

The Good News

JANUARY 2017
VOLUME 43 NO. 1

St. John's Lutheran Church
44 West Main St
Shiremanstown, PA 17011



The Good News

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JANUARY COMMUNION SCHEDULE

Saturdays

4:00 PM & 6:00 PM
January 7

6:00 PM

January 14, 21, 28

Sundays

8:00, 10:45 AM & 4:00 PM
January 1

8:00 and 10:45 AM
January 8, 15, 22, 29



St John's Staff would like to thank all for your kind words and appreciation during the Christmas season. Have a most blessed 2017!



OUR SENIOR PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

† “A Time of Serious Divisions”

Pastor Seifried

We have been a divided country for some time. However, these divisions have become more obvious and are especially evident following our most recent elections.

The divisions have also become part of the church, as well. There are differing expectations and perspectives on church functions, too. Thus the question is, “What are we to do about all the divisions we see?” Here are some ideas:

1. Jesus’ prayer in John 17:11 was that his followers would be one. We need to pray more for “a better sense of being one” with others in the family, church, community, nation, and world.
2. Most of us have a tendency to want things done our way. We also need to listen more to the needs and issues others are facing.
3. We need to adopt a better attitude of sharing and generosity. If others are people who are suffering or in need, we need to consider these issues as important to us as well.
4. Charity is good as we find ways to help those in need. However, we also need to look at the concept of justice. Justice goes beyond just helping people to adopt positions to end those acts which treat others unfairly.
5. We need to see ourselves as part of the solution to the hatred and divisions which plague our world. While talking about the issues that divide us is a first step, we must also be moved to action.
6. We need to have faith in God and in the power to make positive changes. Faith in God and a conviction we can make the world a better place are not just for some people. These attitudes must be part of all of us.

Get Ready for the Great Soup Challenge—Year THREE!

With the coming of the New Year and the football Super Bowl, we turn attention to the Souper Bowl of Caring. There are two parts to this “Souper Bowl.”

- One is the collection on Super Bowl Sunday (February 5)
 - The other is the soup collection at all our services on January 7 & 8, 14 & 15, 21 & 22, 28 & 29.
- Bring any can or package soup. Last year we collected 1063 cans of soup. The soup was then shared with the Ecumenical Food Pantry in Harrisburg and New Hope Ministries.



For those who would prefer this idea - Wegman's has soup cheaper than we can get it individually. We will also be collecting money for people who would prefer to give money as opposed to buying actual cans or packages of soup. Cans of soup will then be purchased from Wegman's (at a cheaper price). Any monetary gifts should be marked Soup Collection.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

† Chase Away the Bleak Mid-Winter

~Pastor Sarah

Happy new year! The calendar has turned over and we can hit the reset button once again. We can start on a new you, we can start on a new year. One that is better than the last, or at least different. One where we can make changes that we have been thinking about because it's the start of something new.

Scripture reflects the need to be made new. There are many places that we are reminded that we are new through Christ. One of my favorite verses to remind me of this is 2 Corinthians 5:17 where Paul reminds us that "If anyone is in Christ they are a new creation. The old is gone and the new has come." Because of who we are in Christ, we are made new!

This isn't something that only happens when the calendar turns over into a new year. It is something that happens in the waters of baptism. It is something that happens every time we share in the body and blood of Christ. It is something that happens when we confess our sins and we are forgiven. We are made into a new creation!

Should we make changes in our lives in the new year? If changes need to be made and the calendar motivates you, then of course. But we should never forget that we are always being made new through Christ!

Weather Watch!

Snow Cancellations are listed through the following media:

ABC 27 Snow Watch

St Johns Home Page—www.stjohns1787.org

St. Johns Lutheran Church 1787—Facebook Page

St. Johns app notifications

Apple: <http://bit.ly/1ewqMFJ>

Android: <http://bit.ly/1ewq00i>



St. Johns Blood Bank

Account Number

Interested in donating blood? **St. John's account number is #378.** Go to any blood donation center in the area and give them our number. It's a new year. **Help us make our quota for 2017.**

For more information contact the church office at 761-5121.

January Team Meetings

Tuesday, January 3	6:30 PM	Council, Joshua Team, Coordinators—Library
Monday, January 9	6:30 PM	Coordinators’ Meeting—Parlor
Tuesday, January 10	6:30 PM	Mission Team—Conference Room
Thursday, January 12	6:30 PM	Worship and Music Team—Conference Room
Tuesday, January 17	6:15 PM	Social Ministry Team—Diane L’s Home
	6:30 PM	Day Care Board
Thursday, January 19	6:30 PM	Adult Education Team—Conference Room
Monday, January 23	6:30 PM	Joshua Group—Library
Saturday, January 28	8:30 AM	Congregation Retreat—Library

NEWS FROM OUR TEAMS

ADMINISTRATION TEAMS

November 2016 - Financial Manager's Report					
		Beginning Balance	Income	Disbursements	Ending Balance
CURRENT		24,887.37	39,035.87	48,834.72	15,088.52
BENEVOLENCE	Benevolence	0.00	2,208.70	2,208.70	0.00
	World Hunger	0.00	928.80	928.80	0.00
BUILDING		31,566.41	5,288.10	7,292.70	29,561.81
MEMORIAL		48,176.43	0.00	0.00	48,176.43
TOTALS		104,630.21	47,461.47	59,264.92	92,826.76

Income

1	285.00	Flowers
2	9,000.00	Daycare
3	1,609.00	Cleaning Fees
4	1,149.40	Parsonage Rental

Disbursements

1	77.34	Vanco E-Giving Fees
2	1,230.00	Service Contract
3	17,132.50	Ed Building Maintenance
4	182.40	Organ Repair
5	2,832.00	Worker’s Comp balance due

2017 Offering Envelopes

A reminder that offering envelopes for 2017 are available. If you have not picked up your 2017 envelopes, please do so soon. This will save the church from having to mail these envelopes. Offering envelopes not picked up by January 15, 2017 will then be mailed to you.



Church Leaders' Retreat Set for January 28 St Johns Leaders' Retreat Saturday, January 28 (8:30 AM to 1:00 PM)



Pastor Bob Driver-Bishop from Kairos is our retreat facilitator this year. As we look to the future of St. Johns, this retreat will focus on the beginning stages of finding our purpose and where God is leading us.

All members of St. John's are welcome to attend. Email (church@stjohns1787.org) or call the church office (761-5121) for more information or to communicate your interest in attending.

Pastor Driver-Bishop will also be available on January 7 after the 6:00 PM service and on Sunday, January 8 at 9:15 AM Sunday School to share his findings from the surveys.

Follow-up to a Question from the November 20th Annual Meeting

One question at our Annual Meeting which needed clarification concerned the amount of money disbursed from the Trustee accounts for re-payment of our ELCA Mission loan.

The \$50,000 disbursed from the Trustees was credited to Income from church members for the Building Loan (in our Building Fund.) The \$50,000 was incorrectly recorded in congregational giving and not in Trustee Disbursements. Future reports will include that \$50,000 in Trustee Disbursements and not in Congregational Giving for the Building Fund.

ANNUAL REPORTS: Written reports of all Standing Teams, Special Teams, and Organizational Activities during 2016 are due no later than January 22, 2017. These reports will be published in the 2016 Annual Bulletin of Reports.

SOCIAL MINISTRY TEAM



The Social Ministry team is looking for ~15 volunteers to help pack and sort Relief Kits at Mission Central (5 Pleasant View Drive in Mechanicsburg - near the old Grandpa's Growler) on **Saturday, January 28 from 9:00 - 12:00**. Children age 10+ may come so long as they are accompanied by a parent/guardian/relative. All of the work will be inside the warehouse and may include tasks such as: checking, sorting, packing, and palletizing kits. If interested, contact the church office at 761-5121.

Thank you to everyone who donated a gift to the New Hope Ministries Christmas Blessings program. We collected 336 pounds in Christmas items. All of these gifts will be greatly appreciated by the guests at New Hope.

Recycling??

Check out these locations—

Gently used household items for people in need

NEW DIGS MINISTRY, INC.,

5 Pleasant View Drive,

Mechanicsburg PA 17055-2053

Phone: (717) 620-9735

Old computers that can be refurbished and given to people who can use them

MISSION CENTRAL

5 Pleasant View Drive,

Mechanicsburg PA 17055-2053

Phone: (717) 766-1533



Selling donated household items and other supplies to help eliminate poverty housing.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY RESTORE

800 Paxton St.

Harrisburg PA

Phone: (717) 480-5083

Learning Ministry Teams

Friday Bible Study Begins on January 27, 2017

Our Friday Bible Study is meeting from January 27 to March 24 (9 sessions) from 10 AM to 11:15 AM in the education building library. Our study will be on the last 9 chapters on the book of Romans (chapters 8-16).

All are welcome. If you cannot be at every session, please join us as often as you can.

A "Continental Kickoff Breakfast" will be held on Sunday, January 8, 2017, during the Sunday School hour. The combined adult Sunday school classes are hosting a continental breakfast where Pastor Driver-Bishop will share the findings from the St. John's MAP - Mission Assessment Profile. Information



on our congregation's profile, a chance to speak with Pastor Driver-Bishop about our next steps, and, of course, food will be available. If possible, please plan to join the breakfast, enjoy the fellowship, and learn more about the future of St. John's.

Adult Sunday School—Opening the Scriptures Class

In January we will be reading lessons from the Sundays after the Epiphany. Come join us as we study the Lessons for each Sunday in the Epiphany Season. We meet at 9:15 every Sunday in the Education Building Library.

January 8-all adult class breakfast and presentation

January 15

Isaiah 49:1-7-a prophecy about a light to the nations by the redeemer
I Corinthians 1:1-9-Introduction to 1 Corinthians and a Christian's/church's special gift of the grace of God.

John 1: 29-42-Why the world is called to follow Jesus.

January 22

Isaiah 9:1-4-God's promise especially for people who struggle
I Corinthians 1: 10-18-Jesus' crucifixion as a foundation to end human divisiveness

Matthew 4: 12-23-Jesus fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah 9:1-4 and calls us to follow him.

January 29

Micah 6:1-8-A message of God's will for us: do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly.

1 Corinthians 1: 18-25-The power of the cross which exceeds everything else.

Matthew 5:1-12-the beatitudes of Jesus and what they mean to us.

Adult Sunday School—Adult Discussion Forum

The Adult Sunday School Class will continue to offer a variety of topics designed to present information about our faith and inspire discussion concerning it. During January & February the Class will again use sessions from the Animate series to consider such "day to day" concerns such as Community, Service, and Money. The Adult Sunday School Class meets from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. in the Education Building's Fellowship Hall.

GIFT—Growing in Faith Together

Our class meets Sunday mornings in the Church Parlor. Join us for fellowship and discussion as we "grow in faith together."

With Appreciation

Thank you all very much for visits, cards and phone calls during my last illness and hospital stay. It's such a comfort to have wonderful friends and seeing God work through everyone. The altar flowers sure helped to brighten my day, especially since Mary Beth and children had just returned to Africa the day before they arrived. Gods blessings to each and everyone,
 Laural M



Thank you to the ladies who made cookies for the men at Bethesda Mission. They were enjoyed by all. God bless -
 Stephanie Y

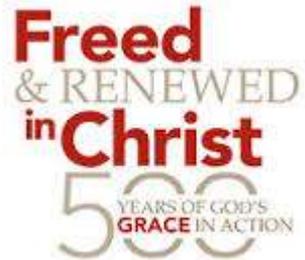
Dear Members of St. Johns - Thank you for the many thoughts and prayers during my recent illness. Thank you to both pastors for your visits and to Elly Stepanic for delivering the beautiful altar flowers. My church family is very special. Thank you!
 Eleanor M

THIS AND THAT—NEWS TO KNOW

The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

The year 2017 marks the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. Luther posted the 95 Theses on the door of the castle church in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517. Here are some things planned for our year long celebration:

- † We will be using Luther's Small Catechism as a learning (or re-learning) experience for all of us. The Small Catechism will be part of our worship services, Lenten programs, devotions.
- † The Adult Sunday School Classes will have special programs and speakers the first Sundays of the month (at 9:15 AM) from February-May and September (3rd Sunday) and October. We are calling these programs a "Luther Moment."
- † We will have a celebration on Reformation Weekend (Saturday, October 28, at 6 PM and Sunday, October 29, at 8:00 and 10:45 AM).
 Watch for more information to follow.



GOOD NEWS: The deadline for the February GOOD NEWS is Monday, January 16. If you have any information to be included in this issue, please have it in the Church Office by that date.

YOUTH

EVENTS

We are prepared to kick off 2017 in an awesome way! **Winterfest 2017** will take place January 6-8 in Lancaster with a large gathering of youth from the Lower Susquehanna Synod. The weekend will be a great way to grow in our faith and build our connections with other churches in the area. January 6th will also offer a time for service to our community through an event with LutheranHANDS.



January 21: YOUTH SOUP SALE and CAFÉ

Please support the Soup Sale and Cafe to benefit the LYO. Parents are making yummy soup the weekend of January 14 & 15 to distribute on Saturday, January 21st. The cafe will be open Saturday at lunchtime for the congregation and community to come out and grab some lunch to support the youth.

Youth—Mark your calendar for these upcoming events...

February 4—Service project with New Hope Ministries

February 24-26—Winter retreat to Nawakwa



Soup Sale

Back by popular demand!!!

Please use the order form below, attach your cash or check made payable to “St. John’s LYO”, and place in the offering plate. You can also mail it into the church office - 44 W. Main St. Shiremanstown, 17011. If you have any questions, please call Leigh Ann Courtney at 557-9264 or email LAC710@comcast.net.

Type of Soup	Quantity (# of quarts)	Total Cost (\$6 per quart)
Ham & Bean	_____ x \$6	= \$ _____
Chicken Corn	_____ x \$6	= \$ _____
Beef Vegetable	_____ x \$6	= \$ _____
Totals	_____ x \$6	= \$ _____

Name: _____ Phone _____

Orders and payment due by January 8, 2017.

***Pick-up in the multi-purpose room on January 21, 2017* between
11am - 1pm**

We will also have a Café open consisting of hot dogs, grilled cheese and of course, bowls of soup! Grab something to eat and enjoy some fellowship while you pick up your soup.

Thank you for supporting our youth program!

Join us for worship!

Worship Schedule and Hours

Saturday Evening Service—1st Sat of the month—4 PM
Contemporary Worship Service—Saturday—6 PM
Sunday Quiet Communion—1st Sun of the month—4 PM
Sunday Church Services—8 & 10:45 AM
Sunday Church School—9:15 AM
Senior Pastor—The Rev. Michael Seifried
Associate Pastor—The Rev. Sarah Keilholtz

Office Hours: Monday—Friday
7:30 AM—12 Noon
1:00 PM—4:30 PM

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News and Notes: sjnewsandnotes.wordpress.com
Facebook: St Johns Lutheran Church 1787
Twitter: stjohs1787



Our mission, as members of St. John's Lutheran Church,
is to worship God;
learn Christ's way, truth and life for all ages;
serve others;
and witness to the Risen Christ.

