

The Good News

JULY/AUGUST 2017
VOLUME 42 NO. 7

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



The Good News

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JULY/AUGUST COMMUNION SCHEDULE

Saturdays

4:00 PM & 6:00 PM

July 1

August 5

6:00 PM

July 8, 15, 22, 29

August 12, 19, 26

Sundays

8:00, 9:15 & 10:45 AM, 4:00 PM

July 2

August 6

8:00, 9:15, and 10:45 AM

July 9, 16, 23, 30

August 13, 20, 27



FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR'S DESK -

† Synod Assembly Reflection

~Pastor Seifried

I just attended the Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly in early June (along with Pastor Sarah and Jeff and Ellen Miller). At that time we were privileged to hear from Pastor David Daubert who consults with churches about our present situation. What I write below are facts we are also hearing from our own consultant, Pastor Bob Driver-Bishop.

Here are some of the things Pastor Daubert shared with us:

1. Most churches are in a downward trajectory when it comes to membership and attendance. In fact that downward trajectory is accelerating very quickly. This means a faster decrease in membership and attendance.
2. Most Christians wish that our neighbors would come join us. However, at least three things inhibit our outreach efforts.
 - a. We are too inwardly focused to reach out to others.
 - b. We are still too influenced by what happened 50-60 years ago and find difficulty in dealing with a world that has changed.
 - c. We don't even know our neighbors.

Pastor Daubert suggests we consider where we need to be:

1. Centered in Christ (the true source of the church)
2. People who care for our neighbors
3. People who encourage one another's faith.

Pastor Daubert also pointed out 4 characteristics of growing churches:

1. **Purpose**-congregational members have a sense of what God wants us to be
2. **Willingness to change**-a commitment so we will change to get things done
3. **Leadership**-clergy, staff, and laity work together as a team
4. **Priesthood of all believers**-all realize that every day provides an opportunity to do God's work

We are fortunate to be working with Pastor Driver-Bishop on these issues. There are two upcoming events for members to be involved.

- * A Skills Assessment Workshop on July 22 from 8:30-3:30.
- * An opportunity to hear Pastor Mike Foss on September 29 and 30.

Please continue to keep these efforts in your prayers.



FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S DESK -

† Amazing Teachers!

Teachers are amazing people. Honestly, that's putting it very simply, but they really are. They teach a classroom of children for a year, and they love those children and try to give them the best experience that they can so that they can learn. They get a few weeks off, though they are certainly prepping for the next year, and then they do it all over again with a new group of children. They really are amazing.

If you are like me, you have been blessed to have wonderful teachers as you grew up. I think of some of them so fondly, and I can still tell you particular things that I learned from them. Their impact is still something that I see in my life.

I also see wonderful things in the teachers that my children have had. Both went through our daycare here at St. John's and had great experiences, and now in elementary school Nicholas has had teachers that meant a lot to him and walked with him through his early education.

It is so important to recognize these teachers and the gifts that they bring to young people's lives. On August 20th, we will be having Back to School Sunday. In addition to a Blessing of the Backpacks and a prayer for students as they get ready to go back to school, we will also have a time of thanksgiving for all teachers and a special time of prayer for them. Part of this celebration will be to recognize and pray for The Children's Garden

~Pastor Sarah

teachers as they celebrate 25 years of our daycare!

Do you have a special teacher from when you were younger or perhaps a teacher that was very special in your children's education? I challenge you to invite them to join you for worship that day! Send them a note telling them how important they were to your life, and invite them to be a part of the day on the 20th. We will recognize all teachers present with a special "Teacher Tag" and there will be a fellowship time following the 9:15 outdoor service. Let's thank God for all the wonderful teachers in our lives and pray that all teachers and students will have a wonderful, learning filled year!



JULY/AUGUST TEAM MEETINGS

Wednesday, July 5

6:30 PM Church Council—Library

Tuesday, July 11

6:15 PM Social Ministry—Parlor

Monday, July 17

6:30 PM Outreach and Nurture—Conference Room

Tuesday, August 1

6:30 PM Church Council—Library

Thursday, August 24

6:00 PM Worship and Music—Seifried’s Home

ADMINISTRATION TEAM

Coordinator—Judd F

May 2017- Financial Manager's Report

		Beginning Balance	Income	Disbursements	Ending Balance
CURRENT		25,015.84	38,441.77	38,217.64	25,239.97
BENEVOLENCE	Benevolence	0.00	2,433.20	2,433.20	0.00
	World Hunger	0.00	1,270.80	1,270.80	0.00
BUILDING		26,697.31	56,100.10	57,292.70	25,504.71
MEMORIAL		50,436.43	125.00	0.00	50,561.43
TOTALS		102,149.58	98,370.87	99,214.34	101,306.11

Income

1 180.00 Lent Folder/Envelope
 2 9800.00 Day Care - Facility Use
 3 1245.00 Parsonage Rental

Disbursements

1 459.70 Church Main.
 2 1,151.09 Ed. Main.
 3 800.00 Camperships

Benevolence Fund needs our help!

The Benevolence Fund is one way our church assists the Synod in extending hope to our neighbors near and far and to be a blessing to those less fortunate.

As of this newsletter, we are running behind in our Benevolence offerings. Please consider adding an additional amount to your weekly offering in order to assist with the Synod’s ministries.



Stewardship Campaign for 2018

“Hearing the Call and Responding”

Bible Passage—John 13: 35—*“By this everyone will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”* Our theme ties into our long range planning as we reflect on **what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ in 2018.** More information will become available throughout July and August.

Save These Dates

September 29 (evening) AND September 30 (morning)

PASTOR MICHAEL FOSS, Senior Pastor of St. Mark Lutheran Church in West Des Moines, IA, has been invited to lead us in a **Discipleship Ministry Workshop** that begins Friday evening, takes a night time break, and ends Saturday at noon.



organizational vitality, and the power of discipleship to energize the church at large.

His leadership has brought renewed vision, significant restructuring, and empowerment of staff and lay ministers. He works widely with synods, para-church organizations, and other

A visionary leader, called to identify, equip, and commission effective Christian leaders for twenty-first century ministry, he regularly speaks to leaders across denominational lines about effective congregational ministry, renewing

denominations.

We are excited to have this opportunity to be mentored by Pastor Foss and hope you'll join us for this informative event.

SERVICE MINISTRY TEAMS

Coordinator—Susan V Z

Supplies for Cumberland County Children and Youth

During the first two weeks in July, the Social Ministry Committee will partner with Vacation Bible School (July 11-15) to collect school supplies. These supplies will be donated to Cumberland County Children and Youth and will then be given to needy children. Please place the school supplies in the designated container in the cloak room. The following is the list of supplies:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Back Pack | Folders |
| Pencils | Notebook Paper |
| Colored Pencils | Glue |
| Markers | Highlighters |
| Erasers | Scissors |
| Construction Paper | Rulers |



WITNESS MINISTRY TEAM

Coordinator—Michael K

JUNE PRAYER GROUP UPDATE:

In the two months since last we reported, the praying group has met in the church parlor to uphold the congregation, our staff, and our pastors. And we do not forget our immediate needs (Volunteers for VBS, sexton, etc.) and our visioning for the future.

We have prayed on such scriptures as the part in the beatitudes about loving enemies, Isaiah 40 about waiting on the Lord, and Philippians 4 about rejoicing in the Lord.

We started this month with a brand new song for the Trinity season. "You're Our Living Host, Holy Spirit you are welcome....." are some of the introductory words.

We're praying for peace in each of our hearts and an indwelling of the Holy Spirit in us as individuals as well as our corporate body, St. John's.

MINISTRY PRAYER REQUESTS FOR JULY AND AUGUST

Please pray for any and all of these ministries during July and August

- Our Nation as we celebrate on July 4
- Vacation Bible School-July 10-14
- Youth Mission Trip/National Gathering in July
- Monday Bible Study
- Day Care Summer Program and Art Show (August 5)
- Our congregation's Discipleship Efforts and Pastor Bob Driver-Bishop
- The sharing of our new "Little Food Pantry"

Are there other ministries we should be praying for? Let us know by calling the church office (761-5121) or e-mailing us at church@stjohns1787.org

WITNESS MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT: Carlisle Truckstop Ministry

Thousands of weary travelers stop at the truck stops in and around Carlisle regularly and some are fortunate enough to find God reflected in the work of the chaplain and the Carlisle Truck Stop ministry.

The purpose of the ministry is to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ through meeting the emergency and spiritual needs of truckers, travelers and employees through caring, listening, comforting, praying, and making connections. For more information on this ministry go to:

<http://www.carlisletruckstopministry.org/>

During the month of July, St Johns will be taking a special offering for Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry. You can contribute by marking your gift "Carlisle Truck Ministry" and then put it in the offering, send it by mail, or drop it at the church office.



LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM—First Article of the Creed

The Small Catechism was written as a teaching devise for Christians and their families. It contains explanations on the Apostles' Creed, Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, Confession, Baptism, and Holy Communion.



As we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of our Lutheran Reformation, we will be sharing a brief study in the Good News (our newsletter) concerning the Small Catechism. We begin this study with the **First Article of the Creed**:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God has created me together with all that exists. God has given me and still preserves my body and soul: eyes, ears, and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties.

In addition, God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property—along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life. God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil. And all this is done out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all! For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

Issues for Reflection:

1. How awesome is it to think that the Almighty God has created you. Think of the value God puts on all human life.
2. To understand what the explanation means, look at the three “p words”: God preserves, provides, and protects. Notice that God’s work is not just in the past. Rather God “has created me” and “preserves, provides, and protects.” All of your life is a gift from God.
3. The indicated responses to all of this are “to thank and praise, serve and obey.” Think of the importance of worship and prayer. Also, reflect upon your daily actions and sharing among your neighbors.

Prayer: Gracious God, I give you thanks for the faith that allows me to believe in you. I further thank you that you have created me and all that I am and have. You have further gifted me by preserving what you have given me, providing for me, and protecting me from all danger and harm. You truly are a loving, generous, and almighty creator and so I pray that I would always thank and praise, serve and obey you. AMEN

Next Newsletter-The Second Article of the Apostles' Creed: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Would you like to read more about the Reformation and Martin Luther? Go to http://www.stjohns1787.org/reading_list/ and check out the Summer Reading List compiled by church member and Adult Education Leader, Tom K.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>July 2017</h1>						1 4:00 PM Saturday Service 6:00 PM Contemporary Worship/Holy Communion
2 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:15 AM Outdoor Service 10:45 AM Holy Communion 4:00 PM Quiet Communion	3 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED/DAY CARE OPEN 6:30 PM Summer Bible Study	4 CHURCH OFFICE/DAY CARE CLOSED 	5 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM VBS Singers 6:30 PM Church Council	6 10:00 AM VBS Singers 7:00 PM Jam Session	7 6:50 AM Men's Bible Study	8 6:00 PM Contemporary Worship/Holy Communion
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—July 10 –14						
9 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:15 AM Outdoor Service 10:45 AM Holy Communion 12:00 PM VBS Planning Meeting	10 6:30 PM Summer Bible Study	11 9:30 AM Prayer Group 1:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:15 PM Social Ministry Team 6:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry	12	13 6:20 PM Jam Session	14 6:50 AM Men's Bible Study	15 6:00 PM Contemporary Worship/Holy Communion
16 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:15 AM Outdoor Service 10:45 AM Holy Communion	17 6:30 PM Summer Bible Study 6:30 PM Outreach and Nurture	18 9:15 AM Day Care Chapel 9:30 AM Food Pantry	19 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM SAGE - TJ Rockwell's 7:30 PM Trustee's Meeting	20 7:00 PM Jam Session	21 6:50 AM Men's Bible Study	22 8:30 AM Strength Finders Workshop 6:00 PM Contemporary Worship/Holy Communion
23 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:15 AM Outdoor Service 10:45 AM Holy Communion	24 6:30 PM Summer Bible Study	25 9:15 AM Day Care Chapel	26 9:15 AM Staff Meeting	27 7:00 PM Jam Session	28 6:50 AM Men's Bible Study	29 6:00 PM Contemporary Worship/Holy Communion
30 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:15 AM Outdoor Service 10:45 AM Holy Communion	31 6:30 PM Summer Bible Study					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30 PM Church Council	2 9:15 AM Staff Meeting	3 7:00 PM Jam Session	4 6:50 AM Men's Bible Study	5 Day Care Art Show 4:00 PM Saturday Service 6:00 PM Contemporary Worship/Holy
6 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:15 AM Outdoor Service 10:45 AM Holy Communion 4:00 PM Quiet Communion	7 6:30 PM Summer Bible Study	8 9:15 AM Day Care Chapel 9:30 AM Prayer Group - Parlor 6:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry	9 9:15 AM Staff Meeting	10 7:00 PM Jam Session	11 6:50 AM Men's Bible Study	12 6:00 PM Contemporary Worship/Holy Communion
13 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:15 AM Outdoor Service 10:45 AM Holy Communion	14 GOOD NEWS DEADLINE 6:30 PM Summer Bible Study	15 9:15 AM Day Care Chapel 9:30 AM Food Pantry	16 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM SAGE - TBA	17 7:00 PM Jam Session	18 6:50 AM Men's Bible Study	19 Blessing of the Backpacks 6:00 PM Contemporary Worship/Holy Communion
20 Back to School Sunday 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:15 AM Outdoor Service 10:45 AM Holy Communion	21 6:30 PM Summer Bible Study	22 9:15 AM Day Care Chapel	23 9:15 AM Staff Meeting	24 8:30 AM Collate Good News 6:00 PM Worship and Music @ Seifried's 7:00 PM Jam Session	25 6:50 AM Men's Bible Study	26 6:00 PM Contemporary Worship/Holy Communion
27 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:15 AM Outdoor Service 10:45 AM Holy Communion	28 6:30 PM Summer Bible Study	29 9:15 AM Day Care Chapel	30 9:15 AM Staff Meeting	31 7:00 PM Jam Session		

August 2017

Vacation Bible School!

A phrase that brings me joy, and also a little fear. Why do I fear a little? Because we need people! Volunteers are needed for the week of **July 10 - 14** in the mornings from 9am - noon. Are you available? We will find a place for you! Can you only give us one day? We have a place for you, too! Please contact Pastor Sarah if you have time to give!



Want to help with VBS but can't be there during the week? We are collecting empty 12 can soda boxes for an activity. Also, watch for snack sign up sheets soon!

Sunday, August 20th

Back to School Sunday

Students - bring your backpack and be part of our back to school blessing!

Teachers - all teachers are invited to join us to be recognized for the wonderful vocation that you hold!

All Learners - that's everyone - write a note to thank a teacher and invite them to join you for worship on August 20th so that we can say a prayer thanking God for them, too!

A fellowship time will follow the 9:15 service!



FREE LITTLE PANTRY

St. John's now has a "Free Little Pantry" available on Main Street for our neighbors in need of food and basic necessities. If you would like to help, please consider donating any of the following items*:

- Canned Food (no glass please)
- Dry or Boxed Food
- Ready to Make Cups or Pouches
- Personal Care Items
- Toilet Paper or Tissues
- Diapers or Feminine Items
- New Socks, Hats or Gloves

*Please do not leave any expired food items.

Feel free to stock items in the Little Pantry at any time or bring items on Sunday morning and store in the labeled cabinets in the kitchenette by the Parlor. Items can also be stored in the kitchenette at the rear of the church office. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 761-5121.



THIS AND THAT—NEWS TO KNOW

St. John's Talent Auction is back!

Our 2nd Annual Talent Auction will be held on Sunday, October 15th this year and we need your help again! You did a great job last year showing off all of your wonderful talents! Some of the items that we had a lot of success with included hand-made walking sticks, paintings, quilts and glass ornaments. We also had quite a few congregation members bake cakes and pies and breads or can jellies and vegetables. Whether they sold for a little or a lot, every little bit helped us raise over \$2200 last year!



Please consider showing off your talents by making something that you can donate to our auction. Remember, we are looking for items that are either **homemade**, **home grown** or **home cooked**! This is a Talent Auction and we want to showcase the many talents of our congregation! Some suggestions for things that we need are woodworking items, for fall or winter decorating, homemade Christmas ornaments or décor. Another way to help is to offer your services, such as babysitting, dog-walking or lawn-mowing certificates (great for our youth members to donate!)

We are also asking for additional baskets this year. Some of the baskets we had available last year brought in some high bids. If you don't feel that you're ready to make a craft, consider putting together a theme basket. Ideas include a coffee-lover's basket with coffee and mugs, movie night with tickets and candy, a lottery basket with scratch-off tickets, or a sports-lovers basket with 2 tickets to the Superbowl and airline tickets to Minneapolis. Just kidding on that last one, but we wouldn't turn it down!

Please join us on Sunday, October 15th and bring your friends! The doors will open at 2:30 for browsing and the event should end by 5pm, depending on the number of items we have available!

Thank you!

Bob F

SAGE

On July 19th at 1:00 PM the group meets at TJ Rockwells in Mechanicsburg.

They will meet again on August 16th at 1:00 PM with lunch at TBA

Any questions or need of a ride please call the church office at 761-5121.



Church Picnic

Sunday, September 10
Pleasant View Park
Silver Springs Township



With Appreciation

*Dear St. John's Members,
The flowers from the church on
Mother's Day are so beautiful and I
am so happy to receive them. Thank
you so much.
Sincerely,
Betty H*



*To Pastor Mike and Pastor Sarah and
all the members who sent me cards
and prayers. Thank you all so much.
You don't realize how much it
meant to me. Thank you for the
flowers also. I read the cards every
day. I'm doing well and getting
stronger each day. Your kindness
means so much.
Ruth Z*

*St. John's Family,
Thank you so much for the altar
flowers, the lily, meals, cards and
all your prayers. Also thank you to
Pastor Seifried and Pastor Sarah for
their visits. I'm still home
recuperating after two surgeries
and two weeks in the hospital, but
I'm slowly getting better.
All of your kindness and thoughts
mean so much to me. Thank you
very much!
Peggy P*

*Dear Pastor Seifried and Pastor
Keilholtz,
Thank you for all the time and
energy you spent with Dale and me
during Jane and Bill's illnesses. We
appreciated all the visits and
prayers.
The memorial services were very
comforting. The luncheons served
after the services were delicious.
Thank you to the church family for
all the phone calls, cards, and
prayers.
Sincerely,
Nancy W*

*Pastor Mike and Pastor Sarah, thank
you for your visits to Jon to bring
him communion, and the prayers
you offered on our behalf. He
missed going to church, and
appreciated your bringing the
church to him. Pastor Mike, thank
you for the service you did in our
home before his death, and for the
service you did for our small family
at the funeral home. Jon had
requested that there be no
memorial service, but it made me
feel so much better having that
private little service.
Thank you to the wonderful people
of St. Johns for their prayers and
visits to Jon, and for the flowers
that were delivered to him. Jon and
I felt very blessed that we had such
wonderful and caring people in our
lives.
Love in Christ,
Donna P and Family*



YOUTH EVENTS

OUR YOUTH ARE HEADING TO NEW ORLEANS!

Please keep our youth and advisers in your prayers as they travel to New Orleans, LA from **July 8-July 16**. They are partnering with other congregations from the Lower Susquehanna Synod to travel with the local non-profit group **LutheranHANDS**. In New Orleans, work will be completed with St. Bernard Project to help with construction needs and projects around the city. The group is excited to share their experience with the congregation upon their arrival home!

YOUTH:

Alex F

Josh T

Levi T

Gabrielle A

Bryanna A

Owen C

Dora C

Luke G

Adam F

Julia H

ADVISORS:

Stephanie A

Jeff H

More Graduates to Congratulate!!

HIGH SCHOOL:

Gabrielle A, graduated from East Pennsboro High School. Her plans are to attend University of Pittsburgh majoring in Biology.

COLLEGE:

Kevin N graduated from University of Pittsburgh on April 30th with a bachelors degree in Health Services Management. He is working in Pittsburgh for Preferred Home Health Care.

Hope L graduated from Princeton with Bachelor of Engineering in Science with a major in Civil and Environmental Engineering. This August she will beginning working as a Junior Estimator in New York City .

We are proud of all our graduates. Congratulations!!!



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
Summer Outdoor Service—9:15 AM
(No Summer Sunday School)

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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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.