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The Eagle

Aug-Sep-Oct 2018

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

... *Christ* - the same yesterday, today, and

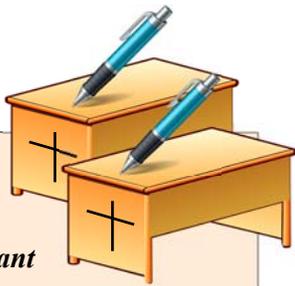
Forever...

9/16 Kick Off Sunday
10/21 Consecration Sunday
10/28 Reformation Sunday
11/4 All Saints' Sunday
11/18 Youth Sunday
11/18 Community Thanksgiving Service
11/25 Christ the King Sunday

...we followers of *Jesus* are
deeply rooted and grounded in *God's love*
through *Jesus, the Word made flesh,*
through worship, nourished by sacraments of grace,
so we might *share that love with the world!*



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



From the Pastors' Desks

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

Ephesians 3:16-17

This afternoon I went for a lovely hike on one of the many stunningly beautiful trails on Deer Isle, ME. The trail which leads to the water is filled with roots— roots that grow deep into the earth entwining around one another.

As I walked with my dear friends, this passage from St. Paul's letter to the Ephesian congregation came to mind. We also heard it in worship a few weeks ago, but it was the phrase,

These are changing times. In our congregation, denomination, and in the broader Church, our message and our mission remain the same in every age, but the means of which we express the gospel continues to

“rooted and grounded in love” that kept playing throughout my mental jukebox. I think it kept echoing because walking upon these roots reminded me that we followers of Jesus are indeed rooted and grounded in love.

We are rooted in God's love through Jesus, the Word made flesh; rooted and grounded through worship, nourished by sacraments of grace. We are deeply rooted in the love of God so we might share that love with the world!

Paul's prayer for the saints at Ephesus seems like a fitting benediction as I prepare to leave for four weeks and embark on my trip to Mexico. What an adventure it will be to be immersed in another culture, especially the ancient Mayan culture, learning a new language and visiting with family whom I have not seen in 19 years!

change. We have to evaluate how we communicate the work of the church, invite others to share in the ministry, and what words will move hearts with the message of Christ's gospel. Sometimes something that is good,

As I go, I do so with the assurance that being rooted and grounded in love, your prayers go with me, even as mine will be constant for you. I know that God has great things in store for us as we imagine new ways to reach out to our Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters in Summit and beyond.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

See you in September!
In Christ's Love,



Pastor Gladys

which has served us in the past and may serve us in the future, is set aside because it doesn't speak to the present time.

For the slaughter and violence done to your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever. On the day that you stood aside, on the day that strangers carried off his wealth, and foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem, you too were like one of them. But you should not have gloated over your brother on the day of his misfortune; you should not have rejoiced over the people of Judah on the day of their ruin; you should not have boasted on the day of distress. You should not have entered the gate of my people on the day of their calamity; you should not have joined in the gloating over Judah's disaster on the day of his calamity; you should not have looted his goods on the day of his calamity. You should not have stood at the crossings to cut off his fugitives; you should not have handed over his survivors on the day of distress. For the day of the Lord is near against all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head.

Did you recognize the previous scripture? No? It's from Obadiah. We don't read Obadiah in worship—ever. It's not in the lectionary for certain obvious reason—it is a diatribe against Edom and speaks extremely specifically of God's vindication for the Israelites. It's still scripture, we just don't find reading it regularly to be edifying to the Church today.

We produce this newsletter every quarter—we formerly produced it monthly—but it seems that it may no longer be a good means of communication in the present age. That does not mean it wasn't helpful in the past or that it may not be beneficial in the future. However, I wonder if it, like Obadiah, is something we should lay aside in this

present day. If you read all of this, come find me—I have a candy bar with your name on it, and I want to know you actually read this.

In the name of Christ—the same yesterday, today, and forever,



Pastor Blake



MUSIC NOTES from Donna, Director of Music/Organist

...breathe...

Choirs Return - Autumn is on the horizon, which means the return of St. John's choirs and ensembles is almost here! New and returning members are welcome in all of the choirs and ensembles. We have wonderful members but we also have room to grow. If you are a high school youth or adult, try the **Adult Choir**, which rehearses Wednesdays from 7:45-9:15 PM in the choir room. If you ring handbells or would like to learn, join the **Lutherringers** on Sundays from 12-1 PM in the choir loft. If you play (or played in school) a recorder, St. John's **Recorder Ensemble** is another possibility. This group rehearses Wednesdays, from 7:00-7:40 PM, usually in the choir room. **Kids Choir** is an option for children/youth in grades 2-8. See Donna Garzinsky for more info. St. John's offers a **brass ensemble** and various **chamber ensembles** for those who play brass, string, and/or woodwind instruments. A number of special services will be coming up this fall, so now would be a good time to express your interest in participating.



Grateful Thanks for St. John's Summer Musicians - We give thanks to God for our summer musicians, cantors, one-hour choirs, and summer liturgy instrumentalists for their gifts of worship music and leadership over the summer months! Christ's commandment to *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind"* (Matthew 22:37) applies year-round (and some might argue is most evident in our worship), and so even during the more relaxed summer months, our worship of God is blessed and enriched by these and all gifts offered by those who assist us in our worship.



Fall Rehearsals Start - Join us for the start of the fall music season!
Adult Choir (for adults and Gr. 9+ youth) begin Wednesday, September 5 @ 7:45 PM
Lutherringers (for adults and Gr. 4+ youth) begin Sunday, September 16 @ 12 PM
Recorder Ensemble (for adults and older youth) begin Wednesday, September 26 @ 7 PM

↑
PLEASE
RING
BELLS!



Kids Choir (for Gr. 2-8 children/youth), **Drum Ensemble**, and **Instrumental Ensembles**: Email dgarzinsky@stjohnssummit.org



World Drumming Comes to St. John's - Enjoy playing percussion or in drum circles? If so, something exciting is around the corner: we're looking for interested individuals to create a drum circle for fun and for possibly accompanying music in worship. The group will learn various African and Latin American ensembles, create our grooves, and have lots of fun in the process. If you have your own drum, even better! Email dgarzinsky@stjohnssummit.org for more info.

old...NEW!

Something Old, Something New in Our Liturgies - After worship on September 9, we will bid a fond farewell to our summer liturgies. **Sunday, September 16 we will begin singing two new/old liturgies. At 8 AM**, we will be singing a contemporary Caribbean song, ELW 172, "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!" for the Gospel Acclamation, ELW 190 "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord" from the Deutsche Messe by Franz Schubert (1797-1828), and the traditional Lamb of God to a new tune, Caithness. **At 10:30 AM**, we will be singing several movements from Schubert's Deutsche Messe (Kyrie; Holy, Holy; Lamb of God), a new hymn of praise-ELW 162, "Glory to God in the Highest" by David Hurd (b. 1960), the Gospel Acclamation-ELW 175, "Alleluia" by Jacques Berthier (1923-1994) of the Taizé community, and a new post-Communion canticle (to be revealed). Come early to worship on September 16 as we may need to rehearse a bit!

Singing as a Radical Act of Health (and Faith) - The best wisdom I learned at a continuing education course this summer was this (and it applies to everyone): "Sing a little every day. On good days, sing more than once!" This kind of singing helps to maintain our singing voice (and our spirits!). Our vocal folds atrophy if we don't use them regularly. So to keep "humming" along, the Rx is simple: sing every day (in the shower, in your car, at choir rehearsal, with friends, in worship, in the garden, out on the water, . . .), drink plenty of water, eat nutritious foods, get adequate rest, stretch,



breathe deeply, and go for a daily walk. What to sing? Sing your favorite songs and hymns—the ones you know by heart. (If you read this far, come see me for a special treat.)

Going Back to School in the Summer I was fortunate to be able to take two one-week continuing-ed. courses this summer. One was **World Music Drumming—Level 1**, and the other was **Choral Warm-Ups: Science and Pedagogy**. It was quite challenging to be immersed in such different and intensive subjects, but I believe the effort was well worth it. The choirs will benefit most from the Choral Warm-Ups experience, but everyone can benefit from one very basic concept I learned. Read about it in "Singing as a Radical Act of Health (and Faith).



World Music Drumming was originally created in 1996 by Dr. Will Schmid (a noted music professor/researcher and Luther College graduate) as a way to teach American youth African and Latin drumming and singing. The program has evolved and now involves people of all ages and abilities in communal music-making using the ensemble drumming and singing traditions of African and Latin-American cultures. Over the course of the week I experienced 7 different ensembles, including those from West Africa, Ghana, Latin America, and Belize, and hope to introduce a few of these at St. John's in worship and for fun. If you're interested in drumming, send me an email at dgarzinsky@stjohnssummit.org

Getting a "Handel" on St. John's Music - Back in June several volunteers and I started the process of reviewing and updating St. John's choral music reference binders. When finished, these binders will contain one copy of each of the choral anthems in St. John's library and will be housed in the music office. This tool will help me to find and (and ultimately choose) music within the library more easily. We hope to wrap up the project sometime this fall. Special thanks to **Joan Smedberg, Robin Roth, Carol Groote, Irma Gahan, Norma Engelhardt, Linda De Metro, and Pastor Blake Scalet** for their generous gifts of time, talent, and labor on this project!





ASP News, Fall, 2018

Our two teams made it back safely from Appalachia Service Project (July 14-21, 2018). Special thanks to our adult team leaders, **Mark Shannon** and **Andrew Larsen**, who lent their expertise to our work crews in order to complete some awesome projects for two families in Rutherford

County, North Carolina. Mark's crew worked for a pair of grandparents raising multiple grandchildren, and Andrew's crew worked for a single woman in her late 50s.

Our projects included:

- Finishing touches on new tin roofs for both families
- Replacing ceiling insulation, ceiling drywall, and wall sheetrock in a 22' x 10' room which had water damage
- Replacing and bringing up to code a 16' x 8' deck with new footings and stairs for a large trailer home

Nicola Paredes-Rupp shared these words about her experience with ASP: *"This was my fourth year on ASP, and the years have only gotten better. Throughout my four years I have learned humility, generosity, and have made so many incredible friendships with both my homeowners and the other churches attending. ASP never fails to remind me what purpose we serve on this earth and the joy we are meant to share with others through doing good."*

Special thanks to our ASP Stockholders for their generous donations. With their help, we raised \$1,290 which covered some of our expenses as well as allowed us to bring a \$500 donation to Rutherford County for additional ASP projects.

Our stockholders are:

<i>Jim & Ginny Bartsch</i>	<i>Karen & Peter Larsen</i>
<i>Chris & Pam Black</i>	<i>Susan Leelike</i>
<i>Bill & Nancy Bowman</i>	<i>The Medenica Family</i>
<i>Doris Boyd</i>	<i>Susan Montague</i>
<i>The Calis Family</i>	<i>Regina Neiman</i>
<i>Harold & Linda Clark</i>	<i>Janet Onnen</i>
<i>The Coble Family</i>	<i>Richard & Suzanne Peterson</i>
<i>Charles & Millie Connelly</i>	<i>Joy Petzinger</i>
<i>The Cristino Family</i>	<i>Bev Sharpe</i>
<i>Helen Dachowicz</i>	<i>Margaret Sherman</i>
<i>Irma Gahan</i>	<i>Joan Smedberg</i>
<i>The Goetke Family</i>	<i>Hedy Stark</i>
<i>Pattie Gould & Hasan Kararlioglu</i>	<i>Mary Lou Stevens</i>
<i>The Hering Family</i>	<i>Nancy Tennant</i>
<i>Bev & Michael Kaczmariski</i>	<i>Linda & Bill Walker</i>
	<i>The Young Family</i>

Summer, 2019 will be St. John's Youth Missions 20th trip with Appalachia Service Project. We will be returning to our usual week to volunteer, which is the first week of July (June 29 – July 6, 2019), so mark your calendars!! Since this will be our 20th year/trip, we hope to recruit our greatest number of youth volunteers yet. In addition, we may try to assemble an all adult team for a long weekend in the spring. Lastly, we hope to plan a reunion event around the Christmas holidays for all of our past and present volunteers and their families. Look for developing plans throughout the fall!

Yours in Christ,
Laura Snyder, ASP Coordinator

St. John's Goes Green!

We have become members of the **GreenFaith Circle** (www.greenfaith.org) and have lots of very exciting news! This is a note from your Green Faith Circle liaison, Laura L. Hughes (member of the Green Team here in Summit, NJ www.greensummitnj.org). **Becoming more "green" is easy and helps to conserve resources and save money.**

The great news is that we are already doing lots of "green" things here. Like what? **Our beautiful community garden** continues to produce veggies in such abundance that we are able to share our blessings with the good people of GRACE's Refrigerator (Giving and Receiving Assistance for our Community's Essentials) at Christ Church every Tuesday. We are working on **conserving a portion of our rain water** by using a rain barrel adjacent to the community garden. We are continuing our **recycling efforts** and hopeful to incorporate a **composting program** in the future. We are also looking into increasing our use of **reusable tableware** in our space.

What's next? Upcoming Events...mark your calendars!

SUNDAY 9/16: Potluck at Christ Church to kick off the bags to benches project

SATURDAY 9/22: We are working with GreenSummitNJ.org to hold a **"repair cafe"** from 1 to 4pm. You've seen the fliers up in church. Let's get some more volunteers and people bringing their items in need of help.

SUNDAY 9/23: Bags to Benches program begins (details to follow in upcoming bulletins): working with the Trex company and the GreenFaith Circle. <https://s7d4.scene7.com/is/content/Trex/trex-recycling-posterpdf.pdf>

SATURDAY 10/6: Free Market Day at the Summit Transfer Station (for Summit residents)

FRIDAY 10/12: The Film Society of Summit and GreenSummitNJ.org are hosting a **screening of "bag it"**. This film and discussion may help all of us understand how we can do our part to help sustain our environment.

SATURDAY 10/13: Free Market Day at the Summit Transfer Station (for Summit residents)

The "so what?" is that we can each make at least one small move toward being "greener" and together we can make a **big impact!**



Community Outreach Partners

If you are looking for an easy way to help St. John's, there are outreach programs available through **Thrivent Financial and Investors Bank** that can provide funds to help support our missions – at no cost to you. Thrivent Financial is a not-for-profit organization of Christians that guides its members to be wise with money, live generously and change lives. Investors Bank describes itself as “a community bank that cares” and is committed to improving life in the communities they serve. **Here are details about some of their programs through which you might be able to further support St. John's:**

➤ Thrivent Choice

Thrivent Choice is a charitable grant program that lets eligible Thrivent Financial members recommend where Thrivent should distribute some of its annual outreach funding. This program has provided more than \$370 million to help churches and other non-profit organizations since its introduction in 2010. Eligible members are allotted Choice Dollars based on the amount they pay in annual premiums or their total contract value for qualifying Thrivent products such as insurance. Through a very simple online process, Thrivent members can designate that their Choice Dollars be directed to St. John's, or any other non-profit organization that is enrolled with Thrivent. Thrivent clients must first register for online access to their account by setting up a user ID and password. Once logged on, there is a Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars option under the My Thrivent heading. The remaining steps are straightforward and only take a couple of minutes. Choice Dollars may also be directed to St. John's through a phone call. Choice Dollars are allotted to Thrivent members annually, so members must remember to direct them to St. John's each year.

➤ Thrivent Action Teams

Thrivent wants to help volunteers meet needs that they see in their communities. They have created their Thrivent Action Team program to help do this. Members of Thrivent Financial can complete an online Thrivent Action Team application for a one-time service activity, fundraiser or educational event. Once the application is approved, Thrivent sends a Thrivent Action Kit. In

addition to \$250 to help with your project, the kit can include planning resources and promotional items including t-shirts for volunteers. Thrivent members can complete an Action Team application once or twice per year, depending on eligibility. Only one Thrivent Action Kit can be provided for each project. Approved Thrivent Action Team applications have helped St. John's volunteers buy groceries for our Hospitality program, pay for food to prepare meals for Bridges, and pay for Appalachia Service Project travel expenses. There are many more projects that are part of St. John's missions that could be supported by Thrivent. The online application takes several minutes and there are St. John's members who will gladly walk you through the process. Please let us know if you are a Thrivent member and can help out with an Action Team application.

➤ Investors Bank Care2Share Program

Investors Bank is committed to making a difference for the customers and communities it serves through their Care2Share Program. **If you bank at Investors, you can link your personal checking or savings account to a non-profit organization.** That organization will receive .25% of your average monthly checking account balance or .15% of your average monthly savings account balance at no cost to you. St. John's Lutheran Church has enrolled in this program. To link your account to St. John's, simply complete the very short Investors Bank Care2Share Account Linking form. Blank forms and pamphlets about the Care2Share program are in the wall rack in the rear entry area. Blank forms can also be found on the Investors Bank website under the Community tab. Please help out by taking a completed form to Investors Bank if you have an account there. Remember, this is a free program. Participants do not need to be St. John's members so feel free to tell others about this program.

Please consider helping St. John's through these programs offered by Investors Bank and Thrivent if you can. Their resources can help us help our community. If we use these programs to their full advantage, they can help St. John's make big differences in the lives of others. **Please contact the church office if you would like more information about these programs or need some guidance in completing a form or application.**

Congratulations to Furniture Assist Volunteers

for being recipients of the New Jersey State GOVERNOR'S JEFFERSON AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE. The Jefferson Awards are the nation's oldest, and most prestigious, recognition program for volunteer public service, and are the recognition program of the United States Senate!

The award was presented at the Trenton War Memorial on Saturday June 2nd. This award category recognizes individuals who consistently perform acts of kindness towards neighbors in need, and through a series of simple good deeds have made a significant difference in the lives of others. Furniture Assist is a continuing project of **St. John's Social Ministry Committee**, and several members are regular volunteers.



The Eagle

2018-2019 Adult Forum Schedule

As in previous years, St. John's will be offering a number of adult forums to inform and inspire our faith. This year's forums will highlight our baptismal journey and the promises we make when we affirm our baptisms under the theme, "Baptized We Live".

SEPTEMBER 23 – "Live Among God's Faithful People" – *The Rev. Dr. Mark Oldenburg* is a former pastor of St. John's (1980-1984) and recently retired from United Lutheran Seminary where he served as Dean of the Chapel and Steck-Miller Professor of the Art of Worship at United Lutheran Seminary.

OCTOBER 14 – "Baptism Through the Ages" – *The Rev. Dr. J. Jayakaran Sebastian* is a Presbyterian of the Church of South India, and currently serves as Dean and H. George Anderson Professor of Mission and Cultures at the United Lutheran Seminary.

NOVEMBER 11 – "Strive for Justice and Peace in All the Earth" – *The Rev. Sara Lilja* serves as Director of the Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy Ministry of NJ Office, (LEAMNJ). Since coming to this work she has organized a statewide Multi-faith Advocacy Initiative and is the Chair of the Board of the Anti-Poverty Network.

JANUARY 20 – "Hear the Word of God and Share in the Lord's Supper" – *The Rev. Dr. Karoline M. Lewis* is this year's St. John's Visiting Professor at United Lutheran Seminary. Karoline is the Marbury E. Anderson Chair in Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary and previously taught at Candler School of Theology, Columbia Theological Seminary, and Augsburg College.

FEBRUARY 24 – "Faith Formation in God's Creation" – *Anthony Briggs, Executive Director, Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center*, is originally from NC and has worked professionally in Youth and Outdoor Ministries for 30 years.

MARCH 17 – "Serve All People Following the Example of Jesus" – *The Rev. Dr. Betty Adams* holds a Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale University and a Master of Divinity degree from Drew University. She will talk about her recent book, "Black Women's Christian Activism: Seeking Social Justice in a Northern Suburb."

Word of Thanks

This past June **Doris Boyd** retired as chair of the Altar Guild after many, many faithful years of service. **On behalf of the whole church, thank you Doris—well done, good and faithful servant of Christ!**

SEPTEMBER 16 – Celebration of Robert Cook's Ministry as Financial Secretary – For the past 20+ years Bob Cook has served faithfully as St. John's Financial Secretary, a very time-consuming and sometimes painstaking ministry. Please join us on Kick-Off Sunday as we begin our new program year and give thanks to God for Bob's ministry among us.

SEPTEMBER 30 - Altar Guild Training

All current and interested Altar Guild members are requested to come to a training/retraining at 9 AM on 9/30. Please make every effort to be present so that everyone is fully prepared to help in this important worship ministry.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13 – Fall Property Day

Come help us clean up and make minor repair to our facility. This helps us keep the building looking good and saves us from spending funds to hire contractors. Workers of all skill sets are welcome! The more people help the more projects we can complete. Come help out!

NOVEMBER 18, 5 PM - Community Thanksgiving Service

Our whole community joins in giving thanks for all the blessings of this life. Sponsored by the Summit Interfaith Council.

Christmas at Sea Program



Knitters from St. John's sent 42 hats, 6 scarfs and 6 goody bags to the Christmas at Sea Program at **The Seaman's Church Institute**. Thanks to **Linda and Bill Walker** for delivering our donations.

MONDAYS! Fall Movie Nights!

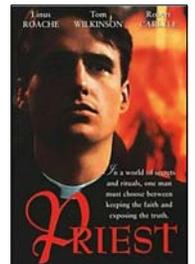
Join us for a movie and discussion. All screenings are at 7 PM.

9/17 Spotlight (2015) Winner of Oscar for Best Picture. This film recounts the true story of the Boston investigative news team who broke the story of massive clergy abuse and coverup by the Church.

10/29 Priest (1994) A young idyllic priest in a struggling congregation wrestles with strict adherence to his vows or trusting his heart.

11/12 Mrs. Miniver (1942) Winner of 6 Academy Awards. This wartime film chronicles the challenges and endurance of an English middle-class family during the bombing of Britain.

12/3 The Preacher's Wife (1996) Just in time for Christmas, this modern retelling of the classic "The Bishop's Wife" focuses on the challenges of one inner city pastor and his family—with special help from heaven above.



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: GIVING AT ST. JOHN'S

As we near the end of 2018 at St. John's we start looking at next year's church budget, both our expected receipts and expenses. Since many of us also do this from a personal perspective as we plan for 2019, this is a good time to review the various ways of giving to St. John's, with a focus on financial giving.

⇒ NEW! On-Line/Electronic Giving

In response to the changing times, please know **it is possible to make both recurring and one-time/occasional donations to St. John's by credit/debit card or by bank draft (electronic funds transfer, EFT) from a checking or savings account.** These on-line giving options are managed by Vanco Services, LLC, a financial technology services company specializing in secure electronic payment solutions for churches and not-for-profits.

To give electronically: Go to the St. John's home page (www.stjohnssummit.org). Click on "Giving" in the horizontal menu bar at the top, and then on the "Give Online" button. There you can "Create a Profile if you want to set up recurring payments or track your giving history throughout the year. If you have any questions or run into any problems, contact **Jim Bartsch** at jbar412921@aol.com.

⇒ Simply Giving®

Vanco Services LLC also manages the **Simply Giving®** program of Thrivent Financial, which St. John's has offered for many years, and which about 10-15% of our members currently use for automatic EFT fulfillment of regular (pledge) giving. In fact, the new e-giving options described above are simply an expansion of St. John's participation in Simply Giving. If you are a current Simply Giving user, you do not need to take any actions at this time; we will contact you directly about the additional options now available to you.

⇒ Checks and Cash

Rest assured that "the good old fashioned way" - with checks and cash - is still a fine way to give! Worship services at St. John's include the opportunity to make financial contributions; cash and checks are always welcome in the offering plates. We intend to continue to distribute traditional offering envelopes to all who want them. Contributions can also be sent by mail or dropped off at the church office during the week. Make checks payable to "St. John's Lutheran Church". If you are giving for a specific purpose, please note that in the memo line.

⇒ Stock transfer and/or proceeds from sales of stocks, etc.

These ways of giving are sometimes part of an individual's or family's ongoing annual financial/tax planning or can be part of estate planning. Although more typically used for major gifts to our endowment or to specific special fund appeals, some members also use these means to fulfill their annual pledges. Anyone with an interest in so doing should contact one of the Pastors or the Financial Secretary.

July 2018 Financial Summary		
	Actual	Plan
YTD Income *	\$354,234	\$361,667
YTD Expenses	\$358,240	\$367,929
YTD Net Income **	\$694	(\$1,562)
YTD World Hunger & Special Benevolence Giving: \$12,263		
*YTD Income includes some 2018 pledges received in full.		
**YTD Net Income includes 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...

Consecration Sunday: October 21, 2018

Each year at St. John's we hear about the wonderful ministries that God is doing

through us and recommit our time, talents and treasure to the continued work of God's mission in the world. Consecration Sunday is the day on which we invite you to bring the 2019 Pledge Card that you will receive

and commit once again to be God's servants through giving our time, talents and money.

"Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee; take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise."

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING - Thank You

The 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering was held June 27 – July 1 in Houston, Texas, and thanks to the generous support from members of St. John's, **Katie Hynes, A'Nyla Jean, Maddie Neal & Jardeen Nervais** along with **Pastor Scalet, Jane Bowman, Zach Bowman & Amy Hynes** were all able to attend and experience all the Gathering had to offer along with 30,000 of their closest Lutheran friends!!

Although the weather was just as hot as it was in New Jersey, the group still managed to:

- Hear speakers who talked of justice and grace,
- Listen, dance and sing to music by varied artists,

- Pick up trash along the streets in a neighborhood of Houston,
- Put on vestments and run relay races,
- Visit with Lutheran colleges & grad schools,
- Play in bouncy houses,
- Drive around in carpool karaoke, and
- Hang out with others from the NJ Synod!

It was a wonderful time and we couldn't have done it without your support. When you see these people in church, ask them about their trip and learn what they learned. You can also check out the photos on the Hinman Hall bulletin board.

The 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering will be in Minneapolis, MN. Will we see you there?





Join us for a new year of Faith Formation for children and Families

Faith Formation is on Sundays from 9:00 – 10:00 for children in 1st – 6th grade. We will gather in Hinman Hall to begin each

session with song and scripture that tells a story of God’s love for us. The children will explore the story in interactive ways and they will try a variety of multisensory activities often working together to create something new from everyday objects. At the end of each lesson they will receive a blessing and close in prayer.

Intergenerational Events

BAPTIZED WE LIVE – SUN, SEP 16 – 9:00 – 10:00

Blessings – Brunch – ‘Thanks’ for Bob Cook

Learn how to give and receive a blessing in your daily life. Each family will receive a blessing bowl and booklet of blessings to share with each other. Also:

- † **Visit our library** which is a blessing in our faith community;
- † **Take a tour of our education wing** to see our new tenant, Jump Immersion School, and the Youth Lounge newly refurbished into a multifunctional meeting room;
- † **Enjoy a tasty brunch and join us in giving thanks to Bob Cook** for his many years of faithful service as St. John’s Financial Secretary!

Welcome New Tenant – Jump Immersion School

On August 1 we welcomed our new tenant, Jump Immersion School, owned and operated by **Jackie Sanin**. She has three other locations in Edison, Scotch Plains and Livingston where children from ages 3 through 2nd grade learn either Spanish or Chinese in an education program. She has operated schools since 2003. She will be adding new playground equipment for the 45 children currently enrolled at St. John’s. We painted and spruced up the classrooms and hallways that Jump School will be using. Tours of the education wing will be offered during our Kick Off Sunday on September 16. A Grand Opening for Jump School is scheduled for Monday evening, October 8.

Bibles for St. John’s Children

Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds..... Teach them to your children. (Deuteronomy 11:18-19)

At every baptism our congregation promises to support and pray

for each child and family in the faith journey. To help keep this promise we will give a Spark Bible to parents to present to their pre-school child on Sunday, September 16 at the 10:30 worship service. A New Revised Standard Version Bible will be given to Third Graders on Sunday, October 7 at the 10:30 worship service.

Children’s Chapel Program

Our Children’s Chapel program will resume this Fall for our youngest members with some new fun activities being added to the curriculum. After the Children’s Message at the 10:30 worship service we will continue using the Frolic program from Augsburg Fortress where lesson plans will be provided as well as our Nursery Staff will be on hand to watch the children. This is a parent or member led 20 minute session to read stories, sing songs, play games and do arts and crafts to help our youngest members develop their faith. If you’re interested in leading one of these sessions please email or talk to **Colleen Bryson** (Colleen.Bryson@gmail.com).

Confirmation Updates

We begin another year of faith formation and exploration in confirmation ministry in September.

WEDNESDAY 9/12, 6:30 PM - Confirmation Orientation - ALL 7th, 8th, and 9th graders and their parents are invited to attend!

SATURDAY 9/15 - Confirmation Retreat at Cross Roads Camp

Sunday morning classes at 9 AM begin with **Kick Off Sunday**, 9/16. New this year will two sets of sessions that parents and adults of the church are encouraged to attend along with the confirmands to help promote intergenerational learning. Look for more updates to come!

Holy Land Pilgrimage



We are considering taking a group from St. John’s on a trip to Israel/Palestine. We are currently gauging feasibility. Tentative vision is for a trip in the winter or spring of 2020. For this to happen we have to begin planning now. **Come to an information**

session: Sunday 9/23 at 12 PM & Monday 9/24 at 7 PM to learn more! You may also speak to **Pastor Blake** for more details and share your interest.

Christmas In Liberia

For the past six years St. John’s has supported “Christmas in Liberia”, a wonderful social ministry program that provides clothing, school supplies and limited food items to children and youth in Liberia. The program was started by **Mary Lou Klein** and her Liberian friend **Precious**, so children there might receive gifts and experience some small sense of joy during the Christmas season.

This year we are shifting our focus to partnering with a Liberian Lutheran congregation, Redeemer Lutheran Church in Trenton, New Jersey. Building relationships with and learning about our Lutheran brothers and sisters who still have family members in Liberia, will enable us to have a much more hands-on approach to our ministry there.

To that end, St. John’s members are invited to visit Redeemer Lutheran Church on Reformation Sunday, October 28 at 3 PM for an opportunity to worship and fellowship together. **Pastors Moore and Kollison** hope that getting to know one another face-to-face will enable us to forge a strong partnership for the future. Please see **Pastor Gladys** if you’re interested in going to Redeemer, Trenton on October 28.



Did You Know...

- ◆ JUMP ! Immersion School began a new lease with St. John's on August 1, 2018. Jump! Immersion School's mission statement is: "To ensure children are linguistically, culturally and academically prepared to succeed in our global environment because together we are much stronger than apart." Learn more at www.jumpimmersion.com
- ◆ This year our own *Mary Lou Klein Community Garden* donated its produce to G.R.A.C.E.'s Refrigerator located at Christ Church, which provides fresh produce to food insecure households. GRACE (Giving and Receiving Assistance for our Community Essentials) is a program of the Junior League of Summit.
- ◆ St. John's (recent) Interns and what they are doing now...
2008-2009: Matt James – Director of Admissions @ Lutheran School of Theology Chicago
2009-2010: Fred Becker – Pastor @ Trinity Lutheran Church, Dover, NJ
2010-2011: Jim Ziebell – Reception and Mail Room Manager, Philadelphia Campus, United Lutheran Seminary
2011-2012: Brian Biery – Pastor @ Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Shrewsbury, PA
2012-2013: Blake Scalet – Pastor @ St. John's Lutheran Church, Summit, NJ
- ◆ You can make your donations to St. John's electronically. Contact the church office for details.



Dinner Church

Dinner Church is a worship service based around the community fellowship of dinner. We gather together for informal worship, eat dinner together, discuss the Gospel lesson for the day, clean up together, then share our dessert! Dinner Church is open to everyone, no advance notice is required. The service/meal is Sunday night from 6:00 – 8:00 PM.

Upcoming dates:

September 16 November 11
October 21 December 16

Council Highlights

Meeting Dates : Executive Committee @ 6:30 PM followed by Council @ 7:30 pm

- September 20
- October 18
- November 15
- December 13

Changes to Parish Register

Confirmation – May 20, 2018

- A'Nyla Jean, Linnea Johansson, Thomas Neiman, Jardeen Nervais and Riley Semler

Baptisms

- Blake & Chase Houston on June 10, 2018
- Renzo Burga on June 17, 2018

Transfer Out

- Carol Schmidt



Hinman Scholars Loan Fund Update

The Hinman Scholars Loan Fund was established to honor the **Reverend Dr. Willis S. Hinman and Erma Hinman**, who served St. John's Lutheran Church from 1930 to 1964. The purpose of the fund is to make loans available to members of the congregation to help continue their formal education after high school. These loans are interest-free with the understanding that they will be fully repaid within 5 years following the graduation of the recipient or when they are no longer attending college. Loans are limited to \$1,000 per student per academic year. There is currently \$17,400 of loans outstanding and the fund currently has approximately \$75,000 available to be loaned.

After discussion with the Administration and Finance Committee and the Executive Committee, the Congregation Council decided to change the Hinman Scholars Loan Fund to the Hinman Scholarship Fund. (Date of Approval 6/21/18) The changing needs of our youth and ever-increasing costs of a college education were the major reasons for this change.

The Hinman Scholarship Fund will be managed by a sub-committee of the Administration and Finance Committee and the Pastors. The maximum annual amount of money distributed will not exceed \$8,000 per calendar year and the recipient amount will not exceed \$1,000 per year. The potential recipients will complete an application along with a written summary of what St. John's has taught them that will help in their college or post graduate experience as well as a description of their church and community activities. There are no financial or GPA requirements. The recipients will be encouraged to make a charitable contribution to the fund in the future to make this benefit available to other members of St. John's. The recipients of current/ outstanding loans will be sent a letter explaining the change and their loan will now be reclassified as a scholarship.

For any questions please contact **Linda Mesenbrink** at Linda.mesenbrink@verizon.net. The application can be found at www.stjohnsummit.org/hinman-scholarship.

When to Contact the Pastors

Sometimes people wonder when they should call or contact the pastors. Here are some suggestions:

- When you are facing a serious family problem
- When there is illness or hospitalization
- When there is a death
- When a wedding is being planned
- When someone is interested in the church
- When you must make an important decision
- When you are unhappy about the church
- When you need someone to talk with in confidence
- When you celebrate the birth of a child
- When you are facing a spiritual struggle

This is not an exhaustive list but does give some idea about times when it's helpful to contact the pastors. Remember, as much as we'd like to do so, we're not mind-readers.



Anti-Racism Emphasis this Fall @ St. John's...

What is racism? A young girl said that racism is when people "judge you by your color and not by your actual self". Many of us believe that we are judged by our actual selves and not by our color, but it may surprise you that our brothers and sisters of color do not experience life the same way as our white brothers and sisters because of racism. Racism is pervasive throughout our actions, attitudes and institutions.

A group of members have been meeting for the past year to discuss racism, how it affects people and what we can do to make a difference. Some of us have participated in the Racial Dialogs and book discussions presented by the Summit Interfaith Council and wanted to do more to discuss this issue with our church family at St. John's.

As a result, this fall at St. John's, we will be presenting a multi-prong and multi-generational approach to learn about and discuss

the sin of racism. There will be a Temple Talk in **September**. We'll be sending out some articles from the National Geographic issue on Race and having small group discussions about them at church on Sunday mornings in September. In **October**, we'll be having a casual evening get-together for food and conversation. In **November**, we'll be reading and discussing a book on racism. For the youth, we'll be having a movie and discussion.

This is the beginning of an emphasis on what we can do as Christians to confront racism. **To quote Pastor Gladys, "the only -ism to overcome racism is baptism"**. We hope to continue this discussion in the spring and the future. Because unfortunately, racism is not going away, and we want to do what we can to stop it here.

Please join us for all or some of the events we are presenting. We are looking forward to being on this journey with you.

Youth Ministry @ St. John's Calendar of Events



9/2	Fair Trade Coffee Sale
Wednesday, 9/12	Confirmation Orientation
Saturday, 9/15	Confirmation Retreat @ CrossRoads
9/30	Fair Trade Coffee Sale
9/30 - 10/7	Volunteer to help with Family Promise!
10/21, 28	Youth & Adult Joint Class

11/4	Youth & Adult Joint Class
11/4	Fair Trade Coffee Sale
Saturday, 11/17	Bake Pumpkin Bread
11/18	Pumpkin Bread Sale
11/18	YOUTH SUNDAY
11/18	Summit Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service

Cross Roads Retreat Center

Cross Roads is OUR church camp/retreat center! It is the ecumenical retreat center for the **ELCA-New Jersey Synod** and the **Episcopal Diocese of Newark**. Cross Roads has programs for people in all stages of life. They are located in beautiful northwestern New Jersey and offer year round rentals, retreats, special events and Summer Camp! Learn more at CrossRoadsRetreat.com or ask **Jane Bowman**, Cross Roads CORE program volunteer for St. Johns, or **Pastor Blake Scalet**, Cross Roads board member.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 9	God's Work, Our Hands
Friday-Sunday, September 28-30	Women's Retreat
Friday-Sunday, October 5-7	RALLY for CrossRoads
Friday-Sunday, October 12-14	Women's Retreat #2
MON-WED, October 15-17	Music Makes Community
Friday-Sunday, January 4-6	Young Adults Retreat
Friday-Sunday, January 18-20	Family Weekend
Friday-Sunday, February 15-17	Elementary School Retreat (Grades 3 to 5)
Friday-Sunday, March 8-10	Middle School Retreat #1 (Grades 6 to 8)
Friday-Sunday, April 26-28	Middle School Retreat #2 (Grades 6 to 8)



New Jersey Synod BISHOP'S COW CHALLENGE 2018-2019



**The Bishop's Challenge:
Changing the World, One
Cow at a Time!**

Did you know that one dairy cow can produce as many as three gallons of milk each day? That nutritious, calcium-packed milk from a cow helps ensure that children in a family or a community can grow up healthy and strong. Extra milk can also be used to make cheese, yogurt, butter and other dairy products to eat and sell for a steady source of income. With food and funds—not to mention fertilizer for fields—a cow is a total package for a family which would otherwise face hunger.

Between now and the 2019 Synod Assembly, each congregation in the New Jersey Synod is invited to raise \$500, which is what the ELCA World Hunger Appeal spends to provide one cow through their Good Gifts program. Read on to learn more about the ELCA World Hunger and this special opportunity for your congregation to get involved! **Learn more at** <http://www.njsynod.org/bishopschallenge>.

