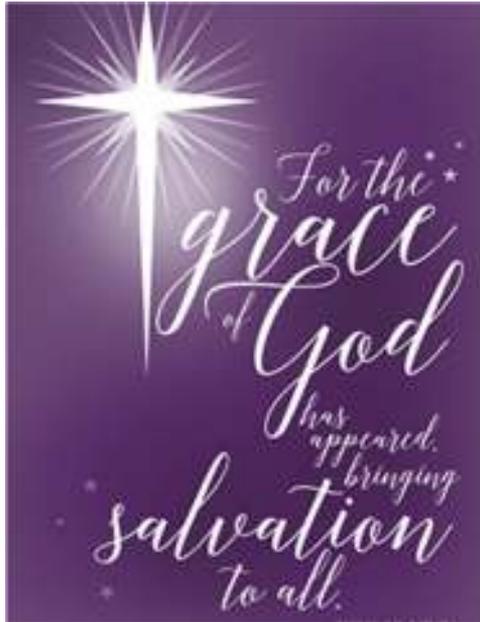


# The Good News

DECEMBER 2018  
VOLUME 44 NO. 11

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



**Worship With Us This Christmas:**

**December 24**

5:30 PM Family Service

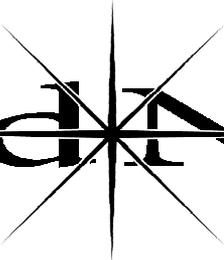
7:30 PM Family Candlelight Service

10:00 PM Candlelight Service

**December 25**

10:00 AM Spoken Service

# The Good News



OUR INTERIM PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

~Richard Whitesel

(At Shiremanstown November AD 2018)

It seems a bit odd to say, but Christmas is just around the corner, a mere six weeks away. The flow of events has the December newsletter going to press in mid-November! The entire month of December this year is dedicated to the observance of Advent, a season of anticipation and preparation. Liturgically, we are both remembering what Jesus has done, and commemorating his promise to come again. For many in our society these events and this promise are just so many words. For those who follow Jesus as Lord, the promises are a word of comfort and encouragement in a darkening world. Jesus rose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, and petitioned the Father to send the Holy Spirit to his disciples and his Church.

As Spirit empowered people, we have a mission to accomplish among men, a job to work at until he comes. Disciples are a prepared, trained, and equipped people commissioned to bear witness to Jesus and his kingdom regardless of the circumstances or cost. Though the ultimate victory is already accomplished, we experience resistance. Saint Paul calls our endeavor "spiritual warfare" (Ephesians 5). Those entities and persons who currently possess power and influence in the world will not give up easily. Nonetheless, those powers are doomed. The world tries to hi-jack our celebration of the incarnation, attempting to turn the commemoration of the incarnation of the Word of God into a winter holiday season. They fail. Unfortunately, the matter is serious.

Men and women are living hellish lives, and dying without help or hope. The problems faced are deadly serious ones. We contend in earnest for the souls of human beings. God's answer to all of this is both significant and costly.

God's only begotten Son came into the world in order to take on himself the sins of the human race, and to carry them to judgment, damnation, death, and hell. We have real hope, and real joy, because Jesus has acted to save us. Death could not hold him. He bodily rose from the dead and extends new life to his disciples. This gift of grace, of new life, is a gift worth receiving, and celebrating.

I encourage you to take a few moments to look beyond the glitter and hype of the secular celebration of the winter solstice and see your heavenly Father carefully working your rescue from the jaws of death. See Jesus redeeming the human race, and restoring a broken creation. Experience the empowering Holy Spirit transforming your life into one of fullness and joy. Jesus is truly the reason for the season. Merry Christmas!

FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

~Sarah Keilholtz

Countdowns have begun to the holidays! Shopping has commenced, parties are being planned, and we are looking forward to the days to come that we will see friends and family that we might not see at other times of the year.

As you are planning your end of the year calendar, don't forget to add worship to your agenda. We will be gathering together to prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas as we journey through advent. Each week another candle will be lit and we will be a little closer to Christmas.

Christmas Eve will be filled with the joy of the Newborn King. Join us for worship at 5:30 for the Children's Service, at 7:30 for our traditional candlelight service and at 10:00 (please note the time change!) for our late candlelight service.

Christmas isn't the same without family - don't forget to visit with your church family - we aren't the same without you!



At the end of the year, there are many thank yous that have to be said. We could not have gotten through these first 6 months of transition without many members being willing to take on extra duties and our staff picking up pieces that we didn't even know would be dropped!

\*Thanks to Steve B and Greg G for taking care of building needs and fixing lots of little things before they became big things!

\*Thanks to the Orris family for giving their time and talents to paint all the doors on the church building. They look great!

\*Thanks to Bob F for the ongoing work he is doing on the transitions in the care and maintenance of the cemetery. It looks better than ever!

\*Thanks to Barb G for all her extra time put in to help us complete an external audit of all the church books. Her organization and knowledge were invaluable!

\*Thank you to Ginny B and Elaine B for helping to clean up and reorganize the kitchen and supplies in the fellowship hall - jobs that were much needed!

\*Thank you to our church staff - Beth, Tom, Deanna, Barb, Will, Stephanie, and Chad for their flexibility and willingness to go with whatever flow was found.

\*Thanks to Beth B as she has transitioned to the position of Discipleship Coordinator at the same time training our new secretary and doing so many things no one has any idea she is doing!

\*Thanks to Pastor Rick for jumping in with 2 feet and never looking back! Of course there are others to thank and I am always amazed at who steps up when we need them. These are my thank yous, but I'm sure you have many more! Please pay attention to who is doing the work that needs to be done and remember to thank them!

**Announcements:**

Jr LYO! It's time to do some more awesome work together. Plan now to join us on Sunday, December 9th after worship to have some lunch and make cards for our special members. Please contact Pastor Sarah if you have questions or are going to join with us!



Our Jr. LYO did an awesome job making fuzzy blankets to donate to Nico's Power-Up Boxes in memory of Nico Cassabria, the Pahowka's nephew. Thanks to all those who donated towards the supplies for these blankets. They will certainly warm up the days of kids fighting cancer!



Calling all 3rd - 6th graders! Watch the bulletin for information about the 5:30 Children's Christmas Eve Service! We will need your help to lead worship and share your gifts. Talk to Pastor Sarah if you know you will participate or if you have questions!

**Plan now to attend a practice on Sunday, December 23 at 9:15 AM.  
There is no Sunday school so we can practice!**

**NEWS FROM OUR TEAMS**

Administration Ministry

October 2018- Financial Manager's Report					
		Beginning Balance	Income	Disbursements	Ending Balance
CURRENT		17,152.91	36,482.28	51,428.99	2,206.20
BENEVOLENCE	Benevolence	0.00	2,199.00	2,199.00	0.00
	World Hunger	0.00	1,266.00	1,266.00	0.00
BUILDING		67,866.05	3,946.00	700.70	71,111.35
MEMORIAL		26,431.94	100.00	10,000.00	16,531.94
TOTALS		111,450.90	43,993.28	65,594.69	89,849.49

**Income**

1	1,265.00	Parsonage Rental
2	9,100.00	Daycare /Fac Use
3	800.00	Daycare/Cleaning Fee

**Disbursements**

1	393.40	Church Maintenance
2	2,219.07	Educ. Bldg. Maint.
3	271.36	Technology
4	117.72	Vanco fees
5	845.90	Publicity
6	10,000.00	Memorial Fund
7	1,250.00	Youth Ministry



**2019 Envelopes Will Be Ready  
December 1 & 2**

Please pick up your envelopes as that saves us the cost of mailing them to you. (Plus, we can remove the tables in the narthex as soon as possible.)

Remember, continue to use your 2018 envelopes until December 31, 2018.

Use your 2019 offering envelopes after January 1, 2019.

To receive credit for 2018 offerings, the offering must be to the church by December 31, 2018 at 12 Noon.



*WORSHIP AND MUSIC TEAM*

**ADVENT SEASON IS NEAR.  
PREPARE, YE, THE WAY OF THE LORD!**

The season of Advent is a four Sunday preparation for the celebration of Christmas. Join us for worship as we “prepare the way of the Lord.” Devotional materials are available in the narthex for your use. Please help yourself to these resources.



**ORDER A POINSETTIA FOR CHRISTMAS 2018**



Poinsettia orders are now being taken for the Christmas season. The deadline to order is **Monday, December 10**. They may be made as memorials or in honor of loved ones. The poinsettias are \$10.00 each with \$1.00 from each order going to New Hope Ministry. You may order a poinsettia by filling out the **Sharing Our Gifts** form or contacting the Church Office at 717-761-5121. Payment at the time of ordering is appreciated. Please make checks payable to St. John’s Lutheran Church. The day after Christmas volunteers deliver the poinsettias to our homebound members.

MESSAGE \_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN BY \_\_\_\_\_

## Worship Services Are Scheduled at St. John's Lutheran Church

Won't you join us for worship on Christmas Eve? We will gather at three different times in the evening. Each service is unique. Come for one or for all as we celebrate Jesus' birth!

Our 5:30 pm service is our Family Service. We feature our two youngest choirs, Sonshine and The Proclaimers, as well as have a message from our children. We offer communion at this service. This service tends to be a little shorter than the others, making it very friendly to younger children.

Our 7:30 pm service is a Family Service with Candle Lighting. Our contemporary band, Faith Reigns, offers some of the music, and we also feature our Miracle Choir, made up of 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Communion is also offered at this service.

**(Please note the time change)**

Our 10:00 pm service is our service of Candle lighting and Carols. Our Adult Choir and Bell Choir bless us with their gifts, and many traditional carols are sung. This service also has communion offered. (Our Adult Choir and Bell Choir begin the service with a prelude of music that begins at 9:45 pm.)

Our 10:00 AM Christmas Day Service is a traditional spoken service with the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

All are welcome and we hope to see you this holiday season!



### Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve Services

\*\*\*\*There is one service on Sunday, December 30, the First Sunday in Christmas, at 10:00 AM.\*\*\*\*

There will be no Sunday School on December 23 or December 30



A group of our LYO and some adults volunteered at Project Share in Carlisle. They worked on filling buckets with supplies that are needed in every home! Thanks, LYO!



A big thanks to our Sunday School families who donated over 180 lbs of food to New Hope as well as helped to stock the shelves of the little food pantry. May we always be thankful for what we have and share what we are able!

LEARNING MINISTRY TEAMS

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES COLLECT FOR CUMBERLAND COUNTY CHILDREN & YOUTH**

**December 2:** Annual Tree Trimming & Gift Giving. We are decorating our Sunday School Christmas Tree and collecting items for Cumberland County Children & Youth. We will be collecting hats, scarves, mittens, gloves and undergarments. Won't you pick up an item or two to put under our Christmas tree and to help youth in need at this time?



**December 23 & December 30:** No Sunday School Classes. We will meet again on January 6, 2019!

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To All the Members, Clergy and Council of St John's:

Above all, be loving. This ties everything together perfectly." Colossians 3:14

On Sunday, September 30th we were honored to be a part of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation Take Steps walk on City Island.



We had a team of 38 people walk not only for Team Chris but for those effected by this disease.

The Orris Family is so grateful to Church Council for offering to see if we could get the membership match the goal of \$250. Not only did the congregation meet the goal, they surpassed it by \$750.00, with a final total from just this congregation of \$1,000.00. We totaled altogether with all our donations over \$6,000.00.

We have been so truly blessed with all the gracious donations, cards, prayers and hospital visits. Though we have only been members for 3 years, we are proud to be a part of this church family.

Thank you ALL for your generosity towards Chris and our entire Orris Family.

Take care and God Bless

Tom, Sue, Tommy, Phil and Chris O



## THIS AND THAT—NEWS TO KNOW

### Cookies for Truckers

We need Cookie Bakers and Packagers. Sunday Dec 9th after the 10:45 service we will be packaging bags of cookies for the Truck Stop Ministry. Please drop off your cookies that Sunday in the kitchen. If you want to drop them off earlier to me, I will be happy to keep them in my freezer until the 9th.

The Truck Stop Ministry provides a vital ministry to the many truckers that travel thru Central PA everyday. Last year they distributed over 14,000 bags from Thanksgiving thru the New Year.

If you have any questions, call the church office at 717-761-5121.



## INSIDE THE GARDEN

With 2018 coming to an end we reflect on our year and count our blessings. Our staff is thankful to our families for sharing their most precious gifts, their children, with us. We are inspired and motivated by their support each and every day.

“We are so thrilled with our experience with The Children’s Garden. Everyone is exceptional!”

“I’ve always looked to the teachers as the experts simply because of their training and education.”

“I love the monthly meet ups in the lobby. A great idea!”

“Keep up the great work. I’m amazed at how much my kiddos learn and grow each week here!”

“We enjoyed our time here at The Children’s Garden and would recommend it to friends.”

“Teachers are wonderful. Overall, kids excel and teachers love them like their own.”

These comments from our parents energize us to fulfill our mission of “giving every child the love, support, guidance and knowledge, in a Christian environment they need to become successful young individuals.”

SOCIAL MINISTRY TEAM

## Holiday Home Upgrades

Are you preparing for guests over the holidays? Buying new sheets or towels? Don't forget, if the old ones are in good shape you can put them in the Community Aide bin in the parking lot. If they are not quite good enough for resale, consider donating them to Molly's Place Pet Rescue on Trindle Road next to Kerry's Lawn and Garden. They will be greatly appreciated at both places.



## Ronald McDonald House

When it comes to generosity, the congregation at St. John's earns a five-star rating every time! Thanks to all of you who contributed food items, money, and time, breakfast at the Ronald McDonald House was fit for royalty! We served approximately forty families a hearty breakfast that included juice, fresh fruit, muffins, bagels, and a bacon and egg casserole. Everyone appreciated the meal. The Social Ministry Committee is grateful to each of you. Way to go, St. John's!



## Safe Haven

St John's is once again participating in Safe Haven program with other local churches in support of Christian Churches United of the Harrisburg area.

What is Safe Haven? During the cold months of winter, the Safe Haven facility opens its doors to approximately 25 homeless men. The program needs two (2) volunteers per night to sleep over (in a separate bunkroom) to assist in checking in personnel, making coffee, etc. Full time staff are available through out the night if needed.

The dates are Sunday, January 20 through Saturday night January 26th.

A short planning meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on 12 December, 2018 in the Church Parlor.

Please contact the church office at 717-761-5121 to volunteer.

# With Appreciation

Dear St. John's:

What a lovely surprise to receive a pork and sauerkraut dinner, Reformation Sunday evening.

It was delivered by Louise Kadjeski, a very friendly person. Thank you Louise.

And I thank you my "Church family" for thinking of me.

Love In Christ,  
Henrietta M

P.S. The "soul food" was delicious.

St. John's Church Members,

Thank you so much for the beautiful basket of flowers delivered to me yesterday. They have really brightened my room.

To whoever delivered them, thank you also. All much appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Janet H

Dear St. John's Lutheran Church friend,

Thank you for the lovely flowers, your thoughts and prayers during my recovery. I'm glad to be out of the hospital and getting back to normal.

Many Thanks,  
Tania R



Families of St. John's,

WE FELT THE "LOVE", THE OVERWELMING SUPPORT, EXPRESSED WORDS OF SYMPATHY AND THE "HUGS", the many hugs, during this time of our sister's illness and death. We especially thank Pastor Sarah for her caring of Blanche and the Funeral Service, her poise handling a few mishaps (Pastor, you were terrific).

Blanche's children remarked to us, how overwhelmed they were with how many people they did not know, honoring their Mother. That's St. John's, That's our Church Family.

Thanks to all who helped set up, take down, and serve the luncheon, Beth, for organizing it and the whole day, that certainly took so much off the shoulders of the family.

Our sister Blanche is Home and at Peace! GLORY BE TO GOD

John and Sally S



**GOOD NEWS:** The deadline for the January GOOD NEWS is Monday, December 3. If you have any information to be included in this issue, please have it in the Church Office by that date.

# YOUTH EVENTS

Please join us on December 1st for **Service** work at the Central PA Food Bank. We will meet at the food bank and volunteer from 9-12pm. Youth and families are welcomed!!

Please pray for our high school youth and our synod as we attend Winterfest on December 8 and 9.

It's time for a fun Christmas themed **lock in!!** Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to meet at church at 6pm on December 29. After we attend Saturday worship at 6pm, we will then stay the night in the youth lounge and have pick up time at 9am on Sunday December 30. There will be games, food, movies, friends, and lots of great memories!! RSVP to Stephanie!!

## Cookies for Truck Stop Ministry

Please join us on Sunday Dec 9th after the 10:45 service. We will be packaging bags of cookies for the Truck Stop Ministry.



# Join us for worship!

## Worship Schedule and Hours

Saturday Evening Service—Saturday—6 PM  
Sunday Church Services—8 & 10:45 AM  
Sunday Church School—9:15 AM  
Interim Pastor—The Rev. Richard Whitesel  
Associate Pastor—The Rev. Sarah Keilholtz

Office Hours: Monday—Friday  
9:00 AM—1:00 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)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/stjohns1787](https://twitter.com/stjohns1787)

 Like



our mission statement

GROW IN FAITH  
SHARE GOD'S LOVE  
SERVE OTHERS

our vision statement

WELCOME ALL TO:

- ✦ PRAYERFULLY GROW IN FAITH AS A DISCIPLESHIP CHURCH.
- ✦ CELEBRATE, WORSHIP AND SHARE GOD'S AMAZING GRACE.
- ✦ JOYFULLY SERVE OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD.

saint john lutheran church.shiremanstown

