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The Eagle

Winter 2017-18

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

Advent Sale

SUNDAYS: Dec 3 - 10 - 17

In the Chapel

After both 8 and 10:30am services

Does what we buy at Christmas reflect our values as Christians? Are we spending our money in a way that reflects both our love and our mission to help others? This year's Advent Sale is once again an opportunity to buy unique items that at the same time support economic and social development at home and around the world.

The sale is a service to the congregation from our **Youth Ministry Committee** to provide fairly traded items that you might not be aware of or that might otherwise be difficult to find. Included will be coffees, teas and chocolates for your consumption and to give as gifts to others.

Items will be available from **Equal Exchange/LWR Coffee Project** and **SERRV International/LWR Handcraft Project**, who contract with artisans in developing or economically depressed regions around the world at fair prices, so that the purchase provides a living wage and supports community-building efforts such as schools. **All profits from the sale will be used to help the needs of the homeless in Summit.**

Decorate for Christmas!

SUN, Dec 17th and SUN, Dec 24th

Lunch will be provided!

Advent Lessons & Carols Sun, Dec 3rd, 2017 @ 10:30 AM

We herald the coming of the Messiah with:

- † Advent Hymns - old favorites and **new!**
- † Adult Choir Anthems
- † Recorder Ensemble Music

(See more inside on page 3)



SUN, Dec 17th - Caroling - 4:00 PM

Love to sing Christmas Carols? Come caroling with our intergenerational group! We will walk into town, caroling as we go and finishing at the Vito Gallo residence.

SUN, Dec 24th - Christmas Eve - 5:00 PM

Festive music will herald the celebration of Christ's birth, including The Kids Choir, Lutherringers, and Abby Miller—soloist, with professional brass quintet and timpanist offering an extended prelude.

SUN, Dec 24th - Christmas Eve - 10:00 PM

Festival Candlelight Communion Service. Traditional carols and festival music will be led by St. John's Adult Choir with professional brass quintet and timpanist offering an extended prelude.



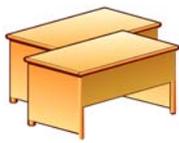
MON, Dec 25th - Christmas Day - 10:30 AM

A service of Communion to celebrate the birth of Christ. The congregation gathers to sing traditional Christmas carols and hear the Christmas story.

Each year at Christmas time, the generosity of our congregation is revealed once again. We trust that this year will be no different. **Your regular gifts, as well as your special Christmas offering, are important in our congregation's ability to keep our promises to all those who depend on us.** As we join in the angels' song celebrating the news of the coming Savior, we hope you will respond in love to the glory of God with a generous Christmas and year end offering.



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



From the Pastors' Desks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Advent will soon be upon us as we await the coming of our Savior both as a babe born in Bethlehem, and at the end of all the ages.

It was to a waiting and exiled people that the prophet Isaiah spoke these reassuring words:

“Comfort, O comfort my people”, says your God.

“Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid...”

Even though the people had not yet been freed from exile, they were still encouraged to put their hope in the God who would rescue them from captivity and return them to their homeland.

In these trying and troubling times in which we live, so many people around the world are suffering and waiting for relief. Whether the 65.3 million refugees fleeing war and oppression, or those grieving the loss of loved ones in continued and senseless mass shootings, or simply the elderly woman suffering in silence at home, waiting for relief can sometimes be so hard, so unbelievably hard.

The Advent season is upon us! Even though as a staff, we have been talking about getting ready for Christmas 2017 since at least May it still feels like it has come upon me by surprise.

And, maybe that's a good thing. Advent should surprise us. God shows up, breaks in, appears when and where we least expect it.

*Unexpected and mysterious is the gentle word of grace.
Ever-loving and sustaining is the peace of God's embrace.*

*In a momentary meeting of eternity and time,
Mary learned that she would carry both the mortal and divine.*

*We are called to ponder mystery and await the coming Christ,
To embody God's compassion for each fragile human life.
God is with us in our longing, to bring healing to the earth,
While we watch with joy and wonder for the promised Savior's birth.*

I need to hear these words this year. In truth, I think we all need to hear these words this year. We need to ponder with Mary this extraordinary message—God has come to dwell with us, as one of us. God in Jesus wears our flesh, and in doing so has raised our frail humanity.

All around us we see disregard for human life, human bodies. Every week, it seems, there is news of another shooting—bodies scattered dead. Daily there have been accounts of women and men whose bodies were assaulted and abused by others. We cannot turn our backs to the reality that in America black and brown

Yet in the midst of our waiting we proclaim One who is coming to bring hope to the hopeless, love to the loveless and peace to a broken planet and its peoples. It is this hoped-for One to whom we cling; it is this Savior about whom we sing.

Each year as Advent approaches, I get out my Advent wreath and prepare to begin my daily Advent devotions. This year, as I have done before, I will listen to Handel's *Messiah*, sing along with it, and reflect on these words, once again from the prophet Isaiah:

*“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

May the good news of the One who comes as Prince of Peace lighten your hearts. For this One has been born *for us* and given *to us* so we might share this joyous news with the world.

Waiting with you in hope,

Pastor Gladys

As part of Advent Lessons and Carols service this year we will introduce a new hymn, *ELW 258 “Unexpected and Mysterious.”* Written in 2002 by Jeannette M. Lindholm, it is a marvelous imagining of the annunciation—that meeting of the Angel Gabriel and the Virgin Mary.

Listen to some of the lines from the hymn:

bodies are worth less than white bodies. Children whose bodies ache with hunger. Aging bodies bent in pain. The incarnation calls us to weep for these bodies, to care for these bodies, and to cherish all human bodies.

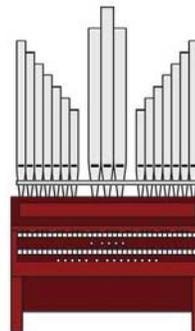
God is embodied in Jesus. God has entered our sorrows, our hopes, our joys. God is with us. How mysterious and unexpected and shocking and wonderful.

In Christ,

Pastor Blake



From Donna, Director of Music/Organist



ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

Sun, Dec. 3, 10:30 AM

- Music from across the centuries
- Congregational carols



Recorder Ensemble

Settings of the early Christian Advent chorale *Nun komm der heiden Heiland* by J. S. Bach and F. W. Zachow

Adult Choir

“Come Now, Savior of the Nations,” a mystical Michael Burkhardt anthem that combines *Nun komm der heiden Heiland* with the Korean Advent hymn *Osoo* (Come Now, O Prince of Peace)

“Dance and Sing, for the Lord Will be with Us,” a lively composition by Hal Hopson based on an Israeli-like folktune;

“Song of the Advents,” a beautiful setting by Russell Widmar-Schultz (Bio: <https://tinyurl.com/y6w3z2gg>)

“I Look from Afar,” a new and powerful setting by Richard Shephard of the medieval Advent Responsory text (Read his bio here: <https://tinyurl.com/ydqppn7>)

“Unexpected and Mysterious,” a new Advent hymn introduced by the choir:

*Unexpected and mysterious is the gentle Word of grace.
Ever-loving and sustaining is the peace of God's embrace...*

These are the beginning lines of ELW 258 that we will be learning this year in 10:30 AM worship. Written by acclaimed hymn writer Jeannette Lindholm (b. 1961), this hymn speaks to the unexpected and mysterious essence of Advent when prophesies of a Messiah, of the divine embodied in human form, were first proclaimed.

Based on Luke 1:26–56, the story of the Annunciation and Mary's response in the Magnificat, this hymn was premiered with orchestra at a Christmas concert of Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN in 2005. Her hymns have been published in several hymnals and hymnal supplements. (Bio: <https://tinyurl.com/yqc3fvc4>)

ADVENT-CHRISTMAS LITURGIES

- 8:00 AM services - Setting 4
- 10:30 AM & Christmas Eve services - Setting 1

CHRISTMAS EVE ANTHEM

The day after Christmas last year I heard online a choral setting of one of my favorite Christmas poems, Howard Thurman's "The Work of Christmas," and immediately wondered whether it was one we could offer at St. John's some Christmas. Well, if our efforts are blessed, worshippers at the 10 PM Christmas Eve service this year will hear it and hopefully find inspiration in its message.

For more about Howard Thurman, click on:

<https://tinyurl.com/4td3gnz>.

To hear Dan Forrest's musical setting, click on:

<https://tinyurl.com/ybcuyv3f>.

EVEN MORE MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES THIS SEASON!

- 1) **St. John's Brass-Wind Ensemble** invites intermediate & advanced-level brass instrumentalists and saxophonists/clarinetists to perform carols
 - **Mon, Dec 18th around 5:30 PM at the Vito Gallo residence,** and
 - **Sun, Dec 24th, Christmas Eve at the 5:00 PM service here at St. John's** to greet worshippers.

2) Extra Ringers for Christmas Eve

3) **Youth Sunday Musicians: January 28** (See blurb below.)

LITURGIES IN THE NEW YEAR: SEASON AFTER EPIPHANY

8:00 AM worshippers will enjoy a new liturgy, which includes ELW 172 (Gospel Acclamation) and 190 (Holy, Holy), and a new tune for the "Lamb of God."

10:30 AM worshippers will sing Setting 6 along with ELW 200 for the post-Communion canticle. The offering hymn will be "Offertory," a hymn written by former pastor Mark Oldenburg and former music director Wayne Dietterick.

YOUTH SUNDAY: JANUARY 28, 2018

Calling all Youth Musicians! Youth Sunday has moved from November to the end of January. Save January 28th and be thinking about what music you might like to offer in worship.

Needed:

- Singers - Instrumentalists - Preachers - Readers
- Worship Leaders - Ushers - Other Helpers

AND

Youth pianists who might like to try the organ should contact me ASAP.

We Are Looking for New Council Members

At our **Annual Congregational Meeting on February 11th**, we will elect

† **Three adults** to three-year terms, and

† **Two youths** to one-year terms



to serve as members of our **Congregation Council**, the leadership and governing body of the congregation. Our Nominating Committee is beginning to identify active

members of the congregation who would be good candidates to serve.

A Council Member:

† Worships regularly;

† Participates in St. John's annual stewardship campaign, pledging time, talent and treasure;

† Is a positive member of our congregation;

† Shares his/her gifts, leadership, passion, and thoughts;

† Is a voice for our congregation and provides feedback to the council about what is heard;

† Serves as a liaison to one of our ministry team/committees.

If you think you might be interested in standing for election to our Congregation Council, please speak with Pastor Gladys or Pastor Blake.

Help Wanted

Our **Property Committee** is looking for a new member to chair the committee. No building expertise needed, just good organizing skills!



Time commitment includes:

† Two or three hours per month to attend meetings;

† Time to make follow up phone calls and emails.

Benefits include:

† Increased understanding of how things work to support our parish facilities;

† Gratitude from other committee members; and

† Priority selection of tasks at our semi-annual work days.

Please speak with Chris Black, and thank you for your consideration!



As the holiday season approaches, we've all got so much on our plates. As you plan out your December, we'd like to ask that you **consider setting aside a few hours on Saturday, December 23rd (10:00 to 1:00)** to help individuals in need.

We'll be bringing lunches and goodwill to folks in Newark through our collaboration with **Bridges Outreach**, a nonprofit based in Summit (see website address below for more information about Bridges).

We'll be gathering at Bridges' offices at 120 Morris Ave. at 10:00, and will then travel to Newark where we'll hand out meals on Edison Place, near the Prudential Center. We will likely be back at St. John's between 12-1:00.

If you're interested, please sign up at the church or just email me at hynesaw@msn.com.



From our Evangelism Committee

Our Facebook Advent Calendar returns on Sun, Dec 3rd. View daily photos from the year at St. John's and read scripture as we prepare for the coming of Christ.

Follow along at

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit/>.

Saint John's **Advent Calendar**

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News From Your Church Library

Winter is a wonderful time to engage in some serious reading. Here are some recent additions to the library which will both inform and entertain.



- 👉 **Hallelujah Anyway!** - Anne Lamont's latest piece of personal wisdom
- 👉 **A History of Christian Music** - Just published by Augsburg/Fortress - interesting pictures and readable text
- 👉 **Notes of a Native Son Essays** - by James Baldwin
- 👉 **Making Sense of Martin Luther** - The newest in the series by David Lose
- 👉 **Cross Vision** - A pastor's attempt to explain violence in the Old Testament

Look for these on the library shelves or the kiosk.

- Joy Petzinger

Social Ministry Committee

Coats, scarves and gloves we donated in October to the Market Street Mission in Morristown for its annual Coat Giveaway.

Decorate for Christmas!

SUN, Dec 17th and SUN, Dec 24th



Help decorate the church for Christmas immediately following the 10:30 services! We have **trees** to decorate, **greens** to hang, **lights** to put up, and **nativity displays** to arrange. Lunch will be provided.

Donations for Decorations



Year after year St. John's decorates our church for Christmas and it looks beautiful! This year will be no exception. However, when you add up the cost of trees, wreaths, poinsettias, candles, luminaria, etc. the expense can be great. Please consider making a donation for chancel decorations for the Christmas season. All gifts will be gratefully received with recommended donations from \$25-\$100.

Stewardship for Hunger Ministry at St. John's

We are specifically and directly called by Jesus to feed the hungry, and at St. John's we respond to this call in a variety of ways, both locally and globally.

Our annual pledged contributions to the World Hunger Appeal enables the ELCA to address hunger related issues around the globe. It is a tribute to the commitment of St. John's members to end hunger that our annual contribution is one of the largest among Lutheran churches in the state and in the country.

Our youth collect contributions on Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, and donate them to Community FoodBank of NJ. Some St. John's members have worked at the Community FoodBank of NJ, which is a hands-on approach to relieving hunger. This also raises our awareness of the issue, hopefully leading to further action.



We are also kept aware of the ongoing needs by collecting food for donation during the offering at our services every Sunday. It is good to keep hunger front and center to remind us of Jesus's command to love our neighbor; which includes those in dire need.

There are many ways you can and do help to eliminate hunger including:

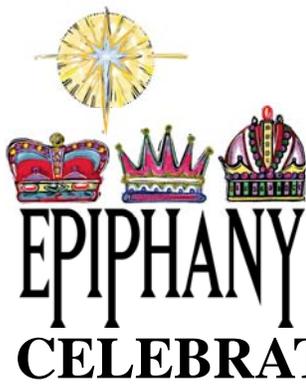
- 👉 Make a donation or regular donations to World Hunger
- 👉 Attend one of St. John's trips to the local food bank or volunteer on your own
- 👉 Bring food for our weekly collection during the offering
- 👉 Volunteer to make Bridges lunches for the hungry in our area

Thanks to all at St. John's who support eliminating hunger on a community, state, national and global level!

- Bill Walker



Once again, we are gearing up for our **Holiday Gift Program** to benefit the children and patrons of Lutheran Social Ministry's New Jersey programs. Needed items include sweatshirts, sweatpants, pajama bottoms, sizes S, M, L, and XL, light weight or heavy weight, Shop-Rite or Walmart gift cards, and games and craft items for Lutheran Haven's residents with mental health needs. We will also be filling 35 gift bags with items for seniors. You will find info and sign-up sheets in the Narthex. Items need to be returned to St. John's unwrapped by **Sun, Dec 10th**.



Worship, Work, Dinner & Fun FRI, Jan 5, 2018 @ 6:00 PM

Fun, food and fellowship will usher in the Epiphany season. Join us for a potluck supper with King's cake. Learn about chalking your doorframe with the initials of the Three Wise Men and the new year and wear a crown. Then we will all help to un-decorate the church.

Faith Formation (Parish Education)

January Faith Formation for children in Kindergarten to 6th grade with parents will engage in a variety of activities as we explore "Worship and the Arts". We will learn how music, dance and visual arts have enhanced worship in the past and today.

Each Sunday we will contribute to a banner/coloring project, learn to sing in rounds or a canon, explore percussion instruments and body rhythms that can

enliven our music. Join us each Sunday as we Praise the Lord in new and creative ways.

February begins our Lenten season for Faith Formation. On Sun, Feb 18th we will gather to begin our Lenten journey by learning about prayer. Prayer can be an opportunity to listen and share with God our needs, our hopes and our thanks. At this program we will learn about ancient prayer practices and interactive prayers that can be used at home during Lent as a personal or family devotion.



Property Committee Work Day 10/14/17



On behalf of the congregation, our **Property Committee** would like to thank the members who came and helped whittle down the to-do list at our semi-annual Work Day on Saturday, October 14.

Projects included:

- Clearing out the community garden
- Spreading mulch in the Memorial Garden
- Fountain maintenance in the Memorial Garden
- Clearing excess materials stored in boiler room
- Cleaning boiler room
- Painting clearance lines on boiler room floor
- Repairing storage doors by HWIS play area
- Installing CO detectors in Adult Lounge and Hinman Hall
- Pruning and outdoor cleanup
- Cleaning kitchen, including grease filters in range hood
- Cleaning gutters, pews, office light fixtures
- Working on wiring for sound system.

Helping with Saturday's task list were Karen Riordan, Jama Bowman, Helen Dachowicz, Liz Holler, Mike Goetke, Joy Petzinger, Hans Calis, Andrew Larsen, Mark Nedde, R.J. Klein, Chris Black.

Next work day is scheduled for **Saturday, April 14, 2018**. Why not put it on your calendar now?

Prepare the Way



Advent 1 – Sun, Dec 3rd – 9:00-5 A

Join us in Hinman Hall as we "Prepare the Way" for the coming of the Christ Child. We will all gather for song and scripture readings that set the stage for the Baby Jesus. Advent devotional materials for ALL ages will be available.

Then we will have opportunities to make Advent angels, Advent wreaths, and Advent chains. Families with small children will be able to paint or decorate a small wooden nativity for preschoolers. A seasonal coffee hour with stollen, speculas cookies, clementine oranges and gingerbread will highlight the coffee hour.

Helping the Homeless

We are asking for the listed items to assemble 200 bag lunches for **Bridges** for Dec 23rd. **We will assemble the non-perishable items in decorated lunch bags on Sun, Dec 19th** as a Faith Formation service project.

Sandwiches will be made and wrapped on Fri, Dec 22nd -- items needed are:

- Small bottles of water or juice boxes
- Snack bags of chips, cheetos, cheese its or pretzels
- Granola bars or Nutrigrain bars
- Chewing gum
- Fruit cups
- Prepackaged cookies or crackers
- Lunch bags, napkins, plastic spoons

Youth Ministry @ St. Johns

Youth Ministry at St. Johns is for youth from 6th – 12th grades.

Scheduled Events:

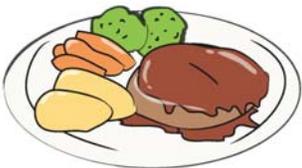
Advent Sale	SUN Dec 3, 10, 17
Bowling Night	SAT Jan 13, 2018
Youth Sunday	SUN Jan 28, 2018
Coffee Sale	SUN Feb 4, 2018
Souper Bowl of Caring	SUN Feb 4, 2018

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 – 8 PM.



Upcoming dates:
December 10, 2017
January 21, 2018
February 18, 2018

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.

Blood Drive

Saturday, January 20, 2018
9:00 AM--3:00 PM
Hinman Hall

St. John's Summit Concert Series 2017—2018

Saint
John's
Summit
Concert Series

Peter Yarrow
(of Peter, Paul and Mary)
Fri, Nov 17th, 2017
7 PM - 10 PM

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

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

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

Follow us on Facebook!

[facebook.com/stjohnssummitconcertseries](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnssummitconcertseries)

ELCA Youth Gathering 2018

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."
Ephesians 2:8

This Changes Everything!
God's grace is an amazing gift—
it truly changes everything!

It's time to start preparing for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering! Every three years, 30,000+ high school youth and their adult leaders gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service, and fellowship, young people grow in faith. This amazing event challenges and inspires our young people to live their faith in their daily lives.

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

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!

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

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

Feb 4th : 2018 Budget Review Forum



Come join us as our Administration and Finance Committee presents the proposed 2018 Ministry Spending Plan. Learn about how St. John's intends to respond to God's call to make disciples and meet the needs of a hurting world longing for healing and hope.

2018 Pledge Update

To date, we have received 71 pledges totaling \$326,850 out of our needed minimum of \$450,000 for the coming year. If you have not yet submitted a pledge card, please do so now. And if you have not yet fulfilled your annual pledge, do your best to complete it before year's end. Thank you for your continued support of God's mission through the ministries of St. John's.



AND, a **note from the Tellers and Financial Secretary:** When using the Sunday offering plates for giving "over and above" gifts beyond your pledge, or if paying your pledge but not using an envelope: Please make sure to include the designation (purpose) in the memo space on the check, as well as your phone number or e-mail address if not already printed on the check. Alternatively, please use one of the pew envelopes and provide the corresponding information. This will ensure that your donation is properly credited to the proper account.

September 2017 Financial Summary

	Actual	Plan
YTD Income	\$437,565	\$476,850
YTD Expenses	\$429,044	\$463,571
Net Income	\$8,521	\$13,279
YTD World Hunger & Special Benevolence Giving: \$11,151		

October 2017 Financial Summary

	Actual	Plan
YTD Income	\$500,783	\$529,833
YTD Expenses	\$475,634	\$514,529
YTD Net Income	\$25,149	\$15,304
YTD World Hunger & Special Benevolence Giving: \$12,861		

Sun, Feb 11, 2018



ONE SERVICE
at 9:30 AM

ANNUAL

CONGREGATIONAL

MEETING

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR CONFIRMATION !!

Upcoming Forums 9:00 AM in Hinman Hall



December 17th - We welcome back our own **Katie Sharpe** whose subject will be "The Opioid Crisis in New Jersey".



January 14th - Come meet **Assistant to the Bishop, the Rev. Kimberly Vaughn** who will preach at both services and engage us in conversation about our need to continue reaching out to our increasingly diverse Summit community and world.

March 11th - Lutheran World Relief: What is it and what do they do? We welcome **Beth McKinley, Regional Representative and Donor Advisor for Lutheran World Relief** who will speak with us about the important work of LWR.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Appalachia Service Project News

St. John's is already making preparations to send its 19th group to Appalachia Service Project (ASP)! Appalachia Service Project is a nearly 50 year old Christian ministry started by Methodist minister "Tex" Evans in order to address substandard housing in Central Appalachia. The goal of ASP is to make homes "warmer, safer, drier" for our less fortunate neighbors living in some of the poorest counties in the United States.

In 2018, we are scheduled to go to ASP in North Carolina for Week #6:

Sun, July 15th → Sat July 21st, 2018
Leaving St. John's Sat, July 14th

Currently, we have commitments from six youth and six adults, but it is not too late to get involved! We would welcome additional youth to participate in ASP. Here are the main requirements:

- 1) Youth must be at least 14 years old and must have completed 8th grade by the time of the trip.
- 2) Participants must abide by the rules and regulations of ASP regarding dress codes, conduct, confidentiality, and safety.
- 3) All St. John's ASP participants will make themselves available for monthly meetings and/or training sessions plus a couple of fundraisers, January through June 2018.
- 4) Volunteers are asked to give a \$250 commitment to hold their place on an ASP team *. Youth and first year adults will have an opportunity to "earn" the rest of their program cost (another \$250-300) through attendance at and participation in training meetings and fundraising events.



* Scholarships are available for those who may need financial assistance. Please see one of the pastors or Laura Snyder for assistance.

Checks, made payable to St. John's (ASP on memo line) are due to Laura Snyder by Friday, Dec 1, 2017 via the ASP mailbox in the church office.

Please let Laura Snyder know of your interest and/or questions by emailing her at njsnyders5@verizon.net or calling her at 973-895-2997.

Yours in Christ,
Laura Snyder

Sunday Morning Fellowship/Coffee Time Volunteers Needed "Bite Sized" Tasks for One and All!

Have you been enjoying the extended fellowship times before, during, and after Sunday services and education hour?

A growing - but still small - pool of volunteers (Thank You!!!) has been making possible these opportunities to gather in conversations with others in the St. John's family while also enjoying a "cuppa" and light refreshments.

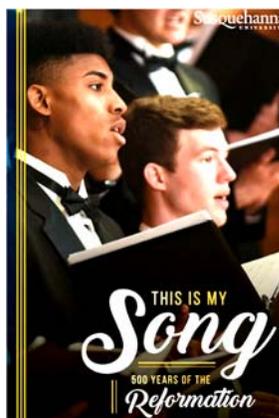
Can you add your hands to this effort?

There are many different ways to contribute, from providing food items to helping with set-up, serving, or clean-up.

Food items can be home-made or store-bought and simply dropped off in the kitchen. Tasks of set-up, serving, or clean-up occur in separate short tours of duty throughout Sunday morning. Instructions are provided. (And btw, you don't have to make the coffee, and you don't have to wash the pots!)

Please consider signing up for one or more of these "bite-sized" tasks on one or more Sundays.

There is a sign-up sheet in narthex. An on-line option is also in the works. Meanwhile, you can simply contact Linda Clark (njclarks@gmail.com, 908-512-7970) or the Church Office with your questions or to volunteer.



Dec 1st DVDs from Susquehanna U.

Two new DVDs are being released on Dec 1st by Susquehanna University, which will include several SU-commissioned musical works for choir and orchestra written by Wayne Dietterick. His arrangement of "O God, Beyond All Praising" is included in the Christmas DVD, and three Reformation-oriented hymn arrangements are included in "This Is My Song":

- From Heave} Above
- Lord Keep Us Steadfast
- Christ Is Arisen

The Christmas DVD celebrates the 50th anniversary of SU's first Candlelight Service, and the other marks the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation. Both can be ordered online at <https://www.susqu.edu/music-dvds>.

God's Work, Our Hands (Literally!): Knitting, Crocheting & Stitching for Others



Heartfelt thanks to the members and friends of St. John's who knit, crochet, and stitch year-round for "Christmas at Sea", the oldest and best known component of the **Seamen's Church Institute's** (SCI) ministries of education, hospitality, and advocacy for

merchant mariners of all faiths and nationalities working at sea and on North American inland waterways (<http://seamenschurch.org>).

We have already filled four (4) large shopping bags to overflowing with hand-fashioned hats, scarves, and ditty bags, and more items are coming in weekly. However, there is still time to contribute to this worthy effort, for the 2017 distribution to merchant mariners working far away from home, out on the water, in the cold winter months.

In fact, with the retirement and relocation of some of our most faithful and prolific volunteers, we encourage you to consider contributing to this worthwhile endeavor, which St. Johns has been supporting for over 25 years. There are several ways to help:



New needle-workers are always welcomed!

All that is required is to use only specified materials and to follow the patterns that SCI has designed to meet the unique work environments of mariners and the safety regulations for clothing worn on board. Yarn for projects is available for the taking in the church office (labeled drawers under the front counter), where you can also drop off finished items. If you prefer to purchase your own yarn – or donate some for other St John's members to use, you can find specifications at <http://seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea>. Knitting lessons/refreshers and assistance with patterns can also be arranged.



Not a needle-worker but would like to help?

Donations of money enable us to purchase yarn in quantity when on sale. You can also help by donating phone cards, wrapped hard candies, lip balm, hand cream, and other items highly valued by merchant seamen, for distribution in the Christmas at Sea ditty bags.



Interested in visiting SCI's operations in

Port Newark when we deliver our items? Perhaps helping to pack ditty bags? We will be making one or more trips in Nov/Dec, and it would be fun to make it a group activity!

For more information about any of these opportunities, contact Linda Clark (njclarks@gmail.com) or Linda Walker (wk154linda@gmail.com).



Thanksgiving and Memorial Fund

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

- Irma and Kevin Gahan, in honor of the marriage of Kurt Gahan and Steve Williams

Office Hours in the New Year

Beginning in January 2018, the new, regular Church Office schedule will be as follows:

Mon:	OFFICE CLOSED
Tue - Wed - Thu:	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Fri:	10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

As you're aware, St. John's has been in a new office configuration for several months, with Carolyn Rothman, our Church Administrator, working part-time Tue-Fri as indicated above, with a few members having stepped up to cover Mondays. But it is unfair to leave this ministry to just a few folks. Thus, the schedule above will become permanently effective in January, with the office closed on Mondays. Thank you to those Monday volunteers who helped out in the past!

Changes to Parish Register

Baptism of Anna Rae Schwartz – August 27, 2017
Reception of New Members on September 24, 2017

- Daniel, David & Paul Fullner-Auld
- Laurenza & A'nyla Jean and Ethan Lysius
- Jennifer Terrizzi
- Johara Tabone

Lutheran History Class Tuesdays 7 PM to 9 PM



The Reformation didn't begin and end on October 31st. Come learn about the history of the Reformation(s) and the development of Lutheranism here in America. We will be using a DVD resource as well as classroom discussion. Beginning January 9th. Speak to Pastor Scalet for more info.

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



In addition to hosting homeless families three times per year, next 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** and look for more information in the future.



Youth Sunday - January 28th

Get excited! It's time to start planning for this year's Youth Sunday—and at a new time of year. All youth are encouraged, and confirmands required, to participate. Youth will lead in all areas of worship as readers, acolytes, ushers, greeters, musicians, and even the preacher! Mark your calendars.

Deacon Definitions

At the last Church-wide Assembly of the ELCA the roster designations of Associate in Ministry, Deaconess, and Diaconal Minister were changed to one roster of Ministers of Word and Service with the title Deacon. Our member Linda Walker, who was an ELCA rostered Associate in Ministry, is now an ELCA Deacon. For the sake of clarity, in the new year we will change our usage of calling lay worship assistants from "Deacons" to "Assisting Ministers."



- St. John's will once again host the Santa Claus Shop, now in its 51st year, serving over 500 underprivileged families from Summit, New Providence, and Berkley Heights.
- Bishop Bartholomew of the NJ Synod has asked our pastors to be willing to occasionally serve as supply pastors in 2018 due to the lack of supply pastors in the Synod.
- The St. John's Lutheran Church, Summit, NJ Investment Policy October 1, 2017 was approved at the October Church Council meeting.
- Pastor Scalet has been named to the CrossRoads Board.
- 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 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 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.

Christmas 2017 Benefit Concerts

Sing, O My Love

*Christmas with Caritas Chamber Chorale
To benefit the Adorno Fathers' African Mission*



- † **Friday, December 15, 2017, 7:30 DA** - Our Lady of the Mount Church, 167 Mt Bethel Rd, Warren, NJ
- † **Saturday, December 16, 2017, 7:30 DA** - Princeton Abbey, 75 Mapleton Rd, Princeton, NJ
- † **Sunday, December 17, 2017, 7 DA** - Our Lady of Peace Church (Fords), 26 Maple Ave, Edison, NJ

No tickets required - free will offerings are received. See <http://caritaschamberchorale.org/> for more info.

December 2017 Worship Assistants

SUNDAYS	December 3 1st Sunday of Advent (Blue)	December 10 2nd Sunday of Advent (Blue)	December 17 3rd Sunday of Advent (Blue)	December 24 4th Sunday of Advent (White)	December 31 1st Sunday After Christmas (White)
Altar Guild					
Linens	Carolyn Rothman	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 James Nering Peter Larsen Thelma McNulty	Andrew Young Richard Boyd Bill Walker
SUNDAYS 8:00 a.m.	December 3 1st Sunday of Advent (Blue)	December 10 2nd Sunday of Advent (Blue)	December 17 3rd Sunday of Advent (Blue)	December 24 4th Sunday of Advent (White)	December 31 1st Sunday After Christmas (White)
Worship Assistant/Reader	Chris Black	Mike Kaczmarek	Ken Sharpe	Steve Neiman	Chris Black
Usher	Pam Black	Mark Shannon	Kevin Cristino	Karen Riordan	Pam Black
SUNDAYS 10:30 a.m.	December 3 1st Sunday of Advent (Blue)	December 10 2nd Sunday of Advent (Blue)	December 17 3rd Sunday of Advent (Blue)	December 24 4th Sunday of Advent (White)	December 31 1st Sunday After Christmas (White)
Deacons	Warren Hynes Joan Boyd	Pat Bennett Paula Wey	Warren Hynes Bill Walker	Pat Bennett Helen Dachowicz	Joy Petzinger Eula Nervais
Acolytes	Erik Noble	Zach Johnson	Katie Mesenbrink		
Readers	Linda Mesenbrink Joy Petzinger Ian Noble Dick Peterson Edward Ash-Milby	Linda Walker	Harold Clark	Jane Bowman	Brett Tomlinson
Ushers	Carolyn Rothman Dianne Miller Pete Mesenbrink	Rich Boyd Andrew Young	Dianne & Stephen Miller	Carolyn Rothman Keli Bell-Cole Nancy Tenant	Dick Peterson
Greeters	Joy Petzinger	Keli Bell-Cole	The Coble Family	Tomlinson Family	Keli Bell-Cole

Christmas Eve 2017 Worship Assistants

Sunday, December 24	5:00 PM	10:00 PM
Deacons	C J Trzaska	Lauren Ertman Sam Ertman
Acolyte	Abby Miller, Lindsey Bresnahan, Riley Semler, Max Semler, Katie Trzaska, Wyatt Ash-Milby	
Readers	Courtney Rothman	Jim Bartsch
Ushers	Keli Bell-Cole, Carolyn Rothman, Nancy Tenant	Jonette Boyd
Greeters	The Goetke Family	Paula Wey & LeighAnne Helfmann
Altar Guild		