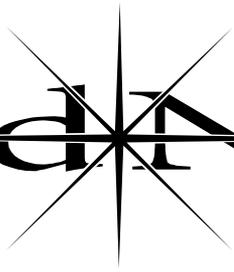


The Good News



MAY 2017
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St. John's Lutheran Church
44 West Main St
Shiremanstown, PA 17011



The Good News



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MAY COMMUNION SCHEDULE

Saturdays
4:00 PM & 6:00 PM
May 6

6:00 PM
May 13, 20, 27

Sundays
8:00 & 10:45 AM, 4:00 PM
May 7

8:00 & 10:45 AM
May 14, 21, 28

Happy Mother's Day!

Best wishes for a



Our Senior Pastor Reports—

“A Dilemma to Work On,”

by Pastor Seifried

One response Pastor Driver-Bishop heard as he interviewed some folks was “people want to be involved with our ministries at St. Johns, but they are not sure how to become involved.” Here is the dilemma in all of this.

On the one hand, our leadership has worked to find ways via Time and Talent Sheets, spiritual gift inventories, and personal contacts to invite more people to be part of our ministries. My perception is we are doing better in our efforts to involve others than at any other time in my 28 years here.

However, on the other hand, people still sign up for things and aren't contacted. Sometimes people do not have as positive of an experience as we would like. One reason is most of our ministry teams are volunteers with limited time to do things. Still, I think we can do better and we want to find a better solution to involve those who want to be part of our ministry at St. Johns. But how can we do better?

There will need to be more than one answer to the above question. However, one part will be seen in our efforts to empower more people to be a part of our life at St. John's. To help us better understand this process, we are going to invite Pastor Mike Foss to lead us in a Friday Night (6-9) and Saturday Morning (9-12) retreat in September. (We don't have a firm date at this point, but we are looking at either September 15 and 16 or 29 and 30.)

Pastor Foss has had much success in leading such workshops. He himself is a parish pastor who has grown his present church from 300 in attendance to 900 in attendance. I believe his workshop will be helpful as we move ahead in our future plans at St. Johns. So here is what I am asking you to consider.

Save those two week-ends in September (15 and 16 or 29 and 30) and come join us for the workshop. It will be informative and enjoyable. More importantly, it will be helpful as we look to our goal to involve more people in the life and ministry at St. John's.

Thanks for your partnership in ministry.



Note from Our Associate Pastor

“Romans 8,”

by Pastor Sarah

Romans 8:31-32

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?

Sometimes it's hard to find the words to say what it is that we need to say. Life is full of situations that give us pause and we have to find words to say that never seem to be adequate. Maybe your child is getting ready to graduate and you find it hard to tell them how proud you are of the person they have become. Perhaps someone you know is mourning the loss of someone they love and you don't know how to put into words that you care for them and hope that they find peace in these times. Maybe your own life is full of questions and you don't have the words to put those questions into words.

These verses remind me that when I don't have the words that I don't really need them. I might not have the words to say about things, but God is for us, and therefore we are able to face anything that comes.

There are moments that we feel that things are against us - when someone we love dies unexpectedly, when we are faced with choices that we have no idea how to fix, when we just don't know what is going to come next - it is then that we feel that it is us against the world.

But we are never against anything alone. In our fear of the unknown, in hopelessness, in mourning, in anything that we face, God is with us and gives us words to speak. And in knowing this, we are able to share that joy with others. We have the words, we have the hope, we have the joy that can only come from the Lord.

Who are you going to share that joy with today?



Last Day of Sunday School

Sunday school will end for the year on May 21st. Please take time to thank your child's teacher for all the time and love that they have put into our classes for this year. If you would like to share your gifts by teaching in the fall, please see Pastor Sarah!



May Team Meetings

Monday, May 1

6:30 pm Coordinators' Meeting—Library

Tuesday, May 2

6:30 PM Congregation Council—Library

Tuesday, May 9

6:15 PM Social Ministry—Parlor

6:30 PM Stewardship Team—Conference Room

Tuesday, May 16

6:30 PM VBS Planning Meeting—Library

NEWS FROM OUR TEAMS

ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY TEAMS

Judd Fodness—Coordinator

MARCH 2017 - Financial Manager's Report

		Beginning Balance	Income	Disbursements	Ending Balance
CURRENT		34,565.78	43,731.64	47,754.30	30,543.12
BENEVOLENCE	Benevolence	0.00	2,390.00	2,390.00	\$0.00
	World Hunger	0.00	1,418.00	1,418.00	\$0.00
BUILDING		25,930.01	6,756.00	7,292.70	25,393.31
MEMORIAL		48,196.43	630.00	0.00	48,826.43
TOTALS		108,692.22	54,925.64	58,855.00	104,762.86

Income

- 1 9,000.00 Daycare facility use
- 2 800.00 Daycare cleaning
- 3 1,245.00 Parsonage rental
- 4 2,879.00 Lenten envelopes

Disbursements

- 1 947.86 Organ tuning
- 2 1,994.01 Church maintenance
- 3 2,041.65 Ed. Building maintenance

Building Fund Update

When we make our payment in April 2017, the remaining principal on the ELCA Mission Investment Loan will be under \$100,000. Our goal is to have this part of the loan paid off by January 2018.

We will keep you posted on our progress. Please continue to support the Building Fund and ministries of St. Johns.



Mission Investment Fund
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

SERVICE MINISTRY TEAMS

Jennifer Shuey and Susan Van Zile—Coordinator

Uplifting Our Troops

May kicks off our summer. While we are thinking of flowers and picnics and vacation, many of our troops are hospitalized as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty.

You can bring a bit of sunshine to their days by sending a greeting card and/or a small package including a new magazine, puzzle book, or itunes gift card to:

**A Recovering American Soldier
Walter Reed Army Medical Center
8901 Rockville Pike
Bethesda MD 20889**



Please take a few minutes and tell a soldier that their commitment and sacrifice has not gone unnoticed. Encourage them in their recovery.

A few years ago St. Johns' sent care packages to several service members. They were very appreciative and sent us a flag in thanks. You can see this displayed in the hallway to the parlor. I'm sure your outreach to those recovering in the hospital will be just as welcome. Thank you for supporting our troops—*The Social Ministry Team*.

Thank You Blood Drive Participants

The Social Ministry committee would like to thank all participants in the blood drive held on March 19th at St. John's. It was another GREAT turnout with **27 registered donors and 19 pints delivered!!** That helps save 57 local patients lives!!! If you would like to give blood, our Church number is 378. Thank you!



Pastor Mike Foss Comes to St. Johns

Council and the Joshua Team continue to work with Pastor Bob Driver-Bishop as we plan for our future. As part of this process, we would like to invite all members of the congregation to a very special event.

In September (actual dates to be determined), we will have Pastor Mike Foss lead a Friday evening (6-9) and Saturday morning (9-12) retreat.

Pastor Foss has written several books. He is a pastor of a church that has grown from 300 in worship to 900 in attendance. He is a very inspirational speaker. Watch for more information to follow.

WITNESS MINISTRY TEAMS

*Michael Kadjeski—Coordinator***Praying Group Tuesday of Holy Week, April 11, 2017**

Since the snow kept us from meeting in March, we haven't been able to give an information report for a while, but just because we didn't meet doesn't mean that the individuals who make up the praying group did not continue to pray for the pastors and parish.

Looking ahead to resurrection, the opening scripture was from the end of Revelation. That resurrected Jesus who was mistaken by Mary for the gardener will in the future join the other two of the creating Trinity to make all things new in the perfect garden.

The worship song was the anonymously written, "He Never Said a Mumblin' Word", harking back to a different time and culture expressing the weight and sorrow of Jesus' death.

We talked before prayer about the attacks on Coptic Christians in Egypt, the rise of Anti-Semitism worldwide, our forthcoming education series "My Neighbor is a Muslim" and how our church can lead a resurrection life in a dark time.

As always we thank God first and foremost for our pastors and pray for their well-being. This week we also emphasized thanks for the many people involved in giving lots of time and effort to make these worship opportunities possible at St. John's in this Holy Week.

Our sending forth prayers were centered on being grateful that we can live with joy, hope, discernment, and comfort knowing that CHRIST IS ALIVE.

**My Neighbor is Muslim: Living Together Faithfully**

St. John's Lutheran Church continues its workshops giving us an opportunity to dialogue about and with our Muslim neighbors. Dr. Rukhsana Rahman and her husband, Mr. Athar Rafiq together with a Lutheran pastor will meet three Sunday evenings in May. If you missed the two workshops in April, we invite you to attend the remaining three.

A simple dinner begins at 5:15 PM followed by an informative session beginning at 6PM and concluding about 7 PM. Plan now to attend any or all of the sessions in the series. Registration is requested for the program so enough food and supplies can be prepared for all attendees. All sessions are FREE and you are encouraged to invite interested friends and family.

RSVP to Beth Bard in the church office at 761-5121.

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAMS

Beth Ellen Walters—Coordinator

First Communion Sunday—April 23, 2017

We celebrate with our first communion class and their families as they received their first communion. Please hold these young people in your prayers as they continue to grow in their faith. Won't you take a moment to congratulate them?

ADDISYN LILY

daughter of Kurt and Jessica

ZACHARY MITCHELL

son of Andrew and Amy

MICAH POTTER

son of Joel and Sandra

LARISSA JOAN

daughter of Dwayne and Cynthia



Confirmations on June 4th at our 10:45 Service

Six of our 9th graders are preparing to be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday at the 10:45 am Service. They are:

**Alex
Miles**

**Christopher
Emma**

**David
Sofia**

Please keep them in your prayers.



Summer Sundays Choir Season will soon be upon us! Beat the rush and sign up now to lend your voice in providing music at our outdoor service. No long-term commitment required - just three Sundays during the summer. In addition, soloists and instrumentalists are invited to participate during the summer services (as well as throughout the remainder of the year). For more information, please see our Minister of Music, Tom Notestine.

Save the Date

Back by popular demand - 9:15 AM Outdoor Services will begin on June 11.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Opening the Scriptures Class in May

The Opening the Scriptures Class meets in the Education Building Library on Sundays from 9:15-10:15 AM. We gather to review the readings for that day. Here is our schedule for May:

May 7 Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)

Psalm 23—the famous Lord is my shepherd Psalm

Acts 2: 42-47—the early Christians shared their possessions and gathered together for meals. They found solid fellowship as their numbers continued to grow.

1 Peter 2: 19-25—Christ is an example of one who gave his life for others.

John 10: 1-10—In an example of a shepherd, Jesus is “the gate for the sheep.” Jesus will give life and salvation to those who follow him.

May 14 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7: 55-60—Saul (later to be named Paul) is a witness to the martyrdom of Stephen.

1 Peter 2: 2-10—We become God’s people through the grace of Christ.

John 14: 1-14—Thomas wonders about the way he should go. Jesus responds that “he is the way, and the truth, and the life.”

May 21 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17: 22-31—Upon seeing an altar “to an unknown God,” Paul proclaims the message of the God of all creation.

1 Peter 3: 13-22—The Christian should always be ready to share the message of Jesus.

John 14: 15-21—Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to his disciples.

With Appreciation

*Dear Friends,
Thank you for your many cards,
email messages, Facebook posts,
and telephone calls—as well as
the altar flowers I received—
during my recent surgery and
recovery. Your concern and
thoughts are greatly appreciated.*
Tom N



*Thanks for periodic gifts of flowers
from the congregation, including the
most recent Easter Lily. It is
especially thoughtful that they come
in both our names, as it is such an
affirmation that the care-giver is as
important to support as the cared
for. Blessings, Joan and Harvey H*

Pastor Mike, Pastor Sarah, and Congregation,

Thank you for all the support and well wishes at the birth of our son. We are especially grateful for the pastors’ visits at the hospital and home. We are so lucky to have this church family. With love, the Pahowka Family

THIS AND THAT—NEWS TO KNOW

Bread Breakers

—preparations beginning for our Summer Fellowship Groups

The Bread Breaker small group fellowship ministry enjoyed Spring time together complete with Soup Suppers and a Progressive Dinner.



We're preparing for the summer months where we'll return to our small groups. Groups are 6–8 members with a group leader to coordinate events. It's the perfect way to get to know other members of St. Johns. If interested in more information, contact the church office at 761-5121. Watch for sign ups in the Church Bulletin.

The S.A.G.E. members are dining at TJ Rockwells on May 17 at 1:00 PM. For more information, please call the church office at 761-5121.

Mark Your Calendar VBS

Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16 at 6:30 PM.

Vacation Bible School is July 10–14.

See Pastor Sarah for more information.

“Why don't streetlamps have ears?”

“Mom!” my 3-year-old self hissed at 6 a.m. “Why don't streetlamps have ears?” My mom later wrote (in a 1974 article) that she peered at me sleepily, silently asking a question of her own: “Seriously?!”

That year I amused – and exasperated – my parents with countless questions: “Why did sister leave one shoe here and one there?” “If God is up in heaven, how did he make the grass?” “Why are dandelions yellow?” To that query, Mom replied, “I guess that's how God wanted them” – and wrote, “In our house, we let God answer many of our questions.”

I still have questions: Why is my dynamic young friend dying of cancer? Why are a parent's own children sometimes hard to love? How can we end war, poverty, sex trafficking? Should we donate money or save for college? How, exactly, does salvation work? Sometimes science or professionals are God's instruments to answer my questions. Sometimes answers come quietly to my heart – and sometimes they don't come at all.

Faith doesn't mean never questioning. It means trusting enough to ask, even when a question seems silly or pointless. Thanks, Mom and Dad, for teaching me by your loving example that God always welcomes my questions.

—Heidi Mann

From The Newsletters Newsletter May 2017

Youth Weekend

Please join us for worship on Saturday May 6th at 6pm or Sunday May 7th at 8am or 10:45am as the talented youth of St. John's will lead us in worship. We are so thankful for our supportive church, and we are excited for this opportunity!

Senior Sendoff

All youth in grades 7-12 are invited to the senior sendoff event on Friday May 19th at 6pm. We will be gathering at Stephanie's house for hot dogs, fixings, snacks, desserts, camp fire, and a great evening together. Keep an eye to your bulletin for additional details and RSVP information. Be aware, there will be a change of location if the weather is bad.

National Gathering Informational meeting for Parents

Parents of youth in grades 8-11, you are encouraged to attend a meeting at 12pm on Sunday June 11th in the youth lounge. We will discuss the 2018 National Gathering in Houston, Tx. This will be an exciting adventure! Please come out to learn more about what an amazing opportunity this will be for our youth and how you can be involved in our planning.

We honor our graduates....

please let the church office know if someone you love is graduating this Spring from high school, trade school, college or grad school. We would like to recognize this milestone in their lives.



Willing recipients

A young graduate longed for a certain sports car and knew his dad could afford it. So on the big day, he was infuriated to receive instead a leather-bound, embossed Bible. He threw it down and left for good.

Years later, after his father died, the son entered his father's study with sorrow and regret. Sorting through belongings, he found the gift and this highlighted verse: "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" (Matthew 7:11, ESV). Suddenly something dropped from the back of the Bible: a key with a tag from the dealer of the car he'd wanted long ago. On the tag was his graduation date and the words "Paid in Full."

How often we miss out on God's generous gifts because they come "packaged" differently than we expect! At graduation – and throughout life – may we be open to every gift God bestows on us with a Father's deep love.

-From The Newsletters Newsletter May 2017

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 L. Seifried
Associate Pastor—The Rev. Sarah M. Keilholtz

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

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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.