

The Good News

MARCH 2019
VOLUME 45, NO. 3

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



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Saint John community is on the verge of naming a call committee who will in turn seek a new senior pastor for this congregation to consider. Given that this is a church, the outcome of this process has lasting implications of a spiritual nature. The person called here will be one who preaches, teaches, counsels, manages, and leads the congregation for a considerable length of time. He or she will be a face of the congregation. The pastors are the ones who walk into the hospital room when you are sick. They offer guidance at the key moments of life. The stakes on this decision cannot be higher. We better pray!

The current parish council will take the first important step. They will name the team that will fill out the paperwork, conduct the search, and make the recommendation that will put a specific pastor in front of the parish council and then the congregation. Frankly, the process is not dissimilar to making an arranged marriage. It is easy enough to find a warm body to sit in the chair and take the paycheck. Finding the right person is a different matter. The call team must first of all discern what everyone at Saint John's thinks they want in a new pastor. Then, the team must exercise leadership and seek the kind of pastor that the community actually needs. Bridging the gap between want and need is never easy. Having hundreds of people with a vested interest in the decision come together on one individual is no small trick.

The only way that this process can work is if the people of the church dedicate themselves individually and collectively to prayer, i.e., seeking the will of the Lord of the church, Jesus.

How does one do that?

Fortunately, on one level, prayer is not hard. Jesus taught his disciples, his followers, to go into their inner most room, perhaps a bedroom, and close the door so as to not be disturbed. Then, they are to simply speak to their Father in an open and honest manner about everything going on in life, to include the congregation's pending decision about a new pastor. Right now, that prayer is general in nature. "Lord, please bless the process..." In time, the prayers will become more specific. You may find yourself praying that the call committee will be given wisdom, discernment, and courage. Or, you may be in a position to pray for guidance between this specific candidate and another. It is always good to pray that the community behave well toward one another. The fact that there are living, breathing, moving people involved means there will be friction.

Most importantly, as Father Gregory of Mount Savior Benedictine Monastery use to say, "Prayer should be characterized by listening." Jesus will hear your prayers. He will answer you. To receive his answers, one must listen and observe. Also, the folks here will need to share what they sense from their prayers with one another. That creates a second place for listening -this time to each other. Good thing we have two ears!

I invite you to come on a journey with me - a journey of prayer. We won't have to travel far, and you won't even have to pack a suitcase, though you might feel like you left some baggage behind when you are done. It is a chance to experience prayer in many different ways, and to know that we are called to pray in all circumstances.

On Saturday, March 30th, there will be a Prayer Journey right here at St. John's. There will be 10+ stations set up throughout our buildings and grounds for you to explore at your own pace. There is not an order or a set time for this event, it is instead something that you can work through as you need. The journey will be available from 9 am - 3pm. All you need to do is check in before 2pm to receive your guidebook and then go from station to station as you feel guided by God.

This is an activity that can be done as individuals, couples, with a friend or with your family. There will be several stations for families with children, though the young at heart can go to those as well. Each station will have space that you can share with others, or feel that you are praying on your own.

A ticket is not needed for this journey, though I do ask that you sign up so that we have enough guidebooks and different items for the stations. If you know what time you might arrive, that would be helpful as well.

We are called to pray - to pray in thanksgiving, to pray in confession, to pray in supplication for others. This journey is a chance to do this intentionally and creatively. Won't you join me for this Prayer Journey on March 30?

Prayer Journey Sign Up
March 30, 2019
9 am—3 pm

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Time attending _____

attending (optional) _____

Ash Wednesday is March 6, 2019

Just a reminder that Ash Wednesday is March 6th this year. We begin our Lenten Journey with 2 Services on Ash Wednesday. All services will have the Imposition of Ashes.

10:00 AM—Day Care Service

7:30 PM—Service with Holy Communion



Midweek Lenten Services will be held
Wednesdays (March 13th—April 10th) at 7:30 PM.

Day Light Savings Time
begins on March 10

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead on March 10 as we begin daylight savings time.



March 20—First Day of Spring

First Communion Classes begin on Sunday, **March 24** for all children in the second grade. Letters will be sent home. If you do 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.



March Team Meetings

Monday, March 11

6:00 PM

Day Care Board

6:30 PM

Coordinators Meeting in the Parlor

Tuesday, March 12

6:30 pm

Church Council Meeting— - Library

Thursday, March 28

6:30 PM

Worship and Music

NEWS FROM OUR TEAMS

Finances		January 2019
	2019 Budget	2019 Actual
Income	651,788	42,829.71
Expenses	651, 788	61,861.36
Difference	0	(-19,031.65)

Shiremanstown Community Blood Drive

Help save lives! Become a Blood Donor today!
 Each pint can be used to save THREE lives.
 They use the plasma, red blood cells and platelets.



St John's makes it easy by scheduling blood drives every 8 weeks; all on Sundays from 8:30 to Noon.

The remaining blood dates for 2019 are:

March 3rd, April 28th, June 23rd, Aug 18th, Oct 13th, Dec 8th.

Please add these dates to your calendar and phone. If you have questions, please contact the church office at 717-761-5121

Attendance

When considering the future of St. John's there are many factors to consider. Last month's Good News looked at Membership. This month we'll look at data concerning Attendance.

	Average Sunday Worship Attendance	Average Saturday Night Attendance	Average Sunday School Attendance
2018	179	37	82
2017	176	41	83
2016	185	52	87
2015	187	49	85
2014	201	50	90

It looks like 2017 and 2018 are holding steady. With our senior pastor's retirement in June 2018 it's a comfort to know our members are not "abandoning the ship" so to speak. The strong leadership of our congregation created by our former pastor remains present as we look ahead to the future and what God has planned for our congregation. We are in transition, but our attendance shows we are hopeful and ready to do the work necessary to move forward.

Next month we'll look at Contributions over the past five years.

Report on the All-Member Retreat

On Saturday, January 26 members of the congregation met to discuss the present status of St. John's. This was Step 2 in developing the call process for our future pastor. During the retreat members broke into small groups to discuss the following: what is working at St. John's; what isn't working; what we need; and what we want. Also, groups made a list of characteristics they would like to have in a member of the call team as well as characteristics they would like to see in our future pastor.

During Lent the information will be shared and members who did not attend the retreat will have an opportunity to add their thoughts to the lists. Watch for more information in the weekend bulletins.

Save the date now for Saturday, April 6 when the final congregation meeting will take place to discuss the future of St. John's. Information gathered will be important to the Call Team in their search for a new pastor. Plan to attend and have your voice heard.

Prayer for the Call Process: Lord, lead us together and connect us to the one we are to call. Help us to listen, accept change, practice patience, hear Your call, and grow in faith as we walk with You in this journey. Let our wants and needs be Yours. Amen.



SERVICE SUNDAY - THANK YOU!!

Our first Service Sunday was a success. We had over 100 persons participate in eight different workshops. Here is what we accomplished in an hour:

- 20 School Kits for children impacted by hurricanes
- 175 Lent Devotions for the Children's Garden AND
- 6 Blankets for Nico's Power up boxes
- 100 Welcome Packets for our day care families
- 25 Valentine's for our homebound members
- 50 Placemats for Meals on Wheels
- 46 Citizen Care Kits for prison release programs
- 20 Letters to veterans hospitalized at the Pittsburgh VA Hospital
- 20 bags of Bean Soup mix for the Food Pantry AND
- Lg Container of Personal Care packages for our Food Pantry

We thank our workshop leaders - Karen and Grayson Trybulski, Beth Ellen Walters, Rebekah Nicholson, Erin Walters, Pastor Sarah Keilholtz, Leigh Ann Courtney, Joel Kroft, Brandee Payne, Shannon Kincaid, Susan Van Zile, Tammy Novick, Barb Gibson, Peggy Hoffman, Joan Van Orman, and Beth Bard.

A special thank you to everyone who participated.
It was an amazing morning!!

Ladies Night Out

Twenty-three women enjoyed our first Ladies Night Out in January. Since then, many have asked for a second evening together. Mark your calendars, ladies!! On Monday, March 18 at 6:00 PM we'll gather in the Multi-Purpose Room for a potluck dinner, then move to the Youth Lounge to watch the movie "Breathe." This is the inspiring true love story of Robin and Diana Cavendish. When Robin at age 28 is struck down by polio and given a few months to live, this adventurous couple refuse to give up and instead live a full and passionate life together. This movie comes highly recommended by Pastor Rick's wife and sister-in-law. Watch for sign ups in the bulletin.



Sole Hope Donations Needed

During the month of April, the Social Ministry Team will be collecting donations for Sole Hope. In rural Uganda many children do not have shoes. Because they walk, run, and play barefoot, their feet are vulnerable, and they become infected with parasites or other diseases. After receiving care for these problems, the children need medical supplies to help them heal as they recover. The list of supplies we need to collect to aid these children appears below. Please place them in the Sole Hope Collection bin located in the coat closet.

After we gather the supplies for the kits, we will make them on Thursday, April 25th at 6:00 P.M. in the library of the education building. We will also enjoy fellowship with one another as we share a potluck supper prior to serving the Lord with our hands. Please save the date and come join us!

We thank the generous members of St. John's for their continued support and generosity as we embark on this international mission together.

Blessings to all,
Social Ministry

Items Needed for Sole Hope

- Small tubes of triple antibiotic cream
- Safety pins
- Cotton balls
- Snack-size Ziplock bags
- Children's stickers
- Quart-size freezer bags

Library Gets New Shelves



The Education Building Library has a new look. We've added six new book shelves and a circle time carpet for the children of our congregation and our day care children. This is an opportunity for us to promote literacy and open up the world of reading to our children.

There are two ways the congregation can participate in this project. First, if you have any children's books that you would like to donate to the library, we'd love to have them. Books can be of any type, but it's recommended they be new or in good condition.

The second way you can participate is to volunteer time to come into our day care and read to the children. Classrooms will have designated schedules for story time in the library. The teachers and children would love to have visitors come to read to them. You could bring a story book from home or select one from the library. Contact Beth Bard at beth.bard@stjohns1787.org or 717-761-5121, if you're interested in volunteering. All Volunteers will need to have clearances.



With Appreciation

Dear Pastors and members of St. John's,

I have been blessed with a "new" knee. It is with a grateful heart that I thank my church family for their prayers, cards, the altar flowers, calls, and visits during my recent surgery. God bless you for your love and concern.

Beth Ellen W



Dear St. John's church,

I sincerely appreciate receiving the beautiful Altar Flowers on Sunday. What a way to cheer me.

Thank you to Louise for delivering them and thank you for the many thoughtful prayer cards and lovely get well cards.

Especially, thank you to Susan Van Zile for transporting me to the cancer center and back home. No words to express how great it is to know this wonderful person and all the St. John's Ladies.

Again, thank you St. John's for keeping me in your thoughts.

With Blessings,
Yong G

St. John's congregation, Pastor Sarah and Pastor Rick,

Thank you all for welcoming our family so warmly into your congregation. We are so excited to be a part of St. John's and raise our son in the church. We appreciate how friendly everyone has been and look forward to meeting more members! The service for Henry's baptism was so lovely and the blanket is beautiful. Thank you so much.

Katy, Tim and Henry

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your concern for the farmworker, demonstrated by your contribution of \$880 to Fruitbelt Farmworker Christian ministry. Donations received are used to facilitate our ministry to seasonal and migrant farm workers in South Central Pennsylvania and a small area in Northern Maryland.

May God Bless you throughout the New Year with His providence, His power, His peace, and His presence.

Blessings,
Pastor Rod and Nancy Runyan



March 3 will be a Gathering in the Lounge from 6-8pm. We will enjoy a Bible Study, activities and games, and of course snacks!! Bring a friend!

On Saturday March 9 youth group members and families will be volunteering at New Hope Ministries in Mechanicsburg from 9am-12pm. We will meet at New Hope Ministries.

March 17 will be another Gathering in the Lounge from 6-8pm. Again, feel free to bring a friend to any youth group activity! Snacks are provided.

The Connect Youth Group annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held March 24th. Keep an eye to your bulletin for info on time and tickets!! This is a wonderful fundraiser for our Connect Youth members.

The weekend of March 29-31 the Connect Youth Group will be on Winter Retreat to Mount Asbury. This is a new destination for us, and I'm excited to explore this retreat center located just outside Pine Grove Furnace State Park. Please see Stephanie for details and to sign up!

Summer Camp Information

Summer Camp 2019-Camp Kirchenwald and Camp Nawakwa

Hello, everyone! I will be your camp representative again this year and I am so excited as I recently received the summer camp information and brochure in the mail.

There are so many exciting camp themes again this year all different weeks of the summer. The camps are for all ages: K-2 all the way up to Seniors and even Elders! Themes such as Classic, Art and Music, Nature and Science, Sports and Adventure camps are all waiting for you!

You can either register by mail or online at www.lutherancamping.org

Tiered pricing is happening again this year and if you register early (by April 6th, 2019) you can get a \$15 discount. Since I attended a camp meeting you would also be eligible for a \$20 discount as well. If a second child attends, you will also receive another \$25 discount. An invite a friend coupon is also offered again this year!

If you would like further information there are two summer camp open houses being offered this year: Sunday March 17th and Sunday April 7th from 2:00-4:30 at both camps.

I will have camp brochures available for you in the narthex, however the website listed above also has everything you may need to review the various themes and weeks.

Jen Shuey-652-2648 or jrshuey13@gmail.com

Join us for worship!

Saturday Service—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
Minister of Music — Thomas A. Notestine
Youth Director — Stephanie Alsvan
Discipleship Coordinator — Beth C. Bard

Office Hours: Monday—Friday
9:00 AM—1:00 PM
Office Phone (717) 761-5121
Office Fax (717) 761-4110
Email: church@stjohns1787.org
Website: www.stjohns1787.org
News and Notes: sjnewsandnotes.wordpress.com
Facebook: St Johns Lutheran Church 1787

St. John's Lutheran Church
GROW IN FAITH. SHARE GOD'S LOVE. SERVE OTHERS.

