

# The Good News

FEBRUARY 2017  
VOLUME 43 NO. 2

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



# The Good News



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Communion Schedule	2
Our Pastors' Thoughts	3-4
Team Meeting Schedule	5
2017 Council/Leadership	5
Team Ministry News	6-11
This and That	11
With Appreciation	12 & 13
Youth Events	14

## FEBRUARY COMMUNION SCHEDULE

### Saturdays

4:00 PM & 6:00 PM  
February 4

6:00 PM

February 11, 18, 25

### Sundays

8:00, 10:45 AM & 4:00 PM  
February 5

8:00 and 10:45 AM  
February 12, 19, 26



# OUR SENIOR PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

† “Here’s What We Know.  
So, What Do We Do Next?”

~Pastor Seifried



Recently, Pastor Bob Driver-Bishop shared the results of the survey 114 members returned. (*Thanks to everyone who took the time to do the survey and share his/her responses.*)

Some of the positive things we learned:

- † Most respondents view their faith to be an important influence on the decisions they make
- † Most people believe worship is important to their faith development
- † The majority sees our congregation as something where faith is active and the congregation allows members to belong to something which makes a difference
- † Most are generous in their contributions to the congregation.

Some of the less positives are

- † We do not always function as a team
- † Most of us do not share our faith with others
- † We need to develop the possibility for a more diversified opinion

What Pastor Bob also ascertained is that we are in a puzzled or questioning mode. What we should consider is how to move to some conclusions and to a place where as a congregation we are looking at possibilities for now and the future.

Our mission is now to work with Pastor Bob, share our insights, and together as a congregation form plans for now and in the future.

I am excited about what we can accomplish as we work with our mission. I hope that all members would join us as we move ahead in ministry.

Please keep this mission in your prayers.

---

## Ash Wednesday is March 1, 2017

Just a reminder that Ash Wednesday is March 1<sup>st</sup> this year. We begin our Lenten Journey with 3 Services on Ash Wednesday. All services will have the Imposition of Ashes.



- 10:00 AM—Spoken Service with Communion
- 2:30 PM—Day Care Service
- 7:30 PM—Service with Holy Communion

## FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S DESK

### † “Light Even in the Darkness”

~Pastor Sarah

There are many people who are affected by the darkness of the winter season. The shorter days and less light around us make us feel as if there is less hope, less chance of finding what we are looking for. It can be hard to understand this if you aren't affected in this way, but for those who are, the search for light and sunshine can make the difference in their lives of literally night and day.

This world is filled with an awful lot of darkness, too. Some of it we can see - when we put on the news and it is filled with stories of terror and hate, or people hurting one another for the sake of hurting them. We have personal darkness that overtakes us - loved ones dying, sickness that affects our lives, worries that we can't let go of. So many things that make it hard for us to find the light.

This year, the season of Epiphany is longer than it is other years. We don't begin Lent until March 1<sup>st</sup>, so



we have more weeks to talk of the light of the world and the light that has come into the world. Epiphany is all about light, and it is a wonderful chance to remember that even in the midst of darkness we are still surrounded by the light that Jesus brings into our world. And even more than that, we can share that light with those who only see the darkness.

Who do you have in your life that needs a little light this month? In what ways can we share the light that we know, and the ministry of St. John's, with a dark world?



**VBS - Save the date!** Vacation Bible School will be **July 10 - 15** this year! Want to help with the planning? Talk to Pastor Sarah and watch for more information to come!

**February Team Meetings**

- Thursday, February 2  
6:30 PM Chili Cook Off Team Meeting—Bard’s Home
- Monday, February 6  
6:00 PM Outreach and Nurture—Bretzel’s Home
- Tuesday, February 7  
6:30 PM Council Meeting—Library
- Thursday, February 9  
6:30 PM Mission Team—Conference Room
- Monday, February 13  
6:30 PM Coordinators Meeting—Parlor

**Council Officers for 2017**

**Officers**

- President—Bob Finn
- Vice-President— Jill Arbogast
- Executive Secretary—David Knupp

**Elder**

- Gary Gardner

*Please keep our council leaders in your prayers as they lead St. John’s Lutheran Church through this coming year.*

**Council Members/Ministry Coordinators for 2017**

**2017**

- Stephanie Alsvan
- Jill Arbogast
- Louise Kadjeski
- David Knupp

**2018**

- Bob Finn
- Susan Lassi
- Tammy Novick

**Ministry Coordinators**

- Administration—**
- Day Care—**Tracy Baxter
- Fellowship—**Joel Kroft
- Learning—**
- Service—**Jen Shuey and Susan Van Zile
- Witness—**
- Worship—**Beth Ellen Walters



**Joshua Group Team Members**

- Alex Finn
- Chad Lauro
- Henry Ferri
- Susan Lassi
- Tim Golletti

NEWS FROM OUR TEAMS

ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY TEAMS

December 2016- Financial Manager's Report					
		Beginning Balance	Income	Disbursements	Ending Balance
CURRENT		15,089.52	84,363.08	47,923.26	51,529.34
BENEVOLENCE	Benevolence	0.00	10,530.80	10,530.80	0.00
	World Hunger	0.00	2,220.30	2,220.30	0.00
BUILDING		29,651.81	7,736.17	7,292.70	30,095.28
MEMORIAL		48,176.43	5.00	0.00	48,181.43
TOTALS		92,917.76	104,855.35	67,967.06	129,806.05

Income

- 1 659.27 Parsonage Rental
- 2 9000.00 Day Care
- 3 946.00 Flowers
- 4 1702.00 Cemetery Refund
- 5 30,000.00 Trustees Disbursement
- 6 10,000.00 Trustees Consulting Fee
- 7 1367.57 Trustees Building Fund

Disbursements

- 1 132.00 Flowers
- 2 2185.27 Church Building Maint.
- 3 1330.53 Education Building Clean.
- 4 84.37 Vanco E-Giving Fees
- 5 2000.00 Youth Group Budg. Balance

SERVICE MINISTRY TEAMS

*Coordinator: Jennifer Shuey & Susan Van Zile*

**February Social Ministry Collection**

During the month of February, the Social Ministry team will be collecting specific food items for Helping Hands Ministry in Harrisburg. The Helping Hands Ministry serves hot meals three nights per week to 50-130 people per night.

They currently have a need for: **hot cocoa (no marshmallows), sugar packets, powdered creamer.** There will be a bin in the coat closet for your donations.

For more information about Helping Hands visit their website at: [helpinghandsministries.org](http://helpinghandsministries.org).

Please contact the church office at 761-5121 with any questions. Thank you!



**St. Johns Blood Bank  
Account Number  
#378**

Interested in donating blood. 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.**

**Upcoming Blood Drive: 3/19/17**

WITNESS MINISTRY TEAMS

**FEBRUARY 26<sup>TH</sup> IS MISSION SUNDAY**

Did you know that St. John's has a Mission Team which supports the following?  
 Missionary Stephen Deal and wife, Marta serving in Costa Rica  
 Truck Stop Ministry in Carlisle  
 Fruit Belt Farmworkers (Adams County)  
 Youth with a Mission (serving throughout the world)  
 Youth Education Services (serving in Vietnam)  
 Katumba Parish (our sister congregation in Tanzania)  
 Manow Seminary and Konde Diocese in Tanzania  
 Christ Lutheran Church in Harrisburg.



These efforts are sponsored by the church budget, special collections during the year, individual giving, and the Talent Auction. Last year we raised \$5476 for the above missions.

On February 26<sup>th</sup>, the Mission Team will provide you an opportunity to learn more about our mission efforts. We will have a representative from Christ Lutheran Church in Harrisburg join us for the Sunday School hour (9:15-10:15). Come join us for Mission Sunday.

**PILLOWCASE DRESSES**

The Pillowcase Dress group continues to make dresses for little girls in Third World Countries. They are in need of pillowcases—slightly used or in good condition, but not white, stained, or worn. Please place them in the bin marked “Prayer Shawls” in the coat closet.



Anyone interested in this project should call the church office at 761-5121.

**WEDNESDAY IN THE PARLOR**

**DESSERT AND NOTE WRITING  
 CHURCH PARLOR  
 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2017  
 6:30 PM**

St. John's has a small group ministry that sends cards and notes to our young adults ages 18–23. On Wednesday, February 15, our group is having a get together in the church parlor. If you would like to join us for fellowship and note card writing, we would love to have you! Contact Beth Bard 761-5121 with questions.



**ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

*It's cold, windy, and snowy outside...Sounds like the perfect time to come inside-and eat ice cream!*



Please join us **Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-4:30 PM** for an ice cream bar and some bingo fun! All you need to bring is your favorite ice cream topping to share, a white elephant bingo prize and the willingness to lose to Pastor Sarah! (She is a bingo machine!) All are welcome for this free afternoon of fun and games. Please sign up by calling (761-5121) or emailing (beth.bard@stjohns1787.org) the church office, or you can use the Sharing our Gifts Form in the bulletin. Hope to see you there!

**BREAD BREAKERS IS BACK—THIS TIME WITH A TWIST!!!**

The Bread Breakers small group fellowship teams are preparing for the 2017 calendar year. We're making some changes to the programming to include more members of St. Johns, their family, and their friends.

Mark your calendars with the following dates and plan to join us:

**Friday, February 24—6:00 PM—St. John's Chili Cook Off**

**Wednesday, March 15—6:30 PM—Lenten Soup Supper**

**Wednesday, April 5—6:30 PM—Lenten Soup Supper**

**Friday, April 21—6:00 PM—Progressive Dinner**

**Friday, May 5—6:00 PM—Lutheran Night at the Senators**

**June, July, August—small group gatherings**

**Sunday, September 10—11:00 AM—Worship in the Park/Church Picnic**



**News from St. Johns Prayer Group**

**December's Meeting—**

At the end of our Tenth Year of monthly meetings to pray for the congregation and our witness to the world, we were caught up in the concept of how even those of us who are professing Christians and serious followers of Christ have been drawn into the popular habit of "otherizing".

We spent a fair discussion of how to be inclusivising at best , or at the least , neutral and waiting to make judgments.

As we start our eleventh year, we are discussing young people that we know or see in worship who might have a special calling on their lives for Christian vocations of music, preaching, teaching, advocacy and other service for the Glory of God.

**January's Meeting—**

January 10 meeting opened with a Reading from Romans 8 starting with verse 31, which set the tone for thinking about where our center lies and wherein we take our strength and discern our vision.

The song of the day was ALL ARE WELCOME.

The scripture and song set the tone for our concerns and prayers for this month, moving from the international and national concerns about welcoming to our specific situation of how to respond to dwindling membership. Please pray with us for this issue this month.

**MISSING !!**

**Eligible THRIVENT members**

St. John's has 136 Thrivent members, of which 48 eligible members can direct Thrivent Choice Dollars. As of December 31, 2016, of these eligible members 42 have directed \$4,744.00 dollars to St. John's. If you are a Thrivent member and don't know if you are one of the other 17 eligible members for distribution of Thrivent Choice Dollars, call the church office at 761-5121. Your participation could provide additional dollars directed to St. John's.

REMEMBER -- Directing 2016 Choice Dollars must be accomplished by **MARCH 31, 2017** by either internet ([www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com)) or by calling Thrivent (800-847-4836).

Thank you to those who have directed Choice Dollars to St. John's

**Opening the Scriptures Class**  
**Sundays at 9:15 in the Library**

Our lessons focus on the earthly ministry of Jesus.

**February 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Isaiah 58:1-12**-God challenges the people to a deeper sense of commitment that involves greater acts of justice and mercy.

**1 Corinthians 2: 1-16**-Paul reminds the members of the church in Corinth that the message of Jesus crucified exceeds any understanding we can derive from human wisdom.

**Matthew 5: 13-20**-Jesus challenges his followers to good works by reminding us that we are salt and light for the world.

**February 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Deuteronomy 30: 15-20**-God puts forth two choices for people of any age. Faithfulness leads to blessings, disobedience produces negative results. We should follow where God is leading.

**1 Corinthians 3:1-9**-Human leaders are not the determining factor in the church, Christ is the one who leads the church. Our ultimate allegiance is to Christ.

**Matthew 5: 21-37**-Jesus proclaims that we should exceed the usual expectations of what is right. Instead go the extra mile in doing good for all.

**February 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Leviticus 19: 1-2, 9-18**-The righteous person will follow God and love his/her neighbor in the same way one loves oneself.

**1 Corinthians 3: 10-11, 16-23**-Jesus is the foundation of the church and we should build upon the sure foundation Christ provides for us.

**Matthew 5:38-48**-In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells us that we should even love our enemies.

**February 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Mission Sunday**

**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 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."

**FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES-**

The Friday Bible Study Group continues our study of the Book of Romans. This book is considered to be St. Paul’s major work on the Christian Faith. Our class meets every Friday from 10 AM to 11:15 AM

Here are our passages in February:

- February 3<sup>rd</sup> “More than Conqueror” - Romans 8:28-9:9
- February 10<sup>th</sup>-Children of the Living God” - Romans 9:10-29
- February 17<sup>th</sup>.-“One Way to Righteousness” - Romans 9:30-10:21
- February 24<sup>th</sup>.-“Grafted to the Vine” - Romans 11:1-36

Come join us any Friday for study, fellowship and discussion. You may come to one of the sessions or all of them.

For more information, please call (761-5121) or e-mail Pastor Seifried at [pastors@stjohns1787.org](mailto:pastors@stjohns1787.org)

**MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY**

The evening study group is on recess and hopes to begin again Monday February 20, 2017. Watch the bulletin for more information.

THIS AND THAT—NEWS TO KNOW

**SAGE**

**Senior Adult Group Explorers**

SAGE is meeting at TJ Rockwell’s on February 15 at 1pm. Any questions or in need of a ride please call the church office at 761-5121. This invitation is extended to anyone who would like to come enjoy lunch and fellowship.



**The cost of hiding our light**

A Los Angeles restaurant owner recently discovered that a neon light had been covered – without being disconnected first – during a construction project 77 years prior. The calculated electricity cost to run the hidden light all that time was \$17,000!

People don’t intentionally hide light; that would be counterproductive, not to mention wasteful. Yet when we shrink back from sharing Jesus’ good news, we do indeed hide “the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14) that is in us. When we’re too modest to use God-given talents such as singing, playing piano or reading to bring others joy, we hide our light. When we put our own wants ahead of meeting someone else’s needs through giving and serving, we hide the light of God’s love. And at what cost?

**GOOD NEWS:** The deadline for the March GOOD NEWS is Monday, February 13. If you have any information to be included in this issue, please have it in the Church Office by that date.



“Let your light shine before others,” Jesus says, “that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (verse 16).

# With Appreciation

Thank you Pastor Mike and Pastor Sarah for your visits during my hospital stays in both November and December.

Thank you for the beautiful flowers that were sent to my home during my recovery.

Sincerely,

Ada M S

To the congregation of St. John's Mark and I would like to thank everyone for all of your prayers, phone calls, and well wishes during this very rough time for us.

Thanks to Pastors Mike and Sarah for all of the hospital visits.

Thank you Pastor Mike for all the prayers offered on our behalf.

Thanks to Annette Gardner for making a lovely meal for us.

It was delicious!

Thank you for all the altar flowers. They were beautiful.

Also, thank you for the beautiful poinsettia. It is loving the southern light from our den window.

Hopefully our health will be okay for awhile.

Thank you all again!

God bless!

Joyce and Mark E



Dear St. John's Family,  
Thank you to all who helped make the Christmas season so beautiful and for the poinsettia from the late service.

Peace to all,

Janet L

Dear St. John's:

I would like to thank Pastor Mike and Pastor Sarah for their visits to the hospital to see and pray for my Mom (Ada Smith) during her stays in November & December. I know it was not only a comfort to her but also to her family. Thank you Pastor Mike for the early morning arrivals, prayers and positive thoughts during these difficult times. Thank you Pastor Sarah for all your prayers, hugs and extra backup and support during my weaker moments. Thank you Beth Bard for being my lifeline on the other end of the telephone during my many calls to the church for a shoulder to cry on. I would like to extend my appreciation and thanks to our church family for their prayers & support, as well as all the prayers in the prayer chain. Thank you for the uplifting and caring cards that have been sent. But most of all, I give thanks to the Good Lord who has continued to bring Mom through difficult times and blessed my family with her continued presence in our lives.

I am truly blessed to be part of such a loving and caring church family.

Sincerely,

Dawn S

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia. I feel blessed to be remembered. A happy New Year to all of my church family.

In Christ, Henrietta M

*St. Johns Members,  
To all the many members from whom I received Christmas cards, thank you so much. Also, for the beautiful poinsettia delivered by Joyce Kearns. It will brighten my room for many weeks. Everything so much appreciated.  
Sincerely,  
Janet H*

*To my St. John's family,  
Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia delivered to me by Lisa McCarty on Christmas evening. It was one of the beautiful poinsettias that decorated our church in honor of our Christ Child's Birth. The church was beautiful, Thank you to all those who decorated the church, and to the pastors for the beautiful meaningful, and memorable worship services.  
Blessings to all,  
Joan and Paul VO*

*Dear St. Johns Members and Pastors,  
Thank you so much for the beautiful altar flowers delivered to my home. I enjoyed them very much. Thanks, also, to Pastor Seifried and Pastor Sarah for their visits and prayers. All much appreciated.  
Sarah S*

*Thank you for your monetary donation to Fruitbelt Farmworkers Christian Ministry. We really do appreciate your continued financial support of the migrant ministry.  
In Christ,  
Pastor Rod and Nancy Runyan*

*To St. Johns and person who put a beautiful poinsettia on the doorstep—thank you so much! I'm so thankful that I made so many good friends at St. Johns. Thank you for thinking of me.  
Ruth Z*

*Wishing a Merry Christmas to all persons who sent me a Christmas card.  
Henry E*

*Dear Pastors and Members of St. Johns,  
Blessings and thank you to all who sent the beautiful Christmas cards and the lovely poinsettia. A special thanks to the couple who delivered it on Christmas Day.  
Charlotte S*

*Dear Pastor Mike, Pastor Sarah, Beth, and my church family,  
Thank you all for the cards and heartfelt condolences for the passing of my father. There aren't enough words to express how grateful I am to belong to this loving and compassionate church family. Thank you, Pastor Mike for the visits and prayers while my dad was in the hospital. To Pastor Mike, Pastor Sarah and Beth—thank you for your strength and hugs when I needed them and for the beautiful scriptures you read at my dad's funeral.  
Peace to all,  
Barb G and family*



### **Souper Bowl of Caring**

Souper Bowl of Caring is the first weekend in February. Bring your dollars and help support this annual drive to help feed the hungry.

### **Winterfest Update**

St. John's LYO had a lively group of senior high members attend the 2017 Winterfest gathering on January 6-8 in Lancaster. It was great to see them come together with friends from other Lower Susquehanna Synod congregations to worship, sing, and 'Stand Up' together in God's name (Luke 13:13).

### **February Youth Events**

On **February 4th**, we will gather early in the morning for a service project at **New Hope Ministries, Mechanicsburg**. Plan to meet at New Hope at 8am. Please bring money for lunch, and we'll hang out together after our service project. Let Stephanie know if you are able to attend.

**Feb 12th-Gathering** in the youth lounge, with dinner provided 5pm-8pm

Let's hope for some beautiful snowy apple orchards in Adam's county as we head back to **Nawakwa for our Winter retreat, February 24-26**. This **Love Your Selfie** retreat will help us define self-worth according to what God says in the scriptures. Cost for the weekend is \$85, and this includes dinner Friday night. Please contact Stephanie to sign up for the Winter Retreat!

### **Summer Camp Is Just Around the Corner!**

The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central PA is again offering some exciting summer camp opportunities this year and yes, summer will be here before we know it!

I am happy to be your camp representative again this year and would love to talk to you about some of the upcoming themes that are happening at Camp Kirchenwald or Camp Nawakwa. Grades K-2 are called the Explorers and offer day and minicamps for your children. Grades 3-6 are considered the Juniors, Grade 6-9 are the Intermediates and Grades 9-11 are considered the Senior High groups. Each group has many exciting and interesting camp themes. An elder camp for ages 55 and over will also be available at Wittel Farm from July 9-15<sup>th</sup>.

Tiered pricing will be offered again this year to help with affordability. If full payment is received by April 1, 2017 there is a \$15 discount off the weekly price. All St. John's members automatically get a \$10 discount for having a camp representative and the church will also help to pay \$100 per child. There is a \$25 Invite a Friend coupon and \$25 discount for 2<sup>nd</sup> child and \$50 discount for a third child.

Please visit [Lutherancamping.org](http://Lutherancamping.org) to get more information. There will be more information in upcoming newsletters, so stay tuned!



### Valentines to give your children (grandchildren)

- Acceptance - Teach kids that you love them for who and what they are. Give this gift with a kiss.
- Self-confidence - Help children understand that they can trust themselves. Give this gift with a hug.
- Life without needless fears - Don't let your kids see you as a worrier. Give this gift with laughter.
- Appreciation - Help children acquire a spark of gratitude and enjoy all of life. Give this gift as they go out the door.
- Faith - Introduce your children to God, the best friend they'll ever have. Give this gift by taking them to church every Sunday.

# Join us for worship!

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 L. Seifried  
Associate Pastor—The Rev. Sarah M. Keilholtz  
Minister of Music—Thomas A. Notestine  
Youth Director—Stephanie Alsvan

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

Office Phone (717) 761-5121  
Office Fax (717) 761-4110  
Email: [church@stjohns1787.org](mailto:church@stjohns1787.org)  
Website: [www.stjohns1787.org](http://www.stjohns1787.org)  
News and Notes: [sjnewsandnotes.wordpress.com](http://sjnewsandnotes.wordpress.com)  
Facebook: [St Johns Lutheran Church 1787](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsLutheranChurch1787) 



*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.

