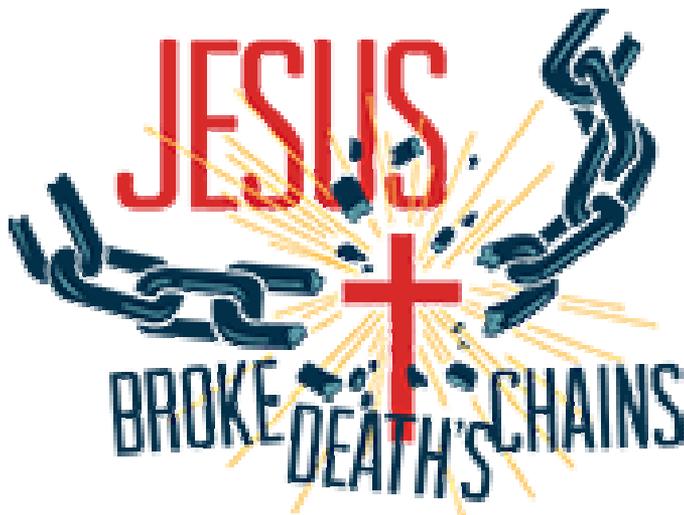


The Good News

APRIL 2019
VOLUME 45 NO. 4

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



Worship With Us This Holy Week and Easter
Palm Sunday, April 14—8:00 AM & 10:45 AM
Blessing of the Palms and Reading of the Passion

Wednesday, April 17—6:30 PM
Christ and Passover class (watch your bulletin for more information)

Maundy Thursday, April 18—7:30 PM
Holy Communion/Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 19—7:30 PM
Service of Tenebrae

Easter Vigil, April 20—6:00 PM
Saturday Service/Easter

Easter Sunday, April 21
Festive Services of Our Lord's
Resurrection—8:00AM & 10:45AM,

Some thoughts about the Lenten discipline of confession:

Jesus said, "If another disciple sins against you, go and have it out, just between the two of you alone. If they listen to you, you have won back a brother or sister. But, if they won't listen, you should take with you one or two others, so that 'everything may be established from the mouth of two or three witnesses. If they will not listen to them, tell it to the assembly. And if they will not listen to the assembly, you should treat such a person like you would a Gentile or a tax collector. I am telling you the truth: whatever you tie up on earth will have been tied up in heaven; and whatever you untie on earth will have been untied in heaven.'" (Matthew 18. 15 - 18 [Kingdom New Testament])

Nothing destroys the community like the practice of disciples talking about someone behind that person's back. It is called gossip, even when the practice is passed off as consulting with someone. One website, OpenBibleInfo.org, presented 100 Bible verses condemning the practice. Suffice it to say, don't do it. If you have a question, a concern, an opinion, whatever, go to the person the matter concerns alone, just the two of you, and present your concern. Then, sit back and listen carefully to what the person has to say. To do anything else is to sin, and sin is no laughing matter. Sin destroys the person sinning, the person sinned against, and the community in which the sin takes place.

Paul wrote, "And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind and to things that should not be done. They were filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, covetousness, malice. Full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, craftiness, they are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, rebellious toward parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. They know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die—yet they not only do them but also even applaud others who practice them. (Romans 1. 28 - 32 [NRSV])

Our Lord, Jesus, went to the cross to die in our place for our sin and the consequence of our sin. Do not treat his sacrifice with contempt by making no effort what so ever to turn from the sin in your life. Yes sin is habitual and hard to break. We are called to make the effort anyway. Start by recognizing what the Word of God says. This can be done by no other way than careful prayerful daily reading of the whole of the Bible. There are plans available in the back of our hymnal, and in numeral other ones available online. As you read, ask yourself the three questions of Bible study. What does it say? What does it mean? What is God calling me to do in response to what I have read? Then, you act accordingly. The Word of God is like a mirror that one looks into to see how they actually look. You may see things you do not like.

Confession is a matter of seeing what is wrong, feeling contrite for what one has done, confessing the sin to the one sinned against and asking for forgiveness, and then, making restitution for the damage done. Sometimes, it is necessary to go to a godly pastor or counselor and seek help. It is always important to hear and receive the words of absolution spoken at the end of your confession so you can go in peace.



FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S DESK

-by Pastor Sarah

Easter is coming - I promise! That's how Lent always feels to me... like I'm not doing anything except waiting for the promise of Easter to be fulfilled. And that is true in some ways - Lent is that time that we have to get ready for the joy of Easter - to get ready to shout and rejoice that Jesus is risen!

But Lent doesn't have to just be a time of waiting - that makes it a very passive time if that is the only way that we think about it. If we are just waiting for Easter, then nothing is really happening.

Instead, as we work our way to Holy Week and Easter, I encourage you to think about Lent as an active time - a time to anticipate instead of wait, a time to be doing instead of just giving up, a time to live out our faith instead of just waiting on death.

When we look at our life of faith as something that we do instead of something that we observe or just wait for, we can see it in a whole new way. We can be excited about the chance to worship and pray. We can hear the words of scripture as they call us anew every time that we read them. We can look at serving others as serving God himself, and know that we are called to do things for the least of these - not wait for them to be done for us.

How are you living in the midst of Lent? Are you just waiting for Good Friday to be over so that Easter will *finally* be here? Or are you living out your faith in the midst of darkness and death, offering light to all who see you? I know which Lent I am hoping to be living - may God help us to live as lights in a dark world.

This & That...

...a little of everything

The Third Intentional Interim Retreat
Discussing:
“Discerning the Will of God for Saint John Lutheran Church”
on
April 6, 2019
From
9:00 - 12:00
in the Multipurpose Room
at
Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church
44 West Main Street
Shiremanstown

This is the third and final session in which the congregation discusses the congregations past and traditions, the present reality of the congregation, and now, what the people believe the Lord Jesus wants the congregation to embrace for the next chapter of the congregation’s story. This event is intended as a respectful discussion about what characteristics in a pastor is the soon to be named call committee to seek. Please put this event on your calendar. See you then.



Ladies -

Mark your calendars!
Another tea is being
planned for Sunday, May
5th following the 10:45
service. More information
will follow in the
bulletins for you to sign
up.

Volunteer Opportunity! The Social Ministry committee is organizing a group of volunteers to go to **Project SHARE on Saturday, May 18 from 8:00 - 11:30 a.m.** to help with their food distribution. Our role will be to distribute canned goods and other food to shoppers. St. John's has committed to bringing 15 volunteers. We will meet at Project SHARE (5 N Orange St. #4, Carlisle PA 17013). Anyone interested in volunteering should contact the church office at church@stjohns1787.org or 717-761-5121.

Calendar and Birthday

Many have requested the calendar and birthdays be put back in the Good News. To conserve time and materials, monthly calendars can be found in the Narthex below the television.

Birthdays for the year will be available in the church office. Stop by to pick up a yearly list.

Contact the church office with any questions.



LILIES FOR EASTER

Lily orders are now being taken for the Easter season. The **deadline to order is Monday, April 8.** They may be made as memorials or in honor of loved ones. The lilies are **\$11.00 each with one dollar from every order going to New Hope Ministries.**

MESSAGE _____

GIVEN BY _____

Payment at the time of ordering is appreciated. Please make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church.

NEWS FROM OUR TEAMS

April Team Meetings

Monday, April 8

6:30 PM Adult Ed. Team—Conference Room

Tuesday, April 9

6:30 PM Church Council—Library

Wednesday, April 17

6:30 PM Trustee Meeting—Conference room

Finances		February 2019
	2019 Budget	2019 Actual
Income	651,788	129,324.97
Expenses	651, 788	113,448.80
Difference	0	15,876.17

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:

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 church@stjohns1787.org or 717-761-5121.



Contributions

The past two months we considered St. John’s membership and attendance statistics over the past five years. With a noticeable decline it’ll be interesting to see how this has impacted our contributions. There is quite a bit of data to consider, but to keep it simplified we’ll only look at the total yearly giving.

	Number of Envelopes in Report	Number of Envelopes that Gave	% of total that gave	Total Offering for the Year	Average Annual per Envelope that gave
2018	367	287	78.2	\$454,307.00	\$1,582.67
2017	367	295	80.4	\$501,701.15	\$1,700.68
2016	367	292	79.6	\$467,872.31	\$1,601.82
2015	367	291	79.3	\$449,487.57	\$1,542.98
2014	367	270	73.6	\$431,989.44	\$1,596.65

Thoughts? Trends? Let’s also consider giving by age group. Looking at 2018 only -

	Age 17 – 21 College	Age 22 – 29 Young Adult	Age 30 – 55 Families/ Children	Age 56 – 76 Empty Nesters	Age 77+ Retired
Envelopes in report	13	18	90	120	95
Envelopes that gave	2	6	75	107	80
Percent that gave	15.4%	33.3%	83.3%	89.2%	84.2%
Ave Annual per envelope that gave	\$24.00	\$198.00	\$1,659.24	\$1,947.16	\$1,687.44

It doesn’t seem too formidable. Keep in mind as our members transition to the next stage in their lives, these numbers could change dramatically.

Next month: what does all this information have to do with discipleship vs. membership churches?



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

- | |
|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Items Needed for Sole Hope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tubes of triple antibiotic creamSafety pinsCotton ballsSnack-size Ziplock bagsChildren's stickersAlcohol wipesQuart-size freezer bags |
|---|

<p style="text-align: center;">Sole Hope Potluck and Kit-making Night</p> <p>Name _____ plans to attend the potluck and kit-making event on Thursday, April 25th at 6:00 P.M. in the library of the education building.</p> <p>I plan to bring _____ to the potluck.</p> <p>Please place this in the collection plate or return it to the church office.</p>



LUTHERAN CAMPING NIGHT
AT HARRISBURG SENATORS



Friday, May 3
Gates Open: 6:00 pm Game Time: 7:00 pm

Tickets are \$11. The Senators will donate \$4 from each ticket to Lutheran Camping to benefit Camp Kirchenwald and Camp Nawakwa.

POST GAME FIREWORKS!

We can arrange rides for those who are not comfortable driving to City Island or who do not like to drive at night. For more information about rides or the game, contact the church office at church@stjohns1787.org or 717-761-5121.

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them.” - Matthew 18:20

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ORDER FORM for Lutheran Camping Night at Harrisburg Senators, Friday, May 3

Number of tickets _____ X \$11/ticket = \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

If paying by check, make payable to St John’s Lutheran Church with a note that it is for the Senators baseball game.

Your order must be received at the church office by end of business on Wed., 4/10.

With Appreciation

Thank you Pastor Whitesel for your visit to the hospital and brightening my day. Thanks to the church for the beautiful flowers and the prayers during my illness.

Betty H.

Pastor Sarah,

We want to thank you for your visits to Ed during his illness. Your prayers were a great comfort to us. We are glad to be members of St. John's.

Ed & Marian L.



Dear St. John's

Thank you so much for the beautiful valentine and to Jase for signing it.

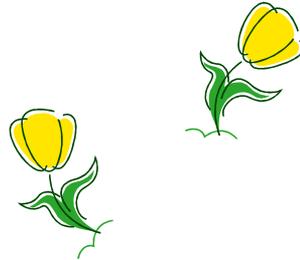
Bless you,
Janet H.



Thank you for the beautiful flowers that Stephanie delivered just before my surgery.

Many thanks for the lovely cards and telephone calls that we received.

Sincerely,
Dale E.



Dear St. John's

Thank you to Pastor Sarah for her service and remarks during my mom's funeral. Her time and efforts, as well as those of everyone who put together the luncheon during the busy holiday season are much appreciated and were a great comfort to our family.

Sincerely,
Scott S.

Pastor Sarah and St. Johns,

Thank you for the \$10 Amazon gift card. I always loved my time at the church and I am going to miss all the friends that I have met along the way. Thank you for everything you've taught me on how to be a better person.

From,
Jesse K., Senior Acolyte

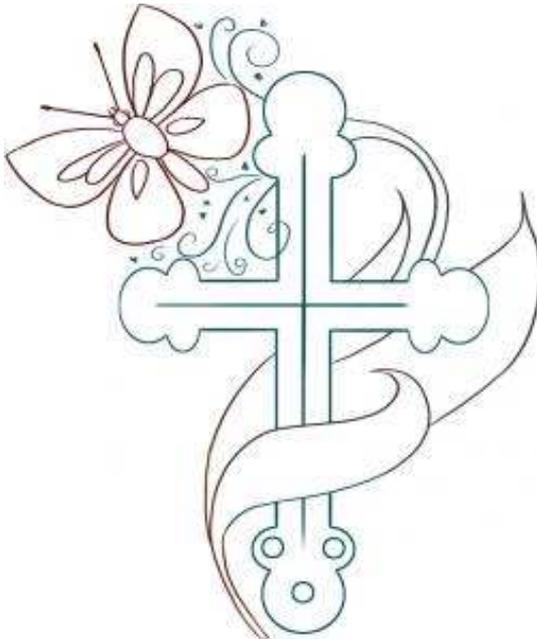
Dear friends at St. John's,

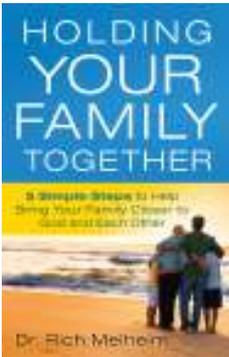
Thank you so much for the very lovely altar flowers Mrs. Wood brought me on Sunday. They have brightened up my room.

Thank you also for your many prayers.

God Bless all my friends at St. John's

Yours truly,
Virginia S.





Five Simple Steps to help bring your family closer to God and each other.

Holding Your Family Together
By
Dr. Rich Melheim

Please **join us** for a book club style discussion of the book, Holding Your Family Together: Five Simple Steps to Help Bring Your Family Closer to God and Each Other by The Reverend Dr. Rich Melheim, founder, CEO, and Chief Creative Officer of the internationally acclaimed Faith Inkubators, the Faith Inkubators Foundation, and the Preschool Inkubators Project.

I first became aware of Dr. Melheim and “Faith 5: Every night in every home” fifteen years ago or so. As soon as I heard about this program, I knew it was essential for every family with children; the younger the better. Faith Five encourages parents to lead their family members in sharing the highs and lows of the day, reading a little scripture, talking, praying and blessing each other. I do not have the words to say how vital “Faith Five” is for every parent who wants their family to grow to love and care for each other.

Pastor Rick Whitesel

Join us for five sessions on Sunday morning from 9:15 - 10:15 in the Conference Room at Saint John’s from April 28 - May 26, AD 2019. We will provide you the book.



Inside the Garden

St. John's Early Learning Development Center (ELDC)

The Children's Garden of St. John's Lutheran Church is celebrating a major milestone this month. After years of preparing, developing, and improving its programming, our school has earned the recognition as a Keystone STAR 4 center. **Keystone STARS** (Standards, Training/Professional Development, Assistance, Resources, and Supports) is a quality rating system that promotes quality improvement in early learning and development programs and school-age child care. A STAR 4 is the highest-level that can be achieved.

Our center underwent its annual unannounced inspection by the Department of Health and Human Services. Our teachers and staff did an awesome job that day as they do every day. Overall, the inspector commented our center lives up to its outstanding reputation in the community and our practices made her want to continue her job as an inspector.

Several children in our after-school program participated in the Youth Sunday Service. The children sang a song and performed a spiritual dance. We were very happy and excited for the children to share their joy and faith with the congregation. As we move forward, we continue to look for ways to partner with St. John's as we become one community in Christ.

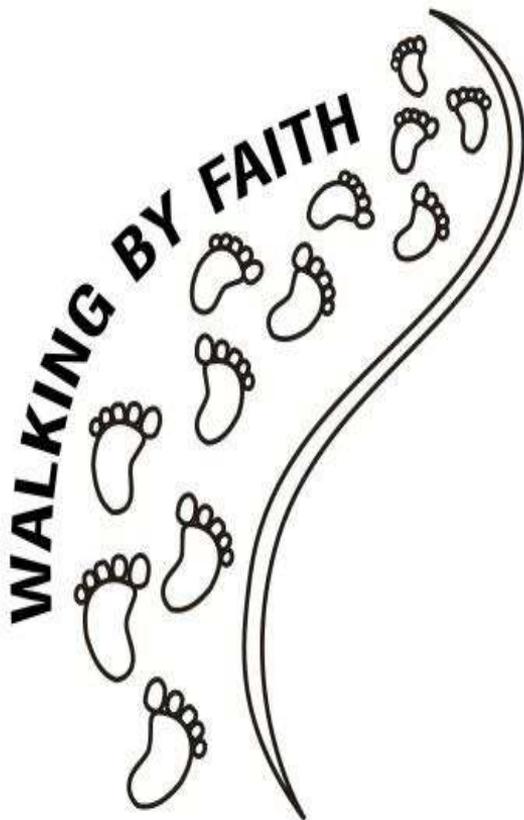
With the arrival of Spring, a new project is blossoming at the Garden! We now have a children's library which is a dedicated space for our kiddos to explore the wonder of books. We are looking for guest readers from the congregation. If interested, please contact Beth Bard in the church office. We'd love to have you!



GOOD NEWS: The deadline for the May GOOD NEWS is **Monday, April 8**. If you have any information to be included in this issue, please have it in the Church Office by that date.

Cemetery Information

At our March meeting, the church council approved raising the prices of cemetery plots and services at our cemetery on Trindle Road (near Peace Church). The new prices are still lower than many other cemeteries, but they are an increase from the rates that have been in place for many years. If you have been considering buying plots in our cemetery, the council would like to give you a chance to purchase at the 2018 price. The price for church members will remain at \$800 a plot until April 30th. After that date, the price will increase to \$1100 a plot. **This lower price is only available to church members until April 30th, for all others the \$1100 price is now in effect.** If you have questions or would like to make a purchase, please contact the church office at church@stjohns1787.org or 717-761-5121.





APRIL 2019

YOUTH EVENTS

On Sunday April 7 we will have a Gathering in the Lounge from 6-8pm. Bring a friend to this fun evening together for games, Bible study, and lots of fun memories! Snacks are provided.

We will meet at Mission Central on Saturday April 13th for volunteer work from 9:30-12:00pm. In the past we've made natural disaster kits, sorted donated books, organized holiday decorations, and anything else they need accomplished in their warehouse in Mechanicsburg. Come out and help this great local ministry!

On Sunday April 14 we will have another Gathering in the Lounge 6-8pm.

What should we do on Friday April 26? A movie night, laser tag, Sky Zone, bowling? Let's find a great fun activity to enjoy as a group!! Plan on a fun evening together which we will discuss during our gathering on April 7th.

Save the Date:

May 11: Baking at Ronald McDonald House 1-3pm

May 17: Dinner at Stephanie's/Senior Send-off 6:00pm

May 19: Final Gathering in the Lounge 6-8pm



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.**

