

The Eagle

December 2015

(Printer-Friendly Version) Submissions for the January edition of *The Eagle* are due on December 15th

Advent Lessons & Carols December 6, 2015 @ 10:30 AM

Potluck Immediately following the 10:30 service

Please sign Up in the rear entry or online.

Decorate the Church for Christmas December 20th

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

Contribute to Decorations

If you would like to contribute to the chancel decorations for the Christmas season, all gifts are gratefully received. Recommended donation is \$25-\$75.

Caroling: December 20th

Meet at St. John's at 4:00 PM to carol around the Summit community. A separate group will carol to those who are homebound or recovering from illness.

Donate cookies for the carolers (wrapped and marked "for the carolers") on or before December 20th.

Lutheran Social Ministries Christmas Projects

During the Advent/Christmas season our Social Ministry Committee has organized three projects for our congregation to share with those in need.

Lutheran Social Ministry Gifts: In the narthex there is a display to sign up to donate gift cards for families living in affordable housing, sweat shirts & pants for youth living in the Lutheran home in Jersey City, and presents for those same youth.

Gift Bags for Seniors: Gift bags need to be filled with toiletries and other items for seniors living in LSM care facilities.

World Hunger Ornaments: There will be a tree covered in ornaments that may be purchased to give as "Good Gifts" with all money being donated to ELCA World Hunger.

Christmas Eve 5:00 PM

Candlelight Communion Service, with "Everybody-In" Pageant. Music will be led by a professional brass quintet and various ensembles of St. John's Music Ministry. This service is particularly appropriate for families with young children.

Christmas Eve 10:00 PM

Festival Candlelight Communion Service. Traditional carols and festival music will be led by a professional brass quintet and St. John's Adult Choir. This service strives to celebrate the birth of Christ with all the festivity and pomp the church can muster.

Christmas Day 10:30 AM

An informal service of Communion. The congregation gathers to sing traditional Christmas carols and hear the Christmas story.

Help with Luminaries Needed

Please see Pastor Blake if you would like to help with the luminaries on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Offering

The season of Advent will shortly be upon us and before we know it the year 2015 will draw to an end. As we approach the time in which we remember God's gift to us in the Babe of Bethlehem, we do so ever mindful of the blessings we have received from God. Thus, it is indeed right and salutary that we should thank God and thank you for the wonderful ways in which St. John's has been faithful to the Gospel and supported Christ's mission in the world.

Historically, St. John's has been very generous in our Christmas offering. We trust that this year will be no different. Your regular gifts, as well as your special Christmas offering, are important components 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.

Story Time

Join us for story time in the Library
12/6, 12/13, 12/20
10:00-10:15 AM

Dinner Church

Upcoming Dates:
December 13

From Pastor Gladys

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

"Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed, for I am your God and will still give you aid; I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

(How Firm a Foundation v.2)

The people of Paris are on the hearts and minds of millions around the world. So too are the smaller but no less significant ISIS casualties in places such as Beirut, Turkey and Egypt, not to mention the continued bloodshed of God's children in Syria and other countries around the world. Sometimes it feels like we're in the early throes of World War III; and people all over the earth are afraid.

Yet in the midst of this global fear, the Word of God resounds: **"Have no fear! Do not be afraid!"** Indeed, these are the most commonly repeated phrases in the whole Bible, in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Jesus himself said one or the other version of this assurance 17 times!

In days such as these and every day, we need to hold on to both this proclamation and its attendant promise. And we need not fear for one major reason --- God is with us! As hard as it may be to trust these words, **God is with us. Fear not.**

You see, fear paralyzes us. Fear creates more fear. Fear distances us from those whom we are called to love and serve because they are different from us. Fear keeps us focused on ourselves and what is best for us, rather than moving us out into the world that God so dearly loves.

While fear is understandable in these days that seem to be shaking the very foundation of life as we have known it, let our response to these events be not fear, but faith. For our faith is built on the firm foundation that is Jesus the Christ, the One who is coming to bring life and healing to all.

It is our faith in Jesus that enables us to sing:

"How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent word!

What more can he say than to you he has said, who unto the Savior for refuge have fled.

(How Firm a Foundation v.1)

May our faith be strengthened in these days ahead as we move into the season of Advent and prepare the way for our Savior. For Jesus, our Immanuel, the God who is *with* us, has come and is coming again to free us from our fears.

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Gladys

From Pastor Blake

The days are getting shorter. The coolness in the air and sharpness in the wind is growing greater. Darkness is setting in more and more. Advent is upon us.

In only a matter of days we will bid farewell to one church year and welcome another. The sights and sounds, moods and emotions of our worship will shift. Blue, the color of the night sky—mysterious, beautiful, a hint of excitement, and even a tinge of the danger of uncertainty as we wait with hope for the dawn—will adorn our worship space. A fir wreath with four candles, the Advent wreath, hangs in the chancel as a living calendar marking the weeks of waiting for the coming Christ. We sing hymns of expectation, hope, and preparation.

There is a growing joy in Advent that Christ has already come among us, even as we mark our utter longing for Christ to break into our world anew. Advent is about the reign of God which is already present, and not yet come. This is one of the great juxtapositions of our liturgy and of our theology. God in Jesus has come among us. God has been born as one of us, in the flesh. God is intimately familiar with our sorrows, our anxieties, our burdens, and our cares. Even so, we hold to the promise that God in Christ will come again. Jesus will come in glory to judge the world. He will establish his reign of justice and peace that will know no end. Christ is coming. Christ has come. Christ will come again.

I offer this Advent prayer that seems to give words for the stirring in my heart:

Silent Word, Creative Act, Hidden Truth, Revealed Love: We wait for you. To be precise, we are impatient for you to come and set things right. We are insecure with our world, fearful of crime in the streets, and anxious about ourselves. We refuse your guidance, but we often wish you would act according to our plans. We seldom pause to consider that you are waiting for us: waiting for some genuine act of contrition; waiting for us to repent and change; waiting for us to listen and respond with a burning passion to your truth, your justice, and your mercy. Furnish us with humble hearts and willing spirits to receive you as you come to us through all the experiences of our lives. Amen.

By Allen P. Happe, *The Westminster Collection of Christian Prayers*, 2002

We need Advent. We need to name our longings and our hopes. This season is pregnant with the promise of Christ's coming—already and not yet. May this Advent give us pause to reflect, to ponder, and to pray that God would come among us and reign in us forever.

In Christ,
Pastor Blake

News and Notes from the Director of Music/Organist

New 10:30 AM Liturgy for Advent-Christmas Seasons

On Advent 1, November 29th, the musical liturgy at the 10:30 AM service will change to Setting 1 in Evangelical Lutheran Worship. Setting 1 is a collaborative effort composed by Thom Pavlechko, Mark Mummert, and Robert Buckley Farlee—contemporary Lutheran church musicians/composers. Thom serves as a cantor in Austin, TX, Mark serves as cantor at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, PA, and Robert serves as a cantor in Minneapolis, MN.

Advent Lessons & Carols Service: Dec. 6th, 10:30 AM

*“Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!”**

On Dec. 6th at the 10:30 AM service, readers and musicians will lead a service of Advent Lessons & Carols plus Holy Communion to inspire us on the journey of Advent to Christmas. Musical excerpts from G. F. Handel’s Messiah will be woven throughout the service. The Adult Choir, Lutherringers, Children’s Choir, and Recorder Ensemble will all participate, as will a new group: an instrumental ensemble of stringed instruments and woodwinds. The service promises to be an enchanting worship experience as we prepare for the Savior’s birth.

*(ELW 264; Frans Mickael Franzén, author)

Children’s Choir sings during Advent and Christmas

Four young singers have been learning special songs and hymns for the Advent and Christmas seasons, as well as a blessing song and chorister’s prayer. We explore music concepts and play Orff instruments as part of the learning process. The choir will be singing on Dec. 6th, 20th, and Christmas Eve’s 5:00 PM service. All children in grades 2–6 are welcome to participate. See the online Google calendar for rehearsal info.

Music by Marcel Dupré

On Nov. 8th, worshipers heard organ music by the French composer Jean Langlais. This month music by the French composer, organist, improviser, and professor Marcel Dupré (1886–1971) will be featured on Dec. 20th. Dupré was born into a musical family and was soon recognized to be a child prodigy. His first public performance was at the age of 8. Later on, he won awards in piano, organ, improvisation, and fugue. Over his lifetime, he performed 2,178 organ recitals in countries around the world. At the age of 34, he performed the complete organ works of J. S. Bach—*from memory!* He repeated the same feat the next year. An organist at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris from 1916–1920, he later assumed the post of organist at St. Sulpice in Paris after Charles Marie-Widor retired at the

(DG—Director of Music, cont. on pg. 6)

From the Director of Music/ Concert Series

In September of this year the music world said a fond farewell to a truly beloved figure in 20th century British choral music. Sir David Willcocks, most notably known as the Director of Music, at the famed King’s College, Cambridge, died at the age of 95. Willcocks’ popularity as a composer spread the world over during his tenure at King’s and the subsequent years which followed.

Willcocks began his musical life as a chorister at Westminster Abbey. He then went on to become music scholar at Clifton College, Bristol. With the start of the Second World War, Willcocks entered and served in the British Army. After his service he returned to Cambridge to complete his studies. In 1947 he was elected a Fellow of King’s College and appointed conductor of the Cambridge Philharmonic Society. It was within that same year that he became the organist at Salisbury Cathedral and the conductor of the Salisbury Musical Society. He later moved to hold positions with the Worcester Cathedral, Three Choirs Festivals and the Bradford Festival Choral Society. In 1957 Willcocks assumed the position of Director of Music at King’s College, Cambridge a position he held until 1974.

It was during his tenure at King’s that the world was introduced to the beloved sound of the King’s choir and the annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols through various recordings and annually televised performances on BBC. It was also during that time that the world fell in love with his masterful arrangements of time-honored carols. Many of his holiday compositions were compiled into Oxford’s 100 Carols for Choirs, a favorite musical resource among choirs throughout the world. Most notably are his arrangements of “O Come, All Ye Faithful”, “Once in Royal David’s City” and “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”. It was in these arrangements that the world fell in love with the soaring descants made famous by the crystalline voices of the choir boys. After leaving King’s, he scored these iconic arrangements for the addition of brass quintet.

Here at St. John’s we will have the very distinct privilege of once again hearing these iconic arrangements during our Christmas Eve services. This year we will be treated to his legendary arrangement of “O Come, All Ye Faithful” and the soaring arrangement of “Once in Royal David’s City” at both services. These are true classics in the musical world and embody all the pomp, majesty and beauty we have come to associate with the birth of Christ. Be sure to join us this year so you can hear these musical masterpieces.

Yours truly,
Ken

From the Concert Series

Our second season has started off with a bang. We have been treated to two amazing concerts, first featuring the dynamic Calidore String Quartet and then the legendary group, Chanticleer. The latter of which was a sold out performance. The concert series is taking some time off

(KB—Director of Music/Concert Series, cont. on pg. 7)



What words come to mind when thinking about Thanksgiving?

For many, “food” and “family” resonate when considering the holiday that involves a lot of eating and time with loved ones. For others, the word they think of is “hunger.” Thanksgiving is just another day for our hungry neighbors – 1.1 million people in New Jersey – to try to find food for their families. Nearly 400,000 of food insecure New Jerseyans are children whose families, most likely, do not have the means to prepare a holiday meal.

The Community Foodbank of New Jersey (CFBNJ), located in Hillside, NJ, has been working hard to address the food insecurity / hunger reality in our state. It has become New Jersey’s largest provider of donated groceries, distributing 40 million pounds of food and helping feed nearly 1 million hungry people each year throughout our state.

However, CFBNJ needs a lot of volunteers to help accomplish its mission and a group of members of St. John’s again volunteered on November 7th.

We emptied containers holding assorted groceries and repackaged these contents into smaller boxes containing identical items for later distribution. This manual task was perfect for our volunteers, as we broke down the process into multiple mini assembly lines and then assigned individuals to steps within those assembly lines. Within the allotted two hour window, we collectively repackaged almost 6,000 items from five warehouse pallets into 196 boxes, all while having a lot of fun in the process!



We’d like to thank the following people for donating their Saturday morning to the worthy cause of combatting hunger in NJ: Thomas and Steven Neiman, Wyatt Ash-Milby, Marifel and Hans Calis, Norma Engelhardt, Carol Groote, Anne Peterson, Linda and Bill Walker, Jane and Jama Bowman, Helen Dachowicz, and RJ Klein.

The Social Ministry Committee



Youth Sunday

November 15th was our Fall Youth Sunday and it was fantastic! Our youth led in all areas of worship. So many people commented on the joyful spirit of the service. It was a good day to be church!

Thanks to everyone who helped make this Youth Sunday such a wonderful experience!

Greeters: Wyatt Ash-Milby, Sam Ertman; **Ushers:** CJ Trazska, Cameron Bresnahan, Brad Pinho, Jardeen Nervais, Sarah Miller; **Acolytes:** Julia Coble, Luke Ertman, Sanaa Walker; **Readers:** Matt McCracken, Alex Noble, Sara Mesenbrink, Sarah Miller; **Deacons:** Imani Bell, Courtney Rothman; **Musicians:** Ken Bryson, Katie Mesenbrink, Kyle Goetke, Johanna Snyder, Stephanie Rothman, Zoe Regner, Alex Regner; **Singers:** Katie Trazska, Nicola Paredes-Rupp, Courtney Rothman, Imani Bell, Jama Bowman, Jane Bowman, Keli Bell-Cole; **Movie Participants:** Stephanie Rothman, Courtney Rothman, Molly Shannon, Michael Neiman, Johanna Snyder, Nicola Paredes-Rupp.

Check Out the Advent Sale

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 will be held December 6, 13 and 22 after both the 8:00 and 10:30 AM services.**

The sale is a service to the congregation from the 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 homeless in Summit.

Youth News

Sunday, December 6	Advent Sale #2
Sunday, December 13	Advent Sale #3
Saturday, December 19	NYC Trip
Sunday, December 20	Advent Sale #4
See Youth Bulletin Board for Details.	

Moravian Christmas in Bethlehem Dec. 5th

Join us as we visit the historic Moravian settlement in Bethlehem, PA at Christmastime on Saturday, December 5th. We will carpool from St. John's at 7:45 AM. We will have a guided tour of the Moravian Museum and a special tour of the historic cemetery. There will be some time for eating and shopping. After lunch, we will attend the "Moravian Christmas Experience" concert at Central Moravian Church. We will end our day with a stop at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. We should arrive back in Summit by 5:00 PM. This trip is one of this year's confirmation trips but is being opened to the whole St. John's parish.

Cost for the day will be \$15, plus money for lunch and shopping.

Please sign up in the back entryway, or by contacting Pastor Blake, by Monday November 30th

Mission Endowment Fund Disbursements

Two years ago St. John's made a commitment that annually we would spend up to 4% of the interest from our Mission Endowment Fund for the purpose of exploring and supporting new ministry opportunities. Possible proposals could include expanding our outreach in the community and around the world; alleviating world hunger and poverty; supporting inner city programs and much more. This year we committed up to \$20,000 for such support.

In addition, our Congregation Council decided that rather than simply giving money to various projects, where possible, we would like to develop relationships with those entities that we have funded.

Thus far this year we have spent \$11,000 and supported the following:

\$1,500 - St. Stephan's Grace, Newark, NJ Community Garden: *In support of the St. Stephan-Grace community garden in the Ironbound section of Newark to share food with the local community.*

\$1,500- St. John's Lutheran, Passaic, NJ: *To support the Sunday morning feeding ministry in the Home Depot parking lot. A group of 6 members visited St. John's Passaic on November 15th and participated with them in the feeding ministry. We hope to do so again in 2016.*

\$1,000 - Furniture Assist: *To help defray moving costs for the Furniture Assist warehouse.*

\$1,000 -Bridges, Summit, NJ: *St. John's has provided lunches to Bridges for 27 years. To provide toiletry kits for Bridges runs by St. John's members.*

\$3,000 - Lutheran Disaster Relief: *Donation to the ELCA Middle East and European Refugee Crisis for Syrian refugees.*

\$500 - Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad, Summit, NJ: *For care and support of 22,000 people living in Summit.*

\$1,500 - Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center, Port Murray, NJ: *Support of Cross Roads Urban Scholarship Assistance for safe, fun, and holistic environment for youth.*

\$1,000 - Summit Interfaith Council, Summit, NJ: *For support of anti-racism clergy training and anti-racism youth training.*

A few additional proposals are under consideration and will be approved before the end of the year. We are grateful for St. John's generosity and the wonderful mission opportunities that we are able to support beyond our regular benevolence for the sake of the Gospel.

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Anne Dello Russo, Nursery

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Lidia Domanowski, Weekend Sexton

*God's purpose for
St. John's is to
hear God's Word,
reflect God's grace,
share Christ's love.*

Looking Ahead

St. John's Annual Meeting

January 24, 2016

There will be only one service
at 10:30 AM

(DG—Director of Music, cont. from pg. 3)

age of 89. Dupré held the post until his death. Admirers often crowded into the organ loft on Sunday mornings to hear Dupré's improvisations. Dupré wrote for a variety of musical media in his early years, but by the time of his Bach recitals, focused primarily on large-scale works, chant-based liturgical music, and technical studies for the organ.

We give thanks to God for these gifts of musical service in November:

All Saints' instrumentalists: Kirsten Russler, Pattie Gould, and Judy Ahlers.

Music & Dance Service Opportunities in December:

Please contact me (dgarzinsky@stjohnssummit.org) if you are interested in any of these service opportunities:

Liturgical dance in the 5 PM Christmas Eve service. Needed are dancers and choreographers.

St. John's Brass Ensemble: caroling in downtown Summit on Dec. 20th and ahead of the 5:00 PM Christmas Eve service. Needed are intermediate-level+ trumpet, French horn, trombone, and tuba players. We may also include saxophones this year.

Advanced-level string instrumentalists, oboists, and bassoonists available on Christmas Eve (10:00 PM service) to help accompany a Messiah excerpt and an early Baroque Christmas cantata.

Rehearsal Schedule Reminder:

Please see the Google calendar on St. John's website for the latest rehearsal info.

Ministry Moment:

One of the pastors said in a recent homily something that reminded me why many if not all of us are involved in various ministries of the church: "We are blessed to be a blessing to others." I lifted up this idea with the Lutherringers because it gets at the heart of why ringers ring, singers sing, and instrumentalists play: to share the blessings and talents God has given us so that others might be blessed by us and our efforts. As we journey together in worship, my prayer for all of St. John's musicians and dancers is that we and our music and dance might be a blessing for all who worship with us.

Grace and peace,
Donna Garzinsky

Stewardship

In his ebook, "Crafting a Theology of Stewardship...and Why Your Church Needs One", Joel Mikell, who has worked with churches on stewardship for over 25 years, reviews seven perspectives of Biblical stewardship. Over the next few months, we will review these with an eye on examining our own stewardship at St. John's.

Perspective #7

The Place of Gratitude

You cannot write, talk, preach or teach about stewardship without also including gratitude and thanksgiving. Stewardship and gratitude are opposite sides of the same coin. Gratitude moves people from being controlling with their resources to actively looking for areas of need and opportunity to give. As mentioned before, the happiest people are generous people. The most generous people are those that are deeply thankful and recognize that God is the source of all their blessings.

A friend blessed with great resources was once asked how it felt to be a multimillionaire. His response: "I'm no better than you, and I'm really no smarter than you. For whatever reason, I was in the right place at the right time to make an investment in a new business start-up and God blessed the business beyond my wildest dreams. I don't know why God chose to bless me but I am incredibly thankful for the blessings God entrusted to me and deeply grateful that I can give generously to my church and to other charitable organizations. My greatest desire now is to make a difference in the lives of people. Because I'm blessed, I'm thankful."

I hope everyone has found these seven perspectives on stewardship as enlightening as I have. I would highly recommend that you download Joel's ebook for Kindle from Amazon so that you enjoy his many insights on stewardship.

Rick Coble
Stewardship Committee Chair

Source: "Crafting a Theology of Stewardship...and Why Your Church Needs One!"

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Appalachia Service Project News

For the last 16 years, St. John's has been sending work crews to Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, or West Virginia for the Appalachia Service Project (ASP). ASP is a 45+ year old Christian ministry started by a United Methodist minister, 'Tex' Evans to foster human development by addressing housing needs in Central Appalachia. In July, 2015, we sent three work crews (14 youth, 7 adults) to Wise County, VA to repair houses to make them "warmer, safer, and drier" for people living in some of the poorest communities in the United States. Many thanks to all the members of St. John's who supported Youth Missions efforts through our annual ASP Stock Sale, the Fish Fry, and the Youth Missions Auction (2014). We couldn't have done it without you!

This year, we had primarily three projects in and around St. Paul and Coeburn (Wise County) and Dante (neighboring Russell County), Virginia. Dante (pronounced "daint") is a perfect example of a former, bustling, 20th century coal town of 6000 inhabitants, complete with hotels, opera house, schools, train station, and more. In the 1960s, the coals seams were exhausted, the mines closed, and job opportunities disappeared. Currently, there are only about 650 residents left, living in former coal company houses and an assortment of shacks and mobile homes. The hotel and opera house are long gone. The railroad station is ramshackle. Schools were abandoned, and now children are bused to schools in another town. The town bank closed and is now a small museum, proudly managed by a few local retirees.

Our projects included a partial roof repair (tin and rolled, adhesive SBS), bathroom drywall replacement, VCT floor tiling, front porch repair, kitchen girder repair, and painting.

In 2016, we are scheduled to go to ASP for: [Week #4: July 3 -9, 2016 \(leaving St. John's 7/2\)](#)

Currently, we are looking for new 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, January through July, 2013.
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) 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 already due to Laura Snyder via the ASP mailbox in the church office.

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

Yours in Christ,
Laura S. Snyder
ASP Coordinator

(KB—Director of Music/Concert Series, cont. from pg. 3)

during the holidays, but will return on January 30th with an "Evening of Dinner and Jazz" featuring Emmet Cohen and the Emmet Cohen Trio. If you love jazz, this is a performance not to be missed. Emmet is an immensely accomplished, award-winning jazz pianist. The evening will be a real treat for all senses, along with the jazz, a fully catered meal will be served. This will be a limited seating engagement and tickets are already selling well. If you are interested in attending, we encourage you to purchase your tickets sooner rather than later. What would make a better Christmas gift than a ticket to see Emmet Cohen and an "Evening of Dinner and Jazz?"

Prayer is Acknowledging the Presence of God

December 6

Joan Smedberg
Ray, Laura, Emily, Rachel and Johanna Snyder
Hedy Stark
Linda Storry
Thomas, Cynthia, Olivia, Julia & Thomas Tarantino

December 13

Nancy Tennant
Paul, Patricia, Matthew & Andrew Tice
Brett, Amy, Luke & Zach Tomlinson
Wendolyn, Eric, Dante & Caedmon Trozzo
Janet, Chris, Christopher & Katherine Trzaska

December 20

Santosh, Sheila, Nikhil & Diya Varki
Lana Vogler
Ralph, Nicolle, Henry and Eleanor Walker
Bill & Linda Walker
Alfred & Helga Welte

December 27

Paula & Glenn Wey
Linda, Eliot, Lauren & Ethan Wilbur
Anna Wilson
Janet Onnen, Richard, Daniel & Aidan Wright
Matthew, Jean, Kevin & Bryan Wyvratt

Fry Lecture

In December 2003, The Rev. Franklin D. Fry Speaker Series Fund was established in honor of and appreciation for the ministry of St. John's former pastor, The Rev. Dr. Franklin D. Fry. This year the Fry Speaker Fund has sponsored the following speakers for the education and edification of our church: *Bishop E. Roy Riley; The Rev. Dr. Timothy Wengert; The Rev. Dr. David Grafton; The Rev. Heidi Neumark.* We give thanks to God for the vision and ministry of Pastor Fry and for the continued ways in which his legacy helps instruct us in the faith.

Save the Date: Women's Retreat

Our ever-popular Women's Retreat will be held with the women from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Chatham, from **February 19th - 20th** at Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center. Please save the dates now. More information will be forthcoming.

Thanksgiving and Memorial Fund

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

- Yueh Goffin in honor and thanks to God for providing me with loving families.
- Irma Gahan for the special purpose of Sunday School given in memory of Harold Clark's dad, Bev Clark.
- Irma Gahan for the special purpose of the Concert Series given in memory of Ken Bryson's grandmother, Ruth Kiscaden
- Heidi and Linda Alber in memory of Magda Alber

Changes to Parish Registry

- Transfer of Charles, Nancy, Sarah, Abby, Emma & Grace Miller from Faith Lutheran in Berkley Heights, NJ to St. John's in Summit, NJ on October 11, 2015.
- Affirmation of baptism for Wendy and Jayson MacConnell on November 15, 2015.
- Baptism of Scarlet MacConnell on November 15, 2015.

Pastors' Vacations

Pastor Scalet 11/24-11/30
Pastor Moore 12/25-1/2

Sine Nomine



Open to all adult members/friends of the congregation. Sine Nomine means "without a name," used intentionally for almost 40 years to escape defining the group. This fellowship gathering occurs once a month at the homes of members of St. John's and is a great way to get to know other members a little better.

Bring a main dish to share if you can, or bring an appetizer, salad or dessert. If you are interested in hosting Sine Nomine for 2015-2016, please see the sign-up sheet in the hallway or contact Jane Bowman at 908-447-8865 or jbowman@drew.edu.

The next Sine Nomine will be December 11th at the home of Pat and Tony Bennett.

Worship Assistants: December 2015

SUNDAYS	December 6 Advent 2 (Blue)	December 13 Advent 3 (Blue)	December 20 Advent 4 (Blue)	December 27 1st Sunday of Christmas (White)
Altar Guild	Joan Boyd Carol Dunlop	Beverly Kaczmarski Linda Clark	Carol Schmidt Harold Clark	Hedy Stark
Linens	Carolyn Rothman	Carolyn Rothman	Carolyn Rothman	Carolyn Rothman
Counters	Mark Nedde Peter Mesenbrink Kathy Pinho Rick Coble	Andrew Young Richard Boyd Bill Walker	Marifel Calis Andrew Larsen Hans Calis	Sarah Johnson Jim Nering Peter Larsen Thelma McNulty
8:00 AM	December 6 Advent 2 (Blue)	December 13 Advent 3 (Blue)	December 20 Advent 4 (Blue)	December 27 1st Sunday of Christmas (White)
Worship Assistant/ Reader	Chris Black	Michael Kaczmarski	Ken Sharpe	Steve Neiman
Usher	Pam Black	Mark Shannon	Kevin Cristino	Karen Riordan
10:30 AM	December 6 Advent 2 (Blue)	December 13 Advent 3 (Blue)	December 20 Advent 4 (Blue)	December 27 1st Sunday of Christmas (White)
Deacons	Heinz Roth Pat Bennett	Robin Roth Paula Wey	Joy Petzinger Bill Walker	Imani Bell Eula Nervais
Acolytes	Sara Miller	Brad Pinho	Cameron Bresnahan	ACOLYTE NEEDED
Readers	Alana Coble Irma Gahan Bob Peterson Suzanne Peterson Edward Ash-Milby	Dick Peterson	Karen Larsen	Harold Clark
Ushers	Millie & Charlie Connelly Peter Mesenbrink Jonette Boyd	Richard Boyd Carolyn Rothman Eula & Jardeen Nervais	Hans & Marifel Calis Keli Bell-Cole Nancy Tennant	Andrew Young Andrea & Dean Sickler Johanna Snyder
Greeters	Tomlinson Family	Suzanne & Dick Peterson	Tom and Christian Fraehmke	Keli Bell Cole
Fellowship Host	Worship & Music (Pat Bennett)	Youth Ministry (Jama Bowman)	Concert Series (Ken Bryson)	No Sunday School or Fellowship Time
Christmas Eve Thurs., Dec. 24	5:00 PM	10:00 PM		
Deacons	Harry Kocotos - Read 2nd Lesson	Bob Peterson - Read 2nd Lesson Lauren Ertman - Presiders Deacon, Nick Ertman		
Acolyte	Sarah Miller	Sarah Miller, Sam Ertman, Luke Ertman 3 More Acolytes Needed		
Readers	Jim Bartsch	Chris Black		
Ushers	TBD	TBD		
Greeters	Nancy Tennant	Paula Wey & Leigh Anne Helfmann		
Altar Guild	Janet Kocotos	Linda & Harold Clark		

December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 12:15pm NA-CANCELLED 7pm Social Ministry Mtg. (Library) 8pm NA-CANCELLED	2 12:15pm NA-CANCELLED 4:30pm Recorder Ensemble 7pm Messiah Instr. Reh. 7:45pm Adult Choir (loft) 8pm NA-CANCELLED	3 12:15pm NA(AL) 7:30pm NA(AL)	4 12:15pm NA(AL) 7:30pm AA(HH)	5 7:45am-5pm Confirmation Trip-Moravian Christmas 11:45am Children's Choir (Choir room)
6 Advent 2 8am Holy Communion 9am Advent Sale 9am Blood Pressure Screening 9am Sunday School & Confirmation 9:15am Youth/Young Adult Singers 10am Fellowship Time (HH) 10:05am Choir Reh. (Choir Loft) 10:30am Lessons & Carols w/Holy Communion 12pm Advent Potluck Lunch 12:30pm Lutherringers (Choir loft)	7	8 12pm Music Library Lunch (Charlie Brown's) 12:15pm NA(AL) 7:30pm Summit Chorale (HH) 8pm NA(AL)	9 12:15pm NA(AL) 3pm Worship Service at Vito Gallo 4:30pm Recorder Ensemble 7:45pm Adult Choir (Choir Rm) 8pm NA(AL)	10 12:15pm NA(AL) 7:30pm Exec. Comm. Mtg. (Conference Rm.) 7:30pm NA(AL)	11 12:15pm NA(AL) 7:30pm AA(HH) 7:30pm Sine Nomine (Pat Bennett)	12 11:45am Children's Choir (Choir room)
13 Advent 3 8 & 10:30am Holy Communion 9am Advent Sale 9am Sunday School & Confirmation 9:15am Youth/Young Adult Singers 10am Fellowship Time (Hinman Hall) 10:05am Choir Reh. (Choir Loft) 12pm Lutherringers (Choir loft) 6pm Dinner Church	14	15 EAGLE SUBMISSIONS DUE 12:15pm NA(AL) 7:30pm Summit Chorale (HH) 8pm NA(AL)	16 12:15pm NA(AL) 4:30pm Recorder Ensemble 7:45pm Adult Choir (Choir Rm) 8pm NA(AL)	17 12:15pm NA(AL) 1:30pm Worship Service at Juniper Village 7:30pm Council (Conf. Rm.) 7:30pm NA(AL)	18 12:15pm NA(AL) 7:30pm AA(HH)	19 9am Youth NYC Trip 11:45am Children's Choir (Choir room)
20 Advent 4 8 & 10:30am Holy Communion 9am Sunday School & Confirmation 9:15am Youth/Young Adult Singers 10am Fellowship Time (Hinman Hall) 10:05am Choir Reh. (Choir Loft) 12pm Lutherringers (Choir loft) 12pm Christmas Decorating 4pm Caroling	21 6pm Brass rehearsal (Choir loft) 7:45pm Adult Choir (Choir room)	22 12:15pm NA(AL) 8pm NA(AL)	23 12:15pm NA(AL) 4:30pm NO Recorder Ensemble 7:45pm NO Adult Choir Rehearsal 8pm NA(AL)	24 12:15pm NA(AL) 5pm Christmas Eve Worship 7:30pm NA(AL) 10pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30am Christmas Day Worship 12:15pm NA(AL) 7:30pm AA(HH)	26
27 Christmas 1 8 & 10:30am Holy Communion 9am NO Sunday School & Confirmation 6pm College age Get-Together	28	29 12:15pm NA(AL) 8pm NA(AL)	30 12:15pm NA(AL) 4:30pm NO Recorder Enfs. 7:45pm NO Adult Choir 8pm NA(AL)	31 New Year's Eve OFFICE CLOSED 12:15pm NA(AL) 7:30pm NA(AL)	Notes:	