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The Eagle

Advent-Christmas 2018
Epiphany 2019

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

Advent for All

Join us on the Sundays of Advent from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM in Hinman Hall for a variety of activities for ALL Ages to get ready for Christmas. We'll sing carols, create pop-up Christmas cards to mail to our college students, make fabric angels and beaded stars to hang on your trees, color and create Advent wreathes to use each day of December, and lots more.



Advent I - 12/2

Carols: *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah; He Came Down; Joy to the World*

Activities: Advent wreaths, pop-up Christmas cards, decorate a pillar candle

Advent II - 12/9

Carols: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing; It Came Upon the Midnight Clear; Angels We Have Heard on High*

Activities: fabric folk angel, beaded stars, potato stamp Christmas cards and tags to send to shut ins

Advent III - 12/16

Carols: *O Little Town of Bethlehem; Away in a Manger; Love Has Come Down*

Activities: decorate bags and pack nonperishable lunches for Bridges, decorate cookies for carolers, share your favorite nativity

Advent IV - 12/23

Activities: prepare decorations for church



Blue Christmas: A Service of Hope

Tuesday, 12/18 - 7:30 PM



Christmas can be hard. Are you grieving a loved one, trouble at work, or estrangement in a relationship? Are the stresses of the season or the sorrows of world events keeping you from mustering joy? Maybe you just need a moment to be still and soak up the stillness of Advent. Join us for our Blue Christmas Service. We will gather to hear scripture, name our woes, pray together, receive communion, light candles, and receive God's hope and healing. All are welcome.

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 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 go to a local Summit charity.

Also available at the Advent Sale: help our parish raise \$500 towards the purchase of a COW! See p. 10 of this issue for more information.

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve, Mon, 12/24 - 5:00 PM

Festive music including professional brass quintet, Lutherringers, and the Kids choir. We have our annual "Everybody In" Pageant. This service is especially well-suited for families with small children.

Christmas Eve, Mon, 12/24 - 10:00 PM

Festival service with professional brass quintet and Adult Choir. Join us for this traditional candlelight communion service.

Christmas Day, Tue, 12/25 - 10:30 AM

This relaxed celebration of Christ's birth begins with a carol sing and includes communion.

Decorate for Christmas! - Sunday, 12/23 - after church

Help us get the Church ready for Christmas! We have lots to do and we need you! Lunch will be provided!

Christmas Caroling - Sunday, 12/23 - 4:00 PM

Everyone is invited to come sing Christmas carols around Summit and finish with a stop at the Vito Gallo Senior residence.



New Jersey Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



From the Pastors' Desks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last Thursday's snowstorm caught many of us by surprise and I expect that we will hear for generations to come about the November 2018 storm that left thousands of people stranded. Hearing about children sleeping in schools or at diners, adults leaving their cars on bridges or roadsides, and people stuck in places like the Port Authority Bus Station (if they were fortunate enough to get inside) for upwards of 5 hours -- made my three and a half hour commute seem pretty inconsequential.

If I learned anything at all however, as I crawled through the streets of Summit and beyond, it was that I should be prepared. I had taken all of my winter items -- snowbrush, small shovel, antifreeze, hand-warmers, etc. out of the car. After all, winter is still more than a month away. Nevertheless, the message was clear -- be prepared!

The message of Advent is similar. Throughout the four weeks of this first liturgical season of the new church year, we will hear themes of readiness and preparation. "Be on guard; be alert at all times; prepare the way of the Lord." These are the messages of Advent. These are the clarion calls of our waiting as we yearn for the coming of the Christ both as a babe born in Bethlehem and as the Sovereign of the ages. He is the One anointed by God to preach good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted and to set the captives free. But he is also the One who comes to judge the living and the dead.

Advent is a time for us to get ready, to prepare our hearts, to open ourselves up to the repentance needed to greet the Messiah both here and in the hereafter. Come pray with us, sing with us and commune with us, so that we might do our best to prepare the way for the Lord. Blessed Advent to all and see you in church.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Gladys

In 1868 Phillips Brooks, an episcopal priest and celebrated preacher, wrote the words to the much-loved Christmas carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem." He wrote this Christmas carol for his congregation's Sunday School Christmas program, reflecting on his experience of the of the tiny village of Bethlehem during a Holy Land visit a few years prior.

Unlike in time of Jesus or of Brooks, Bethlehem is no longer a little town. It is a bustling urban center in the Palestinian West Bank. The wall that divides much of Israel and Palestine cuts along the borders of Bethlehem. In modern times, the birth place of the Prince of Peace has been the site of much violence, bloodshed, and unrest.

Jesus was born to a poor Jewish family in Roman occupied territory. He was born in a barn and visited by shepherds—think of them more as day laborers or migrant workers. Immediately after his birth there was an infanticide by a tyrant ruler and his family became refugees in a foreign country. Jesus was born in obscurity and his whole life brought him near to human suffering—so near he even tasted death itself.

I want to close by returning to the carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem." There was an original fourth verse that is not printed in our hymnal, or most modern hymnals:

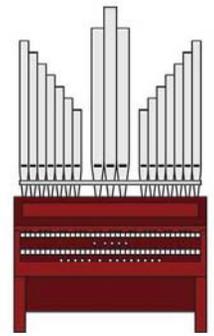
Where children pure and happy pray to the blessed Child,
where misery cries out to thee, Son of the mother mild;
where charity stands watching and faith holds wide the door,
the dark night wakes, the glory breaks, and Christmas comes once more.

Perhaps this Christmas we need to hold in our hearts this very sentiment. The miracle of Christmas is God's appearance all around us—surprising us—with mercy and love. God is with us in longing and suffering. God moves us to shine the light of mercy in all the world—one dark corner at a time.

Pastor Blake



From Donna, Director of Music/Organist



Advent

lessons and carols *Sunday, December 2, 10:30 AM*

Advent is one of my favorite seasons. Its lectionary readings and hymns speak powerfully, helping me to pause and reflect, to hear anew and to remember, to look for and long for the fulfillment of God's promises for all people, to pray and to anticipate the birth of the Messiah, Emmanuel, God with us.

What about you? What Advent hymns and scriptures always catch you by surprise and draw you in? You may hear and sing some of your favorites at St. John's annual Advent Lessons & Carols on Dec. 2 at 10:30 AM. If you've missed this service in the past, consider this a personal invitation to come, hear, and immerse yourself in this special service. If this is one of your much-loved services, may it continue to be a blessing to you on your faith journey this year.

The Adult Choir will lead us in worship and will sing two anthems by J. S. Bach with chamber ensemble accompaniment, Paul Manz's beloved "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come," and other anthems. The choir will help us learn John Bell's stunning annunciation hymn, "No Wind at the Window," and the spiritual, "We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace." Together we will sing many Advent hymns that speak of waiting, preparing, longing, praying, and hoping.

Last year, we learned "Unexpected and Mysterious," a new-to-us Advent hymn by Jeannette Lindholm and Calvin Hampton. We'll reencounter it later in Advent this year. I encourage you to delve into it (ELW 258), or whatever your favorite Advent hymn is, to reconnect with the spirit and message of Advent this year.

We are called to ponder mystery and awaiting 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.

—Jeannette Lindholm (b. 1961)

CHRISTMAS EVE MUSIC

Come early to worship on Christmas eve to prepare your hearts for worship and to enjoy the extended prelude offered by the professional brass quintet. The Lutherringers and Kids Choir will lead in worship at the 5:00 PM service; the Adult Choir at the 10:00 PM service.

CHRISTMAS EVE ANTHEMS

The Adult Choir will be hard at work soon on two Christmas Eve anthems: the Harold Darke setting of "In the Bleak Midwinter" (<https://youtu.be/GPpy3XS6c0>) and Gustav Holst's carol fantasy, "Christmas Day" (<https://youtu.be/lwNX5PrThiA>) which weaves together "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice," "God Rest Ye, Merry Gentle Friends," "Come, Ye Lofty, Come, Ye Lowly," and "The First Noel." Extra singers are welcome to help us give voice to these inspiring anthems.

SHORT-TERM MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES:

- 1) **Extra Singers** are invited to sing with the Adult Choir for the 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Service.
- 2) **St. John's Brass-Wind Ensemble:** Intermediate and advanced-level brass instrumentalists and saxophonists/clarinetists are invited to perform carols at the Vito Gallo residence on December 23 around 5:30 PM and/or at St. John's on Christmas Eve before the 5:00 PM service.
- 3) **Carolers:** Come share joyful Christmas

carols in downtown Summit and at the Vito Gallo residence on Sunday, December 23 at 4:00 PM! Wear warm clothes and comfortable shoes for our walk into town, caroling as we go.

4) **Extra Handbell Ringers:** Experienced substitutes may be needed for Christmas Eve at one or both services.

5) **Guitarists:** To help accompany the new liturgy beginning on January 13.

See Donna Garzinsky for more information about any of these opportunities.

LITURGY NEWS

During Advent and Christmas, the liturgy at both the 8:00 and 10:30 AM services and on Christmas Eve will be Setting 1. Starting on January 13, 10:30 AM worshippers will be learning a new liturgy: ELW setting 7. Come early on January 13 to rehearse key parts at the beginning of worship! 8:00 AM worshippers will enjoy a return to the very familiar liturgy: Setting 10.

CHOIRS CHRISTMAS PARTY

All choir members, handbell ringers, Kids Choir members, instrumentalists, vocalists, and family members are invited to a bring-a-dish Christmas Party in Hinman Hall on Friday, December 21 at 6:30 PM. Watch for the sign-up sheet in the rear-entryway in early December.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

If Christmas is looking difficult for you this year because of grief, pain, or loss, consider

joining us for St. John's first Blue Christmas worship: Tuesday, December 18 at 7:30 PM.

WORLD DRUMMING

By the time you read this, a group of 9–10 people will have already met twice to explore world drumming. We are hoping to meet about once a month in the chapel, probably on Sundays at 1:00 PM. No experience is necessary, just the desire to collaborate with others in making music with drums and percussion. Watch the bulletin board for future events which are open to all.

GLOBAL CHURCH HYMN FESTIVAL: JANUARY 27

Save the date for this special service to be offered at both 8:00 and 10:30 AM! More news to come in the new year!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR FESTIVAL: MARCH 9, 1:00–5:00 PM, LANSDALE, PA

If your 2nd–6th grader likes to sing and play instruments, this festival should be a lot of fun! Led by Brian Hehn, noted specialist in children's choirs and drumming, this isn't your average children's choir festival. There are no anthems to prepare. No hymns to learn ahead. Just come to sing together, play some instruments, and help lead a closing hymn festival. Sponsored by the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of Choristers Guild. Fee: \$10. Registration Deadline: February 1, 2019. See Donna Garzinsky for more information.

Dinner Church

Dinner Church is a worship service based around the community fellowship of dinner. We gather together for informal worship, eat dinner together, dinner conversation is centered around the Gospel lesson for the day and then clean up together followed by 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:

December 16; January 20; February 17

Cross Roads Retreat Center

Cross Roads is OUR church camp/retreat center! It is the ecumenical retreat center for the New Jersey Synod and the Episcopal Diocese of Newark. Cross Roads has programs for people in all stages of life. It is located in beautiful northwestern New Jersey and offers 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:

January 4 -6	Young Adults Retreat
January 18-20	Family Weekend
February 15-17	Elementary School Retreat
February 24	Anthony Briggs, Cross Roads Director, will lead a forum at St. John's
March 8-10	Middle School Retreat
March 16	Tea Party Fundraiser for Cross Roads held at St. John's

Council Highlights

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

- December 13, 2018
- January 17, 2019
- February 21, 2019

Changes to Parish Register:

New Member: Toni Burke on September 16, 2018

Funerals: Catherine Stelter on August 25, 2018

Herb Sherman on October 5, 2018

Lindsey Carter on September 21, 2018

Transfer: Harold & Linda Clark to The Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word on October 17, 2018



2018 Mission Endowment Fund

At the October Council meeting five (5) grants from the 2018 Mission Endowment Fund were approved:

- \$2,500 to Augusta Victoria Hospital in E. Jerusalem
- \$ 500 to our missionaries, the Trozzos
- \$2,000 to United Lutheran Seminary for tuition help for students

- \$1,000 to Kekoa Foods and their program of giving baby food to the Newark YWCA
- \$2,500 to LEAMNJ (Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy Ministry of New Jersey)

So far we have spent \$13,000 of the 2018 allotted \$19,000 in grants.



- † The Installation of Bishop Patricia Davenport was held on September 23, 2018 in Philadelphia. Bishop Davenport is the first female African-American Bishop in the ELCA.
- † Pastor Moore was asked by NJ Synod Bishop Bartholomew to serve on the NJ Synod Ad Hoc Committee.
- † Pastor Scalet was asked by NJ Synod Bishop Bartholomew to serve as Counselor for the Central Cluster of the Western District of the NJ Synod, a three-year appointment.
- † Pastor Moore will be co-authoring an ELCA Study Guide for the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women in the ELCA.
- † You can make your donations to St. John's electronically. See 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 give card (twice a year) for your service projects. Go to Thrivent.com/actionteam to learn more.
- † Investors Bank in Summit offers rewards programs to members. If you have an account with Investor's Bank, contact the church office or see Janet Onnen about signing up to get \$\$ donated to St. John's.



St. John's is already making preparations to send its 20th group to Appalachia Service Project (ASP)! Appalachia Service Project is a 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 2019, we are scheduled to go to ASP in Tennessee (we are wait listed for West Virginia): Week #4: June 30 – July 6, 2019 (leaving St. John's 6/29).

Currently, we have verbal commitments from seven youth and at least 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 2019.
- 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.

Parent Information Meeting (for parents of prospective youth volunteers)

Date: Sunday, December 9, 2018

Time: 9:00 – 9:45 AM

Place: Adult Lounge

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

Yours in Christ, Laura S. Snyder, ASP Coordinator

SAVE THE DATE:

To celebrate our 20th year of mission trips to Appalachia, we will be having an **ASP Reunion Brunch and Recognition on Sunday, December 23, 2018**. Check your email for the invitation which should arrive before Thanksgiving.

Stewardship for Hunger Ministry at St. John's

We are specifically and directly called by Jesus to feed the hungry. At St. John's we respond to this call year round in a variety of ways. The Advent season leading to Christmas can be filled with blessings and joy. But, if you and your family are food insecure, this holiday season can be isolating and depressing. And when school is out for the Christmas and winter break, small children especially can go hungry.

At the local level we are 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. Our recent goal of donating 500 cans of tuna fish is just one example of a program to feed our neighbors. St. John's has made financial gifts through our Mission Endowment Fund to SHIP, Loaves and Fishes, and SAGE Meals On Wheels. St. Johns has contributed to the Bridges Lunches program every week for more than 25 years. St John's members prepare and serve meals throughout the weeks that Family Promise guests are hosted here.

Some St. John's members have worked at the Community Food Bank of NJ, which is a hands-on approach to relieving hunger. This

**DONATE
FOOD
HERE**



also raises our awareness of the issue, hopefully leading to further action. Our youth collect contributions on Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, and donate them to Community Food Bank of NJ. The congregation has supported the St. Stephan's Grace Lutheran Church Community Garden in Newark, NJ through our Mission Endowment Fund, and has sent funds for safe drinking water to Salem Lutheran Church in Flint, MI.

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 the largest among Lutheran churches in the state and one of the largest in the country.

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

- ◆ Bring food for our weekly collection during the offering
- ◆ Volunteer to make Bridges lunches for the hungry in our area
- ◆ Prepare and serve meals during Family Promise
- ◆ Participate in one of St. John's trips to the Community FoodBank of NJ
- ◆ Make a donation or regular donations to World Hunger

Thanks to all at St. John's who support eliminating hunger at the community, state, national, and global level by this sharing of God's grace.

St. John's Stewardship Committee



Church Library News

Please visit our library during the month of December. Children's Advent and Christmas books, both secular and religious, will be on display. We have wonderful books you won't find any where else. Don't miss the opportunity to share some of these with your family during this busy season.

And, when things quiet down in January, renew your own spirit and expand your knowledge by browsing our shelves for books on culture, race and religion.

I want to highlight a book brought to my attention by Thelma McNulty. "The Song Poet" is a memoir of a Laotian family's journey through Thailand to the U.S. I believe reading it will give one both a realistic and empathetic view of the immigrant experience. For those of you who remember Pastor Susan Miller, there is a St. John's connection. The author is her daughter-in-law, and a reference is made to Susan and her husband at the end of the book. I hope you will give this beautifully written memoir a try.

- Joy Petzinger

Epiphany Celebration - January 6, 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM in Hinman Hall

Come and "Find the Stars of St. John's," chalk the lintels over the doors, decorate a star to shine in your window, and have spicy star cookies.



Faith Formation resumes on Sunday, January 13 with stories of the Wise Men, Jesus' Baptism and the beginning of his ministry. Faith Formation is for children from 1st – 6th Grade and has a Bible story focus each week that is explored through crafts, games and discussion.



The next St. John's next Blood Drive will be on **Saturday, January 19, 2019 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.**

Youth Ministry @ St. John's: Calendar of Events

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

December 2, 9, 16, 23	Advent Sale
December 15	New York City Trip
December 23	Decorate the church for Christmas; Caroling in Summit

Thanksgiving and Memorial Fund

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



Roger & Lois Kopf	<i>In memory of Herbert Sherman</i>
Russ & Chris McIntyre	<i>In memory of Herbert Sherman</i>
The Caporale Family	<i>In memory of Herbert Sherman</i>
RJ Klein	<i>In memory of Herbert Sherman</i>
Robert & Anne Peterson	<i>In memory of Herbert Sherman</i>
Judith Hillow	<i>In memory of Herbert Sherman</i>
Craig & Carolyn Rothman	<i>In memory of Herbert Sherman</i>
Bob & Jean Cook	<i>In memory of Herbert Sherman</i>
Nancy Montague	<i>For the special purpose of the Rose Garden upkeep In memory of Herbert Sherman</i>
Linda & Russell Carter	<i>In memory of Herbert Sherman</i>
Robin & Heinz Roth	<i>For the special purpose of the music fund in memory of Herb Sherman</i>
Ray & Laura Snyder	<i>In memory of Herbert Sherman</i>
Dick & Carol Courter	<i>In memory of Herbert Sherman</i>

RJ Klein	<i>In honor of Joseph Garzinsky</i>
Ray & Laura Snyder	<i>In memory of Gladys Opolka, mother of Carolyn Rothman and grandmother of Courtney and Stephanie Rothman</i>
Ray & Laura Snyder	<i>In memory of Joseph Garzinsky, father of Donna Garzinsky</i>
Laura Snyder	<i>In honor of Jardeen Nervais upon her confirmation, given by her prayer partner Laura Snyder</i>
Helen Maas	<i>In memory of George Akerblom for the special purpose of major maintenance</i>
Paula Wey	<i>Given in honor of Pastor Moore, Carolyn Rothman, Michale Neiman and Harold Wyss</i>
Irma Gahan	<i>Given in memory of Joseph Garzinsky, Donna Garzinsky's father, for the special purpose of the Worship and Music Fund.</i>

Donations for Decorations



Christmas at St. John's is glorious! It really is a feast for the senses—trees, lights, candles, poinsettias and more! Please consider donating to the cost of this year's Christmas decorations. Recommended donations of \$25-\$100. We will gratefully receive donations of any amount. For dedications to be included in the Christmas worship bulletins, information must be received in the church office by Sunday, December 16.

Epiphany

January 6

We complete the 12-day feast of Christmas, with Epiphany—or Three Kings Day. After worship help us take down the Christmas decorations.



Brunch for Doris Boyd

January 6 at 9:00 AM

All are invited and encouraged to come to a brunch to give thanks for Doris Boyd's more than 25 years of service leading our Altar Guild. Well done, good and faithful servant!

We Are Looking for New Council Members

At our Annual Meeting on February 10 we will elect four adults to three-year terms and two youth to one-year terms to serve as members of our Congregation Council. Our Nominating Committee is beginning to identify active members of the congregation would be good candidates. A Council Member:

- Worships regularly;
- Participates in St. John's annual stewardship campaign;
- Shares his/her gifts, leadership, passion, and thoughts;
- Is a voice for our congregation and provides feedback to the Council;
- Serves as a liaison to at least one ministry team/committee.

If you think you might be interested in standing for election to our Congregation Council, please speak with either of the pastors.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday February 10 - ONE Service at 9:30 AM - Lunch and Meeting follows worship - NO Children's Faith Formation or Confirmation



Upcoming Forums

Sundays at 9:00 AM

January 13 - The Rev. Dr. Karoline Lewis—Our 2019 St. John's Summit Visiting Professor at United Lutheran Seminary will be with us. Dr. Lewis is the Marbury E. Anderson Chair of Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary.

February 3 - Budget Forum—The Administration and Finance Committee will present the proposed 2019 Spending Plan. Come learn about the plan and ask questions.

February 24 - Anthony Briggs—The Executive Director of our church camp, Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center. He will share with us about outdoor ministry.

MLK Day of Service

Monday, January 21

As we honor the memory of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we also work to build a more just society. There will be

learning and service programs all day long here in Summit, including at St. John's. The day ends with the powerful worship service at Fountain Baptist. Look for a full schedule of events in January.



Movie Nights

Join us for movie and discussion. All screenings are 7:00 PM.

January 28 *The Bucket List* (2007) Two terminally-ill men meet in a hospital room. They forge an unexpected friendship and set out to complete their "bucket list" of activities before dying.



February 11 *One True Thing* (1998) A young adult woman has to put her career and life on hold to move home to care for her mother. As the sickness increases facades in the family begin to fall.



March 11 *Manchester by the Sea* (2016) This film set in New England poignantly deals with the human experience of grief—the shock, the anger, the acceptance.



April 1 *Steel Magnolias* (1989) This classic film explores "with laughter through tears" the



beautiful, fragile circle of life in the relationship six southern women.

May 20 *Big Fish* (2003) As former-salesman and great storyteller Edward is dying his estranged son seeks to reconcile and his father. The stories seem like tall tales but could there be truth in them.



Save the Date!

Saturday, March 6 - Tea Party to support Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center

Sundays, March 31 & April 7, 12:00 to 3:00 PM - Living Well, Dying Well: End of Life and Funeral Planning - Death is a given, but you can be prepared. Whether planning for yourself or a loved one, there are many important considerations around end of life issues. We will be holding two consecutive workshops on end of life and funeral planning. We will cover issues of directives, hospice care, burial options, and funeral service planning. This is helpful information for everyone—regardless of age—to think about.

St. John's and United Lutheran Seminary

Theological education and the preparation of pastors and scholars has long been a priority of our congregation. From preparing seminarians through internship experiences, to endowing the former Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia (now one of the campuses of United Lutheran Seminary) with the St. John's Visiting Professorship, our relationship with the Seminary has been very important to us.



This fall we were privileged to hear both the Rev. Dr. Mark Oldenburg (retired) and the Rev. Dr. Jayakiran Sebastian preach and lead adult forums. In January of next year, we will have another opportunity to receive guests from the seminary. Indeed, we might think of January as ULS month!

On **Sunday, January 13** we will be visited by Interim President Dr. Richard Green, and the Rev. Martin Otto Zimmann, Director of Congregational Relations. The following weekend, **January 19-20**, we will be hosting the St. John's Visiting Professor, the Rev. Dr. Karoline M. Lewis. Dr. Lewis is the Director of the D.Min. program and Associate Professor and the Marbury E. Anderson Chair of Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary. She will also preach and lead an adult forum. More information will be forthcoming about opportunities to visit more informally with Dr. Lewis on that weekend.

We are blessed that we will have these occasions to continue strengthening our relationship with United Lutheran Seminary and to support the ongoing theological education of future pastors, deacons and other church leaders. Mark the dates on your calendars and plan on being with us to meet these special guests.

Mission Endowment Fund Update

From the St. John's Mission Endowment Fund – November 2013

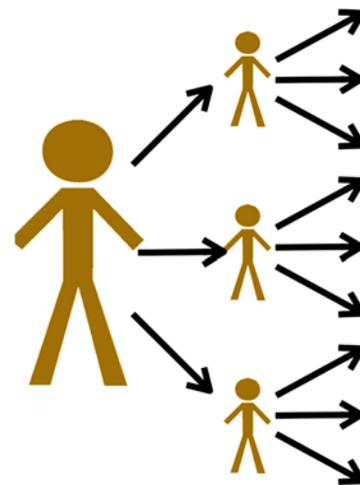
"The purpose of the St. John's Mission Endowment Fund is to ensure that the mission and ministry of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in the name of Jesus Christ will continue, and that new ministries can be explored."

This long-term financial resource, above and beyond regular stewardship and budgeted benevolence, enables our Congregation, alone or joining with other congregations, to respond for example, to any of the following ELCA missions and ministries:

- ◆ Expand outreach in the community and around the world
- ◆ Alleviate world hunger and poverty
- ◆ Sustain seminary programs
- ◆ Support intercity congregations
- ◆ Recovery from disaster
- ◆ Sponsor missionaries

St. John's will have given gifts totaling **\$105,519** over the five-year period between 2014, when the policy was written, through 2018. Thanks be to God! The gifts were divided between these categories:

- ◆ For Food Insecurity - \$29,543
- ◆ For Housing Insecurity - \$21,000
- ◆ For Youth Faith formation - \$17,477
- ◆ For Building Strong Community - \$37,499



This year's grants are as follows:

- 1) Community Food Bank of NJ (Fighting hunger and poverty in NJ by assisting those who are food insecure) \$3,000
- 2) SAGE Eldercare Meals on Wheels (Portable Pantry provides emergency non-perishable food to at risk elderly in Summit) \$1,000
- 3) Kekoa Food (Providing nutritional baby food for poor Newark YWCA families) \$1,000
- 4) Family Promise (Raising awareness of family homelessness and providing temporary shelter while helping to transform lives) \$4,000
- 5) Good News Home for Women (Providing long and short-term residential substance abuse program for women) \$1,000

- 6) Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center (In support of our ecumenical retreat center and camp of NJ Synod, ELCA and the Episcopal Diocese of Newark) \$2,500
 - 7) Augusta Victoria Hospital (Part of the East Jerusalem Hospital Network that provides critical medical care for Palestinian families and individuals living in the West Bank and Gaza) \$2,500
 - 8) United Lutheran Seminary (To assist with tuition for commuting and PT students) - \$2,000
 - 9) Summit Interfaith Council Anti-Racism Committee (To assist with ongoing dialogues and anti-racism education) - \$500
 - 10) Trozzo Missionaries, Malaysia (To support the ministries of ELCA missionaries and St. John's members, the Revs. Wendolyn and Eric Trozzo) - \$500
 - 11) Friends of Child Advocacy Union County (To assist with the costs of mental intake evaluations for abused children) - \$1,000
 - 12) Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy Ministry of New Jersey (LEAMNJ) (Helping to addresses the systemic causes of injustice and poverty in New Jersey through civic engagement and legislative advocacy.) 2,500
 - 13) Seafarers' International House (Supporting maritime ministry for seafarers) \$500
- TOTAL: \$22,000**



Update on 2019 Financial Commitments (Pledges)

As of November 15 we have 81 commitments to participate in God's mission through the various ministries of St. John's for a total of **\$424,465**. Our goal is to have 100% of our members make a pledge to support God's work in and beyond Summit and throughout the world. Our hope is to reach upwards of **\$460,000** and we are well on our way to doing so. If you have not yet made a pledge, please prayerfully consider doing so before the end of the year. Thanks be to God for your generosity!

BRIDGES RUN

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 22 (9:00 AM to Noon) 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., and will then travel to Newark where we'll hand out meals. We will likely be back at St. John's between 12:30-1:30. If you're interested, please sign up at the church or email Warren Hynes at hynesaw@msn.com.



Bringing the housed and homeless together in community

HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM



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 36 gift bags with items for seniors.** You will find information and cards for gifts needed in the Narthex. **Items need to be returned to St. John's unwrapped by Sunday, December 16.**

THE JOY OF GIVING

St. John's has always been a very generous congregation. Here are three ways to continue this wonderful pattern:

- If you have made a pledge for this year, please make every effort to complete it. Your regular gifts help us keep our promises to all those who depend on us.
- Our generosity is especially evident in our Christmas offering. We trust that this year will be no different. 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 offering.
- **\$110 for 110 years!** As a way of honoring the 110th anniversary of St. John's, which was officially established on December 6, 1908, why not consider giving a year-end gift of \$110? You might do this as your Christmas offering or in addition to it. Please know however, that whatever you give to the glory of God, will enable St. John's to continue sharing the grace and love of Jesus Christ in Summit and throughout the world for many years to come!

**Monthly Update from the
St. John's Finance Committee**

October 2018 Financial Summary		
	Actual	Plan
YTD Income	\$483,318	\$516,667
YTD Expenses	\$498,864	\$516,246
YTD Net Income *	(\$8,832)	\$7,134
YTD World Hunger & Special Benevolence Giving: \$16,813		
*YTD Net Income includes prorated portion of 2016 operating fund carryover of \$8,057.		

**New Jersey Synod
BISHOP'S COW CHALLENGE 2018-2019**

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.



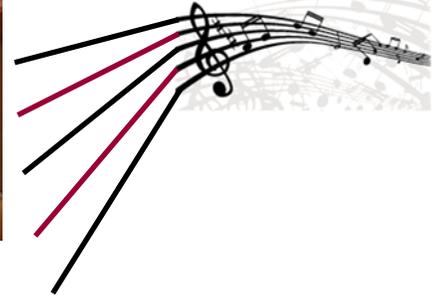
**The Bishop's Challenge:
Changing the World, One
Cow at a Time!**

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>



**Saint
John's
Summit
Concert Series**



For the past four years the St. John's Summit Concert Series has brought some of the finest musicians in the world to St. John's and the Summit community. The journey for all involved has been incredible and truly a once in a lifetime experience. After much deliberation and prayer, the Concert Series Committee has decided that this year, our fifth year, will be a year of celebration and giving thanks for the opportunities this ministry has afforded us. **Our fifth season will feature a return of one of last year's favorites, The Yale Spizzwinks, on Friday, January 4, 2019 @ 7:30 PM.**

In the Spring, we will have the final concert with which we will give thanks for and celebrate our past seasons. More specifics regarding the final concert will be announced shortly. After the completion of this season, the concert series will officially be on hiatus.

Thank you for your continued support.

St. John's Summit Concert Series Committee

Thank you!