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The Eagle

Lent / Easter 2018

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - New Jersey Synod



Each year during Lent, we offer instruction for children preparing to receive their first communion at Easter. Beginning this year, St. John's will be offering instruction for Holy Communion to all baptized children who desire it, in consultation with their parents. This is a pastoral decision and in line with our Lutheran theology and current ELCA practices.

In 1997, the ELCA adopted the *Use of the Means of Grace: A Statement on the Practice of Word and Sacraments* to help congregations better understand and order our life together around the sacraments. Here is an excerpt related to admission to the sacrament of Holy Communion:

Principle 37: Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, presented through the Church to those who are baptized.

Application 37C: Baptized children begin to commune on a regular basis at a time determined through mutual conversation that includes the pastor, the child, and the parents or sponsors involved...

Application 37E: In all cases, participation in Holy Communion is accompanied by catechesis appropriate to the age of the communicant. When infants and young children are communed, the parents and sponsors receive instruction and the children are taught throughout their development.

Background 37F: Catechesis, continuing throughout the life of the believer, emphasizes the sacrament as gift, given to faith by and for participation in the community. Such faith is not simply knowledge or intellectual understanding but trust in God's promises given in the Lord's Supper ("for you" and "for the forgiveness of sin") for the support of the baptized.

We look forward to Easter Sunday and welcoming to the Lord's table for the first time many of our baptized saints—our children.

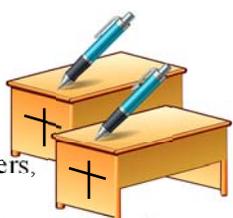
Family Promise Fundraiser Save the Date: Sat, Feb 3, 2018



In addition to hosting homeless families three times per year, this year **St. John's will host a fundraising concert of folk/bluegrass music played by the band "Little Secret"**. Hailing from Mountainside, New Providence and Westfield, the band features fresh interpretations of popular folk songs and bluegrass standards. Among its musicians is Ellen Pluta, wife of Family Promise CEO, Claas Ehlers. **Put the Saturday, February 3rd, 2018 date in your calendars now.**



New Jersey Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



From the Pastors' Desks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

With the exception of a few Wimbledon tennis matches and an event or two at the Winter and Summer Olympic Games, I'm not an avid sports fan. Well, that was until it became clear that the Philadelphia Eagles would once again be playing in the Super Bowl.

You see, Philadelphia, PA is the place where I lived the longest except for Jersey City, NJ. So, it's fitting that I support the "home team". But I'm doing so even more because of the phone call I received yesterday from my 87-year-old cousin, Lillian. She called to tell me that she was thinking about dying her hair green for the game, but that her housemate Marian wouldn't take her to church if she did. When I heard this I nearly laughed until I cried!

But then my mental wheels began to turn. Of course I had to support the Eagles because in some alternate-world way, they are St. John's team! After all, aren't you reading this letter

in "The Eagle"? And isn't the "eagle" referred to in Ezekiel 1:10 the symbol of our congregation's namesake, St. John the Evangelist?

It is good to have a bit of fun at the expense of sports fans rooting for the other unmentioned team. (Forgive the pastoral insensitivity.) But on a more serious note, the thought of the Philadelphia Eagles winning the Super Bowl and of my octogenarian cousin having green hair to urge them on to victory, also spurred my thinking about the upcoming season of Lent.

Unlike the very public "ecstasy of victory or agony of defeat" that will take place on Super Bowl Sunday, the season of Lent affords us an opportunity to go inward and reflect on hearts that are broken and captive to sin. In Lent we begin our journey with Jesus to the cross, remembering every day that in our baptisms we die to sin and are raised to new life with God.

In Lent our "alleluias" are gone, and

we reflect not on signs of victory, but defeat. We listen deeply, pray fiercely and daily return to our God who is gracious and merciful and abounding in steadfast love. We begin the season with the recognition of our mortality and end with the celebration of Christ's victory over sin and death on Easter. We move from singing, "Create in me a clean heart, O God" to "This is the feast of victory for our God."

Lent is a time of waiting and renewal; a time to do that about which the prophet Isaiah reminds us in 40: 31, that "those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

I look forward to journeying together with you as we move from death to life, joyously proclaiming in our words and deeds that Christ is risen and brings hope and new life to all.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Gladys

Each year I find this an odd in-between transition time in the life of the Church. Christmas seems a not so distant memory and yet Lent is on the horizon. We move quickly from cradle to cross, from birth to death.

All of us are born and all of us will die. If we are lucky, we may have many years of life, a mixture of success and setback, happiness and sadness. But we will all die. In Christ,

our frail temporal humanity is granted the promise of immortality and our brokenness is offered wholeness. God entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He bore our sins and he conquered our death by enduring it.

Jesus held nothing back—he gave all he had—for you and for me. His love knows no end. It's wondrous, unimaginable, inconceivable and yet offered freely. How amazing is God's love!

Love that gives, gives ever more, gives with zeal, with eager hands,
spares not, keeps not, all outpours, ventures all its all expends.

Drained is love in making full, bound in setting others free,
poor in making many rich, weak in giving power to be.

Therefore he who shows us God helpless hangs upon the tree;
and the nails and crown of thorns tell of what God's love must be.

Here is God: no monarch he, throned in easy state to reign;
here is God, whose arms of love aching, spent, the world sustain.

Pastor Blake

REMINDER!

Feb 4th : 2018 Budget Review Forum



Please join us as our Administration and Finance Committee presents the proposed 2018 Ministry Spending Plan.

The full year financial report for 2017 and the proposed 2018 spending plan will be included in the handout for the annual congregational meeting. Copies will be emailed prior to the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 11th.



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
NO Sunday School
NO Confirmation

Sun, Feb 11, 2018

ONE Service at 9:30am



Christmas at Sea: Wrapping up 2017 and Looking Ahead in 2018

Christmas at Sea, 2017:

In late fall, we delivered 56 watch-caps, 30 scarves, and 28 hand-sewn ditty bags – all knit, crocheted or sewn

by members and friend of St. John's - to the Seamen's Church Institute (SCI) headquarters Port Newark for this year's Christmas at Sea distribution.

Volunteers and SCI staff at Port Newark sorted and packed these items, along with thousands of others donated by needle-workers across the country, for the SCI chaplains to deliver to merchant mariners of all faiths and nationalities who would be far away from home over the holidays and working through the cold winter months at sea and on North American inland waterways.

To see wonderful photos of the 2017 Port Newark Christmas at Sea distribution, go to <http://seamenschurch.org/photos/show/Port-Newark-Christmas-At-Sea%2C-December-2017>. While you are on the website, you can also learn more about SCI's many ministries of education, advocacy, service, and hospitality.

Christmas at Sea, 2018: Knitting, crocheting, and sewing for Christmas at Sea continues all year long, and here at St. John's we are off to a good start, with about three dozen hats and scarves already!

However, new needleworkers are always welcomed and needed. Please consider contributing to this worthwhile endeavor that St. John's has been supporting for over 25 years.

All that is required is to use the specified materials and patterns that SCI has developed to meet the unique work environments of mariners and the strict safety regulations for clothing worn on board. You can find these specifications and patterns at <http://seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea>

Yarn is available in the church office (labeled drawers under the front counter) or you can purchase your own per the specs at the above website. Knitting/crocheting lessons or refreshers and assistance with patterns can also be arranged.

If you have questions or would like to know more, contact Linda Clark (njclarks@gmail.com) or Linda Walker (wk154linda@gmail.com) or the church office.

A special shout-out: Although we refrain from trying to list names of all who have contributed to Christmas at Sea, lest we forget anyone, a special note is due to the duo of Jean Grabinsky and Nancy Bowman, who provide ditty bags not only for Christmas at Sea, but also for LSM-NJ's Christmas Gift Bags for Seniors project. Jean shops the Internet for deep discounts on high-quality, sturdy, handsome fabrics, and Nancy stitches them into bags -- an excellent partnership and example of stewardship of time, talent, and resources!





Ash Wednesday

February 14th @ 12:00 PM & 7:30 PM

We will mark the beginning of the holy season of Lent with the imposition of ashes.

Lenten Midweek Services

Begin Feb 21st - Weds. @ 12:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Soup Suppers and Spiritual Practice @ 6:00 PM

Our focus this year will be on the Psalms. As part of the evening program we be using intergenerational materials which includes a time for devotional coloring—yes, coloring and yes, for all ages! Join us!



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday 3/25

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Maundy Thursday 3/29

12:00 PM & 7:30 PM

Good Friday 3/30

Community Walk 9:00 AM; 12:00 Noon & 7:30 PM



Saturday Easter Vigil 3/31

7:30 PM - Champagne Reception Afterwards

Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day 4/1

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM - Brunch at 9:00 AM



Holy Work for Holy Week

We need you! There are MANY tasks to prepare for the observance of Holy Week, and jobs for all time constraints and ability levels. Sign-up sheets will be in the narthex beginning 3/4.

Together By Grace

We will begin another segment of Sunday sessions using the book *Together By Grace: Introducing the Lutherans*. This segment will focus on “Worship and the Arts.” Sessions will be offered on Sunday mornings beginning Sunday, 2/25 at 9:00 AM in the Adult Lounge. The sessions are designed where you can attend as able.

Lenten Devotional

We will once again be using Luther Seminary’s Lenten devotional resources. This year’s devotional is entitled *Through the Night of Dark and Sorrow* written by seminary faculty, staff, and students. Pick up a copy in the narthex.

2018 Lent Madness

Following the success of last year, we will once again hold our Lent Madness Hymn Tournament. Last year’s defending champion is *O God, Beyond All Praising*

who narrowly beat our *A Mighty Fortress* in the final round; but this is a new year and any hymn could win! 32 hymns will be competing to be St. John’s 2018 Champion Hymn. You may vote for favorite hymns with a \$1 a vote—vote as many times as you like. Each week we will have another round of voting. All money will go to *ELCA World Hunger*.



Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 1

During the Easter Brunch we will have an Easter Egg Hunt for our children on the front lawn. Bring your Easter baskets! What fun!



Easter Flowers

We will be collecting donations for flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter. Suggested donations of \$25 to \$50. Sign up in the rear entryway beginning Sunday, February 18th. You must sign up by Sunday, March 18th for inclusion in the Easter Bulletins.

Lutheran Heritage Trip to Philadelphia

Saturday, March 10

Join the confirmation class on our next field trip. We are heading down to Philadelphia to see some Lutheran heritage sites. We will visit *Old Swedes Church* and *Augustus Trappe*—where Muhlenberg was pastor. More information to follow.

Food Bank Trip

Saturday, March 17

Look for a sign-up in the rear entryway to volunteer at the Community Food Bank from 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM.



Bridges Run

Saturday, May 5

Save the date to join this wonderful service opportunity.

Confirmation Sunday

On **Pentecost Sunday, May 20th**, we will confirm five youth. These youth will be presented in worship on May 13th. The Rite of Passage, a special prayer service for the youth and their families, will be held Tuesday, May 15th at 7:00 PM. Please pray for our confirmands, their families, and the whole church.

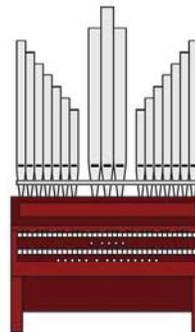
Save the date! Church Picnic Sun., June 10

We will have our annual Church Picnic on June 10th after worship. This is always a wonderful and fun event.





From Donna, Director of Music/Organist



HYMN AND ANTHEM STORIES

“God, the Sculptor of the Mountains” ELW 736

Alaska’s vistas and vastness inspired John Thornburg (b. 1954), a fourth-generation Methodist minister, to write “God, the Sculptor of the Mountains.” Commissioned in 1993, Thornburg began the hymn as a list of descriptions: “God the . . .”. Not wanting to limit himself to images of God in nature, he included God’s saving acts; God in food—harvest, bread, wine; and God in Christ. Thornburg said about the beginning of the last verse: “I’ve been criticized for the use of the phrase ‘unexpected infant’, to the effect that some think I’ve never read the prophecy of Isaiah. I customarily respond, ‘I have read the prophet Isaiah, but I’ve also read the Gospel of Luke, and according to Luke, Mary was surprised!’”¹

Several composers have set this text. *ELW* uses Amanda Husberg’s (b. 1940) tune *Jennings-Houston*, her most popular tune. (Husberg composed many of the psalm settings sung in 10:30 AM worship in January and early February.) *Jennings-Houston* has a black gospel swing and is named for two of Husberg’s choir members who are married to each other. Husberg said, “Half of my church and my whole choir have tunes named after them.”¹ We will sing this hymn at 10:30 AM on Lent 3.

¹ *Hymnal Companion to Evangelical Lutheran Worship* by Paul Westermeyer, © 2010 Augsburg-Fortress.

“I Believe”

During Lent, the Adult Choir will be singing this poignant anthem by Mark Miller (b. 20th C.), composer and Director of Music at neighboring Christ Church in Summit. His anthem sets words that some sources say were scratched on the walls of a cellar in Cologne, Germany by Jews hiding from Nazi persecution:

I believe in the sun even when it’s not shining.
I believe in love even when I don’t feel it.
I believe in God even when God is silent.

The anthem’s beautiful and haunting melody carries the text, offering hope even in the bleakest of times.

LITURGY HAPPENINGS

Liturgical variety is St. John’s worship spice! During Lent, 8:00 AM worshipers will be learning parts of the contemporary Setting 1, a new liturgy for them. 10:30 AM worshipers will enjoy the familiar chant-based Setting 5. Setting 1 we will use through the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday worship. Then for Eastertide something new may be coming for 10:30 AM worshipers . . . Stay tuned! Details on the new 8:00 AM summer liturgy will be available in the next newsletter, as will the name of the well-loved liturgy returning to 10:30 AM worship this summer.

HOLY WEEK–EASTER MUSIC

How to describe the powerful series of worship services planned for Holy Week and Easter? Hm . . . That’s a tough one, but know that we’ll begin with music from the African-American tradition, include music from the Taizé and Iona communities, as well as historic and contemporary hymn writers, and end with the great festival celebration of Easter with choirs, brass quintet, and timpani, (and of course, Handel’s “Hallelujah!” chorus). Extra singers, ringers, and instrumentalists are welcome!

Handbell Mini-Festival: Sunday, April 29, 4:30 PM

St. John’s will be hosting something new this year: a Ring-In or Mini-Festival! What’s a Ring-In? Well, it’s sort of like a One-Day Choir times 3 or 4. All the participating choirs and ringers will be seeing their music for the first time at the event! Yes, it will be sight-readable and lots of fun! We’ll rehearse for 75 minutes starting at 2:00 PM, take a break and move some equipment, then do a dress rehearsal in Hinman Hall followed by the informal concert at 4:30 PM. So far, choirs from New Providence, Basking Ridge, Chatham, Haddonfield, Medford, Westfield, and Morristown have expressed interest. Because it is a no-prep event (e.g., no advance rehearsals), extra ringers are especially welcome. Advance sign-up would be really helpful! A few volunteers may be needed at 4:15 PM for greeting and ushering. Watch for sign-up sheets for both ringers and greeters/ushers.

MUSIC SUNDAY: JUNE 3RD, 10:30 AM

Save the date: More details to come in the next newsletter!



Changes to Parish Register

Reception of New Members

- Nick & Kirsten Meyer, Dec. 17, 2017
- Steve, Lisa, Sofia & Roman Battaglia, Jan. 7, 2018

New Members Information

05/14/17

Wayne Dietterick is a native Pennsylvanian who was born in Berwick, PA and grew up in Mifflinville, PA. He graduated from Susquehanna University in 1974 with a degree in Music Education and moved to NJ in 1975 for his first job as a music teacher at Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights. While teaching in Berkeley Heights, he became organist/choirmaster at Faith Lutheran Church in New Providence from 1975-1980. He became director of music here at St. John's Lutheran, Summit, in 1980 and served here until 1995. Beginning in 1985, he also ventured into a full-time career in banking but eventually moved into career positions in the fields of telecommunications with Bellcore/Telcordia Technologies, and marketing with the UMDNJ School of Public Health (now Rutgers School of Public Health). Following his departure as musician from St. John's in Summit, he also served as an organist and choir director in two other Lutheran congregations in Warren and New Brunswick, as well as in a Roman Catholic parish in Warren, and an Episcopal parish in Scotch Plains.

Sean and Lauren Houston have been Summit residents since December of 2016. Prior to that they lived in Hoboken and New York City. They both like to read, watch sports and travel. Their favorite place to travel is St. John's in the US Virgin Islands. In November they gave birth to twins.

9/24/17

Jennifer Terrizzi is a life-long Lutheran. She is a massage therapist who lives in Millburn, NJ.

Laurenza Jean is a paralegal and lives in Summit, NJ with her teenage daughter A'Nyla and her son Ethan.

Danny, David and Paul Fullner-Auld live in West Orange, NJ. Danny's mother, Peg, joins them for worship and lives with them. Son Paul was born to them via a surrogate family friend who lives in Honolulu. Because Paul was born in Hawaii his dads wanted to give him a Hawaiian middle name, Kekoa. They love traveling, hiking and staying active. Their rescue dog, Noosa, often joins them on their hikes. They are excited to be at St. John's.



Johara Tabone is the mother of three adult children whom she raised in Livingston, NJ. Now an empty-nester, she lives in Roseland where she enjoys playing tennis with a great group of girlfriends. Finding St. John's has been the icing on her cake!

12/17/17

Kirsten and Nick Meyer moved to New Jersey from Syracuse, NY in April 2017. Kirsten was teaching music in a small, rural school and Nick was working on air traffic control software. Looking to make a change, Nick accepted a job in Manhattan and they moved to Maplewood, happily now only 30 minutes away from Kirsten's family in Staten Island. They live with their dog, Jenny, sing with the St. John's choir, and are looking forward to getting to know their new church family.

1/7/18

Steve, Lisa, Sofia and Roman Battaglia - Lisa was born and raised on Long Island, moved to NYC at 17, and attended FIT. Steve was born and raised in rural Southern Maryland (a DC suburb) and moved to NJ in 1998 after graduating from college. They met in 2000 and married in 2003. Sofia was born in 2009 and Roman in 2013.

Steve grew up in the Lutheran church where his mother was the pianist/organist for the church for over 30 years. Lisa grew up in the Roman Catholic church but decided the Lutheran church was a better fit for her beliefs. They spend most of their time with their kids and enjoy taking extended weekend trips to various towns they've always wanted to visit...usually historical houses...such as in Salem, Gettysburg, Annapolis, old stone farm houses rural PA, and sometimes lake houses near Ticonderoga. They love beach vacations and usually do 3 a year.

Thanksgiving and Memorial Fund

We are grateful for gifts given to the glory of God by:



Fred and Helen Maas

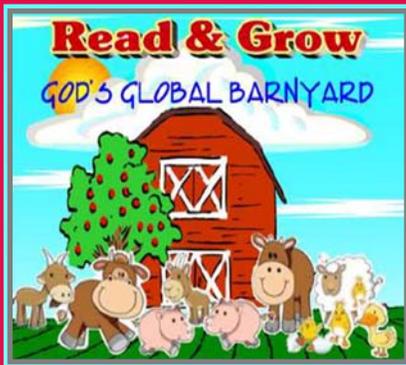
Russell McIntyre
in memory of Dave Foreman

Lois and Rodger Kopf
in honor of Hilda Boyd's 100th birthday

Anne and Bob Peterson
in memory of Dave Foreman and Lois Courtney

Betty Foreman
in memory of Lois Courtney





Church Library Lenten "Read"-a-Thon for All Ages

SUN, Feb. 11th
thru
SUN, Apr. 1st

Help buy an animal from ELCA's
Good Gifts Catalog

Save the Date!

2nd Annual Lutheran Ladies' Night Out

All St. John's Ladies between the ages of 21 and 100 are welcome for an evening of fellowship at the home of Paula Wey
240 Kent Pl Blvd
Summit
on Friday, May 18 at 7:00 PM
Details to follow

Come Join Us for Property Day on Saturday, April 14th



Spend the morning with the St. John's community as we partake in the semi-annual work day constructing, repairing, cleaning, painting, and sprucing up the building and grounds. There are projects for all skills and ages, even if you don't consider yourself handy with tools. Members of the **Property Committee** will be on the church grounds starting at 9:00 AM through the early afternoon to lead the various tasks for the day. Lunch will be provided for all volunteers around noon. Expected work to include:

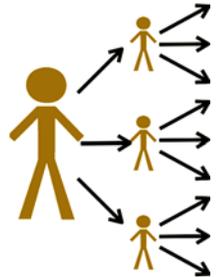
- * general upkeep (cleaning, dusting, pruning, replacing air filters, cleaning gutters),
- * retrofitting new glass panels in wooden doors,
- * replacing a sump pump cover,
- * painting, and other projects that may pop up!

We hope to see you there!

Stewardship of Endowment Gifting

Like the stewards in Jesus's parables, we are not to bury our treasure out of fear of failure, but to use our treasure to grow the fortune of our Master. **St. John's Mission Endowment Fund** is a treasure that gives us some financial security. We are commanded not to hoard it, but rather to use it for the betterment of all.

For the past four years, St. John's has gifted a portion of our endowment, about \$20,000 per year, to fund various ministries outside our walls. Through grants, we have helped the formation of new church leadership, helped build community centers, supported missionary work, and reduced hunger.



Examples of recent projects funded with gifts from St. John's Mission Endowment Fund include:

- Community garden and day laborer feeding program – St. Stephan's Grace Church, Newark
- Summit Helping Its People (SHIP)
- Senior lounge for the Summit Community Center
- Bosnia International Servant Program (NJ Synod – ELCA)
- United Lutheran Theological Seminary Paulinum in Namibia
- Community Food Bank of NJ
- Summit Interfaith Council Anti-Racism Program
- Good News Home for Women, Flemington, NJ
- Family Promise
- Financial support for St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church, Trenton
- Salem Lutheran Church for safe drinking water in Flint, MI

St. John's is committed to helping our neighbors through the use of our endowment. If you have a project that you would like to be considered, please contact the pastors or a council member.

- St. John's Stewardship Committee



Upcoming Adult Forum - 9:00 AM Hinman Hall

March 11th - Lutheran World Relief: What is it and what do they do?

We are delighted to welcome **Beth McKinley, Philanthropic Advisor for Lutheran World Relief**, who will speak with us about the important work of LWR.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.



Faith Formation

Faith Formation is a new program held between the early and late services that provides families the opportunity for intergenerational, experiential learning... a time for storytelling and the exploration of faith vocabulary among our youngest and oldest members.



Faith Formation during Lent

Feb. 18th - **Lent I** - Remember Me 9:00 – 10:00 AM

For children, families and adults to learn about and experience the season of Lent.

We will gather in Hinman Hall to learn why we use the color purple in Lent and why pretzel prayers can add meaning to our daily lives. We will make Lenten crosses to take home and decorate a Lenten candle. Adults and children will also be introduced to our Psalm coloring project that will continue each Wednesday night and Sunday morning throughout the Lenten season.

Sunday morning Faith Formation
for children in first through sixth grade

We will hear the stories, practice Lenten Prayers and create visual responses to our faith.

The Parables of Jesus

Feb. 25 th	Lent II	The Sower
Mar. 04 th	Lent III	A Lamp Under a Bushel Basket
Mar. 11 th	Lent IV	Growing Seed
Mar. 18 th	Lent V	The Mustard Seed
Mar. 25 th	Palm Sunday	A Walk Through Holy Week

Frolic

Little steps. Big faith.



Following the Children's Sermon each Sunday, **Faith Formation** is offered for young children through stories, songs and activities.

WHAT: "Frolic" curriculum (Augsburg Fortress)

WHERE: The Nursery

WHEN: 10:30 AM, following the Children's Sermon

All children, visitors included, are welcome!

February 2018 Worship Assistants

SUNDAYS	February 4 5th Sunday After Epiphany (Green)	February 11 Transfiguration of Our Lord (White)	February 18 1st Sunday in Lent (Purple)	February 25 2nd Sunday in Lent (Purple)
Altar Guild	Joan Boyd Doris Boyd	Beverly Kaczmariski	Carol Dunlop Janet Kocotos	Joan Boyd Jean Wyvrat
Linens	Carolyn Rothman	Carolyn Rothman	Carolyn Rothman	Carolyn Rothman
Counters	Mark Nedde Peter Mesenbrink Rick Coble	Andrew Young Richard Boyd Bill Walker	Marifel Calis Andrew Larsen Hans Calis	Sarah Johnson Jim Nering Peter Larsen Thelma McNulty
8:00 AM				
Worship Assistant/ Reader	Chris Black	No 8:00 AM service	Ken Sharpe	Steve Neiman
Usher	Pam Black	No 8:00 AM service	Kevin Cristino	Karen Riordan
10:30 AM				
Assisting Ministers	Warren Hynes Paula Wey	Pat Bennett Bill Walker	Heinz Roth Helen Dachowicz	Joy Petzinger Hans Calis
Acolytes	Abby Miller	ACOLYTES NEEDED	ACOLYTES NEEDED	ACOLYTES NEEDED
Readers	Robin Roth	Amy Tomlinson	Heinz Roth	Norma Engelhardt
Ushers	USHERS NEEDED	Richard Boyd Carolyn Rothman	Dianne & Stephen Miller	USHERS NEEDED
Greeters	Joy Petzinger	Tomlinson Family	Keli Bell-Cole	Suzanne Peterson



Youth Ministry @ St. Johns

For youth from 6th – 12th grades!

Save the Date:
Saturday, May 5, 2018

There will be a fundraiser event to benefit the Youth Missions Fund. The theme is yet to be determined but plan on an evening of good food and good fun.

Dinner Church

Dinner Church is a worship service based around the community fellowship of dinner. We will gather together for informal worship, prepare our dinner, eat together, and then clean up together – all as a community of faith. Dinner Church is open to everyone. Come hungry for the Bread of Life and for our common bread! No advance notice is required.



The service/meal is always held on a
Sunday evening from 6:00-8:00 PM.



Upcoming dates:
March 18 / April 22 / May 13

CROSS ROADS CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

Cross Roads is a welcoming, ecumenical retreat center and camp of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark and the NJ Synod of the ELCA. It is accredited with the American Camp Association and offers retreats/programs for people in all stages in life. It is located in beautiful northwestern New Jersey, about an hour west of Newark and 90 minutes north of Trenton. Cross Roads offers year-round rentals, year-round retreats, special events and Summer Camp. Learn more at CrossRoadsRetreat.com or ask Jane Bowman, Cross Roads CORE program volunteer for St. John's.

St. John's Summit Concert Series 2017—2018 Continues...



The Yale Spizzwinks
Sun, Mar 4th, 2018
3:00-6:00 PM

Sweet Honey In The Rock®
Sat, Jun 2nd, 2018
7:00-9:00 PM

Our new website, which is still accessible from our St. John 's website, is <https://www.sjscs.org/>.

Follow us on Facebook!
facebook.com/stjohnssummitconcertseries

ELCA Youth Gathering 2018

The 2018 Youth Gathering will be held
Wednesday, June 27th thru Sunday, July 1st, 2018
in Houston, TX.

We have registered and sent a deposit for three youth to go to Houston this summer for the Gathering. There is still time to register if you want to go.

Final deadline for registration is May 15, 2018.

Please get a registration application from Jane Bowman if you are planning on attending the 2018 Gathering.

This opportunity only happens once for most youth. It is a once in a lifetime event and not to be missed!

If your child has graduated 8th - 12th grade by the summer of 2018, he/she is eligible to attend the 2018 Gathering!

You can go online to learn more about the ELCA Youth Gathering: www.elca.org/gathering.

Blood Drive - Thank You!

Many thanks to all those who participated in the January blood drive. **We collected 49 units of blood** at a time when blood supplies are typically low. The next blood drive at St. John's will be in late June.



We will start our monthly ASP meetings/training sessions beginning in early February. Monthly meetings provide important information about the program and the area as well as opportunities for our youth and adults to get to know each other better and be introduced to basic home repair skills. There will be a Bible study which supports the annual theme (based on a Bible verse). Meetings try to combine fun and learning. Fundraisers help offset ASP costs and



reduce participants' responsibility.

Youth and new adult volunteers are required to attend. Make-up assignments will be available for meetings; however, there are no make-ups for missing the fundraiser(s). Attending meetings and participating in fundraisers helps youth and new adult volunteers earn credits toward the balance of the cost of the trip (\$250 -300). Returning college students will be asked to complete the theme training. Last year, attending each meeting and fundraiser was worth about \$25.

MEETING AND TRAINING SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	TOPIC	LOCATION
Friday, February 2, 2018	7:00 -9:30 PM	ASP Movie (Documentary) Night	Youth Lounge
Sunday, March 11, 2018	12:00 -2:00 PM	Rules, Regulations, Stewardship, Safety, Sensitivity Home Selection Exercise	Youth Lounge
Sunday, April 15, 2018	12:00 -2:00 PM	Theme Training	Hinman Hall
Saturday, May 5, 2018*	6:00 – 9:00 PM	Youth Missions Fundraiser (TBD)	Hinman Hall
Sundays in June 3, 10, 17, 24	8:30 – 10:30 AM 11:30 AM – 12:15 PM	Youth Stock Sale Fundraiser (volunteers sign-up for 1-2 shifts)	Narthex
Sunday, June 24, 2018	12:00 – 2:00 PM	Skills Workshop with Chris Black	Parking Lot

* Friday evening or Saturday morning/afternoon set-up may be required

Spaces for youth volunteers are still available. Please contact Laura Snyder at njsnyders5@verizon.net if your son or daughter, age 14 and over, is interested in attending this great service opportunity.

Yours in Christ, Laura Snyder, ASP Coordinator for St. John's

Did you know?

- Hudson Way Immersion School will be leaving St. John's as of June 30, 2018. We are in the process of looking for a new tenant to use the building.
- The final 2017 Mission Endowment gifts went to
 - \$500 to the Trozzo Ministries
 - \$2000 to United Lutheran Seminary
 - \$1565 to Community Food Bank of NJ
 - \$1000 to Salem Lutheran Church for water filters in Flint, MI
- The Summit Interfaith Council has been actively working with Mayor Nora Radest and Police Chief Robert Weck. Conversations for the future of Summit have been very promising – speak to one of our Pastors about them.
- The St. John's Visiting Professor Agreement is alive and well with the United Lutheran Seminary (formerly LTSP).
- You can make your donations to St. John's electronically. See the church office for details.
- If you are a Thrivent member you can opt to give your Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. John's. Go to <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice/> to learn more.
- If you are a Thrivent member, Thrivent will give members a \$250 gift card (twice a year) for your service projects. Go to <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-action-teams/> to learn more.
- Investors Bank in Summit offers rewards program to members. If you have an account with Investors Bank, see Janet Onnen about signing up to get \$\$ donated to St. Johns.

