



Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

8:15 a.m.- spoken

10:30 a.m.- sung liturgy

# Welcome to St. John

St. John Lutheran Church 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422

[www.stjohnbluebell.org](http://www.stjohnbluebell.org) [www.facebook.com/stjohnbluebell](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnbluebell)

Nursery School website: [www.stjohns.com](http://www.stjohns.com)

610-277-1086

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Ray Hopkins, Director of Youth and Family Services

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*Our Council Members are listed on our website.*

*Celebrating 257 years of mission and ministry, 1769-2026.*



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

**Parents with young children:** Please know your children are welcome and cherished in worship! Wiggles and all! If you find a need to step out with them during worship, we have arranged a special Prayer Ground in the Great Room down the sanctuary stairs. At the 10:30 service, the service is streamed onto a screen above that area so you can continue to worship.

*This service is live-streamed on the church's YouTube page.*

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# Order for Worship

Welcome

Prelude~ “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”

Jacob B. Weber

Thanksgiving for Baptism

*The assembly may rise.*

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne  
and to the Lamb!

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.*

P: Merciful God,  
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.  
You lead us beside still waters.  
We thank you for the waters of creation:  
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.  
We thank you for the waters that nourish us.  
Blessed are you.

C: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness  
who accompanies us on our journeys.  
We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.  
We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.  
Blessed are you.

C: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.  
Break down barriers that divide us.  
Fill us with the breath of peace.  
Blessed are you.

C: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,  
and for making us a new creation.  
We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,  
now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn ~ “Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”



1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!  
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,  
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,  
4 Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,  
5 Al - le - lu - ia! now we cry to our Lord im - mor - tal,



God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,  
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en.  
with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;  
nor the watch - ers, nor the seal, hold you as a mor - tal:  
who tri - um - phant burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal;



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;  
All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing  
comes to glad Jer - u - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion  
but to - day, a - mong your own, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing  
Al - le - lu - ia! with the Son God the Fa - ther prais - ing;



led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.  
from the Light to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.  
wel - comes in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!  
your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.  
Al - le - lu - ia! yet a - gain to the Spir - it rais - ing.

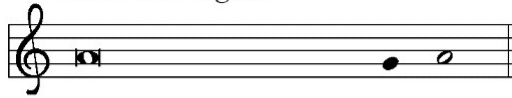
Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
Music: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, 1490–1547

## Greeting

- P: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who was raised from the dead to bring everlasting hope, be with you all.
- C: **And also with you.**

# Kyrie

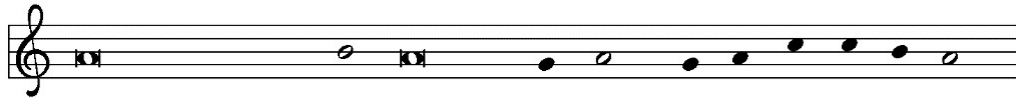
*The cantor begins.*



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



**C:** Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C:** Lord, have mer - cy.



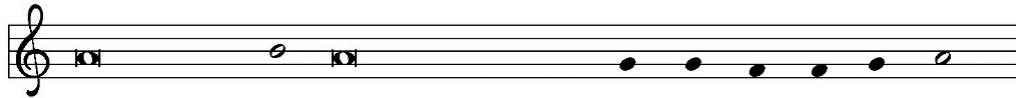
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**C:** Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C:** Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. **C:** A - men.

# Hymn of Praise~“This Is The Feast”

*Assisting minister*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

*All*



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

## Children's Message

## Word

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

A: The first reading is from Acts.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: "Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;  
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

For you will not abandon my soul to Hades  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

"Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

'He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

"This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(8:15) Psalm 16 (Spoken responsively)

- <sup>1</sup> Protect me, O God, for I take ref- | uge in you;  
I have said to the Lord, “You are my Lord, my good a- | bove all other.”
- <sup>2</sup> **All my delight is in the godly that are | in the land,  
upon those who are noble a- | mong the people.**
- <sup>3</sup> But those who run after | other gods  
shall have their troubles | multiplied.
- <sup>4</sup> **I will not pour out drink offerings | to such gods,  
never take their names up- | on my lips.**
- <sup>5</sup> O Lord, you are my portion | and my cup;  
it is you who up- | hold my lot.
- <sup>6</sup> **My boundaries enclose a | pleasant land;  
indeed, I have a | rich inheritance.**
- <sup>7</sup> I will bless the Lord who | gives me counsel;  
my heart teaches me night | after night.
- <sup>8</sup> **I have set the Lord al- | ways before me;  
because God is at my right hand, I shall | not be shaken.**
- <sup>9</sup> My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir- | it rejoices;  
my body also shall | rest in hope.
- <sup>10</sup> **For you will not abandon me | to the grave,  
nor let your holy one | see the pit.**
- <sup>11</sup> You will show me the | path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for- | evermore.

(10:30) Psalm 16 (Cantor, then ALL)



Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.  
I say to you LORD: “You are my God.  
My happiness lies in you alone.”  
O LORD, it is you who are my portion  
and cup,  
it is you yourself who are my prize. R.

I will bless you, LORD, you give me  
counsel,  
and even at night direct my heart.  
I keep you, LORD, ever in my sight;  
since you are at my right hand, I shall  
stand firm. R.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is  
glad;  
even my body shall rest in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul among  
the dead,  
nor let your beloved know decay. R.

You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your right hand happiness for ever. R.

## Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

A: The second reading is from First Peter.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly may rise.*

## Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Choir: Blessed are those who | have not seen\* and yet have come | to believe.

## Gospel: John 20:19-31

P: The holy gospel according to John.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P: The gospel of the Lord.  
 C: Praise to you, O Christ.

*The assembly may be seated.*

Sermon

Pastor Rachel Manke

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

Hymn of the Day ~ "We Walk by Faith"



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with  
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor  
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
 4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are  
 5 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as  
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise  
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when  
 found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter  
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."  
 we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
 you are near and seek where you are found:  
 and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.  
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

## Nicene Creed

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

A: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

A: Almighty God, you give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist. Breathe your Spirit upon us, that our faith may be renewed day by day. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: Maker of heaven and earth, your mercies are new every morning. Make us open to the wonders of creation, from the beauty of flowers to the complexity of subatomic particles. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: God of peace, in every place where conflict rages, sow seeds of calm and openness to reconciliation. Strengthen the resolve of leaders and citizens to work for peace in their nations. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way. We pray especially for: Bob, Abigail, Sally, Diane, Calvin, Roger, Maria, Carolyn, Rosemary, Angelo, Tony, Cheryl, Liz, Andy, Greg, Sivan, Joan, Corey, Kevin, Ruth, Rob, Matt, Bongchun, Jimmy, Lance, Stacey, Sean, Eleanor, Marie, Greg, Nan, Joshua, and Robert. Reveal to them your presence and assure them of the inheritance you have prepared for them. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Giver of joy, let this assembly be a place of genuine love and mutual affection. Deepen our care for one another and help us to embody your forgiving and sacrificial love. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Eternal One, we give thanks for saints who were faithful unto death and have joined the church triumphant. Inspire us by their witness and bring us with them into your glorious presence. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered. The pastor concludes:*

Pastor: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**C: Amen.**

Peace

P: The peace of the Risen Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

Meal

*The assembly may be seated.*

Anthem~ "Touch That Soothes and Heals"

Chancel Choir

Touch that soothes and heals the hurting, hands that break a loaf of bread;  
steps that walk beside the weary, bearing burdens in their stead:

Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit ones in need of care,  
give the homeless warmth and shelter: Christ will find a welcome there.

"See my hands and feet," said Jesus, love arisen from the grave.

"Be my hands and feet," said Jesus, "live as ones I died to save."

Love and serve without distinction all earth's people, first and least.  
Know within each act of kindness hope and wholeness are increased.

"See my hands and feet," said Jesus, love arisen from the grave.

"Be my hands and feet," said Jesus, "live as ones I died to save."

Hands that beckon little children, bind a wound, prepare a meal,  
feet that rush to share good tidings, Christ arisen, still reveal.  
"See my hands and feet," said Jesus, love arisen from the grave.  
"Be my hands and feet," said Jesus, "live as ones I died to save."

Text: Mary Louise Bringgle

Music: *Civility*, arr. Thomas Keesecker

## Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

*We are grateful for your support of St. John. Here are the ways to share tithes and offerings:*

***-You may make use of the offering plate located on the table at the back of the sanctuary, or scan this QR code to use Square.***



Scan to give an offering.

*-Simply giving - You can arrange for a regular gift (weekly, monthly, quarterly) to be deducted from a bank account. Please contact Laura Smeltzer, our bookkeeper, to arrange this. Her email address is [stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com](mailto:stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com).*

***For communion:*** *We practice a "standing station" distribution of communion. An usher will indicate to you when it is time to come up. They will have empty cups for you to take if you are to have wine, and proceed down the center aisle. First, receive the wafer from pastor, putting your hands out. Then, if you are receiving wine, hold up your empty cup to the pouring chalice to receive the wine. Grape juice is in the tray beside the cup in pre-filled cups. Younger children or anyone not receiving are welcome to come up for a blessing from the pastor. You will return to your pew from the side aisle. Christ is the host of this meal, his real presence in bread and wine, and **all are welcome at the table.***

***The assembly may rise.***

## Offertory Prayer

P: Merciful God,  
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.  
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day  
when we will hunger and thirst no more.  
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,  
that goodness and mercy may follow us  
and bless the world you love.  
In the name of Jesus,

C: **Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And al - so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



## Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

P: The gifts of God for the people of God.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*An usher will indicate to you when it is time to come forward for communion.*

*The assembly may be seated.*

## Communion Canticle ~ Agnus Dei



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*The assembly may be seated. The meal is shared.*

# Communion Hymn~ "This Joyful Eastertide"

1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and  
 2 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son  
 3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the

sor - - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has  
 slum - - ber till trump from east to west shall  
 riv - - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill my

sprung to life this mor - - row.  
 wake the dead in num - - ber.  
 pass - ing soul de - liv - - er.

*Refrain*

Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our

faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -

ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en.

## Post Communion Blessing

P: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C: Amen.

## Prayer after Communion

A: Holy One,  
through this meal you have made your home among us  
and are making all things new. \_\_\_\_\_

Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,  
to love our enemies,  
and to bring your healing to the nations.

In the name of Jesus,

C: Amen.

## Announcements

## Blessing

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,

✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

## Sending Hymn ~ "The Risen Christ"



- 1 The ris - en Christ, who walks on wound-ed feet
- 2 The ris - en Christ, who stands with wound-ed side,
- 3 The ris - en Christ, who breaks with wound-ed hand
- 4 May we, Christ's bod - y, walk and serve and stand



from gar - den tomb through dark - ened cit - y street,  
breathes out his Spir - it on them to a - bide  
the bread for those who fail to un - der - stand,  
with those op - pressed in this and ev - 'ry land,



un - locks the door of grief, de - spair, and fear,  
whose faith still wa - vers, who dare not be - lieve;  
re - veals him - self, de - spite their lin - g'ring tears,  
till all are blessed and can a bless - ing be,



and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.  
new grace, new strength, new pur - pose they re - ceive.  
en - flames their hearts, then quick - ly dis - ap - pears.  
re - stored in Christ to true hu - man - i - ty.

Text: Nigel Weaver, b. 1952  
Music: WOODLANDS, Walter Greatorex, 1877-1949  
Text © 1993 Nigel Weaver.  
Music © Oxford University Press. Used by permission.

## Dismissal

P: Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Go in peace. Proclaim the good news. Alleluia!

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## Postlude ~ "The Risen Christ"

J. Wayne Kerr

## **Serving Today in Worship**

Pastor

Pastor Rachel Manke

Director of Music

Lawrence Baker

8:15 Usher

10:30 Usher

Audrey Pyle

8:15 Lector

Jacqui DiDomenico

10:30 Lector

Arianna Greyson

8:15 Communion Assistant

10:30 Communion Assistant

Andrea Greyson

8:15 Acolyte

Michael DiDomenico

10:30 Acolyte

Video Technicians

Phil Wood, Adam Kiefski, Xavier Mitchell, & Megan Kiefski

Counters

Andrea Greyson and Dan Pfeiffer

## **This Week at St. John...**

### Sunday, Apr 12

8:15 Worship

9:15 Adult Class

10:30 Worship

### Thursday, Apr 16

10:00 Visual Arts Class

12:15 *No Bible study this week*

### Monday, Apr 13

10:00 Quilters

### Friday, Apr 17

10:00 Visual Arts Class

6:30 Boy Scouts Troop 98 [FH, MPR, YC]

### Tuesday, Apr 14

5:45 Cub Scouts

### Sunday, Apr 19

8:15 Worship

### Wednesday, Apr 15

1:30 Visual Arts Class

9:15 Adult Class/Sunday School

10:30 Worship



Scan this QR code to see the church calendar on our website.

## *Happening at St. John*

**Easter Egg Hunt Thank You!** - First a huge, thank you to our 18 hunters and for finding ALL 400 EGGS! Some of them were hidden pretty well and you all found them. Additionally, thanks to Nate Wood for his 3rd year being head egg stuffer and coordinating the hiding. Thanks to Makayla Wood, Beth Wood, and Raff Scalise for all the help!

**Ladies Who Lunch** - Join the St. John Ladies Who Lunch on **Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at noon**. The group will meet at PJ Whelihan's Restaurant, 799 Dekalb Pike, Blue Bell. RSVP to Rita Stock at 610-608-1140 or [Stock825@comcast.net](mailto:Stock825@comcast.net).

**Upcoming: The Arts at St. John Concert** - Join us for the final concert on **Sunday, May 3 at 4 pm**. Philalea will be performing Brahms' Piano Trio No 2 and Debussy Piano Trio. Full details are available on our website: [www.stjohnbluebell.org](http://www.stjohnbluebell.org).

**Pastor's Thursday Bible Study** - Bible study will not be meeting this Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, but will resume the following week.

**Altar Flowers** - Remember that YOU can sponsor our weekly flowers for Sunday worship. They are not actually in the budget, so your sponsorship is helpful. Celebrate an occasion, remember a saint of yours, etc. \$30 is the cost. The sign-up sheet is at the base of the stairs in the Great Room.

## *News and Info*

**2026 Summer Youth Trip: Gettysburg (July 12–17)** - This summer we're returning to Gettysburg for a week at the seminary! In 2026, we'll be partnering with the seminary and participating in **Theological Education of Youth (TEY)**—a program that blends service, fun, and opportunities for youth to dig deeper into their faith. All youth in the confirmation program through completed 12th grade are invited. For details, please contact Ray.

**Vacation Bible School is Coming! (July 27 & 29)** - Are you dreaming of summer? St. John will host a two-night Vacation Bible School to explore "Who is My Neighbor?". Children are invited to explore what it means to be neighbors in Christ. Students will enjoy games, crafts, and intentional activities to learn how our faith calls us out into the world to love and serve our neighbors. VBS will take place on **7/27 & 7/29 from 6-8 pm**. This VBS cannot run without the help of volunteers! All materials will be supplied. Commitment is the two VBS nights plus one info meeting to review the material and expectations so that everyone is comfortable before the children arrive! Please reach out to Carin Antochy ([carin.antochy@gmail.com](mailto:carin.antochy@gmail.com)) if you can help make this year's VBS a success.

**Bulletin Announcements & Weekly Email** - To request the inclusion of an announcement in the bulletin, please contact the church office by Monday of that week. To request inclusion in the weekly email, contact Katie Myers by Monday of that week.



Scan this QR code to receive our weekly email newsletter!