 8-9 16th Sunday after Pentecost / **RALLY DAY!!!**
Fall Schedule Resumes w/Sunday Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.
Installation of Sunday School Teacher at all services
Presentation of 3rd Grade Bibles on RALLY DAY
Sunday School Rally Day Program for ALL AGES at 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Sept. 15-16 17th Sunday after Pentecost / Holy Communion at All Services / Blanket Weekend

Sept. 22-23 18th Sunday after Pentecost / Food Bank Weekend / Blanket Weekend

Sept. 29 - 30 19th Sunday after Pentecost / Women of the ELCA Thankoffering



Received in the months of June, July & August 2018:

JOANNE FLOWERS

Emerson Harding

MARGARET REAMAN

Louisa Hoch

HAROLD W. AND MARGARET B. SNYDER

Estate of Margaret B. Snyder

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

September 22 & 23, 2018



Please be present on September 22 & 23 to vote on extending the pastoral call to our Associate Pastor Stinner. Your participation is appreciated.

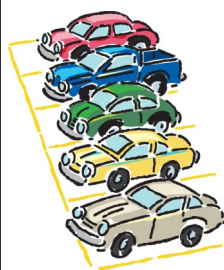
WEDNESDAY NOON-TIME BIBLE

STUDY resumes on September 5th at 12:00 p.m. in the Parlor. Bring your lunch and your Bible. All are welcome!

Chiara Dooley has joined Church Council as the Youth Representative. Welcome Chiara!



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

Oftentimes on a Saturday afternoon, I enjoy listening to the nationally broadcast radio show *From the Top*. It's a program that celebrates the gifts and talents of young classically-trained musicians. Not only do the young artists perform on the show, but they have the opportunity to express themselves by responding to a variety of questions from the radio host Christopher O'Reilly. He might ask them how they got their start in music, how they developed practice techniques, what are their future plans, what they do for fun, and a host of other inquiries.

Just a few weeks ago I was especially impressed to hear a beautiful interpretation of *Elegy* by composer Gabriel Faure that was played by a 17-year-old cellist from the Chicago area. Following his performance, this young musician talked about how he enjoys playing each weekend with another musical friend at the local farmers' market. Although it means performing in the hot sun from 8:00 a.m. to noon, he spoke about the wonderful opportunity to play his cello in a public space and the spontaneous things that can happen in this informal setting. One experience that was particularly meaningful to him was when a woman came up to him and requested a performance of the familiar *Canon in D* by Pachelbel. As he and his friend began to play, he noticed tears streaming down the woman's face. After she thanked them profusely for their performance, he realized how important music is and what musicians are really capable of offering to other people. It was then that he decided to pursue music as a career.

Yes, music IS important in our world. It has the power to offer beauty, inspiration, emotion, healing, joy, and a vast array of other feelings. Just as that young cellist touched the souls of those listeners at the farmers' market, so do our St. John's choir members have the potential to inspire and move the hearts of our congregation. A new choir season is about to begin, and you are invited to be a part of this important and rewarding ministry. As the Greek philosopher Plato wrote: *Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything!*

Grace and peace,
Rev. Janice Buttz, 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 22nd from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon to prepare for Reformation Sunday on October 28 and the Advent Service of Lessons and Carols on December 9.** (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 6th 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 8th.** (Contact Deacon 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 September, for the Women of the ELCA's Thankoffering Service on September 30th.** (Contact Rev. Janice Butz, director, for more information.) **See below for details...**

St. John's **HANDBELL MINISTRY** consists of several short-term opportunities throughout the year for both adults and youth. Those interested in being part of a bell group should contact either Rev. Janice Butz or Deacon 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, September 30th. 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 16th and 23rd at 9:15 a.m., with a final rehearsal on Thursday evening, September 27th 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 4 years old 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 11th.**

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. Plans are underway for an extended tour to Charleston, South Carolina in June 2019. 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 12th.**



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 9. 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. Any question, please see Lois Davis.

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 9, 2018. 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

At the last Town Hall meeting, it was revealed that the results of the congregational surveys were that members wanted most to see more youth engagement. While this is always something I personally work on, it was nice to know that the congregation is also behind our youth.

I thought the youth should speak for themselves at the meeting as to why many of them are not currently involved as much as they could be, outside of our Luther League/SHYG/youth group activities. They had much to say on this, but one of the main themes they mentioned was that they feel separated from the other generations in our congregation. How awesome that our youth want to get to know and feel closer to others of all ages within our church family!

In an effort to intentionally work on this, we decided to implement something that has been in talks for many years: Confirmation Mentors. What is a Confirmation Mentor? Basically, this is someone who is willing to befriend and guide a confirmation student in matters related to faith and life. Ideally, a mentor is an adult, non-family member, who is actively involved in worship and congregational life at St. John's.

Matthew 28:16-20 - The Great Commission - is just one example of how Jesus instructed us to go and make disciples, and to teach others the way of the Lord. This program will help youth to have a familiar face and a friend in church that is not their parent or family member.


We need your help to make this successful. More information about this program can be found in this edition of The Messenger on [page 7](#). If you feel that you would like to be a part of this new ministry, please prayerfully consider doing so. We are very excited to get this program up and running, and think it will be a benefit in the longterm for our youth and adults alike.

I read recently that in congregations around the country youth are either LEADING or LEAVING. By investing in our youth on a deeper level, we can uplift them to be confident leaders of our congregation, side by side with our adult leaders, as we move into the future of St. John's together.

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

LOOKING AHEAD:

September 9: Rally Day! The Luther League will be participating in a service project as part of the ELCA's God's Work, Our Hands Day. This event is still TBD as we work out the details, so keep a look out for information!



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



Through September 7th:
Monday through Thursday
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Invest in our Future Leaders of St. John's by becoming a Confirmation Mentor!

What is a Confirmation Mentor?

In general, a confirmation mentor is someone willing to befriend and guide a Confirmation student in matters related to faith and life. Ideally, a mentor is an adult, non-family member, who is actively involved in worship and congregational life at St. John's. A mentor is not a parent, a peer, a bank, God or perfect. But a mentor IS:

- Someone to talk to
- Someone to say, "You matter to me"
- Someone who takes students seriously
- Someone who doesn't judge
- Someone who is understanding
- Someone who loves to laugh
- Someone who can be serious
- Someone who cares

At St. John's, Confirmation Mentors will be asked to do the following things:

- Pray daily for their mentorling
- Engage in regular 'conversation' (weekly is ideal)
- Complete one service project together each year
- Attend two Confirmation classes
- Attend Wednesday night Lenten worship services
- Support mentorling in one event outside of the church (band concert, musical, football game, etc.)
- Discuss matters of faith honestly, helpfully, and candidly
- Stand with their mentorling on Confirmation Day as they affirm their Baptism
- Take interest in their mentorling's life & activities
- Be a friend who cares.

This program is being started this year for Level One Confirmation students (typically 7th graders). Clearances will be required. There will be a training for future Confirmation Mentors where we will go over clearances, and other information that mentors will need to know.

If you are interested in becoming a part of this new program, you can let us know by doing one of the following:

- Fill out the short form below and place in the Offering Plate or Church Office mailbox.
- Email Pastor Dan at prclayborne@stjohnsnaz.org or Jaime Taylor at jtaylor@stjohnsnaz.org.
- Call us at (610) 759-3090 ext. 103 for Pastor Dan or ext. 107 for Jaime Taylor.

Deadline is Sunday, September 9.

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☐ Yes! I would love to be a Confirmation Mentor!

Your Name: _____

Phone Number/Email (whichever you prefer to be contacted by): _____

PASTORAL ACTS



We gladly received the following new members into the family and fellowship of St. John's congregation in the month of July 2018:

JOSEF HUBERT & HEIDI JANTZEN-HUBERT
July 22nd

New members were received on July 22nd here at St. John's. Josef & Heidi Hubert and their two children, Jackson (age 12) and Hailey (age 9) transferred here from a Lutheran Church in Ashburn, VA.

Josef works in Philadelphia and Heidi works from home. We welcome this family.

Evangelism,
Elsie



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 June & August 2018:

JOYCE K. REX
June 11th

MARGARET E. REAMAN
June 23rd

STEVEN E. WERKHEISER
August 4th

LILLIAN "DOLLY" KNECHT
August 7th



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 June, July & August 2018:

MASAI MATTHEW WHEELER

Son of Matthew & Jamie (Pettis) Wheeler
Born: March 30, 2016
Baptized: June 3, 2018

NICOLE ARIEL STOUTT

Daughter of Brian & Paula (Stuck) Stoutt
Born: November 19, 2017
Baptized: June 24, 2018

CALEB NOLAN PETERSEN

Son of Troy & Lauren (Gaston) Petersen
Born: September 30, 2017
Baptized: July 1, 2018

DARREN ROBERT TANZOS

Son of Matthew & Kimberly (Shook) Tanzos
Born: April 9, 2018
Baptized: July 29, 2018

DESMOND WILLIAM BASSO

Son of Zachery Basso & Katie Weaver
Born: April 30, 2018
Baptized: August 18, 2018

ADELINE JANE FREED

Son of Brandon & Jennifer (Mazzarinni) Freed
Born: December 13, 2017
Baptized: August 19, 2018



PRAYER CHAIN ~ Do you, your family members or friends have a need for prayer? Would you like to join the Prayer Chain? Please call Betty Laubach at 610-759-0225 or the Church Office at 610-759-3090 and let them know.



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



KATHYRYN MOYER
September 6th
 Whitehall Manor RM. A25
 1177 6th St.
 Whitehall, PA 18052

SHIRLEY TRUMAN
September 19th
 Traditions of Hanover Rm. 238
 5300 N. Gate Dr.
 Bethlehem, PA 18017

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT - SECOND QUARTER 2018

| | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Last Year</u> |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <u>Income</u> | | | |
| Plate Offering | \$ 4,806.33 | \$ 6,724.98 | \$ 6,725.41 |
| Envelope Contributions | 157,278.01 | 187,727.52 | 186,737.65 |
| Other Income | 62,819.77 | 60,567.50 | 62,760.09 |
| Total Income | \$224,904.11 | \$255,020.00 | \$256,223.15 |
| | | | |
| Benevolence | \$ 18,000.00 | \$ 18,000.00 | \$ 15,000.00 |
| Salaries and Staff Expenses | 169,592.26 | 170,530.56 | 200,108.83 |
| Property Maintenance | 7,451.98 | 13,999.98 | 6,753.99 |
| Utilities | 24,234.66 | 21,849.96 | 20,768.24 |
| Taxes and Insurance | 20,903.87 | 18,100.02 | 20,416.47 |
| Operating and Committee Expenses | 17,145.75 | 21,650.10 | 19,205.56 |
| Total Expenses | \$257,328.52 | \$264,130.62 | \$282,253.09 |
| | | | |
| DIFFERENCE | \$-32,424.41 | \$- 9,110.62 | \$-26,029.94 |

The Finance Committee



The Cemetery Board will hold another work party on **Saturday, October 6, 2018** from **8 AM until Noon** at St. John's Cemetery on South Street.

Please bring rakes, shovels and bars. Some limbs have to be removed also. In case of rain, we will meet the following Saturday, October 13. Thank you for the progress that was made at the last work day. We hope to see you again.

SEPTEMBER NEW MEMBER/ BAPTISM CLASS

There will be one combined New Members & Baptism Class **Sunday, September 16th at 9:15 a.m.** in the Church Parlor. Questions? Please contact the Church Office at 610-759-3090 x100.

2018 Fellowship Social Calendar



September 9 ~ Music & Worship / Columbarium (Rally Day)

September 30 ~ WELCA (Thankoffering)

October 28 ~ Evangelism / Social Ministry (Reformation Sunday)

November 10 & 11 ~ Stewardship / Finance (Stewardship Weekend)

December 9 ~ Adult Sunday School Classes (Lessons & Carols)

This month there are two Fellowship Hours. The first, hosted by members of the Music and Worship Committee and Columbarium Committee on **Sunday, September 9th**. The second, hosted by WELCA on **Sunday, September 30th**.

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.

Women Of The ELCA:

The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA) fulfill their Mission Statement by mobilizing the women of St. John's to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. They commit themselves to grow in faith, affirm their gifts, support one another in their callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world. The WELCA general membership meetings are held in September and June, with a retreat in March. Please check the monthly calendar in *The Messenger* for the dates and times of the meetings for the Rebekah and Ruth Circles. New members are always welcome to help further the good works of this active and dedicated group of women.

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

RALLY DAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2018

Come join us on **SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY 2018... September 9 @ 9:15 AM** in Fellowship Hall!



Rally Day 2018 will be held on Sunday, September 9 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). Bibles will be presented to the 3rd graders. Come and experience God's all encompassing love through Christian lectionary teachings.

Remember....Fellowship Hall @ 9:15 AM on September 9, 2018
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, August 29, September 5 and 19, 2018 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 Dan.



Confirmation Classes



Seventh and eighth grade confirmands and their parents will gather in the Fellowship Hall for orientation on Wednesday, September 19th. Opportunity will be given to meet with Pete Zimmer and Elizabeth Brodt-Zimmer, the Catechist of the seventh graders; Jaime Taylor, Director of Youth & Family Ministries; and Pastor Dan, who teaches the eighth graders. Guidelines and expectations for the Confirmation Classes will be shared, questions will be answered and confirmation resources will be distributed. Following orientation, Confirmation Level 1 will complete First Holy Communion Class. Level 1 will begin Confirmation classes on Wednesday, September 26th from 6:15 - 7:15 p.m. and will meet every week in the Counting Room. Level 2 will begin Confirmation class immediately following orientation on Wednesday, September 19th. Level 2 will meet every Wednesday from 6:15 - 7:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

First Day of Autumn ~ September 22nd



Work of Helping Hands

New Jersey still has houses that were damaged by hurricane Sandy and have not yet been repaired. Yes that storm was in 2012 and yes, there are still people displaced by it. There are about 2,000 houses left in New Jersey that need to be repaired so that they become livable again. St Bernard Parish (SBP) who partners with Affordable Housing Alliance only have funds of \$60,000 to \$150,000 in grants to rebuild. This need is still great.

Our crew worked on two houses this year. One family had no insurance, but some funds of their own and thought they were handy enough to fix it themselves. They ran into problems that were not readily apparent. Some of the problems were: new regulations, more damage underneath than was anticipated, lack of funds. They have been working with SPB and Affordable Housing since 2017. They are finally expected to move back in August.

The second family was a large family of 7, five children ranging in age from 1st grade to high school. They were a victim of contractor fraud. \$90,000 in funds were stolen. They have been living in a two bedroom one bath apartment ever since Sandy. They had lived in that much larger three story house for the last 20 years. The whole house was affected by mold that needed to be remediated by removing the interior down to the 2x4's, then painting each board with Kilz to prevent this in the future.

Our team was able to enclose and tile the 2 small utility rooms, install sheet rock to most ceilings, and begin sheet rocking the walls. They should be finished soon and returning home.

Ginger Ritchie & the Helping Hands Team



Join us for a refreshing morning run or walk "Through the Woods" at Bear Creek Camp on Saturday, September 15, 2018. The run and walk is fun for all ages and is followed by Bear Creek Camp activities for the whole family. All 5k participants will receive a race shirt, a race bib, a chip timing tag, and post race snacks. Check out our website, Bearcreekcamp.org for more information regarding the 5k, the Virtual 5k, and available Sponsorships.

Register on line at:

<http://www.ultracamp.com/info/sessiondetail.aspx?idCamp=522&campCode=bcr&idSession=190460>

Please contact Michele Seaton, 484.223.6661 or Tim McNair 610.781.6633 for more info or to car pool from St John's.



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.



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 it's 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.

SEXTONS CORNER HELLO TO ALL! SUMMER IS HERE!

Some projects have carried over into the summer.

If you have a skill set or experience with electrical, plastering, painting, plumbing, woodworking, concrete or welding please see Tony. We can use the help to achieve our goals.

- The last two phases of repair work on the organ in the nave are active and should be completed by end of **November 2018**. (Capital Campaign).
- Painting of the nave is active and should be completed by **end of August**. Bennet Painting is currently completing the altar area of the Nave. (Capital Campaign).
- Cumberland Stained Glass should start work on the windows of the north side of the Nave (**date TBD** weather permitting). (Capital Campaign).

THANKS to: Gary & Jackie Wolf, Jeff Daniels, Wayne Verzbicki, Larry Jones and Dean Brodt for cleaning the lower tower of the church. We can now focus on repair work that needs to be done.

And, THANK YOU to the Sexton's, Gary, Dean and Ray for holding down the fort while all these activities and changes are taking place and for dealing with new issues as they pop up.

The Sextons
sextons@stjohnsnaz.org





The Nazareth Area Food Bank needs to replenish its supply of the items listed below, but we welcome any other items you would like to donate. Your continued generosity is greatly appreciated. **THANK YOU!!**

FOOD BANK WEEKEND:

September 29th & 30th: soups, jelly, peanut butter, one can meals

The Food Bank is no longer collecting **large-sized brown paper bags**.



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 3-year-old class last year and are returning as our 4-year-old class, and to welcome all new students. Returning or new to the school, all children walk into our classroom with mixed emotions. 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 and 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 when 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 will learn 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 meet from 9-11:30 with an optional lunch bunch for both classes that meets from 11:30-1pm. Please call (484-293-0720), email (LoveALotNurserySchool@yahoo.com), or visit our website at (<https://www.stjohnsnaz.org/children/love-a-lot-nursery-school/>) for more information.

NEWS FROM THE DAYCARE ~ SEPTEMBER 2018



What a wonderful summer here at the daycare! The classrooms were able to spend lots of time outside with picnics, water play and visits from the ice cream truck. Our school age and Pre-k enjoyed a fun trip to Lehigh Valley Zoo where they had lunch and learned about all the animals there. We also had a reptile presentation and the students got to hold and learn about snakes, lizards, and turtles. We also had a wonderful time with our first ever family carnival.

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 getting them adjusted. We are looking forward to a wonderful year!

For a limited time we are waiving our registration fee for our preschool and pre-k program. If you know anyone who may be interested in our center please let them know.

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 have openings in our infant room, preschool room, and pre-k room. If you have any interest in learning about our center, please call 610-759-4999 or email lisat@rcn.com.

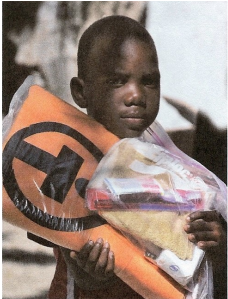
Blessings of all Animals
Oct. 7th ~ 2 PM
in the church parking lot.
Refreshments will be served.
Any questions contact Joy Grim at 610-381-2175.



September is once again **UNDERWEAR DRIVE FOR APPALACIA**. Donations will be accepted **from Sept. 9th to the 30th** with the mailing to West Virginia shortly after that. Articles needed are pull-ups for toddlers , underpants up to size 4x, boys, girls, men's and women's. Donation box will be in the Shepard's Room. School is starting so let's give these families a helping hand! Keep an angel on your shoulder as you generously share what we all take for granted! Thanks!!

BLANKETS+ PROGRAM SEPTEMBER 15th & 16th — 22nd & 23rd

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



For 25 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 15, 16, 22 & 23 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 Evangelism/Social Ministry Committee**

Women of the ELCA SEPTEMBER BREAKFAST

Please join us for our Annual Breakfast on Saturday, September 8th in the Fellowship Hall. We are going to the dog! Our speakers/guests will be Allentown Fire Chief (retired) Lee Laubach and his arson dog, Judge. Judge is the 2016 Hero Dog of the Year - Arson Division. This is an educational and entertaining program. Sign-in is at 8:30 a.m. with a Continental 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. 2nd.

WELCA BREAKFAST MEETING

Sat. Sept. 8th ~ 9:00 a.m.

Name: _____ # People _____

Please RSVP by Sunday, Sept. 2nd



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES ~ May 23, 2018

PRESENT: Chris Andrews, Stephen Bajan II, Rita Bergstrom, Christina Brodt, Rev. Janice Butz, Rev. Dan Clayborne, Cathie Dara, Christine Garrison, Greg Leh, Gail Price, Michele Seaton, Rev. Frank Stinner, Jaime Taylor, Wayne Vierzbicki, Joyce Wallace, Jackie Wolf.

ABSENT: Craig Dally

DEVOTIONS: Christina Brodt read 'Become an Aggressive Encourager and led a prayer.

GUESTS: Transition Team: Nancy Little, Amy Langford, Pastor Peggy Wuertele, Eagle Scout: Josh Nemeth

Transition Team handed out – Congregation Vitality Project survey results. Amy Langford led discussion. Rev. Peggy Wuertele offered discussion regarding the survey. Nancy Little commented on being positive and having more social hours.

Josh Nemeth – Presented his Eagle Scout project to council – Council discussed.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the April 25, 2018 meeting were reviewed and stand as written. Motion by Gail Price to accept the minutes. 2nd – Christine Garrison. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

PASTOR DAN CLAYBORNE'S REPORT: Complete as written, including:

1. Attended Northern Lehigh Mission District meeting during which the Bishop discussed a number of issues and opportunities within the NE Penn Synod.
2. Attended a 3-day seminar outside of Baltimore hosted by the Interim Ministry Network on the subject "Fundamentals of Interim Ministry, The Work of the Leader." Very beneficial.
3. Pastor Stinner & Pastor Clayborne will meet with the pastors of St. John's – Bath, and Grace-Belfast to look for ways as a small cluster within the Northern Lehigh Mission District to work together to impact our communities.

PASTOR STINNER REPORT: Complete as written, including:

1. Thank you to our Eucharistic Ministry Team for their wonderful ministry of sharing the gifts of our Lord with those they visit. Continue to visit members in the hospital, their homes, and our shut-ins.

2. May 8 – Attended the District Pastor's meeting with Bishop Zeiser.
3. Continue to lead the Wednesday evening Bible Study.

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

1. April 29 – Church Music Sunday – Festival Choir, Children's and Youth Choirs presented anthems for theme "I Am The Vine, and You Are The Branches. The Brodt family provided beautiful prelude music.
2. May 8 – Creation & Celebration Choirs were presented with Certificates of Appreciation.
3. May 13 – Children sang for Mother's Day.
4. May 18 – Children sang for Love-A-Lot graduation program.
5. June 22 – Possibility of taking the Children to sing at Moravian Hall Square.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES REPORT:

Jaime Taylor reported: Complete as written including:

1. May 2 – Youth Gathering meeting was held. Bake Sale on June 10.
2. June – Vacation Bible School preparations.
3. June 3 – June 11 – 2 youth interested in starting a small group program on Sunday evenings. They are motivated and want to be involved in the church.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Stephen Bajan II reported: No Report.

1. New Copier was commented on.
2. Bell Tower discussion was held.

COLUMBARIUM: Jackie Wolf reported: No meeting.

1. June 2-3 – Temple Talk on Columbarium.

DAY CARE: Rita Bergstrom reported:

1. Fox Brothers camera system for classrooms will be purchased.
2. State Inspection went very well, perfect report.
3. Presentation of plaque for Shirley Truman went well.
4. May 25 – Pre-K graduation will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

ENDOWMENT: Stephen Bajan II reported:

1. Stock purchases were made in April.
2. Lutheran Congregational Services were paid from the Outreach Account.
3. Bear Creek Camp financial assistance was approved from the Youth Account.

(cont'd. on page 17)

(cont'd. from page 16)

EVANGELISM/SOCIAL MINISTRY: Jackie Wolf reported:

1. 16 gift bags were made for the confirmands.
2. Support our Troops bins are in place. Joy Hemming & Barb Sandbrook will pack.
3. Thank you from a soldier in Afghanistan – Jeffrey Small – was received at St. John's.

HELPING HANDS: Gail Price reported:

1. July 22-28 going to Camp Evans, NJ - Plans moving along nicely.
2. Parsonage Attic – Removing debris and there is about ½ a dumpster of junk.
3. Parlor Storage – Discussion about cleaning up boxes of old records.

LOVE-A-LOT: Wayne V. reported:

1. May 18 – Graduation in Fellowship Hall
2. May 22 – End of Year picnic – Nazareth Boro Park.

PERSONNEL: Jackie Wolf reported: No Meeting.

PROPERTY: Wayne V. reported: No Report

1. June – Bennett painting will be here.
2. Organ Pipe repairs – ongoing.
3. Sewer Line – ongoing.

STEWARDSHIP: Christine Garrison reported: No meeting.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Michele Seaton reported:

1. May 20 - Last day of Sunday School for the year.
2. May 20 – Confirmation Sunday. Hosted Fellowship Hour.

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Chris Andrews reported: – No Report

1. May 27 – Starting of 1 service for the summer months.
2. Chris Andrews – Discussion was held regarding Hearing Impaired Devices.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Update - Capital Campaign – Stephen Bajan II reported. Still have uncollected pledges.
2. Review/Revise By-laws – Chris Andrews will contact Craig Dally.
3. Spring Clean-up Day – Jackie Wolf & Helping Hands worked on this project.
4. Safety Plan recommendations provided by Nazareth Police.
5. Logistics of Worship while nave is being painted – Christina Brodt reported.
6. Contact Directory in progress – Amy Langford is working on this project.

7. Columbarium Proposal to build second niche structure – Milan Billy will be doing a Temple Talk.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Feedback of surveys with Transition Team was discussed.
2. Eagle Scout Project – Josh Nemeth presented project to Council.
3. June – Improvement to Organ and Painting in Nave.
4. Parishioner Hearing Screenings – Need more info.
5. Seminar – Becoming A Parent to Your Parents by Morning Star Living – Declined.
6. Council/Committee Summer Picnic – Susan Kelly's home to be considered.
7. June 14 – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall meeting with Pastor Peggy Wuertele.
8. One Summer Messenger (June, July, August) – Jackie Wolf reported.
9. Summer Meeting Schedule for Council – June 27 @ 6:30 – No meeting in July – Aug. 8 @ 7:00 p.m.
10. Aug. 12 – Outdoor Worship at Nazareth Boro Park w/ breakfast.

Building Use Requests:

1. June 14 – Jackie Wolf – Nave for Town Hall Meeting.
2. June 24 – Joyce Wallace – Fellowship Hall – WELCA Picnic.
3. June 28 – Jackie Wolf – Fellowship Hall – Miller Blood Bank.
4. Sept. 9 – Andrea Miller – Love-A-Lot Nursery School – Parent Meeting/Orientation.
5. May 17, 2019 – Andrea Miller – Fellowship Hall & Stage – Love-A-Lot Nursery School Graduation
6. Motion: Gail Price to accept Building Use Requests – 2nd - Stephen Bajan, II. Motion passed.

Council President Jackie Wolf declared the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting = June 27 @ 6:30 p.m.
July – No Meeting
Aug. 8 @ 7:00 p.m.

Next Devotions = Chris Andrews

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Wallace
Recording Secretary



It's that time of the year when young people are off to college to pursue higher academics while continuing to develop into young adults. The Evangelism Committee recognizes the importance of reaching out to the older youth of our church. Once the opportunity for Luther League activities and weekly worship is stretched because of living away from home on a college campus or new schedules because of career fields, it is important to gently remind our youth of their connection to their church home.

The Evangelism Committee continues to support them by maintaining contact with those high school students who have graduated and are pursuing higher education or who are starting in new career fields. We are continuing the program in which mailings and "care packages" are sent to these young people to let them know that we care about them and are keeping them in our hearts and prayers.

We invite you to submit the name and address of those in college so we may include them in this program. If you have any questions, contact Elsie Frey from the Evangelism Committee. Please return forms to the Church Office or to the Evangelism mailbox.

Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Please Check One:

_____ Is now working locally

_____ Is now working away from the area

_____ Is now at college locally

_____ Is now at college away from the area

Name of College Attending: _____

Address (at school, has moved out from home, or if working away from the area):

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Submitted by: _____



SAINT JOHN'S 2018 STAFF, COMMITTEE & VOLUNTEER LIST

CONTACT US...

200 S. Broad Street, Nazareth, PA

Church Office 610-759-3090 *(see church extensions below)

Fax 610-759-3719

E-Mail office@stjohnsnaz.org

Website www.stjohnsnaz.org

| CHURCH STAFF | EMAIL ADDRESS | TELEPHONE | EXT. # (Church ph.) |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Interim Pastor: Rev. T. Daniel Clayborne | prclayborne@stjohnsnaz.org | (h) 610-759-1571 (c) 774-239-6397 | x103 |
| Assoc. Pastor: Rev. Franklin S. Stinner | prstinner@stjohnsnaz.org | 610-746-9695 | x106 |
| Minister of Music: Rev. Janice I. Butz | jbutz@stjohnsnaz.org | 610-882-9388 | x105 |
| Director of Youth & Family Ministries: Jaime L. Taylor | jtaylor@stjohnsnaz.org | 610-759-3090 | x107 |
| Assist. Organist/Choir Director: Deacon Patrice A. Kidd | | 610-867-1330 | x104 |
| Parish Administrative Assistant: Linda Kasmakites | office@stjohnsnaz.org | 610-759-3090 | x100 |
| Parish Financial Secretary: Bonnie Mertz | finance@stjohnsnaz.org | 610-759-3090 | x102 |
| Sextons: Gary Baltz, Tony Petrillo Dean Brodt, Ray Wolfe, Jr | sextons@stjohnsnaz.org | 610-759-3090 | x111 |

| COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS | CONTACT PERSON |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Building Trust Fund | Jeff Daniels (Special appt.) |
| Columbarium | Jackie Wolf |
| Day Care | Rita Bergstrom |
| YEO Endowment | Donald Himler (Special appt.) |
| Evangelism/Social Ministry | Cathie Dara, Jackie Wolf |
| Family & Youth Ministry | Jaime Taylor |
| Finance | Steven Bajan II, Craig Dally |
| Helping Hands | Jackie Wolf, Gail Price |
| Love-A-Lot Nursery School | Wayne Vierzbicki |
| Personnel | Jackie Wolf, Gail Price |
| Property | Wayne Vierzbicki, Jackie Wolf |
| Stewardship | Christine Garrison |
| Sunday School | Michelle Seaton |
| Worship & Music | Chris Andrews & Christina Brodt |
| Youth Representative | Chiara Dooley |

| VOLUNTEER CHURCH STAFF | CONTACT PERSON AND TELEPHONE | |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| 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 | 484-544-1940 |
| Greeters Schedule | Maryellen Werkheiser | 610-759-5191 |
| Helping Hands | Gail Price Keith Shook | 610-704-8736 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 LoveALotNurserySchool@yahoo.com | 484-293-0720 |
| Luther League (Youth Group - grades 7 & up) | Jaime Taylor | 610-509-8288 |
| Media Ministry | Lois Davis lo.huthie@yahoo.com | 610-504-1635 |
| Prayer Chain | Betty Laubach | 610-759-0225 |
| St. John's Day Care | Lisa Todd, Director lisat@rcn.com | 610-759-4999 |
| Sunday School Committee | Lois Davis, Superintendent lo.huthie@yahoo.com | 610-504-1635 |
| Ushers Schedule | Christina Brodt | 610-653-0358 |
| Women of the ELCA (WELCA) | Joyce Wallace | 610-330-9113 |

We are making some changes to when we publish the News Letter. Some issues will be combined.

| News Letter Issue | Will be published end of: |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| September | August |
| October/November | September |
| December/January | November |
| February/March | January |
| April/May | March |
| June/July/August | May |

NewsLetter
DEADLine

The deadline for all submissions for the **October/November 2018** issue of THE MESSENGER is:

Monday, September 10th. You may leave printed material in the Church Office mailbox or you may email your article or announcement as a Word attachment to **office@stjohnsnaz.org**. Thank you.

INVITING, INFORMING, AND INCLUDING NEWCOMERS

In the 1950s, a new church start pastor challenged every member to invite two newcomers each month. Members enthusiastically committed to such a plan and the pastor's wife, feeling a special call to grow the children's ministry, regularly prayed for new babies to be part of the church's growth. No one was more surprised than she was when half of the young couples in the congregation became pregnant that year! Although this was not an intentional church growth strategy, growing families primarily fueled church growth in the 50s.

Times have changed, and declining birthrates along with cultural shifts are part of shrinking church attendance numbers. These shifts involve the secularization of Sunday, longer work weeks, and two-earner households that reduce opportunities for family time. Additionally, a growing proportion of the population distrusts institutions or do not see the church as particularly relevant to their daily lives. Despite the trends toward secularization, eight out of ten adults in the U.S. believe in God.¹ Therefore, given a changing context, what methods play a role today in how people connect to God and grow in faith through a congregation? An examination of how to invite newcomers, how to inform them, and how to include them requires new reflection.

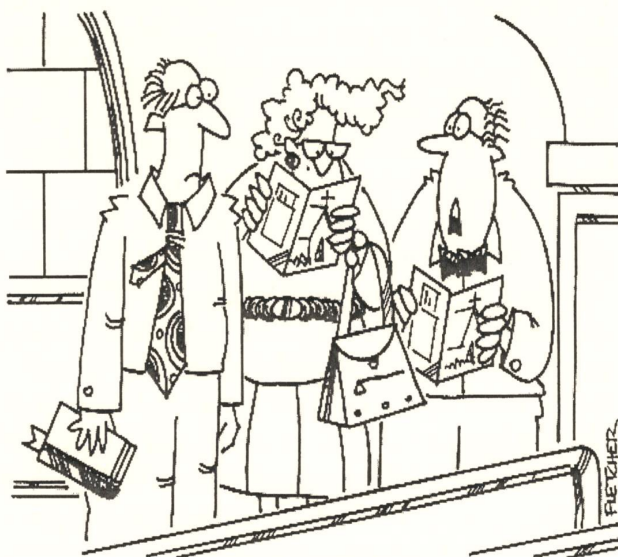
How to Invite

Not all potential new members or participants come out of the same mold. Transplants that recently moved to the area and participated in a congregation in their former location tend to use a narrow search platform because they know what type of church they would like to attend. The more challenging newcomers to reach are those friends and relatives who live near the congregation but do not currently attend anywhere. And the most difficult population to reach are seekers and those with no church background or history. Still, research clearly demonstrates that at least half to two-thirds of adults find a church through personal invitations.²

Hearing about a congregation from someone you know means the information is more likely to be trusted.

Several methods help encourage members to invite relatives, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. First, the congregation should develop a card, postcard, brochure, or flyer that members can hand or mail to people as they invite them. The printed material should at least include the church location, worship times, and website address. Yvon Prehn, a church communication specialist, warns against getting bogged down in design details because "people are not wowed into the kingdom." Rather all material should offer useful content and be easy to read and understand.³

Special events and holidays offer another opportunity for members to invite people they know. Some congregations designate a particular Sunday as Invite-a-Friend Sunday, Open House Sunday, or Special Recognition Sunday (such as honoring teachers, first responders, or others in the community).⁴ Congregations can create



WE NEED TO UPDATE OUR
CHURCH INFORMATION BROCHURE...
"DESSERT, DISCO, AND DEUTERONOMY"
IS NO LONGER A FELLOWSHIP EVENT!

cards or flyers for these special worship events for members to distribute or mail.

Mass communications—the church website and social media channels, direct mail, yard signs, door hangers, church banners and signs, radio and print ads, and community ads (such as bulletin boards, ads in movie theaters, or sponsoring events)—are additional broad strategies for reaching people. The goal of these efforts is to show the congregation as a place that welcomes newcomers. While no one media strategy produces the desired results in today's context, some experts argue that there is a growing preference for printed materials. In fact, even though many congregations have invested in digital marketing strategies, a recent study found that direct mail outperforms all digital communications combined by 600%.⁵ Still, an up-to-date and easy to navigate church website (optimized for mobile phones) serves as a primary source of information to which print pieces can direct.

How to Inform

Successful efforts to invite newcomers do not yield new members. Sadly, at most, only three out of ten visitors return for a second visit. Too many visitors catch only a glimpse of what the congregation offers. Prehn claims that two printed pieces are important for informing newcomers: the church bulletin and connection or visitor cards.

The church bulletin. When people attend a worship service, the bulletin is the first picture they see of the congregation. This description of church life should be jargon free, friendly, and clearly written. The order of service should be easy to follow and related to congregational theology and commitments. The bulletin should provide information for linking to the church website, phone numbers, and other contact information (such as church office hours). Visitors are highly likely to take the bulletin home, so consider what information might be most useful to them.

Connection or visitor cards. Visitors typically fill these out during worship services to drop in the offering plates or return to ushers at the end of the service. Too often visitors aren't given the time during services to complete the card. Worship leaders should give some thought as to when to bring the cards to the attention of visitors (early in the service) and how visitors are welcomed because many visitors do not want to be publicly recognized. In addition to the cards, brochures or visitor packets help visitors learn more about the congregation.⁶

How to Include

Think about a movie theater website. The website makes it easy to see what is showing, at what times, ticket prices, the theatre location, and maps. Participating in a church small group or event should be as easy as going to a movie. A web-supported calendar is essential for including new people as well as current members. Do not make people go through nonessential steps to figure out what is going on and how to participate (such as "call the church office for more information").

Additionally, most newcomers want to try things out before making a big commitment. Classes or groups that require a multi-week commitment scare away new people because they are not certain they want to make such an extended commitment. A brochure that describes ideal groups and activities that new members can try could be included in the visitor packet. Church consultant Jeff Woods believes encouraging people to engage in common activities builds trust, and helping participants to reflect on those activities builds commitment to a common purpose.⁷

Three Pillars of Evangelism

Three complementary efforts serve the congregation's ministry goals: inviting, informing, and including new people. Just like a three-pillared tower, without one support, the overall purpose becomes unstable. To invite is to increase the church's visibility and relevance, to inform is to offer opportunities for connection, and to include means spiritual experiences that promote Christian maturity and growth. Which effort needs more intention and planning in your congregation?

1. "When Americans Say They Believe in God, What Do They Mean?" Pew Research Center, <http://www.pewforum.org/2018/04/25>.

2. Cynthia Woolever and Deborah Bruce, *A Field Guide to U.S. Congregations: Who's Going Where and Why*, 2nd edition (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2010).

3. Yvon Prehn, *5 Steps of Effective Church Communications and Marketing*, 2nd edition (Ventura, CA: Effective Church Communications, 2016), 54.

4. See Church Effectiveness Nuggets, Vol. 4: "How to Increase Worship Attendance" and Vol. 8: "How to Attract First-Time Worship Visitors," <https://www.theparishpaper.com/free-resources>.

5. www.twosidesna.org

6. See Yvon Prehn, *Church Connection Cards*, 2nd edition (Ventura, CA: 2011).

7. C. Jeff Woods, "What Type of Follower Attends Our Church?" *The Parish Paper*, Vol. 22, No. 7: July 2014.

THE MESSENGER

Volume CLXVV

"To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known"

Issue No. 405

IN THIS ISSUE...

| | |
|--|-------|
| A Letter from the Interim Pastor | 1 |
| Worship with Us! | 2 |
| Grace Notes | 3 |
| Choir Information | 4-5 |
| Youth News. | 6 |
| Pastoral Acts | 8 |
| Confirmation Class Information | 11 |
| LAL & Day Care News | 14 |
| Council Minutes | 16-17 |
| Staff & Committee Contact Info | 19-20 |
| Parish Paper Article | 21-22 |

September 2018

Have a Safe & Happy Labor Day!

From the Staff at St. John's:



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

The Church Office will be **CLOSED** on Monday, September 3rd in observance of the Labor Day.

"The Messenger" is published monthly, with the exception of the combined July/August issue. Some content for this newsletter: Copyright © 1996-2015 by Communication Resources. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

Answer: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised ... Matthew 11:5, NIV

MATTHEW 11:5, NIV

The _____ receive _____, the _____, those
who have _____ are _____, the _____
_____, the _____ are _____.



Directions: Match the words and pictures of different healings, from one column to the other. Then fit the word pairs in the blanks below to complete Matthew 11:5, NIV.

Jesus performed many amazing miracles during his earthly ministry.

IT'S A MIRACLE!



SEPTEMBER 2018

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| | | | | | | 1 5:30 PM Worship w/HC Sexton on Duty: Tony |
| 2 9:00 AM Worship w/HC Sexton on Duty: Tony | 3 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED DAY CARE CLOSED | 4 9:00 AM Ladies Aid | 5 12:00 PM Bible Studay 6:00 PM SHYG 6:15 PM First HC Class (F.H.) 6:30 PM Bible Study (P) 7:30 PM NA (Downstairs) | 6 6:00 PM Chancel Choir Covered Dish 6:30 PM Partners for a New Beginning (Parlor) | 7 5:30 PM Philethia Choir Picnic | 8 8:30 AM WELCA Breakfast (F.H.) 10:00 AM Philethia Choir Reh. 5:30 PM Worship w/HC & Teacher Installation Sexton on Duty: Ray |
| 9 RALLY DAY Presentation of 3rd grade Bibles 8:00 AM Worship w/Teacher Installation followed by Fellowship 9:15 AM RALLY Day (F.H.) 10:45 AM Worship w/Teacher Installation followed by Fellowship 12:00 PM Luther League Kickoff 1:00 PM LAL Parent Meeting & Orientation Sexton on Duty: Ray | 10 MESSENGER DEADLINE 7:00 PM Day Care Bd. | 11 9:00 AM Ladies Aid 10:30 AM Personnel (Parlor) 4:00 PM JAM Sessions 6:30 PM Worship & Music 6:30 PM Sunday Sch. Bd. (P) 7:00 PM Naz. Women's Club (F.H.) | 12 12:00 PM Bible Studay 3:00 PM Personnel & Staff (P) 5:00 PM Chalice Choir 5:15 PM Confirmation Mtg.(P) 6:00 PM Partners Bd. (Parlor) 6:15 PM SHYG 6:30 PM Bible Study (F.H.) 7:30 PM NA (Downstairs) | 13 7:00 PM Chancel Choir | 14 COUNCIL REPORT DEADLINE 4:15 PM Girl Scout #81078 (F.H.) | 15 BLANKET WEEKEND 5:30 PM Worship w/HC & Temple Talk Sexton on Duty: Dean |
| 16 BLANKET WEEKEND 8:00 AM Worship w/HC & Temple Talk 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM New Member/ Baptism Class (Parlor) 10:45 AM Worship w/HC & Temple Talk Sexton on Duty: Dean | 17 7:00 PM Finance 8:00 PM Endowment | 18 9:00 AM Ladies Aid 4:00 PM JAM Sessions 6:00 PM Personnel (Parlor) 7:00 PM Helping Hands (P) | 19 12:00 PM Bible Studay 5:00 PM Chalice Choir 6:15 PM SHYG 6:15 PM Confirmation Orientation Level 1 & 2 6:30 PM Bible Study (Parlor) 7:30 PM NA (Downstairs) | 20 6:30 PM Partners for a New Beginning (Parlor) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir | 21 No Scheduled Events | 22 BLANKET WEEKEND 9:30 AM Festival Choir Retreat (F.H.) 5:30 PM Worship w/HC Sexton on Duty: Tony |
| 23 BLANKET WEEKEND 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Sexton on Duty: Tony | 24 No Scheduled Events | 25 9:00 AM Ladies Aid 4:00 PM JAM Sessions | 26 12:00 PM Bible Studay 5:00 PM Chalice Choir 6:15 PM SHYG 6:15 PM Confirmation 1 & 2 6:30 PM Bible Study (Parlor) 7:30 PM NA (Downstairs) 7:30 PM Church Council (P) | 27 7:00 PM Chancel Choir | 28 4:15 PM Girl Scout #81078 (F.H.) | 29 FOOD BANK WEEKEND THANKOFFERING WKND. 5:30 PM Worship w/HC Sexton on Duty: Ray |
| 30 FOOD BANK WEEKEND THANKOFFERING WKND. 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship Sexton on Duty: Ray | | | | | | |