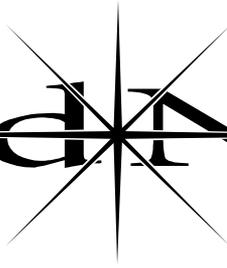


The Good News



MARCH 2017
VOLUME 43, NO. 3

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



The Good News

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March 20—First Day of Spring

Day Light Savings Time begins on March 12

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead on March 12 as we begin daylight savings time.



MARCH COMMUNION SCHEDULE

Saturdays

4:00 PM & 6:00 PM

March 4

6:00 PM

March 11, 18, 25

Sundays

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

March 5

8:00 AM & 10:45 AM

March 12, 19, 26

OUR SENIOR PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

“Thought About Lent”

-Pastor Michael Seifried

Since Lent is later this year (it begins on March 1) and we are reading more of the lessons for Epiphany, we have the opportunity to hear more of the Epiphany readings from Matthew 5. These readings certainly are challenging. We have heard the following:

“You have heard that it was said, you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” (Matthew 5: 43 -44)

“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5: 48)

In all honesty, such commands are impossible for any of us. So what can the above verses mean to us? Perhaps the season of Lent can provide some understanding.

Lent is a time we look to the love and forgiveness that comes from God through Jesus Christ. This is not of our doing. For example, the

first reading for Lent 1 is Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. One conclusion people can make is just like Jesus who defeated temptation so we too can defeat temptation. Well, we cannot always defeat temptation. The issue is not that we can be like Jesus, but that we have God's love through Jesus. This love and forgiveness is what God's grace is all about.

Therefore, any possibility of love of enemies or being perfect can only result from a life of experiencing God's abundant generosity through Jesus Christ. Jesus is the one who came not to give us a new set of rules, but to open the way to life in the kingdom.

So, Lent becomes a time to focus on God's tremendous revelation in Jesus Christ and what that revelation can mean for us as we journey toward the celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter.



“Lenten Journey at St. Johns”

- by Pastor Sarah

Lent is upon us with Ash Wednesday on March 1st. We begin walking together again to the cross, a journey that we will be on until we see the Risen Savior on Easter Day. There are many opportunities to worship and walk together this Lent.

We offer several different Ash Wednesday services. All of them include the imposition of ashes to remind us that we are made from the dust, and to the dust we shall return. It is a chance to reflect on who God has made us to be and who we are as a child of God.

Each Wednesday during Lent, we have evening devotions at 7:30 pm. We will be using this time to look a little closer at the Small Catechism of Martin Luther as well as

worshipping using the Holden Evening Prayer Service, one of my personal favorites. I love these short times of worshipping together as a chance to take a break from the busyness of life.

Also during Lent there will be several opportunities to gather around meals together for soup suppers before the Wednesday night services. Simple meals and a chance to talk with one another. What a gift that time can be!

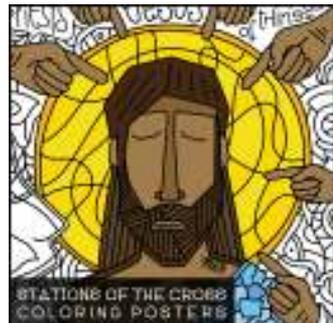
Won't you join with us during Lent this year? We can walk together knowing that God is with us and that we are on this journey together!

COME AND COLOR!

Sometimes we all just need a few moments of quiet, don't we? One way that I love to take those moments is to just stop everything else and color. Yep, that's what I said - color! Many adults have come to see the joy in this type of activity, and it is a wonderful trend that has taken hold. During Lent, I invite you to take a few moments from time to time and color with me! There will be several different times offered and together we will create a visual journey of the stations of the cross. Everything you need will be provided.

One set of times offered will be during Sunday School hours in the Atrium - haven't gone to

Sunday School in years? That's ok! We want you to come and have conversation while we create. We will also offer times before the soup suppers and at other times during Lent. Watch for more information and I'll see you at the coloring table!



March Team Meetings

Thursday, March 2	6:30 PM	Joshua Team—Library
Tuesday, March 7	6:30 PM	Church Council Meeting—Library
Saturday, March 11	9:00 AM	Property Work Day Planning Mtg—Lower Allen Diner
Monday, March 13	6:30 PM	Outreach and Nurture—Conference Room
Tuesday, March 14	6:15 PM	Social Ministry—Parlor
Tuesday, March 21	6:30 PM	VBS Planning Meeting—Conference Room

NEWS FROM OUR TEAMS

*ADMINISTRATION TEAMS—, Coordinator
FINANCE*

JANUARY 2016- Financial Manager's Report					
		Beginning Balance	Income	Disbursements	Ending Balance
CURRENT		52,879.91	45,963.86	58,439.22	40,404.55
BENEVOLENCE	Benevolence	0.00	2,956.70	2,956.70	\$0.00
	World Hunger	0.00	1,148.80	1,148.80	\$0.00
BUILDING		28,739.71	6,809.10	7,292.70	28,256.11
MEMORIAL		48,186.43	5.00	0.00	48,191.43
TOTALS		129,806.05	56,883.46	69,837.42	116,852.09

Income

1	800.00	Day Care Cleaning
2	9000.00	Day Care - Facility Use
3	1,245.00	Parsonage
4	1,110.00	Initial Offering

Disbursements

1	9,695.25	Insurance
2	1,781.06,	Service Contracts
3	2,344.00	Church Maintenance
4	865.98	Ed Bldg Maintenance

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

Spring Property Work Day Scheduled

Spring is just around the corner and now it is time for us to do some yard work and sprucing up around the church.

Our Spring property work day is scheduled for March 25th with breakfast at 8 AM and the work day beginning at 8:30 AM.

We will be working on the following:

- Tan bark for the gardens (bring rakes, shovels, and wheelbarrows)
- General yard clean up and bush trimming as needed
- Window washing
- Some painting
- Re-seeding areas of the lawn

There is a task for everyone. We welcome young and old, male and female to come out and join us. So please complete this form and return it to the church:

I (we) are coming to Property Work Day on March 25

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

I (we) are coming to breakfast, too _____



**St. Johns Has an App!
Check it out!!**

- Receive church notifications
- Link to our church calendar
- Daily Devotions
- Prayer Wall
- Links to bulletins, announcements, and Good News
- Sermons in audio
- Access to online church directory



The app is for both apple and android and can be found at the following locations:

Apple: Apple Shortlink: <http://bit.ly/1ewqMFJ>
Google Shortlink: <http://bit.ly/1ewqOOi>

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAMS—Beth Ellen Walters, Coordinator

**Ash Wednesday Services
March 1, 2017**

10:00 AM	Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion
2:30 PM	Children's Garden Ash Wednesday Service
7:30 PM	Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion



WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN WORSHIP
"Luther's Small Catechism, New and Revisited"
The Holden Evening Prayer

Lent is a time for a spiritual pilgrimage and 2017 marks the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. So we will be combining the idea of spiritual growth with a look at Luther's Small Catechism.

Each Wednesday from March 8 through April 12, we will worship using the Holden Service of Evening Prayer and hear proclamation on a part of the Small Catechism. Here is our schedule:

March 8	"The Ten Commandments"
	Soup Supper sponsored by our Gr 8 confirmands
March 15	"The Apostles' Creed"
	Soup Supper sponsored by Bread Breakers
March 22	"The Lord's Prayer"
March 29	"The Sacrament of Baptism"
April 5	"Confession"
	Soup Supper sponsored by Bread Breakers
April 12	"The Sacrament of Holy Communion"



Join us as we journey in Lent to the celebration of Christ's Resurrection on Easter.

PRAYER GROUP—

February 14 day of praying was founded on the details of the importance of the (Holy) Spirit in the workings of our faith lives. Romans 8:26 says the Spirit makes intercession for us when we don't even know how we should pray and what we should pray for, hearing our groaning which can't be uttered.

The things we know to pray for without ceasing are the pastors and other leadership, especially as the new leadership of the LYO unfolds. We pray this month for Stephanie Alsvan, parents of youth in the LYO, and the young people who take leadership roles in the group. We continue to pray that this group will be one strong path for developing young people to service vocations.

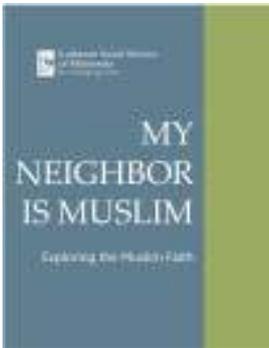
Two new leaders in our congregation to hold up in prayer are Janet Cas current chair of Outreach and Nurture and Beth Ellen W as coordinator of our Worship Teams.

Our upcoming series of information and fellowship get togethers about **My Neighbor is a Muslim** is on our prayer agenda this month.

As in all of the above, we are reminded that this race we are running as Christians is not a sprint, not a marathon, but a relay..

Living Together Faithfully

Our Lord Jesus compels us to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:28-31). That seems easy enough when our neighbor is “just like us.” But in our diverse nation and world, our neighbors often appear different from us. How do we obey our Lord’s command in this case? Perhaps it begins by becoming acquainted with our neighbor, joining with them in dialogue to promote mutual understanding. Five Sunday evenings after Easter we plan to have a course aimed at doing just that. The course is called **MY NEIGHBOR IS MUSLIM**. Plan to attend. Registration will be held beginning in a few weeks.



**Soup Supper on Saturday, March 18
5:00 PM**

It's a time of fellowship and soup! On March 18th at 5:00 PM, bring your favorite soup or just bring yourself. We will have the meal and fellowship at 5 PM in the Education Building Multi-Purpose room. Join us afterwards for worship at the 6 PM Saturday Service.



Sunday School Class Offerings For Adults

Opening the Scriptures Class for March—Education Building Library

Come join our fellowship and small study group as we review the lessons for that Sunday. Here is our schedule for March:

March 5

Genesis 2: 15-17, 3:1-7-Adam and Eve are given the garden, but they fall to temptation to sin. This is the beginning of what is known as “original sin.”

Romans 5: 12-19-Sin came into the world through (one man), but now we have forgiveness through the grace of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 4: 1-11-Unlike Adam, Jesus is able to survive temptation in the wilderness.

OR—

Attend a presentation from **Family Promise** with the Adult Sunday School Class.

March 12

LUTHER MOMENT: 500th Anniversary of the Reformation & Martin Luther’s, “The Freedom of a Christian.”

March 19

Exodus 17: 1-7-A challenge in the wilderness: the people complain to Moses about their thirst and put the Lord to the test. Moses names the place Massah and Meribah.

Romans 5: 1-11-Justification results in peace with God. Paul believes that through faith in Christ, we know suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces a hope that does not disappoint us as God’s love has been poured into our hearts.

John 4: 5-42-Jesus has a conversation with a Samaritan women who recognizes he is the Messiah.

March 26

I Samuel 16: 1-13-After seeing all of Jesse’s sons, Samuel then anoints David as the King of Israel.

Ephesians 5: 8-14-In Jesus, the Gentiles are now people of the light, so they should live as children of the light

John 9: 1-41-Jesus heals a sick man in Jerusalem, but that touches off a controversy with the religious leaders of his day.

GIFT—”Growing in Faith Together” - Church Parlor

At its February meeting, the Church Council approved our proposal to construct a “Little Free Pantry” on Main Street in front of the Church Office. Please join our class on Sundays at 9:15 in the Church Parlor as we plan for this new project at St. John’s. We could use your help to design, build and plan all aspects for this new initiative. The Little Free Pantry will offer food items and other necessities to our neighbors in need.

Adult Sunday School Class—Education Building Fellowship Hall

The Adult Sunday School class has the following 3 presentations scheduled:

- (1) **February 26th** - Mission Sunday - the presentation by St John's Mission Team that will include a representative from Christ Lutheran to talk about the outreach services that congregation provides in Harrisburg,
- (2) **March 5th** - a presentation from Family Promise; a local organization dedicated to empowering families through relationships and skill building to move from homelessness to home (you learn more from their website: <http://www.familypromisehcr.org/>),
- (3) **March 12th** - the next in our series of "Luther Moments" - Pastor Seifried will speak about Luther's "The Freedom of a Christian" - one of Luther's most significant (& short) statements written relatively soon after (at least by 1500's standards) his posting of the 95 Thesis.

Starting **March 19th**, the Adult Sunday School will be taking a closer look at the **Apostles' Creed**: what it affirms; what we, as Christians, believe and why; and why these beliefs matter.

First Communion Classes begin on Sunday, March 19 for all children in the second grade. Letters were sent home. If you did not receive one, please let Pastor Sarah know. If your child is older than second grade and has not yet participated in a first communion class, contact Pastor Sarah to be part of the classes.



Vacation Bible School!

Yep, time to start thinking about everyone's favorite week of the summer Vacation Bible School! VBS will be July 10 - 15 this year, and we are looking for helpers to plan! Meet with Pastor Sarah on March 21st at 6:30 in the Library as we begin working out details for this wonderful week of ministry!



SERVICE TEAMS—Jennifer Shuey & Susan Van Zile, Coordinators

Blood Drive Sunday March 19, 2017

The Social Ministry Team is hosting a blood drive on Sunday, March 19th from 8:30 to 12:00 noon.

Giving blood is such a rewarding experience! Every 2 seconds someone needs blood yet less than 5% of the population donate. One pint of donated blood can save 3 lives!! Special thanks to St. John's loyal donors. Last fall, we had 26 donors with 25 pints delivered. A really nice turnout that helped 75 local patients! This year, our goal is 30 pints delivered. To schedule a time to donate, please call the church office at 761-5121. Your donation is greatly appreciated.



**Keep our Blood Donor program strong.
St. John's account number is #378.**



During the month of **March**, the Social Ministry team will be collecting donations for **Family Promise of the Harrisburg Capital Region** (a nonprofit agency that serves families who recently lost their homes). We are asking for items to fill activity packs that will be given to children of various ages as a welcome gift when they first enter the program. Ideas of items to donate include: **coloring books, crayons, stickers, new or gently used stuffed animals, activity books, small games/toys, etc.** Please contact the church office at 761-5121 if you have questions.



With Appreciation

Thank you fellow parishioners,
In August 2016, our god-daughter Elizabeth Rockwell, was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins lymphoma. This diagnosis came after nearly a year of testing, as her cancer did not present itself in known symptoms. The doctors did not know if it was blood born or from her bone marrow, so it was decided to treat it as Stage 4.

Prior to her last chemo treatment, a pet scan was scheduled to check the state of her cancer, and amazingly, there was no cancer apparent on the scan!

With each step of the treatment process, she encountered new challenges and complications, including blood clots, nausea and many other setbacks. Her spirits and hope were slowly sinking. But we - and you - all kept praying.

She completed her last chemo treatment on Dec. 16, the day before her 24th birthday. She rang the "I'm done with chemo bell" at the Hershey cancer center and prepared for her next step - radiation.

She will be finished with radiation on Feb. 9, but received permission from her doctor to go to work again. She is considered to be in remission.

We thoroughly believe this miracle came about because of everyone's prayers and thoughts. Not that we don't want more prayers, but we wanted to thank you all for your thoughts and prayers for Elizabeth through the truly dark hours. We believe her remission is truly a testimony to God's power to answer our prayers.

Lorraine & Kirrk K



Thank you for the beautiful altar flowers. I really enjoyed them, especially since they stayed fresh for a long time. Thank you for thinking of me.

Jane S

Thank you to Pastor Mike for his visit and prayers during my recent hospital stay. Also thank you to Stephanie Alsvan for delivering the beautiful altar flowers on January 29th.

Sincerely, Ron K

Dear Pastors and members of St. John's, Many thanks for the delivery of the Christmas poinsettia; I am still enjoying its bright life and beauty. It is so wonderful to be remembered by a kind and caring congregation.

In appreciation, Debbie K

St. Johns Members and Pastors,
Thank you for the lovely poinsettia and beautiful altar flowers delivered to my home. They are very much appreciated and really enjoyed. Thank you also for the many cards.

Sincerely, Mary M

*Thank you for the beautiful flowers from the church. They have brightened my spirits through a rough period. I want to thank Pastor Mike for his prayers and visits; Pastor Sarah and all my friends and family for your prayers.
God bless you all.
Blanche K*

*Dear Pastor Mike and Pastor Sarah,
Thank you and members of St. Johns for your prayers and altar flowers during my recent illness. It means so much to belong to such a caring congregation.
Sincerely,
Jim K*

*Pastor Sarah, Pastor Seifried, and Members of St. Johns Lutheran Church,
We wish to express our sincere appreciation for your message and words of comfort at Bob's Memorial Service.
The after service lunch was wonderful. Thank you for providing and hosting the food. We were able to share many memories of Bob during our time together.
Sincerely,
The Herr Family*



THIS AND THAT—NEWS TO KNOW

SAGE March Event

The S.A.G.E. members are dining at
TJ Rockwell's
on March 15 at 1:00 PM
For more information,
please call the
church office at 761-5121.

Who is SAGE?

We are a group of church members and friends who meet at a local restaurant every third Wednesday of the month at 1pm.
You can be any age or gender. We enjoy getting together for fellowship, and of course eating.
We are always looking for new persons to join us. Come every month or as you're available. .

Lent Devotions

by Kairos Consultant,
Pr. Bob Driver-Bishop

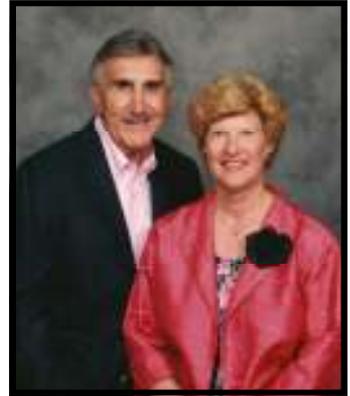
Ash Wednesday is on March 1 and is the first day of the Season of Lent. Beginning that day a daily devotion on the theme of discipleship will be sent to members on our e-newsletter contact list. These messages written by Pr. Bob Driver-Bishop will be sent out daily Monday through Friday. Please take time aside for reading, reflection, and prayer.

If you don't receive the weekly e-newsletter, please contact the church office so we can include you in our contact list.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Fred & Sue B

Every third Tuesday of the month, a group of volunteers here at St. John's go to Messiah Lutheran Church in Harrisburg to work at the Ecumenical food pantry.

Sue and Fred B have been members of this volunteer group for a combined 32 years. Now, after many years of dedicated service, they are retiring from our group of volunteers. Sue started working at the food pantry back in 1994. She worked for 10 years during the summer months, then after retiring from her teaching job, she began working year-round for 12 more years. Fred joined our group of volunteers 12 years ago.



When asked what motivated them to dedicate so many years to this mission they both said that meeting the clients, working with the other St. John's volunteers, the smiles on peoples' faces as they received their bags of groceries and the fellowship. Fred said that they received so much more than they gave. It was a joy.

Fred and Sue will continue with their many other volunteer activities here at St. John's. Sue helps with the Good News and weekly bulletins. She and Fred deliver flowers, drive people to appointments and are greeters at Sunday services. Sue meets with a group of teachers four times a year and they all bring toiletries to be donated to the food pantry. Sue and Fred said they are available as substitutes to work at the pantry when needed. For Fred and Sue, the serving continues.

Sue is a lifelong member of St. John's. Actually, she is a 3rd generation St. John's member. Fred not so long. Sue said that after 37 ½ years of marriage Fred "saw the light" and joined St. John's in 2006! Fred, we are so glad you did!

We thank Fred and Sue for their many years of dedicated service.



February Recap: Thank you to everyone who supported the Souper Bowl of Caring! In February we also enjoyed mission work at New Hope Ministries and our winter retreat.

March 5-Gathering 6-8: We will meet in the youth lounge to talk with friends and reflect on our plans for 'change' and 'revival' in our church and our youth group.

March 18-Service project-**Project Share** 8am: We will meet at Project Share in Carlisle for their Saturday food distribution from 8am-11:30am. Let's hang out for lunch after...anyone hungry for Helena's Chocolate Cafe and Creperie??

March 26-Gathering 5-8 with meal: Come gather for some dinner with friends, and then fellowship and discussion about **Youth Sunday Weekend** coming up in May.

Save the date:

April 2-LYO Spaghetti Dinner

April 21/22-Lock in starting at 6pm Friday

Job Opportunity

Summer might seem a long way off, but at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa, they are working as though it's right around the corner!

One of the biggest and most joyful tasks is filling all the summer staff positions - and you might be just the person to help them out!

Qualifications for applicants:

- 15 years of age (or older)
- willing and able to live in a faith-centered outdoor community from June through mid-August
- possess the maturity to guide and care for children as well as conducting oneself responsibly
- possess the stamina to work hard and play hard all day, every day

If you think this sounds like you, please contact us. We have jobs available for kitchen, maintenance, lifeguard, crafts, counselors.

You can apply online at LutheranCamping.org and you may end up at the best job you'll ever have.

Marianne Brock
 Nawakwa Director
mbrock@lutherancamping.org

Zach Weiss
 Kirchenwald Director
zweiss@lutherancamping.org

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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Website: www.stjohns1787.org
News and Notes: sjnewsandnotes.wordpress.com
Facebook: St Johns Lutheran Church 1787 
Twitter: [stjohns1787](https://twitter.com/stjohns1787)

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.