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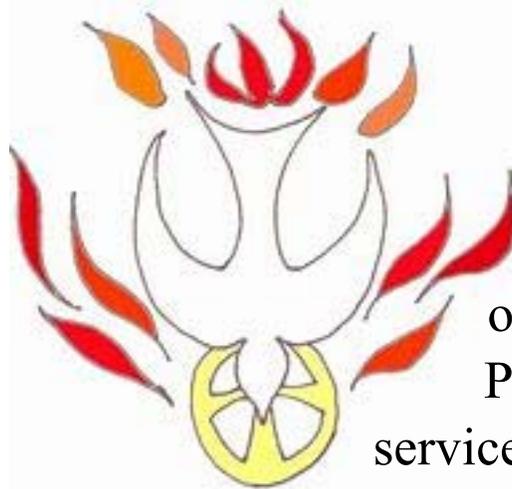
*The Eagle*  
*May-June-July 2018*

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

# PENTECOST

Come celebrate the Spirit among us and moving in us! Red geraniums will decorate the sanctuary—you may make a contribution with dedications in the Pentecost bulletins.

## Sunday



*A'nyla Jean*  
*Linnea Johansson*  
*Thomas Neiman*  
*Jardeen Nervais*  
*Riley Semler*

These youth will be presented in worship on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The Rite of Passage, a special prayer service for the youth and their families, will be held

Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Please pray for our confirmands, their families, and the whole church.

**Wear red!**

Also on Pentecost Sunday, we will confirm five youth.

## May 20<sup>th</sup>

# Confirmation



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



## From the Pastors' Desks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

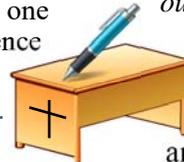
I think it is finally safe to say that spring is here, but it's surely been hard to tell. Temperatures and precipitation have fluctuated so much during the past few months that it's been hard to tell whether it's summer, spring or winter. In some respects, I think that's what church life has been like too!

During this Eastertide we have already experienced the new birth that spring brings and the declining vitality that signifies winter. If vitality is measured by congregational "spirit", I think we're alive and kicking, because joy at St. John's certainly does seem to abound. If it's measured by worship, I'd say we're pretty strong too. We are well fed in Word and Sacrament --- with inspiring music and (hopefully) good biblical preaching. If however, congregational vitality is measured in other ways, e.g., by spiritual maturity, participation in worship or on various ministry committees, or by our advocacy for those living in poverty

(and I mean advocacy, not care), then it becomes harder to say just how "vital" St. John's is.

For the past few years the ELCA has been developing a way to assist congregations in discerning what God is up to and how to respond to this ever-changing culture in which we live and serve. The Congregational Vitality Project is "helping congregations understand how they can answer God's call in new ways to connect new people with God, each other and the world for the sake of God's redeeming mission."

During the next year, our Congregation Council and other leaders will be exploring the Congregational Vitality project and how we might use it at St. John's. It is not a program seeking solutions to problems, but rather a project, a plan for assessing who we are and how we can make adaptive changes to strengthen our relationships with God; nurture our relationships with one another, and be a strong presence within our community.



We need your prayers, presence and participation as we begin to learn about and use the tools of this project. Read more about it on the ELCA's website <http://www.elca.org/Resources/Mission-Planning>.

As summer approaches and life (for some) takes on a slower and more recreational pace, I pray that your faith will continue to enrich you, uphold you, and inspire you for greater service to Christ and the world that God so dearly loves.

This prayer has always been one of my favorites, and I leave it with you in hope for our collective future:

*Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrod, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*Pastor Gladys*

What is the Church? We talk about going to church. About how people don't come to church like they once did. We talk about our church and the Lutheran Church. We have phrases like "Don't just go to church, be the church!" and songs like "The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a dwelling place the church is the people. I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together." But what is it?

The Church—and I intentionally used the uppercase letter because I am talking about the one, universal Church—is something we know intimately and yet often find nebulous to define. Scripture uses phrases like the "body of Christ," "the bride of Christ," "the assembly," and "the congregation." Clearly, one of the defining qualities of Church is people. Christianity is not a solitary sport.

Contrary to popular belief Christianity is not "just me and Jesus," and a walk in the woods (or out on the golf course) is not "your church." Church is people gathered together. Since that first Easter morning, Christians have been faithfully gathering every seven days, on Sunday, to remember the Resurrection and to reunite as members of the body of Christ.

Likewise, the Church serves and gives in Christ's name. We share of our time, talents, and treasures. All that we have to offer has been given as a gift from God. The world needs our hands, our feet, our words, and our skills. We serve in Jesus name and at his command. This is surely a mark of the Church.

Yet, any social club or community gathering is made up of people gathered together. Many social agency, community action groups,

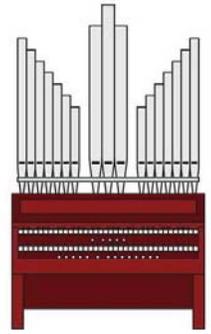
and civic organizations do lots of good service. But, the PTA, the Junior League, or the volunteer service club are not Church. It is worship that sets Church apart as the gathered assembly receiving Christ's gifts, giving thanks to God, and being sent to serve in Christ's name. In the *Augsburg Confession*, Article 7, we confess that the Church is the gathering of the saints where the Gospel is rightly taught and the Sacraments rightly administered. Word and Sacrament form us and make us Church. Together the body of Christ is bathed, fed, nourished, and sent—over and over. Week in and week out—together. And this Church shall last forever until Christ comes again. This is Christ's promise and this our hope.

See you dear Church *in church* as Christ's one Church!

*Pastor Blake*



## From Donna, Director of Music/Organist



### MUSIC NOTES

#### “Music is a Fair and Glorious Gift of God” (Martin Luther)

As we prepare to celebrate Music Sunday on June 3rd, recognizing the work of the Adult Choir, Lutherringers, Recorder Ensemble, Brass Ensemble, cantors, vocalists, and instrumentalists this past year, I encourage everyone to remember that serving in St. John’s music ministry is not about us; it’s about the One we worship and serve. Our worship, work, life, and ministry, including music ministry, is all about God and serving God. Our goal is to share our lives and talents in joyful stewardship and to give our best gifts in all aspects of life, because life is God’s gift to us. What we do with these gifts is our gift to God, and so we sing, play instruments, ring handbells, give thanks, express gratitude, and serve with joy. Thanks be to God!

#### Summer Music for 10:30 AM Worship

Cantors, liturgy instrumentalists, and singers/instrumentalists are all invited to share their gifts in leading worship this summer. Cantors will lead the singing of the Kyrie and Psalm; Liturgy instrumentalists will accompany the 10:30 AM liturgy, and singers and instrumentalists may offer music during the reception of gifts and Communion. One-Day Choirs and Bell Choirs will also be offered. Watch for more information and sign-up sheets in the near future.

#### “Now the feast & celebration, all of creation sings for joy...”

This popular liturgy will be sung during summer 10:30 AM services. It was commissioned by the Campus Ministry Department of Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, and was composed in 1990 by Marty Haugen, based on the Lutheran Communion Service. Haugen, a 1973 graduate of Luther College, is a liturgical composer, workshop presenter, performing and recording artist, and author from Eagan, Minnesota. Twenty of his hymns are included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, including many St. John’s favorites: “Soli Deo Gloria,” “Shepherd Me, O God,” “All Are Welcome,” “Healer of Our Every Ill,” “Gather Us In,” “By Your Hand You Feed Your People,” and “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn.”

#### 8:00 AM Summer Liturgy News

Worshippers at the 8:00 AM service this summer will welcome a new liturgy starting June 17th. Comprised of familiar elements, including the Celtic Alleluia, the liturgy will be easy to sing and will help us to lift our hearts in worship to God.

#### Hymns Old and New

Many well-loved and well-known hymns are planned for worship this summer to help us hear, reflect, and respond to God’s word through exuberant singing. In addition, a few new hymns will be introduced. One is *ELW* 690 “We Raise Our Hands to You, O Lord.” Written by Svein Ellingsen (b. 1929, a

Norwegian visual artist, poet, and hymn writer) and translated by Hedwig T. Durnbaugh (b. 1929, a translator of texts and hymns including “Seed that in Earth Is Dying”), the hymn is set to music by Trond Kverno (b. 1945, a Norwegian composer of church music).

“The hymn is framed by receiving God’s blessings and the grace of the new creation dwelling with us ‘in our earthly home.’ Within that frame healing the neighbor’s pain and seasonal change linked to grief and joy that bear hidden fruit are comprehended.” (*Hymnal Companion to Evangelical Lutheran Worship*).

Kverno has been instrumental in church music innovation and worship renewal in Norway since the 1970s. His compositions are among the finest and most frequently performed in Norway. Kverno says about church music: “The performer is the entire congregation where everyone sings, or where some sing while others pray. The congregation is also an instrument. The music resounds through the faith of the universal church as a sacrifice to the Holy Trinity. The goal is the congregation’s prayer, rather than aesthetic pleasure. The essential point is that the music hears us and interprets us before the throne of God, not that we hear the music. This is the fundamental assumption on which my work is based. I would liken my work to that of the painter of icons, where each icon is a window to a reality other than that which surrounds us.” (<http://www.listento.no/mic.nsf/doc/art2002100811064394499885/>)

#### Upcoming Concerts

Elsewhere in this newsletter is information about St. John’s Concert Series upcoming program: **Sweet Honey in the Rock on June 2**. In addition, the Summit Chorale, in which several St. John’s members sing, will be performing an 8 PM concert entitled *Psalms to Brahms* on May 12th at Christ Church in Short Hills. See Robin or Heinz Roth or Margaret Sherman for more information. The Caritas Chamber Chorale will be presenting a special concert at St. John’s on May 20th at 7 PM entitled *Yet I Will Rejoice!* It will feature the works of St. John’s member and former music director Wayne Dietterick. See Wayne for more information.

#### Music Sunday Celebration:

Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10:30 AM

#### One-Day Summer Choirs & Bell Choirs

Watch for dates and sign-up sheets at church!

Open to all!

#### 10:20 AM Hymn Sings:

July 8

August 12

#### 10:30 AM Summer Liturgy:

“Now the Feast and Celebration”



## Church Picnic

**Sunday, June 10**

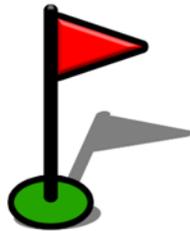
We will have our annual Church Picnic on June 10<sup>th</sup> after worship. This is always a wonderful and fun event.



## The Bishops' Cup

**Monday, June 11**

Calling all golfers! St. John's is putting together a foursome (or more than one) for the annual golf outing which is a major fundraiser for Cross Roads Camp. The event will be held at Copper Hill Country Club in Ringoes, NJ - includes buffet luncheon, dinner, and prizes. **Contact Penny Barth or Pastor Blake** for more information and to register.



## Blood Drive

**Sunday, June 24**

8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

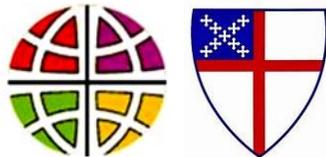
St. John's will be hosting a blood drive in Hinman Hall. Please consider making this life-saving contribution. Look for more information about signing up soon!



## Giant Church Picnic

**Sunday, August 19**

Let's all head to our Camp & Retreat Center for a fun day together with **Lutherans and Episcopalians from all over NJ!** This is the last day of the camp for the summer. Enjoy swimming, high ropes, camp games, walks in the woods, and fellowship. Arrive at 2 PM with closing worship at 6:30 PM, with dinner included. \$12 per person, maximum \$35 per family.



## Rummage Sale

**Friday & Saturday, July 13 & 14**

We will once again be holding our annual rummage sale at the church. Items may be brought to the church beginning Sunday, 7/8 through Wednesday, 7/11.

Clothes, books, kitchen items, small appliances, toys, knickknacks, furniture, decorations accepted. All items are donations and proceeds will go to support the Youth Missions Fund. Contact Jane Bowman for more information.



## Movie Nights - Mondays this Summer!

This summer's Monday night Movie Nights will focus on the role of women. Screenings begin at 7 PM. Join us for the film and discussion.



### 6/18 Hidden Figures (2016)

The story of the African-American women mathematicians that were crucial in early years of the NASA space program, fighting against gender and racial prejudice.

### 7/16 Thelma and Louise (1991)

A road trip of two best friends soon becomes the terrifying escape from attempted rape and murder in self-defense. A classic of feminist film.

### 7/30 Mona Lisa Smile (2003)

Set in the stringent 1950's world of upper class, white America, Wellesley girls are the brightest in the country but expected to become doting housewives until a free-thinking young art professor begins to question the assumptions of their world.

### 8/13 The Shape of Water (2017)

Best picture winner, this fantasy film wrestles with the destructive limits of prejudice and the beauty of love to overcome barriers.

### 8/27 Whale Rider (2002)

Set in New Zealand a young girl seeks to fulfill her destiny as tribal chief and heir of the whale rider, a destiny her grandfather refuses to accept since she is a girl.

# Parish Education



## Building Transitions

St. John's will be experiencing a major transition in the building this summer as we say goodbye to Hudson Way Immersion School and **welcome our new tenant, Jump Immersion School**. Hudson Way will vacate the building by June 30.

During July we will be painting, making repairs and getting ready for Jump Immersion. They will move in during August with 60 children and staff.

One of the changes we will experience is that we will reclaim the Youth Lounge and Nursery. Some minor repairs may be necessary, but we are looking forward to reimagining how we can use the Youth Lounge. The Nursery will be rearranged to better accommodate the Children's Chapel program on Sunday mornings.

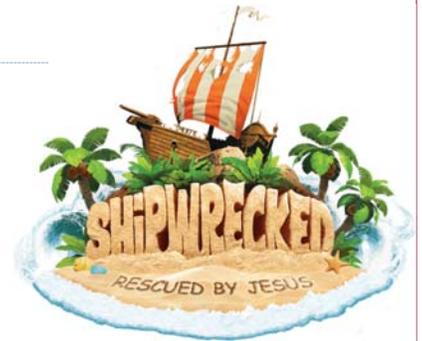
## Faith Formation for all

Parents and children in grades 1 - 6 have enjoyed a year of Bible stories, Psalms, singing and praying together as we learned together how to grow our faith. Through a variety of experiences and hands on learning we have explored parables of Jesus, our worship service and the arts, and Moses.

**Thank you!**

Thank you to all who helped this program be a valuable opportunity of growth, **especially Brett Tomlinson and Janet Kocotos**.

Register now for community VBS – “Shipwrecked”  
**At Central Presbyterian Church, Summit**  
*Mon July 30 - Fri August 3 from 8:30am to noon*  
Register at [centralpres.org](http://centralpres.org)



## Adult Study on Women and Justice

**Sundays, June 17, 24 & July 1**

Join us on Sunday mornings from 9:00 – 10:00am to read scripture through a Lutheran lens in a discussion of women and justice today. Pastor Moore will lead us through a draft statement being prepared by the ELCA as a teaching and policy document for the church as it engages contemporary social issues. We will look at specifically gender inequality, how media objectifies women, and human trafficking. We also hope to send feedback to the ELCA at the end of our discussions.



Our church library Lenten Read-a-thon was a great success. 75 books were checked out during Lent. **Congratulations to Nancy Bowman who read 30!** Through reading and sponsorship we were able to raise \$465 for ELCA's Good Gifts and purchase goats, pigs, honeybees, chicks, farm tools, and tree seedlings. Such generosity! Thank you all.

**Thank you!**

Please join our read to me program this summer. Pick up a folder, read some books and collect prizes as you read to your preschooler. Directions and folders will be in the library In June.

- Joy Petzinger



## 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

The sign-up sheet is in the back entrance hallway.

## Changes to Parish Register

### Baptisms

- Jack & Lila Thomas on March 31, 2018

### Affirmation of Baptism

- Zach Bowler on March 31, 2018

### New Communicants

- Sofia Battaglia, Jayden Cole, Sophia Cook, Liam Johnson, Grace Miller, Jack Thomas, Lila Thomas & Will Young on April 1, 2018
- Matthew Shannon on April 8, 2018

### Reception of New Members

- Tom, Carmen, Zach & Liam Johnson on April 1, 2018



## Thanksgiving and Memorial Fund

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



Joan Smedberg

*In memory of Carolyn Rothman's mother,  
Gladys Opolka*

Fred and Helen Maas  
11 Jade Lane  
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

*In memory of George and Doris Akerblom*

Bob and Jean Cook  
*In honor of Sophia Cook's 1st Communion*

Wayne Young  
*In honor of Will Young's 1st Communion*

## From the Finance Committee

### March 2018 Financial Summary

	Actual	Plan
YTD Income	\$180,176	\$155,000
YTD Expenses	\$157,245	\$165,352
Net Income	\$22,931	(\$10,352)
YTD World Hunger & Special Benevolence Giving: \$5,873		
Note: YTD Income includes some 2018 pledges received in full and does not include 2016 operating fund carryover.		

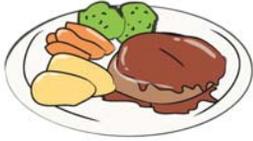
*...we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love...*



- Hudson Way Immersion School will be leaving St. John's as of June 30, 2018.
- JUMP Immersion School will start leasing with St. John's as of August 1, 2018.
- The NJ Synod Assembly will take place on May 11 & 12 in New Brunswick. Pastor Moore, Pastor Scalet and Jane Bowman will be attending for St. John's.
- The St. John's Church Picnic will be held on June 10th.
- 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 [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) 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 [Thrivent.com/actionteam](http://Thrivent.com/actionteam) 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.

## 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:

May 13 / June 24 / July 22 / August 26

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

### Sweet Honey In The Rock®

Sat, Jun 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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](https://facebook.com/stjohnssummitconcertseries)

## 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](http://CrossRoadsRetreat.com) or ask Jane Bowman, Cross Roads CORE program volunteer for St. John's.

Check out what Cross Roads has to offer at one of their Open Houses:

**Open House Dates    May 19, June 2**

Watch for info for a St. John's group to attend Cross Roads Giant Church Picnic on August 19.



## ELCA Youth Gathering 2018

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

We have registered and will be sending 4 youth to go to Houston this summer for the Gathering.

This gathering will bring together youth from across the country and the world. More than 30,000 Lutherans are expected to gather in Houston for fun, fellowship, service, learning, and faith formation.

The youth of the ELCA have been challenged to raise \$500,000 for ELCA Good Gifts and to collect books for Blast Off for Books. More information about supporting these efforts will be coming soon.

You can go online to learn more about the ELCA Youth Gathering: [www.elca.org/gathering](http://www.elca.org/gathering).

Check out how to make an offering to Gathering: [www.elca.org/YouthGathering/details/offerings](http://www.elca.org/YouthGathering/details/offerings)

## Stewardship for the Appalachian Service Project (ASP)

ASP was founded by Methodist minister Tex Evans in 1969 to address housing needs in Central Appalachia. Teams of youth with adult mentor/chaperones take one week in the summer to repair substandard housing amongst some of our poorest neighborhoods in KY, NC, TN, VA, and WV with the goal of making homes “warmer, safer, drier.” About 15,000 volunteers participate each summer. ASP has made improvements to homes in over 40 counties within Appalachia. ASP is not only a home repair ministry; it is also a relationship building ministry.



St. John's has been participating since 1999, sending 5 to 28 volunteers for one week in the summer. Over the years, St. John's has been blessed to have group leaders who bring years of experience as general contractors, engineers, and seasoned home repair specialists. Other adults attending have ranged in experience from none to moderate home repair. This year St. John's youth will participate in Week #6, July 16-22, 2018 (leaving St. John's on July 15, 2018). Youth must be 14 years old and have completed 8th grade at the time of the trip. Adults must undergo and pass background checks.

The basic cost to send each of St. John's volunteer to ASP is approximately \$500. You can be a steward of the ASP ministry by:

- Sponsoring a volunteer to attend
- Spreading the word to potential interested youth
- Volunteering to be an adult chaperone
- Or supporting one of the additional trip expenses which include:
  - ◊ Van rental and gas
  - ◊ Building supplies
  - ◊ Group meals
  - ◊ Ice cream runs
  - ◊ Offering for the local church

Help our Appalachian neighbors in need through your stewardship in supporting this ministry.

- St. John's Stewardship Committee

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## Youth Ministry @ St. Johns

For youth from 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades!

### Save the Dates:

Sun, May 6	Coffee Sale
Sun, June 3	Coffee Sale
Wed June 27 – Sun July 1	Youth attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX
Sun July 8	Coffee Sale
Fri/Sat July 13 & 14	Rummage Sale
Sat/Sat July 14 -21	Youth attend A.S.P. in North Carolina
Sun Aug 5	Coffee Sale





In July, St. John's Youth Missions will be traveling to Rutherfordton in Rutherford County, North Carolina for Appalachia Service Project. Rutherfordton, the county seat, sits at an elevation of about 929 feet in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Major employers in the area include the State of North Carolina, Rutherford County Schools, and the service industry. We will be staying at the Trinity Christian School, with whom ASP has collaborated for the last four summers.



### Quick Facts for Our 'Home' vs. Our ASP Destination

	Rutherfordton NC	Summit, NJ	Rutherford County, NC	Union County, NJ	North Carolina	New Jersey	USA
<b>Population, 7/2017 estimate</b>	4172 (2014)	22,019 (2016)	66,551	563,892	10,273,419	9,006,544,	325,719,178
<b>Percent of persons 65 years and older, 7/2016</b>	not available	12.0%	21.5%	13.6%	15.5%	15.3%	15.2%
<b>Percent of persons under 18 years, 7/2016</b>	na	28.6%	21.0%	23.6%	22.7%	22.2%	22.8%
<b>Foreign Born Persons, 2012-2016</b>	0.5%	22.7%	3.0%	27.9%	7.7%	21.8%	13.2%
<b>High school grads, % of persons age 25+, 2012-2016</b>	86.9%	93.9%	81.0%	85.8%	86.3%	88.9%	87.0%
<b>Bachelor's degree or higher, % of persons age 25+, 2012-2016</b>	25.0%	70.3%	16.7%	33.4%	29.0%	37.5%	30.3%
<b>Housing Units 7/2016</b>	na	8,190 (2010)	34,104	201,966	4,540,498	3,593,604	135,697,926
<b>Owner Occupied Housing 2011-2015</b>	na	71.8%	72.3%	58.8%	64.8%	64.1%	63.6%
<b>Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2012-2016</b>	\$132,857	\$822,000	\$107,600	\$347,500	\$157,100	\$316,400	\$184,700
<b>Median household income, 2012-2016</b>	\$41,060	\$136,491	\$36,144	\$70,476	\$48,256	\$73,702	\$55,322
<b>Persons below poverty level, %, 2012-2016</b>	21.5%	5.1%	18.6%	10.6%	15.4%	10.4%	12.7%
<b>Unemployment Rate 12/2017</b>	4.0%	5.2%	6.1%	5.0%	4.5%	5.0%	4.1%

Sources: US Census Quickfacts, 2017, City-Data.com, Bureau of Labor and Statistics, and Appalachia Service Project.

SEE MORE  NEWS ON THE NEXT PAGE 

**Appalachia**  
SERVICE PROJECT\*

## St. John's ASP Volunteers for 2018:



### Adults

Andrew Larson\* (14)  
Steve Neiman (4)  
Mark Shannon\* (15)  
Laura Snyder (4)

\* group leaders

(#) represents previous trips to ASP

### Youth

Luke Ertman (2)  
Sam Ertman (1)  
Michael Neiman (3)  
Thomas Neiman

Jardeen Nervais (1)  
Alex Noble (1)  
Nicola Paredes-Rupp (3)  
Courtney Rothman (5)  
Stephanie Rothman (5)

*Volunteers making a difference!*

Collectively, 13 of our 14 volunteers have made 58 previous trips to ASP!

## The ASP Stock Sale is Coming!

What is the ASP stock sale? Church members, family and friends may purchase "shares of stock in ASP." Proceeds from the stock sale will be used to offset expenses for our Youth Missions trip to Rutherford County, North Carolina.

**Dates:** June 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2018

**Times:** 8:45 - 10:30 AM (between the services)  
11:45 - 12:15 PM (after 10:30 AM service)

**Place:** St. John's Narthex

**Cost of Stock:** \$5 and up (in \$5 increments)

Please help support our youth in this worthwhile, often life-changing form of service to our neighbors in Central Appalachia.

Yours in Christ,

**Laura Snyder, ASP Coordinator**

*Congratulations*



*to our Graduates!*

**Grant Braden** will be graduating from Columbia High School and will be attending the Conservatory of Performing Arts, Point Park University, Pittsburgh, PA. to pursue a BFA in Dance, with a jazz concentration.

**David Colby**, graduating with a degree in Finance from The College of New Jersey. He will be employed by Lassus Wherley & Associates in New Providence.

**Emma Colby**, graduating from New Providence High School, will be attending Christopher Newport University in Newport News, VA. Her major is currently undecided.

**Rebecca Cristino** is graduating from Misericordia University with an undergraduate and Master's degree in Speech language Pathology, with field work at the Summit Speech School.

**Lauren Ertman** is graduating from Texas Christian University with a BS in Movement Science. After graduation, she will be applying to Doctorate of Physical Therapy programs.

**Kristen Miller** is graduating with a double major from Washington University in St. Louis with an AB degree in Religious Studies and Anthropology. She will be pursuing her Master's in Anthropology with an emphasis on the Middle East beginning in August at the University of Arizona.

**Dominique Paredes-Rupp**, graduating from George Washington University, majoring in International Affairs, going to work for the Peace Corps in Zambia.

**Nicola Paredes-Rupp**, graduating from New Providence High School, going to Northeastern University, majoring in Psychology.

**Julia Tarantino** is graduating from Colorado College.

**Aidan Wright** is graduating from West Morris Mendham High School. His plan is to defer his admission to Villanova for a year to play hockey.



## Dialogues Circles on Race: Conversations Worth Having

Once again the Summit Interfaith Council Anti-Racism Committee is offering opportunities to engage with members and friends of our Summit faith communities in important facilitated dialogues on race and racism.

On the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., our pastors joined our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Tracie



Bartholomew, and hundreds of other people of faith for the National Council of Churches in Christ "Act to End Racism" Rally on the Mall in Washington D.C. The ral-

ly encouraged faith communities to take seriously the significant uptick in race-related violence and to continue our efforts to dismantle systemic racism in our country.

Our Dialogue Circles on Race are now in their third year and have reached more than 300 participants, including more than a dozen of our St. John's members. If you have not joined a dialogue as yet, please consider doing so. It will be well worth it!

Five 2-Hour Group Sessions will be offered during the **weeks of May 13, 20, 27, June 3 & June 10th**. If you have participated previously, you are a candidate for the new "deeper dive" Dialogue 2.0 Groups. Use this link to register for either Dialogues 1.0 (beginners) or 2.0 (for previous participants). [antiracismcommittee.wufoo.com/forms/dialogue-circles-on-race-spring-2018/](http://antiracismcommittee.wufoo.com/forms/dialogue-circles-on-race-spring-2018/)

## Mission Endowment Fund

*The purpose of the St. John's Mission Endowment Fund (Endowment Fund) is to ensure that the mission and ministry of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in the name of Jesus Christ will continue, and that new ministries can be explored. This long term financial resource, above and beyond regular stewardship and budgeted benevolence, enables our Congregation, alone or joining with other congregations, to respond to missions and ministries that alleviate world hunger and poverty, support intercity congregations, provide resources for marginalized women and children, and to support many other programs.*

Thus far this year, the following grants have been given:

**\$1,000/ Friends of the Child Advocacy of Union County.** Friends of the CAC helps to pay for the mental evaluation at intake and psychological counseling for Union County abused children.

**\$1,000/ SAGE Eldercare Meals on Wheels.** Meals on Wheels Portable Pantry distributes non-perishable food supplies of soup, tuna fish, peanut butter, nutri-

tion bars, and crackers to food insecure seniors and to Meals On Wheels clients in inclement weather.

**\$2,500/ CrossRoads Camp & Retreat Center.**

CrossRoads is camp/retreat ministry of the NJ Synod and the Episcopal Diocese of Newark connecting people of many backgrounds with the message of the gospel and training to be church servant leaders.

**\$3,000/ Community FoodBank of NJ - Hillside, NJ.** The Community Food Bank of NJ serves over 1,000 food pantries, soup kitchens, and other charity partners throughout NJ. In New Jersey 1 out of 5 children are hungry and more than one million people are food insecure. This organization is able to leverage its cash donations by 10:1 to purchase meats and other foodstuffs not usually donated

If you are interested in submitting an application for a ministry or project near and dear to your heart, please see one of the pastors or Hans Calis.



## Pastoral Vacations & Continuing Education



**Pastor Gladys** will be gone from July 24-29 and August 2-10 on vacation. From August 11- September 12th for her Continuing Education, she will be

in Chiapas, Mexico for a 4 and a half week Spanish language immersion.



**Pastor Blake** will be at the Festival of Homiletics for Continuing Education from May 21 to May 24 and on vacation from June 4th to June 7.

